

## Dean of Libraries relaxes rules on student snacking

**KATHERINE LEPRI**  
*Staff Writer*

After an unpopular pilot program over the summer that barred food and drink from the Green and Hubert Libraries, students can once again eat while they cram for their exams, but with a few added caveats.

"I think we all recognized that our students are often working under a lot of pressure, and that they have a lot of competition, and are trying to make the most of their time," said Dr. Anne Prestamo, dean of libraries, about the new policy that allows some types of snacks.

"We're asking for students to be responsible, to help us try to minimize incidents and accidents that occur around food and to limit what they bring into the library to light snack foods and not drippy, messy, smelly foods."

This past June, Thomas Breslin, professor of Politics and International Relations who acted as interim dean of libraries, implemented a strict no food and drink except water policy in the library that irked many of the 50,000 student body who spent multiple hours a day in the facilities.

**SEE LIBRARIES, PAGE 2**

## FOOD AND DRINK BAN IN LIBRARY LIFTED



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Daniella Martinez, a junior studying recreational therapy, snacks on grapes and a Snickers bar on the sixth floor of the Green Library after the no eating policy was lifted.

## Commuters face rising gas prices around both campuses

**MARIA BRITOS**  
*Staff Writer*

The recent spike in gas prices can convince any student to skip class and save a trip to campus.

For students attending Modesto Maidique Campus, the Shell gas station on Southwest 8th Street charges \$3.41 per gallon for regular gasoline, as compared to the BP station on Southwest 139th Avenue that charges \$3.69 a gallon.

A Chevron station located on Northeast 167th Street and Sixth Avenue has even been spotted charging a burdensome price of \$4.85 per gallon of regular gasoline, according to a report by the Miami Herald.

As a commuter school, a large proportion of students are left worried with the idea of rising gas prices when tuition costs, among other expenses, need to be covered as well.

"The higher prices for gas makes it difficult to travel to school," said Kenny Falcon, a junior business administration major. "It is so frustrating because as a college student, I make very little income and worrying about living costs is hard enough."

Other students shared Falcon's sentiment, like Maria Sandoval, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

"With the higher gas prices, I end up having to take fewer classes in order to have enough money to get around," Sandoval said.

The total undergraduate population who live off campus and commutes to and from the University is estimated at 93 percent.

According to the recent 2012 Common Data Set researched by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, transportation expenses for commuter students at the University is estimated at about

\$2,850 yearly if these students live at home or on their own.

Dino Siervo, professor of Economics, said that oil prices are slightly higher in Florida than in other states because of the lack of oil pipelines. Therefore, the cost of transportation is an added factor displayed in the rising gasoline prices.

The Syrian conflict is another increasing factor on the rising of oil prices. Although Syria is not a major oil producer, the United States' conflict and possible nuclear attack could reduce the production of oil and slow shipping transportation in the Middle East, according to the Associated Press.

As of Sept. 16, the North Miami Beach Chevron gas station still holds the highest retail gas price in the area.

*Adrian Suarez contributed to this report.*

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### NEARBY GAS STATIONS

**MMC:**

Shell Gas Station located on 10690 Southwest 8th Street, charges \$3.41 for regular gasoline, \$3.61 for midgrade, and \$3.79 for Premium.

BP station on 13900 Southwest 139th Avenue charging customers \$3.69 for regular, \$3.89 for midgrade, and \$4.01 premium.

**BBC:**

Students can visit the Chevron pump on 13005 Biscayne Boulevard and pay \$3.59 for regular, or \$3.80 for the midgrade variety.

## Center of Leadership honors president of Knight Foundation

**ALONSO MONTANO**  
*Contributing Writer*

This October, the Center for Leadership is hosting The Chapman Leadership Honors, an annual event that recognizes distinguishable individuals who have made important contributions in business leadership and community building.

Every year at the event, the Center for Leadership presents the Transcendent Leader Award.

The award honors a person who has made significant contributions to the community and our society at large. This year, the award will be presented on Oct. 3 to Alberto Ibarguen, president and CEO of Knight Foundation.

"It's a tremendous honor," said Ibarguen. "This event is named after somebody who was a hero, a mentor and a friend."

Ibarguen is also a member of the boards of PepsiCo, American Airlines and AOL, and is a member of the Secretary of State's Foreign Policy Advisory Committee. Additionally, Ibarguen will be giving the keynote address at the event.

"The award is presented to Ibarguen this year because of his work with different media throughout his life," said Garth Headley, associate director at the Center for Leadership. "But it's not just about the companies he works for, it's also about the work he does for the community which reflects a greater good, a greater interest in moving Miami forward."

As president of Knight Foundation, Ibarguen helps endorse ideas that promote quality journalism, media innovation, engage communities and support the arts. By fostering these initiatives, the foundation seeks to sustain a just democracy

where people are well informed and able to actively be involved in the community.

"The role of citizens is the best role you can play. The more engaged and the more informed you are, the more fulfilling it is [the role of citizens]; the more involved you are the better it is for the community," said Ibarguen. "When you have a really engaged and well informed society is when you have the best kind of representative government."

Ibarguen has also dedicated much of his life to philanthropic and charitable work. He served in the Peace Corps in Venezuela's Amazon territory and was the Peace Corps Programming and Training Officer in Colombia.

In addition to the Transcendent Leader award, a second award will be presented during the ceremony.

The first annual Emerging Leader Award will recognize younger leaders who are

improving communities by generating original and groundbreaking solutions to business and social challenges.

The recipient of the Emerging Leader Award will be announced during the event.

The annual Chapman Leadership Honors will be in the Graham Center Ballrooms on Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

It is an open event, but anyone wishing to attend must first register online at lead.fiu.edu.

"There's nothing that the Center for Leadership likes more than putting on an event like this," said Headley. "We are very excited because we have access to executives and professionals, and when we bring them to the FIU community it's just phenomenal to have students take advantage of that opportunity."

*-news@fiusm.com*

## WORLD NEWS

### French senate says no to pageants

Child beauty pageants may soon be banned in France, after a surprise vote in the French Senate that rattled the pageant industry and raised questions about how the French relate to girls' sexuality. Such contests, and the made-up, dolled-up beauty queens they produce, have the power to both fascinate and repulse, and have drawn criticism in several countries. France, with its controlling traditions, appears to be out front in pushing an outright ban. The proposed children's pageant amendment sprouted from a debate on a women's rights law. The legislation, approved by a vote of 197-146, must go to the lower house of parliament for further debate and another vote.

### Iran releases human rights lawyer

Iran has released a prominent human rights lawyer after keeping her in prison for three years, relatives said Wednesday. Reza Khandan, the husband of lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, told The Associated Press that authorities brought his wife home and told her she has been freed. Iranian opposition websites also reported a dozen other prisoners held on security charges after the 2009 election have been released. Among them is Mohsen Aminzadeh, who was deputy foreign minister during the presidency of reformer Mohammad Khatami. In a statement, the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran welcomed the releases and urged President Hassan Rouhani to continue to take concrete steps toward improving the country's "urgent human rights situation."

### Starbucks says guns unwelcomed, though not banned

Starbucks says guns are no longer welcome in its cafes, though it is stopping short of an outright ban on firearms. The fine line that the retailer is walking to address the concerns of both gun rights and gun control advocates reflects how heated the issue has become, particularly in light of recent mass shootings. Most states allow people to openly carry licensed guns in some way and many companies do not have policies banning firearms in their stores. But Starbucks has become a target for gun control advocates, in part because of its liberal-leaning corporate image. In turn, gun rights advocates have been galvanized by the company's decision to defer to local laws.

For more world news, check out  
[www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com).

# Libraries lift ban on food and drinks after survey

## LIBRARIES, PAGE 1

While some students complained, Breslin and other library administrators believed it was a needed measure to protect their new technological resources.

"The computers would come back in dirty, sticky. We tried to clean them, we couldn't keep up," Breslin said. "This was all over the library. We had sticky tables, stained rugs, cockroaches in the archives, a dead mouse was reported on the second floor."

Breslin initiated the stringent rules over the summer months in an effort to combat the mess left by some students and their careless eating habits, he said.

"We were about to bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars of new equipment for the students to use," said Breslin, who argued that the students eating habits had increasingly become a hazard for resources at the libraries. "It made absolutely no sense to keep up the dirt, the food, the beverages, other than water in the library."

The summer's policy change was also largely impacted by comments pertaining to students' opinion regarding food in the library from the LibQUAL+ Survey that was conducted spring 2013.

In the LibQUAL+ Survey led by Associate Dean for Public Services,

Consuella Askew, one undergraduate student said that he wanted to try to keep the library cleaner and was still finding food wrappers from messy students.

Vtorov represented a significant percentage of students that spend hundreds of hours every semester studying for exams, researching for

drinks. If a student is found eating something other than snack foods, security and staff will politely ask them to take their food outside the library or to put it away.

"I think it's a mistake, to have done what she did, to relax the rules," said Breslin, who has been working for the university since 1976, of the new dean's decision to allow some eating inside the libraries. "I think she will find that it will come back to bite her."

Breslin said that Prestamo's relaxation of the food and drink policy was a bad decision and will eventually lead to the deterioration of the library's condition.

"The students are the biggest users of the library," Prestamo said. "We would like to work in partnership with our students and be sensitive to the needs of our students as much as we can."

Library officials agree that everyone that utilizes the library system should be responsible to take care of the resources which are funded by both state and student dollars. Overall, the library system has a considerable yearly budget—approximately \$15 million per year.

"We need to recognize the reality of the world we live in today," Prestamo said. "There are a lot of pressures on people's time and to be understanding of what people's needs are."

-news@fiusm.com

"I think it's a mistake, to have done what she did, to relax the rules. I think she will find that it will come back to bite her."

Thomas Breslin  
Professor  
Politics and International Relations

The FIU Libraries LibQUAL+ report, which evaluated the Green Library, Hubert Library and Engineering Library services, will be published later this year.

The new stricter policy had been a popular measure among staff that had begun to find students ordering pizza and having birthday parties in the study.

Some students believe that the policy was too much.

"I think it's wrong that they don't let anyone have anything but water while you are studying for long hours," said Konstantine Vtorov, finance and international business senior. "Within the last year, they started really heavily influencing the policy of not being able to have anything."

papers or meeting with study groups that manage their limited time by eating meals at the facilities.

"I started seeing people eating in the library and I found it disgusting," said Sigifredo Romero, a second year graduate student, who had not heard of either policy change.

But after seeing fellow students eat, while they were studying, it changed his mind, and Romero began to treat himself to a snack or a drink while he prepared for classes.

"I saw that everybody used to do it, so I started doing it," Romero said.

The new policies at the library currently permit most snack foods and drinks including chips, nuts and cookies. Library patrons are also requested to use spill proof containers for all

## 'Hiccup girl' murder trial underway in Florida

TAMARA LUSH  
*AP Writer*

A woman who gained fame because of her uncontrolled hiccupping as a teenager set up a robbery that went bad and ended in murder, Florida prosecutors said Wednesday.

Jennifer Mee, 22, is on trial for first-degree murder. Opening statements were presented Wednesday in Pinellas County Court, with the prosecution saying that Mee lured the victim to an abandoned home under the pretense of buying marijuana in October of 2010. Once there, two of Mee's friends robbed him at gunpoint — but the victim struggled and was shot

four times.

"She set everything up," said Assistant State Attorney Chris LaBruzzo, pointing at a sad-faced Mee.

As a 15-year-old, Mee developed a case of the hiccups that wouldn't go away. Videos of her hiccupping gained her national attention, as did her attempts to quell the problem. She tried home remedies and consulted medical specialists, a hypnotist and an acupuncturist, until the hiccups finally stopped on their own. She appeared on several TV shows and while on the "Today" show, was hugged by fellow guest and country music star Keith Urban.

Her attorney, John Trevena, mentioned Mee's fame during his opening statement.

"Ms. Mee is known as the Hiccup Girl," Trevena told the 12-member jury. "Ms. Mee was, at the age of 15, subject to extraordinary amount of local and national publicity because of a medical condition."

Trevena said prior to the trial that his client suffers from Tourette's Syndrome and schizophrenia, but he is not using an insanity defense. A court psychologist who evaluated Mee on Wednesday said she was competent to stand trial.

Mee and two men were charged in the death of Shannon Griffin, a 22-year-old

Wal-Mart worker. Prosecutors say Mee lured Griffin to a St. Petersburg home under the pretense of buying marijuana — but instead, two of Mee's friends robbed him at gunpoint. Griffin struggled with the suspects and was shot several times.

Detectives said Mee accepted a friend request from Griffin on a social networking website five or six days before the robbery, but it was unclear if Griffin had recognized her as the "hiccup girl."

Mee's co-defendant, LaRon Raiford, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in August. Lamont Newton, the other co-defendant who was also Mee's

boyfriend at the time of the crime, has not yet gone to trial.

Trevena said Wednesday that Mee did not orchestrate the robbery and instead said the evidence will show that the shooting was because Raiford thought his girlfriend was getting too friendly with Griffin. Raiford, Newton and Raiford's girlfriend — who was never charged — conspired to blame the crime on Mee because she is younger and they believed her more sympathetic to authorities, Trevena said.

"Four shots takes quite amount of thought and dexterity," said Trevena. "That seems to be indicative more of a crime of passion."

## THE BEACON

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## Stand your ground course necessary

**RAUL HERRERA**  
*Staff Writer*

“Stand Your Ground,” a term used to describe a Florida statute that promotes the justifiable use of force for self-defense purposes, has been debated by many on both sides of the aisle ever since the Zimmerman case made national headlines.

The controversy may now manifest itself in Florida

just to law students at FAU, but also to residents of the state of Florida at large.

The reasoning behind such a presumption is two-fold.

First, it will be the precursor to the proverbial conversation on race that so many have called for.

Those who believe that George Zimmerman killed Trayvon Martin because he was black will be able to have equal footing with those who

that was covered after the Martin case, such as the murder of Delbert Belton, will be able to discuss their concerns with those who are worried about an “open season” on black youth, as Samuel L. Jackson calls it.

Those who believe that “Stand Your Ground” hurts minorities will come face-to-face with those who believe that it helps them.

And the superlative part is that this will be unaffected by any shady editing and twisting by any mainstream news network. Students of diverse backgrounds and perspectives will each have a seat at the table on this conversation on race, and how it relates to “Stand Your Ground.”

No punditry or screaming, just academic conversation.

Second, it helps students understand what the law means for them and the community, Zimmerman notwithstanding. They will realize how such a law may empower them to defend themselves and their loved ones, regardless of their skin color, against an aggressor. No longer does a woman

have to worry about walking to her car, alone and defenseless, at night. No longer does a man have to worry about being unable to protect his family from an assailant simply because he is a few miles away from home.

Some may say that the law should be completely wiped out from the books because it allegedly promotes a violent culture. However, this argument is fallacious in the sense that it assumes that all those who defend themselves are eager to do so. Quite the contrary, many who defend themselves only believe in using violence as a last resort.

The Zimmerman case is complex, and so are the arguments regarding the “Stand Your Ground” law. But this should not deter academics from discussing the issues and looking at them from multiple angles.

I commend FAU for opening a class such as this, and I look forward to the day that FIU introduces a seminar, as suggested in a recent student media article, on the topic.

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## A hierarchical educational system

**MADARI PENDAS**  
*Contributing Writer*

The educational system, prior to entry into college, has systematically turned education into a hierarchy. Colleges with more prestige are at the top of the educational pyramid and are the schools counselors encourage attendance to. Therefore, a student’s worth is assessed in terms of collegiate acceptance, rather than the internal pursuit for higher education.

If a person goes to a “prestigious” school, they are thought superior to their counterpart who chooses to attend a community college or trade school.

For example, a student who is accepted into the University of Florida receives more praise than a student who decides to attend Miami Dade College.

Why? Because high schools have trivialized knowledge into statistics and rankings.

Not only does it trivialize education into a proverbial “pissing contest,” but gives young people an undeserved sense of entitlement. They begin to believe that they are above trade schools and community colleges.

This attitude has kept many new graduates unemployed because they have felt entitled to better than minimum wage salaries, better than entry level positions, better than unpaid internships.

However, there have been many casualties as a result of the educational hierarchy. For instance, schools that greatly service the community are castigated for their lack of prestige.

For example, the English Center is an educational institution with multiple campuses throughout Miami. It offers English language courses, GED testing, childcare services and vocational certification in a myriad of fields. It is filled with many immigrants, who are hoping to develop their English speaking skills, those hoping to learn a new trade, and others who are rearing children and need a flexible school schedule. It is a place familiar to our forebearers. It’s purpose is to suffuse the Miami populace with useful skills and ability to effectively

compete in the workforce.

Many reading this article would wonder what the importance of this institution is and even disparage its existence. Most would never even think of attending because they want to receive the “honor” that is associated with certain institutions, which may not have any real world relevancy.

But the English Center reminds us of what we once were-- newcomers to a nation, with dreams of success and stability. The first members of our families who arrived in the United States went to facilities similar to the English Center, they did not have the luxury to consider the merits of different institutions. They waited in long sinuous lines that barely crept forward, they attended class at night while fatigued from a day’s work, they dealt with the frustrations and inefficiencies of the bureaucratic systems. The English Center and similar institutions allow immigrants to give incredible opportunities to their children-- starting at the bottom so their children would not have to.

The English Center and Miami Dade College are seen as “safety schools,” portrayed as afterthoughts in the educational world. The current educational model and pervasive thought among students has created cultural elitism.

Any solution offered is only a half solution, because the methods of rectification require an adjustment in attitude-- a humbling of the individual, as well as a change in the educational model. Instead of using a tier system to evaluate after high school options, a supportive attitude of all education should be encouraged. If a student chooses to continue their education they should automatically receive reverence, rather than criticism or ostracism because their school is not regarded as prestigious.

All education is prestigious. All education is good education; the quality of the mind is not determined by the acronyms shouted at football games.

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“This will be unaffected by any shady editing and twisting by any mainstream news network.”

Atlantic University, which has implemented a course that discusses the law and its effects.

The introduction of such a course is quite beneficial, not

believe that Zimmerman was attacked and ethnically mislabeled by the media for being Hispanic.

Those who are outraged about black-on-white crime

## What should a college be known for?

**MANUELLA MOTA**  
*Contributing Writer*

In a speech given at the University of Buffalo last month, President Obama discussed the creation of a federal college rating system that would, in theory, help students make the right choice when it comes to higher education.

Instead of relying on annual rankings, like the one by US News & World Report, which lists universities as “best” or “worst,” students would be able to evaluate postsecondary institutions by relating financial aid to college cost, considering average student loan debt, graduation and transfer rates and amount of degrees earned.

According to the President, “private rankings...encourage colleges into gaming the numbers and raising costs.”

It’s not an isolated opinion, certainly. In the race to see which institution is going to make it to the top and which will be considered poor in academics, many universities take advantage of students by raising costs and diminishing opportunities. It is more like a game of prestige and fame, rather than a true depiction of what those universities can offer to students.

There are many aspects to be consid-

ered when choosing an institution of higher learning. For example, a university that offers an outstanding program for your degree but that is not on the higher section of a private ranking shouldn’t be automatically discarded from your list. It’s far more important to

“If I were to suggest just one change to this new-to-be college ranking system, it would be linking the college rating to jobs found by graduates.”

have the right education for your specific major, than to be enrolled in one of the top 20 universities of the country.

Also, private college rankings provide

some sort of shield for universities that are more interested in getting more and more money from students. They are able to mask certain costs behind their prestigious name, while other universities offer way more opportunities to students, from all different backgrounds, and are considered as prestigious as the ones first mentioned.

The new federal college ranking system would encourage, or rather force, postsecondary schools to improve and provide more opportunities to low-income students. It would also help get rid of for-profit institutions and poor performing colleges with little job outcomes, because they would need to improve in order to be well positioned in the list.

If I were to suggest just one change to this new-to-be college ranking system, it would be linking the college rating to jobs found by graduates. Most new graduates are most interested in having a job upon graduation, which would enable them to pay their loan, lowering student debt which, as I’d assume we all know, has peaked in recent years and falls second only to mortgages in consumer debt.

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## Why I'm going through Panhellenic recruitment

COLUMNIST



AILYS TOLEDO

When I began my academic journey into higher education in 2010, I initially thought that the "college experience" would happen to me on its own. Granted, my ideas of what comprised the ultimate college experience were only what I had seen in movies or the stories my older cousins shared with me. None of these served as accurate depictions of what I would be experiencing when I embarked on this new stage of life.

I am the only member of my immediate family who has been to college. My parents, both Cuban immigrants, never had the chance to pursue higher learning due to a dictatorship that almost decided their fates for them. My brothers, born and raised in this country, decided early on not to go to college. They have been resourceful and successful in their endeavors without a degree. Although being without a degree has worked out for them, the importance of

having a college education has been instilled in me from a young age.

I didn't have any perspective of what to do while I was in school, so I didn't know that college was something more than books and lectures.

Freshman year, I thought about studying psychology, but soon realized I have better potential in the communications field. By the second semester of my freshman year, I declared a major in public relations.

Adjusting to the rhythm of college was easy. The challenges I have faced have been on a more personal aspect. Isn't college supposed to be where I meet fascinating people and make lifelong friends, discover who I am and what I want? Isn't it the place where I can try new things, fail miserably and then try something else? Why have my memories only been about late night cramming at the library?

It took me a long time to realize that the "college experience" I had heard about and longed for does not just happen. In a school of about 50,000 students, no one is going to come

to me and hand me the "college experience" on a silver platter. I became stagnant and I felt like I was missing out on something great.

It took me until my junior year to branch out. I had been stuck in a dark, stationary bubble that was on the verge of popping into nothingness. The French have a word for this: ennui. Ennui is an overwhelming feeling of nothingness. Finally, I was done living with ennui and done waiting for something to happen.

Slowly but surely, I took my step towards my "college experience" - getting involved. I decided to merge my love for writing into my need to be a part of something, so I applied to write for The Beacon. When I'm working on an article or story about the University, I'm learning more about my school and what it can do for me. As soon as I started actively writing and meeting people who shared the same interest, I felt a sense of belonging. It makes me feel comfortable, productive and fulfilled.

Now, I decided to go

### NEW BENCHES



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Niko Sanchez, sophomore in criminal justice, and Kevin Paz, freshman in computer engineering, waited to be the first to test out the new swinging benches put in front of DM Tuesday.

even further outside of my comfort zone and join a sorority. Misconceptions and stereotypes of sorority girls held me back from participating at the start of college, but after much consideration, I am motivated to at least give it a try and go through recruitment.

Believe me when I say that this will be the most uncomfortable I have ever

been. To willingly walk into a room full of women who are judging me is something that scares me to the core.

So why am I doing it? Because it's an insecurity I don't want to live with. I don't want to be stuck anymore, and I've learned that pushing myself to do something I am unsure of will propel me forward.

My purpose in writing this is to remind myself and others of what it's like to be on the verge of something greater than oneself. Maybe you are in a sorority or an alumni, or maybe you are someone, like me, who needs an extra push to go for something that scares you.

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## Alternative Music Festival coming to Wynwood

ANDRE PORTUONDO  
Asst. Entertainment Director

The Wynwood Art District's walls and streets will come to life on Thursday, Oct. 3, through Saturday, Oct. 5, as III Point Festival: Music, Art and Technology makes its debut and takes over the neighborhood.

The 3-day music event

will feature big name acts such as DJ Shadow, Jamie XX, XXYYXX, Hercules and Love Affair, Juan Atkins, Miami Horror, Jacques Greene and James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem as just some of the acts headlining various shows in a South by Southwest style festival.

The festival gets its name from the three things

it intends to promote: art, music and technology equality.

The three-day event will feature local artists, barbeque events - hosted by record labels Young Turks and DFA Records, both independent record companies - and various events.

Activities will be related to technology- and

music-production, hosted by some of the festival's headliners and other local film, technology and cultural organizations.

Of over 20 activities, some will be hosted by The LAB Miami and the David Lynch Foundation.

In a Miami New Times article that initially announced the event, David Sinopoli, Bardot

music coordinator and one of the festival creators, stated that "we want to do a conference, we want to have a conversation, we want to have an intellectually stimulating thing. But it doesn't necessarily have to be somebody preaching on a panel. It can be us all engaging in an experience-based event."

All-access passes are

approximately \$125 with individual performance tickets available between \$30-\$70.

More information is available at their website, [iiipoints.com](http://iiipoints.com).

Students can follow their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up with events details.

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## "Touchy Feely," just another indie disappointment

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

Much like massage therapy, there's an almost soothing presence to Lynn Shelton's latest film that leaves one longing to fall asleep right where they're seated. Sadly, unlike massage therapy, that's a big problem for a film like "Touchy Feely" to have.

The film follows the lives of a massage therapist and those around her, all of whom seem to be striving for some semblance of happiness in their lives. Some hit roadblocks, with therapist Abby (Rosemarie DeWitt) developing an aversion to touching anyone's skin that makes getting physical with her

clients and boyfriend Jesse (Scoot McNairy) impossible. Others flourish all of a sudden, her brother Paul (Josh Pais) suddenly finding a magic touch that cures every patient at his dental practice.

"Touchy Feely" isn't as large a step away from the mumblecore world of her first feature "Humpday" as one would hope after "Your Sister's Sister." The same awkward quirks and romances are there with nearly every character, even with a cast as good as this one. While the idea of a massage therapist who can't touch anyone seems like a decent concept, it's ultimately a story that falls flat, leaving one to wonder if Shelton might have been better off with a short film.

A cast is only as good as the story they're

given however and Shelton's stride towards a tighter narrative makes for a rather boring one. This reversal of good and bad luck in life between characters doesn't make for a substantial enough premise, but it's even more disappointing to watch it unfold with DeWitt and McNairy relegated to uncomfortable glances while Pais turns out a surprisingly decent comedic performance.

It's up to the supporting players to save the film and they can only do so much to dull the pain of a bad massage. Alongside Pais, Allison Janney makes it her goal to bring out the laughs as a new-age healer, leaving Ellen Page to pick up any emotional pieces left to her by Shelton's tiresome tale.

Page's acting here is a far cry from her

emotionally-charged work in "The East" this year, but she still somehow manages to bring something compelling to an otherwise lacking narrative.

Her barely-there subplot with Scoot McNairy, an unrequited romance of the indie fashion, is one of the most interesting features of "Touchy Feely," even though it ends up in as much disappointment as the rest of it.

As interesting as Lynn Shelton's premise and cast were, "Touchy Feely" never manages to get past its narrative shortcomings, leaving it to fall into the same trappings as most indie films.

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## FIU getting the right mindset for Louisville

**RHYS WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

After a week of intense preparation, the FIU football team is set to take on the 7th ranked team in the nation on Saturday when they step on the field against the University of Louisville.

The Panthers 0-3 start has been rough, but they seem to have their eye on what can turn their season around.

Mental focus, the team is indicating, is the key to a successful future.

"We are going through the film like we do every week and correcting all the mistakes that we have had previously," center Donald Senat said. "It is all about moving forward and we have bigger things to focus on like winning and doing well in Conference-USA. We know we are playing a really good team but we are going out and focusing on ourselves from the inside."

Senat was the subject of an interesting play last week against Bethune-Cookman, his helmet came off at one point during play and subsequently he had to take the next play off.

This is a new rule implemented by the NCAA.

Even if a player is not hurt, they must still sit out one play if their helmet comes off.

"There was no injury concern but we had to go by the rule of the NCAA I had to come off for a play and that is when Mike

(Montero) came in," Senat added.

Injuries, however, are a concern for the team as Jake Medlock, the only returning starter on offense, is listed as day-to-day with a concussion that he suffered late in the fourth quarter of the loss to B-CU. Head Coach Ron Turner went into detail Wednesday after practice.

"I haven't heard anything official yet but he didn't practice today and it is not looking good for Saturday, but I haven't ruled him out yet," Turner said.

If Medlock is not cleared to play then E.J. Hilliard will get his first start of the 2013 campaign. This will come against his former Northwestern High School teammate in Cardinals quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who is in the running for the Heisman trophy this season.

In his press conference, Cardinals Head Coach Charlie Strong addressed questions about the game Saturday with the Panthers coming to play.

"I didn't show film from two years ago to my players now. It's a different coaching staff and a different team from two years ago. You look at two years ago and T.Y. Hilton was there and now he's playing for the Indianapolis Colts. He caught those two big passes," Strong said. "I think about this also: we would've beat Kentucky two years ago and then



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

As the Panthers continue their 2013 season, questions of the teams mindset is called into question.

we came home and lost to Marshall. That's what we can't let happen. We can't have that let down where we're coming back home where we're going to have a great crowd. Our fans did an unbelievable job following us to Lexington. We're coming back home and we're going to have a good crowd here."

He also addressed the new coaching staff of the Panthers and how some of his team knows some of the roster for the Panthers, while knowing that the Cardinals recruit heavily in Florida and specifically the Miami area. There are 37 players on the roster from Florida, 16 from the Miami area alone.

"I do not know their staff. I knew Mario Cristobal when he was there.

Mario was in Miami, so he did a great job at recruiting Miami. This new staff, I do not know much about," Strong said. "The guys on both sides, FIU and here, know each other because they played against each other in high school or they were teammates. To go there and recruit is special. The players here actually get a chance to go home and everyone gets a chance to watch them play."

FIU Student Media was permitted to use the Coach Strong quotes by the Louisville Cardinals Athletic Department.

The game will kickoff at noon Saturday from the Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, Ky.

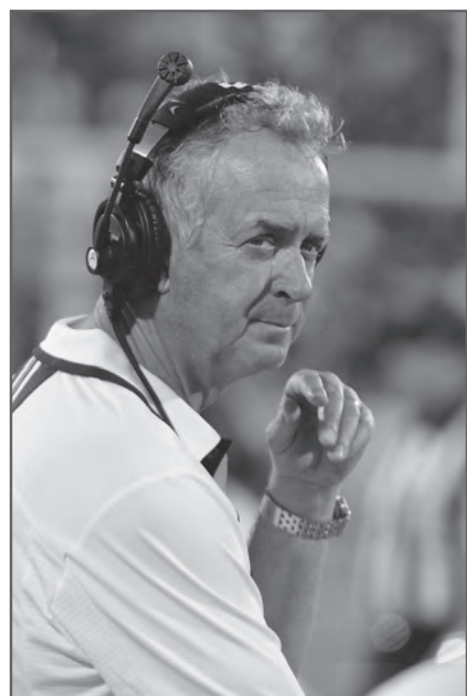
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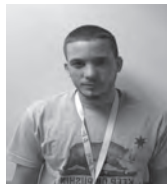
FIU has had trouble getting any type of offensive going this season, leading to lower scoring games and multiple turnovers.

## Starting from the bottom: Panthers vs. Cardinals



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

**COLUMNIST**



**RUBEN PALACIOS**

There is a process when you have a bad football team on your hands.

First, you get a little disappointed that the team is expected to be awful. Second, you realize first hand how bad that team is and you partake in the bashing of a down-and-out program. And finally, you open your eyes in a moment of realization and figure out that if the team will ever prosper again, they must continue to be awful for the foreseeable future.

Ever hear the saying, "It's always darkest before dawn?"

Well that's my point exactly. The football team is 0-3. They got blown out by an above average ACC team in Maryland 43-10. They got shutout by in-state rival UCF 38-0. And they were kind enough to provide Bethune-Cookman University with their first ever win over an FBS school in a 34-13 route.

And if you were at all cringing at the site of that last graph, this next one will definitely have you running for the hills.

Up next for the Panthers is the nationally

ranked University of Louisville. I think I might of understated Louisville in that last sentence so let me play them up because they deserve that much respect.

The Cardinals come into the FIU game 3-0, with wins over Ohio, Eastern Kentucky and Kentucky. Now those are not names to be impressed with whatsoever but it is not whom they have beaten that is impressive, but the way they have beaten these teams. The Cardinals have allowed a combined 27 points in their first three games. In comparison, the Panthers have allowed a combined 115 points through their first three contests.

My point is the Cardinals are way, way, way better than anything FIU has seen this year and that this game could be the darkest moment in the Panthers season.

But remember, it's always darkest before the dawn.

And maybe there are a few glimpses of light shining on this team. The B-CU game was a coming out party for T.J. Lowder, who caught six passes for 125 yards and a touchdown. Maybe, just maybe he's the second coming of another famous two-initialed first name wide receiver who once donned the

Panthers colors. The guy I am talking about, T.Y. Hilton, once torched Louisville for some 200 plus total yards en route to probably the biggest win in FIU football history.

With the 100-yard performance last week, Lowder became the first FIU receiver since Hilton to have a 100-yard game by his third career start. Freaky ain't it.

Lowder, who was a true freshman when Hilton was a senior in 2011, has kept in touch with the Indianapolis Colts star in order to get help on how to become a better player. Well, at least last week it looked like whatever Hilton has been preaching, Lowder has been listening.

Lowder has a ton of upside. He's just a redshirt sophomore and still has two years to hone in on his craft and become that unstoppable force that Hilton once was for the Panthers.

And if he ever wanted to be "The man," like Hilton was, there could not be a better stage to do it on than against Louisville on Saturday. Remember, that was the same stage T.Y. once took and he took the Cardinals by storm.

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As the Panthers begin the 2013 season 0-3, some feel this is the stages of a rebuilding period.

# Men's and women's basketball schedule released

Panthers embrace challenges of new schedule and Conference

**FRANCISCO RIVERO**  
Sports Director

After an offseason where the mens basketball team had to deal with an Academic Progress Rate score scandal, the loss of their head coach and some players transferring out of FIU, the Panthers now turn their attention to the upcoming 2013 season.

The 2013-14 schedule was released on Sept. 16 and announced by new Head Coach Anthony Evans. The upcoming schedule will include a couple of notable names including the NCAA National Champions Louisville Cardinals on Dec. 21 and last year's cinderella story Florida Gulf Coast, also known as Dunk City, on Dec. 7. The Cardinals visit to FIU will be the first time a defending national champion has played against the Panthers on their home court.

Evans knows just how tough the upcoming season will be with a schedule that features 11 teams which saw postseason tournament action last season.

"This year's schedule will be a good test for our team," said Evans in a FIU Athletics press release. "With it being our first year in Conference USA and the quality non-conference opponents we will be facing, I expect this to be a challenging yet exciting season. The year will be fun and entertaining for not only our team, but our

Entering their first season in conference USA, the Panthers look to excite the competition and fans with electric play.

BEACON FILE PHOTO



fans as well."

The season will kick off at the Kennesaw State Tournament on Nov. 8 and will finish up on Nov. 12. After the Panthers finish up the four-team tournament in Kennesaw Ga., they will head back to the Lime Court at the U.S Century Bank Arena to tip off their home opener against Florida College.

The back-to-back NCAA tournament teams will close out 2013, prior to the New Year.

FIU will wrap up the 2013-14 season with Senior Day on March 2 when they host Tulane, followed by a March 6 matchup against in-state rival Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton.

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Women's basketball to pounce on 2013-14 season

**RUBEN PALACIOS**  
Assistant Sports Director

Head Coach Cindy Russo announced the schedule for the upcoming season on Tuesday. The schedule is one of the toughest in recent memory as the Panthers will go up against four NCAA Tournament teams and eight WNIT teams from last year.

The Panthers will host 15 games on their newly named Lime Court at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Their regular season home opener will come against Florida Gulf Coast University. The Panthers will look to avenge a 69-45 loss to the Eagles last year in that game. The Eagles

were a WNIT team last year and were one of the few teams to successfully diminish the play of All-American senior Jerica Coley. In last year's matchup, Coley registered a season-low nine points.

"It's an exciting time for the program as we not only enter our first season in Conference USA, but also are scheduled for a lot of tough non-conference games," Russo said in a press release via Athletics. "I think this is one of the most difficult schedules we've ever had. I'm looking forward to the challenge, and I know the players and staff are excited to take on such a high caliber of competition."

Like always the Panthers will host two tournaments on their home floor. The first being the 19th annual Thanksgiving Classic held from Nov. 29 through Dec. 1. That tournament will feature Valparaiso, Montana State and Villanova. From Dec. 28 through Dec. 30 the Panthers will host the FIU Sun & Fun Classic featuring Fairleigh Dickinson, Wake Forest and Florida A&M. The Panthers won two out three games in both tournaments last year.

The FIU women's team looks to qualify for the NCAA tournament after missing out on a spot in 2012.

BEACON FILE PHOTO



After the holidays, FIU will kick off its inaugural C-USA season, welcoming Rice to U.S. Century Bank Arena. The other home games against league opponents include East Carolina, North Texas, Florida Atlantic, Middle Tennessee, Southern Miss, Marshall and Old Dominion

The Panthers finished last year with a 19-13 record and received a berth into the WNIT for the second consecutive season.

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## Nasty weather plaguing NFL, causing concerns for players

**BARRY WILNER**  
AP Writer

Nasty weather often plagues the NFL. Everyone knows about the Lambeau tundra or the whipping winter winds off Lake Erie in Cleveland.

But for Mother Nature to wreak havoc with games in September? That doesn't bode well for the rest of the season.

Already, three games, including two in prime time, have been disrupted by weather issues, mostly lightning. Kickoff for the Ravens-Broncos opener to the season on Sept. 5 in Denver was delayed for 33 minutes. On Sunday, New Orleans' visit to Tampa Bay was interrupted for 69 minutes. And the showcase matchup of San Francisco at Seattle went through a one-hour delay in the first quarter Sunday night.

Hardly ideal — for the teams, the fans, or the folks watching on TV. But necessary.

"We knew ahead of time we would have weather some-

time during the game, early in the game," said Mike Kensil, the league's vice president of game operations who was in Seattle on Sunday. "We have a security meeting at 100 minutes (before kickoff), at 90 minutes a meeting with the TV teams, and we go through the scenarios in case there is weather.

"We go through our meteorological services and the services the stadium uses. Safety is paramount."

Lightning is the biggest worry because it's so unpredictable and dangerous, Kensil said. The NFL and stadium authorities track any storm that includes lightning, and when it gets within 5 miles, meteorologists try to predict its path toward the stadium.

"Last night, it was tracking to come right over the stadium," Kensil added. "We knew within a mile and a half of the stadium we would have to clear the field. As we were clearing the field, we had a bolt of lightning somewhere (nearby)."

Scoreboard messages, public

address system announcements and word of mouth all are used to clear a stadium. Fans generally are sent into the covered corridors or even into lounges until the storm clears the area.

It's an awkward process for

don't want to do too much and wear yourself out. We sat around a little bit and once they gave us that 10-minute warning (to return to the field), we started to warm up again and go over some last minute checks and started over.

several times they would be heading back to the field, only to further delay resuming play.

Seattle's coaches reviewed plays from the 11 minutes that were played and discussed adjustments.

"Absolutely we did," Carroll said. "It was a great opportunity for us; I'm sure they were doing the same thing. We did all kinds of things in all phases where it was needed. We coached throughout the time, other than when the music was blaring in the locker room."

Sean Payton and his New Orleans staff kept after the trainers and players to make sure everyone remained hydrated.

"You deal with it," tackle Zach Streif said. "I think everyone felt fine going back out. Again, if that happens in the middle of the third quarter in a big game, much tougher. They handled it well in here."

Ah, but remember this when it comes to Mother Nature: The Super Bowl next February is being played in New Jersey. Outdoors.

“Already, three games, including two in prime time, have been disrupted by weather issues, mostly lightning.”

the players. Already in the midst of heavy action, they not only have to stop playing for a lengthy break, but then need to fire up their engines again.

"I've never had a rain delay, ever, in football," Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "It was kind of one of those things, you

"We did the same pregame ritual that we usually do, we just restarted the whole process."

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson took a shower during the interruption. He probably had time for a few of them because, according to coach Pete Carroll, game officials told the teams

## Explore Ocean Life Series in Key Largo

**MADLINE NODA**  
*Contributing Writer*

Submerging into the marine world to explore and research the coral reefs and ecosystem lying beneath the water of the Florida Keys has become more than a recreational activity.

Thomas Lockyear, director of the History of Diving Museum, will discuss the impact these activities have on the economy of the Keys and its dive shops at the next Ocean Life Series: A Brief History of Diving in the Keys event.

“We strive to educate and inspire the next generation by engaging everyone with history, science, technology, art and so much,” said Lockyear. “This is not just a place for inspiring divers,

but a place where people of all interests can take something back home.”

Lockyear will also discuss the importance of South Florida and the Keys on the history of diving.

The event will take place at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo on Friday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. The night will start with a meet and greet then at 7 p.m. the presentation will begin.

The Ocean Life Series was founded by the FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society in partnership with the Friends Of The Key Largo Cultural Center, a committee in charge of the theater whose members and founders had a mission statement to “use the facility to attract affordable entertainment, educational programs and

### KEEPING IT GLOBAL



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

At the “Skyfall” themed annual mixer, Student Organizations Council departments and clubs get to interact and know each other. Above, Michael Aquino, the Student Organizations Council president, and Marie Pierre, the Student Organizations Council secretary, are enjoying the festivities with James Bond.

events to Key Largo.”

The series features academic experts from the University and the Florida Keys.

According to Elaine Pritzker, the coordinator of SEAS, the partner-

ship with FKLCC grew out of a mutual goal to bring free quality educational programming to the community.

“They had a newly built venue and needed speakers, and we wanted

to feature our researchers working in the area,” says Pritzker. “The purpose of the series is to bring researchers and academics to the Keys to educate and inspire audiences of all ages about the unique

environment in which they live.”

This event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be provided.

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## Second private company rockets toward space station

**AP STAFF**

A commercial cargo ship made its successful debut Wednesday, rocketing toward the International Space Station and doubling the number of NASA’s private suppliers for the high-flying lab.

Orbital Sciences Corp. launched its first-ever supply ship from Virginia’s Eastern Shore, the departing point for a NASA moonshot less than two weeks ago.

“Look out ISS, here we come,” the company said in a tweet.

The capsule named Cygnus — bearing 1,300 pounds of food, clothing and goodies for the astronauts — is due at the orbiting outpost on Sunday, following four days of testing.

The Virginia-based Orbital Sciences is only the second business to attempt a shipment like this.

The California-based SpaceX company has been delivering station supplies for more than a year under a NASA contract.

“If you needed more tangible proof that this is a new era of exploration, it’s right here, right now in Virginia,” NASA asso-

ciate administrator Robert Lightfoot said at a post-launch news conference.

Orbital Sciences’ unmanned Antares rocket — named for the bright red star — blasted into a clear sky from NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility.

A test launch in April went well. So did this one, with a camera on the rocket providing dramatic views of the coastline. The entire commercial effort dates back five years.

It was Wallops’ second high-profile launch this month. On Sept. 6, the company took part in a NASA moonshot that dazzled skywatchers along the East Coast.

Wednesday’s late-morning liftoff, while at a much more convenient hour, was not nearly as visible because of the daylight. The rocket exhaust plume, at least, was visible from Washington, D.C.

The three space station residents, circling 260 miles high, watched the launch via a live link provided by Mission Control in Houston.

“Great launch! Excited for Cygnus arrival on Sunday!” space station astronaut Karen Nyberg

said in a tweet. She’s expecting a fresh stash of chocolate.

Nyberg and Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano will use the space station’s robot arm to grab Cygnus from orbit and attach it to the space station. Also on board is a Russian.

The crew will double in size next week when another American and two Russians lift off aboard a Russian rocket from Kazakhstan.

NASA is paying Orbital Sciences and Space Exploration Technologies Corp., or SpaceX, to keep the space station stocked after the retirement of the shuttles. The other countries involved in the station also make deliveries.

The bigger SpaceX Dragon capsule, which is launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., has the advantage of returning items to Earth. It parachutes into the Pacific off the Southern California coast.

The Cygnus will be filled with station trash and cut loose for a fiery destruction upon re-entry, following a monthlong visit.

That’s how the Russian, European and Japanese supply ships wind up, too — as incinerators.

“If you needed more tangible proof that this is a new era of exploration, it’s right here, right now in Virginia

Robert Lightfoot  
NASA Associate administrator

“We categorize it as disposable cargo,” said Orbital Sciences’ executive vice president, Frank Culbertson. “Others may call it trash.”

If all goes well, Orbital Sciences hopes to launch another Cygnus in December with about 2,800 pounds of supplies.

That will be the first true operational mission under a \$1.9 billion contract.

The SpaceX contract is worth \$1.6 billion.

SpaceX is working to modify its Dragon capsule for space station crews, so NASA doesn’t have to keep paying tens of millions of dollars to the

Russians per ticket.

Orbital Sciences envisions strictly non-human payloads for the Cygnus — but not necessarily just in Earth’s backyard.

“We’d be happy to help a mission go to Mars,” said Culbertson, a former astronaut who lived on the space station in 2001.

The capsule was named in honor of G. David Low, a former astronaut and Orbital Sciences executive who died in 2008.

He flew on three shuttle missions but not to the space station. This was a way for Low to get there after all these years, Culbertson said after the launch.