

## Sophomore to run for Miami commission seat

**ROHAN JANI**  
*Contributing Writer*

Antonio J. Diaz, a sophomore in political science and government, is currently running for City Commissioner of District 4 in Miami. While he is a Democrat by heart, he is campaigning as a nonpartisan for this position.

Since his days in high school, Diaz had been “focused on helping people run for office, supporting their platforms and doing groundwork from writing briefs and speeches to canvassing and phone-banking.”

“I am running against a city-level candidate who isn’t paying attention to the community and hasn’t shown up to many commission meetings,” Diaz said.

“As Commissioner, I would help businesses get back on track and redevelop them in my district. Crimes are being perpetrated too often and there are red light districts where prostitution occurs in one of the most advanced cities in the nation. If we focus on building more upscale hotels than shady motels, then we can see better tourism and keep stimulating the Street.”

Other initiatives proposed by Diaz include fixing business districts in other domains and marking special extensions for taxes and privileges.

Diaz said “age wasn’t even a considerable

factor.”

The requirement to run for office in the City of Miami is being registered to vote.

Diaz said having a “fresh face” is his advantage, but he has some business, legislative and community experience too.

“In terms of me getting ahead, it’s not really as much as working at the firm and having pure

“ I am running against a city-level candidate who isn’t paying attention to the community and hasn’t shown up to many commission meetings.

*Antonio J. Diaz*  
*Sophomore*  
*Political Science and Government*

experience,” he said. “Focusing on goals ensures that I am getting ahead in the campaign trail anyway.”

When inquired if he would see any future

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## BALANCING ACT



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Najm Shaking, freshman in biology, sets up his own tightrope between palm trees and invites anyone passing by to give it a shot.

## Graham Center introduces Armenian flag



VICTORIA GARCIAS/THE BEACON

The Armenian and Artsakh flags were hung from the Graham Center’s Atrium ceiling on March 11 in a ceremony honoring the culture and Armenian student body at the University.

**VICTORIA GARCIAS**  
*Contributing Writer*

When other students see Gevorg Shahbazyan’s name, they typically ask him where he’s from.

“I tell them Armenia, but sometimes they confuse it with Romania and they don’t know about the country, culture, history or anything,” he said. “It was kind of my responsibility to show them as much as I can.”

But the junior international relations major is no longer one of the University’s few Armenian ambassadors.

On March 11, the

Graham Center hung not only an Armenian flag, but also an Artsakh flag in the FIU Atrium.

“There were several Armenians here at FIU but they had some difficulties trying to get the flag displayed,” Shahbazyan said.

It was a month-long process for him to get the flag in GC.

Carlos F. Carrasco, the senior director of business and finance and Ruth Hamilton, executive director of student affairs, fulfilled Shahbazyan’s request.

Carrasco operated the lift in Thursday’s hanging of the flag.

“It felt really nice to see the flag displayed next to many others,” Shahbazyan said. “It showed respect, equality and that all nations, be it small or big, old or new, rich or poor, have the same rights.”

Hamilton has even convinced Shahbazyan to start an Armenian club on campus.

“I’m going to get some Armenian fellow students, but I want the club to be not just Armenians, but also Americans to introduce the culture to FIU Panthers,” he said.

-news@fiusm.com

## Hookah trend not healthy despite popular belief

**NICOLE MONTERO**  
*Staff Writer*

When Leannet Gonzalez is stressed, she goes to a local hookah bar for her favorite mix of tobacco called blue mist.

“I just sit back and relax and it takes my stress away,” said the junior journalism student.

But while individuals consider the practice of hookah smoking

a recreational activity that is less harmful than smoking actual cigarettes, recent studies show that the habit carries similar health risks.

Like cigarettes, hookah smoking delivers nicotine — an addictive drug that blocks the action of autonomic nerve and skeletal muscle cells — to the blood stream.

According to the Respiratory Medicine Journal, hookah smoking has also been considered a risk factor

for various isolated diseases — including different types of cancer, infectious diseases, pulmonary diseases and more.

The University’s ban on tobacco and smoking products took effect January 2011 and includes “cigarette, cigar, pipe, water-pipe or hookah, or any product consumed in a similar manner.”

Nevertheless, students like Gonzalez venture off campus to get

their hookah fix.

But Wasim Maziak, a professor in the department of epidemiology and director of the Syrian Center Tobacco Studies, said the student activity has negative implications, however.

“We’ve seen that hookah delivers larger amounts of carbon monoxide, one of the main cardiovascular risk factors, than cigarettes,” he said. “One of the major carcinogens — substances that cause cancer — called

nitrosamines have been found in hookah smokers in levels comparable to cigarette smokers.”

According to Maziak, much of the health risks associated with cigarette smoking are also present with hookah smoking. In fact, due to the duration of the time spent with hookah and the involvement of charcoal, some

**SEE HOOKAH, PAGE 2**

## WORLD NEWS

### Obama says path to mideast peace challenging

President Barack Obama pressed visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Monday to help break the logjam to elusive Mideast peace talks, acknowledging that with a deadline fast approaching, the task ahead is “very hard, it’s very challenging.” “We’re going to have to take some tough political decisions and risks if we’re to move it forward,” Obama said at the start of his Oval Office meeting with the Palestinian leader. With just weeks left before a U.S.-imposed April deadline for completing a framework for peace talks, The White House meeting marked a renewed foray into a diplomatic minefield that the president has mostly left up to his secretary of state, John Kerry.

### Libya tanker seized by US Navy Seals forces

The Libyan government on Monday thanked the United States for a Navy SEALs operation that stopped a North Korean-flagged oil tanker from exporting crude loaded onto it by an autonomy-seeking eastern militia. The SEALs took control of the Morning Glory late Sunday while it was in international waters near Cyprus, the Pentagon said in a statement. Rear Adm. John Kirby said no one was injured in the operation, which was approved by President Barack Obama. It said that the tanker will return to Libya under the control of sailors from the USS Stout. It was not clear which Libyan port the vessel was sailing for. North Korea says it has nothing to do with the ship.

### Analysis: Ukraine casts pall over Iran nuke talks

Tehran may have a new ally when Iran nuclear talks reconvene Tuesday - the Ukraine crisis. U.S.-Russian tensions over Ukraine could fray the search for consensus on what Iran needs to do to ease fears it could make atomic arms. Both Washington and Moscow are emphasizing that their commitment to eliminating any Iranian proliferation threat overrides their clash over Ukraine. But diplomats tell The Associated Press that Moscow and Washington are wide apart on how much Tehran needs to trim its nuclear program, a split that Iran could exploit.

# Panther gets political: student runs for local office

## POLITICS, PAGE 1

objectives beyond his campaign trail, he noted that he “isn’t looking for any positions beyond City Commissioner at the moment.”

Diaz cited his family as a motivator, as they influenced him to grow and learn from Miami. He also said that his background on a social level helped him improve every day in his life.

“My grandmother lived here and raised me for a long time. I came to see how people were being treated in the community, and I even spent lots of time with people three to four times my age,” Diaz said. “My family owns Clinical Care Network, which includes many elderly patients. I witness how politicians try to buy them off every four years [by providing incentives], and then you see them later on in homeless conditions or living in terrible, run-down homes.”

Diaz further presumes that Miami is “on a slippery slope,” and said it needs to instill leadership in young, talented individuals to stabilize the state of Florida.

“If we focus on saving vulnerable individuals and revitalizing the lives of children, then we can make things right. I see South Florida on a downward trend thanks to corruption charges revolving around the mayors of areas like Sweetwater, Miami Gardens and Doral,” Diaz said. “From weapons, ambulances and police car transactions to Venezuelan government affairs, many of us don’t even know how tough it is with Miami politics.”

Diaz said he is concerned with commission meetings that take place with no authorities properly recognizing young individuals in proportional representation.

“Nobody takes us into account, whether it’s parking regulation at FIU or in Sweetwater,” he said.

What Diaz really expects from Miami’s community is an improvement in every aspect, including the way politicians run for office and how the young should stand up for the right cause.

“We’re a really resilient populace, but the government needs to take charge without leaving us behind or clueless,” Diaz said.

Despite competitive hurdles from the election process, the balance between academics and the campaign trail has never been more manageable for Diaz.

His tip: “Your syllabus is your best friend. Get your stuff done well ahead of time. Before going out at night, make sure you do your research paper or any other assignment and keep track of academics first before having fun at the end of the day.”

“What appeals to me is that he’s young and seemingly middle class, and thus obviously unlike the other candidates.”

Danielle Robinson  
Freshman  
Political Science

Supposing that he wins the nomination for City Commission, Diaz said he wants people to know that “running for office isn’t hard and it isn’t impossible.”

“The best of the best should always represent us. They are just too afraid and that is not the right feeling if you are the right person to take office,” Diaz said. “Money isn’t a factor but dedication and motivation are. I want people to think, ‘Wow, if he did it then so can I!’”

Diaz cited FIU alum as his mentors — Jose Castillo, Natalia Rivero and Mike Rivero.

“They were the first friends I made at FIU,” Diaz said. “They raised me as my mentors and helped me accomplish these things.”

Mike Rivero, Diaz’s chief communications officer, praised his mentee. As his recruiter and very close friend, he admires Diaz’s perseverance.

“I like someone who’s right about something and will fight for it,” Rivero said. “He’s always open to suggestions and isn’t closed-minded. He listens to everyone’s point of view. I think we need that in local government since it’s usually one-sided.”

Diaz’s peers hold different opinions about his platform, however.

Steffany Montano, a freshman in economics and political science, appreciates the work that Diaz puts in for the elderly.

“What I like about his work is that he’s a person who actually cares about the people in his district,” Montano said. “He’s always taking priority in the elders and the youth of the community, which I think is something a lot of people lose sight of.”

Danielle Robinson, a freshman in political science, argues that while she thinks Diaz is striving for a great cause, his platform is a bit vague and doesn’t communicate well to audiences.

“The website doesn’t explain more about actual tangible issues: health care, education, business, taxes, etc.,” Robinson said. “I did want to point out that while Diaz mentioned health care and later equality, he omitted the fact that a huge inhibitor for women’s equality is unsatisfactory health care.”

“I think these candidates need to explain more to the average citizen including the role of the office that the candidate is running for. What you do as a city commissioner and how you’re going to do it better than everyone else is what counts,” she said.

Despite her stance against Diaz’s approaches, she still feels his platform is beneficial based on his profile.

“What appeals to me is that he’s young and seemingly middle class, and thus obviously unlike the other candidates.”

While the votes won’t come until Nov. 25, Diaz said he “wants the city to be in better hands.”

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# Professor says hookah as unhealthy as cigarettes

## HOOKAH, PAGE 1

smoke toxicants, like carbon monoxide, are produced at greater levels in hookah than in cigarettes.

“Smoke from a waterpipe contains many of the toxicants found in cigarette smoke, including nicotine that produces

in an article for Global Heart Journal.

The matter of electronic hookah also comes into play.

“I think that anything that isn’t pure air is, essentially, bad for you — especially something with tobacco,” said Nadia Echegoyen, a sophomore majoring in biology. “Even

“Why should we breathe anything but air?”

Wasim Maziak  
Professor  
Epidemiology

dependence, carbon monoxide that causes cardiovascular disease, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that cause cancer,” Maziak wrote

though I do think it’s bad for you, I definitely enjoy it from time to time — both the hookah electronic pen and the actual waterpipe.”

Maziak agrees that, in regards to health, the electronic hookah pens or e-cigarettes are perhaps less harmful because there is no combustion, and no combustion-related harmful substances, like tar, is inhaled. However, the potential risks of the devices are by and large unstudied and they can hook their user on nicotine for life.

“The problem with the youth is that when you talk to them about disease or mortality, they think it’s a long way off,” Maziak said. “They think they’re somehow immortal and that they are immune to everything.”

“Although you can smoke and not get cancer shortly, you can still get one of the other respiratory diseases or, because people share the hookah, you can get a transmitted infectious

disease.”

Paola Bayron, junior broadcast journalism major, agreed with Maziak.

“I have friends that have told me that you get really light-headed when smoking hookah or that they have gotten sick and that isn’t something I care to experience,” she said. “Why would I do something that could potentially hurt me in the end? Why would I voluntarily do something that can jeopardize my plans for my future?”

Even after years of research, Maziak’s opinion on hookah smoking is intact.

“Why should we breathe anything but air?” he said. “We should be grateful for that.”

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## The real history of St. Patrick's Day

**JENNIPHER SCHAFER**  
*Staff Writer*

As an American of mostly Irish descent, I have very mixed feelings about St. Patrick's Day. Most people ignore the roots of this holiday and instead have fun celebrating stereotypical Irish things. Some of these even I look forward to. Who doesn't love potatoes in every possible form and green beverages? Alright, maybe that's just me.

The main issue I take against the holiday isn't the use of these stereotypes or perpetuation of the image of the drunken Irish population, I take issue with the actual roots of the holiday. As a Wiccan, the very conception of the holiday is marred with an ugly past many either do not realize or sadly choose to ignore.

The alleged history of the holiday began with a Catholic missionary and bishop in Ireland. The legend says that he successfully drove all the snakes from the island nation. Similarly, he is credited with mass conversions of the pagan people who lived there before the Christian invasion.

“The main issue I take against the holiday isn't the use of these stereotypes or perpetuation of the image of the drunken Irish population. I take issue with the actual roots of the holiday.”

fully drove all the snakes from the island nation. Similarly, he is credited with mass conversions of the Pagan people who lived there before the Christian invasion.

The reality is that snakes have never really been a problem in Ireland. Snakes were, however, a symbol to the Pagan populations of Celtic and Druidic

people. What was essentially accomplished by this man and those acting in his name, was the slaughter of anyone who would

not convert and the death of older traditions and culture. As a modern Pagan celebrating my ancestry, this is in direct contradiction with the principles of my faith and ancestral pride.

There is a growing movement among Wiccans, even those of Irish descent, to boycott the international holiday. I, however,

have mixed feelings about this. Yes, the holiday was born out of barbarism and ignorance. It even glosses over genocide not only of people but of their culture. Too this holiday borrows from the very thing it tried to destroy as do many other Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter. Things like the wearing of green, eating or pork, and the image of the shamrock were all associated with the vernal (spring) equinox. These are still used in this celebration known as Ostara. The shamrock is particularly important to an Irish Wiccan such as me as it is a symbol for the Triple Goddess with the three clove-like leaves.

I can't ignore the stereotypes either. After all, in my own experience over ten days in England with my family I discovered that having red hair and freckled

skin makes ordering so much as one alcoholic drink at a restaurant was met with rolled eyes and rude replies of “naturally” or “of course you would” from the wait staff.

Before this gets out of hand, no I'm not blaming modern Christians for the wrongs done hundreds of years ago. That is pointless. What I am getting at is the opportunity to grow and learn from one another as we celebrate all things Irish. I'll enjoy the one day a year when my heritage is celebrated even if it isn't always very accurate. I'll enjoy wearing green and eating traditional foods. Moreover I'll enjoy educating people on actual Irish history.

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## What is and isn't beauty A million and one uses for plastic baggies

**JODI-ANN RICHARDS**  
*Contributing Writer*

As an American of mostly Irish descent, I have very mixed feelings about St. Patrick's Day. Most people ignore the roots of this holiday and instead have fun celebrating stereotypical Irish things. Some of these even I look forward to. Who doesn't love potatoes in every possible form and green beverages? Alright, maybe that's just me.

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The alleged history of the holiday began with a Catholic missionary and bishop in Ireland. The legend says that he successfully drove all the snakes from the island nation. Similarly, he is credited with mass conversions of the pagan people who lived there before the Christian invasion.

The reality is that snakes have never really been a problem in Ireland. Snakes were, however, a symbol to the pagan popu-

lations of Celtic and Druidic people. What was essentially accomplished by this man and those acting in his name, was the slaughter of anyone who would not convert and the death of older traditions and culture. As a modern pagan celebrating my ancestry, this is in direct contradiction with the principles of my faith and ancestral pride.

“So, while society dictates what is attractive, you can let society know that you are beautiful, even if you don't look like what is expected.”

There is a growing movement among Wiccans, even those of Irish descent, to boycott the international holiday. I, however, have mixed feelings about this.

Yes, the holiday was born out of barbarism and ignorance. It even glosses over genocide, not only of people, but of their culture. This holiday borrows from the very thing it tried to destroy, as do many other Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter.

Things like the wearing of green, eating pork and the image of the shamrock were all associated with the vernal equinox, also known as the spring equinox. These are still used in the celebration known as Ostara. The shamrock is particularly important to an Irish Wiccan such as me as it is a symbol for the Triple Goddess with the three clove-like leaves.

I can't ignore the stereotypes either. Over ten days in England with my family, my red hair and freckled skin received eye-rolling and rude replies of “naturally” or “of course you would” from the wait staff whenever I ordered an alcoholic drink.

Before this gets out of hand, I'm not blaming modern Christians for the wrongs done hundreds of years ago; that is pointless. What I am getting at is the opportunity to grow and learn from one another as we celebrate all things Irish.

I enjoy the one day a year when my heritage is celebrated even if it isn't always very accurate. I enjoy wearing green and eating traditional foods. Moreover I enjoy educating people on actual Irish history.

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**JENNIPHER SCHAFER**  
*Staff Writer*

An estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 380 billion plastic bags are used in the United States every year.

These numbers are absolutely insane. Plastic can be used in so many different ways, and there is no need to throw plastic bags away.

For example, plastic sandwich bags alone have endless uses. Although the main use for them is to hold sandwiches, these plastic bags can also be used for making crumbs, or oreo truffles. All you have to do is put whatever is the desirable food to turn to crumbs into the bag, and push down on the bag to crush it and make crumbs.

Another use for these small bags is to use them for organizing colored pencils, markers and other arts and craft items.

Did you know that you can use plastic sandwich bags to decorate with frosting, store toothpaste and toothbrushes in to travel and even meat as well?

Other than plastic baggies, plastic shopping bags have endless uses as well. Say you are packing for a trip and have too many clothes. All you need to do is grab a plastic shopping bag and store as many clothes as will fit into the bag, squeeze out the air and it saves so much space in your suitcase. You could also bring an extra bag on your trip to separate your wet clothes from your dirty clothes and clean clothes.

These bags can also be used as recycling holders. Plastic itself is recycling, so why not use a plastic bag to hold plastic bottles, caps and other recyclable items?

How about if you have a dog and are taking them for a walk? You will want to use a bag to clean up after them if you don't want to use your bare hands.

Casts are very inconvenient, especially when trying to take a shower. To protect it from the water, people usually wrap a plastic bag around it so it doesn't get wet.

These shopping bags can also be used for a non-stick surface, organizing items, lining a

“Although the main use for them is to hold sandwiches, these plastic bags can also be used for making crumbs, or oreo truffles. All you have to do is put whatever is the desirable food to turn to crumbs into the bag, and push down on the bag to crush it and make crumbs.”

bathroom trash can and more.

I feel nowadays people are too busy in their own lives to be conservative and realize there are many different ways to use one item. Creativity is becoming such a small part of people, but if everyone just stopped to think about how to make something from nothing, not only would their lives be more interesting and creative, but they would be saving the world one plastic bag at a time.

-opinion@fiusm.com

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## Phi Mu raises over \$5,000 during Miracle Man in 2014

**GISELLE CANCIO**  
*Staff Writer*

A Dr. Seuss inspired night resulted in over \$5,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and a new Miracle Man for Phi Mu Fraternity.

"I know a lot of responsibilities and expectations come with the title, but my ultimate goal is to be a great representative for CMNH," said Christian Tennant, Miracle Man 2014. "I wanted to be Miracle Man because to be successful and go places, you have to surround yourself with like-minded individuals who have the same goal."

The pageant, which is now the sixth of its kind, had a Dr. Seuss theme which was voted on by the chapter.

"We voted on Dr. Seuss because it adhered to a kid friendly theme, and our philanthropy is for the kids." Mariel Navarrete, vice president of external relations said. "We were able to incorporate a book drive into the event in which all books were Dr.

Seuss and will be donated to Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Children's Miracle Network Hospital is both the national and local philanthropy of Phi Mu. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals began around 1983 and since then has raised over \$4.7 billion for 170 children's hospitals across the country.

According to CMNH, these donations have gone to support research and training, purchase equipment, and pay for uncompensated care, all in support of the mission to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible.

In 1983 Phi Mu Fraternity adopted CMNH as its national philanthropy and is the only sorority to be a corporate sponsor of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Since 1986 Phi Mu has raised over \$8.5 million.

The local hospital in Miami is Miami Children's and all proceeds from Miracle Man will be donated directly.

The planning for Miracle

Man started at the beginning of the spring semester and the philanthropy committee worked diligently to have their ideas come to life.

Although Catherine Cruz, Phi Mu philanthropy chair, does not have a personal connection to CMNH, she was inspired to plan Miracle Man because she saw the potential in the chapter and in the event.

"I feel like Phi Mu helped make a difference in their lives and will continue to do so for others," she said.

There were eleven participants, all of which raised money on their own and had others donate to their viewer's choice jar. Nick Recuset from Sigma Chi Fraternity took home the viewer's choice award.

Tennant wanted to run for Miracle man for multiple reasons. He wanted to do something to support a cause greater than himself and he wanted to seize the opportunity to push himself out of his comfort zone.

"I never would have

## SWAMP STOMP

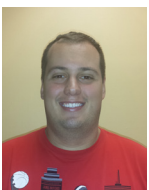


JUNETTE REYES/THE BEACON

The independent music festival known as Swamp Stomp at Tobacco Road took place over a two-day span on Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1. The headlining band was Austin natives Bright Light Social Hour. A few local bands performed in Swamp Stomp as well, including Off Orbit (above). Off Orbit is consisted of bassist and lead vocalist Moises Jimenez, lead guitarist Marcos Jimenez, percussionist Angel Cerdeiras and live drummer Mike Rodriguez.

## Kobe 9 Elite is plain and simple overpriced

SNEAK PEEK



FRANCISCO RIVERO

It's no surprise that the strongest time for shoes is during the NBA season. As the season progresses, players like LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and Kevin Durant have a chance to show off different models of their sneaker. However, as the season starts to get closer and closer to the playoffs we begin to see a fall in product.

Don't think for one second that this is just a coincidence, in fact the shoe companies do this on purpose just so that they can build anticipation for the playoff models that will be released. For now as we begin to go back to normal non-spring break life, we are left with only a few gems that are dropped every now and then.

### What you missed during spring break

It's safe to say that when most of you were out partying on the beach or traveling to go visit family, and shoes were not on your mind. Well that's OK because it seems that Nike, Jordan, Reebok and Adidas all went on spring break as well.

Not much was released during the spring break weekend. In fact

the only shoe worth commenting on was the LeBron 11 "Multi-Anthraccite". With a name like that you must be thinking 'wow I missed out on a great LeBron.' Well, I'm here to tell you the name is the only thing worth noticing about this shoe.

The LeBron Multi-Anthraccite is a high-top model sneaker the same as all the other LeBron's with just one color throughout the shoe. The color black is the entire concept of this model, that's right it's an all-black shoe. So unless you needed a work sneaker or gym shoe then you didn't miss much this spring break.

### Jordan 10s highlight weekend release

This Saturday, March 22, the Jordan brand will release the Jordan 10 "Venom". Selling for a retail price of \$170, the Venom is set to take on a black and green colorway. The colorway in itself is reminiscent of Jordan's past "Altitude" color way. The Venom is a mid-top sneaker with a black leather material throughout most of the shoe. The venomous green comes in on the iconic sole as well as the checkerboard-like insole.

Personally I feel that the Venoms are a very plain and simple shoe. I've never been a big fan of dull, plain colors or anything that is mostly black. However, most of the iconic

Jordan's that have been released throughout the years are very simple in color so I have to keep that in consideration.

### Kobe 9 Elite just continues down year for the model

As the basketball season begins to enter the playoffs, it's at this time that we begin to see the "Elite" models for LeBron, Kobe and Durant. Kobe took the first shout at the Elite collection with his Kobe 9 model and, I must say, failed miserably.

The Kobe 9 Elite is a high-top sneaker that has a black and grey colorway throughout the design. Besides the fact that the design of the shoe itself is gut wrenching for me, the fact that the colors that were chosen where black and grey just kill it for me.

The Elite models are supposed to be fresh, new and colorful. What the Kobe 9 model did was just take something of high stature and brought it crashing down with simplicity, lack of color and just boredom.

The Kobe 9 Elite will be for sale this Saturday and selling for a retail price of \$225, which in my taste is almost robbery seeing how the shoe itself is an insult to the Elite family.

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## Stylish trends to wear during spring 2014

COLUMNIST



REBEKAH KEIDA

Spring has arrived with much needed leisure days full of the beach and pool. FIUSM caught up with local stylist Hayley Mitchell of Style By Hayley, styleby-hayley.com, to get a list of tips and tricks on how to dress the part.

"This week is all about festival fashion. Think Coachella and Lollapalooza," Mitchell said.

### Hayley's list:

1. Crop tops!
2. Pops of yellow, neons and more pinks than Crayola can make names for.
3. Metallics will become neutrals and carry your looks from day to night.
4. Graphic prints used by designers like McGinn, Elizabeth & James and 3.1 Phillip Lim.
5. Going into this festival season we are going to see jackets but now in much lighter materials.
6. Athletically structured neoprene.
7. Light lace fashions --- designers who excel in this trend are Alexander Wang, Carven and Tibi.
8. Heavily embellished sunglasses decorated with gold encrusted flowers, crushed velvet, whatever. It is in the accessories where individual style can truly be seen!
9. Fringe is still in.

"Less is more. T-shirts and shorts—it is much too hot for anything else! It's all about good skin and sunblock," says Miami model Johanna Da Ru.

And what trends to steer clear of?

"Girls should try to avoid wearing see-through cover ups to go out. Or fishnets and short skirts. Keep fishnets for costumes," said Ashley Garcia of Neiman Marcus in Merrick Park.

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# The return of Rice's *Lestat de Lioncourt*

## COLUMNIST



JENNIPHER  
SCHAFER

For as long as I can remember I've been a fan of them. They stalk the night looking only for the "evildoer" in the hunt.

Long before these newer incarnations like "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "The Vampire Diaries," or "Twilight" held sway over audiences, Lestat ruled this realm.

On Sunday, March 9, author Anne Rice made an announcement that has fans wishing it were October already.

On her son's radio talk show "The Dinner Party Show" she made the comeback announcement of the undead rock star's long life. Lestat is back. On Oct. 28, her 28th novel, "Prince Lestat" will be on the shelves.

Lestat's life has been chronicled alongside his undead brethren since the late 1970's when Louis de Point du Lac emerged in "Interview With A Vampire."

Lestat played a more sinister role from Louis' point of view even as the bond between them was still strong.

Lestat returned to tell his side of things in the book's sequel and "The Vampire Chronicles" were born. No doubt Lestat was central to the series. The books dealt with religion, death, history, love, homosexuality and culture.

Most of the characters seem to have a fluidity to their romantic interests which ignores gender altogether.

In the fourth book of the series – currently in the process of becoming a film – "The Tale of the Body Thief," Lestat even tells David Talbot "I have always loved both men and women."

In a 2012 interview with i09, Rice told fans that yes, Louis and Lestat were in fact same-sex parents to Claudia, who Lestat first referred to as their daughter in "Interview With A Vampire."

In a world that is only just now accepting marriage equality, the fact that this novel was written over 30 years ago, rings as a foretelling of changes yet to come.

Many times Rice said that she would never write about her vampires again, leaving Lestat, Louis, Marius, Armand, Gabrielle, Daniel, David, Jesse, Maharet, Mekare and Khayman to the imagination of fans. With this announcement an 11 year silence came to an end.

The last book of the series, "Blood Canticle" was released in 2003 and was met with mixed feelings from fans who felt the work pushed too far in a religious direction.

The book also ended somewhat awkwardly. Normally the books are ended with the vampire signing off and the year. This book ended with Rice herself signing off.

So large is the love for her creations that every Halloween in New Orleans the famous

## CAST YOUR VOTES



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Vincent Batista (right), a senior biology major, and Amie Esteves (left), freshman environmental science major, put in their votes for the contestants of Mr. and Ms. Housing.

"Vampire Ball" is held in Rice's name and in honor of Lestat.

While she had not been writing more of the vampires in recent years, she did write two solely religious texts and began a new series with "The Wolf Gift" and its sequel "The Wolves of Midwinter." The second book of that series was released last year which is why Rice has likely been quiet about this book. According to

her statement on "The Dinner Party Show" this latest installment has been finished since last summer but her publicist wanted her to keep quiet.

She further said that this is mostly a sequel to the core five books of the original series and has already signed for the next installment.

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# The 'Need for Speed' becomes a desperate performance

## COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

Based off the successful Electronic Arts video game series, "Need For Speed" tells the story of one man's quest for revenge and justice by way of racing fast cars and risking incarceration again. The story of Tobey (Aaron Paul) competing in a race against Don (Dominic Cooper), with the help of his odd ball crew, is probably the least interesting and important part about this motion picture. It's the races, the cinematography, the laughable acting, and Aaron Paul's facial expressions that make this film so enjoyable.

With the power of practical effects, "Need For Speed" puts us in the thick of action, showcasing fast cars going at fast speeds across all roads. The races themselves are exciting to watch, showing us every turn and from all possible angles. The direction during these scenes is great, as we are always aware of what is going on, since the camera stays well put and tracks everything well.

A recent trend among filmmakers is to shake the camera a lot while doing everything up-close, something "Need For Speed" thankfully avoids. Whenever a vehicle is in some way hit or destroyed, we see exactly what's happening, whether from a wide angle or a camera on the car itself, making each one of these

scenes a highlight.

There's a strong sense of speed that one can sense when put into the driver's seat. We feel the exhilaration as Tobey outruns police, races against other drivers, or has to fight off bounty hunters. The use of these practical effects heightens everything to a more exciting level; we can visibly take note of actual cars on actual streets taking actual damage or making actual turns. There is much emphasis on the cars themselves, from a modified Ford Mustang to imported Koenigsegg Ageras; for fans of the automobile, there is much to admire.

However, those aren't the only things to admire in this film. Among all the car chases and crashes, there is also the awkward acting, terrible dialogue, and Aaron Paul's facial expressions.

Tobey's facial expressions are absolutely hilarious, whether he's shocked, confused, or angry, there isn't a single expression of his that doesn't come off as over-the-top; it feels as though he had the right expressions but for the wrong moments. Harrison Gilbertson, who plays Tobey's younger brother Pete, is ridiculous all by himself, saying all the wrong things in the most awkward ways possible. What really makes Pete a top-notch goof is Tobey's reactions to some of the things he says, mainly by way of putting his head down in embarrassment.

Tobey is very fond of letting his anger get to him and allowing his emotions to decide his actions. Dino Brewster (Dominic Cooper), Tobey's ultimate rival, is the complete opposite: he's cool, calm, wears dark colors, and more importantly, appears to be apathetic and unimpressed by absolutely everything.

From the moment he shows up on screen to critical moments near the end of the film, Dino doesn't seem to care one bit about anything that's happening. However, this only makes his character more enjoyable, since he too comes off as badly directed, and while he has less awkward dialogue than most of the cast, his uncaring demeanor can come off as riotously hysterical, depending on the scene.

"Need For Speed" is a very enjoyable movie, featuring exciting car races, chases, and stunts, all showcased with very nice cinematography. On the other end of things, "Need For Speed" is badly written, with awkward dialogue which gives way to awkward performances, a plot that is cliché to the bone, and facial expressions that are always funny to laugh at. It should be stated, though, that all of this good and bad is what makes "Need For Speed" the enjoyable ride that it is. Just be sure to watch it with friends.

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# 'The Wind Rises' displays aerial passion

## COLUMNIST



RAFAEL ABREU

Finding inspiration in history instead of fantasy, Hayao Miyazaki's "The Wind Rises" – adapted from his own manga – is the fictional biography of Jiro Horikoshi, an aeronautical engineer who designed airplanes that would eventually be used in World War II by the Empire of Japan. Throughout his life, he becomes long-term friends with a fellow classmate, impresses his superiors and falls in love. However, through it all, he never loses his love

and focus for airplanes.

Jiro dreams of working with planes, but fears that due to his need for eyeglasses, he won't be able to.

In the first of many recurring dreams with Giovanni Battista Caproni, the famous Italian airplane designer, he is told he can work with planes without the need to be a pilot; Jiro decides that he wants to study aeronautical engineering. His passion takes him from a university in Tokyo to a hangar in Germany.

The topic of the old and new is brought up often in "The Wind Rises." During the first half of the 20th century, Japan is poor and doesn't have the

technology that countries like Germany do. While Germany can afford steel, Japan is still using wood to make their airplanes and cattle to move them. Jiro seeks improvement and innovation, finding ways to work with what he has.

The contemporary politics linger throughout Jiro's life, something which he and Caproni discuss in dreams.

It's addressed that doing what is beautiful is more important than what they might be used for. Jiro and Caproni make it clear that their involvement in making them has nothing to do with the military; they design because it's their one passion and they cannot

be focused on what others may utilize them for.

Jiro and Caproni can't help it if their beautiful creations are used for destruction, especially since it is their jobs to design these planes for manufacture.

It is Jiro who, during these less-than-peaceful times, must design the things he loves, even though they are for military purposes; unlike Caproni, he has no power to abandon his work and pursue something more personal. In any case, the work he does for his company and country is his passion, personal project and the things he dreams about.

"The Wind Rises" focuses on the passion that Jiro has

for aviation, showcasing his knowledge and skills in the development of these aircrafts. While many things happen throughout his life, Jiro never loses the love he has for airplanes, even when the aftermath of WWII becomes a part of his life's work. In the destruction field that is scattered with his designed planes, he addresses that each and every one of them left and never returned. The existence of such wars and what they can do to the things that mean the most for people is a devastating part of life.

Jiro's passion was never tainted as a result of this war, and his planes flew with the

grace and beauty that they always did. They may have been used for a purpose he neither intended nor wanted, but that never changed what the airplanes were for him. For Jiro, these works of art painted across the sky, doomed to never again come down to Earth. The most important thing Jiro, as well as the audience, learns from all this is that we must continue to live on. No matter what happens, no matter who passes on, and no matter how the landscape changes, we must keep going. We cannot stop, not while the wind still rises.

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## FIU swept 3-0 in weekend series against Rice

**ALEJANDRO SOLANA**  
*Staff Writer*

The FIU baseball team started off its season almost perfectly, winning 16 of its first 17 games and swept their only conference series thus far when it faced Charlotte over spring break.

Unfortunately, the Panthers' hot start came to an end when they hosted No. 15 Rice this past weekend and were swept three games to none by the Owls.

The Panthers entered the series against Rice tied for the best record in the nation among teams who have played at least 15 games, coming off a win over USF and five straight road wins before the weekend.

This definitely was the series everyone had circled before the season as it would be the biggest test the team would have.

The test proved to be too much for the Panthers as they were unable to take even one game against a Rice team who was entering the weekend with a record of 12-6.

The first game of the series, on March 14, was the toughest game for the Panthers all season as they

blew their 2-1 lead in the top of the eighth inning by a bad throw from FIU's star catcher, junior Aramis Garcia.

Garcia was attempting to throw out a Rice base runner stealing third when his throw fell short in the dirt; junior third baseman Josh Anderson was unable to handle the wild throw.

The Rice base runner was able to score and tie the game at 2-2, where the score would remain until the top of the 13th when Michael Aquino hit an RBI single to put the Owls on top 3-2.

FIU was unable to score in extra innings causing them to lose in conference play for the first time this season.

The story of the first game was the pitching from both sides, as junior Mike Franco continued his strong start to the season with another nice outing for FIU. Franco gave the Panthers 7.1 innings, allowing only one earned run while striking out seven Rice batters.

Zech Lemond was given the start for Rice, coming into the matchup with a record of 2-0 on the season and an ERA of only 1.02. 13 FIU batters struck out



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Sophomore infielder Edwin Rios is batting .333 through the Panthers first 20 games. Rios is second on the team with 29 hits and is third with 18 RBIs.

### Friday night.

The Panthers did have a chance to win the game in the bottom of the 12th inning in extras when they had the bases loaded with only one out, but were unable to score leaving 17 runners on base throughout the night.

### Middle match

The second game of the series between these two teams was very different from the first as Rice ran up the score on FIU winning 10-2. The eight run difference was the worst loss of

the season so far for the Panthers.

Junior right-handed pitcher Mike Ellis had the nod on the mound for FIU to start Saturday's 4 p.m. game, but was quickly replaced after a shaky start for the junior.

Rice had back-to-back four-run innings in the third and fourth, giving them an 8-1 lead. FIU had a very sloppy fourth inning with a series of consecutive wild and errant throws that resulted in three unearned runs.

FIU was only able to score once in the second inning and again in the eighth on a night where they had 10 hits as a team. Freshman All-American and C-USA All-Freshman sophomore Blake Fox had the start for Rice as he dominated the panthers for most of the night.

### The series finale

Even after falling in the first two games of the series, it was still important for the Panthers to come out strong for their 11 a.m. start on Sunday to avoid getting swept by the #15 seed in the nation.

Even with a 5-2 lead after the fifth inning, it still wouldn't be enough as the power from the Owls' bats overcame the FIU bullpen with a five-run seventh inning, leading them to their eventual 11-7 win completing the sweep over the Panthers.

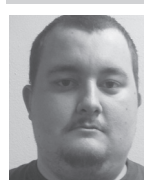
Aramis Garcia kept his hitting streak alive this weekend, despite his team getting swept by their conference foe. Garcia has now hit safely a consecutive 14 games, the longest hitting streak for any Panther this season.

Rice improved to 15-6 on the season with a conference best (5-1) record against conference opponents. FIU now finds themselves with an overall record of (16-4) and (3-3) in C-USA action.

Up next for FIU is another one game series as they host Florida Memorial once again at FIU Baseball Stadium. The Panthers hosted Florida Memorial earlier in the season and won the game 23-1, their largest win of the season. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday evening.

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## Miami Inferno look to heat up football scene

**COLUMNIST**  
  
**RHYS WILLIAMS**

Football is almost back to Miami.

I'm not, however, talking about the start of FIU spring football from yesterday,

Tuesday, March 18. Neither am I speaking about the free agency and other portions of football for the Dolphins.

Also, the start of the University of Miami Hurricanes football, which does not have a part of my mind at all, is not what I speak of.

Professional indoor football is going to find a home on the UM campus inside the BankUnited Center.

This is coming from the Ultimate Indoor Football League in the form of the Miami Inferno.

The Inferno are one of six

teams in the UIFL which include the Corpus Christi Fury and Austin Nitro in Texas, the Florida Tarpons in Fort Myers, the Missouri Voodoo and the Capital City Revolt in South Carolina.

Coral Gables will be the loca-

Preparatory School in the early 2000s, then played football for both the University of Miami and, in the NFL, the Washington Redskins, before he was murdered during a burglary in November of 2007.

“One problem I believe will come up though is the fact that it is just a smaller, less recognized version of the Arena Football League.”

tion for the inaugural season and will be led by Head Coach Pete Taylor.

Taylor is the chief of police in Florida City as well as the father of the late Sean Taylor.

S. Taylor attended Gulliver

Now I grew up in Virginia, which is filled with Redskins fans, and I remember the somber feelings that came after from them and I cannot even imagine how he felt after but, I do know that football can help heal the

soul after a tragic loss, from personal experience, and I am glad that the elder Taylor is continuing his involvement with football.

The Inferno, led by Taylor, will have one more open player tryout before the beginning of their official offseason begins and I am kind of excited to watch football.

Every first year team has their own problems, as would be expected so I do not expect a UIFL championship in 2014 but if the team buys into the program then it will succeed.

One problem I believe will come up though is the fact that it is just a smaller, less recognized version of the Arena Football League.

The AFL is home to 14 teams all around the country, including three Floridian teams in the Jacksonville Sharks, the

Orlando Predators and the Tampa Bay Storm. The AFL was also a temporary home to former FIU Panther wide receiver Greg Ellingson with the New Orleans Voodoo in 2012 and the Storm right before being picked up by his current team in the Canadian Football League, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Now, will I be a season ticket holder for the Inferno?

No, I will not be.

But, I will venture over to the campus of that other university in the city, if time permits, to see a game.

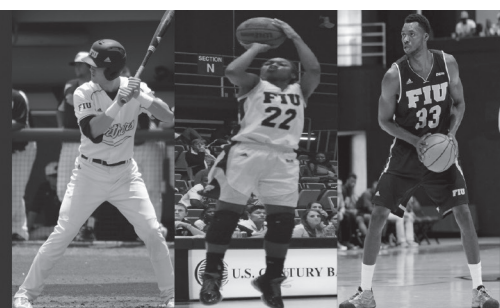
My one hope for that game is that it resembles regular football at least a little.

Football is football however, and I will be glad to watch.

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**Panther Sports Talk Live**  
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Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-11AM



# Panthers head back to the building blocks

## COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

they weren't going to be playing in the postseason, but despite a turbulent season, the Panthers did have some high moments and leave some hope for the future.

Granted, the team did finish a game under .500 with a 15-16 overall record and 7-9 in their first year in Conference USA, but when you account a new head coach and the loss of a point guard seven games into the season, you have to cut them some slack.

As my man Jay-Z would say, sort of, allow me to reintroduce to you what took place.

April 16 and in comes Brooklyn's own, Anthony Evans. A no-name for those who only watch a basketball game to catch the Miami Heat, but a pretty good catch for the avid basketball fan.

Having taken Norfolk State through an undefeated season in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and being named the MEAC Coach of the Year in 2012-13, his move to FIU was one the program needed, after previous coach Richard Pitino took to the high road to Minnesota.

So starts the regular season. New coach, new players and the uncertainty of what to expect and honestly, there weren't many expectations from anyone, even the players.

Now many people probably wrote off the men's basketball team since it was a slow start for the Panthers going 0-2 against Eastern Kentucky and Youngstown State, granted ECU is now dancing and a 16 seed in the tournament.

But low and behold, the team strikes gold early and here comes the winning streak. The Panthers went on a tear, winning six-straight games, three of them led by redshirt senior Rakeem Buckles, another newcomer to the squad having sat out last season and going through three season-ending injuries with Louisville.

Now their luck reached its end and they lose by 12 to South Carolina but the Gamecocks are not your pushover team with FIU alumnus Frank Martin at the helm, but the biggest loss for the week was to point guard Raymond Taylor.

A crazy and unique situation but one that would cause an effect even to the greatest of teams.

Now its been said that the point guard position is the head of the team. It controls the flow and tempo and frankly from what I saw prior to his abrupt exit, Taylor was also the heart. For the time being though.

Not your tallest guards but surely your loudest and at times showboating type of player. There's even a YouTube video of him showing off his ball handling skills against guys who probably spend more time on a video game than they do on the court, but I'm just saying.

But a loss to a player, especially a starter, can be hurtful and at times it showed throughout the season.

In just six games as a Panther, Taylor averaged 12 points and just over six assists a game. Not too shabby for the redshirt senior out of Florida Atlantic.

Forget about the blowout losses to Georgetown and Old Dominion, add in a few close losses that the Panthers could have won and this 15-16 team begins to look more like a 19-12 team; I added a few games the average "fan" may have missed for whatever reason, games they should have won minus mental mistakes and questionable shot selections.

Whether this same team would have been able to sneak their way into the conference tournament like their women counterparts? Well that's the million-dollar question but this would have been their best year to do so.

Look ahead to next season and you lose more than you gain. Yes, they will be back in the hunt for a conference title and a chance at the end of the year prom, but they will be minus some stars.

First off, senior Tymell Murphy. The Brooklyn native will now be trying his hand at the NBA Draft. Murphy led the team in points, assists, steals and blocks per game. He also ended his career at FIU seventh all-time in scoring with 984 points and the leader in shooting percentage with 57.9 percent, better than former NBA stars Raja Bell and Carlos Arroyo.

Murphy also capped off the season earning Second-Team All-Conference USA honors. Last season, he earned First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference honors.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Redshirt junior Dennis Mavin will return to the Panthers next season as a possible team leader. Mavin averaged 11.8 points per game this season while grabbing almost four rebounds per contest.

The Panthers will also lose Buckles, who started the season hot but seemed to struggle down the stretch. When asked earlier in the season if it was fatigue, Evans did allude to his injuries and time off the court being a possibility to his struggles.

Unless the NCAA decides to become the kind-hearted soul it isn't, I don't see them giving the Miami kid a medical year of eligibility. Had he sat out most of the season, then we might have something but I just don't see it.

As for the bright spots for the future, I would say to

look towards guards Dennis Mavin and Ray Rodriguez.

Rodriguez sat out this season after transferring from North Florida but word through the grapevine is he's a consistent shooter from behind the arc.

As for Mavin, a year under his belt and averaging just less than 12 points per game in his first year will be beneficial. Curious to see how Evans sets his lineup. Freshmen Cody Mann and Jason Boswell saw playing time at the point guard position, a spot Rodriguez would also fit well in. I would also expect to see Evans search for height in his recruiting.

Adrian Diaz, a 6-10 transfer from Kansas State is expected to be in uniform next season but its been said that when it comes to recruiting, Evans is closed shut like Fort Knox.

Buckles' 8.8 and Murphy's 7.4 rebounds per game also ranked third and eighth respectively in the conference. No other Panther ranked in the top 20.

It seems as if every year is a new or rebuilding year and next season doesn't seem be any different, but as long as grades stay in order, it could be the beginning to bigger and better things.

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# Tymell Murphy ends career on high note

ALEJANDRO SOLANA  
Staff Writer

With a new coach, post-season ban, and a difficult season ahead of him, senior Tymell Murphy decided to stick around at FIU and finish out his college basketball career in South Florida despite the challenging situation.

Last Sunday night, "Ring Worm," a nickname Murphy said was given to him while playing basketball at Rucker Park many years ago, was able to display his talents to the home crowd of FIU for the last time of his career when the Panthers faced off against Tulane, a game they won fairly easily 73-47.

On a night where Murphy had the chance to play in front of a decent audience that even featured some star power, NFL star Colin Kaepernick, the game was really about just another Murphy. Not the two time team leading scorer the last two seasons for FIU, but instead Tymell's Mother, Nicole Murphy.

"My emotions were kind of built up for that game because my Mom was there to see me play," said

Murphy.

It was only the second time Nicole Murphy had ever seen her youngest son play basketball, so one could only imagine how overjoyed the Brooklyn native was to have his mother in attendance.

The last time Murphy was able to watch her youngest son Tymell play was their regular season battle against Georgetown when the Panthers traveled to the nation's capital to face the Hoyas. According to Murphy, his mom never had the opportunity to watch him play basketball as he was growing up in Brooklyn, but was always one of his greatest supporters off the court.

"She actually just used to hear stories about me and my brother (Lahmell Murphy) playing basketball behind the building we lived at. They would say, 'Ms. Nicole your son is so good at basketball'. She of course would come back and tell me that random people were telling her that she had to catch a game one day, so im glad It was finally able to happen," Murphy added. "After losing to Georgetown, it was tough but at the end of the day she got to see

her son play well and get the victory on his last home game so I'm glad I was able to get that done for her."



TYMELL MURPHY

based in his home town. Is it possible that this decision has to do with how the Knicks have performed so far this season? Maybe, but Murphy insisted his love for the Knicks will never leave him.

"I gotta be a Nets bandwagon fan, and I don't mind saying that. When the Knicks play the Nets, I have to support the new franchise in my home town of BK, but when they play anyone else, I'll always support my Knicks," said Murphy with a smile on his face, probably because he himself knows it has been a tough season for any Knick or Nets fan.

Murphy has been vocal in the past supporting FIU's star athlete Jerica Coley. According to Murphy, the two have worked out together in the

past and are both fans of each other's game.

"It was an honor to watch her play my two years here," said Murphy. "The things she was able to do and the plays she was able to make.. I had never seen something like that in person, especially in the Womens' game. I got to watch her every night and she was just amazing every time."

According to Murphy, Coley is his favorite college basketball player. When asked if they had ever played one on one, Tymell's response was a quick "No way!" and added, "we worked out a few times and she just dusted me everytime. But other than that no, I just love to watch her play and I wish her the best."

So after a season where he averaged just under 17 points a game and has a career field goal percentage of 57 percent, only one question remains. What's next for Tymell Murphy?

"In my eyes, my best possible future is the NBA. In my eyes, I feel like I can entertain and compete at the next level and have a future there," said Murphy. "As a kid I always

dreamed of playing in the NBA, and it is crazy to think now and how much I am reminded by my closest friends from back home that my dream may actually be coming true. Just the thought that other people are telling me that I have the opportunity at the next level is amazing."

Murphy did not rule out playing overseas if the opportunity was there and if the NBA didn't work out.

"I want to continue playing basketball no matter what, so of course I've thought about that and I will make the best decision when I need to."

Whether it is the NBA or any other venture that Tymell Murphy takes on in the future, he will always be remembered for his two great seasons here at FIU. It isn't everyday that you come across a guy who not only is as skilled as Murphy, but also intelligent and personable as he is. Whatever is next for the humble man that is Tymell Murphy, you can be sure that he will give it his all and make the best of his opportunity.

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## Multi-disciplinary panel offers insight into journalism today

VICTORIA GARCIAS  
*Contributing Writer*

Journalism is a multi-faceted craft and it can branch out into many paths that extend beyond the classroom. In the hopes of furthering journalism education, the University chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will be hosting an all day panel to cover different areas of importance in journalism today.

The SPJ panel, "Listen. Learn. Connect." is one of the many events the School of Journalism and Mass Communication is hosting for Commu-

nications Week 2014. The panel will be held March 21 at Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center. The event will be in Room 244AB, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"One thing that journalism is about is networking, getting to know people from the field and learning from them," said Katherine Lepri, a senior journalism major and vice president of SPJ at FIU. "Students can move through those connections and learn what journalism really is outside of the classroom."

With this vision in mind, Lepri and SPJ President

Marisol Medida, a senior journalism major, have organized the all day panel to cover five major topics: journalism ethics, social media, branding, war reporting and photojournalism.

Some of the panelists represent three of the major newspapers in South Florida, as well as other media organizations.

The list of panelists includes Lori Todd, a social media manager from the Sun Sentinel and Orlando Sentinel; Jacqueline Charles, a Caribbean correspondent for the Miami Herald; Patrick Farrell, a Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist for the Miami Herald; Carmen Gentile, a war correspondent for USA today; Larry Doyle, a senior producer for CBS News and Juliet Pinto, an SJMC associate professor.

Each panel is designed to be interactive between the speakers and the audience.

"We really just want people to come and have a good time

### OPTIONS TO HELP



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Najum Shabbir, sophomore in computer science, looks through an information booklet during a Peace Corps information session.

#### LISTEN. LEARN. CONNECT.

Friday, March 21

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WUC 244AB

free and open to the public

and meet other journalist and other journalism students," Lepri said.

The national Society of Professional Journalists on-campus strives to advance and safeguard the freedom of the press.

The SPJ-FIU chapter intends to bring together journalists annually from other chapters and beyond. In an effort to strengthen bonds with

other chapters in the region, Lepri said that other Florida SPJ chapters have been invited to this panel event.

"We'd really like know what they're doing in other universities, as well as our students," Lepri said.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments, including a light breakfast and lunch, will be provided.

Students, faculty and

members of the community are welcome to attend the different panels. Lepri said audience members can come and go throughout the day.

"We really just want to bring people together, we're passionate about journalism and passionate about really bringing all the we can to other students," said Lepri.

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## Lecture raises concerns about coastal ecosystems, marine conservation



LIGIA COLLADO-VIDES/THE BEACON

Collado-Vides' lecture on Wednesday will focus on the changes that are affecting coastal ecosystems. Her lecture will discuss the shift from a coral and seagrass dominated community to macroalgae dominated community.

MARIANA NAVA  
*Staff Writer*

Miami's tropical setting makes it a major tourist destination, but with the increasing adverse effects of climate change, it is an area of growing concern due to the effects of changing ecosystems.

For this reason, the School of Environment, Arts and Society will be hosting

Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea as part of its Speaking Sustainably Series.

On Wednesday, March 19, a talk about the shifting of coral and seagrass dominated community into macroalgae dominated community will take place in order to get the public engaged with this particular environmental issue, and at the same time, encourage them to take a step into marine conservation.

"Marine conservation is an especially

important issue for us here in Miami," said Elaine Pritzker, program manager of SEAS. "We depend on functioning ecosystems to provide for important industries we rely on, such as tourism and fisheries."

According to Pritzker, the natural environment has been taken for granted, and that has led to careless actions and many abuses to take place.

To raise awareness, the Speaking Sustainably Series aims at inspiring people

"We depend on functioning ecosystems to provide for important industries we rely on, such as tourism and fisheries.

Elaine Pritzker  
SEAS program manager

to take action.

Ligia Collado-Vides, the marine botanist and lecturer-researcher in the department of biological sciences, will discuss the shift in these marine communities in the hopes to raise awareness about the current status of the sea, as well as to share her research. Her research links its results with its applications in marine conservation.

"I am going to make an emphasis on the changes indicators on tropical ecosystems, such as eutrophication or discharge of nutrients, and how that is going to be affecting the coastal system," said Collado-Vides.

Also, Collado-Vides will talk about her lab's partnership with the Tropical Botanic

Artists, with the purpose of showing a unique bio-art exhibit, which according to Elaine Pritzker, blends science and art to engage and inspire the community.

"Coastal ecosystems provide many services to the everyday life," said Collado-Vides. "The algae are the most beautiful organisms that can make the connection between the status of those coastal ecosystems and the services they provide."

This event will take place at Deering Estate at Cutler, 16701 S.W. 72nd Ave. in the Visitor Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. The event will be free and open to the public.

"We hope that the audience is inspired about the wonderful work being conducted by our researchers," said Pritzker. "We also hope people to return to Deering to see the Tropic Botanic Art exhibit as it is a wonderful example of how art and science can work together to raise awareness for important issues."

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#### MACROALGAE: HIDDEN COLORS OF THE SEA

Wednesday, March 19 at 7pm

Deering Estate at Cutler  
16701 S.W. 72nd Ave.  
Miami, FL 33157

free and open to the public