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CAMPUS SAFETY

Campus liquor, drug referrals rise, report says

DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Drug arrests, drug referrals and liquor law referrals have increased since last year, according to the 2012-2013 Campus Security and Fire Safety Report that has been released by the University Police Department.

The report gives numerical data for all reported crimes between the years 2009-2011. While many crimes have gone down in the past three years, others have remained the same or increased.

In 2011, there were 23 drug referrals, 29 drug arrests and 126 liquor law referrals. In 2010, there were 11 drug referrals, 29 drug arrests and 76 liquor law referrals.

"The more people [there are], statistically you are going to have more violations," said Alexander Casas, University police chief.

A referral, according to Casas,

involves a student being referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, instead of being booked and taken to a holding cell.

Casas also mentioned that officers use discretion upon apprehending students.

"What will drive an officer to make an arrest versus make a referral is a totality of the circumstances. They will exercise their discretion depending on the facts before them."

A majority of the cases reported occurred on the Modesto Maidique Campus housing facilities, with 11 out of 29 drug arrests and 119 out of 126 liquor law referrals in 2011 occurring there.

"I don't think there's any one set student population that's making poor decisions. I think it's across the board," said Residence Life

SEE CRIME, PAGE 2

MOVING FORWARD



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Motivational speaker and world class athlete Rudy Garcia-Tolson, speaking to the honors college about overcoming obstacles and being an inspiration. He will be in action running the Nike Factory store Halloween 5k inside Dolphin Mall.

PREVIEW

Iranian nuclear challenge addressed in upcoming lecture

MADISON FANTOZZI
Staff Writer

The nuclear energy race in Iran is a constant foreign policy bullet point in the presidential election.

Trita Parsi, founder and president of the National Iranian American Council, will speak on Tuesday, Oct. 30, in his lecture "Iran, Israel and the United States: The Fateful Triangle and the Challenges Ahead."

Parsi will address the Iranian nuclear challenge, how it can be solved and how war can be avoided.

"Earlier this year, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta put the risk of war between the U.S. or Israel with Iran at fifty-fifty," Parsi said. "This is in spite of the original enthusiasm of the Obama administration in regards to resolving the tensions

“Obama’s diplomacy did not fail, it was abandoned.”

Trita Parsi
President

National Iranian American Council

with Iran.”

Parsi is internationally recognized as an expert on U.S.-Iranian relations, Iranian foreign policy and the geopolitics of the Middle East.

"I would encourage students to attend this important talk because Dr. Parsi is a well-respected Middle East foreign policy expert and commentator," Program Coordinator Francesco Ortoleva said.

Parsi spoke at the Council of

Foreign Affairs, is published in Foreign Affairs, The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and has appeared on CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera and recently The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

During his appearance on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Parsi said a country's key reason for nuclear power is security.

Parsi said the U.S. is not going to convince Iranians to give up nuclear

power by threatening them because this will only increase the need for security, which leads to the need for nuclear power.

In his book, "A Single Roll of the Dice - Obama's Diplomacy with Iran," Parsi talks about American and Iranian negotiations, the calculations behind the two nations' dealings and the reasons for their current stalemate.

"Obama's diplomacy did not fail, it was abandoned," Parsi said.

Based on numerous interviews with U.S., Israeli and Iranian officials, Parsi will identify the driving force of the conflict between Israel and Iran and tell the story of President Obama's efforts to find a diplomatic solution.

"Contrary to conventional wisdom, diplomacy has not failed," Parsi said. "It certainly has not been

exhausted."

Parsi said diplomacy has not been fully tried.

"Dr. Parsi will give students expert analysis on Iran and the negotiations between it and the West on its nuclear program," Ortoleva said. "Parsi has insight on the Obama administration's dealings over this issue."

The event is part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Board Distinguished Lecture Series and is sponsored by the School of International and Public Affairs and Middle East Studies.

The lecture is free and open to the public, and will take place at Modesto Maidique Campus' School of International and Public Affairs, room 125.

-news@fiusm.com



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RADIATE FM

ELECTION 2012

Election participation uneven among groups

ANDREINA POVEDA
Contributing Writer

The policies of the elected president will affect residents and undocumented students alike, but they will not have their vote heard on the upcoming elections.

Nancy Castillo, a hospitality junior who has been living in the country for more than 20 years, is one of them.

"I've been here for all my life and I would like to vote because there are a lot of issues that I care about, women's rights and student loans, for example," said Castillo, who is two years away from getting her blue passport.

Alejandro Alvarez, international business and marketing senior, has been living in the United States for more than 10 years, but he is still a resident.

"People who can vote are privileged because they can choose who will represent them. Those who can vote should take advantage of that opportunity, especially students,"

Alvarez said.

Despite the numerous election awareness campaigns, registration centers on campus and the absentee ballot option, several students who are eligible voters choose not to participate on the elections.

"I didn't have time to register. Anyway, my vote doesn't matter. I don't care which way it goes. Whatever is going to happen is going to happen," said Shaila Mohammad, senior majoring in accounting.

Luisa Lopez, an accounting junior, is concerned with tuition and middle-class taxes, but she will not vote next Tuesday.

"I didn't have enough time to register. I was undecided and that didn't motivate me, either. I hope the rest make a good decision," Lopez said.

Sixty percent of individuals in the 18 to 29 age group indicated that they are registered to vote, according to a Gallup poll conducted on April of this year. Back in 2008, 75 percent within the same age said they were registered to vote on a

CLASS IN SESSION



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Tropical Storm Sandy didn't cancel classes, but it made for a windy day on Friday as students protected themselves from the weather, trying to stay dry with umbrellas, sweaters and ponchos.

similar Gallup poll conducted in association with USA TODAY and MTV.

Apathy, lack of time and indecision are some of the reasons why 40 percent of young adults do not

consider voting.

"It is extremely sad to have the opportunity to vote and not doing it. If they don't vote they are putting their responsibility aside. Those who are able to vote should vote,"

said Frida Ulloa, a DREAMer and president of the FIU chapter of the Students Working for Equal Rights organization.

-news@fiusm.com

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida ethics panel confirms Rivera accusations

BILL KACZOR
AP Staff

The Florida Ethics Commission on Wednesday

found probable cause that Rep. David Rivera, who is in a tight re-election race, committed 11 violations of ethics laws while he was a

state legislator.

Accusations against the Miami Republican include receiving income from Southwest Florida Enterprises Inc., a company involved with Flagler Dog Track in Miami, that he knew or should have known was given to influence his vote or official action and using campaign funds for non-campaign expenses.

Rivera also is alleged to have had a \$1 million contract through Millennium Marketing, Inc., with Southwest Florida Enterprises that created a frequent conflict

between his private interests and public duties. Millennium, a company founded by Rivera's mother, signed the 2006 contract to manage a successful campaign to expand slot machine gambling in Miami-Dade County through a referendum.

Rivera issued a statement vehemently denying wrongdoing and accusing the bipartisan commission of choosing "to play politics by injecting itself into the middle of an election" through previously investigated complaints filed by his political opponents.

"These allegations are false and will be dismissed shortly," Rivera said. "Respectfully, shame on the Florida Ethics Commission. I look forward once again to disproving these false allegations and demonstrating the frivolous nature of these complaints."

Ethical questions have lingered over Rivera since he was elected to Congress two years ago, and they have overshadowed his rematch with Democratic challenger Joe Garcia, a former Obama administration official in the Department of Energy.

Garcia's campaign issued a statement calling the charges "embarrassing to our entire community" and saying voters will have a chance on Nov. 6 to "turn the page on Mr. Rivera's scandals."

The congressman also remains under federal investigation for potential tax violations.

A related Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation cleared him of criminal allegations in April, but the Ethics Commission relied heavily on information gathered by the FDLE.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 33 of The Beacon, the photo titled #HIJABISONFIU should have stated Muslim Student Association, instead of Muslim Student Union.

In Vol. 24, Issue 33 of The Beacon, the photo headline "Por Columbia, For FIU" should have read "Por Colombia, For FIU". The caption should have read "Medellin" instead of "Medilla." The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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First-year housing sees most cases

CRIME, PAGE 1

coordinator, Nikki Kogan.

Kogan said traditionally, it is the first-year residence halls that experience the most cases of misconduct. She believes this is because many of these students are away from home for the first time. Senior Spanish major Quinn Maguire, who lives in the University Apartments, agrees with Kogan's remarks.

"The first couple years of college, its expected," he said, in reference to drinking.

Maguire said that in the University Apartments, "People have been in college, they are more responsible per se."

Other crimes such as robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft have all occurred within the last three years. In 2009, there were 89 cases of burglary, 42 for motor vehicle theft and five for robbery. The numbers for 2011 are 39 cases of burglary, 16 motor vehicle thefts and three robberies

Casas attributed the decreases to an increased number of officers and resources.

"We have more officers. With the increase in officers, I have time to have officers dedicated to different types of patrols," Casas said. "We now have the resources to do more of a spree control, where things don't get going to become a trend."

The Campus Security Report is published due to the passing of the Jeanne Clery Act formally known as the Campus

Security Act. The law applies to institutions that receive federal aid dollars and most public and private universities and requires institutions to report crime on campuses.

Additional reporting by Natalie Montaner.

-news@fiusm.com

2011 CRIME STATS

	MMC	BBC
• Sex offenses, Forcible	3	0
• Robbery	3	0
• Burglary	39	3
• Motor Vehicle Theft	16	1
• Liquor Law Referrals	126	2
• Drug Arrests	29	2
• Drug Referrals	23	1

INTRUDER ALERT

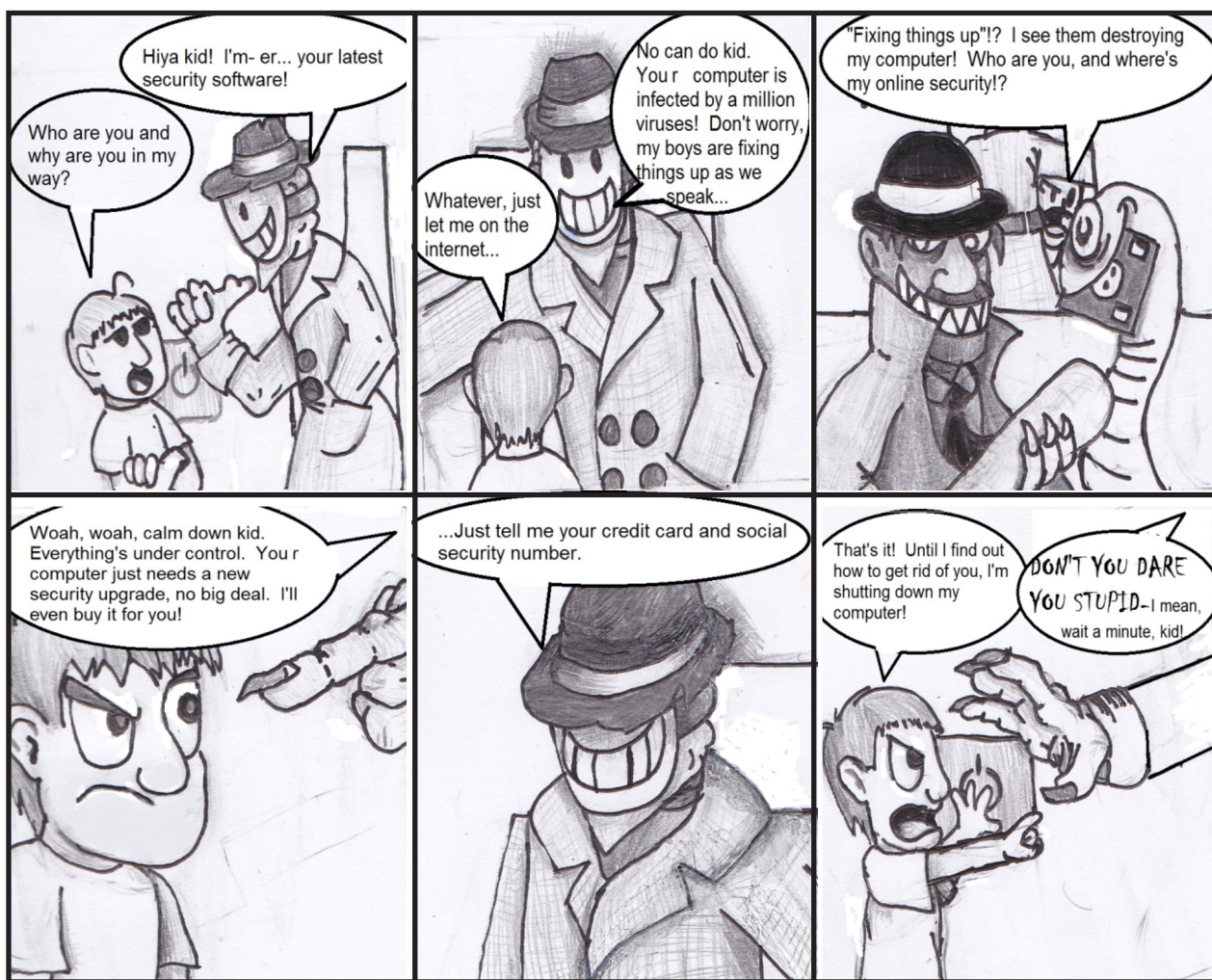


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

Walk at your own risk

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

One thing I'm constantly surprised about -- that I guess I should just get used to -- is the amount of times during a given week that I almost die while walking to and from class.

Whether by a skateboarder, biker, cart or car driver, I feel as if I am in constant contact with death. I understand it's a likely fate if I am texting and not paying attention to my surroundings -- which is a often the case -- but if I'm completely alert, walking through a crosswalk, I expect people to not run me over.

And when they do, I expect an actual apology, not a "My bad!"

Yes, it is your bad, but that is not an apology. An apology consists of "I'm sorry", "I apologize" or "My apologies." But I digress.

First, skateboarding on campus isn't allowed. So it shouldn't be happening at all. Especially in the library. "Inside" the library. Seriously? You waste more energy attempting to skate on carpet than you would walking.

Inertia, guys, inertia.

And when I hear you behind me, I feel a strong desire to clothesline you as you skate. To those of you who steer clear of me and don't assume you own the entire sidewalk, you guys are fine. But I don't appreciate falling off the sidewalk because you decide you can't walk to class like the rest of us.

To those who almost constantly knock me over while biking, please just slow down. It's ridiculous how fast you go in a crowd of people.

Go around the crowd.

And I think you forget that you're not human-sized anymore. You are bicycle-sized. You cannot fit through tiny spaces, especially tiny spaces with other people.

When people are behind me in carts and expect to walk faster or move -- just letting you know -- I walk slower. Especially when you almost sideswipe me in your haste.

To all the drivers at FIU: it is illegal to not stop for someone in a crosswalk.

And seeing as I'm a foot and a half away from walking into the crosswalk does not mean you should go as fast as you can to make sure you don't have to wait for me. I don't think your engagements are that important that you need to be so rude.

You are also supposed to wait until a person is out of the crosswalk to resume driving, so when I'm almost out of one side of the crosswalk, that does not mean you burn rubber and almost take off half my butt in the process. And if I'm in the crosswalk, don't drive through the other side in an attempt to beat me to the crosswalk. Unnecessary.

And really unsafe. Somehow I doubt your parents will be too happy when they find out they're being sued for your hitting a student with a car. And having to pay whatever tickets and fines and charges go along with that or from simply blowing through a crosswalk.

So just slow down, get off your phone and walk like normal people.

-jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com

And it all comes tumbling down

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

Some of them are just about obsessions with sex and, in some cases, violence -- which accounts for its marginal sordidness -- but most of the blogs on tumblr.com, a social networking and blogging site, are ebullient celebrations of nerdiness and fandom, of everybody's mutual quirks and obsessions and pet-peeves, all shared and discussed with a shamelessness and candor enabled, one would think, only by anonymity.

While there's a space, on every blog, for a default photo of its owner and, of course, you're free to post as many pictures of yourself as you'd like, few people care to reveal themselves. At least not like that.

Mostly, those who personalize their blogs do so by writing about, posting videos of and photos from the things they like: movies, books, and TV shows in particular.

And there are memes, of course, and funny videos that don't necessarily reflect anything about anybody except

for maybe showing, by the number of re-posts, the user's sense of humor.

What's most compelling about tumblr is the proliferation of text posts, brief descriptions of something somebody saw that day, the perks and frustrations of college and high school happenings, and the blogger's ensuing or attendant excitement, shock, depression -- they speak of emotions only in the extreme.

A text post saying, simply, "The ending of The Dark Knight Rises," is followed by a looping five-frame video (a GIF) of somebody sobbing in the rain.

It's reposted 200,000 times and accumulates a discussion about how "emotionally abused" or "assaulted by feels" everybody was by the movie's closing scenes.

Meanwhile, in person, those same bloggers are likely as straight-faced as everybody else. They'll say they liked the movie, and maybe admit that the ending was powerful, but only on tumblr does the excitement take over.

I sometimes wonder if my three years on tumblr have incited more love

and laughter than I can fairly expect to ever find in a significant other.

There's such freedom, such a sense of community -- in the ocean of apathy that is the Internet, tumblr feels, once you've gotten situated, like the grand communal embrace awaiting you at the awkward kids' table.

And what does it say about the shift in social networking when tumblr and twitter, sites where one can express themselves in total anonymity, become the liveliest?

Facebook is becoming domesticated, a looming specter of past indiscretions as we apply for jobs, a chaotic dance floor where friends, relatives, and people we don't really like but feel obliged to accept as friends vie for our attention. Demanding it.

As tumblr grows, and gets more and more attention, I suspect a grand exodus will begin, a tedious switch from facebook to tumblr among the masses. Apathy and vanity will shift to warm hyperbole and anonymity.

And then, on to the next thing.

-alex.sorondo@fiusm.com

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON

MAKING THE BAND

MIAMI HEAT EDITION



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Gerardo Torres stands outside of the American Airlines Arena for the championship parade.

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

It's the final game of the 2012 National Basketball Association playoffs and Miami Heat star players LeBron James and Dwyane Wade bolt from one side of the court to the other. The shot clock hits zero, giving the Heat a championship title. Heat fans roar, the coach is drenched in gatorade and James cradles the trophy.

And trumpets blare.

The Miami Heat Street Band dances onto center court, their drums pumping the crowd with more spirit and energy.

While Heat fans set their DVRs and make plans for the next season, Gerardo Torres prepares differently.

Torres, junior psychology and music performance major, plays the trumpet for the Miami Heat Street band, the team's official dancing band for home games.

"Our job is to get the crowd going," Torres said, who has been playing for the Heat band for the past three years. "We're never standing still."

Torres began playing the trumpet in middle school, a hobby he initially didn't consider pursuing.

"I got into playing music by accident, actually," Torres said. "In middle school, we had electives and everyone wanted to be placed in P.E. I got placed in band because there wasn't enough room left in P.E. I was kind of forced into it."

Although Torres never planned to become a musician, his love for music grew with time. After realizing how much he enjoyed playing the trumpet, Torres set the goal of learning to play as many instruments as he could by the time he finished high school.

As of now, Torres plays the trumpet, trombone, piano and drums—and he sings. He is a member of the University's music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha, and in 2009, was named best jazz soloist in the state of Florida.

Torres learned about the Miami Heat band through some friends who were already members. The audition, Torres said, was unlike any audition he'd experienced — learning

a song and a dance routine on the spot.

"It's important to be able to play and dance at the same time. Miami is the only NBA team that has a band, so we have to be really energetic," Torres said. "It makes sense because when you think 'Miami', you think 'party, fun.' That's the kind of atmosphere we have to create."

The fusion of music, dance and basketball in Torres' life has opened him up to a world of opportunities.

In addition to playing at the NBA finals, Torres also played at the Superbowl, the College Orangebowl, the World Basketball Festival in London, the European All-Star game in Paris and the Pro Bowl.

Christian Reategui, a friend and fellow band member of Torres', has toured and played with Torres.

"[The band] would be a lot less eventful without Gerardo," Reategui said. "We live next door to each other, so we go to the arena together and perform together. It's a lot of fun."

Reategui says he sees talent in Torres and they work

together to improve their skills.

"We learn from each other. If I hear something he plays that I like, I'll do the same thing a little differently — and vice versa," Reategui said.

While playing for the Miami Heat band has been an exciting experience for Torres, it can get hectic.

"Practice is twice a week, and performances are usually kind of random. But as long as you keep your mind focused, it's not that bad," Torres said.

Although Torres has an affinity for music and enjoys being a member of the Miami Heat band, he aspires to enter the medical field once he graduates.

But music is something that he doesn't think will leave him.

"When I'm performing, I'm in my own world. I'm not worried about issues with home, school, exes, nothing like that. As long as I'm playing, my problems go away for a moment," Torres said.

"It's just me and the music."

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RADIATE REVIEW

'Lonerism' reassures it's okay to be a little weird

MARIANA DIAS
Columnist

Australian band Tame Impala is the product of mastermind Kevin Parker, who creates most of his music in his room in a city called Perth. Their debut album "Innerspeaker" was highly praised, winning a Rolling Stone Award for Album of the Year. Some '60s psychedelia was truly appreciated in the early 2000s. Tame Impala might sound like that typical kind of band that is nostalgic for something our generation hasn't lived through yet.

But it's more than that. Whoever is familiar with "Innerspeaker" knows what to expect: Kevin Parker's dragging vocals, lush drum solos and swirling, hazy synths (does any of this sound familiar?).

Their new album, "Lonerism", released earlier this month by Modular People, is an exploratory yet refined continuation to their debut, produced and re-mastered by The Flaming Lip's Dave Fridmann. Parker maintained the central theme in his music, exploring

multiple dimensions of loneliness, expectations, reality and the self.

It seems as if Tame Impala had a lot of free time for new tweaks. In the first song, "Gotta Be Above It", slow turning knobs periodically stagger the galloping drums, the gates to the album are opened and the entry is reinforced by lyrics like "I gotta fight my time as a face in the crowd... No matter how deep." Parker takes us into his journey to introspection and we are somewhat grounded and comforted with his message of existential purpose.

"Endors Toi" continues leading us into this swirling tunnel, this time with lush drums and synthy beams (it's almost like riding a wave, seriously). Even though Parker's voice is distorted, he sings with a tone that would be used to tell a bedtime story; this journey might be a dream.

Bouncing drums shoot around like those obnoxiously bouncy rubber balls in "Mind Mischief". Being one of the few songs with an actual identifiable structure and steady rhythm, only two of the main elements, voice

and guitar, are predominantly consistent. Yes, the synths come in at some point, but it's the drums that keep smacking us out of whack. In this track, the drums constitute the mischievous mind that is continuously trying to be tamed by consistency.

"Why Won't They Talk To Me" maintains pulsating drums like anxious heartbeats, like "Why Won't You Make Up Your Mind", from "Innerspeaker." The poppy and quirky bolts that shoot throughout the song are an indication, however, of a re-mastered acceptance of rejection.

"Oopsy Daisy, I thought I was happy," says Parker. A slower tune, "Feels Like We Only Go Backwards" does justice to its title with dragging instrumentals. It's not as distorted or out there; it's just taking its time. Like it's holding our hand, keeping us from moving a little faster.

The quirky pop influences kick in on "Keep On Lying", with an organ melody that starts in the middle of the song, accompanied by some background laughter and whispers. "She Just

Won't Believe Me", "Nothing Has Happened So Far" and "The Sun's coming Up" are truly able to reflect the time that was put into experimenting with new melodies and combinations that break away from the debut album.

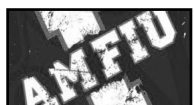
They're full of distortions, random riffs and some occasional introspective wailing. They're probably not the best songs to listen to for any kind of motivation or momentum. Save these for the beach (preferably when the sun is coming up) since the latter even has some ocean and wave samples at the end.

"Lonerism" is definitely an indication that Kevin Parker has been spending more time out of his little room in Perth. Even though his intention was not to produce something so similar to the debut, the identity wasn't lost.

With more time and creativity, he gave each song their distinctive spirits that truly embodied their messages. I guess loneliness can give us a warm hug whenever we decide to run back to it.

-life@fiusm.com

CALENDAR
FALL 2012 EVENTS



MONDAY, OCT. 29

LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES
WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: ONLINE @ MY.FIU.EDU

KNOW THE VOTE EVENT
WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Panther Square

TUESDAY, OCT. 30

GIULIANA & BILL RANCIC LECTURE
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

ROCK THE VOTE EVENT
WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Panther Square



Making friends, one greeting at a time

Q.

Dear Nick,

How can I make friends and meet people?

A.B.
Junior
Dietetics Major



Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

Dear A.B.,

If you're looking to meet people, you are in the right place! Not many venues provide you with 50,000 people to meet and interact with all in one spot. The University is rich with engaging and interactive experiences. You name it: clubs, organizations, sororities, fraternities, sports and many more. My first recommendation

would be to open yourself up to meeting people. Put down the phone, text your friends later and connect with the people you walk by on your way to class.

Be involved and introduce yourself to your classmates, get to know them, form a study group and you are on your way to making friends. Join a club or sports team and work to build a future with others who have similar interests. Making friends and meeting people is one of those old-

fashioned fun activities that somehow we have forgotten about with the proliferation of Facebook, Instagram and texting. But if you open up, look away from the technology and smile, friends will surely be easy to find! Have a blast with your new friends!

Be Well,

Nick

BLOODY HALLOWEEN

Tiny zombies: Halloween's goriest go extra-small

MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press

Prepare yourself this Halloween for a procession of pint-sized trick-or-treaters like none you've encountered before. If the companies that gamble on offering the right mix of costumes are correct, visitors to your doorstep will include a grisly array of waist-high killer clowns brandishing blood-soaked machetes, deranged convicts and zombie ninjas armed with knives.

Add to that the full roster of fictional killers who gave people nightmares during the '80s and '90s — Freddy Krueger, Michael Myers, Jason Voorhees from "Friday the 13th" and Chucky, the murderous doll from "Child's Play" — now available in sizes that can fit a 5-year-old.

These costumes make last year's popular "Scream" mask filled with fake blood seem almost tame.

Earlier this month, Amber Boettcher brought her 6-year-old daughter Addi to a Halloween store near their home in southeastern Minnesota. They were looking for pompoms to add to Addi's homemade costume. But their shopping trip ended abruptly when Addi saw the array of gory outfits on sale for kids.

"She freaked out," Boettcher says. "The store was so gross and scary that we left."

Gory Halloween costumes aren't new, of course. And Halloween decorations have gotten just as intense: Spirit Halloween offers a disturbingly realistic mechanical version of the possessed girl from "The Exorcist" for your front lawn, and Paper-Mart offers plastic severed hands splattered with fake blood packaged

as though they've been wrapped at a butcher shop, perfect for decorating the buffet table at a Halloween party.

But in a year when Abraham Lincoln was depicted as a vampire hunter and zombies are everywhere, gory costumes that were once reserved for preteens and teens are now available in ever-smaller sizes.

One example among many: The

characters' images determine how small the costumes can run, with some drawing the line for horror characters at sizes 6-8 or 10-12. But while "6-8" technically refers to ages 6-8, many boys wear that size at age 5.

David J. Skal, who has chronicled America's fascination with horror since the 1990s in numerous books, including "The Monster Show,"

Chris Alexander, editor-in-chief of the long-running horror magazine Fangoria, says in the 1930s, characters we now see as relatively harmless like Frankenstein's monster or Count Dracula were unsettling moviegoers just like Chucky or Michael Myers.

But, Alexander points out, those characters were effectively defanged through decades of adaptation before

like Chucky is part of a larger wave of nostalgia for the era when today's parents were kids. The "Ghostbusters" and video game characters Mario and Luigi are also hot right now.

Today's parents are reveling in that nostalgia, and their children are likely to feel empowered when older kids and adults are shocked or impressed by the edginess of their costumes, says Cynthia Edwards, professor of child psychology at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C.

"Part of the thrill of Halloween for little kids is that you put on a costume and you become the thing. If you dress up as a fairy princess or a pilot, you are a fairy princess or a pilot for a couple of hours. But that's when you get to the question, If you dress up as a really horrible thing, what is the kids' perception of that?"

A single day spent surrounded by horror imagery probably won't have lasting impact on kids, Edwards says. But some children will be unsettled by dressing up in realistically gory costumes or by seeing classmates dressed that way.

What can be especially confusing for kids, according to Fangoria's Alexander, is that "parents, by and large, will say 'no' to horror and say 'no' to gore for kids all year long. But once a year they have no qualms about taking them to stores with body parts everywhere and animatronic dead things coming at them" to buy disturbing costumes.

Then, he says, without offering kids any way to put all of this disturbing imagery and play-acting into context, "as soon as Oct. 31 is over, horror is buried again."

My office is a nightmare come to life, but I would never dress my child up as Freddy Krueger or Jason. ... I'm quite shocked when i see it.

Even Alexander

Edits horror magazines and makes low-budget horror films

national chain Party City's "Boys Skinned Alive" costume will fit, according to the company's website, "most children over 4." Even costumes that were once benign now have violent twists: The sweet, simple "sock monkey" is now a bloody zombie sock monkey with razor-sharp teeth, sold in sizes small enough for kindergarteners.

"For the last couple of years, darker is where it's been at," says Melissa Sprich, vice president of Halloween merchandising for Party City. For babies and toddlers, Sprich says "darker" may mean dressing as a devil this year, rather than a cheerful dinosaur. But for all other ages, many parents are seeking vampires, zombies and "the Fredies, Jasons and Chuckys" even for kids too young to see those characters on screen.

The companies that license these

says he's surprised at the level of "monster-ization of children" we're seeing this year.

He points out that for centuries, frightening masks and "scary stories" have been used to pass on a kind of coming-of-age message to children that the world is not always a safe and welcoming place. "Perhaps, he says, this year parents are especially preoccupied with just how unwelcoming the world seems.

Researching his history of Halloween, "Death Makes a Holiday," Skal spoke with people who grew up during the Great Depression, and remembered dressing up as what they called "hobos and bums." At that time, he says, "people were very concerned that the whole social fabric was coming apart. The idea of the rise of the unwashed masses kind of has a parallel with our fascination with zombies."

they became dress-up fodder for preschoolers. Frankenstein's monster morphed into bumbling Herman Munster and Dracula eventually translated into Count von Count on "Sesame Street." No such softening has happened with characters like child-killer Freddy Krueger: They are realistically depicted in latex and fabric, then wrapped around little trick-or-treaters.

Even Alexander, who edits a horror magazine and makes low-budget horror films, says the current crop of costumes is too gory for him to consider buying for his own 5-year-old.

"My office is a nightmare come to life," he says, "but I would never dress my child up as Freddy Krueger or Jason. ... I'm quite shocked when I see it."

Party City's Sprich notes that the popularity of retro horror characters

BASKETBALL

Coley honored as Preseason Player of the Year

FIUSM SPORTS STAFF

Junior guard Jerica Coley extended her reign atop the Sun Belt Conference, at least until the end of the season. Coley, who won the Sun Belt Player of the Year award at the end of last season, was recently named the preseason Player of the Year.

Coley had an outstanding sophomore campaign where she led the Panthers in scoring, rebounding, assists and blocks.

"It's cool," said Coley. "I don't really count it that much, because the season didn't even start yet. But I guess they just acknowledge what happened last year."

Coley's 23.4 points per game was sixth in the nation. She was also named Associate Press All-America Honorable Mention.

The talented junior is eager to defend her regular season crown, and can't wait for her team to get back on the hardwood.

"I'm ready to start the year," said Coley. "I'm excited for every game and when the season starts it's going to be good."

Coley is not the only Panther gaining recognition. Senior forward Finda Mansare was named to the

preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team. Mansare had a solid junior season where she started all 34 games and was third on the team in scoring with 11.7 points per game and averaged 6.4 rebounds per game.

Overall, the women's team is predicted to be one of the top teams in the Sun Belt. They were picked to finish second in the east division, behind Middle Tennessee who went a perfect 16-0 last year in conference play. The University of Arkansas Little Rock was picked to win the West Division of the conference; UALR went 12-4 in conference last year. Picked to place second in the west is Arkansas State University, in conference play last year they went 6-10.

FIU officially opens up their season at home on Nov. 11, when they welcome the University of North Florida to Miami. The game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

-Ruben Palacios

MEN'S PICKED LAST

On Oct. 24, the Sun Belt Conference released their annual preseason men's basketball Coaches' Poll which had FIU voted to finish in sixth place in the East



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Coley was the sixth leading scorer in the nation a year ago, averaging 23.4 points per game.

Division, and second to last in the conference.

According to the Coaches' Poll there will be no deviation in the East when comparing the predictions of this year to the final standings of last year. Middle Tennessee is predicted to repeat a first place finish after having a conference best 14-2 record last year. Every

other team in the East is slated to finish in the same place as their final record indicated last year, leaving the Panthers in last place after a 5-11 conference record.

When casting their vote, the coaches look at what players a team has lost and the number of returning players. FIU has only six returning players from last year to

go alongside eight newcomers. The team is being led by first-year Head Coach Richard Pitino.

"We've got eight new guys," Pitino said. "We've got junior college players. We've got freshmen, and we've got guys on last year's team that didn't even play for us."

The combination of inexperience and change is a factor the coaches of the conference took note of when picking FIU to finish sixth.

Pitino is not putting any weight into the preseason prediction.

"I certainly respect all the coaches in our league, but I don't expect anyone to know how good we really are," Pitino said. "Nobody besides my coaching staff and my players really know how good we are going to be."

Pitino has no intention of using the poll as a form of motivation for his team. He stressed that whether the team was picked to finish first or last, it has does not change the primary goal of the team: winning.

"We don't pay attention to preseason polls," said Pitino. "We pay attention to postseason polls."

-Kevin Castaneda

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FOOTBALL

Young receivers finding their role on the spread offense

MARIO BUSTO

Contributing Writer

Perhaps the biggest question FIU's football program faced coming into this season was who would step up to fill the void T.Y. Hilton would leave.

Replacing his production from last season of 1038 receiving yards and 7 touchdowns has been no easy feat for this year's Panthers, especially when taking into account that Hilton also left the Panthers without a reliable kick returner.

However, if anything encouraging can be drawn from the Panthers 1-7 season, it has to be the production from two receivers as of late: Glenn Coleman and Willis Wright. In the last two games against Middle Tennessee and Troy, the two have combined for 426 yards and four

touchdowns.

"They've developed more," said Head Coach Mario Cristobal. "They've made the decision to be committed workers in practice and in the film room. They're showing up in practice a lot more to the point where we know that we have to get the ball to those guys which really wakes up our offense and allows us to do a lot more things outside."

Wright, a heralded 4-star recruit who came from Miami Springs Senior High three years ago, has finally emerged as the receiver he was highly touted to be. Coming off a great showing against Middle Tennessee, (3 catches for 109 yard and one touchdown) Wright picked up where he left off and seems to be building chemistry with Medlock, ending the game against Troy with six catches,

129 yards, and a touchdown. However, despite his performance in the last two games, some have wondered why it took this long to see good production from Wright.

"It's not that it has taken long," said Cristobal. "I think we lose sight of reality. This is a program that's in its tenth year. In 10 years, we've done more than most programs do in 50. In most colleges, Willis Wright would have been a red shirt sophomore this year and now just coming into his own."

Cristobal said Wright has been forced in the lineup.

"Now he's a true junior and it seems like he's been here a long time. What he has done more than anything else is that his work ethic has changed dramatically," said Cristobal. "He's now a guy who enjoys the grind a lot

“

Now [Wright's] a true junior and it seems like he's been here a long time. What he has done more than anything else is that his work ethic has changed dramatically.

Mario Cristobal
Head Coach
Football

”

more than what he used to and it's paying off in practice and showing up in games. He also knows that he's just scratching the surface of his potential."

The sudden success of both Coleman and Wright on the outside has boded well for the entire offense, despite what the win-loss column has to say about it.

"It's a part of the offense that we haven't had much or any produc-

tion of in recent years, not since Greg Ellingson gave us that threat outside," said Cristobal. "It helps you get the safeties out of the box and spread the field vertically and horizontally. When you do that, obviously you're opening up that defense a little more which helps you a bunch. Our offensive is progressing every week more and more and not completely healthy either.

We can be an offense that scores even more points every game."

Whether they will be able to keep up this recent burst of production is yet to be seen. Nonetheless, it will be crucial for a team moving forward into next year that they have both Coleman and Wright to rely on as reliable threats on the outside.

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WEATHER UPDATE

The FIU swimming and diving meet at Florida Gulf Coast in Fort Myers, Fla. that was scheduled for Oct. 26 was cancelled due to impending thunderstorms and no make up date has been announced.

INTRAMURALS

Culturally Confused wins blow-out; Tre Betia stays unbeaten

FIUSM SPORTS STAFF

In a 7-0 blowout win, Culturally Confused defeated Los Medianoche in men's indoor soccer action Oct. 25. Culturally Confused outplayed their competitors throughout the match and lifted themselves to a 2-1 record.

Culturally Confused controlled the game from the opening whistle, jumping to an early 2-0 lead in the first five minutes thanks to junior Stefan Wirth. He led all scorers with three goals and one assist. He ran the offense and was the key factor in the team's victory.

"I just tried to play aggressive and take advantage of the opportunities I had," Wirth said. "My teammates did a good job of getting me the ball and we just wanted to push it and control the tempo."

And control the tempo they did.

Los Medianoche had a disappointing night and didn't

“If we keep playing like this, with the same concentration, no one can stop us and the championship is ours.”

Carlos Enriquez
Head Coach
Tre Betia

have any attempts on goal till about halfway through the game. It wasn't until the waning minutes that their best chances even arose. They were disconnected on both sides of the ball and struggled to get in any scoring position. At the end of the 25-minute game, the loss dropped Los Medianoche to a 1-2 record.

Both teams play a Halloween game next Wednesday with Culturally Confused playing i-Team and Los Medianoche playing Beta Theta Pi.

-Bryan Palacio

Six strategic goals by the Tre Betia on Thursday, defined the match between this team and the SigEP in the FIU Recreation Center indoor court. An early score by Jose Marti started off the game for the Tre Betia as they conquered the first place in the league with a final score of 6-2.

"It was tough but we played as a team and we beat the best one on the league," Augusto Naccarato said.

The game started with Marti's goal followed with another one from Juan Cobián. Marti scored the third and fifth goals of the match, while Augusto Naccarato scored the fourth and sixth ones.

"If we keep playing like this, with the same concentration, no one can stop us and the championship is ours," Tre Betia coach Carlos Enriquez said.

In the last ten minutes of the game, SigEP's captain Jeffrey Hernandez scored the first goal of his team, quickly followed by a second and last goal of teammate Felipe Londono.

"The score line doesn't reflect our competitive level, today we were out of it, plus dispositional factors affected the game" Hernandez said after the match. "I feel we made early mistakes but we're winning this championship anyways."

-Alexandra Sabalier

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FINISHING STRONG



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The Panthers defeated FAU 2-1 on Oct. 25 in Boca Raton to cap off their regular season. Chelsea Leiva (above) scored twice, adding to her team leading 10 goals this year. FIU finished the year at 8-1-1 in the Sun Belt and on a five game winning streak. They will now prepare to travel to Mobile, Ala., for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament which kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 31. The seeding for the tournament was yet to be determined as of print time.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL Thursdays tough on players, especially on road

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Staff

In today's "any given Sunday" NFL, the thinking goes, any team can win — or lose — any game. What about any given Thursday? Turns out those matchups are the closest thing to a lock there is.

Heading into the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' midweek game at the Minnesota Vikings, home teams are 5-1 on Thursday nights this season, an .833 winning percentage; the only loss was by the struggling Carolina Panthers against the visiting Super Bowl champion New York Giants. Home teams are 12-3 (.800) on Thursdays over the past two years (discarding Week 1).

Those records are far better than the .602 winning percentage NFL home teams have enjoyed in all other games this season and the .571 they have since the start of the 2011 season, according to STATS LLC.

Clearly, avoiding the road helps on the short weeks players say are hardest on their bodies — and that the league says will remain a staple of the schedule.

Being forced to play on a Thursday, instead of the usual Sunday, makes every club

"miserable," according to Pittsburgh Steelers offensive lineman Max Starks, a nine-year veteran.

"It's who is less miserable than the other?" Starks said. "And the advantage typically tips to the team that doesn't have to travel."

His Steelers lost 26-23 at the Tennessee Titans on Oct. 11, a Thursday, when four key players for Pittsburgh got hurt: running backs Ike Redman (right ankle) and Rashard Mendenhall (Achilles tendon), offensive linemen Maurice Pouncey (right leg) and Marcus Gilbert (right ankle).

Starks thinks that rash of injuries was not a coincidence. He has company.

Seattle Seahawks fullback Michael Robinson described the quick turnaround this way: "Go get in a car accident and then try to play two days later. That's how it feels."

He suggested allowing teams to keep all 53 players on the roster active for Thursdays, instead of trimming to 46, the way they do for all games now. That hasn't been discussed, though, the NFL says.

Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk thinks a study should be done to see if there is "a fatigue factor" that affects players who get less rest

between games.

There also might be a longer-term effect: Until last Sunday, when Pittsburgh and Tennessee both won coming off their Oct. 11 meeting, Thursday teams went only 2-6 this season — and 11-15 over the past two seasons, excluding Week 1 — in their subsequent game, STATS LLC said.

When Vikings coach Leslie Frazier was asked whether playing on Thursday puts players at a higher risk of injury, he smiled broadly before replying: "Touchy area there, my friend. Touchy area."

"It's tough on all the players, especially later in the year, as the body takes longer to recover, even when you're a younger guy. The way our bodies are programmed, we're still in recovery mode on Thursday," said 37-year-old linebacker London Fletcher, whose Washington Redskins will play at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day.

"Obviously, there's a health-and-safety issue and a concern about it. ... Your body is not recovered for that, whether it's the normal aches and pains or having a collision. It just takes your body a while. It's definitely an issue in terms of health and safety," Fletcher said, before adding with a

chuckle, "but I don't know that the league is greatly concerned about that, as much as they're concerned about growing the game."

While Thanksgiving action has been an NFL tradition for decades, the NFL expanded to a nearly full-season slate of Thursdays for the first time in 2012, scheduling games every Thursday from Week 2 to Week 15. It's a way to bolster the NFL Network by putting those games on its air and to take advantage of the sport's popularity.

"The shorter week is harder for the players. They'll tell you that, I'm sure," Commissioner Roger Goodell said at a "town hall" appearance with fans this week, when he also said he doesn't expect other days of the week will be added, for fear of reaching "saturation." "But they also like the longer week after. Ten days afterward, not so bad. And I hear that from

players all the time."

Last season, only eight Thursdays were used for regular-season games. A league spokesman said the plan for the foreseeable future is to stick to the higher volume added this season.

Which concerns some.

"That is a problem with Thursday games: The short turnaround and the number of practices condensed into a shorter time can lead to more fatigue and more injuries," said Dr. Gerard Varlotta of the NYU Medical Center's Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitative Medicine and someone who works for several agents, regularly examining players.

Coaches modify work schedules ahead of Thursday games, knowing it's important to ease up from a physical standpoint. The Bucs held meetings Monday, did a walk-through instead of a normal practice Tuesday and were

traveling to Minnesota on Wednesday.

There's less time for game-planning, too, of course.

"There might be all kinds of great ideas and thoughts and things you might want to do to attack an opponent and shore up some of your weaknesses, but with the short week, there has to be some carry-over, there has to be some concepts that are core ideas that our guys can grasp and be able to handle without actually practicing them," Tampa Bay offensive coordinator Mike Sullivan said. "It really puts a premium on the film study and the walkthroughs."

Vikings defensive end Jared Allen called being at home on a Thursday "a huge advantage."

"I mean, I couldn't imagine getting on a plane (Wednesday), just from the standpoint of bumps and bruises, swelling on airplanes," Allen said.

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SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, ARTS AND SOCIETY

Taking a hopeful dive for fading coral

**BARBARA CORBELLINI
DUARTE AND
CHRISTINA VALDES**
FIUSM Staff

As oceans around the world get warmer, vibrant corals fade.

Only a few scuba divers are around to witness their death.

Laurie Richardson, professor in the department of biological sciences at the University, is one of them.

She leads a lab of doctoral students who work with her in the middle to northern Florida Keys Reef Tract, studying the diseases that kill the corals.

The lab has also researched coral diseases in the Caribbean.

The current focus of her research is the black band disease in coral, dividing it with black band that separates the colored tissue from a bright white skeleton.

The disease has affected about 16 coral species.

"It's a really complex disease and it's one of the most important in the world because it now affects corals worldwide," said Richardson, who has researched black band disease for more than 20 years.

The disease was first identified in 1970.

The flesh-eating photosynthetic bacteria, better known as the cyanobacteria, causes black band disease. It feeds on the corals' tissue leaving its skeleton completely exposed.

There are four main types. About 100 types are in constant change, so it is harder for the scientist to identify and analyze their characteristics.

Richardson said the black band disease can progress across the colony from 0.12 to 0.39 inches per day, while the affected corals can grow 0.39 inches per year.

"They can't outgrow it," she said. "Usually, it will kill the entire coral."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE RICHARDSON

The black band disease was first identified in 1970. Flesh-eating photosynthetic bacteria, better known as the cyanobacteria, feed on the corals' tissue leaving its skeleton completely exposed.

She works with her doctoral students with the goal of understanding the short and long term effects of coral diseases, specifically black band disease, on both individual coral colonies and on coral populations.

Richardson and her students grow the bacterium in the lab at different temperatures, and they have seen the disease growing

faster at higher temperatures.

She said the disease has a temperature threshold, which is around 82 degrees.

"This usually shows up on Florida reefs in late May or early June and continues through October when the water cools, but with global warming the threshold would be reached earlier in the year, making the disease appear earlier and allowing

for a longer 'disease season' during which the disease kills the coral tissue," she said.

One of Richardson's students worked with biologists in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on a method to try to save the corals from the black band disease.

In the method, the scientists vacuum off the band of the disease and then patch it with modeling clay.

She said it is like a band aid that stops the disease from spreading.

Coral reefs are important for South Florida tourism income.

But Richardson explained that they also serve as physical barriers that protect the coasts from hurricanes and wave surges.

"A lot of that energy in the water is absorbed by the physical structure of the reef," she said. "So if the reefs literally die and fall apart, that is going to really

increase storm damage."

Coral reefs represent some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth, providing critical habitat to approximately 25 percent of marine species and serving as nurseries, where fishes and crustaceans lay their eggs.

"So that can potentially really impact fisheries all over the world, especially tropical and subtropical waters," she said.

"They are really important ecosystems."

But she said researchers cannot save the corals by themselves and asked the community to pay attention and follow studies.

"Pay attention to what the scientists are saying about global warming because it is true," she said.

"Many people are saying that's just a hoax and the scientists are lying. They are not lying."

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STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

A nightmare awakens the ballroom

MARIA GARCIA
Contributing Writer

The thrill of Halloween is making its way to Biscayne Bay Campus and the Student Programming Council is planning to make the best of it in its costume event Nightmare on SPC Street.

The event will take place in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244, on Oct. 30 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Nightmare on SPC Street is a costume party. There will be music played by a DJ, food and of course, oodles of candy for the guests.

"We wanted to keep active as a council and show people we can do more events throughout the whole the season," said Sofia Bodniza, SPC's comedy director. "Hopefully this event will be an ongoing tradition."

Throwing the Halloween bash for students has been a team collaboration between SPC, the Student Organizations Council

and Panther Power.

"Everyone has been really helping out," said Bodniza. "We all have roles in organizing this event."

According to Bodniza, it should be a nice, wholesome time for the students.

Apart from a detail here or there, Octavia Wilder, special events director for SPC was tight-lipped about anything that would give away the theme of the night.

"It's going to be a surprise. We'll do anything to scare you, basically," said Wilder regarding the ambiance of the party.

Nightmare on SPC Street does not intend to spoil the students' plans on the official Halloween Day, Oct. 31.

"It's our way of making it more convenient for the students," said Wilder. "Normally, they just come to class at BBC and leave straight after. The idea of hosting it here and on the day before Halloween is to get the students involved."

Bodniza is hoping to see everyone dressed in their best costumes.

"I think if a lot of people come in costumes it relives the spirit of Halloween, like reliving your

childhood memories."

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EDIBLE CLASSWORK



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management students, Stephanie Truong, Nadya Velazquez, and Anastasia Kalenichenko, sit together as they taste their recently cooked lunch. Each plate consisted of mashed potatoes, cajun style chicken, squash and asparagus, as well as bread made from scratch. These meals were cooked for their Cooking I class which takes place Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.

EARLY VOTING

Shuttle buses from the Glenn Hubert Library to the North Miami Public Library will be provided during today's voting event from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.