

Undocumented Panthers fight for tuition equity

ADRIAN SUAREZ-AVILA
Staff Writer

Growing up, Francis Tume hated summers as he worked.

The junior international business major, determined not to be held back by circumstances, worked three jobs to gather money to pay for the out-of-state tuition fees he was being charged as an undocumented student.

Yet, even then, making ends meet was no easy task.

“My family and I were never able to go on vacation,” Tume

said. “I didn’t get the chance to be like other students and go out to relax. I had to work.”

But in the fall, FIU became Florida’s first public college to offer an out-of-state tuition waiver for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students.

Despite the doors that have been opened for Tume and other students as a result of the waiver, the battle for tuition equity must still be fought before equality is realized.

“As of right now, there is no legislation toward getting

GREEN IN THE DARK



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Yiqiong Liang, (right) graduate Hospitality major, sings “Fallin’” by Alicia Keys during the Black Out Green On event. The event was organized to spread awareness about sustainability and included multiple free giveaways for students.

“DACA isn’t a panacea, but it’s certainly a long way from where it was before.”

Eduardo Román
Professor
College of Law

tuition equity for undocumented students in the state of Florida,” said Claudio Galaz, a junior history major and president of Students Working for Equal Rights. “That’s one of the things we’re fighting for.”

According to Galaz, although FIU is the only university in the

state to offer tuition waivers, it offers them only to students who are eligible for DACA. Those who are ineligible for the program’s benefits must remain paying out-of-state tuition fees.

“It seems rather exclusive to me that these benefits are only for DACA students,” Galaz said.

Although students secured by DACA waive the out-of-state tuition fee, which is three times the cost of in-state tuition, applying for the program still comes at a cost.

SEE TUITION, PAGE 2

Students to celebrate Passover urged to make early accommodations for finals

ALONSO MONTANO
Staff Writer

This semester’s last week of classes and final exams will overlap with the last two days of the Jewish holiday Passover.

The University announced in a memorandum by the Division of Student Affairs that students who are observant members of the Jewish faith should notify their instructors so that accommodations can be planned

accordingly.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Bejar was not available for an interview, but she did answer some questions via email.

Bejar advised students who will be affected by this scheduling conflict to notify their professors as soon as possible.

“The students should already have notified their faculty if there is a conflict with one of their scheduled final exams,” Bejar

“We are always open to exploring opportunities to improve our ability to deliver high quality instruction without adversely creating conflicts for members of our university.”

Elizabeth Bejar
Vice Provost
Academic Affairs

wrote. “If they have not done so, they should do so immediately.”

She confirmed that the University will provide accommodations on a

professor-student level.

However, President of Shalom FIU Fay Goldstein, a senior international relations major, had an experience on the contrary.

“I informed the professor right when the test date was assigned and he refused to change it,” Goldstein said.

She went to the student ombudsman, who then proceeded to communicate with the professor, but according to Goldstein the professor wouldn’t respond to emails.

The ombudsman then went to the dean of Student Affairs at the time, who Goldstein said was able to convince the professor to

allow her to take the exam before the holiday.

“But the professor didn’t want to make a second test for me, so instead he pushed off the test and added another chapter that we hadn’t learned,” Goldstein said.

“Officially and legally, professors need to accommodate religious observances,” she said. Sometimes professors do not accommodate students.

SEE FINALS, PAGE 2

Frost says sculptures are in despair and lacking funds

JESSICA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Emmett Young, the assistant director of marketing and communications for The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, emailed Student Media on Feb. 10 concerned about the “state of disrepair” of outside sculptures that she said were being threatened for removal due to insufficient funds.

“We at the Frost Art Museum want to

advise the students, faculty [and] administration here on this campus that at least one well-recognized outside sculpture will be removed shortly because of its state of disrepair,” Young wrote. “Others, including Marty’s Cube, may follow unless funds can be raised to repair and maintain them. We think it is important that everyone understand what is happening and why so that, hopefully, some solution can be found.”

However, Young and Director Carol Damian have since declined to comment or

further “advise” the students at all.

On Feb. 26, Student Media received the following response:

“We are not declining to comment because we are being uncooperative; we just believe you would have a more complete treatment of the subject if you waited until we work through the process,” Young wrote.

Carol Damian, director and chief curator of the museum, also emailed Student Media.

“We are working diligently with the university, in fact, a new Art in State Buildings Administrator – the person overseeing much of the sculpture – has just been approved to begin work and that will make a difference in the process for caring,” Damian wrote.

Damian refused further comment. The specific sculpture that is threatened to be removed has not been revealed.

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WORLD NEWS

Tokyo bitcoin exchange files for bankruptcy

The Mt. Gox bitcoin exchange in Tokyo filed for bankruptcy protection Friday and its chief executive said 850,000 bitcoins, worth several hundred million dollars, are unaccounted for.

The exchange's CEO Mark Karpeles appeared before Japanese TV news cameras, bowing deeply. He said a weakness in the exchange's systems was behind a massive loss of the virtual currency involving 750,000 bitcoins from users and 100,000 of the company's own bitcoins. That would amount to about \$425 million at recent prices. The online exchange's unplugging earlier this week and accusations it had suffered a catastrophic theft have drawn renewed regulatory attention to a currency created in 2009 as a way to make transactions across borders without third parties such as banks. It remains unclear if the missing bitcoins were stolen, voided by technological flaws or both.

Russian opposition leader under house arrest

A Moscow court has put Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny under house arrest, forbidding him from using the Internet or communicating with anyone outside his family. The house arrest is for two months but can be extended. Navalny was sentenced to seven days in prison on Monday for participating in an anti-government protest and was taken to court on Friday from the detention center. He is a leading opposition figure and anti-corruption crusader. Navalny and his supporters published a damning report in January, documenting corruption in the preparations for the Sochi Olympics. His spokeswoman Anna Veduta said in a Twitter post that Navalny is barred from writing, texting, posting messages on social networks or using the Internet. He is allowed to communicate only with his family. He can receive visitors, Veduta said, but not speak to them.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 68, in the article titled "Monologues give voice to vaginas, gender issues," Juanita Olivo's last name was incorrectly spelled as "Olivio."

In the same issue, under the photo titled "Life in Law," Johnson Atis' name was misspelled as "Johonson."

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

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Passover pushes finals closer

FINALS, PAGE 1

"It is normally through the instructor or professor," Bejar wrote. "If for some reason this does not occur, the student should reach out to the department chair as a next step."

Goldstein's finals are not affected this semester, but she said professors have been accommodating since two years ago.

"Usually the professors are flexible if students inform them of the issue in advance," she said.

Goldstein also mentioned that some of her friends in Shalom FIU were experiencing family related scheduling conflicts.

"The issues I've been hearing is the fact that some students cannot go home to family (that live out of state) over the holiday because of having to miss finals," she said, later pointing out that some are having a "tough time figuring out a good study time because the holiday takes up tons of

time and prep."

Bejar mentioned that scheduling conflicts have occurred in the past, and they were addressed in a way similar to how this present conflict is being addressed: by providing "reasonable accommodations."

According to Bejar, a "reasonable accommodation" means that the student is not negatively impacted by the conflict whatsoever.

"For example – an alternate date and/or an alternate assignment that is of consistent rigor would be appropriate," Bejar wrote. "The faculty have to balance the integrity of the course with the accommodation for the students."

When asked whether students of other religions could ask for the same reasonable accommodations, Bejar responded that the University always allows accommodations for religious conflicts.

"We acknowledge that our community of students is reflective

of the diverse spectrum of world religions," Bejar wrote. "We are always open to exploring opportunities to improve our ability to deliver high quality instruction without adversely creating conflicts for members of our university community—students, faculty and staff."

According to Bejar, the University always tries to minimize scheduling conflicts whenever the circumstances allow it.

"When we have greater flexibility in the semester, we try to adjust dates accordingly," Bejar wrote. "As an institution reflective of our diverse community we continually strive to find the right balance between a level of academic integrity and being inclusive and responsive to the needs of our community."

Raul Herrera contributed to this report.

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Struggle continues for DACA students despite tuition waiver

TUITION, PAGE 1

In addition to needing to provide valid documentation stating that the student is eligible for the benefits of deferred action, the student must also submit a \$465 fee for the application.

SWER hosts DACA clinics, working with pro-bono lawyers at the University's College of Law to apply for the program, to help students with the process.

As part of the clinic, FIU students were able to apply for DACA without having to worry about the application fee, although other fees, such as those required by the Department of Homeland Security, still apply.

"What SWER is working on is tuition equity for all undocumented students in Florida, not just DACA recipients," Galaz said. "Tuition equity has been made possible in other 18 states, and that's what we want to accomplish in Florida."

The struggle to ensure tuition equity in the state of Florida is one that has been dealt with for years, and a struggle that students and advocates hope to overcome this year, according to Galaz.

Despite the determination possessed by some to secure tuition equity for all undocumented students in the state, others are less optimistic about the undertaking.

"I think that fighting for tuition equity for all

“As of right now, there is no legislation toward getting tuition equity for undocumented students in the state of Florida.”

Claudio Galaz
President
Students Working for Equal Rights

undocumented students in the state presents a problem," said Ediberto Román, professor at the College of Law who advocated for the waiver. "At this junction, I think it will be foolhardy to take on the issue of statewide tuition equity."

Román cites conflicting state and federal immigration legal issues as difficult aspects that advocates will have to deal with on the road to tuition equity.

Some students have come to terms with this reality.

"We worked all of last year on a federal comprehensive reform, but we got nothing out of that," Galaz said. "This year we are taking a step back to work just in our state, supporting progressive senators like Dwight Bullard who are working on achieving tuition equity."

Román suggests starting work on a small scale and gradually expanding.

"I commend the legislative representatives who want to pass new tuition equity laws, but I believe it's best if initiatives are taken to provide in-state tuition for DACA students statewide, and then initia-

tives to secure tuition equity around the country," Román said.

But he said there is no room for doubt that progress has been made.

"DACA isn't a panacea,

but it's certainly a long way from where it was before," Román said.

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Immigration reform hits Miami through modern technology

SANDEEP VARRY
Contributing Writer

“Can tech rebuild the middle class and American dream in the 21st century?” Well, before you try to answer that question, answer this, what exactly does that question have to do with the immigration reforms? If you are done taking a shot at them, let me lay out the answers for both these questions. In a room filled with tech savvy people with foreign passports, a panel of five sat down to discuss the importance of the U.S. immigration reform.

FWD.us, as stated on their website, is an organization which was started by key leaders in the tech community to promote policies to keep the United States and its citizens competitive in a global economy—including comprehensive immigration reform and education reform. After seeing an initial success in San Francisco, the organization picked Miami to promote the initiative, and the question mentioned at the beginning of this article is what they chose to name this event.

“After seeing an initial success in San Francisco, the organization picked Miami to promote the initiative.”

The choice to pick Miami was not that hard, remarked the event’s moderator Joe Green, who is also the President and Founder of FWD.us. Green expressed that apart from Silicon Valley, Miami is one of the very few cities in the U.S. which has a great concentration of tech savvy immigrants. Before introducing the members of the panel, Green invited Antón Chabaud—an Argentinian whose company was picked by Facebook to be its first preferred partner in Latin America—to share his personal immigration story.

The event was held on Monday evening at Venture Hive, a central hub for startup groups and entrepreneurs, whose founder and CEO Susan Amat was also part of the panel. The other panelists included Tony Villamil, a research professor and dean of the School of Business at St. Thomas University who is also a member of the President’s Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. and Diane Sanchez, the CEO of the Technology Foundations of the Americas. Last but not least, Seth Cassel who is currently the president and partner of Every-Mundo, which provides multilingual online marketing strategy implementation services.

Taking the stage first, Villamil strongly emphasized the importance of smart immigration reforms. He remarked that special attention is needed towards getting the youth of this country educated, especially in the STEM

fields, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. He expressed that the tech and entrepreneurs should work together to achieve this goal in the post industrial economy. On slightly contrary lines, Cassel pointed out that until the new generation of school kids graduate with tech degrees, the U.S. should attract the best brains from all around the world and create the necessary market into which the American tech graduates can join and contribute.

Cassel said that in his company Every-Mundo, around 25 employees were non U.S. citizens while only four were born in America. Cassel expressed the dynamic nature of what he referred to as “the online ecosystem” and the importance of staying updated on the latest in technology. He sadly remarked that instead of trying to retain the talent which comes to the U.S from all around the world, the present immigration system is standing as a barricade between the outside talents and inside growth.

Diane Sanchez, who agreed with Villamil’s strategy, also added that the U.S. needs to focus on an immediate solution to train workforce in special skills which are in demand. Amat singled out the importance of Miami over other tech cities and stated that Miami is not only becoming a center for technology, but is also a very welcoming place to live with families. She also added that “if we [Miami] can’t support them [techies], we will lose them to Silicon Valley.”

Attendees Diego Santivañez and Yosaf Zeyed, born in Peru and Libya respectively, exclaimed that they were excited to know about the event and have been following FWD.us online. Santivañez, who is a Chef and Zeyed, who is an anesthesiologist at Jackson hospital, collectively expressed that they were primarily attending to know how they can take part in the reform and get benefited in return. Marcela Ganem, one of the 25 non-American employees at EveryMundo and an FIU alumni who loves Miami and contributes to the U.S. economy by paying the same amount of taxes as a U.S. citizen would, can’t help feeling like an outsider every time she comes back from a trip to her native country, Mexico, when she has to pass through the immigration check.

During the concluding remarks, Amat strongly advised the new startups and entrepreneurs to consider the equity incentive plans which make the employees a part of the growth. Villamil resonated the same advice and asked to push for smart immigration reforms. Green, as a part of his concluding remarks, said that everyone can help by sharing their stories and in turn push the Congress towards passing the immigration reforms. Overall it was a great turnout and instead of dealing solely on the topic of immigration, the event embedded the role of technology and the tech savvy workforce in building the future of America, and explored how immigration reform can help achieve this goal.

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FIU football expected to turn their record around

JOSE VELEZ
Contributing Writer

One is how many times the FIU football team tasted victory in the disappointing 2013 season, which involved one of the youngest teams in college football, a new coach, a new mindset, and a new regime. Head Coach Ron Turner and his staff have brought experience to a young football club and last year’s nightmare season will be used as fuel for the 2014 season.

Let’s begin with this year’s recruiting class that involved Dillard High School wide

receiver and former University of Miami commit Dennis Turner. It may be far-fetched to some, but Dennis Turner has drawn comparisons to former FIU football star T. Y. Hilton, who is now a promising player of the Indianapolis Colts.

The University has brought in a number of recruits who can provide help in their freshman year and make an impact. Another prospect to keep an eye out for is Jacksonville Raines High School running back Alex Gardner. ESPN.com and 247.com has him as a three-star running

back while others have him at two stars. Either way, FIU scored big with this recruit.

The 2014 FIU Panthers football team will go into this season with a better grasp of Coach Turner’s “pro-style” offense, which should have a better results than the ones we saw in 2013. With experience of the 2013 players, a decent recruiting class and returning coaches that will add energy to the team, expect FIU football to turn things around. Patience will play a role, but the path taken is the correct one.

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Political corruption in Venezuela way too high

PATRICIA SEGOVIA
Contributing Writer

My mom lives in a pretty secure and pleasant neighborhood in Caracas. She was walking back home from a friend’s house around 6:15 p.m. when about 50 feet from reaching the guard house of her street, they saw two men on a motorbike. One of the men ordered them from the top of his voice to stand against the wall and to give him the bags. Then showed them a gun he had under his sweatshirt and screamed that he would kill them. My mom’s friend was in shock, but my mom had been robbed three times in the last two years, so she reacted. She immediately gave him the handbag and her friend did the same. The man put both bags around his arm and took off.

The level of insecurity in Venezuela has gone out of hand. People can’t use their cell-phones in public places, wear jewelry or own a decent car without the fear that they might get robbed. They can’t go out to restaurants or bars without the concern that they might be kidnapped, day or night. Citizens are afraid to walk in the streets of their own neighborhoods. This violence has remained for the past decade and people are tired of it. They’re especially upset that the government isn’t doing anything to improve this situation.

Feb. 12 was the day when thousands of citizens, mostly university students, went out to the streets of Caracas to protest against the government of Nicolas Maduro. The protests were aimed towards the insecurity, unpunished violence, the political corruption and the great economic crisis that the country has been facing for a while now.

The protests have continued on a daily basis in various cities of the country. What started as a peaceful student protest has turned into a political revolt between the opposition party and the socialist government.

According to a Venezuelan non-govern-

mental organization, innocent students have been captured and tortured by the national police and several have been shot to death during the protests.

Opposition leader Leopoldo López was put under arrest by the national police for causing social agitation and encouraging anti-government protests. Despite the arrest, the students have remained in the streets facing the military police.

National violence is not the only problem affecting Venezuelan citizens. There’s also a lot of food shortages. People can’t find basic supplies. The same fact is occurring along the medical industry. There is a lack of medicines in pharmacies and of necessary instruments in hospitals.

The government has banned media communications by closing and buying TV channels and obstructing the supply of paper to certain newspapers. They fear the spread of information, locally and worldwide.

As students in Miami, home to many Venezuelan citizens, we can help Venezuela by informing others and sharing Facebook posts, Instagram photos, Tweets or simply bringing it up in conversation. We must take advantage of social networks.

What began with a few people of different countries showing their support to Venezuela, has now turned into thousands of people supporting the cause worldwide. People are using hashtags like #SOSVenezuela #PrayForVenezuela and #ImYourVoiceVenezuela to spread the word.

Little by little we can cooperate to help the country of our friends and coworkers. No more corruption, no more violence, no more unpunished crime, no more food shortages, no more media blackouts, no more political persecution, no more injustice.

-opinion@fiusm.com

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A new way to experience traveling

SAMANTHA DAVIS
Staff Writer

I haven't met many people who don't want to travel at some point in their lives. Most people talk about how they want to travel the country and the world.

They dream of road trips across the U.S. with their friends and flying around the globe. Some are able to travel to various countries by volunteering, working, interning, studying or backpacking. But a guy by the name of Erick Cedeño travels in a different way: by means of pedaling. If you haven't heard much about him, he's sure to become a familiar face in the future.

This cyclist has biked from Miami to Key West, Vancouver, Canada to Tijuana, Mexico, and San Augustine, Fla. to New York City. Cedeño has turned his love of cycling into a lifestyle, as he only commutes by bike. During his bike ride from Vancouver to Tijuana, he was immersed in rich scenery. "About 85 to 90 percent of the time I had the Pacific Coast to my right," Cedeño recalled. "I would be riding and all of the sudden I'd see a whale. I would see dolphins and I would always see sea lions. It was just amazing."

Cedeño was born in Panama City, Panama and came to Miami when he was 14. His love for traveling came from his mother, who pulled him out of school for almost three weeks when he was in middle school to see the Mayan Pyramids in Mexico. Cedeño remembers his father asking his mother why she did that

and her response was, "He's learning more here than he does in school."

"I'm a wanderer, and ever since I was a little kid I loved exploring and seeing new places. I was born to the perfect mother because I don't think any other mom would have been able to handle me."

Cedeño's mother traveled a lot and she inspired him to be adventurous and explore new territory. She did it by plane and he does it by bike. He's biked through mountains in the Pacific and the Appalachian Mountains as well. When he bikes, he doesn't stop. Not even when he's going through mountains or up a steep hill. "Bicycle riding has taught me how to stay in the moment and that's what keeps me going. I don't think about my destination. I only think about the next 10 or 15 miles. I don't think about 2300 miles because that's too overwhelming."

His most recent endeavor is remarkable. On Oct. 27, 2013 he embarked on a 32-day bike ride from Congo Square in New Orleans to Niagara Falls, Ontario along one of the historical Underground Railroad routes.

Cedeño wanted to experience what it was like for enslaved people to follow The Drinking Gourd to freedom, sleep in an Underground Railroad safe house and gain an intimate understanding of what runaway enslaved persons had to endure in order to find freedom. "I love traveling through history. I did the Underground Railroad journey because I was able to see what I learned in high school and college. I was

able to see it in life. Some of the cabins, some of the history of Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Tubman. I was able to really see it with my own eyes."

He talked about how he was amazed by the complex system of tunnels and the way that people navigated by foot. Cedeño explored underground tunnels that slaves passed through and got an intimate look at historical sites such as The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, The Ripley House and the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln--a cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Cedeño talked about the joys and challenges of his journey on Feb. 13, at an event hosted by the African and African Diaspora Studies Program called "Retracing the Underground Railroad, a Lecture by Erick Cedeño" on the second floor in the Graham Center.

He explained how it took him months to plan such a large-scale trip. One of his tasks was researching different routes, most of which he did online. He discovered the Adventure Cycling Association, a website based in Montana that has different routes in the United States.

He also got on YouTube and found Peg Leg Joe's song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" and used the lyrics to this song as his route.

Cedeño also had to spend time figuring out where he would stay and plan as carefully as he could what he would eat. Out of the 32 days, he only stayed at a house twice because he wanted to experience the hardships of runaway slaves, rather than



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICK CEDEÑO

The Rankin House, located on Liberty Hill which overlooks the Ohio River was one of the original Underground Railroad Stations, which aided more than 2,000 slaves escaping to freedom, and sometimes having as many as 12 escapees being hidden in the Rankin home at one time.

the convenience of a hotel.

Just two days into his trip he ran out of water and it got to the point that he was drinking his own saliva.

Fortunately, a lady driving by stopped and gave him water. "I learned that there's some beautiful people out there," Cedeño said. He encountered many people who helped him out and had great conversations with him.

Out of all the challenges on his trip, he faced one of the toughest just 15 miles away from his destination. Someone stole his bike along with his camera and some of his SD cards while he was inside a Walgreens store.

Cedeño didn't let this setback stop him though: he was able to finish the journey on a bike given to him by the host family he

had stayed with in Niagara Falls.

Cedeño's story is a true testament of his self-discipline and determination. After having successfully biked along one of the original Underground Railroad routes, what's next for him? I had the pleasure of meeting with Cedeño one-on-one after his talk at FIU and he told me about what he's planning on doing next. "One of my dreams is to bike from here to my home country, Panama. That's about a four month trip." He's also planning on biking across Africa, starting from the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt and ending in Cape Town, South Africa which is roughly a four month trip as well.

Cedeño has learned quite a bit about people, places and life in general from all the biking he's done. His

advice to travelers is to "be open to all possibilities. Food, culture, lodging. Just be open because what travel does is open your mind and your horizons to different things and it also builds character."

Cedeño also sees travel as more than just having fun and sightseeing. "Travel is more than just seeing different things. It's what we need to evolve as human beings and it teaches us things that classes and books can't."

Keep an eye out for Erick Cedeño because he has many more amazing biking trips ahead. And even if biking across the country's not your thing, find ways to challenge yourself and get out there and travel when you have the chance.

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Bringing awareness towards Islamic culture

CRISTINA GARCIA
Staff Writer

It was November 2012, the morning after I had shared the truth about my identity with my parents.

It all started when I let slip an "assalam alaikum," or "peace be upon you," when I answered a phone call. As soon as I set down the phone, my parents confronted me about my growing collection of Islamic literature and my interest in working for a Muslim publisher.

Tired of hiding the truth, I told them I had converted several months back. The sound of their hearts breaking filled the room. My mother ran into the room, crying, alternating between saying it was all her fault and asking

me how I could do that to them. My father smoldered on the couch, cursing the day he bought me a computer.

At the time, my parents thought I had been brainwashed into joining a cult. They thought I had rejected Catholicism, the family, everything they had ever taught me in favor of a burqa. They didn't know anything about Islam besides what they saw on TV and they were scared for me. Sadly, they were not alone.

According to the Pew Research Center, 55 percent of Americans feel they don't know very much about Islam.

"For a Muslim in the U.S., especially with how the media portrays Muslims, it's tempting to want to hide your religion," said Farouk Farouk, the

president of the Muslim Student Association at FIU. "Joining MSA helped me stand up for my religion."

Luckily for converts like me, Muslim Students Association National began a project in early 1990s by the name of Islam Awareness Week. During this week, local Muslim Student Associations provide campuses with resources and activities to help people better understand Islam.

This year, MSA at FIU will be hosting Islamic Awareness Week from March 4 to March 6. There will be three lectures, one each day and topics will include the spread of Islam, foreign policy and convert stories.

According to Farouk, "Since it's Islamic Awareness Week, we are gearing it towards the entire University

community. We want to focus on more contemporary issues that are prevalent in the world," said the senior biology major. "Now, in respect to what's happening in Syria and Palestine, we thought it best to have someone talk about foreign policy and Islam."

No matter the person's experience or knowledge, Farouk said he was sure they will leave knowing something new.

"When we have our question-and-answer session, that allows people to ask questions. From that we could get a good exchange of dialogue," said Farouk.

I can tell you, that attending MSA events and surrounding myself with supportive people makes a big difference. At home, the subject is

treated like Lord Voldemort, it's that-which-shall-not-be-named.

Adnan Samma, senior economics and international relations major, said "There are a few things people need to know: there is one Islam, one Quran and one Sunnah."

The Quran is the holy book for Muslims and the Sunnah is the way of life prescribed to Muslims by the Prophet Muhammad.

According to Samma, "Islam is not a religion, but a way of life."

Whether you know nothing about Islam, or a lot, I recommend you attend because when 23 percent of the world's population is Muslim[c], not knowing enough about it is a problem.

-cristina.garcia@fiusm.com

The Halfways discuss their music and the local scene

**JUNETTE REYES &
DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS**
FIUSM Staff

In the series of sit downs with local artists, FIUSM Student Media has had the opportunity to sit down and interview artist Smurphio from the local electronic funk band known as Afrobeta, local hip-hop artist Flight Williams from the collective rap group known as Outta This World, local DJ and producer Jesse Perez, Harlowe G. and Lauren from Jean Jacket, Juan Turros and Michelle Forman of ¡Suénalo!, and members Michelangelo, Alana Dym, ChrisP and Sean of The Cornerstoners.

This time around, FIUSM got to interview up-and-coming local band The Halfways in collaboration with the WRGP Radiate FM program called Local Radiation.

The Halfways is comprised of rhythm guitarist and vocalist Daniel Fernandez, lead guitarist Alejandro Facusse and bassist Harrison Kelner.

All three members performed acoustically live in the studio during Local Radiation.

How did you guys form?

Daniel: I started writing songs three years ago and then in 2012 I recorded an album. Alejandro and I know each other from back home in Honduras, which is where we're from.

He decided to move to Miami in April of last year and since then, we've been practicing together. And then we met Harrison, a.k.a curious George Harrison, at Chur-

chill's when he saw us playing a set there. He lives in my building, curiously enough, and he became the bass player.

How would you describe your sound?

Daniel: I think it's a mixture. Our sound is very different live say in a bar for example.

We toned it down for the radio. Live, I would say it has like a jam, progressive feeling.

If there were bands today that I could say we sound a little bit like, I would say White Denim, maybe Unknown Mortal Orchestra.

And those are current bands. But classically, I say we sound or at least we're very influenced by bands like The Who, Grateful Dead and obviously The Beatles and Pink Floyd.

You've mentioned that your sound has changed. How would you explain that transformation?

Daniel: Well, inevitably, when more musicians are added to the mix, the sound changes completely and it's not a conscious decision.

When I was playing alone, I was writing songs one way but now that I'm writing songs for a full band, it inevitably sounds different. And when you hear us playing together, it just rocks more.

It's harder.

Alejandro: Your album doesn't have very strong percussion. The percussion, actual drums, brings a lot of heavy elements into the mix.

Daniel: Whereas what I

recorded alone would be psychedelic folk, what we're doing now would be more like jam, progressive rock, even with elements of fusion. Songs change a lot within themselves.

How do you compose your music?

Daniel: The way we do music is that I write the songs and then we adapt them as a band. Really, there are no limits to where a song can go. If you listen to these songs played here today in a rock setting, they're going to sound much more different. They just have more effects pedals to begin with, more grit.

What is the meaning behind the track titled "Rope"?

Daniel: To be honest, sometimes I write songs and I don't really know what they're about until after. But if I had to assign a meaning to this song, I would say when you screw up, sometimes it's best to leave things alone and not correct. Because sometimes when you try to correct them, you end of messing things up more.

What is the meaning behind the track titled "Gnarltrees"?

Daniel: That was actually the first song that I wrote that I was willing to show people. To be playing it on the radio is pretty cool. It's about "The Empire Strikes Back," when they're in Dagobah and their ship is stuck.

How did "Burning House" come about, particularly the intro?

Daniel: Just in the beginning we were trying to incorporate the sound of Venice. We were messing around and tremolo picking is really fun, so we wanted to incorporate it into the song. We were trying to start the song and we were just fooling around.

Where have you performed?

Daniel: We have performed at The Electric Pickle, at The Stage. Then we performed at other places that I'd rather not mention. We've performed at Churchill's too. We've done smaller things.

Alejandro: Tobacco Road. We played at The Hard Rock once.

Daniel: It's not as rocking as it sounds but it was fun.

Alejandro: It was on Halloween and everyone was dressed up, so it was pretty cool.

Do you improvise during live performances?

Alejandro: Yes! We just like having fun and we like to keep things fun and the way to keep things fun is just to improvise and see what comes out of certain situations.

Live, there are certain jam parts in between songs where there's a lot of space where we can just improvise.

Daniel: The structures of the songs are pretty much decided on but what we play during each one

is not necessarily always the same, so I guess we do improvise.

How have the crowds reacted to you?

Daniel: Well, everybody seems to like it but they're just not really used to this kind of sound, especially here in Miami. So it gets them by surprise, which I think is a good thing.

What are your thoughts on Miami's music scene?

Daniel: I think the best way to put it is that it's incomplete. There is a bunch of stuff boiling and it's good but I feel like if we want to create something worth being musicians for, then I think all musicians are going to have to work together to make something that jells. We're not quite there yet, but at the same time I feel like Miami is still growing as a city and the music will grow along with it. I'm glad to be here at the start.

How do you feel you are contributing to the local music scene?

Daniel: Well first of all, I feel like we're contributing to it by being musicians. I feel like it's hard to find musicians here in Miami. Being musicians is the first step. We're still not the best we can be but I feel like we're growing along with it and hopefully one day it'll be something worth looking at.

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Comic book films to look forward to in 2014

COLUMNIST



ALEXANDRE
NUNEZ

Can we agree that 2013 in film really sucked?

Granted, 2012 was a monster year for movies and probably no other year will ever be on level with 2012, but damn, it sure felt like movies in 2013 didn't even try to bring their A game. Comic book films especially dominated 2012.

There was "Skyfall", the best bond film in years and an instant classic; granted, it's not a comic book, but it's basically taken the form of what comic book films aspire to be, a long successful franchise spanning over fifty, yes, count it, fifty years with twenty-three films.

"The Dark Knight Rises", the last of Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy. Very rare, but he did it, three solid films without one falling to the trilogy curse. Finally, the summer smashing hit "The Avengers" rocked. With that said, here are the most anticipated comic book movies I'm looking forward to this year.

"300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE"

Release Date: March 7, 2014

About damn time. I constantly hear people talk about how the first was good but that it wasn't historically accurate. Guess what? It's not supposed to be. It's based on a graphic novel.

This is not a bio film or a historic war film, this is a comic book film and a really awesome one at that.

It's not meant to be accurate, it's meant to blow your mind. Here's hoping the sequel does as well.

"CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER"

Release Date: April 4, 2014

I have to be honest, I really wasn't a big fan of the first one.

However, there are two reasons why I am looking forward to seeing this one at the theater.

One, Anthony Mackie and Robert



So I'm excited to see a big budget film. And Robert Redford, still a hunk, still really cool, and a legend on and off screen.

Redford. Anthony Mackie is one of those young talents that is just remarkable.

His work on small indie films is really good.

So I'm excited to see him in a big budget film.

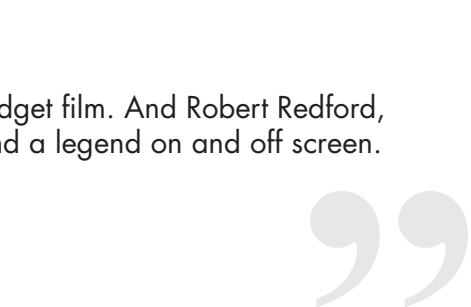
And Robert Redford, still a hunk, still really cool, and a legend on and off screen. If there is any superhero film that he'd be perfect in as any character, Captain America had to be it.

The Sundance Kid in a comic book film, who would of thought? Now my second reason is the following film.

"TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES"

Release Date: August 8, 2014

I wasn't too excited when I heard Michael Bay's name attached to this, but then I saw the toys and some leaked pictures and it has entirely changed my attitude. I've been saying from the start though and I'm going to continue saying it, I'm 25 years old and this movie is made for me, so back off children. Megan Fox as April O'Neil, yes please. Plus, its official, the first teaser trailer will



debut with Captain America: The Winter Soldier in April. So that's why I'm looking forward to seeing Caps. The Turtles are back! Cowabunga! Go ninja, go ninja, go ninja, go! Okay, I'll stop now.

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"

Release Date: August 1, 2014

I don't know a single thing about these characters or the comic, but I saw the set pictures and the trailer and I've been hooked. Its seems like it will be Marvel Studios' most intriguing film since The Avengers and I can't wait to see it. It looks like it'll be one of the more bizarre and entertaining comic book films to date.

"SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR"

Release Date: August 22, 2014

I'm getting shivers just writing about this one. Along with the Ninja Turtles movie, this one also has a tight grip on my heart. I feel ashamed and I will forever live with this shame that I did see the first one at the movie theater.

This will not happen again. Since 2005, nine long years, and they've been long, we have yet to bear witness to anything like "Sin City". The whole gang is back together again, Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke, Rosario Dawson, Jessica Alba, and Jamie King. However, new faces like Josh Brolin, Jamie Chung, Ray Liotta, Jeremy Piven, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Eva Green will also appear.

Is Frank Miller the king of comic books? It's a debatable question, but when he puts pen to paper he constantly makes history and when he stood behind the camera with Robert Rodriguez the world of comic book movies exploded in a good way.

They're back at it again, here's to another explosion, and this time I'm going to be there to see it.

Now I could've added "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past" and not to say that I'm not looking forward to them because I am, but there's like so many Spider-Man films already and I've lost count of how many X-men films there are, that I think it's safe to say those two franchises are not going to disappear from the screen any time soon.

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FOOTBALL

Melvin added by Turner to football coaching staff

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Head Coach Ron Turner had only a single season with defensive line coach Andre Patterson before he made the move back to the NFL.

Patterson was brought in by new Minnesota Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer to lead his defensive line.

That left a vacancy open for the same position at FIU. In came Randy Melvin.

Melvin, who has many years of experience, will return for the second time to college level football.

He is in the Eastern Illinois University hall of fame after playing defensive line from 1978 to 1981.

Directly after that is when his coaching career began.

He started off coaching

at the high school level and even spent five seasons at his alma mater, Aurora West High School (Aurora, Ill.) from 1983 to 1987.

That includes being the head coach from 1985 to 1987.

Following his stint at the high school level he was brought back by his collegiate alma mater to lead the FIU Panthers defensive line.

He was a member of the Panthers staff for seven seasons.

After that he made stops at the University of Wyoming and Purdue University before getting his first job in the NFL.

Melvin participated in the NFL's Minority Coaching Fellowship program from 1995 to 1997 while he was still at the collegiate level working with organizations like the Denver Broncos and

the New York Jets.

While with the Jets, he was introduced to coach Bill Belichick.

When Belichick was named the head coach of the New England Patriots in 2000, he brought Melvin is to coach the defensive line.

Melvin was a member of the staff for two seasons, which includes the 2001 Super Bowl winning team for the Patriots.

The 2002 season brought him back for a small stint to the college level being the defensive line coach at Rutgers University until 2004.

2005 brought Melvin back to the NFL when his defensive coordinator with the Jets, Romeo Crennel, was named the Head Coach of the Cleveland Browns.

His time with the Browns lasted until a 4-12 season in 2008 when the general manager and Crennel were fired.

This led to his second

return to the collegiate coaching level when he took a position with Temple University for a single season and helped them back to a bowl game.

Something the Owls had not experienced since Melvin himself was a collegiate athlete in 1979.

After that successful season he rejoined the Scarlet Knights coaching staff at Rutgers University where he was also only present for a single season.

Melvin then spent a season in the Canadian Football League as the defensive coach for the BC Lions.

That led to his return to the NFL under Schiano, who had been the headcoach during his second stay at Rutgers for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

He remained there until Schiano was let go following this past 2013 campaign.

In a press release Turner

spoke on bringing in a former colleague.

"Randy Melvin brings a great deal of experience and expertise to our coaching staff," Turner said. "He will be a huge asset with defensive schemes and our weekly game plan. He's someone that I had the privilege to work with at Tampa Bay and is an excellent teacher with a tremendous work ethic. He's a man of great integrity and will be a role model for our student-athletes."

Melvin comes in to a Panthers team that ranked No. 113 in the nation for points against in the 2013 season with an average of 37.

This includes scores of 72-0 against the University of Louisville, 48-0 by Middle Tennessee State University, and 38-0 against the University of Central Florida.

The new coach will also not have the two statistically

best defensive lineman from the 2013 season due to graduation.

Isame Faciane and Greg Hickman were the top two defensive lineman on the team and combined for 97 tackles, 6.4 sacks for 33 yards lost, three quarterback hurries and two pass breakups.

Melvin will have four new recruits to work with in incoming freshmen John Broome, Jordan Ingraham, Anthony Johnson, and Justin Sibole.

He will also have converted linebacker Josh Glanton, who announced the move via twitter.

"Made that move, playing wit my hand in da dirt nie ! #Trenches," Glanton said on twitter.

Spring practice will begin in the middle of March and the annual Blue vs. Gold Spring game will be on April 12.

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RANDY MELVIN

SOFTBALL

Star freshman, coach key in Panthers rise

RUBEN PALACIOS
Sports Director

Through 16 games, the softball team has earned its brand-new stadium.

The Panthers are 12-4 and off to one of the best starts to a season in program history, despite being an extremely young team.

Out of the 18 players on the team just four of them are seniors, seven players are either freshman or redshirt freshman, three are sophomores and four are juniors.

The most intriguing youngster of them all is freshman infielder Stephanie Teixeira.

Teixeira, just an 18-year-old, is the first high school All-American to sign with FIU in in program history.

Through 16 games, she has lived up to the billing that any high school all-American provides. She's batting a team-high .444 and is tied for team high's in home runs and hits.

"A lot of people don't really expect freshman to come out strong," Teixeira said. "They expect them to be nervous and just rookies."

The freshman has made such a splash

on the collegiate scene that she has already won Conference-USA Player of the Week honors.

Teixeira went 10-for-14 during the Felsberg Memorial, accumulating four doubles and five RBIs, earning her the honor.

Teixeira has played less than a month of collegiate softball, but already commands a ton of respect from opposing pitchers and defenses.

She's gotten 12 free bases thus far, six via hit by pitch and the other half dozen via base on balls.

"I don't look at it as a bad thing," Teixeira said. "I take it as a challenge because I know they know what I can and can't hit. So to me I just take it as a challenge and I just approach everything as they want to strike me out."

Panthers Head Coach Jake Schumann is entering his third year at FIU, and has rapidly become the catalyst within the successful program.

His first two years at FIU, he guided the Panthers to an even 55-55 combined record.

But this year, Schumann's squad is winning at a .750 clip and are on pace to win

over 40 games for the first time in recent history, as the FIU Athletics page only has program history back to 2004.

"The bottom line is that we have a bunch of girls that are buying into what we're doing," Schumann said. "We're just going to continue to practice hard and show up everyday with the same mindset."

With better play comes bigger goals. After two average seasons, the Panthers are cruising to wins regularly and have their eyes set on a conference crown and beyond.

"Our number one goal is always to win the conference. We're brand new in Conference-USA this year so that's got to be the original goal it has to be number one," Schumann said. "Beyond that we'd like to win a Regional, we'd like to go to Oklahoma City and participate in the World Series. That's the ultimate goal, that's the dream."

The Panthers have marked the C-USA tournament down on their calendar, which begins on May 8, in Boca Raton.

The College World Series, FIU's ultimate goal, begins May 28 in Oklahoma City.

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Freshman Stephanie Teixeira is FIU's first high school All-American softball player.

March 2014 Regular Season Softball Schedule



March 6
Michigan State Univ.
Miami, Fla.
5 p.m.



Game 1 - March 12
Jacksonville Univ.
Jacksonville, Fla.
4 p.m.



March 13
Univ. of Central Florida
Orlando, Fla.
3 p.m.



Game 1 - March 22
Univ. of Alabama
Birmingham
Birmingham, Ala.
2 p.m.



Game 1 - March 8
UNC - Charlotte
Miami, Fla.
4 p.m.



March 13
Notre Dame
Orlando, Fla.
1 p.m.



Game 1 - March 15
McNeese State
Lake Charles, La.
6 p.m.



Game 1 - March 29
East Carolina Univ.
Miami, Fla.
4 p.m.

BASEBALL

Baseball stays undefeated; Dartmouth up next

ALEJANDRO SOLANA
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, Feb. 25, the FIU baseball team (9-0) hosted Florida Memorial University for a one game series at FIU Baseball Stadium.

Coming into the game, the Panthers were off to a hot start this season sweeping both Rutgers and Stony Brook earlier on.

It was the same storyline as the Panthers were able to continue rolling through its competition completely wiping out the Lions 23-1.

FIU was led by junior third baseman Josh Anderson in the blowout win over the Lions.

Anderson, who has been on fire lately for the Panthers, went 6-7 on the night with three RBI's and five total runs scored.

He was just one hit shy of tying the school record for most hit in a games, seven.

The Panthers were able to score in the first inning again, continuing their stretch of nine straight games (every game thus far) where the top of the lineup has been able to get things going early on.

They are the only team in the country to accomplish this, having scored a total of 21 runs in the first inning this early in the season, five of which came against FMU.

Of the 86 total runs the

Panthers have scored, 46 have come in the first three innings.

FIU recorded 19 total hits on the evening, three of which were home runs.

Junior catcher/first baseman Aramis Garcia, sophomore infielder Edwin Rios, and freshman infielder Derek Deler all went yard in the game.

It was a great night for Deler, who not only recorded his first career home run, but also his first career hit for the Panthers.

Two other Panthers, freshman outfielder Kobly Follis and junior first baseman Alec Beyersdorf, recorded their first career hits in this game also.

Senior left handed pitcher Ty Sullivan was awarded the win after pitching 4.0 innings, giving up three hits, one earned run, and striking out three Florida Memorial batters.

With the win, the Panthers improved their record to 9-0, just the second time in the last 14 years that the team has started out this hot.

The last time FIU found themselves 9-0 was in the 2000 season when they were able to jump out to a 13-0 start, eventually making it all the way to the NCAA Regionals.

This is the fourth time in school history that a team

starts out the season 9-0, and the first time for Head Coach Turtle Thomas.

The 23 runs the team was able to score was the most runs the baseball program has scored since March 2009, when the Panthers scored 24 runs against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Off to Jupiter

After their thrashing of FMU, on Thursday, Feb. 27 the Panthers jumped on a bus to meet up with the Miami Marlins in Jupiter, Fla. for a one game exhibition against the local major league ball club.

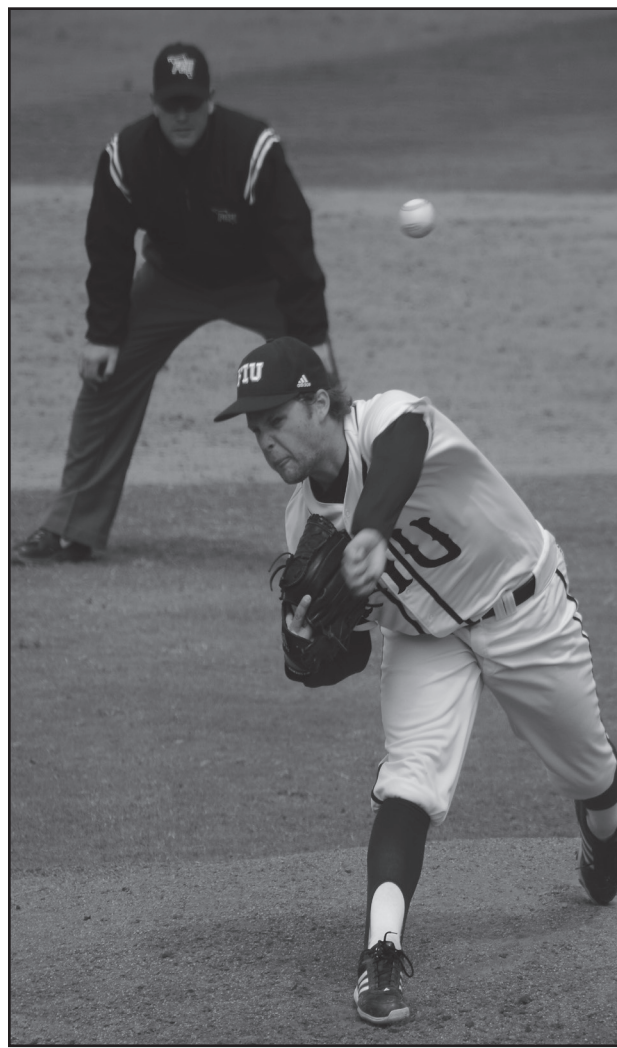
The game was played in Roger Dean Stadium, the spring training facility for the Miami Marlins.

The Panthers, albeit playing as the younger college team, did not let the thought of playing professionals stifle their play early on.

Once again the Panthers started out the game scoring plenty of runs early on, bringing in two runs in the first, and three in the top of the second.

Going into the bottom of the second inning when the Marlins were due up, FIU was leading the Marlins 5-0.

Despite having the lead early on, the Marlins were eventually able to overcome



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior Ty Sullivan is experiencing one of the best starts in school history as the Panthers are perfect through nine games.

the early deficit and take the lead in the sixth inning when they brought in six total runs, bringing the score to 9-5 where it would remain the rest of the game.

Although the Panthers were not able to hold onto the lead, it was a promising outing from the undefeated team who is currently ranked No. 30 in the nation amongst

Division-I NCAA baseball teams.

Anderson didn't seem to allow the pressure's of playing professionals get to him as he had another great outing going 3-4 with three RBI's.

In the last three games for FIU, Anderson has a gone a combined 13-16 with a total of 12 RBI's, seven total runs scored, and a homerun.

FIU pitchers struck out eight total Marlin's, coming off of strong performances from freshman right handed pitcher Chris Mourelle who struck out four of the eight and first baseman/ right handed pitcher Gunnar McNeill who gave up no runs in the 2.1 innings he pitched.

Even with this loss, the Panthers remain unbeaten at 9-0 since the game against the Marlins was only an exhibition game, not counting towards their official record.

Next up for the team is a weekend series against Dartmouth College at FIU Baseball Stadium, which will be FIU's last non-conference weekend series of the season.

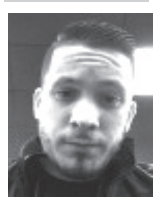
FIU has only faced Dartmouth once previously in 2010 when they fell to the Big Green 15-9 eliminating them from the Coral Gables Regional.

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COLUMN

Truth is that Flappy Bird is actually a sport

COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

A sport requires skills and is of competitive nature.

Flappy Bird is clearly a sport.

The critically acclaimed smartphone game is just as challenging to a new user than basketball is to someone who's never played it before.

The objective in Flappy Bird is to guide a flying bird, which continuously moves to the right, between oncoming pipes without making

contact with them. The bird flaps upwards every time the user taps on the screen, and users are scored based upon how many set of pipes they successfully maneuver through.

Flappy Bird requires you to be competitive, that's why it's so addictive. Users, like myself, get caught up trying to break our previous high scores and rarely get satisfied, even if we do top our previous mark.

Like any sports to which you are committed, you build this desire to keep getting better at it. Flappy Bird, as corny as it might sound, brought me back to my high school basketball days. I wasn't good right away, it took a lot of time for me to develop into a good player. I went from warming up the bench my first varsity year, to being a co-captain and the starting shooting guard.

Throughout my first go-rounds with Flappy Bird, I couldn't break into double-digit points. I was stuck with a high-score of eight for a really, really long time.

But, I got better with repetition.

Practice, like my basketball coaches use to tell me, makes perfect. With hours upon hours of play, my scores continued to rise. No longer was I stuck in single-digits. But, I still wasn't any good. I wasn't as good as I needed to be to satisfy my beyond competitive nature.

So, I kept playing the game. I told myself I would get better and I did. And I had to improve, because I had some competition. My girlfriend, who first convinced me to try the game out, had a head start playing and was ten times the player I was. Like in basketball, I couldn't stand when someone was better than me so I kept at it and my scores continued to rise. At this point, my high score was in the mid-40s. Impressive to some, but just not enough for me.

My score was improving but I still felt as if there was something I could tweak that would take me over the hump.

I found just that. My coordination while playing needed to change. At first, I was playing while holding my phone in my right hand and tapping the screen with my thumb. That needed to

change; it wasn't a stable position and I would often lose because I'd lose control of the phone in my hand.

The solution was: holding the phone firmly with my left hand while still tapping the screen with the thumb on my right hand. Finally, my coordination was down and my high scores were falling left and right. I went from scores in the 50s to 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

After posting a 94, I was excited but more disappointed that I couldn't break the century mark. Reaching 100 was my ultimate goal, once I reached that I would relieve myself of the Flappy Bird addiction.

Then it happened.

Soon after posting the 94, I would enter this zone. I got tunnel vision, it was just me and my phone, nothing else. This brought me back to my basketball days, too. Anyone who's played ball before can tell you about getting into a zone and seeing the basket seemingly get bigger and bigger. I was in the zone and the little bird just kept flapping away. After about three consecutive minutes of flapping, my bird hit a pipe and died.

Game over, final score: 154.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, RADIATE FM GENERAL MANAGER AND FIUSM.COM DIRECTOR

For an application packet, email Alfred Soto at sotoa@fiu.edu. Subject line should read: Beacon, FIUSM, or Radiate FM Application.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON MARCH 7.

Sports Photographers needed

Think you can take better photos at sporting events than the pictures that are on this page?

PROVE IT!!!

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124

SGA-BBC prepares for another go at second access road to campus



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

From left to right: Joshua Carrasco, senior in psychology, and Allhan Mejia, sophomore in marketing, part of student government, ask individuals on campus such as Maria Rivas, senior in journalism, to sign their petition for a second road to the Biscayne Bay Campus.

ALEXI CARDONA Staff Writer

The Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay Campus is taking a different approach in revamping its lobbying efforts for a second access road to the university, and they are confident their efforts will pay off this time.

Richard Azimov, vice president of SGA-BBC, said that a combination of better preparedness, community engagement and

student involvement contributes greatly to what he hopes will be a victory in gaining second access to the university.

While SGA-BBC has been petitioning for a second entrance road since 2011, Azimov said they weren't adequately prepared back then to go before the City of North Miami and make such a request.

"We received a lot of negativity from the residents the night of the North Miami council meeting," Azimov said.

Residents were not happy about FIU trying to build a road through their community because it would make property values decrease.

The difference between then and now, Azimov said, is that SGA-BBC is working closely with the Office of Governmental Relations. Student government actively seeks advising from Steve Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations.

With the help of the office of Governmental Relations,

SGA-BBC is strategizing when and how to approach the City of North Miami again.

Aside from better preparing themselves to approach the city council members, SGA-BBC is working on forming better relationships between the university and the city.

Student government received complaints from the city about students' lack of involvement in community events and council meetings.

"We understand that we have to show our support and show that we are proud to be part of this community," said Azimov.

He hopes that increased community involvement by students and student government will make the city of North Miami more receptive to the university's need for another access road.

SGA-BBC's optimism does not correspond with the North Miami council's actions, however.

Scott Galvin, a member of the North Miami City Council, published a newsletter on the 5-0 vote for a resolution opposing opening Northeast 135th Street to the Biscayne Bay Campus.

FIU has another option, Northeast 143rd Street, which is the better and more functional long-term option, according to President Mark B. Rosenberg.

He said the University needs to operate short-term, however, and that Northeast 135th Street is a more viable short-term option.

President Rosenberg acknowledges that a single road used by

three schools is a safety hazard, and he is committed to ensuring the safety and security of students.

"FIU is good at turning the impossible into the inevitable," said Rosenberg.

Increased student participation would also contribute to future success, and Rosenberg encourages students to get involved by

“

FIU is good at turning the impossible into the inevitable.

Mark B. Rosenberg
University President

”

speaking to the mayor and council members of North Miami.

"It is important that the university community speaks with one voice," said Rosenberg. Students are the stakeholders, he said, and the university is ours, not his.

SGA-BBC's Second Road to Success petition now has over 2,100 signatures and expects more with the help of student government at the Modesto Maidique Campus. Azimov said they are still focusing on spreading the word about the campaign and collecting signatures for now.

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Lunar Voyages, a trip across literature

CLAYTON GUTZMORE Staff Writer

Science fiction is a genre of literature that allows authors to write about distant futures and triumphs in modern science.

The University's School of Environments, Arts and Society decided to host "Lunar Voyages: the novel after Newton," a lecture that gathers individuals with an interest in Science fiction.

This event is part of the Eat, Think and Be Merry lecture series which began spring 2012, according to Elaine Pritzker, coordinator of SEAS.

As all other events from this series, this lecture will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at the Luna Star Cafe, on the Northeast side of 125 street in North Miami.

The Lunar Voyage is a fictional narrative made by

writers of the 17th and 18th century that were inspired by Isaac Newton's work.

Pritzker and SEAS selected Jason Pearl, assistant professor in the Department of English, whose book on the subject is set to release in the

on how science and literature overlap.

"Great literature was heavily influenced by science," said Pearl. "The two categories were not always so separate as they are today."

According to Pritzker, the

These science cafes featured engaging conversations between scientists and academics and the community.

SEAS has received grants from the National Science Foundation through Dr. Deron Burkepile, assistant professor

conducted speakings across Dade and Monroe counties with topics on sustainability, ocean life in Key Largo and they have one on the horizon about alternative energy.

Pritzker and Pearl are both excited for the conversation that will be started from the lecture.

For Pritzker, this is the first year that a speaker from the english facility will lead at Luna Star Cafe.

"As an interdisciplinary school -- we house biological sciences, earth and environment, english, and liberal studies -- we are always looking for opportunities to have discussions that touch upon this intersection of arts and sciences," said Pritzker.

"A lot of our regulars are looking forward to this conversation."

For Pearl, he is excited to talk about old literature

that the audience probably does not know about.

"I think people will be surprised to learn there's a rich tradition of imaginative literature about voyages to the moon long before that was actually possible," said Pearl.

"These narratives are strange and fascinating. It's science fiction long before that term was invented."

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Jason Pearl
Assistant professor
English Department

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fall, to speak at the event.

"Important science was done in fiction," said Pearl. He said that his lecture will focus

lecture series is modeled after the National Science Foundation science cafes that were held across the country.

in the marine sciences program at Biscayne Bay Campus.

SEAS has hosted similar events in the pass. They have

EVENT INFO

What: Lunar Voyages: The Novel After Newton

When: Tuesday, March 4; 7p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Luna Star Cafe, 775 N.E. 125 St. North Miami, Fla. 33161