

Muslim World Studies Center Initiative begun

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Last month, the University's Center for Muslim World Studies was unveiled to explore the mystification and diversification of Islam worldwide.

"I think we all agree that it's now time to go beyond the Middle East, as a focus of our current scale program, and to look at Islam on a global scale," Kenneth Furton, provost for the University, told the Miami Herald.

David Skipp, associate director for advancement for the School of International and Public Affairs, was one of the individuals involved in the project.

"This is the first project that I have worked on with SIPA that is a direct response from the community. It started with the direct appeal from the Muslim American Community."

The idea for the center originated from a request by the Muslim community in South Florida to University President Mark B. Rosenberg at the 2013 COSMOS dinner.

"There is a lot of misunderstanding about Islam," said Daniel Alvarez, interim

director of the Center for Muslim World Studies initiative. "There is lots of prejudice about what Islam is... and [there] are lots of fears in the West about the Muslim World."

The main objective for this center is to address three crucial themes: the global Muslim diaspora, Islam and security and interfaith and sectarian communication.

"We see how radicals have kidnapped this religion and presented it as their own version of Islam. We need something that brings about a correction to the current narrative," Alvarez said.

Despite the initiative, there is no physical center yet.

At the moment, the center consists of a group of professors who are contributing their efforts to offer academic opportunities in the University.

The center will also support internships in the United States and abroad, lecture series, study abroad programs, events and community outreach activities.

According to Alvarez, the Center for Muslim World Studies is seeking \$5 million in funding to establish physical facilities for the center.

The center's directors want to engage not only students and faculty but also the community.

FUN FOR FUNDS



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Students play a game at the Sigma Kappa fundraising event on Monday, March 16. The fraternity brother that raises the most funds will be named King of Hearts in the pageant show tonight at 7 p.m. The proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association.

They are working with the Muslim community in South Florida to create an advisory board that is strictly academic and will be part of the University curriculum.

The Muslim Students Association is also collaborating with the center to help with ideas and planning.

"We are very excited that we have received visits from FIU Muslim students who are excited and want to contribute," Skipp said. "I would like to tell all students and community that their input is valued and recorded."

The professors involved with

the center are also planning to open certificate and degree programs for University students.

"We are working with the faculty in developing curricula to develop a certificate program," said Alvarez. "We are going to work with the Middle-East studies center, which is already in place."

Their current plan is to locate the center in the University's School of International and Public Affairs.

By selecting this location, the participants in this center will work on a great range of disciplines, among them human rights and law.

"This is going to be a unique program," said Alvarez. "It is probably the first center of its kind in the world to look at the Muslim experience on a global base."

Others shared their vision. "We intend to make this a world-class center and we're committed to its development," Provost Furton told the Miami Herald.

Those who have any questions about the center or want to participate or donate to its efforts are welcome to contact either Skipp or Alvarez.

Lecture to shed light on Chinese migration to Africa

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A recognized Ivy League journalist will come to the University for a presentation.

Howard W. French, associate professor at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, will present his most recent book, "China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa."

French will speak about the changes that have been happening in Africa in the last two decades, as well as the intercontinental migration of individuals of Chinese citizens to the continent.

It appears that members of the Chinese population have had a hand in helping

secure different ventures in Africa.

The purpose of the movement of Chinese people was to establish business and construction companies, as well as mining and lodging companies that have

helped to shape Africa in the process of economic growth.

The talk will also examine the business relationship between

Africa and China.

Jean Muteba Rahier, director of the School of International and Public Affairs' African & African Diaspora Studies Program, believes this presentation will be a good thing for the University.

"The intervention of Chinese citizens in Africa liberal states is going to have a positive impact in the economy of the continent," Rahier said,

experience as settlers and their reasons as to why they made the decision to migrate to the African continent. At the talk, French will

"...This is a migration of liberal Chinese investors."

According to Rahier, French will take the audience through his book to different countries of Africa, where Chinese traders, farmers and entrepreneurs share their

explain his perspectives and knowledge about the topic that, according to Rahier, will result in big social and cultural changes.

Victor Gonzalez, a graduate student at the University's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is excited to hear about the impact of migrants.

His interest, however, is in the migration pattern to the United States.

"We are not only going to see economic changes in the African continent," Gonzalez said, "But we are also going to be witnesses to the cultural challenges that both countries are facing now."

Rahier believes that students interested in African studies should know about what he termed, "the fastest economic growth in Africa."

In addition to Gonzalez, other students shared their thoughts on the lecture.

Elena Barriga, a senior majoring in business, agrees with Rahier and thinks that this topic is important for her major.

"I think that, for a business student, it is very important to pay attention to the economic changes in Africa as a consequence of Chinese investments," she said.

The event is co-sponsored by the AADS and Asian Studies Program, as part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series of the School of International and Public Affairs. It will be held on March 18 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus MARC Pavillion at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

I think that, for a business student, it is very important to pay attention to the economic changes in Africa as a consequence of Chinese investments.

Elena Barriga
Senior
College of Business

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Libya militia readies assault on Islamic State in Sirte

Fighting continued Sunday around Sirte as Islamic State militants remained in control of the coastal city's downtown, and militia from Misrata and the Libya Dawn military alliance prepared for what they said would be a huge assault Monday.

Along the western highway in the late afternoon, a Libyan Dawn warplane circled, dropping two bombs on what was believed to be a

prison occupied by Islamic State. In the morning, mortar and gunfire had battered the area.

Roads were deserted, with little sign of residents fleeing the area. One family in a car trying to enter the city Sunday evening expressed their anger at Misratan troops trying to keep them from what is a volatile area. "Our home is in a safe place in the city," they said.

UN foresees millions more displaced by Islamic State war in Syria and Iraq

U.N. humanitarian-aid workers are planning for an enormous flow of refugees in Syria and Iraq, officials say. The preparations anticipate two likely military actions that the aid workers fear will send hundreds of thousands of people fleeing new fighting.

The first involves a possible push by the Islamic State group to take control of Aleppo, Syria's second-largest city, from rival rebel groups and the Syrian military. Such a push,

U.N. officials say, could send another 500,000 people fleeing.

The other foresees an Iraqi military offensive to wrest the city of Mosul from Islamic State. Such an offensive would likely push 1.5 million people to seek safety elsewhere.

International aid agencies see no end in sight for one of worst humanitarian crises since World War II. More than 200,000 people have been killed, 1 million wounded.

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CORRECTIONS

In Volume 26 Issue 72 on page eight, Sofia Galiano was incorrectly labeled as the BBC Managing Editor, she is one of the Assistant News Directors.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Miami airport to improve passenger experience

HANNAH SAMPSON
Miami Herald
TNS

Miami International Airport used to be famous for the hours-long lines passengers waited in when they arrived from other countries.

These days, the nation's second busiest airport for international traffic is hoping to be better known for the way it breezes travelers through a once-lengthy process -- and connects them with better in-house amenities, including location-based alerts and, eventually, free Wi-Fi.

The changes are underway thanks to past, current and planned investments of more than \$10 million.

The most recent upgrade came just two weeks ago, when MIA became the second airport in the country after Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International to roll out the Mobile Passport app. After downloading the app, U.S. citizens and qualified Canadians entering from abroad can create a profile and skip long lines after submitting customs and immigration information through their smartphone.

Within the first few days of its launch, hundreds of passengers had used the app upon arrival.

One of them was Louis Nicastró, 51, who downloaded the free app from the App Store when an airport employee told him about it. He stepped out of line at an automated passport kiosk so Debra Shore, expedited screening manager at MIA, could walk him through the process.

"Smile!" she urged Nicastró as he took a selfie for his profile picture. It took about four minutes for him to download the app and create a profile, and another minute to input details about his trip from Trinidad and Tobago.

Nicastró, who was returning home to Delaware, made it through immigration and out of customs within 22 minutes total -- a process made longer because of the attention of Miami Herald journalists.

"Anything that would quicken this process is awesome," Nicastró said.

Hans Miller, CEO of Airside Mobile, which developed the app, said his company has been impressed by the way MIA has promoted the option with giant signs and staff training.

"We've really been blown away by their enthusiasm

and their desire to make this resonate with passengers," Miller said.

The mobile app joins a solution that has been in place since late 2013, when the airport installed 36 self-service automated passport kiosks to help ease waits that at one point lasted five hours.

By the end of April, 44 more kiosks -- which can be used by U.S. and Canadian citizens, permanent legal residents and travelers from visa-waiver countries -- will be in use. The total cost of the kiosks is \$6 million, which includes equipment, operations, maintenance and infrastructure.

"We're doing everything we possibly can to bring technology into this airport," said Miami-Dade Aviation Director Emilio T. Gonzalez. "We're pushing it out every way we can. Our goal is to have Joe traveler come through here and not make those horrendous lines that we became famous for last year."

An average of 7,000-8,000 passengers a day -- a quarter of all travelers arriving at MIA from abroad -- use the kiosks or Global Entry, a trusted traveler program.

In addition, last fall, the airport installed beacons throughout the facility to allow for targeted messaging and alerts. The cost to install 240 beacons was \$50,000. Airport management is still working on how they will be used.

"We're doing everything we possibly can to bring technology into this airport.

Emilio T. Gonzalez
Director
Miami-Dade Aviation

Maurice Jenkins, Miami International Airport's division director of information systems, said MIA and partners will have the capability to give passengers step-by-step instructions from the parking garage to the gate, with information about amenities are available along the way, warnings about wait times at security and alerts about a changed gate or baggage carousel.

Airport spokesman Greg Chin said the plan is to work in beacon-related updates when the second version of the airport's mobile app, MIA Airport

Official, goes live.

The airport's willingness to be an early adopter of technology like the passport app and the automated passport control kiosks shows how eager officials are to find solutions to the issues that have cropped up because of a shortage of funding for enough U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, said Matthew Cornelius, managing director of air policy for Airports Council International -- North America. The group partnered with CBP and the app developer on Mobile Passport.

"I think it's emblematic of their approach in general to try and find the latest, whatever options are out there to make the experience better, to make throughput quicker and to ensure that Miami remains a key international gateway," Cornelius said.

For the oft-requested perk of free wireless, the department plans to request bids beginning in April, and hopes to offer free Wi-Fi in 30-minute increments by the year's end.

"I have been deemed the last penguin on the iceberg," said Jenkins, referring to the many other airports already offering free Wi-Fi.

Indeed, state neighbor Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport has had free unlimited Wi-Fi since 2005. MIA offers some free access now, for travel-related sites such as airlines and auto rentals.

But offering free Wi-Fi on a broad basis will require an upgraded infrastructure capable of supporting increased usage. The project is expected to cost about \$4 million and will provide free access for 30 minutes and paid use thereafter. Customers will also need to pay to upgrade to high-speed Wi-Fi for streaming video and high-bandwidth needs.

"I'm hopeful that we'll have something by the end of the year," Gonzalez said.

Benet Wilson, co-editor of aviation news site AirwaysNews.com, said she has been impressed with Miami's efforts in technology and social media.

"I not only look at Miami, but I look at airports around the world," said Wilson, who lives in Baltimore and travels frequently to Miami, where the publication is based. "I definitely have some benchmarks on what people are doing. Miami tech-wise is right up there with some of the world-class airports."

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Tattoos shouldn't be resumes

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When a person enters college for the first time, it is usually the first time they feel free to do what they want. Being able to set their schedules for class, going out to socialize and making their own decisions without their parents offering their opinions. One of the decisions that often comes across their minds at least once is: "Should I get a tattoo?"

Tattoos are common now, from the cute flowers on a woman's ankle to a man starting a biomechanical sleeve design. They represent moments of their lives, memorialize special people or events and display their passions for everyone to see. Some tattoos are even last minute decisions that people might regret later in their

lives. All things considered, I raise the question on how these tattoos would be in the work setting once the students graduate from university with their degree. Is getting a tattoo a death sentence in the workforce after graduation?

According to the poll created by Fox News, the number of people who have tattoos now have nearly doubled up in the last seven years from 8 percent to 14 for people who are 45 or younger and also report that one out of five people has at least a tattoo or two. Most of these people are actually women surprisingly enough.

However, some people cleverly have their tattoos hidden underneath their clothes or shoes just so they can enter the workforce with no problems since the tattoo isn't visible. Traditionally, tattoos are seen as a sign of rebellion in some religious

aspects, or add features that make someone more "criminal" like. But honestly, having a tattoo is not a bad thing for its a persons character and actions that get them hired by employers, not the tattoo itself.

No one should judge another person just by the appearance alone. Tattoos are something that shows about who they are as a person so if it's right there on the surface for everyone to see, they must be really proud of the work done and should not be shamed for expressing themselves. If they are doing an excellent job, then tattoos should be the least of the boss' worries whether they are kept hidden or not.

The same flowers mentioned previously on a woman's ankle might be her late grandmother's favorite flower but you can be sure that it is not holding her back from climbing the business

ladder in hopes of becoming the Vice President of a company. The biomechanical sleeve tattoo shows the man's love for mechanics or sci-fi as he gives a vaccination shot to a child in need. And what is wrong for a man to literally have their heart on their sleeve that announces their love for their mom?

Although, if a person has a tattoo of a demon eating a human, maybe that should be kept hidden away for that might scare people.

If you are thinking about getting a tattoo while you're getting your bachelor's or master's degree, then do it. But I suggest doing it right by doing the proper research of the artist, and getting something meaningful for it will make you a confident person to have that on your skin. Never let anyone or anything stop you from expressing who you are and your individuality.

Get ready to go back to highschool, class of 2012

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If you graduated in the year 2012, we expected an apocalypse to make sure you didn't have to continue your education and go to college for your degree. Obviously, the world didn't end so all the high school graduates of 2012 will go to their first five year reunions in 2017, the year after they are expected to graduate from college.

Sometimes reunions are known to be the best of times, for others it will make them relive the worst of times. High school pranks on the principal or students, the beginning to understand how dating works and worrying about whether or not you cool enough to be considered "popular" are some of the things most people will often remember at these events.

Even though there are some people who feel that they land on the smaller side of the social importance scale, it doesn't mean that the friendships you made during your time there didn't happen.

Reunions are one of the many ways for people to get in touch with one another or to simply revisit a memory. Another possibility is that you can reconnect and learn what it was like for others who went to school with you and what has happened to them in five years. It might shed some light on those tough years by

talking about it with someone who went through similar experiences.

There is nothing quite as interesting as someone showing up with a college boyfriend or an engagement ring on their finger, so it doesn't take much to strike up a conversation especially when most of your class might have reached amazing milestones.

If anyone plans on going to their five year reunion, the first piece of advice is to

“ It might shed some light on those tough years by talking about it with someone who went through similar experiences. ”

be nice and polite. Say hello before you immediately ask, "what are you doing after high school now?" the minute you first meet someone.

The second piece of advice is to truthfully say where you stand currently or presently within the given amount of time. If you say you're a college grad, then they will know that you are just trying to get on your feet and into the world before getting acquainted with income tax and

other legalities.

The third piece of advice is whether or not you want to even make a reservation to go ahead and see your old high school friends.

However, for those who wish to not go to their reunion, you won't be missing much. We're so connected through social media that we can be relatively up to date with the lives of others. To some, high school was just four years they needed to survive and if you personally do not wish to relive those don't go. Stay home and watch Netflix, go out to dinner with someone special or just live in the moment. Who needs old memories when there's always a chance to make new ones?

However, the good thing about reunions is that they only happen every five years. The first five is where you currently stand right now after high school; the next ten to fifteen are what happens after college: jobs, marriage, moves, children, etc. It gives us an opportunity to look at ourselves and either be proud with where we stand or realize that there is room for improvement.

Sometimes people change after school, maybe they don't so it's important to realize that the same could be true for you. Whenever you decide whether to go to one of these things, just keep in mind that the bad memories can always be forgiven and to make these events a learning experience.

THE BEACON | Editorial

The fair can grow elsewhere

The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, inc. has made its message clear: It will not be going anywhere anytime soon.

Its message in an issue of Miami Today about the University's success with the referendum in the November elections is that, although the University achieved its goal of being awarded an exemption from construction restrictions on commercial buildings, it never scored an official mandate to take over the land used by the Youth Fair.

At this point it's particularly important to have the facts, and language of the November decision, clear.

The language in the November ballot didn't mention anything about the University being able to receive a mandate that it will take over the fairgrounds.

Highlighting this fact was Robert Hohenstein, the president and chief executive officer of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition, in a letter to the editor featured in the Miami Herald.

In it, Hohenstein clarified that the referendum issued in November simply extended the exemption of building restrictions to the University in the case that the Youth Fair were to move to another site. Nowhere is it mentioned that the University is entitled to the land.

While it's necessary that the facts be known, it's just as important to consider the possibilities of the University actually extending its resources to the land currently occupied by the fair, a full 64-acre plot of land that boasts the potential for furthering the University's mission to provide educational opportunities to students.

Whether or not the Youth Fair will be moving soon, as its leadership has recently made very clear that it will not, it's in the best interest of the community for the University to eventually acquire the land.

In its statements in Miami Today, the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, inc. mentioned the benefits that it provides the community.

The benefits are wonderful, and although the Youth Fair does provide its visitors the opportunity to enjoy spending time with the family, earn scholarships, learn about the different achievements of students who have submitted artistic and academic entries for display, and help support Miami-Dade County's \$2.7 billion agriculture industry, it seems far more important to seek avenues that will benefit the community.

The University's potential expansion into the fairgrounds is the way to go if providing overarching benefits to the community is the concern at hand.

What the back-and-forth discussions between University administration, Miami-Dade County officials and representatives from the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, inc. suggest is the need for more discussions to continue happening.

With such a sensitive issue at hand, where the interests of various entities are at stake, it's critical that each of the parties involved further their discussions to find solutions that will benefit both of them equally.

However, in the case that agreements cannot be reached, one of the main questions that should be asked is, "What decision will benefit the community best?"

The Youth Fair should not be relocated to an area that will significantly diminish its popularity. If anything, a potential relocation should provide it with further opportunities for growth.

In such a case the University will have the chance to continue expanding by building new academic centers, and housing and parking facilities, among other needed structures.

If the Youth Fair's annual attendance has indeed increased by 22 percent, then it can certainly continue growing...somewhere else.

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Take Action Tour gives a close and personal show

NADINE RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

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The Take Action Tour is an annual spring concert created back in 1999, with bands such as Jimmy Eat World and Coheed And Cambria performing across the nation. What makes this tour differ from others, however, is its purpose.

The Take Action Tour's goal is to spread awareness about teen suicide and ways to prevent it. Recently, they have also begun educating people about sexually transmitted diseases.

This year, along with a powerful message, the Take Action Tour brought along bands like Memphis May Fire, Crown the Empire, Dance Gavin Dance and Palisades to each stop. With such energetic groups, there was not a dull moment Saturday March 14 in the Polish-American Social Club of Vero Beach, Fla.

Palisades stepped out onto the small stage circa 7 p.m. The crowd was riled up,

dancing fanatically around to the haunting rhythms of their hit songs "Player Haters' Ball" and "Bad Girls."

It wasn't long until the small size of the stage became evident. Fans were falling onto the stage, landing against amps and bumping into band members. Instead of discomfort or annoyance, Palisades actually ex-

pressed excitement and love for the chaos, as did the bands that followed. The lack of space in the cozy venue was creating a show so personal that it was almost unbelievable.

Once Palisades retired backstage, Dance Gavin Dance emerged. Once again, the crowd was energetic, screaming along to every lyric. Fans once again fell onto the stage, but helpful hands from their favorite band members helped them up and off the stage.

As soon Dance Gavin Dance exited, a new sense of excitement settled in. It was no secret that Crown the Empire and Memphis May

Fire were the two main bands of the tour. So when Crown The Empire's drummer, Brent Taddie, emerged from the red curtains at the end of the stage, the screams reached a new level. The rest of the band soon followed, jumping straight into one of their hit songs, "Initiation."

The energy was palpable, the smiles on lead singer's Andy Leo and David Escamilla's faces were radiant, matching the ones dispersed through the crowd, complimenting teary, fanatic eyes. In all, the band played 12 songs ending the set with their trademark, "The Fallout."

Now the tired crowd awaited the final band, Memphis May Fire, who are known for their emotional, honest lyrics and songs such as "Miles Away" and "Speechless." The crowd went wild when the red curtain dropped and revealed the elevated drum set and lead singer Matty Mullins standing in front of it.

From afar, the crowd



NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Vocalist Jon Mess of Dance Gavin Dance, has a powerful performance during the Take Action Tour. The tour's focus is to spread awareness about teen suicide.

appeared as one, giant jumping mass of outstretched hands and screams. It was clear that both the crowd and the band loved the show, Mullins darting to and from each side of the stage, holding fan's hands and singing to them.

Midway through the show,

Mullins stated that each person in the room that night was beautiful, and whether or not they believed it, they deserved to live and to find their purpose.

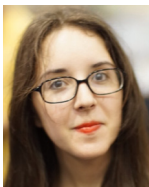
Needless to say, his statement caused any dying energy in the crowd to come back to life, the fans joining

in to chant the final two songs, "Without Walls" and "Legacy."

Overall, the Vero Beach stop on the Take Action Tour was one to remember. The small size of the venue provided a raw closeness with the bands that led to a personal, transparent encounter.

Lesbian character to be included in new Star Wars canon publishing April 28

PRIDE GUIDE



MADARI PENDAS

Writer of the "Star Wars" novels Peter S. Kemp has written Moff Mors, an imperial leader who happens to be a lesbian, into the upcoming novel "Lords of the Sith," to be published April 28.

"Her orientation is a characteristic in the same way as is her brunette hair," Kemp wrote on Twitter. "It just fits with my conception of her."

The novel takes place after "Episode III: Revenge of the Sith," but before the events of the original trilogy.

For now, Mors will only exist in the novels and comic books.

There has been no official statement about whether she will be incorporated into the films. However, she would not be the first LGBTQ character in the "Star Wars"

universe - not R2D2 and C-3PO, but a pair of married Mandalorian men, Medrit Vasur and Goran Vebiiin.

Although it is never explicitly stated in the "Star Wars" canon that they are gay, their relationship is tacitly understood.

"There should be diversity in 'Star Wars,'" said Shelly Shapiro, the editor for the book. "'Star Wars' is as diverse ... as humanity is in real life and we don't want to pretend it's not."

The more common emergence of gay and bisexual characters in the mainstream media gives members of the LGBTQ community characters whom they can relate to, while normalizing and de-stigmatizing homosexuality - hopefully leading to the equal validation of straight and LGBTQ relationships.

If Mors were included in the films, she would be one

of the first lesbian characters in a global film franchise. She wouldn't be relegated to an art house film or cult television show, but rather an international viewership.

However, concerns arise when it is considered that Disney owns Lucasfilms.

The conservative nature of Disney, along with its young demographic, may prevent any queer exploration or deviation from established normalcy - and though one can hope for Mors to be included in the films, it is doubtful that she will ever make it to the big screen.

Every Wednesday Pride Guide will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consist of keen analysis within the daily lives of LGBT students and faculty. Make sure to read more at fiusm.com.

Surprise love triangle complicates the 'Last Man on Earth'

ON THE TUBE



RAFAEL ABREU

The "Last Man on Earth" has proven in the past few weeks that it is full of surprises and that it's also comfortable with changing the status quo. Phil has gone

from completely alone, to meeting a woman, to getting married, to meeting another woman he's much more interested in.

Episode three, Raising Balls and Wedding Bells, has Phil marrying the woman he met in episode two, Carol, played by Kristen Schaal, who will only have sex with him if they're married since she does not want

their children to be bastards. At the end of that episode, they crash into a limousine driven by another human, Melissa, played by January Jones, a woman whom Phil finds immediately attractive.

This week's episode, Sweet Melissa, is a simple but effective demonstration of Phil wanting to get together with Melissa despite being married to Carol.

It can be seen as slightly disappointing that the show did not spend as much time as it could have focusing on Phil, but the redeeming fact is that it does not seem to be losing steam just yet.

Every new surprise and challenge the show brings up is an opportunity

to make Phil do something different, from trying to be a handyman to so obviously show his interest in another woman.

Many of these moments, such as attempted filtering at dinner and trying to fix Carol's door, continue to showcase human and natural moments in a world that, for one reason or another, still wants to be grounded by the old conventional rules, exemplified by Phil and Carol's marriage and motives for it.

If not for that marriage, there would be no real conflict involving Phil wanting to get with Melissa, yet even in a world where the rules of old should no longer apply, they still do in Phil's current world.

This episode also reinforces the strong differences between Carol and Phil by reminding us that Carol likes to keep things as they were, like stopping at stop signs even though there's no one to enforce the law, while Phil believes the end of the world means he can take the White House rug without a problem.

While this episode didn't harp on issues of law enforcement and what is wrong and right like the last few episodes did, the ideas behind what to do at the end of the world and the nature of humans regardless of situation remains in the back of every action.

As for the comedy, it stays well balanced between anything Phil does

and the reactions between Carol and now Melissa.

The "Last Man on Earth" is a show that managed to make things work in the first episode and continues to bring laughter and enjoyment when others are thrown into the mix.

However, what keeps me coming back is the unique take on the end of the world that I have not been able to guess what will happen next.

On the tube is a column that reviews and critiques different on-going series on television.

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Local bar hosts monthly ‘Nerd Nite’

KATRINA VELEZ
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Thursday, March 12 gave rise to a group of Miami inhabitants who seem to roam the Wynwood streets unnoticed - nerds.

With trivia questions to challenge your nerd knowledge, Nerds Rope candy and all things punny, the monthly Nerd Nite at Gramps Bar is a place for geeks to interact with people of niche passions and style.

Exploring unexpected connections between math and humanities, artist-turned-mathematician Chelsey Hoff spoke on notable math personalities in a dim-lighted room with projected powerpoint slides, crammed chairs and plenty of beer.

Hoff took the audience by storm, discussing the relationship between art and mathematics and how that fits into her way of viewing the disciplines.

“Art is more similar to math than to any other science, because math is not an empirical science. You just need some good ideas,

some textbooks, a pencil and paper; so the idea of individuality and freedom to do your work is similar to that of artists,” Hoff said.

Hoff explained how the visual appeal of math can be seen as an artistic quality rather than a body of knowledge bogged down by an esoteric abyss of terminology.

“In the most purest forms of math, there’s an aesthetic quality. It’s judged on the merits of its simplicity, its structure and beauty - the way a good piece of art would be judged.” Hoff said.

Nerd Nite also featured fitness coach Dre Baldwin, who explained the globalization of basketball and attorney Roy Altman, with his riveting and sobering talk about possibly the biggest federal case on human trafficking in the United States.

If sports history or federal court cases don’t jive with your classic nerd strings, trivia questions on film, physics and famous people opened the floor intermittently between each talk, giving nerds the chance to flaunt their intellectual prowess.

Get the ball rolling

AMANDA RABINES
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As Russell Chowdhury, external vice president of the Zeta Beta Tau: Eta Rho chapter at FIU, and his fraternity brothers roll around a giant beach ball through Modesto Maidique Campus, they often get asked if they are pledging.

In actual fact, that Zeta Beta Tau: Eta Rho chapter in FIU do not pledge, and the beach ball they roll around, instead serves a different purpose – a philanthropic one.

Following through the end of this week, the ZTB chapter will allow students to sign the 6 ft. in diameter beach ball in exchange for a donation towards Miami Children’s Hospital.

Being a chemistry major, who hopes to find a job in the pharmaceutical business, Chowdhury wanted to give back to local medical facilities.

“Whenever I go on these hospital visits, I get to see these kids that are running around and they have an amazing time because they don’t realize they’re in a hospital,” said Chowdhury about MCH.

The ZTB’s have already toured the hospital three times.

Their hopes are that the funds will help continue and enhance medical services as well as support different programs at MCH.

“It’s very rewarding knowing that I can finally do this event,” Chowdhury said.

The ball is a ZTB tradition which is done nationwide, but will be making its first appearance under the ZTB chapter at FIU, this week.

“Since it’s our first time doing it we’re not very sure what to expect,” said Chowdhury. “I’m just looking really forward to doing it and I hope it makes a really big impact at FIU.”

The ZTB’s are also involving sororities by holding a competition where signers may add points to their sorority of preference.

The sorority with the most points [signatures] at the end of the week will win a giant beach ball trophy and 10 percent of the proceeds, which will go to their charity of choice.

Those donating and signing can help a sorority by voting for them.

On Wednesday, sororities earn double points and will join ZBT in walking the ball around campus. On Thursday, donators and sororities must throw up

their sorority of choice’s hand sign and if possible post a picture on social media.

“The more attention and the more focus this gets the more people on campus are going to want to stop by and look at ball and possibly make a donation,” said Chowdhury.

Friday is the finale. It will be the last day of rolling the ball. During the weekend ZBT will announce the winning sorority.

Throughout the week students can donate \$10 for a T-shirt and chance to sign the ball. Students can also expect wristbands among other types of small giveaways.

The big beach ball rolling its way through FIU is the first, in more ways than one, for ZTB.

They became an official chapter this school year. A process Russell explains was in the works for over a two years now.

“The whole process of getting recognized at FIU was hectic, but I knew this was one of the first things I wanted to do,” said Chowdhury.

The ZTB chapter will also participate in Dance marathon and is planning a pageant for this coming Fall.



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BASEBALL

Baseball loses season C-USA opening series

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

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After playing non-conference games for the first two months of the season, FIU finally entered conference play this past weekend against the University of Southern Mississippi. They played a three game series in which FIU unfortunately was only able to muster up one win.

In game one of the series, FIU's offense erupted in the ninth inning when they scored seven runs which led the Panthers to a 9-1 victory. Right hander Cody Crouse started the game and pitched seven solid innings of one-run ball to earn his second win of the season. Throughout the game neither team was able to score many runs until last three innings where FIU's bats finally woke up. Before the big inning, Crouse escaped a bases loaded, two-out jam in the bottom of the seventh to preserve a 1-1 tie. In the eighth inning Brian Portelli hit a sacrifice fly that brought in



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Freshman outfielder Evan Holland fist bumps Coach Turtle Thomas after a successful play in the game against Manhattan College on Feb. 28. The Panthers play their next home game on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

Jack Schaaf with the go-ahead run to give FIU a 2-1 lead. The Panthers batted around in the ninth inning to put the game away. J.C. Escarra had two hits in the ninth. Escarra led off the inning with an opposite field double down the left field line to start the rally and culminated

the scoring with a two-run single again to the opposite field. Edwin Rios added a two-run opposite field single to left earlier in the inning. Danny Dopico held the Eagles in the bottom of the eighth inning after FIU had taken a 2-1 lead. Dopico faced the minimum six batters in his two innings of

relief and earned his third save of the season. Dopico struck out three batters to increase his season strikeout total to 23 in 14 innings of work and picked off the only baserunner he allowed.

Game two had a different feel for the Panthers as the Golden Eagles had two, three-run innings to take game two 7-3, and even the series. The Golden Eagles scored three runs in the fifth inning and three runs in the eighth inning to fuel their first conference victory of the season. The Panthers fell to 9-10 overall and 1-1 in conference play. FIU starter Andres Nunez gave up a two-run single in the bottom of the fifth to put USM ahead and it stayed that way for the rest of the game. Nunez received his second loss of the season in which he allowed three runs on six hits with six strikeouts in four and two-thirds innings of action. Jack Schaaf led FIU going 3-for-4.

Sunday's game was crucial for the Panthers to win to take two out of three from Southern Mississippi but in one inning the entire series shifted in favor of

USM. In the bottom of the sixth, the Golden Eagles batted around the lineup and scored 10 runs to defeat the Panthers 10-0, in seven innings. The game ended early due to the 10-run rule in Sunday conference games. The Golden Eagles as a team had nine hits and 10 runs in that big inning, including two two-run triples by Daniel Keating. USM had a program-record three triples in the sixth inning after Matt Durst had an RBI three-bagger. FIU had just four hits in the game. All the hits were singles. The game started off great for the Panthers when Chris Mourelle took the mound and pitched five scoreless innings and allowing only two hits but he still took the loss when he surrendered five of the 10 runs in the sixth.

FIU heads to USF on Wednesday with to complete their six game road trip. The Panthers open a three-game home series against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers on Friday March 20. This will be their first Conference USA home series of the season.

SOFTBALL

Panthers take weekend series at Middle Tennessee

ALANNAH ALFONSO

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This past weekend in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the FIU softball team (18-11, 3-3 C-USA) won the weekend series and took two out of three games against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (11-10, 1-5 C-USA).

The Panthers won 8-0 run-ruling the Blue Raiders in five innings of the first game of the series late Saturday night.

Junior Corrine Jenkins picked up her win No. 10 this season with a five hit, three strikeout game getting her ninth-career shutout and moving her within one of No. 4 all-time in program history.

Sophomore Gabby Spallone took charge offensively with a spectacular night at the

plate going 3-for-3 including two doubles and three RBIs.

Senior Shelby Graves went 2-for-3 and drove in two RBIs.

Defensively, senior third baseman Krystal Garcia helped erase runners on 1st and 3rd situation with a tough 5-3 putout.

Jenkins retired the Blue Raiders in the second inning 1-2-3 but they responded with a leadoff triple in the bottom of the third. Jenkins picked up a crucial strikeout and flyout to end the inning and leave the runner stranded.

The FIU softball team dominated and beat the Blue Raiders 8-0.

The Panthers split on Sunday first falling to the Blue Raiders 7-6 but battling back to take the series with an 8-4 win at the Blue Raider Softball Stadium.

Graves retired the first nine batters before getting tagged with seven runs in the fourth and exiting the game after 3.1 innings pitched. Freshman Rachel Dwyer came in to relief and threw strong but it wasn't enough to come back.

Sophomore Stephanie Teixeira (1-for-1, 3 RBIs) went down in Panthers' record books hitting another home run that drove in three runs. She now ties for seventh all-time in program history with 18 home runs.

The Panthers started ace Jenkins for the second game on Sunday picking up her second win of the weekend.

FIU got a great head start in the first inning with a leadoff double by senior Rebekah Sanchez followed by a sacrifice bunt by sophomore Ashley Leon and Teixeira walked to set up Spallone's fielders choice

that brought home Sanchez.

Home runs troubled the FIU softball team in the third and fourth innings as the Blue Raiders took a 4-1 lead off a two run shot in the third and a solo homerun in the fourth.

The Panthers came back in the fifth as Ashley Belans, Rebekah Sanchez, and Ashley Leon all singled to load the bases with no outs. Teixeira and Spallone hit sacrifice flies to bring the score to 4-3.

Junior Dominique Grossman helped the Panthers' lead in the top of the seventh with a triple that brought home freshman Jessica Hallet, who walked, from first base. Grossman came around to score on the play following a throwing error from right field.

The FIU softball team ended up winning 8-4 and taking the series 2-1.

SAND VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball sweeps competition at UNF invitational

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

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This past weekend the sand volleyball team continued their dominant play this season in the UNF sand invitational as they were no match for their opponents. The Panthers took on Georgia State, Louisiana State University, Jacksonville University and the College of Charleston. FIU came into the tournament ranked No. 7 in the nation.

Their first opponent was Georgia State and at first the match was back and forth and very close. The match was tied at 1-1, and in the third set seniors Martyna Gluchowicz and Anna Budinska were defeated and GSU took a 2-1 lead. However, FIU immediately bounced back at the as Kristine Monforte and Summer Nash won in a close set, 21-13,

15-21, 15-12. With the match up for grabs to any team, senior Maryna Samoday and Anja Licka stepped up big. They defeated Sarah Agnew and Katelyn Rawls, 21-19, 15-21, 15-11, as FIU took the match, 3-2. The Panthers kept their impressive play onto the their next match against the College of Charleston as all five pairs saw straight-set victories, and FIU defeated Charleston 5-0.

In day two of the tournament the Panthers looked to ride the winning momentum from the day before and looked to take the matches over LSU and Jacksonville. FIU took the first two rounds from LSU as senior Darija Sataric and sophomore Savannah Davis defeated Katarina Raicevic and Emma Hiller and senior Tina Toghiyani and sophomore Marina Boulanger won against Emily Ehrle and Laura Whalen. This was Davis's first action in the top five in a Panther uniform. The match was soon clinched as No.

3 team of seniors Martyna Gluchowicz and Anna Budinska won over LSU's Hellen Boyle and Cheyenne Wood. The No. 1 team of senior Maryna Samoday and freshman Anja Licka and the No. 2 tandem of seniors Kristine Monforte and Summer Nash also saw straight set victories against the Tigers. The Panthers didn't let up in the match against Jacksonville as all five pairs once again saw straight-set wins for the third time in the four matches played this weekend. It was also the fifth time this season the Panthers have won swept their competition.

Overall, the Panthers went 4-0 for the two-day tournament, moving to 7-1 in dual play on the season and next play in the Tiger Sand Tournament which starts on Friday March 20.

MARCH MADNESS

March to the beat of your own bracket

DRUCKER DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

Bracketology is not a science – it’s hysteria. The NCAA Basketball Tournament accepts every method of predicting games, multiplies it by the error that accompanies choosing the victors of 63 matchups, and spits out results that put basketball analysts and average fans on the same playing field. Therefore, I will not attempt to predict every the result of every game in this column. Instead, I’ll talk about the two teams I’m monitoring closest.

Let’s start at home: the University of Alabama at Birmingham will represent Conference USA in the bracket. It has been a rough year for UAB after football, rifling, and bowling were axed in December. Their basketball program, however, remains strong; the Blazers won the Conference USA Championship versus Middle Tennessee State University in a 73-60 victory.

Florida International University had beaten these two teams in the final home stand of the regular season, but was eliminated from the C-USA tournament and a chance at an automatic bid in the tournament by the University of Texas at El Paso Miners.

To me, it seems like the Blazers are in fate’s hands. Sure, they have the basketball prowess to justify their

seeding – they defeated the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs (25-8) by a score of 72-62 – but it also feels as if they’re playing to right a wrong. Making the tournament is an accomplishment in itself, but if they could even keep it close in a matchup versus heavyweight Iowa State University, it would be a nice reward for a program that will likely be looking for a new conference to play in next season.

The consensus favorite to win the tournament is the University of Kentucky. The No. 1 overall seed Wildcats are a perfect 34-0 as they head into the round of 64. Kentucky is 43-10 all-time in season openers and 21-1 in second round games.

Head Coach John Calipari has at least half a dozen NBA-ready players on his squad and his team already defeated the next top-seeded team in the Midwest during the regular the season in the University of Kansas Jayhawks.

Some believe that the University of Arizona or the University of Wisconsin will have a chance against the perfect Wildcats if they meet in the Final Four. Arizona has been blowing out opponents lately and Wisconsin almost became a dangerous No. 2 seed in the Midwest before being elected the No. 1 in the West.

Atlantic Coast Conference champion Notre Dame

University, a team that is gathering some steam of its own, may also get a crack at Kentucky. All of these teams are great in their own right, but their imperfect records is what keeps them out of the championship game in most people’s brackets.

Just imagine, though, what will happen if Kentucky falls before the Final Four.

The tournament will be thrown into chaos. Every No. 16 seed will believe they can beat any No. 1 seed. Everything we know about math and logic will be called into question.

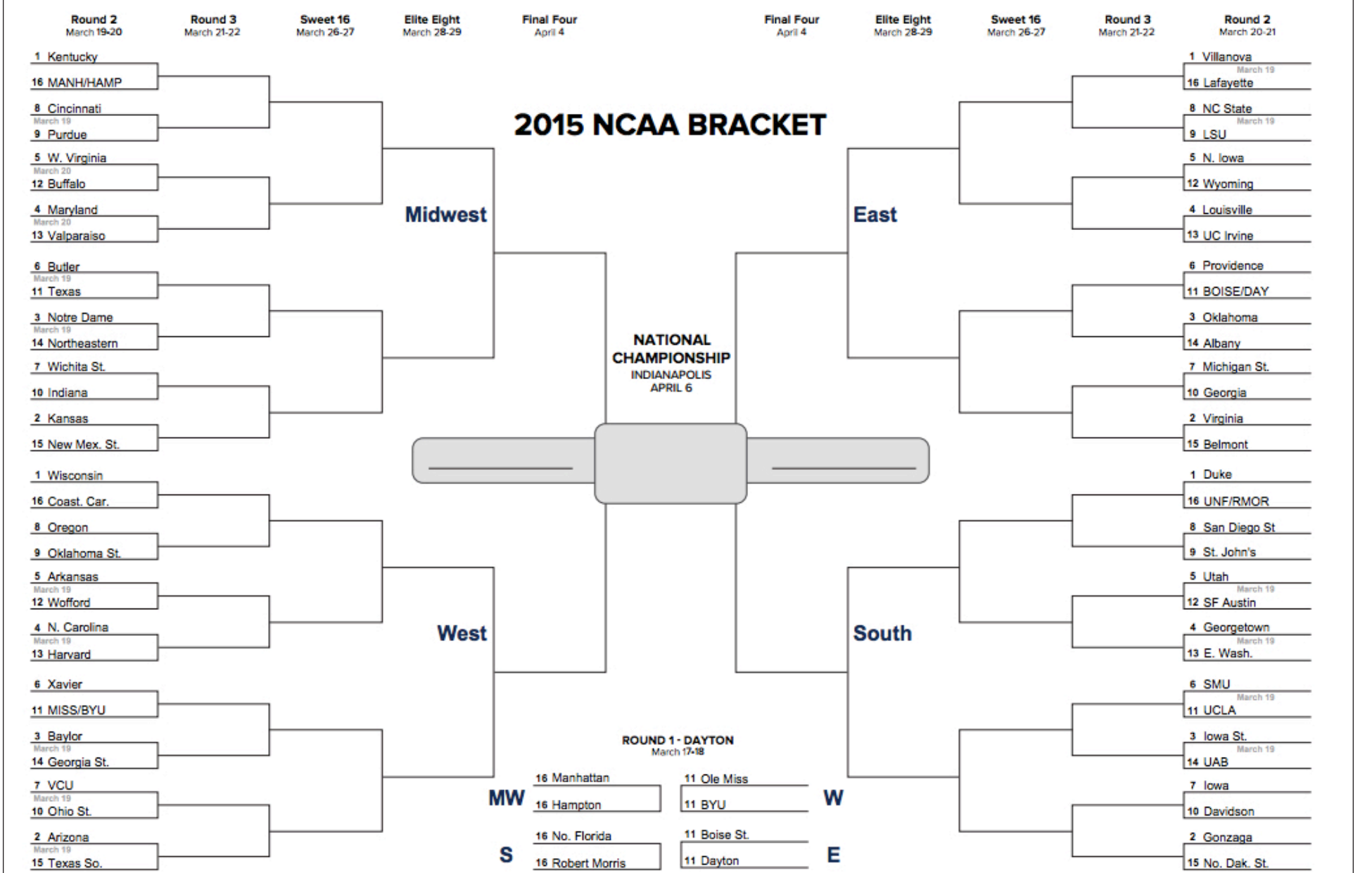
It would be the greatest thing ever.

My advice: when you’re filling out your bracket, don’t rely on a science. If everyone out there is going to pick Kentucky to win the tournament, then you’d need a freak coincidence of upset picks to win your group’s contest anyway. Instead, choose the teams that you would like to see make a run yourself.

If it’s going to take a near impossible set of circumstances to have the world’s perfect predictions, you might as well take a chance on those conditions fitting to your liking.

In other words, be the bracket you’d like to see in the world.

MARCH MADNESS: 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament Challenge



FIU Student Media is having a competition for the NCAA March Madness tournament this season. To qualify you must bring in your bracket to GC 210 or WUC 124 prior to Thursday, March 19 at 11:30 a.m. You must write your

name, your valid fiu.edu email address and your championship final score as a tie breaker. A prize will be given to the winner at the end of the tournament. The winner will be contacted through his/her fiu.edu email address.

FINAL FOUR: Sports Staff Predictions

JORGE CORRALES
Notre Dame
Iowa State
Villanova
Wisconsin

DAVID DRUCKER
Kentucky
Duke
Virginia
Wisconsin

LOUIS AGUDELO
New Mexico State
Baylor
Michigan State
UAB

ALANNAH ALFONSO
Kentucky
Duke
Villanova
Arizona

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Kentucky
Georgetown
Virginia
Wisconsin

REBECCA CHARUR
Kentucky
Iowa State
Virginia
UNC

JACOB SPIWAK
Kentucky
Iowa State
Virginia
Wisconsin

STEFANO RIVERA
Kentucky
Duke
Virginia
Arizona

BBC celebrates International Women's Day

SUDYEN NAVARRETE
Contributing Writer
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To celebrate women's achievements, the Biscayne Bay Campus will bring students together at International Women's Day Event Wednesday, March 18.

Hosted by the FIU Women's Center and International Student & Scholar Services, the event takes place during Women's History Month which highlights the contributions of women to society.

According to Meredith Morgan, coordinator at the BBC Women's Center, the event is a great way for students and faculty to recognize women's accomplishments and how they can continue to advance in society.

"We could see what we are doing right [now] in the United States and what can be [done] that other countries are already doing," Morgan said. There will be a table

of panelists at the forum with women from different countries. The panel includes Ya Hui Chang, assistant professor at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, as well as Mihaela Plugarasu, Director of Administrative Services at the Chaplin School.

Attendees will be able to ask them questions and learn from their experiences as women

students to be culturally aware," Ashley Spearman, ISSS Graduate Assistant.

According to Spearman, several organizations will be at the event to inform students about women's lifestyles in other countries, their issues and what can be done to help women in need.

This includes organizations like the United Nations Children's Fund, a non-profit

“

I don't think we should fight just for women. I think we should incorporate sexuality and race and class and sources of different social statuses.

Meredith Morgan
Coordinator
BBC Women's Center

”

living in their home countries and in the United States. They will also talk about equity and how women are being treated by society as a whole.

"It's important for FIU

organization that assists children and mothers in developing countries, as well as Wine to Water, the BBC Wellness Center and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered,

CONVERSATIONS WITH JOURNALISTS



WALTER RIVERA/THE BEACON

Author Samuel G. Freedman, author of "Letters to a Young Journalist" and professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, speaks to students at a lecture on Monday, March 16.

Questioning and Ally.

Jessica Martin, a junior psychology major, said both women and men should get involved in the advancement of women.

"I believe this is a great way to bring students together, especially men, to understand the struggles we have to face just because we're women," said Jessica Martin, a junior psychology major.

"[And] to let them know that nothing will change if they don't help," Martin said.

Morgan agrees with Martin, especially since

women make up the majority of college student populations. According to the Pew Research Center, by 2012, 71 percent of high school females are enrolled in college in comparison to the 61 percent of males that do.

"Something is going on that keeps women behind," Morgan said. "On average, we're earning about \$450,000 less than men."

Morgan also said that it is important to learn that the idea of feminism is not to disempower men, but rather to build equality among genders.

"I don't think we should just fight for women. I think we have to incorporate sexuality and race and class and sources of different social statuses," Morgan said.

The event will be held at the BBC Panther Square from 11 p.m. to 2 p.m. There will be music, giveaways and an arts & crafts table for participants to make and personalize buttons with the hashtag #makeithappen. Free food is included and the event is free of charge.

Fraternity's racist song could lead to lasting change at universities

NIGEL DUARA AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Years ago, a University of Oklahoma fraternity held a series of "Mekong Delta Parties," replete with camouflage, fake machine guns, sandbags and stretchers. Vietnam veterans objected.

Later, drunken fraternity members streaking across campus urinated on a tepee and shouted racial epithets during Native American Week. A Native American student fasted for a week in protest.

In each instance, the fraternities said they would take steps to ensure nothing of the sort would happen again. They said they were sorry. University officials punished the perpetrators and urged the campus to move past the ugliness. For years, that was how things worked at OU.

Not this time.

When members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon were filmed exuberantly singing a racist song with references to lynching, the disgust was campuswide and the punishment decisive, fueled by the unavoidable evidence playing on TV and cellphones and by the timing

_ days after the Selma anniversary and months after protesters decried the police shootings of black men.

But the nine-second video of young men chanting the N-word has sparked more than anger.

The emotions and pent-up pain unleashed by the video have been so raw, so powerful, that they stand to reshape university culture for years to come.

Across campus, students and staff have been engaging in blunt, honest and sometimes painful discussions about race, ethnicity and identity _ both in general and at the University of Oklahoma in particular. They've shared their dismay and disillusionment. They've shed tears.

Betty Harris, a professor of anthropology, remembers the earlier incidents, and the reaction.

"This is very different," said Harris, who has taught for 30 years at OU. "There was a habit, or a tendency, to just move past those (other incidents). But I see something different this time."

Harris was encouraged by what happened at a meeting at the university's business school last Wednesday night. Scheduled long before the video became public, it was

intended to address diversity.

The meeting transformed into a public conversation about the treatment of minorities on the Norman campus, 20 miles south of the capital. Most of the 200 or so in attendance were people of color, both students and faculty. Many were the first in their family to attend college.

Cheyenne Smith, a public relations major, said a man called her the N-word to her face on Wednesday morning. Tracey Medina, a 23-year-old Mexican-American senior who's two months from graduating, tearfully described getting a call from her parents in Tulsa after the video aired.

"What's happening? Come home," her parents told her. "They hate you there."

There were 27,278 students on the campus in Norman at the beginning of the school year, and 60 percent of them were white. The rest are a combination of international students and blacks, Asians, Latinos and Native Americans _ along with students of two or more races.

They talked about what it felt like to be told they "talked white," to never have a professor of color, to see Native American art displayed in a way that

reinforces stereotypes of Indians as noble savages incapable of living in a modern world.

Micah Wormley, who was born a man but identifies as female, said she had no place on campus to feel comfortable.

"That is the kind of thinking that spread on that bus," she said. "That is the face I saw on that bus." In the grainy video, two smiling white men dressed in tuxedos lead the song: "You can hang him from a tree, but he'll never sign with me, there will never be a (N-word) SAE."

The university swiftly closed the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter and expelled two of its members, actions that stand in stark contrast to the handling of such incidents years ago, even under the same university president, David Boren.

Stephanie Eyocko, 20, of Dallas, who is black, rushed several sororities her freshman year as a condition of a \$2,000 scholarship she received from a Panhellenic council. She enjoyed the parties at first, but soon soured on Greek life.

"The kind of parties they have here aren't really sensitive: Cowboys and Indians, Fiesta, Border Patrol," she said. "They had a white trash

party that wasn't even sensitive to themselves."

When she saw women in the background of the SAE video, some singing along, she immediately thought of sorority sisters she met while rushing and later partied with.

"I want the girls on the bus to speak up. ... I want the girls to come forward," about what happened, she said.

"I've been on buses like that," Eyocko said, noting they are often used to take couples to fraternity date parties.

She went to one at the invitation of a black fraternity member, and found herself the only other black person on the bus, constantly being asked to dance or "twerk." She told her date afterward she didn't want to go anymore because of "the constant assumptions."

"Let's not put it off on Greek-ness," she said of the chant. "The Greek stuff needs to change and the culture needs to change, but individuals need to realize and question when they're doing something that isn't safe for black people."