

Cubans react to Castro's announcement of retirement

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Following the Cuban government's decision to tweak the travel laws effective last January, Raul Castro announced his plan Sunday to step down in five years, simultaneously introducing a new potential heir to the regime: Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez.

"I don't think it's clear at this point what the announcement will bring other than a change in personnel," said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute. "This is a significant event in the sense that it's the first time there will be a Cuba without the two Castro brothers. On the other hand, the choice of the vice president, Diaz-Canel, may or may not be the beginning of a transformation."

Diaz-Canel Bermudez, 52, was the former minister of higher education who climbed through the ranks of the communist party and has a reputation of being an enforcer of the Castro brothers' rules.

"The historical development of the Cuban revolution also teaches us that whenever a new face arises within the Cuban regime, it's very difficult for that person to stay very close to power so that most of the other people who were considered to be presidential material in Cuba are no longer there," Duany said.

Duany cited the president of the Cuban parliament Ricardo Alarcon, former Cuban general Arnaldo Ochoa and former foreign minister Roberto Robaina as examples of younger leaders in high standing who were unable to walk the tightrope of performing as part of the top echelons while maintaining a low enough profile so as not to raise suspicions of harboring "too much" ambition.

"Once Raul steps down and somebody else comes in, then you would expect to find a new way of doing politics in Cuba within the very strict limits of that regime," Duany said. "We shouldn't expect free elections, the legalization of political parties or tolerance for dissidence any time soon."

Duany, however, characterized Castro's announcement as a sign of the difficulties the Fidelista regime has had in terms of passing on important political positions to a newer generation.

"I think the hope of many Cubans both on the island and in the United States is that whoever comes next after the Castros would be able to do something to what Gorbachev did in the Soviet Union," Duany said. "For example, initiate a series of small, but significant reforms which would eventually move Cuba in the direction of a market economy."

Sebastian Arcos, associate director of development for the

Aim high, shoot high



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Junior Jerica Coley, guard on the FIU's women's basketball program, studies nutrition during her spare time. Coley, who is on her way to be one of the best players in the program's history statistically and play professionally, dedicates an average of 4-5 hours of studying daily towards her ultimate goal of obtaining her master's degree in nutrition.

school of international and public affairs, agreed with Duany on the importance of Castro's alleged retirement.

"Cuba used to be a typical totali-

tarian regime and it now has a foreseeable successor that is not a Castro and this is insurgent of a democratic state," Arcos said. "The fact that Raul has a successor and that the

Castro dynasty is supposed to end might create a change."

Arcos is a Cuban dissident who

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Gamers unite at GC for fun and relaxation

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

It is impossible to miss the section better described as the "corner of the gamers" while walking through Graham Center.

Located in front of Chili's and the Game Room, this section is inhabited by enthusiastic video game and card game players. How this famous corner became so popular is unknown, but it has become

the perfect getaway for video game and card game lovers.

"I don't really know when everyone started sitting here," says Michael Estrada, a junior biology major. "But I always sit here in between my classes and hang with friends and mostly play League of Legends."

The players can be seen playing the Pokémon Trading Card game while others are concentrated on their own computers playing video games such as World

of Warcraft. Not only men are spotted playing; some women have also taken part involved in the section.

These card games and video games even have their own competitions nationally. For video games, Collegiate StarLeague is a popular international competition that brings together all the best universities from Asia, Europe and the United States to compete in StarCraft. For the winning team, there is thousands of dollars in prizes.

Carlos Camargo, a junior biomedical engineering major and a video game enthusiast, is currently in the process of launching ESports Club, an FIU team for competitive video gaming.

"This club is going to be focused on competitive video gaming whether it's with League of Legends or StarCraft II or Call of Duty or anything that has to do with competitive video gaming," said Camargo.

SEE GAMERS, PAGE 5

Medical and law students helping those in need

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

The Health, Ethics, Law, and Policy Clinic is a program run by both the University's College of Law and College of Medicine. Consisting of six medical students and eight

law students, both colleges partner up, represent and aid those who are in need of, but can't afford, medical and legal aid.

The Green Family Foundation's Neighborhood-HELP Program is what gives the clinic its clients. The clinic is provided with

clients from about 200 households, most of which considered to be low-income families or the elderly. Medical students assist families who are in need of medical aid throughout Miami, and if some families need legal aid regarding their medical help, they

refer the households to the law students.

Most of the clinic's work involves disability rights, medical debt, Medicare and Medicaid, drafting legal documents, such as wills for the elderly, immigrant access to affordable health care and public benefits.

They also advocate health policy around Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida. They teach low-income families about the healthcare system in America and in the state of Florida, as well as meet with government officials about the benefit of Medi-

care expansion in Florida.

"I really like how personable it is," said Leonor Ayerdis, a member of the HELP clinic and law student. "You actually go out to the client's home, meet their families, and you

SEE HELP, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Head of Mexico's powerful teachers' union jailed

Mexico's most powerful woman was formally charged with a massive embezzlement scheme on Wednesday, standing grim-faced behind bars live on national television in what many called a clear message that the new government is asserting its authority.

The country watched rapt as national teacher's union head Elba Esther Gordillo heard the charges against her read by a judge in a grim prison in eastern Mexico City. It was a dizzying fall from power for a woman who traveled on private jets and maintained properties worth millions of dollars in Southern California.

World powers coax Iran into saving nuclear talks

World powers offered broader concessions than ever to Iran in attempts Wednesday keep alive diplomatic channels that seek to rein in the Islamic Republic's nuclear program and prevent it from building an atomic weapon.

The offer was hailed by Saeed Jalili, Iran's top official at diplomatic talks in Kazakhstan, who said it represented a "turning point" by world powers to compromise on Tehran's uranium enrichment program after years of delicate negotiations that nearly dissolved last June. The proposal allows Iran to keep a limited amount of highly enriched uranium — but not make any more — stops short of demanding the full shutdown of an underground nuclear facility, and offers to remove some trade sanctions that have hurt Iran's economy.

Putin calls for upgrade of Russian army

Russian President Vladimir Putin told the country's top brass on Wednesday to drastically upgrade the armed forces in the next few years as part of response to attempts by the United States and NATO to "tip the strategic balance" in the world.

In his address to Russia's defense ministry and top military officials, Putin said Russia is witnessing "insistent attempts" to change that balance and complained about U.S. plans to create a new missile defense system in Europe and the potential expansion of NATO to former Soviet republics.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

What to do in the presence of an active shooter

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
Staff Writer

Run, hide or fight; the three things people should do at the scene with an active shooter.

According to the University Police website, the document that shares the guidelines in the event of an active shooter highlights what University Police will do in order to stop the shooter from causing any further lethal damage as well as what students can do to save their own lives.

As mentioned on the active shooter document, an active shooter is a person vigorously attempting to kill people in populated area. Active shooters are commonly armed with guns or high-powered rifles or firearms and in most cases did not have a distinctive plan of action or specific person or people they desired to kill.

For Police Chief Alexander Casas and the rest of the FIU Police Department, their main objective when dealing with an active shooter is to, by all means, stop the shooter.

"These cases are typically resolved in 12 minutes, so you do not really have enough time for a specialized unit to show up like a SWAT team," Casas said.

Our officers are trained to engage the active shooter as soon as we can verify that there is an active shooter. Once the active shooter has been stopped, then we can focus on crime scene investigation and attending to the victims."

The policy for active shooters urges that if an active shooter is within near vicinity, one must drop everything, leave their belongings behind and run. Active shooters will shoot whoever comes within their path. Therefore, it is imperative that anyone who is at risk of getting shot by an active shooter must have an escape route and plan in mind prior to an event of an active shooter and evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.

Christian Velasco, a senior architecture major, is fully aware of what he must do if an active shooter were to wreak havoc on campus by attempting to kill innocent people.

"I was always told no matter if there is a random shooting in my neighborhood or at FIU, just to run for dear life and as far as possible from where it sounds like the bullets are coming from," Velasco said. "I just feel running away from someone with a gun is a natural instinct and should always be someone's initial reaction."

If evacuation is not possible, the policy notes that student must hide in place the

shooter is less likely to attack. In order to for a person to be completely hidden from the wrath of an active shooter, he or she must lock their doors, blockade the door with heavy furniture if available, hide behind large items and stay as quiet as possible as well as shutting off any electrical items that make noise such as televisions or cell phones.

If all else fails and a person has come in contact with the active shooter, one must aggressively fight back by yelling or throwing dangerous and sharp objects at the shooter.

Despite recent cases of active shooters attacking college campus such as at Virginia Tech University as well Stony Brook Elementary, some students remain optimistic that they are in good hands with FIU Police if there were to be an active shooter on campus.

"If an active shooter came to FIU and opened fire, I think FIU Police will put him down right away," said Jonathan Lozano, a sophomore biology major. "There's always cops walking around campus like in Graham Center or by the library where a shooter would probably go to since there is a lot of people at those places."

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Raul Castro to retire in 5 years

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was a political prisoner in Cuba for a year. He considered Diaz-Canel Bermudez to have potential for leading more reforms, but explained that it is precarious whether or not he will become the Castros' successor.

"Once Castro dies, things will be moving a lot faster, but there is no guarantee," Arcos said. "And five years is a long time for people like myself who have been waiting almost 45 years for this regime to end."

Cuban students at the University also expressed their hopes and cynicism toward Castro's announcement.

"The same communist regime will still be there even after Raul is gone," said senior criminal justice major Christian Barbera, whose grandfather was a political prisoner killed by the Castro government. "It's the same misery, just different leaders."

Unlike Barbera, Roger Thomas, a junior in political science, felt that Cuba's solution is a transition to new faces.

"The younger generation in Cuba has been exposed to Western ideas outside of Cuba through the Internet so a change in leadership might lead to reforms," Thomas said.

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Law and medical students help community

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deal with them on a consistent basis."

Ayderis was also one

of the six law students and seven medical students who had the opportunity to meet with Florida State Senator Rene Garcia about Medicare expansion in Florida this past week.

The clinic was advocating the importance and benefit Medicare will bring to the state.

"[Garcia] was saying that that is [the government's] concern, that its people, and a lot of people have this idea, where people haven't invested in their health-

care," said Ayderis.

"He understood why we needed it, why we needed to get [Medicare], but it's a money issue. Do we put the money up front now, or do we put it later?" said

Peggy Maisel, the director of the Clinical Program and the head of the HELP Clinic. "I thought it would be terrific to develop a law clinic in relationship to the medical school, so that we can work together."

The clinic not only helps the community, but

the law students as well. It allows them to practice and develop skills to legal issues that they will be facing after graduation. Some students even find the specialty they want to pursue after graduation.

According to Ayderis, she initially wanted to become a criminal justice lawyer. After working with the clinic, she now aspires to work for Social Security one day, and practice SSI law.

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A GOOD DAY TO TRY HARDER

A call for cinematic creativity

DEBORA LIMA
Contributing Writer

No longer a date night staple, a trip to the movie theater has become a vehicle for an encounter with the most offensive of déjà vu sensations. Over the aroma of buttery popcorn, audiences can practically smell desperation coming from the preview for the remake of "RoboCop." Or maybe the stench is because of the trailer for "A Good Day to Die Hard," or as I call it, "Bruce Willis Is Covered in Sweat and Blood 5."

I can't be the only one thinking, "Phew! Good thing there is a fifth installment, the first four movies left so many unanswered questions."

Have all waiters and bartenders in Los Angeles given up on screenwriting? The scarcity of original films suggests that this may be so.

According to The Economist, the five studios controlled by major media conglomerates have been hit with a 40 percent pre-tax profit decline between 2007 and 2011.

Paradoxically, technology has not lowered film production costs as predicted but increased them instead. The switch from analogue to digital film allows directors to be obsessively meticulous by shooting more and consequently, using up

costly production and editing time. Television, on the other hand, is absolutely thriving. It is a hit with both audiences and critics. There is enormous pressure on the film industry to defy analysts who predict "revenue from American cinema will be flat for the foreseeable future."

Studios have reacted to volatile film earnings by employing a pathetic formula for potential box office success: prequels, sequels and remakes.

I am as drawn to nostalgia as the next person but I am nonetheless capable of discerning between a fresh take on a familiar story and a steaming pile of uninspired Hollywood excrement.

An example of new eyes on an old story would be Tim Burton's "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory."

Gene Wilder is the ultimate creep with his manic gaze, and even dentures and a bob haircut could not elevate Johnny Depp to such "creepdom", but Burton's adaptation of Willy Wonka's sugar coated world preserved the original film's blend of lunacy and whimsy.

The excrement category would be well-represented by Gus Van Sant's "Psycho." Talk about unnecessary. What's the saying again? "If it ain't broke, don't fix it. And if

you're not Alfred Hitchcock, back off," or something along those lines.

Woody Allen established himself as an industry anomaly through his rapid rate of production and is proof that brilliant ideas do not simply go extinct. Some would argue Allen's work has diminished in quality over the years but this assertion is offered by those looking at reality with a distorted perception.

Allen will never make another "Annie Hall" or another "Manhattan" and he shouldn't have to. "Midnight In Paris," for instance, was great in its own right and remarkably, not a sequel, prequel, or a remake of any of his hits of yesteryear. This leads me to ask studio executives: why not leave well enough alone and dare to be original instead?

All movies will not be a Quentin Tarantino-esque masterpiece or Stanley Kubrick mind-bender but I'm certain I speak for many when I say enough with the "Paranormal Activity" franchise and "Fast and Furious" movies.

Most of us have IQs higher than 70, in spite what Honey Boo Boo's ratings suggest, Hollywood; create accordingly or bear the consequences.

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ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN ANDERSON/THE BEACON

An unexpected lecture: Carl Hiaasen's bizarre inspiration

MICHAEL BAISDEN
Opinion Editor

Baby Jesus with a GPS. A threesome with a couple of gators. And a woman caught shaving a delicate area while driving.

All these stories and more have inspired Carl Hiaasen throughout his career as an investigative journalist and novelist.

On Monday, Feb. 25 I found myself at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre, required to attend "An Evening with Carl Hiaasen." I was prepared to take a minimal amount of notes and play 'Bejeweled' on my cell phone.

But to my surprise, this event, part of the Student Government Association's Biscayne Bay Campus lecture series, was much more engaging than your professor's lecture. Hiaasen made the audience laugh, finding humor in the everyday absurdities of South Florida, a place he calls home.

Florida is currently number one in political corruption and in Medicaid and identity fraud cases.

Oh, and nativity scene thefts.

Yes, people are actually stealing baby Jesuses from their neighbors' yards. So much so that Floridians started to put GPS tracking devices on their Josephs and Marys.

The lecture continued on with hilarious odd stories about mayhem in South

“
A woman had a messy accident while trying to shave her bikini area on her way to see her boyfriend...
”

Florida.

A woman had a messy accident when she hit a truck while trying to shave her bikini area while on her way to see her boyfriend in Key West.

In another case, police found two alligators in a man's trailer bedroom. After confronting the man, bloody with puncture wounds, the police searched his place and uncovered the gators who were hidden under blood-stained sheets.

Police informed the man that he could not sleep with an endangered and protected animal and took the reptiles away.

But like any die-hard Floridian, the man insisted that these alligators were his and he could do with them what he pleased. So, he took them to court.

Luckily, the courts weren't as delusional as the gator lover.

You couldn't ask for more ridiculous occurrences, and of course they happen in Florida.

Writing novels was Hiaasen's way to cope with the crazy characters and unbelievable realities.

"I had to start writing novels to stay

sane," said Hiaasen.

Hiaasen has more than 15 novels, two of which were made into feature films; "Striptease" and "Hoot."

But beyond his own personal stories and hilarious news clippings, I learned that journalists are absolutely necessary for this democracy, whether it's producing satire or investigative news.

I could care less if people believe this industry's dying.

As Hiaasen pointed out, if journalists aren't in the back of those town hall meetings with paper and a pen, holding the government accountable, then who will? Who else will be the public's eyes and ears to the important local issues?

There's also a more creative way to gather news and execute it. Just look around, and don't limit yourself or your sources.

"I learned to think outside the box, go that extra mile and explore creativity," said senior journalism student Jessica Roiz. "You have to see that your surroundings is where the news is."

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Pi Kappa Phi raises over \$15,000 in charity event

DUFFY DUFRESNE
Contributing Writer

This spring, Pi Kappa Phi introduced its first War of the Roses fundraiser.

Bringing in \$15,788.42 for the fraternity's charity, Push America, the fundraiser was more successful than originally expected.

"I really didn't think it would be that successful," said Christian Gutierrez, director of service for Pi Kappa Phi. "Our goal was probably like \$3,000 and we ended up getting \$15,000. It was huge. I really didn't expect it at all."

The idea for WOTR came from Gabriel Villanueva, Pi Kappa Phi alumnus and leadership consultant for the fraternity's national headquarters. Villanueva became aware of the way the other chapters raised money through WOTR and decided to involve FIU's chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, Theta Delta. Villanueva, along with Gutierrez and Xochilth Jiron, 2012 Rose Queen, began planning the event in October 2012.

"[Our goal was] spreading awareness for the philanthropy," Gutierrez said. "Push America helps those with disabilities, so we try our hardest in certain events to make sure people didn't really take it as a competition, but more about helping a cause and realizing what we do for those that



COURTESY OF MELISSA RODRIGUEZ/PI KAPPA PHI

Pi Kappa Phi introduced their first War of the Roses fundraiser this spring, bringing in \$15,788.42 for the fraternity's charity, Push America.

SEE KAPPA, PAGE 5

Film Initiative: Underground launching a student film festival

JUAN BARQUIN
Staff Writer

With their weekly film screenings gaining traction, the crew of FIU's Film Initiative: Underground have decided to tackle a new project to support filmmakers, and it's quite the ambitious one. Their goal is to produce the first film festival for University students to showcase their works.

Kicking off right after April Fools day, this festival is something that the FI:U team isn't taking lightly.

Taking place April 2-4, audiences will be treated to three days of screenings, opening and closing night parties, and an award ceremony for contestants in two categories: narrative and documentary.

FI:U President Robert Colom

said, "It's important for us to integrate the arts at FIU, so our opening and closing night parties are at the Frost and Wolfsonian FIU museums."

He added that having the parties take place there provides "a chance to establish a relationship between cinema and the arts."

The films will be shorts made by students, either on their own or with the help of the club, which has offered its talents for any budding filmmakers.

In addition to helping writers fine-tune their scripts or edit together dozens of clips, FI:U is also accepting the help of anyone willing to provide equipment, forming a pool of people with the similar interest of creating a piece of art they can call their own.

Not only does the festival offer students a chance to work

“It's a really great opportunity for students here at FIU to showcase their talents and have a chance to network with professionals in the film industry.”

Gabriela Aramayo
Member
Film Initiative: Underground

together, but it's a chance to have their work critiqued by a panel of judges, comprised of University professors and Miami film professionals.

"It's a really great opportunity for students here at FIU to showcase their talents and have a chance to network with professionals in the film industry," said

club member Gabriela Aramayo.

Students who aren't participating in the festival and just feel like watching movies can attend any of the screenings free of charge, as well as both parties. The event is open to faculty and staff as well.

Those who don't attend the University can still enjoy the

screenings with tickets priced at \$5 per block of short films.

Aside from the blocks of short films, the festival offers some more interesting film related events. One such event is the reSOUNDING film series, which features classic silent films with brand new scores by local bands. Another is the Art Cinema Showcase, which will give FIU artists a chance to transfer their medium of art to the screen.

As the FI:U still has some work left before unleashing their first festival, like pinpointing more screening locations, they are still accepting submissions through March 11.

Anyone interested in submitting a short, offering equipment, or asking for help on a project can contact FI:U at fliusff@gmail.com.

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SPC reveals artists for upcoming Uproar Concert

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Staff Writer

Many things were revealed on Monday, Feb. 25 during the Student Programming Council's Uproar Reveal, including the winner of the Uproar DJ battle, people's deepest thoughts, and what artists would be playing at the Uproar concert which will take place on April 5.

The event, which was held in the Graham Center Ballrooms, was full of entertainment for the attendees as they impatiently waited for the announcement of the artists.

Three rooms were avail-

able to students, all there to entertain. The main room was filled with music from the competing DJ's band and FIU's Tokyo Love Bots – who wowed the attendees with two performances to old and new songs, and popular hits like "Gangnam Style" and the "Harlem Shake."

In another room, laser tag games were held among students and in another, there was everything from cotton candy stations to creativity stations where students decorated wooden pins with glitter of different colors that SPC provided. There was also a photo booth for students with plenty of props, goofy hats and masks.

The event didn't fall short of entertaining, as the four DJs' competition provided plenty of song mash-ups to heat up the crowd and students shared their opinions via Twitter and had them displayed on the big screen SPC had set up. The competition included DJ Christofino, DJ Ralph, DJ House Junkie and DJ Savi; but in the end, only DJ House Junkie came out a victor based on the judges' decision. As an award, DJ House Junkie will get to perform during the Uproar Concert.

In addition to the music provided from the DJs, there was also a live band, Rezo-

lution, made up of four members, mostly University students. During recessions from the DJs bumping sounds, Resolution would calm the crowd down with their chill sounds of pop and R&B, before SPC's special guest arrived.

"Performing was amazing," said Nick Duran, who was performing with the band for the first time. "It was a great experience."

Besides performing, Duran also found some other key moments exciting.

"The magician brought in an interesting little vibe and he announced who [the artists] were going to be," Duran said. "It's just

exciting."

To end the event, SPC brought out mentalist Bill Crane who blew students' minds with his mind reading, predictions and psychic abilities. From card tricks, to predicting people's decisions, his performance left the audience in awe.

To close up the event, Crane revealed the artists who would be performing at the Uproar Concert: 30H!3 and Trey Songz.

Hearing this brought excitement to some, like sophomore Emily Vasquez, a criminal justice major, who said, "I'm happy because I've been a big fan of 30H!3 since middle school."

The announcement got rid of indecisions and even changed minds.

"I didn't want to go at first. I've never been to Uproar because I didn't like the artists," said Kalondra McPhaul, a sophomore and psychology student who loves Trey Songz. "After I heard the artists, I was like 'Yea, FIU's stepping up. Good job.'"

University students can pick up their tickets at Campus Life in GC 2240 by presenting their Panther IDs. The concert will take place during Uproar week, starting April 5.

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The land down under is brought into the spotlight

The land down under, also commonly known as Australia, brings more than the idea of kangaroos and koala bears. With Australia being almost the size of the United States, it is hard to describe Australians without being too general.

COLUMNIST



HOLLY MCCOACH

Jess Stojanovski, a sophomore education major, flew in from Melbourne, Australia on New Year's Day as an exchange student of the University. As far as stereotypes go, one of the biggest ones of Australia is how "dangerous" it is with wildlife such as giant spiders, snakes, and killer sharks.

"A lot of people know of Australia, but they don't know much about it. They always mention barbie – like barbeque – crocodiles, and they ask whether I have a kangaroo," Stojanovski said.

Snakes, koala bears, and kangaroos are not popping into her garden every day either.

"I don't think I've ever seen a snake in my life," Stojanovski said. "I've seen koalas

before, but you would more go to a zoo to see them."

Kangaroos are more common than the rest of the animals in Melbourne, but it is also an animal that someone would visit the zoo for. As for giant spiders, there is a bit of a difference as to what is considered average to South Floridians than to Australians like Stojanovski.

Stojanovski told me about the Huntsman spider, a creature that is common in Melbourne. Unsure as to the actual size of what she called this common, average-sized spider, I did some research and found that their leg span can reach around 6 inches. With that size, and their hairy legs, most of us in South Florida would consider that a bit frightening, and well, huge. It is very common in southeastern Australia.

Shark attacks are not unheard of, but only to those who dwell in the water for most of their time.

The style of restaurants is a bit different as well. Any American style restaurant found in Australia is known as a diner.

The biggest depiction of this is the use of booths. Although booths in restaurants are about as common as the tear marks in their

vinyl form, booths are only used in Australia for American style restaurants. Sit-down style restaurants that are not part of a chain consist solely of tables and chairs.

Other minuscule differences include the choices of a variety of buns at Australian McDonald's, as well healthier options – only recently have American McDonald's chains posted the calorie content of each item. Burger King is called Hungry Jack's, because it is a franchisee of the Burger King Corporation.

When Stojanovski arrived, she had a bit of a culture shock at the University life. In Australia, there are no dorms, and sports are not as competitive as they are here.

"[Australian students] don't live on campus," Stojanovski said. "Your sports are amazing. We don't play all the time."

In Australia, sporting events are held roughly twice a year, with no weekly competitions. For students wanting to study in Australia, they would have to get an apartment or share house. Universities are more common in Australia, which allows easy access for prospective and current students. No one moves from their home unless they live in a

rural area.

Even though Australia's seasons are the reverse to ours – no white Christmases – the Melbourne climate is not much different to Miami's, even though it is one of many aspects that draws Stojanovski to Miami and the University.

"I've been [to Miami] before. I loved Miami [and] the weather. Melbourne's weather is very unpredictable," Stojanovski said.

With a population of around 4 million, Melbourne is a booming city with many choices as to what to do.

"We have a lot of Italian restaurants, and Thai restaurants," Stojanovski said. "There are restaurants for a typical type of food."

Melbourne's beaches are also quite popular, with over a dozen to choose from. The most popular ones are St. Kilda Beach, Williamstown Beach, and Altona Beach.

Australia may seem like it is forever and a day away, but its differences and similarities to our everyday lives could make it very well worth a visit.

-holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

Gamers' corner is a good time among friends

GAMERS, PAGE 1

Camargo also helped put together an FIU team to compete at the Collegiate Star League last semester. He reported a 30 percent win of all games during the competition.

Camargo was also the captain of the FIU team that mainly competed in the League of Legends game. The team included 10 participants, a far larger amount comparing to its first attempt to

form the team in 2011.

Brandon Oramas, a junior in English, is often seen sitting in the gamers spot playing a dual game of Pokémon. He is a league owner for the Pokémon tournaments that take place every year. Because the tournament is open to anyone, there is no FIU team.

"I play both card games and video games usually my preference for both is with Pokémon where I'm actually an organizer, so I run events, I judge at official tournaments and I help promote the

events," Oramas said.

A huge assumption with gamers is that the only thing they do is play video or card games, however, Oramas reassured that this is big misconception and misunderstanding.

"Players have lives, this is just a hobby," he said. "I don't neglect my responsibilities."

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War of the Roses fundraiser is a success

KAPPA, PAGE 4

are disabled."

It was a six-day event that included events such as SMASH the word, Paint for Push, Push to Snap, Push America Involvement Fair, a friendship visit with Best Buddies and the Miss Push America Pageant.

The events operated on a point system -- the sorority with the most points wins the trophy and is declared WOTR champions.

SMASH the word, the first event of WOTR, featured a wooden plank covered in slandering words that society uses to refer to the disabled.

Passersby were able to toss a ball at it in order to symbolize the demolition of stereotypical and hurtful terms directed at people who are disabled.

Paint for Brush, held on day two of WOTR, allowed people to paint their handprints on the Push canvas.

Day three allowed participants to take part in Push to Snap, which gave people the opportunity to take a photo and then create a frame for it out of popsicle sticks.

On day four of WOTR, the contestants of the Miss Push America Pageant held their own Push America Involvement Fair,

in which they created their own fundraisers for the cause.

Day five consisted of a friendship visit with Best Buddies. People were able to participate in Pi Kappa Phi's regular visit and play games and eat lunch with members of Pi Kappa Phi and Best Buddies.

Finally, the Miss Push America Pageant was held on day six and the winner of WOTR was announced along with the pageant winner – Juliana Vanegas from Phi Sigma Sigma.

The winner of WOTR, the Theta Xi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta, was determined by a point system based off how much money was raised by each sorority at the respective events.

Ten percent of their total was given to their charity Autism Speaks, which focuses on raising funding for autism research and raising awareness on autism and how it affects people.

"It was incredible because there was a lot of engagement," Gutierrez said. "We usually don't have that many attending, but this year there was probably 50 or 60 people, and we had not only sorority women that were attending, but men from different fraternities as well."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING 2013

FRIDAY, MAR. 1

FIU LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM

WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

AERODYNAMIC PERFORMANCE OF FEATHERED DINOSAURS

WHEN: 12-12:50 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC PC 211 transmitted to MSB 105

MINDING THE GAP: REFLECTIONS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE IN 2013

WHEN: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Food and refreshments will be provided.
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

HALLANDALE HS COLLEGE FAIR

WHEN: 7-10:45 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Hallandale High School, Hallandale, FL

SAND VOLLEYBALL

WHEN: 1 p.m.
WHERE: MMC

SATURDAY, MAR. 2

FIU OPERA THEATER: AGRIPPINA BY G.F. HANDEL

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Concert Hall, Wertheim Performing Arts Center

"JOSÉ MARTÍ: IMAGES OF MEMORY AND MOURNING"

WHEN: 5-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: For more information and to RSVP call CRI at (305)348-1991
WHERE: Books & Books, Coral Gables

CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES: ART & MUSIC

WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

SUNDAY, MAR. 3

TAMPA NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Tampa Convention Center, Tampa FL

CULTIVATING PATIENCE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

WHEN: 1-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Fundraiser for PSS, \$25 at door for the public, \$10 for FIU students with ID.
WHERE: BBC AC1 194

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LIAR

WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Ticket prices: \$10-\$15, Musical ticket prices: \$15-\$20
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

Softball standout stays true to family heritage

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

The sensational sound of Latin-Caribbean music blares over the speakers, fans and teammates start yelling out "Puerto Rico!" and a mother, calling her daughter by her nickname, screams out encouragement in Spanish. It's just about impossible to not notice when softball freshman Aleima Lopez walks up to bat.

"When I was 13, there was a scout who came out for the Puerto Rico national team and they told me that they wanted me to play and ever since then, my whole life has been all about Puerto Rico," Aleima Lopez said.

Her nationality is just a portion of her story, though. The 19-year-old catcher from Puerto Rico comes from a long line of ball players. Her father, Juan Lopez, played Double and Triple-A for the Houston Astros and coaches for the Cincinnati Reds. Her brother, Jack Lopez, plays for the Kansas City Royals Single-A farm team.

"I love it," Aleima Lopez said. "They're always helping me

out. My brother is actually more supportive than anybody. He just tells me to have fun and do what I know how to do.

Aleima Lopez said when she was younger and played baseball, her brother was a pitcher.

"Nobody wanted catch for him," she said. "So I used to volunteer and that's how it all started."

With big shoes to fill, the catcher has been working on a legacy of her own. After starting baseball at 7 years old and continuing onto the national team, Aleima Lopez kept playing with club teams and in high school. She posted superb batting averages all four years, her highest a .565 mark in her senior year, and helped her school become three-time district champions. She now plans on adding a successful collegiate softball career to her resume.

"I've said it before, she might be a freshman but she doesn't play like it," said softball Head Coach Jake Schumann. "I don't consider her a freshman."

Although not heavily recruited, she was still well known to the team. Aleima Lopez was surprised

when she arrived at FIU and all of her fellow players knew about her and were even excited to have

a freshman and having her first collegiate at-bat end in a home run.

“

I've said it before, she might be a freshman but she doesn't play like it. I don't consider her a freshman.

Jake Schumann
Head Coach
FIU Softball

her on their team. Her teammates raved about her and she was one of the players Schumann was the most excited about. Even other members of opposing schools have come to know who she is, one referring to her having a "vacuum for a glove."

She has already started to make even more of a name for herself in her short time here, starting as

"It felt really good but I couldn't have done it without my teammates," Aleima Lopez said. "They kept telling me I was going to do that my first at bat, especially Jessie [Alfonso] and Brie [Rojas]. I was like, 'No, there's no way,' and it happened."

She has made game-defining plays with her bat and with her defense and she has been a menace

for other teams. The catcher is a significant position, liaison between coach and pitcher, as well as the anchor on defense; she keeps runners honest and makes them pay for anything less than perfect base running. But her combination of skill and nationality is nothing new.

Following in the footsteps of the ever-growing trend of Hispanics in baseball, she is the epitome of the new America.

Even down to her favorite baseball player, she doesn't choose Babe Ruth or Jackie Robinson, but Cuban native Livan Hernandez. She is modeled in the essence of the universal mix of sports and heritage.

Emerging from a line of professional athletes and the captivating heritage of a proud nation is a softball player who simply loves the game she's played since she was a child. Playing ball is in her blood as much as the country she was born in is. She embraces both aspects of her life and, luckily for FIU, she embraces them here.

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Panthers' lumber awakens from its slumber

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

After getting shutout against Bethune-Cookman University on Feb. 20, FIU's offense was starved.

The Panthers had only batted in 14 runs in four games, with 10 of those coming from the season opener.

As the Panthers (7-2) returned home to start a three-game series against Manhattan (0-3) on Feb. 22, players knew that they had to start hitting the ball better to support their starting pitchers. That is exactly what they did as after scoring 40 runs in a series sweep against the Jaspers.

"At Bethune, we didn't come out with the normal energy we have and it showed," Left fielder Zach Sweet said. "We got three hits and scored nothing in nine innings against a pitcher that we were capable of hitting and that just woke us up especially as an offense."

Of the 40 runs driven in the Manhattan series, 18 came from the bats of just three Panthers. Veteran second baseman T.J. Shantz collected six runs batted with the help of two run home runs. Junior transfer Josh Anderson batted in five runs of his own while also knocking out a two run shot. Finally, first baseman and freshman standout Edwin Rios gathered seven RBIs on five doubles.

"We all said that we really needed to change our mindset and start working to opposite field," Shantz said. "We just had to be more patient and start playing our type of baseball and do what we do best just battle and compete."

"We've kind of been preparing for an explosion like this all year," Anderson said. "Even coach [Henry Thomas] said that I think our hitters are ready for the explosion that we've been waiting for."

While the Panthers bats start to heat up,



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Josh Anderson has been a key part of FIU's offensive onslaught recently, having a team-leading 11 RBIs and being second in slugging percentage at a .647 mark so far this season.

Rios might as well be carrying the torch. Rios leads the team with a .455 batting average; he also has 15 hits, tied for the Sun Belt Conference lead, with 10 of those being doubles.

Starting Pitcher Tyler Alexander, who picked up his first division one win during

the Manhattan series, knows how important it is for the big bats to start coming alive.

"They're great ball players. They're just hitting the ball real well," Alexander said. "Edwin has been real hot and Josh is a monster, it's good to have those guys behind my back knowing that they're going to put

up runs."

After FIU's sweep of the Jaspers, the Panther looked to continue their dominance against Texas Tech University (5-4). Having lost three games in a row, the Red Raiders were taking on water fast, and that didn't stop on Feb. 25 in game one of a two-game series in FIU.

The Panthers exploded once again, collecting nine runs en route to their seventh straight win at home. Leading the way for FIU was none other than Rios who opened up the scoring with a two-run home run, his first in a Panther uniform, during the bottom of the first inning.

However, Texas Tech had the last laugh as they were able to split the two game series on Feb. 26 when they defeated FIU 8-6.

For Shantz, there were many positives and negatives to take away from the Red Raiders series to help build this team.

"The positive is that you beat a good team from a big conference," Shantz said. "The negative, obviously, is that we should have taken two. We need to learn how to come a little more focused to the park and we could really focus on that moving forward."

FIU now takes on No. 8 ranked University of Mississippi in a three-game series starting tonight at 6 p.m. For Head Coach Turtle Thomas and Shantz, the opportunity to play such a high-ranking team is a true honor.

"It's going to be a great series," Shantz said. "We're very excited to play them because we're going to get a true test of where we are at."

"They're a good team from the Southeastern Conference," Thomas said. "We knew this was going to be an exciting week for FIU baseball. We're 1-1 for the week and we need to go out there and compete and do well."

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ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

While Marco Porcher-Jimenez has only started two games all season (he's played in 15 through Feb. 27), Head Coach Richard Pitino values his defense, often assigning him to cover the opponent's toughest player.

Oft-overlooked player key to team's success

JUAN GUTIERREZ
Contributing Writer

Despite his 6-foot-4-inch frame, it might be easy to overlook Marco Porcher-Jimenez in a large crowd. The guard is quiet and laid back. However on the court, his style of play is quite the contrary; it's loud and clear.

"Marco is a pretty quiet guy off the court, but on the court, he talks because you can't be quiet on the court, you have to communicate on the court and he's been real good for us this year," Head Coach Richard Pitino said.

Porcher-Jimenez, a red shirt sophomore for the FIU men's basketball team, began the season as a role player off the bench who didn't get much playing time. After some time and much practice, he has increased his productivity and has moved up in the rotation, seeing more minutes.

Being in a similar situation before when playing high school basketball for powerhouse Oak Hill Academy, Porcher-Jimenez says he didn't let the lack of playing time bother him this season. He says he would just attend practice and prepare as if he were playing every game.

"It's all about staying confident and knowing that the season is long and that pretty much anything can happen, opportunities will always come," said Porter-Jimenez, a Spanish native. "When my time came, I was ready because I took that time when I wasn't playing serious."

That type of mindset and attitude is what has helped to make a difference for Porcher-Jimenez mid-season when coach Pitino began to call his name and trust in him more often.

One of Porcher-Jimenez's strongest aspects to his game is his accuracy from

behind the three-point line. He is shooting 40 percent this season from behind the arc which ties him with Juan Ferrales for the best on the team.

Porcher-Jimenez scored his season high 15 points on Jan. 31 against the top team in the conference in the University of Middle Tennessee on four of five shooting from downtown.

"His ability to shoot the ball has been huge for us. He's definitely helped win a lot of games for us and he's been a major part of what we do," Pitino said. "He does everything we ask, and I think he can contribute in all aspects of the game but his ability to knock down shots is something that's very important for us."

Pitino also emphasized that Porcher-Jimenez is probably the team's best defender. Many usually see him having the assignment of guarding the opposite team's best offensive player night in and night out.

"I'm not the most athletic player or the quickest or the strongest. I'm just smarter than most guys on defense. You just have to know where to be at the right time," Porcher-Jimenez said. "I try to use my length to my advantage and always keep my hands active to help force turnovers".

Porcher-Jimenez's hard work ethic on defense along with his shooting has helped him earn the trust from Pitino and his teammates.

"I expect Marco to keep doing what he's been doing this season," Pitino said. "He's a major part of what we do. He's got to keep playing stellar defense, communicate, hitting open shots when he's open and just continuing to do his job to help our team win."

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Roundup: men's soccer, track and field, swimming and golf

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Sports Director

Men's soccer Head Coach Kenny Arena bolstered his squad with 10 new faces for his first recruiting class at FIU. Of the 10, seven are from Florida, two are from California and one is from Germany.

"We're very excited to welcome these outstanding student-athletes to the Panther family," Arena said in a press release. "This class will be the foundation for our team's success over the next four years."

Arena said that there is "a great mix of attackers and defenders who are all technically sound on the ball."

"The depth of our team is significantly improved and that will allow us to maintain a high level of play as we get into the later parts of the year," Arena said at the conference. "We have a few more important additions to this class that will be announced at a later date."

Topsoccerdrawer.com named FIU as one of five classes with big potential.

Of all the recruits so far, only one is a transfer, midfielder Nelson Milsaint. He was named First-Team 4A-2A All-Dade County in '08, '09, '10 and '11 by The Miami Herald.

"Nelson is one of the top transfers in the country. He'll bring a great defensive presence in the midfield or the center of the back. He can cover a lot of ground and will be an imposing force," Arena said.

TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

As the Indoor Track & Field Championships came to a close, FIU left with mixed results.

The women's team shone, finishing third place with 103 points behind North Texas as well host and eventual champion Arkansas State University.

LaShae White, Lakeisha Kelley, Nia Anderson and

T'Keyah Dumoy captured the women's 4x400 championship with a combined time of 3:44:59, defeating North Texas.

It was 0.29 off FIU's record in the event set in 2001 and 0.65 off the Sun Belt Conference record ran in 1999.

The women's team also finished in third place in last year's championships with 102 points. Dumoy placed second in a couple of events.

In the 55-meter, she had a time of 7.03, and a 24.15 time in the 200-meter.

The men's team didn't fare as well as the women.

They scored a paltry 34 points, finishing eighth in the tournament. Western Kentucky took home the championship.

Despite the low score of 34 points, that's almost three times the amount they had last year when they scored 12.

One bright spot, however, was Marcus Ghent, who won Most Outstanding Freshman with a

15.24m in the triple jump, landing him second in the event.

SWIMMING FOR GOLD

The SBC swimming and diving championships are underway in Rockwall, Texas, starting yesterday, Feb. 27, all through March 2.

Last year, the Panthers finished in fourth place but took home all the conference awards.

Sabrina Beaupre won Diver of the Year while winning the 1-meter and 3-meter dives.

Johanna Gustafsdottir won Swimmer of the Year after dominating the 200 IM, 200 Free and 200 Back events.

"The team is focused and ready to go," FIU Head Coach Randy Horner said in a press release on Wednesday. "It's been a long season of training all pointing to this weekend. We expect to do well as a team."

SPRING GOLF KICKS OFF

The FIU golf team wrapped up

its first spring tournament with a solid second-place finish in the Sir Pizza Terrapin Challenge in the Shula's Golf Club in Miami Lakes.

FIU finished with 22-over 886, behind No.18 NC State, who won the event with a 10-over 874.

It's a vast improvement over their 2012 11th-place in the same event.

Freshman standout Meghan McLaren led FIU with a fifth-place finish with a three-round two-over, 218 (70-74-74).

Senior Yolecci Jimenez was the only other Panther in the top 10, finishing eighth with a seven-over, 223 mark, a career best.

FIU has been superb this season, with three first-place finishes, a second place finish, and a fourth-place finish.

They now travel to Mesa, Ariz., for the Second Annual Clover Cup from March 8 to March 10.

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Panther Sports Talk Live

Listen every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Radiate FM from 10-11 a.m. on 88.1, 95.3, and 96.9 fm



BANKIN'

Wells Fargo kiosk coming soon to WUC

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

Students and staff will soon be able to do all of their Wells Fargo banking at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Students and the Office of Business Services approached Eric Arneson, assistant vice president of student affairs, about having a Wells Fargo at the BBC in order to enjoy the same luxury that the students at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus have.

Currently, Arneson and the Office of Business Services are working with Wells Fargo to set

up a kiosk in the Wolfe University Center sometime during the spring 2013 semester.

Since FIU is known as being a commuter school, students take most of their classes at the campus closest to them. Most students who live near BBC take most of their classes, if not all their classes, at BBC.

The closest Wells Fargo location to BBC is on 147 Street in the Biscayne Commons shopping plaza.

Every student who has an FIU One Card has a Wells Fargo account attached to it, but that doesn't necessarily mean

that students are using the account.

Malynda Point du Jour, a junior majoring in nursing said, "I don't even use the Wells Fargo account attached to the One Card so I don't think it's necessary. There's a Wells Fargo close by so I think a Wells Fargo branch at BBC is pointless."

Celia Suman, a freshman hospitality management major disagrees. "I think it is necessary. I know students at the South Campus use the Wells Fargo building frequently, and I think it would be a great convenience to have one at BBC."

It has not been set where exactly the kiosk will be located, but there is talk about putting it near the FIU One Card Office in WUC, according to Arneson.

Some students have expressed a concern about privacy having the Wells Fargo kiosk in the WUC and feel nervous about doing their banking while other people are passing through.

It's no secret that bank information is fragile and needs to be kept confidential to avoid nightmares like identity theft.

Other students disagree and think that banking in the WUC wouldn't be a

problem.

"I don't think I would be too concerned with doing my banking in the WUC. There are times of the day I could go where there wouldn't be too many people passing by since BBC is the smaller, more relaxed campus. BBC doesn't have the hustle and bustle that MMC has," said Celine Wassaf, a freshman majoring in biomedical engineering.

Arneson said that if there is a problem with privacy, the kiosk can be moved.

Many students at BBC think that a Wells Fargo isn't that necessary on

campus.

Rebecca Merek, a freshman majoring in hospitality management and living in Bay Vista Housing, thinks a Wells Fargo would be beneficial to the students at BBC but said, "I would rather have more food options."

Davon Johnson, a senior majoring in journalism also brought up the question of whether or not this will affect tuition costs for next year.

"If it's going to cause my tuition to rise, then I really don't think it's necessary," said Johnson.

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New red light proposal to affect entrance to BBC

JESSICA MESZAROS
Contributing Writer

A House committee approved a bill to repeal Florida's law which allows cameras to ticket vehicles that run red lights, including the red light camera at the entrance of BBC on Biscayne Blvd and NE 151 Street.

Some of the University's students and faculty have mixed feelings about the removal of the law.

Jonathan Michanie, a junior majoring in political science, drives to BBC every day and wants the red light cameras to be removed.

He said that he was ticketed by a camera close to campus, but got it thrown out.

Michanie said that he could not break for the yellow light because of a car close behind him, so he kept going.

"I've been taught well," he said. "But any other regular driver our age would've stopped because of fear that that camera would have caught them on, and it would've caused a really bad accident."

Maria Olenick is the assistant director of the nursing program at BBC. She drives to campus every day as well and agrees with Michanie.

Although she has never been ticketed, she feels the red light cameras affect her driving because she feels it's "only a matter of time."

"If there's a bus in front of you, it always stops before the tracks," said Olenick. "So you're stuck in the intersection and it's so easy to get a ticket for going through when it's green, but getting caught in a yellow or red."

Earl Gibson is a motor coach driver for Horizon Coach Lines that shuttles students from campus to campus. He said that he got a ticket on an 11 p.m. route toward MMC.

Gibson had to pay out of pocket for the ticket. He and the other drivers know where the red light cameras are on their routes and

drive cautiously through them.

"If you're driving a bus and you come up on a light and it turns yellow and we have passengers on a bus, we can't come to an emergency stop because you're gonna sling the passengers," said Gibson.

Last June, a state survey showed that there was a 41 percent decline in rear-end collisions and a 44 percent decline in side-impact crashes recorded at 404 red light camera intersections, according to the Associated Press.

Senior biology major Angie Hunt said that she was "actually alright with the idea that we can make things safer with technology these days."

"I have had friends that have been killed in accidents because people were stupid," said Hunt. "And running a red light- there's really no excuse. I don't care how late you are to class."

Cory Wentworth, a philosophy junior, said he is in favor for the removal of red light camera ticketing.

"I don't like it. I think it encourages people to drive even worse because they kind of speed trying to avoid it," said Wentworth.

AP said that the state received \$83 out of every \$158 ticket. This amounted to \$51 million in the last full budget year. Local governments and camera contractors get the rest.

International relations junior Makeda Mclune drives to BBC every day. She said that she received "a lot of tickets because of the lights."

"I think it's unnecessary, and it's just another way to kind of burden the tax payer indirectly," Mclune said. "We think we're driving the right way and all of a sudden we get a ticket in the mail saying we didn't pause long enough, or whatever the reasons are."

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Painting Square



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On Feb. 27, students celebrated the Affair of the Arts Square Day. Adreina Herrera, a junior in hospitality, sat with several other students in Panther Square and painted a ceramic owl with the paints provided by the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay campus. While people enjoyed the free ceramics, Kaleigh Baker sang on stage.