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FLAGS OF TOMORROW



JAVIER SANLLEY/THE BEACON

Ashley Perez (right), a senior communication arts major, and Karsten Humphries (left), freshman, stops by the 365 Flags for a Better Tomorrow.

University's Reproductive Justice Summit reveals societal issues

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Monday, April 18, students, faculty and staff reunited in GC 305 for the first Reproductive Justice

a speaker of multiple panels including "Transgender 101", "Transgender History of the United States of America" and "Queer representation in children's media."

Participants were encouraged to wear a badge to indicate the pronouns that

selection of topics for people to come and learn about them. According to Capote, the "Working Grrlz" workshop was one that people showed a lot of interest in. The room was full of engaged participants discussing the issue.

"The goal of the summit

Justice means to you."

One of the participants, Stine Jean is a senior majoring in Political Science and international Relations. She attended the summit to learn about different issues as recommended by her professor in the Human Trafficking class that she is enrolled in this semester. Her pronouns were "she, her, hers."

She participated in many panels, among which "Let's Talk About Sex" was her favorite.

"It was interesting; instead of having it completely about sex, it was very informational and gave me different perspectives of how people view sex," she said.

In the panel of "Let's talk about sex", participants were encouraged to express themselves about the topic through drawing, erotic poems and demonstrations.

"The activities were meant to make you feel uncomfortable," she said. "Just to show you that everyone has feeling, everyone feel a certain type of way about a subject and we are here to learn about that subject."

Jean believes that everyone is a sexual being and whether one chooses to have sex the traditional way

"The goal of the summit was to address all parts of today's societal issues and have people give different point of views on them.

Daniel Capote
Co-Director
Reproductive Justice Summit

Summit on campus. It went on from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with different panels throughout and different speakers.

The summit included many panels discussing different topics while people in the main room, GC 305, welcomed participants as they were coming in. The topics of the panels were: "Angry Uterus" and the Vengeful Vagina", "Let's talk about sex", "Working Grrlz", "Reproductive Rights and the Law" to name a few.

Daniel Capote, a senior Communication Arts major and Art history minor is the President of Stonewall Pride Alliance here at FIU. He was

they identify with. Capote's pronouns were "he, him, his." Throughout the summit, people would use these pronouns to refer to him.

"My favorite part of the summit was the art exhibit because it showed how people used their creativity to project the different issues that we were discussing," he said. "I also really appreciated the efforts of my team who helped put the summit together, they were very supportive all throughout."

Capote is the co-director for the Summit along with Megan Shade. He is particularly glad that the summit created a diverse

was to address all parts of today's societal issues and have people give different point of views on them," Capote said. "The results exceeded my expectations, I was glad to see so many people in attendance and actively participating to our panels."

The agenda of the summit was very diverse ranging from workshops about feminism in color to those about the LGBTQA community. The summit started with an overview history of Reproductive Justice and ended with a workshop about "Redefining what Reproductive

FIU Students and Professors pursue trip to Cuba

SAM SMITH
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FIU professors will now be able to partake in "A Revolutionary Perspective on Education," a trip to Cuba to feature explorations of the island and its museums, as well as conversations with Cuban grassroots organizations, community members and college professors about the role of society and culture on education.

FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, in conjunction with the University of New Mexico's Latin American and Iberian Institute, is offering a

small federal subsidy to help pay for the seven-day trip. July 8, FIU Cuban Studies experts will train participants before the journey to Cuba, where they will stay until July 17.

Until recently, this would have been illegal.

For a decade, state law made it impossible for Florida colleges and universities to use public money or private grants to travel to Cuba. Last summer, the restoration of diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba resulted in the lifting of the last travel restrictions keeping Florida professors from visiting the island.

"I'm glad it looks like this will be over. We all have an interest in knowing what goes on in a country that can radically impact what happens here in Florida," said Florida American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Howard Simon, who helped lead a high-profile lawsuit against the restrictions.

In contrast with the publicity of the battle waged when the ban was enacted, academic travel

to Cuba has resumed under the radar. Quietly, a trickle of professors and students from FIU started academic exchanges and research with a country that has been off-limits for years.

For professors in Florida, this re-opening of ties represents a major win for academic freedom. FIU sociology professor Guillermo Grenier said it was now possible for universities to pay for trips to Cuba the same way they would for trips to New York. Grenier conducts the university's well-known Cuba Poll that measures Cuban-American attitudes.

"Public universities were shackled to this law," Grenier said.

For some exiles, though, publicly-funded travel to Cuba represents a new wound as relations with the island become more and more routine.

Former FIU president Modesto "Mitch" Maidique, who spent 11 years as a student in Havana, said increased cultural interactivity could have a positive impact on the island. However, he encourages caution with continued exchanges.

"We have to recognize these junkets for what they are - an attempt to indoctrinate through propaganda the visitors, and that is the main objective. What they will learn about education, only God knows."

In a hint of the difficulties that may lie ahead, the Miami-Dade Public School system recently pulled its support of FIU's latest trip. After originally advertising it to social studies teachers and offering certification credits to educators who sign up for the program, the district quickly

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Ecuador's leader demands release of Panama Papers, and learns he's in them

In the weeks after the release of the documents now known as the Panama Papers, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa called out his country's journalists and boasted that, unlike other countries, he and his government weren't found in the leak. However, the secret documents show that he and his estranged brother, Fabricio,

caught the attention of anti-corruption authorities in Panama in 2012. Panamanian prosecutors confirmed to McClatchy that investigators looked into an offshore company in Panama because of embezzlement concerns. And a secret email within the Panama Papers says Correa and Fabricio were the focus of the inquiry.

New apps help taxpayers report waste, fraud and abuse

In Long Beach, Calif., six city employees were fired after people complained items had gone missing from inside impounded cars. In Philadelphia auditors found safety issues in a dozen rental properties as well as more than \$350,000 in unpaid taxes. And in Richmond, Va., a city employee is on the hook for nearly \$10,000 in bogus

expenses. All of these cases were brought to auditors' attention by tipsters using hotlines or fraud apps, which allow smartphone users to anonymously report government waste, fraud and abuse. Cities and states have long had hotlines for reporting misuse of government resources. But mobile apps bring a new level of sophistication.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 27, issue 89, in the Sports column T-Time, we incorrectly printed "American Psychological Organization." The correct name is American Psychological Association.

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

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Students prepare for Cuba trip

CUBA, PAGE 1

renewed.

At least one parent complained to school board members about the trip, and a local exile group wrote a letter of protest.

"We have a heightened sense of awareness as to the sensitivity regarding that region, particularly in this moment in time. So we just didn't think it was appropriate," said Marie Izquierdo, chief academic officer for Miami-Dade schools.

There was a time when FIU students and professors traveled freely and regularly between Miami and Cuba. Former FIU professor Lisandro Pérez launched the university's Cuba Research Center in 1991, leading the way for cultural exchanges and creating one of the first academic fellowships for Cuban professors in the U.S., Pérez said. Most of this travel was grant-funded.

"We were known nationally as one of the most important centers for having exchanges with Cuba," said Pérez, who now teaches at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. "It's natural for FIU."

This came to a halt in 2006. A state law championed by then-Rep. David Rivera made it impossible for colleges and universities to use public or private

money to travel to Cuba, or to any other country on the U.S. list of state-sponsors of terrorism.

FIU's faculty senate and dozens of other local professors fought the restrictions in a battle that made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. But the court declined to hear the case. The law held.

Simon said it was clear at the time that the ban was aimed at FIU, and called it a "bury your head in the sand" moment for Florida. While the rest of the country was free to conduct academic research, the most closely related institutions were locked out of those opportunities.

"Sometimes we win lawsuits in court. Sometimes lawsuits get tangled up in court. And sometimes issues are won as a result of social change, cultural change, and - in this case - political change," said Simon.

Even after President Barack Obama lifted Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, the ban remained in place. The general counsel for the Florida Board of Governors, which oversees the state's public universities, opined that public money couldn't be used to travel to any countries where the U.S. lacked diplomatic relations.

Then, in July 2015,

Obama announced the embassy in Havana would be reopened.

That same week, FIU's Office of Faculty and Global Affairs unceremoniously sent a memo to professors titled "Cuba travel."

"The removal of the Florida travel restrictions means faculty members may engage with colleagues on the island, as well as plan research and educational programming, including study abroad trips, in line with our academic mission," the five-sentence memo read.

Without much pomp or circumstance over something professors once fought so hard for, a decade-long restriction was lifted.

"It's the flavor of the month. People are trying to figure out how to do study abroad in Cuba," said Grenier. "We are way behind."

Grenier said FIU's study of Cuba has been hampered by the state's restrictions, forcing experts to move to other states in order to conduct research.

"If you study Cuba, why come to Florida?" he asked. "We lost dozens of professors that would have made us the most important Cuba-studies center in the country ... In the future I don't think we will be hampered."

Additional reporting by TNS Staff

Reproductive Justice Summit creates dialogue

JUSTICE, PAGE 1

or another way, it is still an important aspect of humanity. She said

"What I learned is that, sometimes sex is not just for procreation, it is for pleasure and that part of what makes us human."

The Reproductive rights overview at the beginning of the summit was not a pro-life, pro-choice political presentation according to Jean. It was not bashing the other side for having a different view, it was purely informational and historical.

"A lot of the time, people shy away from talking about sex trafficking and child abuse because they are so taboo, but not talking about those issues make people less informed and thus we are not able to fight it or find a solution to those problems." Jean said.

Jean is hoping that people out there get the

message that regardless of your background or traditions, "you should still be willing to learn about the other side and respect their belief."

Stonewall Pride Alliance at FIU sponsored by The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health hosted the summit to create platforms and encourage dialogues about today's social issues.

"It [The summit] was successful considering that it is a student run program. I know the stress that it takes to organize a summit that last a day, so hands down for the team who put it together" Jean said.

For more information, student's can visit their Facebook page: "The Reproductive Justice Summit" and stay updated on future events by follow "Stonewall Pride Alliance" on social media.

America looks to superheroes for hope

M TALK



MICHELLE MARCHANTE

Superheroes appeared around the 1930s when America had just come out of the Great Depression and was about to enter World War II. Americans were low on morale, money and hope. Then, extraordinary heroes like Superman, characterized with America's sense of democracy and justice, were born.

Superman, along with other superheroes like Captain America, became America's mascots and unofficial soldiers in the war against the Nazi's.

They became symbols of what it meant to be American. As time went on and America once again became stabilized, these prominent superheroes receded from the spotlight and became a niche genre. Yet, in these past couple of years, superheroes have once again entered the spotlight, as the amount of Marvel movies and DC TV shows demonstrate, but why?

According to Andrew Strycharski, the director of film studies at FIU, there are a variety of ways film interacts with society, such as helping people escape social reality, acting as a doorway to channel society's general mood or to directly comment on it.

"Look at movies [during] World War II. [Before America enters the war], a lot of American movies try their best to

ignore everything that's happening in the rest of the world and instead present an isolated happy view of American society. After America enters [the war], Hollywood becomes part of [the] war production and starts cranking out patriotic stuff," Strycharski said to Student Media.

When it comes to the reemergence of superheroes, particularly Captain America, Strycharski sees the superhero movement as an attempt to recapture the feeling from World War II where Americans felt that they were "the good guys fighting for the right against threatening forces."

"The external threats the U.S. face have really changed over time and... when the Soviet Union crumbled...there was this feeling that there was no one in the rest of the world

who was a competitor or a threat to the United States in terms of military power so perhaps that feeling of superiority is something the people have begun to lose faith in again," Strycharski said.

While Strycharski doesn't see any present day external threats that are at any sort of level comparable to what we faced during the days of "mutually assured destruction between the U.S. and the Soviet Union," he can see similarities.

"Historically, the similarities are very thin but in a kind of cultural imagination, I can see that... Americans today feel a threat that they didn't feel in the very recent past. A generation of people have grown up without a sense of external threat and are now experiencing that sense of external threat for the first time...

[I]t's probably significant that you're talking about a generation that's grown up with a feel that there was no more Russia, no more Nazi Germany, no sense of here are the people who threatened our existence and are now perhaps feeling a sense of it," Strycharski said.

During the first season finale of CBS's show "Supergirl" that aired on Monday, April 19, Supergirl, played by Melissa Benoist, spoke to the brainwashed citizens of National City through a live broadcasted speech. Taken out of context, this speech could be meant for us.

"We have been attacked. Mothers and fathers, friends and neighbors, children, everyone, suddenly stopped by a force of evil as great as this world has ever known. Your attacker has sought to take your free will, your individuality, your spirit.

Everything that makes you who you are. When facing an attack like this, it's easy to feel hopeless. We retreat, we lose our strength, lose our self," Supergirl said.

America is in crisis. Our country is financially unstable and in these past couple of years, we've

suffered the possibility of entering a depression. Our country is being threatened by terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, we're watching North Korea test nuclear missiles no doubt meant to terrorize us and we're watching China build a military base in neutral waters.

We're not just suffering on the national level but also locally. Unemployment rates in America are still high and as students, we're terrorized of graduating and not having a job waiting for us because as we know, getting a bachelor's doesn't automatically guarantee you a job as it used to be before; now many jobs require masters and the competition we're facing is intense.

This is why the superhero movement has been sparked again. We're unsure of our future, personally and as a nation and just like the past generation looked to superheroes for hope that our nation, our America is not lost, we're looking to them again.

This is why Supergirl's speech is so important, so central to us and why it can hit home.

"[N]ow, in each and every one of you, there is a light, a spirit, that cannot be snuffed out. That won't give up. I need your help again. I need you to hope. Hope. That you will remember that you can all be heroes. Hope. That when faced with an enemy determined to destroy your spirit, you will fight back and thrive. Hope," Supergirl said.

America is not lost. We're not lost. Just like superheroes fall down and get back up, we will rise above everything. America is and shall always be America, even if we don't see it like that right now. You just need to have hope.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com

BEACON | Editorial Pete Garcia's tenure bad, not horrible

There are social media hashtags and profiles calling for the dismissal of Pete Garcia that have been up since 2013. Garcia, the University's athletics and entertainment director, is probably one of the most controversial staff members.

Before the switch from Sun Belt to Conference USA, he was the highest-paid athletics director in the conference. In October, his 10-year, high-paying contract is up for renewal.

We, as an editorial board, have examined the statistics of the sports in which the University participates, from 1995-2016 to provide an objective analysis of Garcia's tenure.

More than half of the sports have seen a decline in national performance and recognition, and therefore we believe Garcia should not be considered for another contract.

There have been four teams that saw better performances before Garcia (baseball, men and women's basketball and men's soccer,) three that improved after (football, women's soccer and swimming and diving), and three that haven't seen a statistical improvement or decline (softball, cross country, and volleyball).

The baseball team made an appearance in the NCAA Division I Super Regionals the one and only time before Garcia was hired, in 2001, and seven NCAA Division I Regional appearances before Garcia from 1995 - 2002; six of those seven appearances were consecutive, from '97-'02. Since Garcia took over in 2006, there have only been three Regional appearances in 2010, 2011 and 2015.

The women's basketball team truly shined before Garcia came to the University. There were four consecutive NCAA Division I Tournament appearances 1995-1999, and another in 2002. They also were Sun Belt Conference Tournament champions and regular season champions in 2002, which was the last time that the team won its conference.

The University's men's soccer team reached the Division I Championships in 1996 as a Division II program. The team then made appearances at the NCAA Division I Tournament from 1996-1997, 2001-2004. It wouldn't be until 11 years later that the men's soccer team returned to the tournament in 2015.

Football, probably the most-watched and most talked-about sport for the University, is probably most known for the lack of attendance at the games. The inaugural game in 2002, was played in front of 17,314 viewers, and ended with a 27-3 win. Since, the Panthers have only made it to the Sun Belt Conference championships and won in 2010 and seen a sharp decline in attendance at home games, under Garcia's tenure.

The University's Swimming and Diving team won back-to-back C-USA Championships in 2015 and 2016. Volleyball has been another sport to shine since Garcia's tenure, claiming two of its three NCAA Tournament appearances in 2008 and 2009 but only claiming a conference championship in 2001, before he was hired. Sand volleyball, which was started in 2013, has also seen two national championship appearances.

While there have been some growth, there is not enough to justify paying large amounts of money to Garcia. We believe this money would be better suited to finding a replacement that will put together coaching staffs that ensure the safety and success of student athletes.

FOOD PRODUCTS



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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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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 opinion@fiusm.com.

WINTER IS COMING



NICOLE HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Students enjoy pizza and refreshments during the Game of Thrones viewing party on Thursday, April 21, 2016 during the Game of Thrones week hosted by Campus Life, SPC and Geek Culture Club.

'Lemonade' a 'culmination of Beyonce's work'

LIFESTYLE POINTS



JOSEPH
CARDENAS

Beyonce has a certain affinity for doing the unexpected.

Even with the release of 2011's "4", it was surprisingly uncatered for a broad audience.

Her fifth studio album, self-titled, was dropped onto iTunes and streaming sites without prior announcements and went into a variety of topics like sexuality and beauty.

"Lemonade", an HBO special that aired on Saturday, April 23, introduced the world to her latest visual-movie album of the same name.

Immediately, the album itself dropped on the music streaming service TIDAL after the special aired.

By listening to the music alone, anyone can tell this album is very personal and intimate.

Her sense of black empowerment and feminism weigh more heavily than they ever have. Lyrically she displays a painting of visceral imagery and genuine emotion.

Musically we see a raw energy that Beyonce hasn't even been close to exploring before, yet it's no surprise that she pulled it off with the kind of grace only she could do.

"Lemonade" is quite possibly the culmination of everything Beyonce's been working up to her entire career.

Despite the inclusion of February's black excellence anthem, "Formation," the album itself doesn't pose as an explicit political or social message.

Rather, its deeper meaning bleeds out with every new song

you listen to. It's partly why saying which songs are the best grossly undercuts the evolution you hear when they're all put together.

The album starts slow and blends into the rock collaboration with Jack White, "Don't Hurt Yourself", a comparably unique track for Beyonce's catalog that still lends itself to be a stellar addition to the record.

Beyonce's hard-hitting vocals play to the rock n' roll vibe perfectly. With the follow-up "Sorry", Beyonce displays a crumbling relationship with questionable fidelity.

Following girl power, smooth track "6 Inch", featuring The Weeknd, Beyonce's first dabble into her Texan roots enters.

To be fair, though the album is best indulged in whole, "Daddy Lessons" is truly a standout. It's a whole story on its own, rich

and lively and a tune you latch onto quickly.

After slowing down once more with two love songs, she takes a minute to cool off with a James Blake assisted track before entering the final acts of the album.

"Freedom" is the second standout of the record, the heart of the album's message of empowerment. Kendrick Lamar lends his talents to the track, not relenting on the clear imagery of racial discrimination and oppression. Following it is "All Night", an infectious melody and rhythm.

The album ends with "Formation", quite literally the best way to lead out of a meticulously crafted work - gruff, poignant and unapologetic.

What "Lemonade" represents is Beyonce herself. Her identity, what she believes and how she

illustrates the complicated parts of her life.

It's probably the most honest thing an artist has released in a long time, and to come from such a big name like Beyonce no less.

She makes little effort to hit hard with explaining to her audience exactly how authentic and genuine she can be, and that is truly the most amazing thing about this album.

"Lemonade" is currently only available for streaming on TIDAL, but it has been stated it will be seeing an iTunes release sometime soon.

Lifestyle Points is a weekly column covering films and pop culture. To contact Joseph Cardenas for suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiusm.com.

Dean Blunt's new album is 'repetitive trash'

SELECTED
ANALYZED WORKS



CINDY
HERNANDEZ

Dean Blunt is actually one of the most multifaceted musicians to come out of a post 2010 "aesthetic-core," so I'm honestly shocked how and abhorrent Babyfather, a collaboration between Arca and Dean Blunt "BBF," hosted by DJ Escrow could possibly be.

It's one of the more "obvious" albums of late, where the props for good songwriting that make up an album is instead turned into a concept album that doesn't work.

It's like Blunt went on Google and searched "recurring motifs in a concept album" and thought to himself "I guess I would do that."

The best proof of this is the absolutely annoying repetition of the track "Stealth," across the album, stealthily renamed although it's quite literally the same track three times on the

album. He repeats the words "I am Proud to be British," over and over again, but to no effect.

There's no distortion or build up here, like in James Ferraro's honest attempt in "Skid Row" that makes the sounds of police sirens and brutality intense, scary. Fatima Al Qadiri's album "Brute" from this year also makes the case for this use of found audio and creates an atmosphere. On "BBF," it's just all mixed poorly.

Another aspect that really makes a disconnect for me is how poor the beats are by Arca.

I don't see the same chops here in making something otherworldly and inviting as he did on "Vulnicura" or his own release "Mutant".

The track "Meditation" is kind of empty, save for Blunt's sometimes funny rap verses on white women.

The sounds seem distant, inaccessible, but maybe that was the intention.

This is an experimental hip hop album that doesn't really get to be experimental as often as it should be because of the careless

FIRST CLASS



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

Anuar Kiuhan, Sergeant first class of the US Army and health care recruiter speaks during the Discovery Opportunity Community Expo hosted by the Pre-Student Osteopathic Medical Association.

'tude that exudes from it.

And at a whopping 50 minutes (longer than other Dean Blunt albums,) with most of the tracks being the same loop of audio over and over again, it bears repeating that this is way too painful to listen to.

However, there are some highlights to this. I think the album cover is pretty fun, with a hover board painted in the Union Jack. There's no denying Blunt did go all British on his album, eschewing any American

producers altogether which was an interesting and political move.

You can really see the effort into making this production go into a few of the tracks, at least.

"Platinum Cookies," is a hazy, dreamy banger, if such an anomaly can even be supported. And then on the track "Killuminati," we get a sense of his influences on this album that are far removed from the abrasive, real collaged sounds of maybe a "Brute" or "Skid Row", but still stands a great hip hop track.

The highlight of this album, really, is the fast rapping against a grime influenced backing track that comes and goes in tiny snippets.

Maybe if the gems on the album weren't 30 seconds long instead of bad sampling, this would be a great member of Dean Blunt's multidisciplinary opus.

Selected Analyzed works is a weekly column that discusses selected works from the RPM genre. For comments or questions cindy.hernandez@fiusm.com

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BASEBALL

Panthers eat Owls with three game win

LOUIS AGUDELO
Staff Writer
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The tides might finally be turning for the baseball team as they managed to win two out of three games over the weekend against 17th ranked Florida Atlantic University.

As the team was fighting for the top spot in Conference USA, the Owls from FAU scored six runs before the Panthers could even score one in game one of the series Friday, April 22.

Cody Crouse (2-1) had a rough start in his new role as the Friday night starter. The 6-foot-6 right hander only pitched three and two-thirds innings, but gave up eight hits and six runs, five of those runs earned.

To stop the bleeding, Head Coach Turtle Thomas brought in former Friday night starter Andres Nunez (3-2).

Nunez would pitch four and one-third innings, keeping the Owls from scoring any more runs, and striking out four.

This plug in the hull would be exactly what FIU would need, so they could focus on the offensive side of things.

With Nunez on the mound, the Panthers would battle back, totalling 12 hits on the night, three of those from right-fielder Kenny Meimerstorf, who is still



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Junior catcher, Zack Soria rips a double to left field against FAU. The Panthers were able to take two of three from their in-state rival Owls.

the team's RBI's leader.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, the rally would be capped off with a sacrifice fly off the bat of Zach Files, scoring Jack Schaaf as the go-ahead run. Williams Durruthy would come in to close the ninth inning and he'd do so successfully, notching his fourth save of the season and helping Nunez win his third game of the year.

Saturday's contest began a

bit different than Friday's did. This time, it was Chris Mourelle (5-4) who had the mound against FAU and while he did give up a run early in the first inning, the FIU offense had his back in the second and third innings.

A solo home run from Nick Day and his team-leading seventh jack of the season got things started for the Panther offense and all tied up at one run a piece in the second inning.

In the third, RBI's from Eddie Silva and Zack Soria gave the home team a two run lead. It was in the top of the fourth that the lead was erased by a two run home run by FAU designated hitter Sean Labsan.

Mourelle would stay in the game for the Panthers, pitching eight total innings while only allowing two earned runs all night.

In the same inning that they

had scored the winning run just a night before, FIU managed to take the lead again with an RBI single from Irving Lopez.

With the lead and an opportunity to take game two of the three game set against rival FAU, Thomas pulled Mourelle and put in Durruthy to shut the door.

In dominating fashion, Durruthy struck out three of the four batters he faced and the Panthers took the first two games of the series.

FIU had a chance to sweep not only their biggest rivals, but the No. 17 ranked baseball team in the nation.

They faced left handed junior Alex Demchak (3-2). Demchak hadn't been in this position all season, as Garrett Cave has been the Sunday starter most weekends for the Panthers. To add to the nerves, Demchak would be facing the university from his home town, being a native of Boca Raton, and a graduate of Spanish River High School in Boca Raton.

The junior only pitched two innings on Sunday, April 24, giving up one walk, three earned runs, and eight hits before being pulled in favor of freshman Nate Pearson.

Pearson and Demchak were

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BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Gamecocks shock Panthers in season end score of 13-9

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One of the many goals for the University beach volleyball team this season was to be crowned the first ever Coastal Collegiate Sports Association (CCSA) champions.

After going 6-1 in their final seven games, the No. 10 ranked Panthers rode a wave of momentum into the CCSA Tournament.

On the first day of the tournament, Friday, April 22, the team had its eyes set on No. 9 Georgia State University and Tulane University. These two matches were pool play.

The GSU Panthers have been a familiar foe for the team, splitting the first to matchups of the season.

After dropping the first match, the FIU Panthers promptly responded with two wins of their own to take a 2-1 lead. The No. 5 duo of redshirt sophomore, Savannah Davis, and sophomore, Natalia Giron, put the team on the board with their commanding victory.

Shortly after, the No. 4 duo of graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, and junior, Aren Cupp, claimed another

victory, putting the Panthers ahead.

The team then lost the fourth match of the contest, which pushed it to the decisive fifth match. Juniors, Anabela Sataric and Marina Boulanger, one of the Panthers most dominant tandems, fell in a three-set thriller.

The team then faced off against Tulane to wrap up the first day of the tournament.

The Panthers clawed their way to a 3-0 start and defeated the Green Wave 3-2. Once again, the duos of Toghiyani and Cupp and Davis and Giron, propelled the team to its first win in pool play.

Davis and Giron made a move in the program's record books. With these two victories, the duo moved into third place for the most wins by a pair in a season, 17, only two shy of the record.

On the second day of the tournament, Saturday, April 23, the Panthers had an early wakeup call playing at 9 a.m.

To finish off the third match of pool play, the team faced off against in-state rival, Florida Atlantic University.

Once again, the Panthers fell behind early, dropping the first match, however, they rallied back winning three straight matches to take the contest.

The rookie duo of freshman,

Dominique Dodd, and junior, Katie Hogan, got its first win of the tournament. The duo of graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, and sophomore, Estefanie Bethancourt, and Toghiyani and Cupp, contributed to the winning efforts as well.

The single elimination part of the tournament began during the quarterfinals later on Saturday.

The Panthers battled against unranked University of South Carolina, a team they had previously beaten in the regular season and held a 3-0 overall record against. Although the Panthers came off two straight wins in pool play, they were given the upset of the season.

The Gamecocks defeated the Panthers 4-1, ending their season. The only duo to claim a victory in the contest was Toghiyani and Cupp. Together, they finished the regular season undefeated (7-0).

Toghiyani finished her career on top of the program's record books for most wins all-time (67), and Cupp finished fourth with 50.

The Panthers finished the 2016 season 13-9, seven wins shy of matching last year's win total.

TENNIS

Panthers lose in C-USA finals

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The No. 44 FIU women's tennis team fell short of winning the Conference USA championships from April 21-24 at Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The Panthers (17-3) lost to No. 45 Rice University

in the championship match of the C-USA tournament, 4-1, on Sunday, April 24. The Owls' win over the Panthers clinched the university's fourth-consecutive conference title, a new conference record.

FIU fell behind early, dropping the doubles point.

Freshman Maryna Veksler and Junior Nina Nagode fell to Emily Smith and Katherine Ip, 7-5.

However, the Panthers

evened up the doubles match when senior Carlotta Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro defeated Lindsey Hodge and Alison Ho, 6-3. Rice would clinch the deciding doubles match when sophomore Nerma Caluk and senior Kaitlin Brozovich lost to Savannah Durkin and Solomiya Zinko, 6-3.

During the regular season, the Panthers were 3-2 when the team lost the doubles point and undefeated when the team won the first point.

Heading into the match, Lazaro was still undefeated in dual matches with a record of 17-0.

Although the Panthers are much stronger singles players than doubles players, the team dropped three out of the four completed singles matches

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MLB

Barry Bonds: Forever Giant

JAKE'S TAKES



JACOB
SPIWAK

The 2016 Major League Baseball season is well underway and we've already seen many familiar sights across the league to welcome us back to the sport we love.

It wouldn't feel like baseball season without Jake Arrieta throwing a no-hitter, Bryce Harper crushing home runs and the Miami Marlins losing a lot of ballgames.

However, one event that had never happened before took place over the weekend and the Marlins played a major part in it.

San Francisco Giants legend Barry Bonds,

arguably the greatest player in baseball history and the current Marlins hitting coach, visited AT&T Park for the first time in an opposing team's uniform.

Even those who aren't diehard baseball fans can figure out why this is such a big deal. The aura of Bonds reaches far outside just baseball. He's become one of the most controversial figures in all of sports due to steroid allegations dating back almost a decade.

It's a debate that will continue amongst fans for years, but whether or not you believe the greatest hitter of all time and the career leader in home runs deserves a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame, one thing remains true; Bonds is the most legendary player in the history of the Giants organization.

Nobody knew exactly what to expect when he made his return to AT&T Park.

Would Bonds get a standing ovation for all of his contributions to the organization he played with for fifteen years, with the Giants faithful chanting his name as he walked onto the field? And even more importantly, would he embrace it?

Or, with public perception of Bonds' character being so negative, would fans change their view on their former hero and greet him with boos?

While Bonds made sure to keep his loyalty to his current job with the Marlins, he was welcomed back to San Francisco with open arms.

Thousands of fans were cheering and wearing his iconic number 25 jersey, a video montage of his greatest moments with the team was played in between innings and Bonds gave a curtain call and signed countless autographs.

For a player like Bonds,

who faces so much national hatred and disgust for how he cheated the game of baseball, this weekend had to feel good.

Bonds can speak all he wants about how loyal he is to the Marlins and how he must respect the organization that's now signing his paychecks, but he'll always be a San Francisco Giant.

Both teams are struggling early on and only one of the three games played during the weekend series was competitive, but what will truly be remembered are the two words under Bonds when he was shown on the video board at AT&T Park to thousands of cheering fans: "Forever Giant".

Jake's Takes is a biweekly column about major league baseball. For commentary and suggestions, email Jacob Spiwak at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.

TENNIS

C-USA finals end in defeat for the Panthers

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to lose 4-1.

Orlando was the first Panther to go down. The senior, possibly playing in her final match of her college career, fell behind to Durkin in her first set. She could not recover from a first-set loss and lost to Durkin in straight sets, 3-6, 1-6.

Caluk was the next Panther to lose. The sophomore, like her senior teammate, lost to her opponent, Ho, in straight sets, 1-6, 4-6.

Veksler was the lone bright spot for the Panthers versus the Owls. The standout-freshman defeated Hodge, 6-3, 6-2, to give the Panthers its only point of the match. Veksler's win in the match against the Owls was her 26th on the season.

Lazaro was handed her first loss in dual matches this season. The Spaniard dropped her match against Smith, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, despite having a one set lead on her opponent.

Lazaro's first loss in dual matches clinched the match for Rice. The last time the Spaniard lost was back in October 2015.

When the Panthers defeated UT Arlington back in February, Veksler said head coach Katarina Petrovic's goal for the team was to win the conference and make the NCAA tournament.

Although the Panthers fell short of the coach's first goal, the team has a chance to make it into the NCAA tournament.

The Panthers will find out if they made the tournament on Wednesday, May 4, at 5 p.m.

NFL

Dolphins' season begins with Brady suspension

DRUCKER'S DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

In Miami, the road to the Super Bowl is congested and full of traffic. Each time around, somebody's transmission gives out halfway there and the entire commute crawls home.

The Miami Dolphins of 2016, however, might be riding another highway entirely.

On Monday, April 25, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals defended the integrity of inflated footballs and deflated Dolphins fans everywhere.

The federal court overruled a decision made last September by U.S. District Court Judge Richard Berman that New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was innocent of involvement in a deflated football scandal dating back to the AFC Championship game in January of that same year.

Brady was initially challenging a four-game suspension NFL commissioner Roger Goodell sanctioned on the 16-year

professional Dolphin-killer.

That means that when the Dolphins play in Foxborough on Sept. 18, the only paper-thin defense Brady will possibly be shredding in the second half is the waxed lining of a Gatorade cup.

The timing and decision of the ruling could not have been more convenient. The decision takes a ton of pressure off of the Dolphins (regretful, but intentional pun), as they will enter New England coming off of a road trip to Seattle in their 2016 opener.

Given that they also play the Browns at home, Bengals on the road and Titans at home in the following three weeks, a dream of a decent start to the season can return to Miami.

Some fans may think that this appeal decision is only a coincidence or too good to be true. I simply treat this news, however, like the turning point in an enigmatic battle for justice in our universe.

A team simply cannot go 7-9, 7-9, 6-10, 7-9, 8-8, 8-8 and 6-10 since 2009

without a higher power intervening at some point, right?

I believe that the Dolphins will be reimbursed for all of their bad fortune in one miraculous 2016-2017 season. Everything will go right. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill will connect on at least three game-winning deep passes.

Of-tribbled defensive end Dion Jordan will fulfill his potential as a number three overall pick. The Dolphins will take the AFC East title, making it all the way to the conference title game.

Before you dismiss me as a Dolphins homer, you have to admit that it feels right.

The narrative fits.

Downtrodden by the league for years, the Dolphins surge back to national prominence behind what I think might become one of the league's more perfect player-coach combinations in Tannehill and Adam Gase.

It also makes sense on the defensive end. Why shouldn't a pass rush that features Mario Williams and Cameron

Wake be among the most feared in the NFL? Although the team has holes, the talent for a run is there.

Consider this too: this kind of miracle turnaround happened in 2008.

The Dolphins were 1-15 in 2007 and produced the most improved record in the league with an 11-5 record the very next season. Aren't we due for another turnaround?

As the Brady decision lands in April days before the NFL draft, it looks like Miami is finally going to get its due. You might doubt it, but it's going to happen, because even our cruel world is too kind to give Miami another six-win season.

Drucker's Digest is a monthly column about the Miami Dolphins. For commentary and suggestions, email David Drucker at david.drucker@fiusm.com.

BASEBALL

Panthers to continue potential win streak

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only the first two of the long line of seven pitchers that FAU would face on this Sunday afternoon matchup.

In total, FIU would strikeout 10 but give up 12 hits and eventually nine runs to the Owls.

The defense for the Panther

squad would also be a hinderance to their success, committing four errors. The University offense only managed to bring across one run and that was with a Meimerstorf RBI single in the 7th inning, but that run would soon be made to feel very unimportant when in the next inning Owl first baseman

Esteban Puerta hit a solo homerun to left field.

The final score would be 9-1 and the Owls would avoid being swept by the Panthers.

While they couldn't get the sweep, there could be a great deal of positive momentum drawn from taking two games from this FAU team and it might

be exactly what the Panthers need going forward to finish off the season. Thomas's tune seems to have turned to something less typical as he has finally switched his pitching rotation around a bit. This team is far from done, as this weekend proved.

They had another opportunity to keep the ball rolling at the

University of South Florida on Tuesday, April 26, at Louisville on Wednesday, April 27, and then a three game set against another CUSA team at Western Kentucky University on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 29 and 30, and May 1.

RELEASE, RELAX, CELEBRATE



JACOB BURNS/THE BEACON

Students visit an information table during Release Week, the University's annual celebration of diversity and pride at the end of the semester.

Powerlifting team places third nationally

ALEX TOLEDO
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FIU's powerlifting team reached new heights last weekend, on April 15 and April 16, 2016. The team performed at the 2016 USA Powerlifting Collegiate National Championships in Providence, Rhode Island for the first time, where the women's team finished in sixth place, while the men's team finished in third place.

Head Coach Bill Hennessey touted and praised his team for their performance, saying that it "feels fantastic" to succeed in the way they have, and that he has some of the smarter and more talented lifters in the country.

He is a major proponent of lifting "smart", rather than always being the strongest lifter, and that it is all about "competing against the bar", rather than just competing against the rest of the competition, citing mental strength many times.

Hennessey also points to how hard his lifters work, training multiple times a week and with different methods of

training in order to maximize their improvement. He is all about strategy and feels that it is an underrated part of success in powerlifting.

Finally, he was most proud because of the fact that although FIU's powerlifting program is not a scholarship program, they competed against scholarship programs anyway, and "punched them all in the teeth", which he thought was "truly remarkable."

Hennessey feels that the future of powerlifting looks "excellent" and enhanced his praise by adding that FIU powerlifting "is the most successful sports program at FIU."

He said that they do not plan on relinquishing the state title, and the team wants to win it every year, and feels like they absolutely can. He emphasized, also, that the team "would not enjoy this success" without Assistant Coach Katharina Pajic, calling her an "integral part" of the team and finished that by saying that there would be "no way to manage without her."

Some of the more significant finishes pointed out by Hennessey were: senior Leandria Ates, who finished

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATION



SAM SMITH/THE BEACON

From left to right: Samiyyah Black junior Digital Media Major, Robert Gutsche SJMC professor and Cristal Williams Chancellor, director of Communications at the Women's Media Center in Washington D.C. speak at the Equity and Equality of the Sexes in Communication Conference on Thursday, April 21. The conference discussed the status of women in communication fields.

second in the country at 138 pounds while competing with torn knee ligaments; senior Vincent Victorero who placed fourth at 199 pounds; junior Gabriel Llanes who finished third nationally at 250 pounds; sophomore co-captain Roman Fronzaglia who won the silver medal for the 130 pound class; graduate student; co-captain Kimberly Acosta who won the bronze medal in the women's 114 pound class; junior Emmanuel Lokolo who won the bronze medal in the super heavyweight class in his second meet ever.

According to Hennessey,

this is the third year that the team has been around. In their first year of competing, the team dethroned Florida State University, who had won for seven consecutive years at the time, in the Collegiate State Championships, where the men's team finished in first place and the women's team finished in second.

The next year, 2015, both men and women's team got first place at the Collegiate State Championships. They won first place in both men and women again before their first Collegiate National Championship berth

this year.

There are tryouts for the travel team every other month or by appointment with Hennessey. The team conducts multiple fundraisers throughout the year in order to help fund hotel, plane tickets and other costs needed to perform.

Hennessey believes in hard, smart, and strategic work in order to maximize results, but believes in instilling and enjoying a family-like atmosphere and culture within the team.

He feels that this team is wound together like a family.