

Police chief identifies unsafe areas on campus

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

The University Police Department and Student Government Association led an annual safety walk pointing out campus areas that need safety improvements.

Chief of Police Alexander Casas identified pathways from the Health Center to University Towers and Graham Center areas including the fountain and the walkway. Casas noted that lighting around campus needs improvement.

Casas said the University plans to install bright white lights to replace the current yellow ones.

"The lighting is not only to protect from a mugging, but it is also for students to see where they are walking and what they are doing," he said.

Walk participants, including SGA President Liane Sippin, met

at Bustelo in GC on the evening of Nov. 6.

"I am not required to attend these safety walks, but I like to because it is my responsibility to oversee the safety of the students," Sippin said.

Sippin feels the walks are not only a safety precaution, but also an important maintenance system.

"We like doing these walks and getting things fixed as soon as possible. We don't want to just say we are going to do them," Casas said.

UPD and SGA host safety walks each year, but Casas said he wants to start hosting them on a semester basis.

During the walk, Casas and Sippin snapped photos of specific areas in need of maintenance. The chief passed the information on to the facilities for safety improvements.

Casas noted that in addition to

"We like doing these walks and getting things fixed as soon as possible. We don't want to just say we are going to do them."

Alexander Casas,
Chief of Police
University Police Department

lighting issues, some buildings

that should be locked at night are not always secure.

Since the safety walks started, he said there have been improvements in lighting, security cameras and call boxes.

According to Casas, the last serious incident at the University occurred three years ago.

WOOD WORKS BEST



AMANDA GUERRA/THE BEACON

Alex Quinoez, junior in architect, competes in the annual walk on water event for his second year in a row. Quinoez made it to the end of the finish line first with his wooden "shoes," but because it's his second year he was unqualified to win.

TEDxFIU reimagines possible, inspires in second annual event

MARISOL MEDINA
Staff Writer

The second annual TEDxFIU was hosted this past Thursday to an audience of about 500 people who reimagined what they thought was possible.

Spectators of this year's event cried, laughed and danced as they cheerfully applauded the speakers delivering their talks.

The second TEDxFIU featured 12 speakers - students, faculty and alumni - that delivered 11 talks ranging from topics including Aileen Marty's talk on using chemical and biological

weapons to save lives to Tudor Parfitt, also known as the "British Indiana Jones," speaking about his search for the lost tribes of Israel.

Aneysi Fernandez energized the crowd during her musical performance with the Wadaiko Academy playing Japanese Taiko drums, and Black Violin closed the night to the beat of hip-hop and classical violin.

"I feel completely inspired," said Mariana Cuevas, human resources manager and self-proclaimed TED-fanatic.

"The event made me think outside the box and thinking

that things are possible," Cuevas said. "So why not a master's?"

Cuevas said the event exceeded her expectations and changed her image of the University. She wants to be a future Panther.

Nineteen-year-old Alexa Chavarry, a sophomore in psychology and the youngest speaker in the event, received a standing ovation for sharing how her personal struggles with depression and self-harm that lead to the creation of The Butterfly Project -- her online blog of more than 14,000 followers who share their stories

and use it as support in avoiding self-harm.

"The standing ovation is one thing, but knowing I was able

occurred to her to combine them.

"I'm a musician and I understand how hard it can be to have a unique idea, especially with a

"The standing ovation is one thing, but knowing I was able to put something very taboo out there in such a positive light is very satisfactory."

Alexa Chavarry
Sophomore
Psychology



CONSTANZA GALLARDO/THE BEACON

An audience of around 500 people watched Wadaiko Academy perform "Do Kon Jo" at TEDxFIU on Nov. 7.

to put something very taboo out there in such a positive light is very satisfactory," said Chavarry.

Chavarry said she felt relieved after finishing her talk. She said knowing that people received her message made all her hard work preparing for the event be worthwhile.

Kelly Ibarra, sophomore communication arts major, found Maria Pia Celestino's talk about glasses that help read to the blind inspirational.

"She was able to find something unique to help people who can't see, it's something that can help people around the world; it even made me tear up," said Ibarra.

Ibarra was surprised to see Black Violin offer classical music combined with hip-hop, and said that although she is a lover of both genres, it had never

classical instrument such as the violin, but they were able to think outside the box and succeed with their idea," said Ibarra.

Ibarra said the speakers in the event inspired her to reach for new heights in her own life as well.

"I left tonight thinking 'what am I going to do to change the world and inspire people?'"

Deron Burkepile, assistant professor of marine science, and Michael Heithaus, director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society, spoke about the Aquarius reef base, the world's only undersea research lab.

Burkepile delivered his part of the talk from the Herbert Wertheim Performing Arts Center and Heithaus gave his live underwater

WORLD NEWS

UK marine convicted of murdering Afghan in Helmand

A royal marine murdered an injured insurgent in Afghanistan by shooting him in the chest at close range, a British court martial board found Friday. According to prosecutors, he told fellow soldiers to hush it up and acknowledged "I just broke the Geneva Convention." The board ruled that the commando was guilty of killing the unnamed man in Helmand Province in September 2011. "It is a matter of profound regret in this isolated incident that one marine failed to apply his training and discharge his responsibilities," Brigadier Bill Dunham, of the Royal Marines, said in a statement. "It should not have happened and it should never happen again." Prosecutors said the incident took place after a military base in Afghanistan's Helmand Province was attacked by two insurgents.

Ex-policeman in Belfast spots bomb under his car

Northern Ireland police say a former officer saved himself and his daughter by spotting a booby-trapped bomb hidden underneath his car. The leaders of Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant unity government condemned Friday's discovery of the bomb attached to the man's car outside his Belfast home. No group claimed responsibility. Police blamed Irish Republican Army militants who use such car bombs to try to kill current and former officers. Chief Constable Matt Baggott said the former officer demonstrated professionalism by checking underneath his car for a device. All Northern Ireland officers are taught to observe the precaution but sometimes do not. The man was not identified by name.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 36 in the article titled, "SGA hosts Bay cleanup, promotes eco-friendly habits," Larissa Adames's name was misspelled.

In Vol. 25, Issue 31, "SGA lobbies legislatures for more funding," incorrectly stated that the University is seeking \$15 thousand in state funding for the College of Medicine. It is really seeking \$150 thousand.

In Vol. 25, Issue 35, "Students not using services, fees continue to increase" incorrectly stated that the student health fees are \$181.10; it is actually \$93.69 per semester.

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

SPC hosts gaming event, extends programming to Engineering Center

ARIEL WEINSTEIN
Staff Writer

Hordes of students gathered at the University's Engineering Center for a fun-filled afternoon of gaming. From students singing and dancing to "Rock Band" to the FIFA competitions and the focused minds in "Call of Duty, over 200 students engaged in the Student Programming Council's Game Wars event in the EC pit, an effort by SPC to extend its programming to the University's satellite campuses.

The council hosts up to 75 events at the Modesto Maidique Campus each -- about three events per week -- but only one program at the Engi-

neering Center each semester.

"It [isn't] fair for all the engineering students who are here every day to miss out on all of the events at MMC," said Claudia Yaranga, a biology major that works with SPC.

SPC sponsored a gaming event on Nov. 7 for engineering students in the EC pit. Different stations presented over a hundred different games for students to play for free, offering a break between classes and studying.

Yaranga said SPC specifically chose the gaming event for the engineering students.

"It's more of an interest to the students at the Engineering Center because they're the ones creating the code," Yaranga said. "They're

learning about this and we wanted this event to be relevant to the computerized and technical courses provided here."

Fernando Lopez, senior mechanical engineer major, said the event was a perfect way to take everyone's minds off work for a while. "I used to be a gamer until homework and studying dominated."

"I feel this campus is isolated and doesn't get as much love or events," Lopez said. "This event is very special to us. It's very appropriate because I guess we are all kind of nerdy gamers. It's appropriate for this crowd."

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Audience of 500 community members inspired by TEDxFIU talks

TEDxFIU, PAGE 1

in Aquarius, as two divers goofed off through the window behind him, making the audience laugh.

"Our primary goal tonight was to make people understand how important Aquarius is to understanding coral reefs, how they're

threatened and how they can be protected," said Burkepile.

Burkepile said that one of the best things about the event was that it offered a great variety of ideas and performances that made people think about things they had never thought about.

"When I go around the country, I see that people may not know FIU,

because we're a pretty new university, but with these events we are showing the diversity of science, arts and research that happens here and putting our name out there while spreading the FIU brand, because it's a fantastic brand and we need to get it out there," said Burkepile.

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College of Architecture and the Arts to host lecture series on innovative design

CAROLINA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Remaining at the cutting edge has inspired the College of Architecture and the Arts to host a lecture series in hopes to inspire innovative thinking and design.

On Nov. 14, the University will host Jimenez Lai, founder of Bureau Spectacular, to speak about his distinct artwork and ways to diversify students' views on "several disciplinary issues."

Juan Brizuela, correspondent of CARTA news, considers the lecture series to be a unique opportunity for students to learn and network.

"We want to expose our students to new designs and new ways of thinking,"

said Brizuela. "The lectures are very engaging while also providing a chance to network."

Lai's Bureau Spectacular is renowned for its cartoon narratives that take their form in architectural installations, models and small buildings. It is also closely affiliated to the Midwest Mafia of Architecture Schools.

Lai's "Coffee, Scars and Insignia" is not the first lecture hosted by the College of Architecture and the Arts to promote the need for dynamic thinking.

Every semester, professors and architecture firm representatives from around the world are welcomed to the campus to present insightful information to not only architectural students, but to anyone who

is enticed by the evolution and news of the world of design.

Brizuela mentioned that though the lectures are sometimes geared towards specific types of architectural designs, such as a focus on landscape or interior, they each present fundamental aspects of the changing world of design, along with potential fears or benefits to face in the future.

At one of the events this past month, Professor Alfredo Andia, associate professor at the College of Architecture and the Arts, based his lecture on the ambiguous future of the architectural world.

Andia focused his lecture around the growing link between advances in the technological world

with design, such as the possibility of robots taking over the architectural world, enlightening the students to ponder whether this would be a blessing or a threat.

Brizuela attended Andia's lecture and observed that the events so far have accumulated enough students to fill up an entire auditorium.

-news@fiusm.com

WHAT: "Coffee, Stars and Insignia"

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: PCA 135

THE BEACON

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Don't feel inclined to define yourself

IAN VASQUEZ
Contributing Writer

There are many times in your life where someone will ask you to define who you are.

I despise that question.

People have been trying to classify and categorize others for as long as they've existed and I have come to the conclusion that the aforementioned question is just another one of those methods.

What does that even mean? "Who are you?" And is anyone ever expected to really know that answer? What's their criterion for defining "you" or a person? How does that question account for the little differences between everyone?

How do they account for the tiny subtle differences that affect everything from how you wake up in the morning to how you decide whether something is right or wrong.

I know I share the same point of view on a variety of social issues with other people, but it doesn't mean I reached my conclusions exactly the same way as them.

But I think what really bothers me the most about the question is that it tries to lock you into being somebody. I know that sounds weird, but bear with me.

You know who you are; you're in your own head, and you know your

thoughts, what you love, what you hate. It seems like a joke when it's asked, but it's incredibly hard for anyone to answer, and if you can answer it without hesitation, then you might have a problem.

If you start to look at who you are, it seems impossible to really analyze it, because you begin to wonder why. You

“
But I think what really bothers me the most about the question is that it tries to lock you into being somebody.”

ask why you think the way you do, why you act the way you do. And I'm willing to bet that if anyone did this, right now even, something in them would change. If you truly look inwards and question yourself, you might find things you want to change, or things you want to adapt to different situations.

Hell, you might find the way you hold forks strongly upsets you.

It doesn't matter; the point is that you won't be the same person as you answer "who are you" as you were when you were asked. On the fly, you'll change some part of "you" to suit the person asking, or the situation the question leads to, or just some personal flaw you didn't like.

This is why the question is flawed.

You'll be asked and it encourages you to reject change, and to be you.

But life is change.

By their own standards, no one is perfect, and they will try every day to change themselves, or something they don't like about themselves, for better or for worse.

And that's natural! The day you close your mind to change is the day that you block out the beauty of life.

Things always change. Things progress, and so do people. Don't make the mistake of clinging to some idea of you, that maybe you didn't even create, but strive to better yourself everyday. You might find you like the changes you make, and the person you become.

A closer would be nice I guess, don't panic if you can't describe yourself, or if you don't know "who you are."

You aren't supposed to.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

New jogging trail: a step toward being fit

For years, students on campus who wanted to get in a good jog had to either go to the gym or go around the perimeter of campus.

But now, finally, students will have access to a jogging path that goes through the Nature Preserve.

The 0.6 mile path, which will run along the edge of the Nature Preserve and feature various workout stations throughout, will give students a great alternative for a workout in the fresh air of Miami.

We are very excited and enthused that the University is giving students this new feature to help maintain fitness.

This project is especially beneficial to Housing students who want to get in a workout and not be stuck inside of the jam-packed gym where there isn't a lot space to get things done.

It is also a place on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus that is considered one of the only eco-friendly spaces because of the campus size and amount of buildings.

The next step is to find a place for the track team to train where they don't have to go to Miramar to host a Conference Tournament like last year.

On-campus banking: the bad and the not-so-bad

JAIRO RAMOS
Contributing Writer

Recent years have seen card partnerships between universities and banks proliferate exponentially throughout the United States— an issue that, of course, has failed to escape controversy.

In 2012, a year after FIU first announced its affiliation with Wells Fargo, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group published "The Campus Debit Card Trap"— a report that exposed the underhanded methods that some firms use in order to dig directly into students' pockets. Rich Williams, an advocate for the same organization, called campus debit cards "wolves in sheep's clothing."

But before you feed your FIU One Card to the shredder, let us make a key distinction.

When it comes to providing on-campus banking services, the field is made up of two types of players: Traditional Banks— the names you would typically see in the street— and Non-Traditional Financial Firms— institutions that provide banking programs exclusively for univer-

sity partners. And these differ significantly.

Non-Traditional Firms, such as Sallie Mae or Higher One, base their income only off their college accounts and campus credit card operations, and,

“
A checking account is more likely to appear trustworthy to an FIU undergrad if Roary the Panther's face garnishes the back of the corresponding card.”

hence, have no incentive to maintain their customers pleased over the years. As a result, their profit-maximizing model relies heavily on exploiting students' funds during the college period.

The method? You guessed it— hidden fees. At least for the most part.

Higher One, the industry leader, drew as much as 80% of

its revenue (over \$150 million) last year from "account fees" imposed on students. These included non-sufficient fund fees, overdraft fees, ATM fees and inactivity fees amongst others: a large portion of which

were drawn from federal financial aid money.

Fortunately, the situation on FIU's side of the spectrum is much less worrisome. In contrast to the above mentioned firms, Traditional Banks such as Wells Fargo, the local partner of choice, hope to profit from their clients years past their graduation through regular banking

services. Consequently, their priority is not to take advantage of students, but to supply them with optimal service in order to build long-term relationships.

Moreover, these banks 'share' their benefit through financial contributions to schools. Universities earn profits from direct monetary payments, as well as from the outsourcing of jobs to such partners— profits which should, theoretically, 'trickle down' to the student body in the form of increased benefits and improved facilities.

But does this mean that the system at FIU is flawless?

Not quite.

Though partnerships with Traditional Banks pose a much friendlier model, they do not come without their own set of complications. For starters, one can argue that by restricting any form of on-campus presence from rival organizations, universities create a monopolistic-type market: less alternatives, no competitive pressure. But the matter reaches even deeper.

Consider the ethical role of a school as source of guidance— an emblem of trust. When

a university establishes a partnership with another institution it— explicitly or not— manifests an endorsement of it. And such stamp of approval can lead unwary students into a product they do not want, or even worse— a product they do not need. A checking account is more likely to appear trustworthy to an FIU undergrad if Roary the Panther's face garnishes the back of the corresponding card— a bank will tend to seem more inviting if its doors open up on the side of a familiar campus building.

The question, then, becomes less about whether students are being offered satisfactory services, and more about whether they are being allowed to judge those services from an impartial standpoint. Are their faces being turned in a particular direction? Are they being exposed to the entire array of options?

And most importantly: are they being taught to decide, or being decided for?

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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University student is Worlds Ahead with her first published book

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

As the semester comes to an end, students can take advantage of their free time and pick up a good book to read.

Specifically, Wes L. Lotus' recently published book, "Bare."

Wes L. Lotus, a junior broadcast journalism major, had her first book released in mid-October on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. In a few weeks, it will be available on all major independent book sites. "Bare" bares it all with Lotus' poems about love, wisdom and how to obtain a better life.

Each chapter discusses something a little different, which Lotus shares.

"There is a section in my book that's called 'History Lens'... It kind of touches up on my Haitian culture a little bit and what I aspire to be as a Haitian-Amer-

ican," said Lotus.

"Bare" only gives a snippet of who Lotus is. Most of the book is filled with poems meant to inspire readers.

"I have a section called 'Mind over Matter'...I also have a section that's dedicated to young girls or women, period," said Lotus.

Lotus originally wanted to be in the medical field, and even worked at the University of Miami hospital. She attended Miami-Dade College first, but transferred to FIU for its journalism program.

Her journey began in October when "Bare" was finally released. Lotus hopes to continue reaching her goals, and never settling for less.

The book-launching party is just around the corner, where she hopes to grow her fan base.

"I'm trying to do something a little different where

I actually put on a show for everyone so I can engage them, and so [that] they can get to learn my personality a little bit and what I like. And afterwards, any questions they may want to ask me, they can ask me.

And also, that will give them the opportunity to really be encouraged to purchase the book, and I can sign a copy for them," said Lotus.

Although things are looking up for Lotus, she is still trying to raise money through GoFundMe.com, a website where donations can be given to help people with any events they may create.

The first book-launching party will be held on Dec. 6 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

At the party, books will be distributed for Lotus to sign, and there will be questions and answers to get to know her better.

Lotus enjoys writing,

ZUMBA CONQUERS THE GYM



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Daniel Gonzalez (far left), University alumnus, leads the group of Zumba students in a lively workout session set up by the Zumba club.

and plans on doing it for the rest of her life, but she also dreams of directing and filming.

"I hope that I can dabble and dabble in the film world where I can help direct movies and whatnot, probably interview people, do a lot of work behind the scenes. As far as my next book, I hope that it can turn

into an actual movie," said Lotus.

Lotus' second book, titled, "The Wait," is a fictional story that will be released next year.

As for future books, Lotus plans on writing until she is off this earth.

"I feel like [writing is] a gift, so you might as well utilize it. I feel like every-

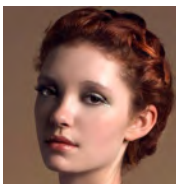
thing will get better with time," said Lotus.

Lotus' book is available on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles and Trafford.com, and donations to Lotus' book-launching party can be sent on GoFundMe.com to Wes L Lotus.

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Dapper and dandy: Pelaez keeps the 70s alive

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

In my year and half of photographing students on campus, senior anthropology major Keyssel Pelaez has easily been my most photographed subject. I first met Keyssel when I was saw him walking in front of the Green Library wearing a vintage Koolaid blue shirt and red plaid wool bell bottoms with leather Chukka boots. Even if I hadn't noticed his outfit, his massive afro is impossible to miss, almost taking on a personality of its own. Since then every time I run into him he has never not had on an almost fully thrifted outfit that always seems to take on a dandy 70s vibe. Recently, I got the chance to actually sit down with Keyssel and dig deeper into understanding his unique style.

You are very well recognized on campus for your style. Do you get approached often about this or do you feel that people are afraid to talk to you?

I'm often approached about it and I really enjoy it because it really works as an icebreaker. Even the people that approach me negatively, like I've been told I'm weird and I enjoy that too because it's still an icebreaker and I like embracing the negative and the positive because that is how this world works.

The first thing someone sees is what you present on the outside and that is why I'm so invested in my appearance. My value system values presentation.

I don't think I've ever seen you around without at least one piece of thrifted clothing on. What got you interested in vintage clothing?

A sort of respect for the old. The fact that I've always been into history has a lot to do with it and that I think we can learn from our past and fashion is not different from that. We always build on ideas and fashion does the same thing.

I got really into it by reading. Author Evelyn Waugh definitely has influenced me and he had this sort of Oxford England 1920s

fashion thing going on that I love. Oh, and German literature, I've always enjoyed the Empirical fashion. There are things you can take from that, the feeling, the attitude. It's the sense of looking good all the time, dandyism. They all had their presentation and I try to maintain good material in my clothing like cool pants, leather shoes. I don't like mass produced cookie-cutter fashion, I don't want to look mass-produced. And that even goes into my car, a 1972 Beatle. Essentially I want to be simple, trying without trying.

Do you believe there is such a thing as good taste and bad taste?

I think everything has its place. How you go about it is a question of tact and I think there are things that can be tactless.

Do you have a favorite art movement?

Art Nouveau because it's about the natural touch of embellishment and extravagant movement that heightens Epicureanism, going ahead and redeeming it with natural qualities is really

beautiful to me. Like humanity and nature can exist together and still have fun.

If you could live anywhere at any time where and when would it be?

The Himalayas because it has changed so little in the time that it's been. I've always enjoyed the Buddhist value system and sometimes I need to get away from it all and I feel like the Himalayans are a place I could live forever.

What do you think the difference is between fashion and style?

Fashion would be more like the specific clothing that there is and style is how you put it together. I think everyone has style because it is just about where their values are placed.

Do you think style is an art?

Yes, definitely. Anything that is touched by human hands is an art.

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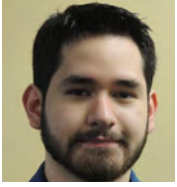
ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Senior anthropology major Keyssel Pelaez showcases style, especially his unique socks and footwear.

Broken Bat: “Batman Arkman Origins” review

COLUMNIST

Even Batman can screw up.



LUIS BOLANOS

“Arkham Origins,” the prequel to the popular “Arkham” series of Batman video games, was developed by a new team at Warner Bros. Montreal instead of Rocksteady, who had helmed “Arkham Asylum” and “Arkham City.” “Origins” is an ambitious, but flawed prequel that attempts to deliver an experience on par with Rocksteady’s titles but doesn’t live up to the quality.

The basic premise of “Origins” involves a plot where Batman must find and stop eight assassins hired by Black Mask. This situation isn’t really immediate like the events of “Asylum” or “City,” thus the first chunk of the story drags along as Batman punches criminals in the face without an engaging plot until the midpoint of the game. While eight assassins may seem intimidating to a normal person, it’s a cakewalk for Batman. The story plays the “he’s a younger Batman” card, but “Origins” takes place when Bruce Wayne has been Batman for two years.

The “younger Batman” is used to demonstrate some of Batman’s naivety in some sequences, but I don’t buy it for the first story arc of the game with its focus on the assassins. The lack of any actual tension or

threat makes the first story arc seem meaningless and a waste of storytelling, especially when compared to the previous Arkham games. Thankfully the story picks up after certain events take place, and actual threats to Gotham are established. The game also falls under the prequel trap, where we’re already familiar with the characters and we don’t really gain anything new from the story or characters, this impacts those that are already familiar with Batman lore the most.

Story issues aside, the gameplay has some balance issues in terms of what the game offers players. The game has a greater focus on combat than the exploration and puzzles of the previous games. Because of this focus, combat is enjoyable, but when compared to the other things that make up a successful Batman game as seen in the previous games, “Origins” feels one-sided. The decision to focus on combat makes me feel that WB Montreal didn’t have time to come up with good puzzles or missions like those in the previous titles. While there are Riddler puzzles in the overworld, those puzzles aren’t particularly satisfying. There’s also a lack of Riddler’s challenge rooms introduced in Arkham City. I feel bad for any completionists looking forward to more challenge rooms or good puzzles, because they’re just not enjoyable.

The main story missions have few variations due to the greater focus on

combat, and the side missions are a mixed bag. The “Crime Scene” side missions are essentially glorified cutscenes as they walk you through solving a crime scene step by step without any sense of reward, and some of the side villains have lame side mission arcs that usually include beating up a couple of goons (there’s that emphasis of combat again!).

“Arkham Origins” still seems broken in the single player and the multiplayer.

There are some stand out missions, like ones involving The Mad Hatter, and Deadshot: missions that actually change the game’s mechanics. These missions make me wish there was more variation and creativity throughout the game, especially in the first half of the story missions.

The Gotham in “Origins” doesn’t really feel different from “Arkham City” either. After gliding around and traversing the city, “Origins” Gotham is very familiar to “Arkham City” in some aspects, as some locations make a return. The lack of variation makes the overworld environment

boring, especially if you’re someone that already spent hours exploring Arkham City. The weather doesn’t help either, as Gotham lacks the color splashes amidst the gothic architecture Arkham City had.

During my time in “Arkham Origins” on the PC, I encountered several bugs, and one which prevented me from solving an Enigma Radio tower puzzle. This bug prevented me from fast traveling to one of the locations on the map throughout my playthrough. These bugs range from maddening to frustrating, especially those that end up forcing you to go back to a checkpoint making you repeat your progress again.

It’s clear that the game needed a little bit more work to be as polished as “Asylum” and “City.” Unfortunately, the overall game suffers due to these bugs that make you wonder if the Riddler or Scarecrow had any involvement in making these bugs in “Origins.”

Some of the bugs and glitches are funny however, like punching thugs and making them fly out of Gotham like a speeding bullet. Becoming one with a roulette table was also amusing, along with watching the AI scramble attempting to fight me while I assimilated with the roulette table.

After playing through the single player and completing every side mission except for the Riddler puzzles, I dove into the new multiplayer mode.

This new multiplayer mode was developed externally by Splash Damage, known for their success of “Enemy Territory” series and their failure in “Brink.” The multiplayer features one mode that pits three elite Joker thugs against three elite Bane thugs against Batman and Robin. Joker and Bane also show up during a game and are used during the match as well, but only one of the super villains will show up during a match.

It’s a creative asymmetric multiplayer mode. I enjoyed grabbing the thugs as Batman and silently taking out team leaders to gain points. I wanted to like the multiplayer, but the bugs and technical issues made it difficult to fully enjoy the multiplayer.

A friend of mine that played the multiplayer had all his stats and progress erased after spending an hour and 30 minutes playing. There’s some lag issues, and at times the controls don’t quite work as you intend them to. When playing as an elite thug, it doesn’t feel as tight as other third person shooters. It’s hard to enjoy this experience because of these problems, which is a shame, because of the creative system set up by Splash Damage.

A couple of patches have been released since launch, but upon going on several online forums and testing out the game again, “Arkham Origins” still seems broken in the single player and the multiplayer.

Read the verdict at fuis.com



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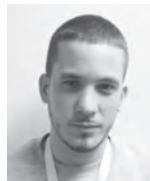
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While other sports falter, basketball shows promise

COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

By now, most FIU fans have gotten weary of the performance put forth by their football team. The few that attend the games are becoming less supportive of a losing team.

Well, rest assured because we have gotten to basketball season here at FIU as both the men and women started their seasons on Friday, Nov. 8, and that means we will be given two teams that will win plenty of games and give you even more reasons to stick around to watch them play.

Fans, you won't be able to make the "they don't win, so I don't watch excuse," with either the men's or women's basketball teams. Both are coming off stellar seasons; the women are fresh off a postseason run to the WNIT and the men are a basket or two removed from the NCAA Tournament.

The women's team, led by senior Jerica Coley, made their second-consecutive trip to the Women's National Invitation Tournament after posting a 19-13 record. The men, led by senior Tymell Murphy, finished 18-14 and were three points shy of their first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1995.

So these two teams win, and that alone should entice fans to go watch. But if they need a little more convincing, I can provide that, as well.

Coley is a reigning two-time All-American and Conference Player of the Year in the Sun Belt Conference, and has already been voted the Preseason Conference Player of the Year in Conference USA without having played a minute in C-USA.

The All-American has also been honored with multiple awards in this offseason. Coley has been recognized as one of 60 men's and women's basketball student-athletes who prosper

both on and off the court by being named a candidate for the Senior CLASS award. The standout was also named a "Wade Watch" honoree and was named to the John R. Wooden Top 30 List.

Now for the men. Murphy is coming off a very successful season in which he averaged 14.6 points per game while snatching down 6.8 rebounds per contest. Last season, Murphy started all but one of the Panthers 32 games and shot a team-best 57 percent from the field. His consistent play earned him a First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection.

Like Coley, Murphy received some preseason recognition from the coaches in C-USA. The senior was selected as one of the 16 Preseason Players to Watch for the upcoming season.

Both basketball teams will provide plenty of things to watch out for this season. Coley and her squad are looking to get past the WNIT and earn a berth into the



JASEN DELGADO / THE BEACON

Freshman guard Jason Boswell (right) and the rest of the FIU men's and women's basketball team looks to raise the bar when it comes to FIU athletics.

NCAA Tournament. Coley's trek for her first bid into the "Big Dance" should be nothing less than epic. While Murphy and his team, no matter how good they play, won't play in the postseason due to low APR scores they will definitely play the role

of spoilers when it comes to other prominent teams in the C-USA. I cannot imagine a situation where a high-ranking C-USA team will want to face off against Murphy and a team with absolutely nothing to lose.

"They're not exciting and

they don't win," is what a lot of fans use as excuses when watching football here at FIU, but those excuses won't come into play anymore as basketball season is upon us.

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Run club sprinting in the right direction at FIU

PATRICK CHALVIRE Staff Writer

What started as a way to exercise outside a gym has become the next big thing on campus.

David Alvarez and Michael Caballero have

been busy since the Spring of 2012 adding to improve their run club, but turnout has amazed them.

"We've grown a lot," Alvarez said. "The biggest thing is just consistency. Having a solid group every time we come out and

we've had a really good base of people that have been coming since the beginning of the semester and it's been growing ever since."

For Alvarez and Caballero, it started off as an idea of bringing others together,

but that idea has since become a reality they never expected.

"It's been great," Caballero said. "The whole vision in the beginning, when we started, was to try to build something that could get the whole FIU community involved, students and non-students alike, and I think we've seen a transition towards realizing that goal, that vision."

In most gyms and workout sessions, working out in groups doesn't tend to fit well for others, but for this club, forming friendships matter.

Graduate student and veteran runner Rhett Williamson enjoys the friendly competition.

"Having people that I can socially run with but also challenge me because there's really fast guys here," Williamson said. "It's nice to run with other people who are pushing me to get better but also be motivation for other people. It's a feedback loop, we motivate each other to keep in shape and keep running."

The club has also added the support of several local and big name sponsorships

to support the club and bring in new faces.

"We're always trying to bring in new sponsors and new vendors to give out free stuff," Caballero said. "We have Muscle Milk very involved now. KIND snacks has been kind to us and given us a lot of free stuff as well and SoleRUNNERS, without question, has been our biggest supporter."

Though they are a club by university standards, Alvarez and Caballero try to stay away from the club mentality, rather, a community with its own goals and aspirations.

"I know it's called FIU Run Club, it's considered a club and registered as a club, but we try not to think of it really as a club and definitely not as a team," Caballero said. "It's more of just a community within a community, with a goal of just bringing everyone together and as many people as possible on a weekly basis."

The club hasn't just gotten the community involved, but it has also given several people the opportunity to compete in

different races and marathons that have been going on throughout the Magic City.

Both Alvarez and Caballero are expected to graduate within the next few months and even though they plan to keep their presence with the club, concern as to who will take over this growing club has come up.

Though the club has been a great success for both men, they both agree that when the time comes, they will have to untie their shoes and hand the baton over to a new generation of run lovers.

"We have a lot of people that have been with us for a while now and they've seen the whole transition and they've seen the whole project as we do and see the whole point behind it," Caballero said. "That's the student club side of the whole thing, that's the beauty, it'll continue once we're gone," Caballero said. "Hopefully we can come back years down the road and join them for a run every now and then."

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PATRICK CHALVIRE / THE BEACON

The run club is slowly starting to become one of the more popular club sports at Modesto A. Maidique Campus as they are led by David Alvarez and Michael Caballero.

Standing ovation needed for women's soccer

COLUMNIST



After the dust had settled on a 4-1 loss to the University of North Texas, the Panthers should search for perspective.

No one on this team should or is content with a first round exit, but it's a miracle that they got there to begin. After a loss to Charlotte University in late Sept. the Panthers fell to a lowly 2-7-0 record.

That was it. It was over, the season was over. They were failures. But no, they got up and like the prototypical American sports triumph story, they fought.

They fought to an upset win against conference leading University of Alabama at Birmingham, they fought to close the season 5-3-0, and they fought to a number one seed in the conference for the majority of their run.

It wasn't until the regular season finale against Marshall University that they relinquished their top spot in the eastern division of Conference-USA.

Sometimes words don't give moments justice. It's why we have music, art, dance and even sports.

They take the words right out of your mouth and give it life, give it true expression.

Watching the Panther team go from nothing to something is certainly something you had to see to feel.

And then it all culminated in Houston, Texas with the C-USA championship tournament. The Panthers faced the most explosive offense in C-USA, leading nearly every statistical offensive cate-



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU women's soccer team was eliminated from the Conference USA tournament last week when they lost to North Texas 4-1. The team finished the season 7-12-0 after starting 2-7-0 earlier in the year.

gory. They might have been in over their heads.

When the Mean Green took a 2-0 in the minute 36, again all seemed lost. All seemed over, then 20 minutes later, FIU scores. We're back on.

With a 2-1 score and all the momentum going the Panthers way, it surely felt it was a microcosm of their roller coaster season. When all doubted, when it seemed hopeless, they found a way. Only this time, North Texas shut the door on any story book ending. They answered with two goals in the final minutes of the

game, and that was it.

FIU's magic had run out and allowed four goals to the most potent offensive team in the conference.

Finally something in the Panthers season made sense. It just came at the worst time.

"They were a special group," said Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt. "We had a lot of success with them and I know they'll do great things in the future."

It was a special group indeed, and one that should be celebrated despite a loss. In sports often times do we look at what

went wrong instead of what went right.

It's easy to point to the season finale against Marshall and criticize the Panthers for not winning a game they needed to have an automatic berth to the second round of the tournament. Or to spend the offseason questioning the drastic move at goal keeper from stud redshirt junior Paula Zuluaga, which Chestnutt declined to comment on.

These women deserve a standing ovation for all they did right. It's what America loves, an underdog success story. The tale of a group of girls who didn't quit, who never faltered, and that learned from their past failures.

It should be noted that after the loss to Charlotte, FIU drastically boosted all the stats they were bad at.

Scoring which was 2.2 goals in their final eight games, and defense with only allowing 1.5 goals in their final eight games.

As the Panthers take the long flight back to South Florida from Texas they should be celebrating.

For a season that almost never was. For the senior class that had the third-winningest run in the history of FIU women's soccer with 42 wins and for the story they wrote.

They gave meaning and expression to the thousands of words written about them by only kicking a soccer ball.

It's extraordinary. And as the curtain falls on the improbable season of the FIU women's soccer team, we should all rise and give them the standing ovation they deserve.

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University to offer new, improved emergency alert system by end of month

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff received an alert text message from the University-Wide Test FIU Alert on Oct. 31 as part of the new updated emergency notification system operated by FIU Alert.

As part of the new update, the system will "allow for the integration of the separate communication platforms to allow for a more efficient, faster and automated activation," according to Amy Aiken, director of the Department of Emergency Management.

The testing period will last about two weeks and is scheduled to be fully activated by the end of November 2013.

"It's the first time I get this type of notification," said Roberta Duarte, a freshmen Hospitality

major. "I hope it works well when there is actually an emergency."

Apart from the text message alerts, FIU Alert will include notifications via the FIU email, social media such as Twitter and Facebook through the official University accounts, voice calls to subscribed users, outdoor speakers that will be played throughout campus, FIU Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Phones that will play the emergency message through its speakers and all Emergency call boxes around every campus.

After the first set of testing, the Department of Emergency Management has seen significant amount of improvement, especially with a faster performance of the text messages.

"The ability to activate all the different communication platforms from a single system makes the system much easier to acti-

vate during an emergency situation and the recent test proved the system could accomplish the task," said Aikens.

According to the online survey available after the first testing phase, out of 3,195 respondents; only 3 percent did not receive an alert, but 81 percent received alerts within 5 minutes of it being sent and 92 percent were notified within 30 minutes.

"I like the whole texting alert system because if there's an emergency I will be able to know right away," said Hugo Mujica, junior biology major.

With the recent increase of crimes such as the

CAREER TALK



FRANCESCA ANCHELLA/THE BEACON

Professionals in the Hispanic media industry visited to speak to students and answer questions they had about furthering their career during Hispanics in the Media Roundtable.

the system to be more flexible and as fast as possible in warning the FIU community," said Aikens.

requested to the University leadership. Future plans, according to Aikens, are underway and will include

and even alerts to personal computers.

For the notification alerts to function properly and to reach to the entire University community, everyone is encouraged to sign up through the Department of Emergency Management's website and stay connected via social media, email and the FIU main website. Although individuals have an option to opt out of the alert system, FIU Alert highly recommends to remain subscribed to the system.

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“FIU Alert will include notifications via the FIU email, social media [...], voice calls to subscribed users, outdoor speakers that will be played throughout campus, FIU Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Phones that will play the emergency message through its speakers and all Emergency call boxes around every campus.”

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13

**SPC MOVIE:
"NOW YOU SEE ME"**

WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: WUC Theatre

**SPC MOVIE:
"NOW YOU SEE ME"**

WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: WUC 157

**SPC DANCING WITH THE
WOLFE: BELLY DANCING**

WHEN: 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC Rec. Center

THURSDAY, NOV. 14

**INT'L DAY FOR
THE ELIMINATION
OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

**INTERNATIONAL
LATE DAY LATTE**

WHEN: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: AC I

SOC CLUB FAIR

WHEN: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: AC II Outside

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shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary and the Colorado movie theater, "these types of emergency situations is what necessitates

The update has been a developing project since the summer of 2012 through a strategic initiative

new mediums of notification to be added in a near future. Such include ticker on University cable TV

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