

\$1 trillion in student debt looms over nation's economy

ALONSO MONTANA
Staff Writer

Students across the nation have been taking on large amounts of debt due to the increasing cost of higher education. The \$1 trillion debt is not only affecting students and graduates, but is also starting to have a harmful impact on the national economy.

Cem Karayalcin, economics department chair, acknowledged that the student debt rate has gone up rapidly in the past few years.

According to statistics from the Financial Aid Office, 39 thousand students receive some type of financial aid to attend FIU.

"Economists are worried now because the debt has grown rather rapidly, whereas other debts have gone down," Karayalcin said. "Student debt is going up so that is a cause for concern."

Figures released by the Federal

Reserve of New York show that aggregate student loans nationwide have continued to rise.

At the end of 2003, students and graduates owed just \$253 billion in aggregate debt in the United States; by the end of 2013, the debt had ballooned to a total of \$1.08 trillion — an increase of over 300 percent.

According to the same report, aggregate student debt grew 10 percent in the last year. By comparison, overall debt grew just 43 percent in the last decade and 1.6 percent over the past year.

According to a December study by the Institute for College Access & Success, seven out of 10 students in the class of 2012 graduated with student loans with an average debt of \$29,400.

Karayalcin explained how the large amount of student debt is affecting the national economy.

"The U.S. economy runs on consumer spending and if students are trying to pay

PIE ME



MARGARITA RENTIS/THE BEACON

Linda Torres, (left) sophomore in finance, pies Ryan Fajet, (right) junior in biology, as part of The Society of Scientific Advancement's (SOSA) "Pie a Science Major" event. SOSA was hosting this event in order to fundraise for an educational program for pre-school children in need in Sweetwater.

back that is reducing consumption and that is not good for the national economy," Karayalcin said. "Basically, economists think that debt would take away from their ability to purchase a house and cars

because students are trying to pay the loans back so they don't want to spend much money."

He also mentioned how debt can

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Student housing fires meet their match



JEFFREY PIERRE/THE BEACON

Senior Brian Martinez, who cooks regularly, was unaware but appreciative of the Firestops' presence.

JEFFREY PIERRE
Asst. News Director

In the last year, three grease fires took place within the residence halls — two at Parkview and one at the university apartments. But with the three minor incidents, John Tallon took the fire as a signal as to improve safety for housing students.

Kitchen fires are responsible for most of the fires that occur in the dormitories here and at other universities, according to Tallon, assistant director of facilities at housing. Students are unaware

of proper procedures on dosing kitchen fires and, moreover, understanding the different sources and types of fires: electric, grease and heat.

"Grease is a very likely source for where fires begin," said Tallon. "A lot of students don't realize that if a fire breaks out, pouring water can actually make it significantly worse."

Ensuing from a \$28 thousand project, Tallon, who oversees all custodial and maintenance efforts at the University, installed a pair of Stovestop Firestops, devices that function as an automatic fire extinguisher, onto

each cooking unit in every residence hall equipped with electric stovetops.

After installing over 750 devices, the University joins 14 other schools in the nation that incorporate Firestops devices as a part of their respective set of fire-safety procedures.

"We wanted to make sure that if there was a fire it could easily be put out," Tallon said.

One factor that made Firestops the most attractive option to Tallon was they were "something fool-proof, that didn't require people to get involved," and also

SEE FIRE, PAGE 2

Florida Prepaid amendment to refund \$50 million

DESTINEY BURT
Staff Writer

Florida Prepaid, which was once considered a smart investment for parents hoping to put their kids through college, has become increasingly more expensive with rising tuition rates.

But lawmakers are trying to pass a bill that would save

families who enroll a newborn almost a hundred dollars a month and refund \$50 million to 26 thousand families.

Today, customers pay double the tuition rate to protect them from a possible 15 percent tuition increase over the span of a decade.

This change to the prepaid plan began in 2009.

Because colleges and

universities are raising tuition fees, Florida Prepaid is getting even more expensive.

Tuition, which is set by the State Legislature and the Board of Governors, is not dependent upon the amount paid by Florida Prepaid.

However, lawmakers are trying pass a bill that would amend the program, changing the payment plan that determines

how much families would have to pay for tuition and fees.

Some students aren't banking on the bill, however.

"Tuition rises because of inflation due to our monetary system and regardless of what lawmakers try to do, it will keep on rising," said Felipe Valencia, a junior biology major.

Nicholas Armbrister's parents starting saving for his college

education when he was just a child.

"I don't think there would be a negative impact if the bill doesn't pass," said Armbrister, a sophomore in business management. "If parents start raising money for their children when they are at a young age, it just means they will have to save

SEE PREPAID, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

US files charge against Toyota, \$1.2B penalty

The government announced a \$1.2 billion settlement with Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday and filed a criminal charge alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements about safety issues in Toyota and Lexus vehicles. Under a deferred prosecution agreement, an independent monitor will review policies, practices and procedures at the company.

The action concludes a four-year criminal investigation into the Japanese automaker's disclosure of safety problems, which focused on whether Toyota was forthright in reporting problems related to unintended acceleration troubles.

New Tunisian prime minister to visit White House

The White House says Tunisia's new prime minister will visit President Barack Obama next month to discuss the North African nation's transition to democracy. Obama press secretary Jay Carney says Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa is planning a trip April 4. The visit comes two months after Jomaa's government was put in place.

Carney says the two leaders will discuss how the United States can support Tunisia's democracy, which has developed since the overthrow of its dictator three years ago as part of the "Arab Spring." Since the uprising, Tunisia has been wracked by terrorist attacks, social unrest and a limping economy. Carney says the two leaders will discuss possible economic, political and security assistance from the U.S. to support Jomaa's reform agenda and Tunisia's stability.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 74, in the article "Multi-disciplinary panel offers insight into journalism today," the Society of Professional Journalist's President Marisol Medina's name was misspelled.

In the same issue, the Opinion article titled, "A million and one uses for plastic baggies" was written by Ariel Weinstein, not Jennipher Schafer.

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

Student debt increases 300 percent in 10 years

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affect the application process for a mortgage.

"If you have debt and are, for example, applying for a mortgage that's going to be a negative for you," he said.

Currently, there are about 20 thousand students at FIU who have taken out a loan of some kind to help pay for school; and Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines said the University focuses on educating students about loans to avoid major financial troubles in their future.

"Every freshman and almost every transfer student takes the freshman experience class and there's a module on financial aid and handling your finances in that class," Valines said. "There's information on student loans and how to handle your student loans in that module."

"We make sure that we're

educating them as much as we can," Valines said.

He also reminded students to do some research and only take out what they need.

“Be smart about what you borrow and only borrow what you need.”

Francisco Valines
Director
Financial Aid

“By federal regulation we are required to offer you every loan you're eligible for, but that doesn't mean you have to take them,”

Valines said. "Be smart about what you borrow and only borrow what you need."

Karayalcin also had some words of advice for students looking to take out loans: don't borrow too much given your future earning potential.

"Different majors have different earning potentials, if you're going to be in social work and are not going to make as much money as a doctor then it is best not to borrow as much because that will be a burden on you when you graduate," he said.

But if it's a choice between going to college or not going to college, Karayalcin said a student should "always choose going to college and borrowing."

"Education is an investment for your future. And in some cases if there's no other way to finance it, you should borrow," he said.

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Improvements make residence halls safer, more fire resistant

FIRE, PAGE 1

"provided an instant and automatic response."

Each Firestop device — no bigger than a can of tuna — contains about 8 ounces of a harmless fire extinguishing powder, comprised mostly of sodium bicarbonate. The can is attached under the stove hood by a magnet and, through a fuse similar to a firecracker, is automatically initiated after direct contact with a flame.

The Firestop's flame retardant powder has the capability to douse flames up to 32 inches high. One device can cover up to two burners and can reach even beyond the stove.

Despite the Firestop's small size, Tallon says the Firestops will play a large role in preventing kitchen fires in the residence halls. Moreover, it helps the University

keep costs down.

"One fire that we had in Parkview, that set the sprinklers off, cost \$40 thousand to clean up the water in that building," said Tallon. "If these [Firestops] stop the sprinklers from going off once, they already paid for themselves."

Housing students were unaware of their presence; however, they did not go unappreciated.

"I had no idea they were even there," said Bryan Martinez, a senior finance major. "But I feel a lot safer knowing that they are there."

Housing and facilities have yet face an incident to test the Firestops, but Tallon says the residence halls are in a safe place in the unfortunate case of the unseen.

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Amendment could refund Florida Prepaid money

PREPAID, PAGE 1

up a little bit more money."

Armbrister believes Florida Prepaid is still beneficial even though it continues to rise, "but a lot more people should exercise other options and be looking for scholarships, loans and grants more often than they do now."

Alexandra Dimeco, senior journalism major, views the bill in a more positive light, however.

"It's beneficial because, throughout the years, tuition has exponentially risen," said Dimeco. "It will take stress off of parents and it's a guarantee that their child will have coverage for college."

But the amendment to the program wouldn't only lower plan prices. It could also potentially refund \$50 million to people that have already invested in Florida Prepaid.

A supervisor of customer service for Florida Prepaid said the families that could receive part of the refund have not been determined yet, and are contingent upon the bill's approval.

Until the bill is passed and goes through the House, there are few concrete details about the possible refunds.

"The families that would get refunds, if the bill is passed, would receive confirmation

“It will take stress off of parents, and it's a guarantee that their child will have coverage for college.”

Alexandra Dimeco
Senior
Journalism

and information on their website," said the customer service supervisor.

Account members who possibly paid more when tuition was raised would be the ones seeing the refunds, according to

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Racist flag flies in Boca Raton

JENNIPHER SCHAFER
Staff Writer

Over spring break I saw something I couldn't believe. I've seen people fly their Confederate flags while living in Davie and even Lake Worth, but I'd never seen this.

Kelsey Hayes proudly flies not only this symbol of oppression, but also the Ku Klux Klan flag and has a KKK recruitment sign posted to his fence. To add to these insults he also hangs a noose in his front yard. The odd part is he claims not to be racist.

Hold the phone. He flies the flag of the southern separatists who fought to maintain the institution of slavery and arguably the one of the most racist hate groups of modern day alongside a noose but claims not to be racist?

He actually thinks it is similar to flying the Puerto Rican flag as one of his neighbors does. "He's proud of his heritage, I'm proud of mine," said Hayes according to NBC 6.

There are ways to be proud of a southern heritage that do not involve clinging to racist ideology. I should know. I can trace ancestors to both sides of the war.

Relics of my southern family remain in our home including diaries, letters, and even a soldier's cane after he was

wounded in battle.

Still, we understand that what they fought for was beyond wrong and use their stories to never allow ourselves to behave like they did.

The KKK, while not officially considered a terrorist cell, does have files with the Department of Homeland Security citing previous domestic attacks, the group's history, and how membership is organized.

They are considered a hate group despite protests from within their membership. They have used violence

“There are ways to be proud of a southern heritage that do not involve clinging to racist ideology.”

to target African Americans openly and are connected with a bombing in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963.

The church targeted served African Americans involved in the Civil Rights Movement. This attack led to President Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

It would seem that, while he does have the right to fly these symbols and state his opinion, to do so and then deny the reality of them is unacceptable. You can't be both racist and not racist in a situation like this.

Naturally, his neighbors have spoken out requesting he remove these from his front yard. Some neighbors have even said they feel threatened by the "yard decorations" as Hayes calls them.

These neighbors speak out across racial borders. One of his white neighbors notably called him a "racist pig" in an NBC interview. I'm inclined to agree with her whole-heartedly.

The sad reality is that there are still people like Hayes in the world. Some say it can't be helped. I think they're wrong.

If we collectively take a stand to end these archaic ways of thinking, then over time, perhaps a generation or two, his mindset will be extinct.

This cannot be done lightly. It cannot simply be a shifting of hate for one group to another. It must be a casting off of all hate for it to truly work.

A very wise man once said "Imagine all the people living life in peace." John Lennon may be dead, but he is not alone in his dream.

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Wear clothes, don't let them wear you

KESHA DORISMA
Staff Writer

A girl in a skin tight, low cut top and short shorts would probably be stereotyped to be promiscuous. A guy in sagging, baggy jeans and a T-shirt will be profiled as a hoodlum or gangster. The guy in thick glasses with the buttoned up collared shirt is thought to be a nerd.

Too often we look solely at people's external appearance, specifically at the clothes they wear and the haircuts they possess.

With such little details about the person, we suddenly feel like we know enough about them to give a proper-fitting label.

We have forgotten that clothes, haircuts, and accessories are just fashion statements and nothing more.

Contrary to what a lot of people think, someone's outer appearance cannot give you any information about their personality, their preferred pastimes or their values.

The girl that is branded

promiscuous because of her shorts may have only chosen to wear them because she likes the way they make her look. Maybe the alleged gangster dresses the way he does because it is comfortable for him.

“In judging someone by the way they dress, you are making an assumption that everyone uses clothing as a medium of self-expression. This is assumption is wrong.”

What you choose to wear is only a small part of who you are and it is not enough to form an opinion.

In judging someone by the way they dress, you are making an assumption that everyone uses clothing as a medium of self-expression. This is assumption is wrong.

Sure, some people, like myself, choose their outfits to be directly correlated to how they are feeling that day, but not everyone does.

For some people, the best choice of outfit is the first clean shirt and bottoms seen in the closet; they don't care if it will give off the impression of a prep, a bum or a tramp.

One should not identify

a person by the clothes they wear. Identity is something that is within and goes far deeper than the external layers of clothing.

We have become so accustomed to judging others by their outer appearance and the days of that is probably far from being obsolete.

It's important to think about the impression that you are giving with your clothes because whether you like it or not, people are bound to

label you based on what they see.

You may be the smartest person in the room, but no one will take you seriously when you're hiding behind a gigantic shirt three sizes too big or suffocating in a mini skirt two sizes too small.

Of course you can wear whatever you want, it's a free country, but it's going to be at the price of being judged.

It seems that one will always have to choose between wearing whatever it is that they feel like wearing and wearing what they think will be "appropriate."

Which one should you go with: the jean shorts that will allow your legs to breathe on a hot Miami day or the uncomfortable pencil skirt that will portray you as the business-minded individual that you really are?

Should we care what other people think or should we just wear whatever our hearts desire with no regards of the judgment or stereotype it will bring?

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THE BEACON | Editorial

It's time to rock the vote, FIU

It's election time again, and not just in the state of Florida, but here at FIU.

Student Government Association elections are just around the corner, and as students, we have the power yearly to elect fellow students who will represent us and our desires when asking for funding for our different departments.

While the right to vote is available to us, most students choose not to use it, and even fewer choose to run and represent their college

In last year's election, there were four senators who went unchallenged. Having no one else running against them, they were able to take the position with ease.

There is no reason for students to not care about their student government, or even participate. SGA on both campuses allocates funds to student-run organizations, funds that each organization needs to operate every year.

As students we need to remember that it is our duty to vote for those who represent us at school. We have to realize that if electees go unchallenged, we will have senators that are hand-picked by those individuals who only want their goals furthered and not the vision of the entire school.

When student leaders in SGA are elected simply because there is low voter turnout or that candidate is running unopposed, we as students are giving up our say in deciding who should be in charge.

These elections are vital to what goes on at each campus to just ignore them and avoid coming to class for a week.

So this election season, have some school pride and go vote. Instead of ducking your head to pretend to text, keep your eyes open and learn about the different positions that students are running for. Pay attention to what these candidates have to say, not just if they give you freebies.



LUIS BOLANOS/THE BEACON

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

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Film festival wraps up for year number 31

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

The uniqueness and sophistication of the Olympia Theater, at downtown Miami, opened its doors for the beginning of the Miami International Film Festival 2014 (MIFF), celebrated from Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 15.

Remarkable characters from all of the continents arrived to the warm and multi-cultural city of Miami to share the premier of their most creative work.

This year the MIFF celebrated the anniversary number 31 of the finest world film industry that includes independent and documentary productions. The festival introduced film lovers to remarkable national and international directors as well as acclaim actors and producers such as Mike Myers, Shirley MacLaine, Christopher Plummer, John Turturro, Andy Garcia, Anne

Hathaway, as well as Gloria and Emilio Estefan,

Founded by the Film Society of Miami, Inc. in 1983, with the main objective of providing cultural understanding, encouraging artistic development and excellence in cinematographic through film, the MIFF gained recognition from the heights and most exclusive film critics and members of the film business.

In 1990s, the Film Society transferred the administration of the festival to Florida International University; however, since October 2003, Miami Dade College (MDC) is the principal sponsor and organizer of the gala.

Passionate founders, excited viewers and loyal sponsors such as American Airlines, HBO Latino and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation seized one of the important parties in the industry.

Regal South Beach Cinemas, Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for

the Performing Arts, Tower Theater, O Cinema, Coral Gables Art Cinema and Miami Beach Cinematheque were part of the venues.

On day one, Jaie Laplante, executive director of the MIFF, once again, welcomed the public and presented the world premiere of "Elsa and Fred," directed by Michael Radford. Starring Oscar winners Christopher Plummer and Shirley MacLaine, this story of love breaks social stereotypes of timing and the circumstances that an old couple live in the search of happiness.

This production is a remake project from the Spanish-Argentine film, "Elsa y Fred." With the participation of Latin American actors such as Osvaldo Rios and Ricardo Kleinbaum, this film brought the best of different culture and background to praise the idea of hope and love without a limit of age.

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ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Those pictured above are Gloria Estefan (left) and Emilio Estefan (right) at the festival.

Student playwrights to be featured this weekend

JUNETTE REYES
Entertainment Director

Every year since 2008, a select few of submissions of plays written by students are performed in the form of stage readings in association with the Department of Theatre. The work featured is always written, performed and directed by the students themselves, this year even featuring students outside of the department.

"We announce it through the playwriting class, people who have taken it over the years, the Theatre Department and really anyone who has taken an interest," Professor Michael Yawney said.

The New Plays Festival 2014 will present a total of six plays. There is

no underlying theme connecting each of the stories, therefore the audience can expect a different experience with each.

"The audience can expect to laugh, cry and be scared," Yawney said. "The plays really range from everything from a comedy that takes place in the time of Shakespeare to one of the plays that is a really scary, comedy thriller about a hired killer. Another one is based on something many of us have seen: the ducks being violent against each other by the dormitories and someone's reaction to ducks committing violence. Another play is a very strong play about a significant life-changing event I think that everyone attending FIU has been through. We also have a wonderful surrealist play

about the search for love and we also have a romantic comedy."

All of the plays are short and approximately 10 minutes long. Yawney expects the production to run for about an hour and 20 minutes.

"It's a real range of material and the wonderful thing about short plays is that there's always another one a few minutes away," Yawney said.

The plays billed include "Bus Stop," written by Patricia Morales and directed by Amanda Ortega, "Dos Quartos," written by Julio Liverpool and directed by Chachi Colon, "The Lesson," written by madeline Escarne and directed by Caitlyn Lincoln, "September," written by Ashley McGuire and directed by Missy Francis, "Quack Means No," written

by Patrick Rodriguez and directed by Nelly Torres and "La Vecchia Religione," written by Nelly Torres and directed by Nakeyta Moore.

One of the writers, Patrick Rodriguez, who is a senior in the acting program, previously participated in the festival as an actor in several pieces within the last two years.

"I will not be participating in any of them this year, however, I will be overseeing my show to make sure if anything needs to be changed or offer any opinion. From a dramaturgical standpoint, I'll try to be involved. As far as the actual production of it, I'll wipe my hands clean of it," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez wrote "Quack Means No" two years ago and has been

working on the piece since then. The play centers around a couple having an argument and involves a duck and sexual assault.

"I think it's going to be a really fun time. I'm not familiar with the other pieces being put on but as far as my show goes, it's supposed to be comedic so hopefully people laugh but hopefully it also gets people to think about a topic that is touchy. I want people to laugh but also think," Rodriguez said.

The work of playwrights from the University will be performed today, March 21 with a repeat performance on Saturday, March 22. The event is free for audiences to attend and will take place in DM 150 at 8 p.m.

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Phi Sigma Sigma puts new twist on annual fundraiser

GISELLE CANCIO
Staff Writer

From the east coast to the west coast, the ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma Rock all day during an event called "Rock-A-Thon."

"Originally, the national philanthropy of Phi Sigma Sigma was the National Kidney Foundation therefore Rock-a-thon was designed to mimic what kidney patients must go through for long periods of time in order to keep their circulation up throughout dialysis treatment," Christina Castillo, the philanthropy chair for the FIU chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma, said. "This year will mark our 23rd annual Rock-a-thon."

A nine-hour event held in the Graham Center Pit, teams were

able to register for just \$100. It's the team's responsibility to keep someone rocking in the chair the whole day, and people can be switched as often as needed.

The chosen theme was Legos due to multiple reasons.

"Since our national philanthropy is no longer the National Kidney Foundation, I had two options," Castillo said. "It was either to create an entire new national philanthropy event or to keep Rock-a-thon, but with a twist."

She went with the twist and decided that the word itself, "Lego," can be seen as an abbreviation for Let's go. Therefore, it became "Lego Rocking for the Kids."

Legos was also chosen because their mission directly correlates to

the new national philanthropy of Phi Sigma Sigma, the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation.

All money funds raised will go to the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation, which is a non-profit organization benefiting School and College Readiness.

The foundation's mission is to raise funds and awareness, which will change, empower, and support students by helping children be fully prepared to learn, lead and become the leaders and scholars of tomorrow.

School and College Readiness Programs or Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow, has been Phi Sigma Sigma's philanthropic endeavor as of 2013. During Phi Sigma Sigma's Centennial Convention in New

York, the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation adopted a compelling cause that would allow each member to make a significant difference in the lives of others.

Similarly, Lego's purpose is to inspire and develop children to think creatively, reason systematically, and release their potential to shape their own future, experiencing the endless human possibility.

"Legos also want to bring solutions to educators that will enable their students to succeed," Castillo said. "We know that teachers are expected to deliver specific learning outcomes and measurable results and LEGO Education strives to create solutions that answer to those needs."

Aside from rocking, teams

had the opportunity to engage in different activities that took place each hour. Activities included extreme canning, penguin hot potato and a chicken wing contest.

An event in the works since December, Castillo's goal was to bring the theme of Legos together within the actual event to simulate a Lego-land where participants are ready and prepared to help children while remembering their own childhood and the education they have today.

Castillo's advice to the students? "Come out, make a difference and change a life," Castillo said.

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'Union Station' fails to give lasting impression

COLUMNIST



ROBERTO LOPEZ-TRIGO

The album "Union Station" came out as the sophomore release of the band The Belle Jar.

This band can be best described as a very danceable, modern indie folk rock, with Americana influence.

They hail from Denver, Colorado and started out as a personal project of Ryan James, singer and songwriter of the band, but over time this band evolved into a six-piece, featuring rich instrumentation, such as a piano, violin, drums, a bass, and more.

Their Timbre and fun rhythm sets them apart from the crowd, but at times fall into overly repetitious phrases that make listeners get tired of a song before it's even over.

For starters, in the song "Window Panes" it starts off with a simple guitar riff, but suddenly explodes out of nowhere, with enough energy to make you want to square-dance and take part in a hoedown on the spot.

The song only continues to flourish as time continues and grow. However, for the same token, the song becomes overly repetitive and stale very quickly. This repetition is hid pretty well by the addition of vocal harmony and more instruments, but with a few listens the song becomes very tired very easily.

However a song that stands out from the rest of the album, is the song "In Circles." This song is much slower and seems to be a sort of tribute to James's solo songwriting days. This song is quite good and shows a very personal side, in contrast to the overly dancy repetition of the rest of the bands songs.

Overall, the band is quite good, and the album is full of great songs that will entertain you, but many of the songs fall to repetition. They seem like they would be great live performers, seeing as they are very upbeat and fun, but when sitting down and appreciating the music, you get bored of what little there is to appreciate. They will be a good listen, but not for long.

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T-SHIRTS AND JUICE



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Abigail Dominguez (blue purse), a senior studying biology, enters to be raffled for a sweepstake to win a car from the Naked juice truck visiting and giving out free juice samples and T-shirts.

Miami film festival premieres shows, stars

FINALE, PAGE 4

Also, a growing talent, Jared Gilman, best known for his role on "Moonrise Kingdom," and now a cast member for Elsa & Fred, share his secret to work on the film industry.

"Be patient, expect rejection and know that everything is about timing. There is a reason of why it is call the perfect roll, timing and preparation has to come in to play," Gilman said.

Another extraordinary

premier was "An Unbreakable Bond," a film produced by Emilio Estefan and narrated by Gloria Estefan. This documentary presents the story of NFL Hall of Famer Nick Buoniconti and his nearly three decade struggle spinal cord injuries. With the help and support of his family Nick inverse himself in the search for a cure and to help others who are suffering from this condition. The films archives the creation of The Miami Project and The Buoniconti Fund. Hope, uncondi-

tional love, awareness and courage are the main chords of this production.

In 1990, Gloria Estefan broke her back and was faced with the harsh possibility of never walk or have a normal life again after a transit accident. This personal struggle touched her perception of what life is truly about.

"This film represents not just the amazing story of Nick Buoniconti, but a struggle that Gloria and I also faced. Children from all around the world are also suffering from

this illness," Emilio Estefan said. "We want to spread awareness and find a cure."

"I am so proud of Emilio for the production of the movie and I hope we can raise more sources to find a cure for paralysis. We are so close to do it, so I want to be part of it," Gloria Estefan said.

Florida International University students are one of the principal ingredients for the production of the festival. Paolo Augustine, a senior in public relations was selected by the remarkable team of

Jessica Wade Inc. Public Relations Company to work hand by hand and make from the festival an astonishing event.

Mauricio Parra, Miami personality, official DJ for Vogue magazine and MTV events and an FIU Alumni, lighted up the inauguration party with a fusion of vibrating and energetic rhythms. He also encouraged the FIU family, to follow their dreams.

"To all my FIU brothers and sisters, please keep

working hard, study and prepare yourself everyday. Keep the passion for your dreams," Parra said.

"I can definitely say that working for the Miami International Film Festival has made this spring break the most memorable for me so far. I had the opportunity to build experience, meet new awesome people, actors and filmmakers," Augustine said.

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'Need for Speed' movie actually forgettable

COLUMNIST



MARTELL HARDING

As many video game fans will agree, it's nerve wracking when a new video game adaptation is announced. Your gut confirms any suspicious notion that it may just suck and "Need for Speed" is no exception. Although not entirely a letdown, "Need for Speed" goes down the same path as its other adaptation predecessors.

Aaron Paul ("Breaking Bad") plays Tobey Marshall in this low octane adventure as a young man struggling to keep his father's auto shop and legacy afloat. Everything goes haywire when a past acquaintance enters the picture, causing a two year wave of loss and devastation. As he sits in jail, revenge is the only thing on his mind. This would be a great plot if it had not been played out 30 years ago. As difficult as it may be to come up with a plot for a game containing none, they could have certainly done better than the whole "revenge is a dish best served cold" cliché.

Throughout the film, we get a good three races, some high speed chases and some helicopter action. What's great about "Need for Speed" is its use of realistic racing and lack of CGI, however, it's all lacking...well, speed. The

only element that's pushed to its limit (not really) is its comic relief. Scott Mescudi also known as rapper Kid Cudi and Remi Malek work in the jokes whenever possible, and I mean whenever. Sometimes I'm not sure if the jokes even belong, nonetheless they do lighten up the slow paced mood.

Watching Aaron Paul do something other than "Breaking Bad" was interesting. Let it be known that he is not what's wrong with the film. The low barred script, over abundance of silly characters, difficult pacing and clichés are what's wrong with the film. In my interview with Paul, I asked what his take on video games were. He admitted to not really playing much since the "Golden Eye" days, which is really cool considering it's one of those legendary titles. His favorite game to play right now is "Bubble Bobble"...a little unexpected but awesome.

"Need for Speed" is one of those movies you'll see once and then forget about once you leave the theater. Therefore it's a great date movie, but it deserves a spot next to the other video game adaptation disappointments. "Need for Speed" is rated PG-13 for sequences of reckless street racing, disturbing crash scenes, nudity and crude language.

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Album releases to look forward to this week

COLUMNIST



ALEXANDRE NUNEZ

This week, March 17 to March 21, saw the release of some pretty interesting albums, including Foster the People's sophomore album "Supermodel," Tycho's "Unknown" and Blondie's "Ghosts of Download." Here are two of the lesser known releases I enjoyed listening to.

L.A. Witch. E.P.

This is garage rock at its finest. Dirty, distorted, unintelligible and just plain cool.

The first track is your typical "Get lost, I'm too cool" punk attitude song with a raging guitar riff. Coincidentally, the name of the track is "Get Lost." But it has this confident feel to it and it just sounds really cool, meaning you'll feel really cool when you're listening to it.

The second track has this haunting sound. It's an acoustic set with echoes shimmering and a hint of some blues and folk mixed together. For the track "Heart of Darkness," it sounds like the band recorded it in an abandoned haunted church, if there's such a thing.

The third track reminds me of a Cramps song mixed with a Horrors song. The American Horrors that is, not the British band.

Muffled vocals, heavy beat on the bass drum pedal, a crunchy guitar through some nasty sounding speakers spitting out cheap reverb, and a killer mean bass that breaks into a solo towards the end. This song is just wicked. "You Love Nothing."

The War on Drugs - "Lost in the Dream"

Eighties' synth, chiming guitars and hypnotic sounds; it's hard not to escape and let your imagination go while listening to this record. The War on Drug's Lost in the Dream feels very much like you're lost in a John Hughes and Cameron Crowe dream.

The almost nine minute opener "Under the Pressure," has this beautiful tremolo sounding effect in the back while the guitar is creating a sweet melancholic atmosphere.

The rest of the tracks continue to flow with this hypnotic mood. The one track that doesn't seem to fit is track 6, Eyes to the Wind. It's a bit off compared with the rest of the album. It's not a bad song, it just doesn't go along with the mood the album establishes.

Overall, Lost in the Dream is a very beautifully sounding album with warm, melancholic rock sounds. Notable tracks include "Under the Pressure," "Red Eyes," "Disappearing," "The Haunting Idle," and "Burning."

FOOTBALL

Spring practice gives freshmen chance to shine

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Football is back to the South Florida college scene as the FIU Football Panthers returned to Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium on Tuesday, March 19 for the first practice leading towards the 2014 season.

This will also be the second season under Head Coach Ron Turner after a tough season with only a single win over the 2013 campaign.

"I don't know if it is easier [than last spring] because there is always a challenge," Turner said. "You have always got to work at it. The guys understand what is expected of them."

The team that was one of the youngest in the nation last year still has only a small amount of senior leadership. One of those guys is wide receiver T.J. Lowder.

"I feel like today we took a big step as a team," Lowder said. "We are way more ahead than we were last spring. I think it is more of a fresh start because it is a new group since the seniors left from last year. They gave us a big boost from last year and now is a fresh start."

He also admits that the incoming freshmen will need to have an impact this season, and he is there to help.

"We are going to have to show them the ropes when they get here and they are going to need to catch up," Lowder said.

One freshman, who graduated early from Dillard High School in Miami, Bud Martin, will be practicing for the Spring with the football team.

Martin had a 20-yard throw to tight end Jonathan Pavlov, on day one of spring practice, and he is one of two spring ball freshmen quarterbacks along with Alex McGough. McGough who threw a 25-yard ball to wide out Fred Porter was described by FIU Athletics Pete Pelegrin to have the stronger arm, while Martin was more accurate.

Martin thinks that coming out in Spring has its advantages.

"Learning the plays and the playbook in Spring and getting together with the whole team. It makes it easier to become part of the team before the season even starts," Martin said. "I don't know if it is an advantage but I just wanted to graduate early and play in the Spring, so I guess you could say that it is one. We are all just out here to compete."

The position of quarterback is one of the most questionable for the Panthers in 2014. The starter from the

majority of the 1-11, 2013 season in Jake Medlock, has found a new home at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

The quarterbacks on the roster for Spring 2014 are E.j. Hilliard who is the only quarterback on the roster with experience at the college level.

This is followed by Akil Dan-Fodio, who ran the second team on day one, is described by Pelegrin as the most comfortable in the Pro-style offense that Turner runs.

The two freshmen bring up the bottom of that list.

"That [competing for the starting job] is what we are all here for," Martin said.

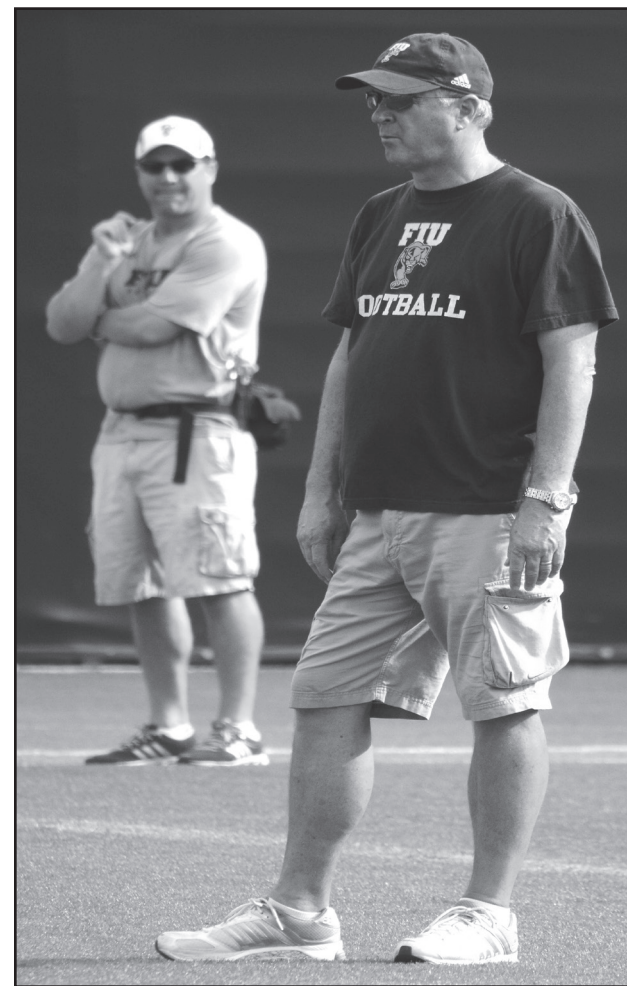
"Whoever the best player is will start under center game one," Turner added. "If one of those two freshmen are the best player than they will start but I have no idea. They are going to play well because they are going to have some very stiff competition. Whoever is performing the best is going to play. I don't get caught up in whether a guy is a walk-on, true freshman or senior, I don't care about any of that stuff. I just care if the guy is going to play."

The Panthers also have brought in new coaches to the staff for the second year of the Turner era. Randy Melvin is now leading the defensive line since Andre Patterson left for the same job with the Minnesota Vikings. Turner previously worked with Melvin when they were both on staff for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers under coach Greg Schiano.

Some other coaches that are new Panthers in 2014 are Kerry Dixon II, who now is the head of the runningback core comes over after being at Florida Atlantic University.

Rob Harley is in charge of the linebackers after spending the previous two years with the Spartans of Michigan State University and special teams has brought in Shannon Moore to lead after being with the Jackrabbits of South Dakota State University for eight years including being the special teams coordinator and the tight ends coach. Turner commented on the response of the players to these new coaches.

"I think it has been outstanding," Turner said. "They [the players] have really bought in to what they [the coaches] have been doing and what those guys have been doing. I think that he [Melvin] is doing very well, very well. He has his own personality that is different than the guy before him but all of them are and I think that they [the players] look at him and respect where he has been but still when he gets here he has to do what he needs to



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Head Coach Ron Turner (right) is entering his second season at the helm of the Panthers football program. Turner is adamant that the best player will win out at any position no matter their experience.

and the guys respect his knowledge. They respect what he brings to the table and he has a very serious demeanor but they know he cares."

The Panthers will practice tomorrow, Saturday, March 22 to end the first week of Spring ball and will go for a total of four weeks.

The Spring will wrap up on Saturday, April 12 with the annual Blue versus Gold game at FIU Stadium with a kickoff at 11:00 a.m.

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COLUMN

Tennis looks to move into a great position

COLUMNIST



JAHREL FRANCIS

to find victory.

The team hasn't found any luck against their Boston based opponents, Boston College on March 4 and Boston University and March 15, as they are real tough teams. Despite these falls the Panthers traveled to California and began their useful momentum March 6 and March 8. These two matches resulted in 4-3 wins and kept it rolling back to the east coast.

The main objective after the BC match was for the team to identify how exactly they were to go about finishing their matches. Many of their matches came

The women's tennis team is at its best. With wins and losses the team keeps fighting and individually learning themselves and their opponents

close but given away in the last of the serves. Having practice and matches with this goal in mind, the Panthers learned where to tweak in their game.

Momentum and new lessons learned in tandem, the women's team welcomed University of North Carolina at Greensboro and smashed them in a 6-1 domination. The teams hard work has been showcased.

The next match against Boston University was rough with a 5-2 defeat. A notable single match broke senior Giulietta Boha's 13 single match win streak. This match against their recent wins had a losing outcome but this did not set them back any.

Prepared at home to face their next opponent the women were ready to bounce back. March 18 the Panther tennis courts hosted University at Albany.

The Albany Great Danes



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Sophomore Carlotta Orlando has been contributing greatly to the Panthers 4-1 record since March 4.

started off with a doubles point leading the match 1-0. Boha and sophomore Aleksandra Trifunovic were the only to win

their double over the Danes. Duo of sophomore Carlotta Orlando and freshman Tina Mohorcic and the duo of freshmen Nina Nagode and Valentina Briceno did not come far behind their opponents with 8-7 losses.

Next were the single matches in which all six panthers demanded their victories from the not so great Danes. For the freshmen; Briceno won by walk-over, Mohorcic beat her opponent 7-6 (1), 6-3, and Nagode defeated her opponent 6-2, 6-4. Sophomores Orlando was victorious with 6-1, 6-2 scores, and Trifunovic overwhelmed her opponent with a 6-4, 6-3. No longer on her streak, senior Boha may have been angered but either way punished her opponent 6-0, 6-1.

New skills entailed within these Panthers they are in a great position. In their countrywide

experience they have developed into a team that performs and provides results. They can now look to further improve. At times they may seem anxious or nervous though once they brush off down to what is purely their game their opponent's get a glimpse of what they can be. Still young, fresh frustration will be turned into sculpted accomplishment.

For Boha is creeping up on a chance she always wanted and has opportunity to finish where she wants. Coach Katarina Petrovic always has her players to improve somewhere and strong pride with them.

Their next match is against Columbia University tomorrow, Saturday, March 22 at the home courts. To underemphasize this team is a great match and skill to watch.

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COLUMN

Panthers were one player away from contending in the 2014 post season

COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

The women's basketball team was supposed to take the 'next step' this season.

After two-consecutive appearances in the Women's National Invitation Tournament, this year's squad was determined to make a run at the NCAA Tournament.

It was supposed to happen. All the pieces were in place: until they weren't anymore.

Shortly before the start of the season, word spread about the possibility of losing senior Marita Davydova because of eligibility concerns.

Davydova was the clear-cut second option on a team where the top option was star senior Jerica Coley.

Davydova, an enforcer in the paint, emerged after transferring to FIU as a junior from Russia.

During her debut season, the 6-foot-3

center averaged 9.8 points per game while leading the team in rebounds at 8.8 boards per contest.

Coley, a two-time All-American and Conference Player of the Year, was going to have the inevitable target on her back, but Davydova was the key in preventing opposing teams from double or even triple teaming her.

It was all planned out.

During her final interview after the 2012-2013 season, Coley laid out the expectations for this year.

The goal was to win a conference championship and make it to the Big Dance. Before the start of this season, Coley expressed the same goals.

For her, it was clear.

She wasn't crazy, she was just expecting some help.

With Coley having to ramp up her already gaudy scoring numbers this season the Panthers finished with a 15-18 record -- a huge drop from 19-13 the year before.

Coley somehow averaged 29.5 points

per game, despite facing constant double teams, and led her team almost all the way to the championship game at Conference USA tournament.

The Panthers (a 13 seed) upset three-consecutive opponents before falling to nationally-ranked Middle Tennessee State in the semifinals.

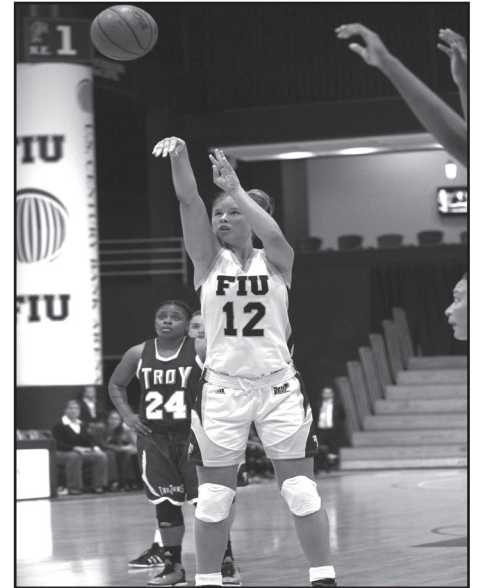
The Blue Raiders pounded the ball inside to their star forward Ebony Rowe, and allotted a constant watch whenever Coley touched the basketball on the other end.

Davydova was the missing piece in the Middle Tennessee matchup, much like she was for the entire season.

The Panthers needed her frame, energy and ability to score in the post.

Considering how far the Panthers got without Davydova, it's safe to say that they were one piece -- or one compliance officer away from dancing.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior Marita Davydova emerged last season as the clear-cut second best player at FIU. Her senior season was supposed to help senior Jerica Coley get to the NCAA Tournament.

Women and sports journalism showcased in panel

ROLES, PAGE 8

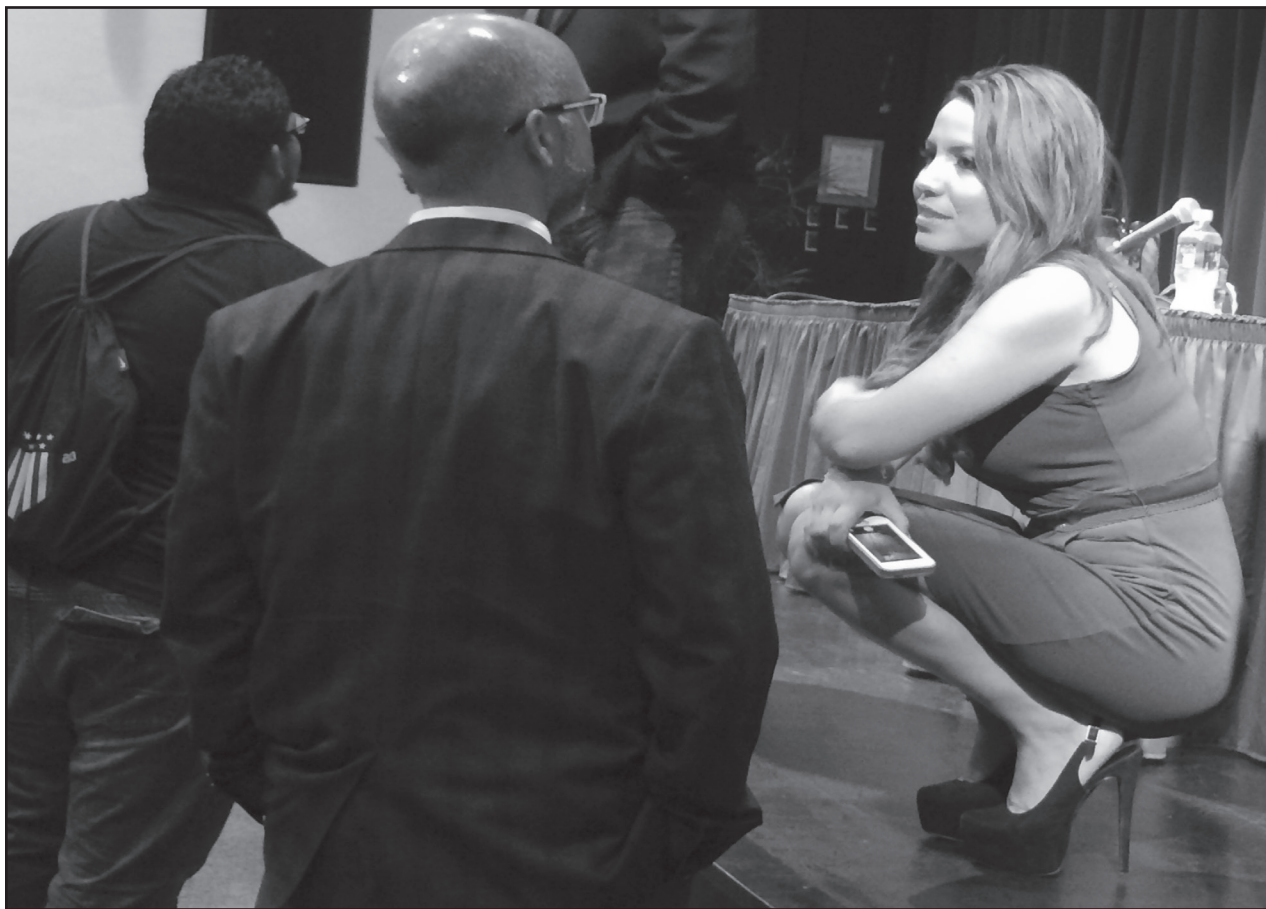
"We do great interviews because we bring the human part of the athletes out," said Casinelli, who has interviewed famous athletes like Derek Jeter of the New York Yankees, Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox, David "Big Papi" Ortiz.

Kaufman, who teaches sports writing at UM, has noticed that despite the large number of women studying sports journalism in college, most of them don't end up getting into the field.

"There's still not enough of us," said Kaufman. "When it comes to entering the field, women don't apply to the sports journalism jobs."

Based on a 2013 report from the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport conducted by the University of Central Florida, 88.3 percent of sports reporters were men, 90.2 percent of columnists were men, 90.4 percent of sports editors were men and 82.8 percent of assistant sports editors were men.

Kaufman suspects that some young women might



REBECA PICCARDO/THE BEACON

Lindsay Casinelli, a Univision sportscaster, chatted with her former journalism professor at California State University, SJMC Dean Raul Reis.

be turned off by the lifestyle, working nights and weekends, while others might

shy away from competing against men, because of the fear that they might have the

upper hand.

"Women are insecure about their knowledge of

sports, while guys are cocky about it," said Kaufman, who said that until the number of

women in sports journalism increases, seeing women in the field will still be a novelty.

Paige Lewis, a junior broadcast journalism major who covers the Florida Panthers for PantherParkway.com, asked Kaufman and Casinelli for advice when asking questions in a room full of loud, experienced male reporters.

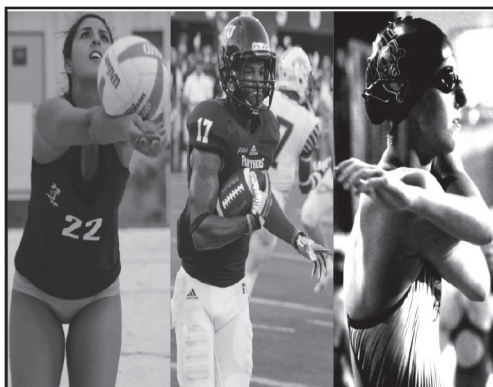
"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone," said Kaufman, advising Lewis to yell over them. Women, as well as all minorities, have to be better than average to succeed, she said.

Casinelli, who had originally set out to become a news reporter, encouraged students to be persistent despite the rejection or cynicism they receive.

She said that in the end, she felt she was serving the public by covering star athletes rather than tragedy.

"In this business you need to learn that to prove people wrong is a good thing for you, because people tend to doubt you," said Casinelli.

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Women's role in sports journalism evolving, communications panel says

REBECA PICCARDO
BBC Managing Editor

Every time Lindsay Casinelli walks into a room, she has to prove herself just because she is a woman.

"The first thing that people see are my boobs, and I live with that," said Casinelli, an Emmy-winning reporter and Univision sportscaster.

On the March 18 sports journalism panel for "Communication's Week 2014," Casinelli and Michelle Kaufman, a Miami Herald sportswriter and a University of Miami adjunct professor, spoke up about the bias towards women in the field.

"Women in sports journalism must constantly prove themselves to their audience, colleagues and the players interviewed," said Casinelli.

Kaufman said that some of the main issues she experienced while covering sports throughout her 28 year career were access and credibility.

As one of the first women to cover the NFL, she was denied access to locker room interviews for being a woman.

"I had to stand outside," said Kaufman. "Meanwhile my colleagues, whom I had to compete against, are all



BRANDON WISE/THE BEACON

At Tuesday's panel, members of different news organizations discussed the changes in sports media due to the rise of social media and globalization.

had to deal with "crashing the frat party," said Kaufman.

Although there were times of frustration, Kaufman stuck with what she loved – sports – with the help of women before her and the Association for Women in Sports media, an organization that sprung up out of the necessity

in sports journalism because of the assumption that only men have the "sports gene," she said.

"There's a credibility issue," said Kaufman. There is still a general skepticism towards seeing a female byline in the sports section, which can take a toll on the writer's authority on the subject matter, she said.

When a man enters sports journalism, their knowledge is never questioned, and they just need to prove that they can write and report, said Kaufman. Women entering the field need to prove not only their ability as a reporter, but as a sports connoisseur as well.

Kaufman, who just got back from Sochi and has covered various other Olympics and World Cups, still deals with bias today.

"I still get very nasty gender-oriented mail that men in our business don't have to deal with," Kaufman said.

Despite the setbacks for women in sports journalism, Casinelli said that there are certain things women have to offer in sports that some men can't—like showing the person, not just the athlete.

SEE ROLES, PAGE 7

Students get inside look at sports media

BRANDON WISE
Editor-In-Chief

Sports journalism isn't just for old white guys anymore.

Michelle Kaufman, a sportswriter for the Miami Herald, said that when she began in the industry, it was only men.

Kaufman, who has worked as a sports reporter for over three decades, estimated that there are only about 400 female sports journalists in the print industry out of 1,600 jobs.

Lindsay Casinelli, a sports TV host for Univision, said that many of the people she interviewed with told her that she wouldn't make it in the industry.

"I got lucky but like me, there are a lot of other people who have to keep knocking on the door," Casinelli said. "Somebody told me that I couldn't do sports anchoring on TV because I was too bubbly, and I proved them wrong. In this business, you've got to learn that proving people wrong is like a gift to you."

Gregory Lee Jr., the executive sports editor of the Sun-Sentinel, who has also worked at the New Orleans Times Picayune and Boston Globe, said that while more minorities are joining the industry, there are many difficulties in creating a startup media company.

"Right now, I'm one of four African-American sports editors in the country," Lee said. "There's only a couple of hispanics. You're already starting off on the bottom in legacy media. When you go into new media,

its just like old media, but it's worse. We're already starting off on the wrong foot with these startups because we're following the same model as old media."

As of 2013, 86.3 percent of sports reporters were white and 83.9 percent of columnists were also white, according to the Associated Press Sports Editors Racial and Gender report card.

Kaufman also emphasized that young journalists need to make strong contacts when just starting out, like she did with the secretary at the

University of Miami football office.

"Pay attention to the secretaries, security guards, the boosters who sit around and watch the practices," Kaufman said.

"Myrna Schneider was the secretary at UM under Lou Saban. She has outlasted seven coaches at that school. That woman has been sitting at that desk under Lou Saban, Howard Schnellenberger, Jimmy Johnson, Dennis Erickson. Do you think she knows anything?"

While learning to make connections is important, being active on social media is just as high on the priority list.

Gabriel Gabor, a consultant for Major League Soccer who helps to promote international soccer players, said reporters are trying to get stories out faster and faster.

"The whole world is changing because of the Internet and social media. Nowadays, I'm thinking of how we can break stories through social media," Gabor said. He recalls when an Atlanta reporter had an exclusive for decided to break the news in his social media before it went to print on the paper.

"He knew that if he didn't get it out right away, even though I told him we have an exclusive, that somebody else might get it and take the story," said Gabor.



BRANDON WISE/THE BEACON

Gregory Lee Jr., executive sports editor at the Sun Sentinel, said that it is still surprising how minorities are still not well represented in sports media.

“Women are insecure about their knowledge of sports, while guys are cocky about it.”

Michelle Kaufman,
Sports Writer
Miami Herald

in there, getting the interviews.”

"When women started showing up to cover sports, the men in the business resented giving up the access they once had, just to give women an equal opportunity for interviews," said Kaufman.

So women were given access, but

to unify the women who felt isolated in the individual newspapers, she said.

"As far as logistics go, it's gotten better," said Kaufman. "Now, the athletes are more used to seeing women in the business."

However, there is still a lot of bias

Panther statue to be revealed next fall

ALEXI CARDONA
Staff Writer

The panther statue has arrived and is being stored at BBC, but it will not be unveiled until early next fall. The statue will not be revealed at the Wolfe University Center ribbon-cutting, as previously hoped.

An FIU Student Media article from February, 2013 reported that the statue was supposed to be debuted during the Welcome Week of Fall 2013. James Wasseenaar, director of Facilities Planning & Operations with the Division of Student Affairs, said there

is no set date and that it was not scheduled to be ready last fall.

"We had no expectation of receiving the statue until this time," he said.

Richard Azimov, vice president of SGA-BBC, said the replica will be placed in the Wolfe University Center flagpole area.

The process of unveiling the statue has taken longer than anticipated because the Division of Student Affairs plans to construct a plaza around the placement of the statue.

Azimov said chairs and tables will be placed in the statue plaza and that landscaping will deco-

rate the area.

The statue, created by New Jersey-based sculptor Brian P. Hanlon, is a replica of the statue in front of the U.S. Century Bank Arena at MMC.

It weighs almost 2,000 pounds, stands over 7 feet tall and was cast in bronze. Michael Van Gorder, project manager at Hanlon Sculpture Studio, said the process of replicating the statue for BBC took 6 months.

The work was commissioned by SGA and the studio kept in touch with student leaders and administrators during those months.

The concept was based off of the FIU panther logo and was refined throughout the meetings and discussions between the studio, Student Government and administrators.

Van Gorder takes pride in the custom-made panther.

"I hope that this monument becomes a meeting point and popular photograph destination for students, faculty, alumni and fans, and enhances the pride, spirit and tradition for FIU and the campus community," Van Gorder said.

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