

Bahad and Nyman discuss SGA platform

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
News Director
adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com

Stefan Bahad and Kristen Nyman, the presidential and vice presidential candidates of the FIUnite party met with Student Media last week to discuss their platform for this year's Student Government Association at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus elections.

Established in 2012 with the help of various student leaders at the University, the party was created with the goal of leading a student-centered student government, according to Bahad.

Bahad and Nyman's platform, titled, Innovate FIU, contains eight items, compared to that of their opponents, Alexis Calatayud and Tiffany Roman-Biffa, which contains five.

The items include a go green initiative, and initiatives on public safety and resources, leadership development, community outreach, student engagement, student mentorship and education, student involvement and an item focusing on a social issue.

According to both members of the FIUnite party, they wish to focus some of their energy

advocating for issues that they believe didn't receive much attention during the current administration of Calatayud and Roman-Biffa.

Although Bahad, a junior international business and finance major, believes that the University's office of sustainability is doing a great job, he believes that tasks concerning environmental awareness can be taken a step forward.

One idea that Nyman suggested is creating fully online syllabi, all in an effort to avoid using paper. Bahad also brought up the topic of potentially offering fully electronic forms, which may expedite communication between University departments.

Both candidates made it clear that although they cannot promise to meet every single point on their platform, they will work toward advocating actively for them.

"We don't want to promise the moon and the stars because we can't give it," said Nyman, a junior political science and international relations major.

Both candidates spoke on the possibility of creating a go green fund, which has been previously housed at Florida State University. The plan is to have it exist as part

MONKS AGAINST MEAT



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness Bhakti Prabhupada-vrata, Damodara Swami (right), Angelo Gonzalez (center) and Masters of International Business Graduate student, Javier Rodolfo, chant during FIU's Meat Out Day on March 19, an event promoting non-consumption of meat.

of the Activity and Services fee budget that SGA has control over.

Providing mentorships with the help of alumni is also part of their plan.

Bahad provided the example of students in Greek and business organizations who have access to various connections, in contrast with students who may not be part of these organizations and don't have access to the same resources.

Considering that the University has over 500,000 alumni, Bahad and Nyman want to make use of these individuals,

with the potential help of the Alumni Association and other appropriate departments, to create a mentorship program between alumni and current students.

Rather than simply encourage alumni to donate to the University, Bahad and Nyman want to engage them with current students to potentially provide internships and other opportunities.

"We see it as a new way of donating to the University," Nyman said.

Both candidates admitted that although their platform consists

of eight items, it is not limited to just the eight listed.

One tenant of theirs is innovation, the notion of constantly coming up with something new for the University, and their current platform items serve as guidelines that will direct their efforts if they happen to be elected, according to Nyman.

SEE SGA, PAGE 2

New York Times journalist to visit University

NICK OLIVERA
Staff Writer
nick.olivera@fiusm.com

A prominent journalist has something to say on the importance of journalism.

As such, the international managing editor for the New York Times is coming to the University for a discussion.

During his time with the New York Times, Michael Slackman covered a variety of international subjects, among them the ongoing conflicts between Israel and Palestine, the Middle East's interpretation of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the bombings in Morocco and the persecution of Jews in Yemen.

According to Slackman, his discussion, titled, "Bearing Witness," will be addressing a common theme that ties subjects together: the significant role that a journalist often plays in the process of gathering and sharing information so that the public can develop its own global perspectives.

"Oftentimes, the journalist is mistaken as an advocate for cause," Slackman told Student Media via phone interview, "When in reality, the journalist is more of an advocate for encouraging the free, open exchange of ideas and views."

In 1997, Slackman was part of the

Newsday news team in Long Island, New York, that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Reporting for the active coverage of the crash, and aftermath, of the Trans World Airlines flight 800, which exploded over Long Island, New York 12 minutes after

journalism.

"To have someone who has firsthand experience in not only the issues and news stories themselves, but also on the importance of reporting them makes it something that not only students in journalism or writing should

“

You cannot develop every thought you have based entirely on what you picked up in your hometown.

Nathalia Abreu
Sophomore
History

”

takeoff, according to CNN and the University of Wisconsin's Center for Journalism Ethics' website.

Slackman, who described himself as a true believer of the power of journalism, thinks that the job of a journalist is "very important, meaningful work."

According to Eric M. Feldman, coordinator for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Slackman's presentation on "Bearing Witness" will not be an event directed solely for those with an interest in

be interested in," said Feldman, "Any student interested in being a citizen of the world should be interested [in this lecture]."

Some members of the University's student body agree with Feldman's sentiment.

Nathalia Abreu, a sophomore majoring in history, expressed enthusiasm considering the theme of Slackman's lecture.

"A better understanding of global events is good for developing informed opinions about the world around you," she said, "You cannot develop every thought you have

based entirely on what you picked up in your hometown."

However, Slackman won't only be lecturing with broad audiences.

In addition to the discussion, he will also be making appearances in a handful of classes all throughout the University, which will include Introduction to Sociology and Politics of Latin America.

Adrian Rahimi, a junior majoring in finance, likes this idea and thinks it's a lot more convenient for students.

"It is nice to have a public figure like that actually want to get up-close-and-personal with the students for more than just an hour," he said. "Usually, these guest speakers we have show up to FIU, do whatever it is that they came here to do, then leave."

Slackman is excited to see how his encounters with the University Panthers will turn out.

"It is good to get out there and actually interact with the students," he said, "I am delighted at the idea of students showing such an interest in discussing real world issues."

Slackman's discussion will be held in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus on Wednesday, April 1 in the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium in the School of International and Public Affairs, Room 125.

The discussion will begin at 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

China fishing plan in Antarctica alarms scientists

Scientists studying the Antarctic's marine life received some unexpected news this month: China plans to vastly increase fishing for Antarctic krill – small crustaceans that are a critical food for the continent's penguins and other creatures.

China currently harvests about 32,000 metric tons of krill annually from Antarctica's waters, topped by only Norway and South Korea. Under China's plans, detailed in a

March 4 story in the state-run China Daily, the world's most populous country would increase those catches 30 to 60 times, harvesting up to 2 million metric tons yearly.

Rodolfo Werner, a marine scientist and adviser to Antarctic conservation groups, said he doubts China can ramp up its catches to that level. But the fact that China has announced such ambitious plans worries him, partly because other countries might follow suit.

As crowd chants 'Death to America,' Khamenei backs nuclear talks

Iran's supreme leader on Saturday urged Iranians to support their government's efforts to negotiate a nuclear deal, even while denouncing the United States and other Western governments involved in the talks.

In a much-anticipated speech on the first day of Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said all Iranians should support the government of President Hassan Rouhani, even if they didn't vote for him in the presidential election.

Rouhani has made negotiation of a nuclear deal with world powers a centerpiece of his administration.

Khamenei, speaking before a boisterous crowd in the northern holy city of Mashhad, also demanded that a nuclear deal end economic sanctions on Iran at its outset, rather than gradually, as the United States and five other world powers have said during negotiations.

"Sanctions must be lifted immediately," Khamenei said.

University opens food pantries for students

FOOD, PAGE 8

Because of its success, the SHS are planning on having another fundraising event this year.

"We received so much food. Our pantry was packed. We almost didn't know where to put so much of our donations," Virgile said.

According to Virgile, both students, faculty and staff are welcomed to donate at the several bins located around campus. They are at the WUC, Academic Building One, the BBC Hubert Library and the SHS Wellness Center.

The pantry is currently managed by staff, but they are opened to work with student organizations.

"The sky's the limit, but right now we haven't planned on having it a

student-run type of pantry, but of course we are open to any type of ideas or student organizations that want to partner with us," Virgile said.

She also said that even though they have had successes, they also run low in food from time to time.

"I wouldn't say it's successful or unsuccessful. We've had our peaks and we've had our lows, but there is a need for it. That's the fact of it," she said.

MMC also has their food pantry which is located in the Deuxieme Maison room 166. It is run by the Center for Leadership and Service and staff and student volunteers.

"We do have a few of our staff members who help work with it and run it, but we rely on student volunteers to actually

staff the pantry during the times that it's open," said Joanna Garcia, Assistant Director for the Center of Leadership and Service.

"I would definitely want to use it. I think it impacts students quite positively," said Angel Runez, a freshman hospitality major.

"Honestly, as college students, we struggle," said Alanys Alcantara, a freshman on a pre-physical therapy track. "It's nice knowing there's food offered that we don't have to pay for," Alcantara said.

The food pantry is open at the BBC Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MMC campus food pantry is open Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SGA, PAGE 1

Bahad commented on the name of his and Kristen's party.

He mentioned that UNI serves as a play on words that can be interpreted as, You and I.

"I'd love to meet every student's needs and talk to every single student, but it's on you and I...to make sure we have the best student government," he said.

Referring to a workshop event for their political party that took place earlier in the day, Nyman referred to an activity that required participants to write down something they felt should be changed in the University.

One participant suggested that something be done about the computers inside the Geographic Information Systems lab, as they always crash when students try opening programs.

Nyman said that these issues are ones that are directly affecting students, and issues that can only be addressed if SGA leaders take an active role in speaking with their constituents.

As part of their platform, Bahad and Nyman wish to draw attention to a social cause.

Their cause of choice: drinking and driving.

Both candidates commented that in several elections a lot of focus is placed on the concrete ideas that need solving, such as issues with parking or Wi-Fi, but not a lot of emphasis is placed on social issues.

Nyman commented that whether or not someone drinks, one is nonetheless affected by drinking and driving.

Some University students feel strongly about the issue.

"I think drinking and driving is stupid, plain and simple, as it puts your life and the passengers' lives in danger," said Felicia Puig, a junior communication arts major. "Sadly, people will still do it, even if they've been told not to do it."

Bahad commented that by virtue of being in a university students will drink.

Although he believes that he and others cannot stop students from drinking, he can nonetheless inform students about the issue and the different resources that they can take advantage of to stay out of harm.

Nyman and Bahad plan on taking non-traditional avenues to educate students on this particular issue, considering that both have seen various seminars and flyers on the issue and know what works and what doesn't.

While both candidates are aware of the changes that are taking place in terms of how the University receives funding from the performance-based metrics model, they feel that they want to focus their efforts on ensuring that they work toward making the University meet the standards set by these metrics.

"We are not professionals in the education field, but it is our job as, what would be, student advocates to ensure that the provisions that are being put in place, which affect students, are looking out for their best interest," Nyman said.

One of the other plans that both Bahad and Nyman have is an open-door policy that, in the case that they are elected, will allow students to enter their offices without first scheduling an appointment.

Both also want to make the presence of SGA felt on campus, considering that the general sentiment of students, as they put it, is that the student government representatives are only seen during election time.

Their plan is to have an SGA street team, which will walk throughout the University and personally speak to students about their ideas and the changes they wish to be made.

One issue, however, seems to be on the minds of several: University expansion.

Both agree that, keeping in mind how slow land procurement takes, at the moment the most they can do is continue supporting the effort to acquire the fairgrounds.

On Monday, March 30, a presidential and vice presidential debate between the candidates will take place at 5 p.m. A room has yet to be determined.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CLASSIFIEDS

NOW HIRING SALES ASSOCIATES

Must be 18 years or older, have retail experience and be sales driven. Flexible hours and open availability.

Steps New York

531 SW 145 Terr.

Pembroke Pines, FL 33027

KARA New York

610 SW 145th Terrace

Pembroke Pines, FL 33027

THE BEACON

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF
JUNETTE REYES

PHOTO EDITOR
MARIA LORENZINO

BBC MANAGING EDITOR
CAMILA FERNANDEZ

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS
SOFIA GALIANO
NICOLE MONTERO

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/
COPY CHIEF**
RHYS WILLIAMS

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTOR
ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

NEWS DIRECTOR
ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA

**ASST. ENTERTAINMENT
DIRECTOR**
CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ

OPINION DIRECTOR
STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR
LAUREN SHADE

SPORTS DIRECTOR
JORGE CORRALES

BUSINESS MANAGER
CHARLIE GRAU

**ENTERTAINMENT
DIRECTOR**
AMANDA RABINES

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
ROBERT JAROSS

**ASST. DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT MEDIA**
ALFRED SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Beacon – MMC
11200 SW 8th St, GC-210
Miami, FL 33199
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

The Beacon – BBC
3000 NE 151st St, WUC-124
North Miami Beach, FL 33181
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
junette.reyes@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

Music is more realistic than the media about race

LAUREN SHADE
Staff Writer
lauren.shade@fiusm.com

Guest speakers Douglas Smith - a Rasta priest - and I. Jabulani Tafari, founder and editor of magazines Rootz Reggae and Kulcha joined political science professor Mirsad Krijestorac at his ethnicity and nationalism class Tuesday, March 17.

The goal was to decipher the meaning of Bob Marley and The Wailers' song "I Shot The Sheriff."

You may be familiar with the song - its infamous lyrics have been readapted and replayed time and time again. In the song Marley admits to murdering a sheriff out of self-defense, but he denies shooting the deputy, a charge he is also being prosecuted for.

"If I am guilty, I will pay. But if they lock up a black man, a poor man, people of color in America, in anywhere in world, sometimes they pin other charges on you," Tafari said.

The song references injustice in a legal system that works in favor of the privileged.

Listening to the explanation of this song and its ties with Rastafarian culture, I was reminded of the past tragedies involving minorities that gained global attention in America: the Trayvon Martin trial, the Ferguson shooting, the death Eric Garner and more recently Martese Johnson's beating outside of a pub in Charlottesville, Va. It's surprising that a song written in 1973 can relate to what is happening today, but injustice existed then as it does now.

Whether these examples are completely separate events that do not show a correspondence between injustices towards minorities and bias in the the American legal system, one thing's for sure - the media has created stereotypes of minorities by over-representing them as the aggressor in crimes.

The media doesn't work on truth though, it cherry-picks and distributes what it wants to accommodate for

whatever sells best to their target audience, thereby dulling the seriousness of the crimes themselves.

Bias that exists in our legal system can no longer be separated from the propaganda that surrounds a crimes involving minority groups. People end up asking themselves whether it is institutional racism or is coincidence that lands mostly minorities in jail.

Some people will always say a white person killing a minority is a racist act. Not only is this not true, but it is stealing our attention from the actual crimes involving race.

"Blacks and whites often view each others' reactions [of violent acts against either race] as being motivated by a reflexive form of in-group favoritism and out-group prejudice," Mark Peffley said in the book "Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and White."

The hashtag culture that has ignited today's youth doesn't bring the right attention to these

palpable issues, either. Rather, it brings a hoard of counter-protests such as #blacklivesmatter versus #alllivesmatter or #whiteprivilege and #blackprivilege that are all so shrouded in controversy that no one seems to be able to come up with a real solution outside of a tweet or hashtag war.

The problem is that legal discrimination against minorities are starting not to go unnoticed, but to be swept under the rug and shrugged off as insignificant coincidences. Injustice toward minorities in our predominantly white legal system exists, but when I try to bring to light this problem today people think I have the mentality that every white person is racist.

A study published in "Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice" by Tia Stevens and Merry Morash stated that whether they self-reported low, medium or high involvement in delinquency, black and Hispanic boys were more likely to be sent to a correctional institution than their

white counterparts.

A Washington Post article by John Sides stated that about 60 percent of whites believed that minorities deserved to be imprisoned more because they were more prone to commit crimes. According to the Sentencing Project polls, at least 60 percent of people in prisons are minorities. Specifically for black men, 1 in every 10 are in prison or jail at any given time.

"The only way to end separate racial realities is either to educate whites about the experiences of blacks or, even better, to reduce blacks' negative experiences with unfair treatment in the justice system," Sides said.

Whites and nonwhites have been pitted against one another by the media when the problem isn't our differences, but the system itself. That is what Bob Marley's song is ultimately about - forcing us to see these injustices for what they really are.

The healthy-eating revolution: Why the hype?

RACHEL YOUNG
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

The simple act of walking into a Whole Foods Market, or any organic market for that matter, makes one feel healthier already. It must be something in the air. The newest trend amongst us is the one luring us to these markets for green juices, vegan chocolate and fruits so expensive you'll fall right out of your chair.

I applaud the widespread efforts to make toward a healthier lifestyle, but why the sudden concern? And why have I met more vegetarians and vegans in the past year than I ever have? It's almost as if the majority of people are taking part in the healthy movement to be a part of the trend; which wouldn't surprise me.

Trends come and go and for the most part, we always look back on

them and realize we could have put more thought into our actions. This organic health kick that everyone has been on is one to question.

"clean," but the vegetarian and vegan lifestyles are also glorified.

There are some nutrients we need and cannot get by simply eating

“The problem with this vegetarianism and veganism becoming a fad, if you will, is that people aren't really educated on the issue, and as a result don't go about the lifestyle change the right way.”

Yes, we've all seen Food, Inc. and we all stray away from McDonald's anything unless it's completely necessary, but why don't more people question the organic food industry? Not only is the organic community put on a pedestal for being "fresh" and

vegetables and meat substitutes. Sure, vegetarians and vegans make up for their lack of calcium and iron by taking supplemental vitamins, but that can't be enough.

According to research conducted at Brown University, vegetarians

are at a lower risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, obesity and hypertension, among others. The problem with this vegetarianism and veganism becoming a fad, if you will, is that people aren't really educated on the issue, and as a result don't go about the lifestyle change the right way.

Just like there are unhealthy commercial food eating people, there are healthy commercial food eating people. The same goes for vegetarians. I can attest to this because I myself was an unhealthy vegetarian.

This lifestyle change is one that requires a lot of discipline and tends to work better when you live with people who are also vegetarian. The first two months of my vegetarian endeavor were glorious and invigorating. I shopped at Whole Foods, made a range of colorful salads, and took my five vitamins every morning.

I'm not going to lie; it felt a little

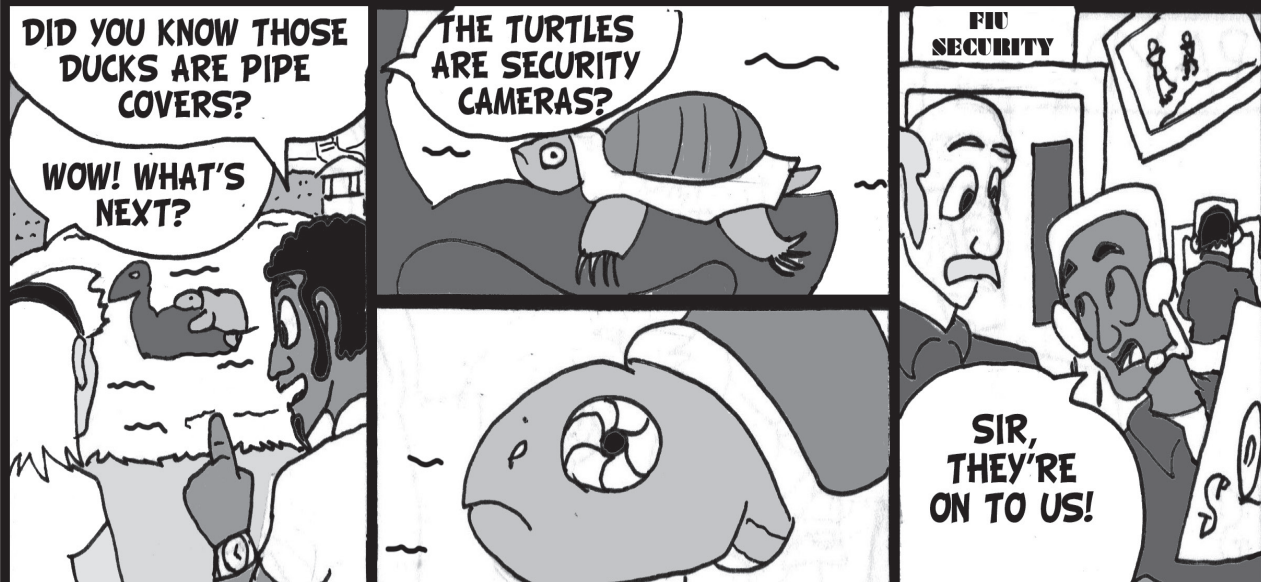
empowering to be able to say I was a vegetarian. It wasn't until I started to get lazy with my cooking, I caught a bad cold and to top it off my Abuelita came to visit from Panama.

So I knew there would be some sort of meat I wouldn't be able to resist at every meal, and who could say no to that adorable four foot ten inches ball of happiness? After consulting with my doctor, she advised me to go back to my previous eating habits until I felt better and then take it from there.

Like I said before, the lifestyle isn't for everyone. A vegetarian could be as unhealthy as someone who downs a Big Mac within minutes. The idea of eating clean should not automatically mean adopting vegetarianism into your diet. Moral of the story: do your research before you go on posting pictures of your green kale smoothie along with the recipe.

FRANK AND IRENE

SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES



SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Students win Global Datafest Hackathon

EVELYN DIAZ
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Global Datafest Hackathon for Miami Florida took place here at FIU MMC campus on March 7 and 8. For those who are less technologically savvy or unaware, Global Datafest Hackathon is a competition that aims for teams to develop an application that solves a social, economic, health and/or environmental problem.

Global data Fest Hackathon is a competition held in 20 cities around the world. In Miami only 10 teams stayed, and for each city the top two were chosen. Alastair Paragas, Xavier Thomas, Kennet Postigo and Joel Greenup earned themselves first place with the design and creation of their app called Pptr.

They will now be representing the city of Miami against Massachusetts along with other teams world-wide who will also be competing.

Their startup, Stela, began back in Paragas's sophomore year of high school with Anil Jason, wanting to create apps without the limitations of working under someone else's authority. Stela steered from the traditional route of becoming an app development company that develops apps

for business people as a living. Instead, their main drive towards designing and producing these apps is to help people transcend.

Presently, the startup consists of Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Paragas, Public Relations and Web Developer, Postigo and UI Designer and Web Developer, Thomas.

"These apps might not necessarily make us money but it can help advance society," they agreed amongst themselves.

Stella would like to reach out nationally to one day give users the ability to interconnect not only locally but throughout the nation.

The app Pptr created by these scholars allows people to donate to a variety of shelters. "Shelters have a structural need to better their living improvements, budget for feeding animals, or health care and our app allows users to donate to specific categories," said Paragas.

The app is completely free and easily accessible to anyone interested in adopting, donating, or aiding in its development.

Ultimately, they are striving to reduce the number of stray animals stuck in shelters located in Miami after recently learning that most are killed within two to four weeks time. Postigo, a

ALONE IN THE WORLD



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Shoes symbolizing the victims of sex trafficking are placed in front of quotes to highlight modern slavery as part of the Freedom Campaign event on Monday, March 23 by FIU-MDC Wesley as part of FIU Freedom Week.

former staff member of an animal shelter described conditions for the animals as horrible with an abusive number of cats and dogs in a cage.

Shelters in this app are able to market the kinds of animals they have, uploading their animals onto the dashboard. From there users are able to see all the different animals within their local area before making a drive out to a shelter.

Users can also upload photos of stray animals onto the app so that a shelter or person interested in adopting can contact them. Thomas explained that they are

trying to create a level plane field where all shelters are able to store their information.

"Shelters use a legacy system, an outdated method, and so we wish to bring them into new age technology," said Paragas.

With the app, miscommunication won't be a problem with the local shelters, permitting them to exchange information and animals if necessary.

With the help of Greenup, a connection with a director who made a documentary about stray animals was formed. They have also made a partnership with a

veterinarian doctor who operates on stray animals. Information from different organizations like Rescue Me! and Petfinder have also been in contact.

One of Stela's goals is to cultivate their projects so they can stand alone.

"A lot of people start first with money on their mind, but we sincerely believe in Passion first," said Paragas, "You start with an idea, you start with a problem, you find a solution for that problem, and the rest will find its way if you have a passion."

Bad behavior at fraternities ignites discussion on system

FRANCO ORDONEZ
McClatchy Washington Bureau
TNS

The secret Facebook page where members of Kappa Delta Rho at Penn State University allegedly posted and commented on pictures of naked, unconscious women is just the latest in a spate of publicized incidents that have cast a shadow over fraternities nationwide.

The controversies, including racist singing at the University of Oklahoma and allegations of hazing at the University of Houston, have triggered deep soul-searching on campuses in recent days as administrators and students seek answers to stop the bad behavior.

But they've also led to larger questions about Greek life itself, whether the campus organizations have become incubators for dangerous behavior and whether the problem has gotten so bad that some students should rethink membership - or at least drop the Greek letters from their resumes.

Marc Bourne, vice president of Know It All Intelligence Group, a Philadelphia-area firm that offers employment screening, said companies are looking more closely at the activities students are involved in. Even a distant association with one of these fraternities in the news

can have a detrimental impact on a job candidate, he said.

"We'd like to say in a perfect world that you wouldn't judge someone at a different campus based on what happened at another campus," Bourne said in an interview. "However, we know that's not true. You hear of SAE and the first thing you think of is the incident of the chanting and racist remarks."

Earlier this month, after the 50th anniversary of civil rights demonstrations in Selma, Ala., a nine-second video emerged of Sigma Alpha Epsilon members at the University of Oklahoma singing a racist song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." The fraternity chapter was suspended and David Boren, the university president, expelled two students.

On Wednesday, the University of South Carolina's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was suspended as police investigated the death of one of its members. As of Friday, the circumstances of the death had not been reported.

People need to stop acting surprised when disparate and segregated organizations behave poorly, said Matthew W. Hughey, who studies Greek life as an associate professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut.

"We really need to move the discussion

away from good or bad apples and toward a question of what's going on with the orchard," he said.

Fraternities were created for the "creme de la creme of society" back in the 18th and 19th centuries, he said. The exclusive clubs, Hughey said, had the specific purpose of protecting and fostering white power, wealth and status.

To some extent, it's worked. Forty-four percent of U.S. presidents and 31 percent of U.S. Supreme Court justices have been members of a social fraternity, according to the North American Interfraternity Conference. Nearly 40 percent of the last class of U.S. senators and 24 percent of members of the House of Representatives were part of a fraternity or sorority.

Greek organizations have a long history of battling ugly stereotypes associated with alcohol-fueled parties, racial and ethnic insensitivities, hazing and sexual assault of young women.

The Sigma Chi chapter at the University of Houston was suspended this week following allegations of hazing.

Another Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter, at Clemson University, was suspended last year after some of its members threw a gangster-themed holiday party dubbed "Clemson Cripmas."

That year, Sigma Phi Epsilon closed down its University of Mississippi chapter

after members placed a noose and a Confederate flag around the statue of the school's first black student.

Kappa Sigma suspended its Duke University chapter in 2013 after students hosted a controversial Asian-themed party.

It's not just the boys.

In 2014, the Chi Omega sorority closed its Penn State chapter following the circulation of a photo of members wearing fake mustaches and sombreros with a sign that read: "Will mow lawn for weed and beer."

Supporters of the Greek system say the actions of a few do not detract from the positive contributions of the hundreds of thousands of fraternity members nationwide.

The North American Interfraternity Conference, a trade association representing 74 member fraternities, says members raise tens of millions of dollars annually for charitable causes and volunteer millions of hours in their communities.

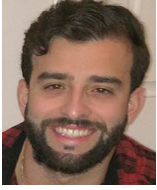
Pete Smithisler, president and CEO of the conference, cites statistics that show fraternity members earn higher grade-point averages than their at-large peers.

In a statement, Smithisler said he expects those involved will be appropriately disciplined.

The visual and musical journey of “The Void”

The Last Man on Earth brings in a new rival

RIVAS REVIEWS



VINCENT RIVES

Dubbed as “your muse’s favorite party,” The Void brings together artists of all mediums from around the city. Painters, graffiti writers, photographers and more filled the LMNT venue this past Friday.

Rather than just curating different visual artists, The Void combines live musical performances, alongside the art displayed, creating a premiere party in the heart of the Wynwood area.

The vibe at the Void can only be



The void has proven itself as the art show locals around the city do not want to miss.



described as “cool.” The crowd was dressed in the latest street fashions, and a good portion of the crowd would be able to blend into any A\$AP Rocky music video.

Music-wise, The Void hosted talent from a diverse array of genres. The crowd was treated to reggae stylings from Nelson Serieux while the band called SunGhosts brought their rock element to the show.

Visual artist Ibaki showcased his pop art, which featured portraits of hip-hop figures like Tupac, Notorious B.I.G, Jay Z, with a twist. The lines within the portraits were not just for show, but actually created a solvable maze, in each piece. Urban pop artist Surge displayed his series “Sucka Mcs,” whose vibrant vector art commanded an audience of its own.

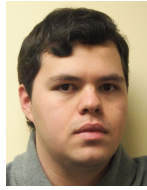
The title of the show stemmed from the trippy psychedelic movie “Enter the Void” after Event Coordinator and DJ, Sean Bang, spent the night at local rapper Denzel Curry’s home in Carol City a few

months back.

With the current state of hip-hop going through its own psychedelic phase through the music of Flatbush Zombies, Chance the Rapper and Joey Bada\$\$, Bang felt “The Void” would be the perfect fit for the show.

After a solid turnout on Friday, The Void has proven itself as the art show locals around the city do not want to miss.

ON THE TUBE



RAFAEL ABREU

“The Last Man on Earth” has quickly become my new favorite comedy show. It manages to take an old premise and make it fresh with great writing, great characters, and unexpected twists. I’ve noted that the show is full of surprises and that each new episode changes things up one way or another. Well, it looks like this sitcom shows no signs of slowing down as things only get more and more complicated.

Episode 5: “Dunk the Skunk” begins with a red convertible driving down a gray and drab road as someone gets out of the car to read a sign that says “ALIVE IN TUCSON”. This vehicle shows up periodically throughout the episode as a sort of reminder that things are about to change yet again. Phil continues to try and find a way to have sex with Melissa, but his marriage to Carol is seen as sacred by everyone but him.

Seeing him trying to devise a way to make sex with Melissa viable, we see more of Phil as a scumbag and he actually becomes less likable. He’s still enjoyable and fun to watch, but it’s becomes clearer that he’s not really a great guy. Him pretending to act distraught to Carol about possibly having sex with Melissa, as well as his failed attempts at even talking with Melissa, demonstrate this best.

While he believes his logic to be sound (having sex with someone else so that his and Carol’s children don’t have sex with each other), it’s clear to Carol and Melissa that, no matter how sound his plan may be, Phil’s really

only thinking about himself.

“Dunk the Skunk” works really well as its own episode, especially with the ever recurring presence of the red sports car. However, I felt it worked even better as a direct precursor to the following episode, “Some Friggin’ Fat Guy”.

This episode starts with fully introducing Todd, played by Mel Rodriguez, a man who would have left Tucson if it weren’t for Phil’s fireworks display. Needless to say, Phil is less than thrilled, doing his best to make Todd look bad, only for everything to backfire on him. Todd is charming, sweet, a nice guy, and of all things, getting really friendly with Melissa. They instantly hit it off, and while Carol is absolutely happy for them, Phil is—you guessed it—jealous as can be.

“Some Friggin’ Fat Guy” is one of the funniest episodes yet, mainly due to Phil’s failures at trying to woo Melissa, embarrass Todd, and convince himself that there’s no way Melissa could ever be into Todd.

This episode also shows just how much of a scumbag Phil really is: spying on Melissa and Todd, always referring to Todd’s weight, and saying stupid things. Example: Phil says that his favorite movie is “The Shawshank Redemption” only because it’s Melissa’s.

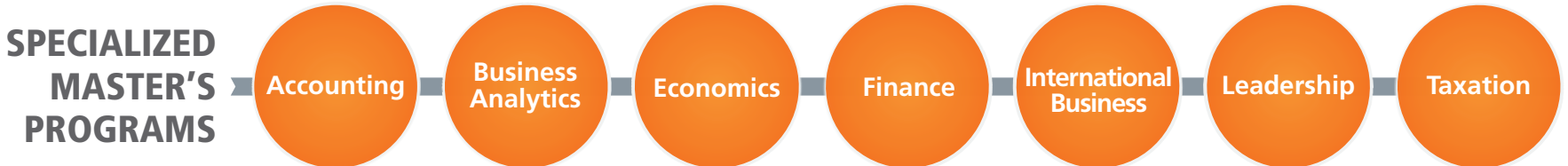
However, this episode also ends with Phil demonstrating a bit of humanity, confessing that his behavior has been awful and that he still may be having trouble communicating with other humans. It took me by surprise, thinking that Phil would just continue to be a jerk, but it seems he may have had a mini-breakthrough. Only time will tell if Phil becomes a better man after all this.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

RSVP

Specialized Master’s Preview
Saturday, March 28
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
University of Miami
Coral Gables
Breakfast & lunch provided

EARN YOUR **MASTER’S DEGREE** IN **10 MONTHS** AT THE **UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**



Gain new skills in a specialized area that will make you more valuable and more competitive in the marketplace.

Fast Facts:

START DATE	AVERAGE STUDENT AGE	AVERAGE YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE	PROGRAM LENGTH	TOTAL CREDITS
FALL	23	1	25	10 MO.	30*

*varies by program

Who Should Apply:

College seniors and graduates interested in accounting, business analytics, economics, finance, international business, leadership, and taxation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP FOR AN EVENT: bus.miami.edu/umiamimasters | 305-284-2510

BASEBALL

Offense in full swing for series win against 49ers

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

Asst. Sports Director
alejandro.aguirre@fiusm.com

Coming into this series the baseball team was on a three game losing streak and had their record well under .500. Going back to their home field, they looked to climb up the Conference USA standings as they played against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who was also a struggling team with a record below .500.

This three game series started off on a sour note for the Panthers as they dropped game one 5-4 but made things interesting in their last at bats in the bottom of the ninth inning. FIU was losing 5-2 going into that inning and were able to load the bases with no outs. An RBI single by sophomore J.C. Escarra cut the deficit to two and then with one out pinch hitter Mitchell Robinson was able to get another RBI single to pull FIU within one. Unfortunately junior Ray Perez struck out and senior Julius Gaines popped out which led to a third straight FIU C-USA loss. What really hurt the team was a five run fourth inning by Charlotte and FIU wasn't able to answer back. This is the Panther's sixth loss of their past seven games and Head Coach Turtle Thomas wasn't pleased with the team's performance. "We've got to swing the bat much better. No question about it. A hundred times over."

The next day for game two the team would fulfill Head Coach Thomas' wishes as they erupted to score 23 runs on 20 hits. The game

ended after seven innings due to the Conference USA mercy rule. Junior Edwin Rios had a game that he will never forget as he drove in six of FIU's 23 runs and made school history belting three home runs in that game. He tied the single game school record for most homeruns in a game. He was a perfect 4-for-4 with six RBI and was extremely glad that he finally hit the ball well and was able to lead the team to a victory. "All my power is to the opposite field and I've been pulling the ball lately today I was finally able to do what I do." It seemed like a home run derby that game as five of them were hit. The other two were hit by senior Brian Portelli and freshman, Spencer Levine which was the first of his career. It's tough to gain recognition as a pitcher when your team scores a whopping 23 runs but starter Andres Nunez pitched a great game as he struck out eight in six innings of work and only gave up one run. Most importantly, this game snapped their four game losing skid and hopefully gain momentum.

On the final day of the series the Panthers were in high spirits to take the series after coming off a great all around performance the night before. FIU was able to win 7-5 and their offense didn't skip a beat as they had 14 hits. Just like Rios the day before, junior Zach Soria went a perfect 4-for-4 and once again Rios had a great game and backed up Soria's offense going 2-for-4 with two RBI. The 49ers had no answer for Rios as one of his hits was his fourth home run of the series and sixth long ball of the year. Sophomore starter Chris Mourelle earned his



JINETTE GARCIA/THE BEACON

Infielder Edwin Rios fields a ground ball during the game against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers during the series opener on Friday, March 20. Although the Panthers lost Friday's game, they got their revenge on Saturday by winning 23-1 where Rios broke the FIU single game home run record.

fourth win of the season, allowing three earned runs on six hits in seven innings of work. Junior Danny Dopico was able to get his fourth save of the season. He came into the game in the eighth inning to lock down the game and earned the save while striking out five.

FIU capped off this series on an incredible

note. They finished with a .369 batting average as a team with six home runs and 29 RBI. Edwin Rios was hands down the MVP of the series who gave new life to this struggling ball club. Overall he went 7-for-12 with four home runs, one double and eight RBI.

GOLF

Panthers finish second at Mountain View Collegiate

PETER HOLLAND
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The golf team had made its mark this past weekend despite finishing in second place overall this past weekend at the Mountain View Collegiate. The tournament took place in

Tucson, Arizona and was hosted by the University of Missouri. The Panthers were one of twenty schools competing in the tournament. The team was led by Junior Meghan MacLaren, who shot seven under par, which gave her her third tournament victory. MacLaren shot a three-round total of 209 to

reach seven under; her best mark of the season. Her previous best came at the Pat Bradley Invitational last November. This was the fourth time this season that McLaren finished under par.

Freshman sensation Katerina Krasova finished in the top ten with a total of 214, two-under par for the

weekend. This was a career high for this freshman out of Czech Republic. Her previous best was 221 at the Johnie Imes Invitational.

The Panthers were one of only two teams to finish under par during the tournament. The Ohio State Buckeyes, who finished in first place, shot 8-under for the tournament.

Despite finishing in second place, the Panthers shot a season high 861 in a three round score, finishing ahead of No. 19 ranked Iowa State Cyclones and No. 33 ranked Purdue Boilermakers. Their previous high came at the Johnie Imes Invitational last September when they shot a total of 862.

The FIU Golf team is looking to keep the momentum going as they get ready to compete for the Conference-USA Championship on April 20 in Fort Myers, Florida.

SOFTBALL

North Texas Mean Green sweeps softball

ALANNAH ALFONSO
Staff Writer
alannah.alfonso@fiusm.com

The FIU softball team (20-14, 3-6 C-USA) got swept this past weekend by the North Texas Mean Green.

Junior Corinne Jenkins (12-7) pitched the first game of three. A hard fought 6.1 innings with four strikeouts. She allowed eleven hits and sophomore Brianna Bartuccio came into relief the final two-thirds inning and struck out one.

Jenkins struggled early in the first giving up a solo home run to North Texas' Kat Strunk. Then in the second, started getting into her zone with two strikeouts before giving up another solo shot in the third.

The Panthers fought back as the Mean Green led 2-0 in the bottom half

of the third.

Senior Rebekah Sanchez reached on a line drive to third base and sophomore Ashley Leon (2-for-4) battled back from two strikes and lined a base hit back up the middle. Sophomore Gabby Spallone (1-for-2) loaded the bases with a walk and put FIU in a good position, but they were ineffective in taking advantage of the situation and left three stranded.

Junior Aleima Lopez led off the bottom half of the fourth with a single to the left side. Redshirt sophomore Marissa McGregor pinch ran for Lopez and scored when freshman Ashley Belans got a single to center field and advanced to second on the throw to home.

Leon made it a two-hit day when she singled to center field in the bottom half of the fifth. She advanced to second on a wild pitch and sophomore

Stephanie Teixeira clipped the outside pitch for an RBI single to center.

The game tied at 4 headed into the seventh inning. North Texas drove in the go-ahead run on a bases-clearing double. The Panthers fell 6-4 in the first game of the series and struggled to pick up any momentum for the second game right after.

Freshman Rachel Dwyer (2-0) threw a solid 6.2 innings with three strikeouts before giving the ball to senior Shelby Graves (4-7) who came in for 1.1 innings and got the crucial strikeout in the top of the seventh with two outs.

The Mean Green pulled ahead early off three runs in the first inning as North Texas' Strunk hit her second first inning home run. Freshman Kaitlyn Musa ended the top of the second with a caught-stealing toss-out at second.

The Panthers' offense couldn't get any flow going in its first two chances at the plate, as two reached base and failed to get past first base. Freshman Jessica Hallett walked after a ten pitch at bat and Belans hit a single that left two runners in scoring position for Sanchez to lay down a sacrifice bunt to score the both of them.

Leon led off the sixth with a triple to right field and scored off Teixeira's sacrifice hit.

Spallone tied it up at 4 after her fourth home run of the season.

The game went into extra innings and North Texas sent another home run out in the top of the eighth.

Teixeira and Spallone both hit singles to left and center field but failed to put the Panthers on the board and fell 5-4 against the Mean Green, to end the day 0-2.

The FIU softball team continued

to struggle on Sunday as Jenkins tossed 5.1 innings in the loss before giving the ball to Dwyer who closed out the final 1.2 innings.

Leon led off for the Panthers and reached on a walk, advanced to third, but was eventually left stranded.

North Texas' Monique Garcia carried a no-hitter into the fourth but was snapped by Sanchez when she hit a leadoff single. She too would be left stranded in scoring position.

Spallone made a great diving catch in the top of the fifth and Leon and Dwyer got the inning-ending double play.

The Panthers would take the 4-0 loss to North Texas to end the weekend but look ahead to tonight, March 25 as they take on University of Central Florida at Felsburg Field at 6 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Outdoor season begins at the Hurricane Invitational

PETER HOLLAND
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

Fresh off a record breaking indoor season, FIU's track and field team got the chance to feel the fresh air as the team competed in the Hurricane Invitational this past weekend at the University of Miami. The team came to the meet looking to excel against non-conference schools such as the Miami, Virginia Tech, Boston University, Florida Memorial University, Florida Atlantic University and a couple of lower division schools.

On Friday, March 20, Chris Sullivan finished second in the men's javelin with a career-high 57.79 meter throw. Head Coach Ryan Heberling had high praises about this junior out of Cocoa Beach, Florida.

"I'm really proud of Sully. He had a big PR [personal record] with about nine meters. If he can repeat that performance in about two months, he will be scoring in that event during the conference open," Heberling said.

Jamal Dorvilier made a huge impact himself by finishing in the top three in the men's high jump with a mark of 1.90 meters. Sean Pratt, on the hammer throw, had a 43.74 meter toss. Impact freshman Ronny Greenup finished the day with a time 15:17.97 seconds in the 5,000-meter run.

On the women's side, Tikiera Relaford started the event on top by tying for first place in the women's high jump. She was just shy of the mark she posted at last year's C-USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at 1.70 meters.

In the women's javelin, Bejai Fray led the way by throwing 30.69 meters in



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Decathletes Chris Sullivan (left) and Pablo Espitia (right) competed in the 400 meter hurdles race on Saturday, March 21 at the Hurricane Invitational Meet at the University of Miami. They will compete again this upcoming weekend at the UCF Invite at the University of Central Florida beginning on Friday, March 27.

the finals mark. In her collegiate debut, Celine Murton finished four spots behind Fray at 25.11 meters. FIU's top performer was senior Raqurra Ishmar, who posted a toss of 51.77 meters in the hammer throw.

On Saturday, March 21, the competition heated up as the team wrapped up the day with a huge momentum. Coach Heberling expected the team "to compete and produce big numbers" at Saturday's event, and that's what they did.

On the men's side, both Alton Eliphar and Brandon Ballard set the tone on the 400-meter dash, by finishing back to back, with Eliphar running four seconds off his personal best with a time of 48.65

seconds. Meanwhile, Ballard was on his tail with the time of 48.90 seconds.

In the 400 meter hurdles, making his career debut, Pablo Espitia finished with a time of 57.88 seconds. In the discus throw, Chris Sullivan led the team by posting a throw of 33.94 meters.

"First meet outdoors, much to improve on, but not bad to start the season," Sullivan said.

In the long jump, Jamal Dorvilier finished with a career-best pass of 7.11 meters.

"Our coach wants us to start off the outdoor season right," Dorvilier said.

He also said that he expects the team

to break more conference records and produce big numbers.

Luka Mustafic, a senior from Croatia, made his outdoor debut in the shot put finishing in second place in a mark of 16.77 meters.

"I feel more comfortable with the shot," Mustafic said. "I just need to keep practicing on my technique to get ready for the conference meet in May, as well as this coming weekend."

Akiel Hamilton finished in the top three in the triple jump with a mark of 13.54.

On the women's side, Phillicia Fluellen came in first place in the triple jump, finishing with a jump of 6.02 meters, while Bejai Fray jumped 5.53 meters finishing in third place. In the Discus throw, Raqurra Ishmar took second place, throwing for 41.84 meters. FIU's fastest sprinter, Jaylaan Slaughter, made her mark in the 100-meter hurdles by finishing with a career best of 14.06 seconds.

She also came in second place in the 400-meter hurdles with the time of 1:00.95 seconds; about twenty percent better than her previous best. Cam'ree Jackson finished on top in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.87 seconds. Isolda Montiel ended the meet in the 1,500 meter dash, finishing the race in 5:01.05.

The Panthers opened the season on a high note. However, Coach Heberling believes that there is always room for improvement technique wise.

"I think the team has natural abilities," Heberling said. "We just need to get in tune with our technique."

The Panthers will be back on the track this coming weekend as they travel to the University of Central Florida for the UCF Invite which begins on Friday, March 27.

NCAA BASKETBALL

NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 offers even better basketball drama

DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

The NCAA tournament has been nothing short of spectacular so far, but the best action has yet to come as the Sweet 16 approaches on March 26. Most of the "Cinderella" stories have risen and fallen and now it is time to see the nation's most talented college basketball teams stand toe-to-toe.

The East has already seen its one and two seeds already fall, but the remaining competition should create a couple of entertaining games.

The No. 4 University of Louisville will make its fourth straight appearance in the Sweet 16 in 2015. The Cardinals squeaked past the University of California, Irvine by a score of 57-55 in the round of 64 and handled the University of Northern Iowa 66-53 in their next game.

Their next challenger will be a No. 8 North Carolina State University program that picked up a 66-65 win over No. 9 Louisiana State University and a 71-68 upset

of No. 1 Villanova University.

One team that has been taking care of business is No. 3 University of Oklahoma. The Sooners beat the Albany Great Danes 69-60 in the round of 64 and went on to defeat the University of Dayton 72-66 in the round of 32.

Their Sweet 16 opponent will be a Michigan State team that took down the No. 2 University of Virginia Cavaliers 60-54 in the round of 32.

The South has seen everything from 29-point blowouts to No. 14 and No. 3 upsets. Duke University has yet to be significantly challenged in the tournament, having blown out No. 8 San Diego State University by 19 points and No. 16 Robert Morris University by 29 points.

The Blue Devils' Sweet 16 opponent, No. 5 University of Utah, may not fall quite as easily. Utah prevailed over No. 4 Georgetown University in the round of 32 and has a defense that will not likely to cede a 20-point advantage to any opponent.

Many basketball fans were frustrated with the decision to include the University of California,

Los Angeles as the No. 11 seed in the tournament, but the Bruins have shook most of the criticisms and paved a path to the Sweet 16. Their first win was a 60-59 decision over a Larry Brown-coached Southern Methodist University team.

The game was decided - in typical madness fashion - by a goaltending call in which Yanick Moreira was whistled for touching the basketball before it reached the rim. UCLA went on to defeat the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers 92-75 in the next round.

The Conference USA representatives were riding high after a 60-59 victory over No. 3 University of Iowa, but couldn't put together two complete halves versus the Bruins.

Although the West looked like it was turned upside-down after the round of 64, the Sweet 16 presents a couple of predictable matchups.

Perhaps the most shocking upset of the tournament so far was No. 14 Georgia State University's 57-56 win over No. 3 Baylor University. R.J. Hunter hit a deep three with 2.7 seconds remaining to lift the Panthers on top and throw Georgia

State Head Coach Ron Hunter off of his chair. The Panthers' magical run ended, however, when Xavier University 75-67 topped them in the round of 32. Xavier will go on to play No. 2 University of Arizona, a team that has yet to win by less than 15 points.

Baylor aside, most of the top teams in the West have yet to falter. The No. 1 University of Wisconsin Badgers took care of No. 16 Coastal Carolina University and No. 8 University of Oregon in the first two rounds and will face No. 4 University of North Carolina in the Sweet 16.

Although the Tar Heels barely moved on past No. 13 Harvard University in the round of 64, they took care of No. 5 University of Arkansas in the next round and should be ready for a fight against Wisconsin.

Now that the first couple rounds of the tournament are over, some anticipated matchups of the tournament will finally be realized in the Midwest. Like most brackets foretold, the No. 1 University of Kentucky remains perfect in the tournament.

The Wildcats cruised to double-

digit wins over Hampton University and the University of Cincinnati and will face off against No. 5 West Virginia University in the Sweet 16.

The Mountaineers have impressed in the tourney so far, with a 69-59 win over No. 4 University of Maryland being their most recent accomplishment.

Atlantic Coastal Conference champion University of Notre Dame has also excelled. They defeated No. 6 Butler University 67-64 in the round of 32 and are matched up against Wichita State in the Sweet 16.

The Shockers are coming fresh off of a stunning 78-65 upset of the No. 2 University of Kansas Jayhawks. The Sweet 16 in the Midwest will be a round worth watching.

Now that the typical early craziness has played out, it is time to enjoy college basketball's finest square off with one another. The first couple of rounds of the tournament are always exciting and maddening.

What comes after those, however, is where champions are forged.

Students in need receive help at food pantries

DESTINEY BURT
Staff Writer
destiney.burt@fiusm.com

Ludovica Virgile, program assistant for Student Health Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus, said that some University students can't afford a plate of food.

In response to their poor diet, the BBC Student Health Services, the Center for Leadership and Service and the Students for the Poor Club opened a food pantry on December 2013 where these students receive support. It has since then expanded to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

"There are times when students just don't know where their meal is going to come from for the week, let alone just tomorrow, and we are here to help

them out," Virgile said, "We make sure they have their breakfast, [that] they have their proteins [and that] they have carbs."

Students in need can pass by the Wolfe University Center room 407 and collect a week's worth of nutritionally balanced food items. A nutritionist leaves a guide chart that is followed for each donation.

According to Virgile, they have had aid from BBC Campus Life and the WUC administration. They have also made community partnerships from which they have received food donations.

However, she said they have yet to receive full funding support from the Student Government Association. According to a message from BBC Student Government

GIRL POWER



WALTER RIVERA/THE BEACON

From left to right: Dr. Ya Hui Chang from Taiwan, Mihaela Plugarasu from Romania, Yanina Yefimova from Ukraine, and Dr. Carolin Lusby from Germany answer questions from students about their experiences as women living in their home countries and in the United States at the International Women's day celebration on Wednesday, March 18.

Council Chief of Staff, Elina Sibony, this may be due to budget hearings and state allocations for the University.

Last semester,

according to Virgile, the SHS Wellness Center held a food pantry challenge which brought in the largest amount of donations.

Many departments

participated in the challenge, bringing in non-perishable food items such as grains and canned foods. The winner was the BBC Enrollment Center

which was prized with a catered lunch.

SEE FOOD, PAGE 2

'Listen, learn, connect' with journalists and zombies

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer
nadine.rodriquez@fiusm.com

Being a journalism student in Florida International University means a diverse, intense curriculum and benefits that surpass many other programs in the region.

The Society of Professional Journalists at FIU is taking over Friday of Communication's Week with their day-long event, "Listen, Learn and Connect: SPJ-FIU Media Conference." The event runs from 9 a.m until 5 p.m. on March 27, at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus,

in WUC 244AB.

"This is our second time doing this conference, we are making it an annual event. There are many reasons why we do it," said SPJ President, Kathleen Devaney. "We want to offer something within the School of Journalism that the actual school doesn't provide. As a student chapter we want to excel providing resources for the students."

SPJ will be bringing some local journalism professionals, such as Steve Rothaus, a reporter for The Miami Herald specializing in LGBTQ news.

Students attending this event will have a chance to meet professionals in the field

and gain knowledge and advice from their experience.

"A lot of cards were exchanged between students and professionals last year," Devaney said. it's an intimate setting," Devaney says.

Devaney said. "She mainly covers Haiti. She covered the earthquake, presidential issues and the government. The panel will talk about what to do in these situations, what procedures to take in order to cover people in these countries...it's a different

“

We want to offer something within the School of Journalism that the actual school doesn't provide.

Kathleen Devaney
President

Society of Professional Journalists FIU

”

The conference is split into six sections. The first section is an introduction which includes complimentary breakfast.

Then the conference begins a series of panels about covering communities and a panel about ethics when covering places in turmoil.

Devaney, along with her SPJ FIU team, came up with the topics.

"We tried to mostly have people who cover communities that are not their own," Devaney said. "For example, we have a religion reporter who is not religious, but there are people who cover communities they can relate to, such as Steve Rothaus."

Following the Covering Communities panel is an ethics panel about covering countries that are under political turmoil.

Among journalists speaking at this panel are Jacqueline Charles, and brother and sister Alejandro Aguirre and Helen Aguirre Ferre.

"Alejandro was president of the Inter American Press Association for one year, and Jacqueline is from The Herald,"

environment from the press in the United States."

Attendees will be provided lunch and then move into what could be the most exciting part of the conference, the "Break-Out Session."

Unlike any other conference at FIU, this one has undead journalists.

"The event gets different people to dress up like zombies. The journalism students interview the zombies and wear white shirts...the zombies squirt the white shirts with blood if they ask a 'bad' question," Devaney said.

Last year, one of the winning questions included "What does a human brain taste like?"

The shirts will be provided at the event and registration to play "Zombie Stories" will be available at the sign-in desk.

Professional journalists, interesting topics and zombies. "Listen. Learn. Connect" is an annual conference students should mark down on their calendars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS SERVICE

Lori Todd, social media manager for the Orlando Sentinel and Sun Sentinel, and Associate Dean Allan Richards listen as Miami Herald Caribbean correspondent, Jacqueline Charles, speaks at the social media panel at last year's Listen Learn Connect, media conference on Friday, March 21, 2014.