

Gender neutral bathroom projected to open in summer

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Construction of a gender neutral bathroom is projected for the end of the semester.

According to Larry Lunsford, vice president of Student Affairs, the conversation to house gender neutral bathrooms in the University began over a year ago.

Among the individuals involved in the discussion were Gisela Vega, associate director of LGBT initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, referenced Lunsford.

For Lunsford, the two major concerns regarding the bathroom were cost and location.

The present projection estimates that the bathroom's construction will cost around \$350,000.

The funds for the project come from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund, state funding that may be used for student buildings. A portion of the cost will also come from the student health fee that is included in the cost of student tuition.

While he admits that the University isn't home to a large transgender population, Lunsford admitted that a population exists nonetheless.

He added that the gender neutral bathroom will help those who feel unsafe using a restroom designated for the gender with which they identify feel more comfortable.

The sign that will be designated for the bathroom will feature a male and female stick figure standing next to one another, with the word, Restroom, labeled below the figures.

According to Sanyo Mathew, senior director of the Graham Center in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, the bathroom will be installed in GC

in Room 161, in front of the Student Government Association chambers.

At present, GC 161 is a storage room for the Office of Orientation and Parent Programs. The storage room will be moved to an area in GC by the loading dock.

The restrooms across the SGA chambers will also be undergoing renovations when construction starts on the gender neutral bathroom.

Construction is projected to begin in either March or May.

According to Mathew, who assumed his directorship in August 2014 when the project was already approved, starting the construction in March will increase the chances of having the facility ready by the fall semester.

Lunsford, however, believes the project will begin in May, keeping in mind that construction may cause distractions if it were done during the semester when classes are in full swing.

Students weighed in on the development.

Johana Rios, a senior criminal justice major, believes there will be both positive and negative impacts.

"When you're dealing with anything LGBT, it's going to have a weird critical reception. But at the end of the day I think it's good to have [a gender neutral bathroom] because, first of all, it shows that FIU is more in tune with the times, and secondly, we need that."

Other students were not open to the idea.

"I think this will just open up a can of worms," said Chloe Brendan, a freshman international relations major. "People will start using the bathroom even if they aren't transgender, and besides, I'm not comfortable with that particular life choice."

The bathroom, however, won't be

FRISBEE



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Joshua Benitez, a junior studying journalism, plays frisbee with friends on the green outside of DM. "I really like playing disc," he said "I wanted to get them into it."

the first gender neutral bathroom in the University.

According to Andrew Naylor, occupancy manager and associate director of University Housing, several housing complexes are already featuring gender neutral bathrooms.

Among these complexes are Parkview, Everglades, and Lakeview North and South.

For Mathew, the new development will go a long way to help more than just transgender individuals.

Once completed, the bathroom, which will be open for use for one person at a time, will be fully equipped with a diaper changing station.

Mathew said that when the University opened its doors in the 1970s the bathrooms didn't include this feature. He also added that in other restrooms, where diaper changing stations are included, they are usually found in just women's bathrooms, when in the modern age men travel just as much with their children.

"We need to enable our students to be self-sufficient," Mathew said, adding that the development will help students who are visitors of the Disability Resource Center.

One of the things that Mathew wants to address with the project is that students in wheelchairs need to be able to have access to the new space.

Despite the fact that specific sections are reserved for disabled individuals in bathrooms within the University, some students complain that there still isn't enough space to enter with their caregivers, according to Mathew, who says that this is a common complaint among visitors of the DRC.

He commented that the University needs to push the bar in regards to building code regulations, which dictate the amount of space that should be reserved to accommodate people who use the bathrooms.

While the University's standard building code dictates that doors should be 36 inches wide, the door for the gender neutral bathroom will

be 42 inches, featuring an extra six inches that will help accommodate students who use wheelchairs and need some more space to enter rooms.

A section of the room will be converted into a custodial room for storage.

In addition to the construction of the gender neutral bathroom, renovations will also be done on the restrooms in front of the SGA chambers.

Once construction is complete, Mathew believes that the question will come down to who actually uses the bathroom.

For Mathew, it'll be up to the community to decide whether or not to use the bathroom for its intended purposes.

The construction season is estimated to last between two to four months, setting aside enough time to examine the infrastructure inside GC 161 and set up an adequate piping system.

"If we don't have this available for [students,] then it's definitely a disservice," Mathew said.

FIUPD launches Twitter, Facebook accounts

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The University Police Department has launched its own Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Launched in late February, the Twitter and Facebook pages are primarily intended as a form of community outreach.

The Facebook page, Florida International University Police Department, and the Twitter handle, @FIUPOLICE, will be primarily used to Tweet out safety tips, crime alerts, links to the University's Victim Advocacy Center and the Emergency Management site.

FIUPD's accounts will align with the Department of Emergency Management by sending out FIU Alerts, just like the University's main Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Officer David Navas of the University is in charge of handling UPD's social media accounts and says that while students can Tweet and post about their emergencies, he

doesn't recommend it, since it's "just him for now," handling the accounts.

If students are in an emergency situation or need to inform the police with time sensitive information, Navas said students should defer from social media and instead call the department directly at (305) 348-2626.

But Navas won't be getting notifications from all students.

"I just don't really see the point of it," said junior psychology major Dylan Hoyos. "I don't see how [social media] could hurt but the notification system I feel would be the fastest way to get alerted of anything because, like, I personally don't have a Twitter or anything."

Hoyos doesn't have a Twitter, thinks email notifications do just fine.

Navas will instead be getting mentions and likes from students like Cassandra Greetham.

"I think it's one of the quickest ways besides the alerts that we get to our phones because people are constantly on Twitter and Instagram and stuff like that, so it'd be a really fast way."

The freshman recreational therapy major thinks Twitter specifically is one of the quickest and easiest ways to inform students

Navas, a four-year employee of University police, said the FIUPD accounts can also be used as investigative tools should the need arise.

Navas made it clear it that the UPD will not be using their Twitter and Facebooks to 'dig up dirt' on students, but rather another way to ask the community for assistance. He stated locating suspects as one example.

University police consulted with Miami Dade, Miami Beach and the University of Miami Police departments in the designing of their Twitter account.

The UPD's Facebook and Twitter accounts as of press time have less than 500 combined followers. For Navas though, it's not a numbers' game.

"It means a lot to me and to my chief, we are huge on reaching out to the community."

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Hostage reportedly beheaded by Islamic State

Islamic State militants have beheaded a Japanese journalist, according to video released Saturday on the Internet, ending a wrenching drama that has gripped Japan and jolted another close U.S. ally, Jordan.

The grisly slaying of Kenji Goto, 47, an experienced war correspondent and father of two young daughters, triggered outrage across the globe and an outpouring of grief and

indignation in Japan, a nation that has generally been insulated from events in the turbulent Middle East.

“We are deeply saddened by this despicable and horrendous act of terrorism, and we denounce it in the strongest terms,” a stricken Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters in Tokyo about 6:40 a.m., shortly after the video appeared on the Internet.

Fate of Jordanian pilot unclear after Islamic State beheads Japanese journalist

A short video apparently depicting the decapitation of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto was released late Saturday by the Islamic State.

The executioner appeared to be the same British-accented jihadi shown murdering at least five other hostages in previous videos.

The video, which lasted about one minute, caps two weeks of drama over what was to become of Goto and another Japanese hostage, Haruna Yukawa, and leaves in limbo the fate of a Jordanian fighter pilot, Muath al-Kaseasbeh, whom the Islamic State captured in December and has threatened to kill.

Israeli documentary details Kurds’ battle against Islamic State

Photojournalist Eddie Gerald remembers the first time he saw Sinan Ben Saleh, an Islamic State fighter who’d been taken prisoner by Kurdish troops in northern Iraq.

“I saw a good-looking guy in his early 20s who was quite frightened,” Gerald, an Israeli, recalled of the encounter. “Of course, we didn’t reveal we were from Israel, and we had a

translator.” The story Ben Saleh told was chilling. He claimed to have slaughtered 70 victims, but “he showed no emotions,” Gerald said.

“He told us he used a blunt knife so his victims should suffer,” Gerald said. “When we asked how long it takes for person to die, he thought . . . and said three or four minutes.”

‘Yoga by the Bay’ has come a long way

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A monthly treat for yogis returns this week, getting their mats and water bottles outside the recreation building and on the lawns near the bay.

The second installment of “Yoga by the Bay” this term is on Friday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., on behalf of Student Health Services’ Wellness Center and Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation.

“When you’re outside, the air is much cleaner, clearer and fresher,” said Bonnie Quiceno, Rec Center yoga instructor of 15 years and founder of the University’s yoga program. She added that the air quality is an integral part of breathing.

Quiceno said that several years ago, outdoor yoga classes were held once a year. Roughly a year ago, the Wellness Center asked her to host classes outside each month due to its popularity and attendees have been requesting outdoor sessions more and more ever since.

She said being near a body of water like the Biscayne Bay, or at the top of a mountain, is the ideal place to do yoga because it is where you will find the best air.

Joshua Carrasco, a Rec Center employee and Higher Education graduate student, said that is the reason why Campus Recreation also found outdoor yoga sessions a great idea.

Carrasco attended his first and only yoga class in 2012 and said it was a great way to recuperate and release his weekly stresses.

Students like Beth Whitman, a Marine Biology graduate assistant who has attended Quiceno’s classes for over two years, said the

classes held outdoors are a unique experience, but the teacher makes it that much better.

Whitman said Quiceno is her favorite instructor, remembering attendees’ names and catering to each person’s needs.

“She’s awesome, and I’ve had a lot of instructors,” said Whitman, who has practiced yoga since 2007.

Occasionally, Quiceno incorporates Chakra Sound Bowl Meditation, which is a technique used to tap into a person’s chakras through various vibrations and sounds.

She said there are new people in her classes, so she may refrain from bringing the bowls to avoid intimidating fresh faces – just depends on her mood.

If it rains the day of the class, yoga is held in the Group X Studio in the Rec Center.

However, Quiceno said her yogis will withstand almost any weather conditions.

“There are breathing techniques to warm or cool your body,” she said.

Other than being surrounded by nature, Quiceno said the most beneficial component to her classes has been the sense of comradery among her fellow students.

She said teaching yoga at FIU for so many years has allowed her and her yogis to build lasting friendships, forming their own yoga family.

“I don’t know what the University does, but they must bring in the most amazing human beings on the planet,” she said.

“Yoga by the Bay” is held the first Friday of each month. However, Quiceno teaches yoga four times a week in the BBC Rec Center, not including Thursdays or weekends.

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Obnoxious students obstruct classroom environments

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Students come to class, more or less, to learn. Granted, there are students who come because attendance is mandatory, but the majority do want to learn while they're there. That being said, when you come into class and you're distractingly obnoxious, you're an obstacle to the pursuit of learning.

How can you tell you're distractingly obnoxious? Generally, the majority of the class will groan anytime you

speak. You'll receive side-eyes so strong that you'd fear your fate if looks could kill. At some point in the semester, even the professor will begin to regard you as a nuisance.

If you're this person, do the rest of your classmates a favor: either stop showing up or stop being an obnoxious a**hole.

I am aware that my language is very strong; trust me it's warranted.

On the other hand, to sit in a class of any length and hear you scream obnoxious statements just to have all eyes on you is a punishment no one deserves.

I know I'll get the "freedom of speech" rebuttals in which people will attempt to convince me that it's a right to speak freely, but consider this: in the United States of America, a person's personal rights end where another's begin.

That being said, your "expression of your freedom of speech" encroaches on my right to an education. I invite anyone to tell me how your irrelevant comment, such as a request that the professor Google "Two Girls One Cup" (if you haven't heard of it, don't Google it, please), more important than the collective right to an education?

I understand that people are essentially who they are going to be for the rest of their life at this point. I'm probably not going to change any of the obnoxious people I'm surrounded by with this opinion, I get it.

My goal is to voice the general opinion of those in the class who are beyond done with your shenanigans.

My goal is to simply request that you take a second to consider the rest of the class before disrupting the learning environment because for the last three minutes no one has acknowledged your existence.

The lost art of handwritten letters

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I was four or five, when I first learned about the postage system in India. While I had no idea how to comprehend this arrival of my first letter, I was beyond excited to get something that was sent to "me."

It was my cousin who had already learned to write a letter and, as any normal cousin would do, he decided that he would send me a classic "How are you? I am good. How are your parents? My parents are good. How is your school? My school is good..." letter. I could not wait to show it to my friends, and immediately asked my dad to buy me a postcard to respond.

Around the time I was entering high school, I spent over two hours at an Internet café to open my first yahoo email account and then sent an email to my friend, who was sitting right beside me.

It was a fascinating and futuristic experience. There was no looking back after that. Today, my phone beeps on an average five to 10 times an hour with notifications.

I cannot say for sure if it was my love for old times or my love for calligraphy that got me back to using a pen and paper to communicate. But what started out as a way to impress quickly turned into a habit. Yes, it

“
Handwritten letters not only require you to sharpen spelling, they also require you to get back to writing in general.”

sure does feel good to say "Yeah, I still send handwritten letters," but it comes nowhere close to the feeling you get when you see an envelope in your mailbox.

While I cannot make the same claim as the organic food advocates when they say that going back to old farming techniques has health benefits (which I do believe), I can sure tell you that going back to letter writing

definitely has some mental and character benefits.

Handwritten letters not only require you to sharpen spelling, they also require you to get back to writing in general. Unlike doodling or taking notes in class, you actually do want the reader to love your presentation of words and serifs

Apart from that, some of the best benefits of letter writing include building strong attributes such as discipline and patience. When you have an option of writing a letter, you might notice that it is more of a ritual than mere act.

Apart from being careful due to lack of a backspace, you are also investing some real effort in packing those clusters of words, which automatically conveys your effort and interest in reaching out to the other person.

There is this indescribable satisfaction once you finish a letter, seal it, write the address, fix a stamp and drop it in the mailbox, that you seldom receive when you hit the send button on your computer.

It is not just your personal life that can hugely benefit from this practice but also, sometimes, your professional life. I have heard personal accounts of people saying how sending a handwritten letter of thanks, after job interviews, surely leaves a lasting impression.

Be it reading print newspapers or preferring a hard copy of book to an eBook, there is something sacred in being old school.

The same way a filter on Instagram will never come close to developing a negative film from an old Kodak camera, sending a bundle of electronically-generated words will never match the ones you gave shape to with your own fingers.

More than anything, letter writing is one of those priceless gifts to mankind that should not be allowed to be lost in the shadows of the past. So next time, when you think about reaching out to a friend, reach out for a pen.

As your letters starts taking shape, you will realize that you have tapped into some so sensual and natural — the art of communication by handwritten word.

FRANK AND IRENE: Cat Treats



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

THE BEACON | Editorial

Cindy Russo retires mid-season

For almost forty years, the name Cindy Russo has been synonymous with FIU Women's Basketball. This swiftly changed on Jan. 22 when Russo unexpectedly retired in the middle of the season.

Russo began her coaching career at FIU in 1977 before spending 1978-80 as the head coach at Lamar University. She went 40-22 in those two seasons before coming back to FIU. Russo guided FIU to 20 consecutive winning seasons between 1981 and 2003. The Panthers had at least 20 wins in 18 of those years. She led her team to six NCAA Tournaments and eight Women's National Invitational Tournaments. 2014 - 15 was different story. She finished her career at FIU with a 664-360 record in 35 years.

Russo cites health as the main factor in her choosing to step down, but many believe that the team's struggles had something to do with it. More than likely, it was a combination of the two. Her mother passed away in late December. Russo had been by her side for months while still maintaining her duties as head coach. Immediately after the funeral, Russo was fighting through the flu which is when she decided to step down. In a season that's all but lost for the women's basketball team.

Russo's decision to step down becomes more clear when you look at the team's 2014 -15 record. The Panthers opened up 0-5 and sat at 3-13 at the time of Russo's resignation. It's a lot easier to away from a 3-13 team than it is to walk away from one that is competing for a conference title. If there's one thing Russo's resume says is that she's not used to losing. She led the Panthers to the women's NIT as recently as 2013 with FIU legend Jerica Coley. But after Coley's departure after the 2013-14 season, Russo was unable to get the Panthers back on the right track. But if anyone should be allowed to step down on their own terms, it's someone with the tenure of Russo.

Despite her long list of accolades, many students have probably never heard the name Cindy Russo. This is a woman who has been at the University longer than most students have even been alive. She's been coaching basketball at FIU as long as Mike "Coach K" Krzyzewski has been coaching at Duke. She grew the program from its infantile stages to where it is today.

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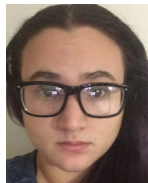
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An interview with The Hoy Polloy

NARRATIVE



NADINE RODRIGUEZ

Miami, being the densely populated city it is, continues to grow remarkably. It continues to grow in regards to art, culture, youth and music. Although the Miami music scene remains relatively latin, electronic and rap oriented, there are other genres that are growing strong, composed of bands that are digging their heels in the dirt and marking their ground in the Miami music scene. One such band is "The Hoy Polloy."

The band, although calling themselves their own genre: "alternative indie progressive," truly make music for the masses. Sitting in on their Thursday morning practice, my ears were graced with an array of songs. One song involved a rap sequence, voiced by co-founder and frontman K Sos, another song had a jazz melody, a saxophone complementing every other instrument, and another song leaned more on the latin side, mainly thanks to the Spanish vocals of Juan Lameiro.

Francisco Padilla, a FIU Hospitality Management graduate, was the first to speak up when I asked how the band met.

"We actually all met at The Forge, a restaurant down by Miami Beach. I had found a job there, Panther and him [K Sos] were



NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

From left to right, Neil Cantor, AKA K. Sos, lead singer and bassist, Panther on drums, Juan A. Lameiro on guitar.

already working there," he said.

K Sos, whose real name is Neil Cantor, intervened, taking control of the interview. We were seated outside his apartment, the five of us trading stories. It was clear that we were on his domain, and that he was proud of what his band had accomplished in an age of what he called, instant gratification.

"I had created the band with my good friend, who was the guitar player back in the day. He left the band due to stage fright once Francisco and Panther joined. But, we started it back up again. I was passionate about what I was doing, but we didn't have a drummer. I wanted to play our music live," K Sos said.

Panther realizes where the conversation is heading and sits up in his seat, attentive to what the band's frontman is saying. Having seen him lose himself playing the drums earlier in practice, I knew that he was in love with their music as well. The entire band breathed passion and energy, the air around me in the interview feeling electric and ready to rock.

"We were awful the first couple of months," Neil continued, a smile spreading on his lips. Francisco took over the interview yet again, providing a glimpse into their personal lives for a moment.

"It's actually pretty funny, I was leaving my wife, so was Panther. We needed something to fill up a hole in our lives."

Panther followed suit, "I was living the same life every single day, I felt jaded, like some type of zombie. The band was exactly what I needed...It felt like I was doing what I wanted to do with my life."

"It all started with this one song we started to get down really well," K Sos piped up. "Francisco and Panther stayed in the band long enough to actually feel like a band, but once my old good friend left, we were missing a link."

Francisco excitedly sits up, grinning, "This is where it gets good."

"We ended up finding Juan on craigslist." K Sos finally states, all four men smiling. "Six months after we find him and pick him up from the gas station nearby, he finally opens his mouth and we hear him sing...it changed our dynamic. That's when we started to include the dual vocals."

It seemed that the young, four men in front of me had met one another through extraordinary circumstances. As they continued to speak about their music, stating how they want to multi-dimensional and not just fit into one genre, I slowly became aware of what The Hoy Polloy was truly about. The band, instead of focusing on one genre or sounding a certain way, spread themselves out. They touch upon rap, rock, alternative, and even indie to provide listeners the ultimate experience.

The Hoy Polloy's two EPs, whom are named after each member as part of a devious plan made by the band, are currently available on iTunes and Spotify. Fans should be excited, the band soon releasing yet another album, titled "Ferret Winter."

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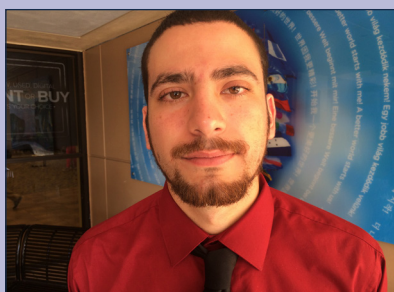
NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Neil Cantor, AKA K. Sos sings in his basement in North Miami.

FIU students on halftime show

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After the Super Bowl XLIX FIU students had a lot to say, and not about the game. The halftime show left lasting impressions and while students cared to show their interest some shared their lack of.



"Katy Perry looked like a power ranger, with the tiger coming in. She was looking really good. Missy Elliot hyped it up too. This show was better than lasts."

- Jose Garduno, junior biomedical engineering major



"I slept through the halftime show."

- Ben Sinbela, sophomore marketing major



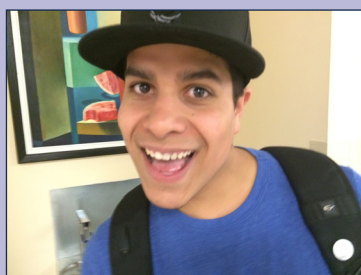
"It was pretty interesting. The whole production and the Mario-like characters."

- Auntrell Jones, senior sports management major



"I was surprised when I saw Missy, brought back memories."

- Jace Perry, junior mechanical engineering and finance and marketing major



"It definitely brought back middle school memories."

- Alejandro Rivas, junior business management major



"Lenny Kravitz is so cool. Him performing was my favorite part."

- Nikki Sheaks, junior atmospheric science broadcast journalism



"I was surprised. I wasn't expecting to see Missy."

- James Henry, junior political science major

Pincho Factory ‘lives up to its goal’ with delicious meals

BEACON BITS



CAYLA BUSH

A restaurant that serves burgers, fries and hot dogs is often just OK. It's hard to create a concept for a restaurant that serves the basics and is exceptional or above average.

For The Pincho Factory, what makes their concept exceptional is simple: east-meets-west with a Latin flavor.

The restaurant serves hamburgers, hot dogs and pinchos, the Spanish word for skewers, which can be customized to fit each customer or can be enjoyed in one of the creative methods that are already on the menu.



CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

The shrimp pincho chipotle bowl with a side of Cajun tostones is a recommendation from the Pincho Factory.

The flavors all complimented each other.

I went to the Bird Road location not knowing what to expect; a restaurant in a small

strip mall and located next to a pawn shop does not necessarily scream delicious. Once inside, the pictures on the wall of their salads, wraps and burgers were enough to pique my interest; the smell coming from the small cooking area convinced me it was worth trying.

The long line and room full of

people waiting for a seat made it obvious I was in for a treat.

My first order was a shrimp pincho as the star of my chipotle bowl, which includes rice, jalapeños, pico de gallo and homemade chipotle mayo, and a side order of Cajun tostones (tostones topped with grilled

onions, a special seasoning and pink sauce). There was not a lack of shrimp, which was great because most restaurants skip out on it, the flavors all complimented each other and the serving is pretty big; the additional side of tostones was almost too much for me to finish.

I'd also recommend the Pincho Burger, the restaurant's staple

burger, coupled with an order of Cajun fries.

The customer service is excellent, everyone who works there really seems to enjoy their job.

The cashier will help you order if you're unsure of which menu item to choose and the wait staff will offer customization possibilities if you're looking for more than what's presented.

If you're not an adventurous eater, there are classic fries and a simple cheeseburger.

The downsides to the restaurant are minor; the price is a bit high (\$12.60 for a simple classic fry and cheeseburger meal with a drink) and the wait can be a while if the restaurant is busy, which it tends to be around lunch and dinner time.

My suggestion is to have an early lunch, around 12, to find seating or get the food to go. It's not eat-in-the-car cuisine, so the latter isn't the best option.

The restaurant lives up to its goal of making street food better, and for the big serving, quality taste and good company. I'd say the it's worth a try.

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Paddington ‘great news for fans of British humor’

REEL TO REEL



RAFAEL ABREU

Based on the British children's book character, "Paddington" is a live action film chronicling the titular bear, voiced by Ben Whishaw, going from Darkest, Peru to London, England, seeking a new home. One needs not prior knowledge of the character in order to see or enjoy the film; it sets things up at the beginning and is essentially an origin story, while also coming up with its own unique plot.

"Paddington" is a family film, but like the best films in this genre, it can be enjoyed by pretty much anyone. The humor in the film is neither dumbed down nor too smart for any person of any age, featuring slapstick and dry comedy in a number of ways, sometimes even mixing the two styles.

Being a British film, dry humor is to be expected, or at least understood; however, it could come off as being "too British." Still, since the character and stories are of British origin, it only makes sense. Of course, this is actually great news for fans of British humor, as they will no doubt enjoy the dry wit.

But like I said, it's a family film, so the children will easily enjoy Paddington himself and the antics he gets into. There are

also other moments of comedy that arise from self-awareness and the defying of some expectations.

The way Paul King directs the film is also pretty unique, generally placing the camera in a position, keeping it still and using the widescreen ratio to give a good composition of the scene. "Paddington" is definitely well shot, and as a result, is always enjoyable to look at.

The film even utilizes flashbacks exceptionally well by making many of them come off as dream sequences: they make their point and leave just as soon as they had shown up. This is also an aspect of the film's comedy, since many aside moments, or even just small things one may not notice, bring on the film's biggest laughs.

A film like "Paddington" wouldn't be as great as it is without also having some sort of soul, either. Themes about family and xenophobia are abound in "Paddington," and if you're really sentimental, certain things might bring a tear to your eye.

At the core of "Paddington" is the relationship between the bear and the Brown family, who look after Paddington and try to figure out his situation. Without giving much away, the relationship that forms between them, while doing a few things I feel I've seen

before, strengthens and is vital to the film's success.

The humor and warmth of the film wouldn't really exist without the soul that clearly is at the core of "Paddington."

I would have never guessed that this film would wind up being one of my favorites of the past year. In fact, I wouldn't have seen it if a friend of mine hadn't recommended it.

Now, glad to have seen and enjoyed it, I pass the recommendation onto you. It's an excellent film that anyone of any age can appreciate, whether it's for the warmth of the story, the hilarious comedy or both.

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PHOTO COURTESY HARISETYONO46, VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

From the novel by Michael Bond and producer David Heyman "Paddington" tells a story of Peruvian bear and his comic misadventures in the city as he searches for a home.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers preparing for conference game against UTSA

REBECCA CHARUR
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The Panthers are 0-2 since the departure of former Coach Cindy Russo. Both times, FIU suffered double digit losses at the hands of Conference USA rivals, Charlotte and Old Dominion.

"It's been a tough year, and she [Russo] has been having a tough year as well, but our coaches have done a great job of trying to prepare us as much as possible," said junior guard Taylor Shade, "Coach Russo would call and check in on us every now and then. She'd tell us to keep working and have fun, things to keep us going."

However, even in the absence of former Coach Cindy Russo, the Panthers continue to fight for each other and for the elusive first Conference victory.

"There was a definite shift in the locker room with the loss of her, but we just decided to come together a little bit more so that we can try to win some games. We've fallen short every game but we've definitely gotten better," said Shade.

The Panthers will hopefully rally together in their next game to overcome this mid season road block of losing their head coach and dealing with the consequent shift in the locker room.

The next women's basketball game will be played in San Antonio, Texas against UTSA's Roadrunners on Feb. 5. The Roadrunners have an overall record of 9-11 and a Conference USA record of 4-4.

Since a three game winning streak that lasted through the end of January, UTSA has dropped two decisions in their last two outings. The first loss came against Middle Tennessee, who also defeated FIU in only their second Conference USA game. In the second loss, UTSA fell short against UAB with a final score of 73-57.

FIU also finds themselves in the midst of an eight game losing streak. In those eight games, they have fallen to Conference opponents in Florida Atlantic (twice), Middle Tennessee, UAB, Marshall, Western Kentucky, Old Dominion, and Charlotte. Despite this long list, we do not see UTSA and the Panthers would like to keep it that way. In order to do this, FIU will



JINETTE GARCIA/THE BEACON

Senior guard Zsafia Labady looks to pass the ball while Old Dominion University freshman guard Ashley Jackson defends at the game against Old Dominion on Thursday, Jan. 29.

have to watch for junior forward Akunna Elonu and junior guard/forward Niaga Mitchell-Cole.

Elonu recorded a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds

in the Roadrunner's domination Marshall's Thundering Herd in January. While on the other side of the ball, FIU's Marita Davydova is leading the way setting her own

career records. In the last outing against Charlotte, Davydova recorded a double-double with a career-high 21 points and 14 rebounds.

FOOTBALL

Despite troubling offensive losses, upcoming recruit class looks strong

DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

Until this past week, all was well recruiting-wise for the Panthers. They were locking up top recruits in their own backyard like wide receiver Anthony Jones from Miami Central. The Panthers were even showing up the Miami Hurricanes in terms of class strength for 2015. Their stretch of good recruiting, however, has just taken a turn for the worse.

The University of Florida just snatched up former FIU commit Richerd Desir-Jones, an offensive lineman from St. Thomas Aquinas, over this past weekend. Jim McElwain, the new head coach for the Florida Gators, is tasked with building a group of Gators that will outperform last year's 7-5 team.

Jones must have bought into what he was selling, because while on an official trip to UF this past weekend,

he announced via Twitter that he will become a Gator instead of a Panther.

Jones was not the only major FIU commit to flip before national signing day. Richard Williams, an offensive lineman out of Miramar, switched his attention to Florida Atlantic University last week.

This means that the Panthers' running back core, which includes redshirt junior Anthon Samuel and junior Alex Gardner (who both had 582 rushing yards in 2014,) will have two less three-star recruits to run behind. Since an FIU win almost always involves strong rushing performances, these losses on the offensive line are worrisome.

Other programs have picked off a couple Panther commits, but FIU has been able to do some poaching in return. The Panthers were able to lure the talents of Sage Lewis, a former Marshall commit, after he took a visit to campus. The Monsignor Edward Pace student and

ESPN three-star recruit had the following to say this past December.

"I'm probably about 85 percent (committed to Marshall). The rest is just me having an open mind," Lewis said.

FIU was able to capitalize on his remaining 15 percent of uncertainty and add him to a new core of linebackers that will include Miami Central student Fermin Silva, who has already signed his letter of intent.

Now that national signing day is here, it will soon be seen if the rest of the recruits will follow through with their commitment to FIU. As it stands, the overall 2015 recruiting class remains sufficient (although the offensive line losses are troubling). If a couple more players are swayed in another direction before their letters of intent are signed, it's a different story.

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Former FIU lineman receives second Super Bowl ring

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New England Patriots offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann has played on the right team at the right time throughout his brief NFL and collegiate career. This past Super Bowl Sunday, he was once again on the winning side of the game which now gives him two Super Bowl rings.

On Sunday he won his second Super Bowl ring after the Patriots defeated the

Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in Super Bowl XLIX. This year Hauptmann was on the Patriots practice squad so unfortunately he was not able to play in the playoff games or the Super Bowl.

Unlike this year, last year Hauptmann was on the Seattle Seahawks and on their active roster. Last year, he won his first Super Bowl ring on the same team who lost this year's Super Bowl. So this was perfect timing for the FIU alumnus.

Overall in Hauptmann's football career, he has accumulated three football

championship rings. Two of them, previously mentioned, were in the NFL and his first ring he received was when he wore the Panther's blue and gold in 2010.

During his days playing for FIU, Hauptmann was the teams left tackle. For those who are not familiar, in 2010 the Panthers won the Sun Belt Conference championship and the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl. He played a key role as one of the top offensive linemen that year. Hauptmann was fortunate enough to play during what many fans call the football

team's "hay day."

In FIU history, Hauptmann is the second player to be part of a Super Bowl championship team. The first FIU player was former safety Nick Turnbull who was on the Chicago Bears practice squad. In 2007, the Chicago Bears played the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLI in Miami. To connect all this together and come full circle, coincidentally the Bear's offensive coordinator the season they won Super Bowl XLI was current FIU Head Coach Ron Turner.

FOOTBALL

Patriots defeat Seahawks 28-24, make Super Bowl history in process

JACOB SPIWAK

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Sunday, Feb. 1, marked a historic night for the National Football League as the New England Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in Super Bowl XLIX, one of the greatest games in recent history.

Leading up to this game, all you heard about was how the Patriots were “cheating” in what was nationally referred to as “deflate-gate” and Marshawn Lynch’s compelling interviews and antics that continued to get him in trouble with commissioner Roger Goodell. Once the game started, however, all the attention turned to how much talent and greatness was on display at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

The Patriots and Seahawks both finished No. 1 in their respective conferences, so there was no doubt that the two best teams in the league were facing off for the Lombardi Trophy.

New England was looking for their unprecedented fourth Super Bowl championship in the last 14 seasons, while Seattle was looking to be the first team since the Patriots in 2004-05 to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

Once the game began, you could tell it was going to be a close, hard fought game. The first quarter went by in a flash, with both teams being held scoreless. With less than two minutes to go in the quarter, Tom Brady made a rare mistake and threw an interception in the red zone to

Seattle’s Jeremy Lane, but Lane was injured on the return and never returned to the game. This would prove to be a key loss for the vaunted Seahawks defense.

“

The Patriots and Seahawks both finished No. 1 in their respective conferences, so there was no doubt that the two best teams in the league were facing off for the Lombardi Trophy.

”

New England scored first with a Brady touchdown pass to Brandon LaFell midway through the second quarter. Seattle would answer with a touchdown of their own later in the quarter, with Marshawn Lynch rushing for a TD from three yards out.

On the very next possession, Brady led the Patriots 80 yards down the field in just 1:45, capping off the drive with a 22-yard TD pass to Pro Bowl TE Rob Gronkowski. At this point, it appeared New England would take a 14-7 lead into halftime.

However, just as everyone was getting ready for Katy Perry’s performance, Russell Wilson

put some Super Bowl magic on display. Wilson and the Seahawks took the ball all the way down to the Patriots 11 yard line after a personal foul on New England in under 30 seconds.

With 6 seconds remaining on the clock, rather than going for a field goal, Coach Pete Carroll sent his offense back on the field in an attempt to tie the game. This call paid off, as Wilson found Foot Locker employee turned Super Bowl hero Chris Matthews in the end zone to tie the game 14-14.

The Seahawks took the opening possession inside the Patriots 10 yard line, but they had to settle for a Steven Hauschka field goal. After another Tom Brady interception, this time in New England territory, Seattle was able to score and take a 24-14 lead. Much to the delight of Seahawks CB Richard Sherman, the TD pass came against his rival CB Darrelle Revis.

Many thought that the Patriots were in trouble as time continued to wind down and their deficit remained at 10 points. Brady refused to give in to the pressure, and he threw two touchdown passes on consecutive 4th quarter drives to give New England a 28-24 advantage. This left the ball in Russell Wilson’s hands, and more Super Bowl craziness ensued.

On the last play before the 2-minute warning, Wilson found Lynch for a 31-yard completion. Four plays later, in an absolutely unbelievable sequence of events, Wilson found Jermaine Kearse for a 33-yard connection in which Kearse caught a deflected ball while laying on the ground. Had the Seahawks pulled the game

out, this would have gone down in history as one of the greatest Super Bowl plays ever.

Instead, the next few moments of the game were filled with controversy.

The next play saw Marshawn Lynch ran the ball down to the 1-yard line, and Seattle was literally inches away from repeating as champions. Viewers around the globe were expecting another handoff to Lynch to seal the deal. Alternatively, the Seahawks elected to throw a slant pass to Ricardo Lockette that was intercepted by rookie cornerback Malcolm Butler, propelling New England to victory. This sent social media into a frenzy, and many chastised Carroll for calling this play.

At the end of the day, this was a tremendous game that didn’t come down to just one play. Both teams fought extremely hard, and the Patriots were just the better team that night.

We witnessed history, as Brady won his 4th Super Bowl ring and 3rd Super Bowl MVP (both tied for the greatest of all time), and Belichick won his 4th Super Bowl ring (also tied for the greatest ever). They cemented their legacy as arguably the greatest QB/coach combination of all time, and the case can be made that they are each the single best ever at what they do.

FIU also saw one of their own shine on Sunday night, as former Panthers offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann won his second Super Bowl ring in as many seasons. He was on Seattle’s roster when they won last season, and he signed with the Patriots practice squad this year.



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Swimming and Diving goes undefeated

REINALDO LLERENA
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The FIU Swimming and Diving team pulled off a come-from-behind win against the University of Miami this past Saturday, Jan. 31, in Coral Gables, finishing 150-149.

The win secured the team's first ever undefeated season with a record of 10-0 in dual meets.

A resilient UM squad would not allow the Panthers to simply walk away with a perfect season.

The UM Divers dominated the FIU Divers, placing all three female divers on the podium. All four of FIU's divers placed below the UM's divers.

By the end of the meet, FIU trailed UM 133-130 heading into the second-to-last event, the 200 Individual Medley.

In the 200 IM, three FIU swimmers, out of the seven competitors in the event, placed in the top four, with freshman Silvia Scalia taking the victory. Even with a less than optimum performance from the diving team, the team's performance in the 200 IM allowed the Panthers



REINALDO LLERENA/THE BEACON

Senior liberal arts major Johanna Gustafsdottir, competed in the 200 breaststroke Saturday, Jan. 31 at the University of Miami and won with a time of 2:19:88 to finish her regular season career as a Panther.

to take a ten point lead heading into the final event, the 400 relay.

In the 400 relay, UM's swimmers placed well compared to FIU's swimmers, but it was not enough to secure the win,

as FIU squeaked out a one point victory.

Scalia racked up a total of four wins: three individual and one relay. In addition to her win in the 200 IM, the freshman also won in

the 100 and 200 backstroke and was part of the 200 medley relay. Freshman Kyna Pereira claimed two wins in the 500 and the 1000 freestyle. She completed the 500 freestyle with a time of

4:58.45 and the 1000 freestyle at 10:06.53. With the two victories, Pereira maintained a perfect record of her own, finishing 5-0 in freestyle swims of 500 and 1000 yards.

Senior Johanna Gustafsdottir picked up a win in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:19.88 in her final regular season event, capping off her career at FIU.

Other contributors to the victory include sophomore Jennifer Alfani, who claimed victory in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.11 seconds. Senior Klara Andersson, freshman Letizia Bertelli and sophomore Jennifer Deist along with Scalia claimed victory in the 200 medley relay.

The Swimming and Diving team will compete next at the Conference USA Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 18-21. With the perfect record, the Swimming and Diving team are amongst the favorites to win the C-USA title. Should members of the team place well in that meet, they would compete in the NCAA tournament in Greensboro, N.C., March 19-21.

Being fit students proves to be a difficult task

COLUMNIST



CAMILA FERNANDEZ

As I stare ill-fatedly into my carb-food-filled refrigerator, I think of my vulnerability to what unhealthy snack could satisfy my emotional distress.

My body is tired, but my mouth and stomach impulse me to devour, dare I say it -- nutella delightfully creamed over glowing marshmallows and graham crackers. As the taste of the joyful treat runs through my mind, I peer over my shoulder to find that it's 2 a.m. and I'm still working on my chemistry project.

Surely I'm not the only student at FIU who turns to food or coffee to help relieve stress from school, work, relationships and just plain fatigue. Even though we are conscientious that impulsive eating or addiction to caffeine is harmful, we do it anyways.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3 in 10 college students are overweight, and clearly, this fault may just be at the hands of America. Our country is fast-paced, never sleeps and always on the move to remain the top dog of this psychotic world.

Take a look at your schedule, and ask yourself what your motives are behind working a full-time job as a full-time student, while being pressured by the State to quickly graduate out of college. This is a particular case, but we all have made sacrifices to be where we are and to be where we want to go.

We're encouraged to be fit, exercise, follow juicing diet recipes, resort to nutritional products like Herbalife and disconnect from our outside world through yoga. I don't disagree that these suggestions are effective, but do we all truly have the time anymore to live a healthier lifestyle?

If you're a freshmen student and a new-comer to college life, unhealthy eating, late

night sleeping habits and lack of exercise ring a bell for you. College-life offers a wide variety of temptations -- at FIU, you have fast-food at Taco Bell and Burger King. Outside of campus, party and beer are the highlight.

If you want to try to go healthier, you might find that eating at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Salad Creations in PG 5 Marketplace can be pricy. Biscayne Bay Campus students, are even more limited with only four dining places to choose from compared to the 20+ at MMC.

For freshmen, transitioning from high school and adapting to a college environment isn't something that happens from night to day. You've become more independent and you're setting yourself higher standards to be number one in your field. I believe FIU can take you a step closer to your aspirations, but remind yourself that without good health, you can do nothing.

Recently I've decided to have my own fitness instructor. I know what many of you may be thinking -- this girl is deranged, that's expensive. However, I must admit it has been well worth the pay. Exercising and eating right has transformed my life abundantly. Forget the nutella! -- just joking.

Setting a balance for our lives can be a difficult task, but if we decide to remain in nasty and detrimental habits, how can we move forward in such a demanding economy? For BBC students, relaxing is easier than for the main campus students. We've got the calm waters of our magnificent bay, a quieter environment than at MMC and a well-provided REC Center.

Just take a look at the Italians, the French and the Spanish, their workplace is centered around a more balanced lifestyle. Sure America triumphs over them economically, but I would sure appreciate a "siesta," or "afternoon nap," like the Spanish do.

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