

The Broward College

OBSERVER

Student Newspaper

Opportunities rise for BC business majors



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<https://observerbc.wordpress.com/>

Thomas Gerald Sports Editor

Broward College Cypress Creek location is now offering much more to the business community.

The Cypress Creek location recently unveiled its business incubator, dubbed The BC Innovation Hub, a 5,400 square-foot space designed to be a mixed use business incubator, focused on housing a dynamic community of entrepreneurs, start-ups, mentors, advisors and investors, and serving as a one-stop resource for business owners, innovators

SCORE, the Small Business Development Center and the Enterprise Development Corporation, as well as angel investors, including New World Angels.

There will be seminars and workshops on various business topics focused on specific skills helpful to startup companies that will also be open to the public for a fee.

This fee may be discounted or waived depending on the course and workshop.

Through this intermingling of individuals and resources, the Innovation Hub seeks to serve as a business ecosystem that fosters efficiency and

small business owners. BC students will be able use the Hub as a way to help develop their small business ideas and network with other small businesses for internships and job opportunities.

"We are trying to help our student become business ready," said Professor Steven Gross.

"Many of our students have a desire to want to start businesses but don't have the background and the base information to be successful and we are tackling that in a number of ways."

The incubator will offer an entrepreneurial technical

idea and what kind of room we have here," said Gross.

A portion of the Innovation Hub will be dedicated to sports-related startups as part of a collaboration with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

In addition to the benefits offered by the Innovation Hub at Broward College, these startups will receive mentorship from Strikers staff and have the opportunity to pilot their ideas on the Strikers' stadium, fans and athletes.

"Ronaldo, Ricardo, and I, along with the rest of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers ownership and staff, are honored and thrilled to collaborate with



Broward College's Cypress Creek campus is a new campus addition and has a focus on business majors.

Photo courtesy: browardcollegeblog.com

and committed individuals pursuing their entrepreneurial ambitions.

"The Broward College Innovation Hub has so much to offer to the community and is certain to have a local economic impact," said Broward College President J. David Armstrong, Jr. in a press release.

"This facility will be a great opportunity to encourage the exchange of ideas, attract and retain talent for local start-up companies, and foster leadership and individual empowerment."

The BC Innovation Hub will offer access to mentors, through BC's collaborative partnerships with Broward

innovation.

"The Institute of Economic Development Innovation Hub is really designed to utilize education and training to have the best work force in Broward and South Florida," said Norm Seavers, Vice President of the institute.

The Hub houses several private individual offices, along with a shared co-working space, two small conference or mentoring rooms and a fully equipped audio and video training or seminar room which can be separated into two large board rooms.

The facility will also feature 100Mbps fiber broadband access hardwired Wi-Fi.

The Hub is not only for

certificate and will entail a co-op or internship, giving the student the real world knowledge of what being an entrepreneur is.

Students will also be able to work with start-up businesses, helping them develop their vision.

"We want to not only start growing the incubator but give the students the knowledge to be successful people in business," said Gross.

Students will also be able to submit their start up business plans that will go through the Entrepreneurship program on North Campus, and depending on space, will allow students access to the hub.

"It's going to depend on their

Broward College on this initiative," said Strikers Co-Managing Partner Madison Stanford in a press release.

"The Fort Lauderdale Strikers are passionate about entrepreneurship and innovation, and we know that Broward College is the right ally for us to succeed in attracting and building strong businesses to partner with the Strikers."

Accepted startups will provide innovative solutions to improve athletic performance, enhance fan experience, build sustainable and smart stadiums, and better engage the local community through media and broadcasting.

Keep up with BC: What's going on around campus?

BC's safety department helps students stay safe year round on campus

Carrying on from our last article on the topic of preparedness, we would like to touch on Broward College's information about emergency response, evacuations, and immediate notification.

General information about the emergency response and evacuation for Broward College are publicized each year as part of the institution's Clery Act compliance efforts and that information is available on our Department website at <http://broward.edu/safety/Pages/Annual-Security-Report.aspx>.

Detailed information, updates, and guides to the Broward College Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Severe Weather Plan (SWP) are also available on the Department's website at <http://broward.edu/safety/Pages/Prepare.aspx>.

Remember, any individual of Broward College who is involved in or witnesses a life-threatening emergency is required to immediately call 911, and if practical and without jeopardizing life safety, the appropriate Campus Safety Department.

Understand that in the event that an incident arises, either on or off campus and that the College views as posing a viable threat to life and property, a College-wide alert will be issued via BC Alert.

The alert will originate from the primary person responsible for activating BC Alert, the Associate Vice President for Public Affairs and Marketing.

If the primary individual (or his/her designee) is not available or capable of activating the system, the Associate Vice President of Safety, Security, and

Emergency Preparedness is also able to send out messages via all BC Alert methods.

This alert will come to all registered users in the form of an email, text message, voice call, on-campus network based computer screen interruptions, and alert banners on the College website as well as posting on social media sites.

The BC Alert system is only one part of a comprehensive safety system Broward College employs to ensure that all students, employees, and visitors can feel secure while at Broward College campuses and sites.

We encourage you to read more at www.broward.edu/safety.

Ping pong tournament, proceeds for children

On Feb. 18, at 12 noon, Ari Sernik will be hosting a ping pong tournament.

Admission is \$10.

However, all proceeds will go to the Sunflower orphanage Center, which is located in the country of Cambodia.

The ping pong tournament will take place in building 68, room 191, also known as the activity center.

This will be held at South Campus.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world where the average Cambodian lives off of less than \$2 a day.

More so, it has one of the highest mortality rates due to AIDS.

Enter the tournament and have the opportunity to win a free BC Seahawk Shirt, along with your picture on the Intramurals Sports Wall of Fame.

Before Sernik came to study and continue his education at Broward College, he went

backpacking across South East Asia.

There, he visited Cambodia where he had the opportunity to learn about the country and was privileged to spend time volunteering in an orphanage.

The orphanage that Sernik volunteered in is called Sunflower Orphanage Center.

At the Sunflower Orphanage Center, lots of sick children are housed and fed.

The Sunflower Orphanage takes care of 12 orphaned children that have contracted the disease of HIV/AIDS, which was transferred by their parents.

For more information or to make a contribution to the Sunflower Orphanage Center, contact Valda Garcia by email at vgarciab@broward.edu, by phone at (954)-201-8224, or in her office, which is located in building 68 on South Campus.

Help make a difference today.

BC's 2015 Teacher of the Year awards

We are beginning the selection process for Broward College's "Professor of the Year" and "Adjunct Professor of the Year" awards.

This year, we will be honoring Full-time Faculty and Adjunct Faculty members.

Nomination forms will be available on the Broward College webpage and the Observer's Facebook page until February 28, 2015.

Broward College is committed to recognizing and rewarding teaching excellence by its professional faculty, but it is only through your participation and written feedback that we will be able

to do so.

The nomination deadline is February 28, 2015, so please take the time to share with us those extremely positive classroom experiences you have had as a BC student.



Student Counseling

As you pursue your education, you will encounter challenges that will affect your ability to be successful. Concerns about relationships, family, stress, body image, and drug and alcohol abuse can cause distress and problems with day-to-day living.

Student counseling is available to all Broward College students.

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Gender communication workshop insightful

Thomas Gerald

Sports Editor

Men and women tend to use different forms of communication in the workplace. Due to stereotypes and the values of society, communication between genders usually lead to unfortunate misunderstandings. Broward College is aiming to fix that.

On Feb. 2, Broward College's Equity Committee held a "She said, He said" Gender Communication workshop, with over 160 BC students and staff, FAU students and various alumni, to help spread awareness of the gender communication separation in society, but more specifically in the work place.

"I hope it [the workshop] gave the students and staff the opportunity to hear different voices, different perspectives and point of views to make informed decisions when speaking with the opposite gender," said Dr. Anne E. Mulder, the honored guest speaker of the event.

Opening with a video created by the only student member of the Equity committee, Alejandro Giraldo, the workshop continued with a speech by Mulder.

In her speech, Mulder read from a speech she had written in early 1980, comparing the

gender role views and place of women with that of today.

"Society has taught us that we can only work in prescribed roles," said Mulder.

In addition to her speech, Mulder awarded three \$450 scholarships to three of the students who were in attendance. Kendrick Valdes, Terrance Gibson, both sophomores, and freshman Sandie Vixamar were the recipients of the drawing.

Vixamar said, "I wasn't expecting to win. It feels amazing to not only hear this great woman speak but to

walk away with \$450 on top of that."

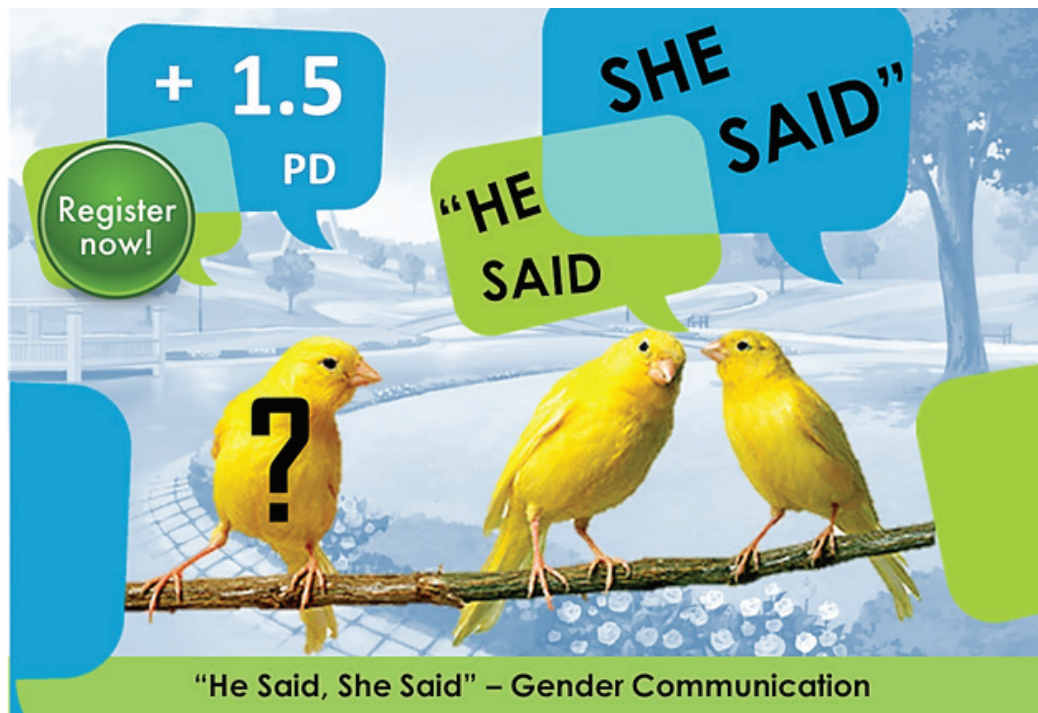
After, Mulder spoke with the crowd about the role of women in society. The Equity Committee formed a panel and opened the floor for the students and staff to ask questions concerning gender, how to communicate between genders and the role gender plays in the work place.

The panel included committee members Senior Professor Herm Baines, Downtown Center Manager Lisa Barnes, South Campus Professor Septimus Barrock,

Associate Dean Sonia Nieves, Associate Professor Dr. Jane Treptow, and Mulder with Student Success Senior Specialist Pam Shaw acting as the moderator.

Each panelist gave personal accounts of how gender has affected their working lives and how they personally dealt with it.

Panelist and committee member Baines said he hopes the staff as well as the students take the message they were trying to convey to heart and understand what it means to truly hear each other.



The Gender Communication workshop gave a broad perspective on gender issues.

Photo courtesy: BC

"The most important thing said today was the importance of men and women communicating together. We all fail without communication."

The forum closed with Nieves reading an excerpt from a journal she found explaining how gender differences are not all that different.

"Every study shows that men and women are more similar than different. We should remember that," said Nieves.

Mulder began her nearly 55-year long career in education as a high school English teacher which evolved into teaching and administrative experiences in colleges, universities and public school settings, as well as extensive consulting.

She has served as a dean of a college of education in a regional university, a president of two community colleges, a dean and administrator in a community college, and as a consultant to various organizations.

For over a decade long she served as a doctoral university professor where she designs curriculum, teaches various courses, and chairs doctoral dissertation committees.

She currently serves as a member of FAU's Associate Graduate Faculty and has been a full-time visiting assistant professor at FAU since 2009.

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Dental clinic on Central open to students, faculty

Ashley Lokken

Copy Editor

In 1974, Broward College's Central Campus opened the very first dental clinic.

Located in building 8, the dental clinic can be found at the end of the hallway.

This dental clinic is not only open to BC students and faculty.

The non-profit clinic is open to the general public. Pricing is the same for students, faculty and the public.

"Compared to other dental offices, the Broward Dental Research Clinic is 40 percent less in cost," said Ulysses Molina, Administrative Assistant.

Some of the services that are offered at the dental clinic include oral hygiene, X-rays, and non-surgical periodontics.

However, the dental clinic offers much more than just that.

Some other services offered, although limited, include restorations, endodontic, oral surgery, prosthetics, periodontics, crown and bridge restorations and pediatrics.

Experienced students are able to work on some procedures, however, the dentist on the premises is the one who does the heavy-duty

services, such as crowns.

A major advantage of having this dental clinic on campus is to give students who are majoring in the dental field a real hands-on experience.

Although the dental clinic has been a part of Central Campus for about 40 years, it is still not a widely known fact for some people.

In order to spread word

about the clinic, dental faculty send emails to BC faculty, which helps create a high volume of faculty attendance, as well as attendance in general.

Other practices that exist at BC are a vision and massage clinic, which are only located at North Campus in Coconut Creek.

Unlike other dental clinics,

this one does not accept insurance.

First time visits include an exam, x-ray and cleaning for \$66.

If a deep cleaning is wanted in the first time visit package, the patients pay \$106.

BC is the affordable route to gain entry in the field of dentistry. If a BC student is majoring in the dental

field, students can earn an Applied Technical Diploma in Dental Assisting, continue their education and earn an Associate in Science Degree in Dental Assisting and earn an Associate in Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

For more information on the Dental program, visit their website at www.broward.edu/academics/programs/dental



A dentist at BC's dental clinic working on a patient. The clinic is open to students, faculty and community. **Photo credit: Alejandro Giraldo/The Observer**

Students learn true meaning of social justice

Jayda Hall

Staff Writer

Social Justice is a topic often misunderstood around the world.

Luckily, Broward College prepared Caring for the Forgotten: Principles of Social Justice, to inform students about the true meaning of justice and how to pursue it.

The event took place Jan. 22, and included panelists such as Dr. Edward Cornejo, Professor of History at BC; Rabbi Gideon Goldenholz, Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Hollywood, FL and Ginger Lerner-Wren, Broward County Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit Court.

BC's Associate Dean Henry Mack introduced the topic defining justice as giving to each other what you are owed.

Goldenholz began by explaining the concept of social justice from a religious perspective.

There has to be a spirit law that governs the government.

The idea of laws must be applied and interpreted by every generation justly.

He went on by saying that if the government creates a law that is immoral or carried out poorly, it's claimed to be civil disobedience.

"We tend to do things in the name of religion but instead we should take it at its best and look at the humaneness that it expresses to make the world a better world," said Goldenholz.

Next, he refers back to the bible and described civil obedience by using the conflict

between the Pharaoh and the Israelites. It is the obligation of every citizen to be the eyes, ears, heart and spirit of the law.

"We are all children of God and we must be treated with justice," said Goldenholz.

Cornejo discussed Social Justice by describing his life.

How do you make a difference in an unjust world?

Unlike many, Cornejo went to a high school with only 123 students. Before he graduated, he was told that he had a responsibility to the world.

"Words are worthless if they don't cause a reaction.

Forget about civil rights and gay rights and focus on human rights," said Cornejo.

He explained that we live by three instincts: protecting yourself and what is yours, fleeing from danger, and feeling guilty after missing the opportunity to help someone.

No longer does Cornejo look at Social Justice as an abstract concept, but a way to make a difference in someone's life and the rest of the world.

"It is all apart of psychology. We get afraid of what others will say, and that's where courage comes in. If you follow the crowd, you're a coward,"

said Cornejo.

Judge Lerner-Wren opened up with her experience in the courtroom, where she searches for Social Justice in every case, also known as justice inside of justice.

"Idealistically, we all want justice for all, but justice isn't always fair," said Lerner-Wren.

Being a judge, she witnesses many people proven guilty for anything and thrown in jail. She also pointed out that the United States convicts more people for crime than any other country in the world.

Where is the Social Justice?

Lerner-Wren closed explaining to everyone that issues won't disappear until a change is made, and that change starts with us.

"I encourage everyone to be empowered to make a difference. Just like Martin Luther King had a dream, we have a dream as well, and it can only manifest once we start pursuing change," said Dr. Richard Bernstein, a BC Psychology Professor.





Social justice is discussed often in the news and media. The line of where social justice lies is attempted to be determined. **Photo courtesy of Victoria Jackson**

**You oversleep (again),
you jog across campus,
you learn a lot,
you read under the palms,
you recharge with
a burger at the Union,
you catch friends en route
to a Bucs pep rally,
you cheer loudest
at the game,
you play on South Beach
until late,
you intern with the
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Proud Partner

Inspiring artist finds art in everyday life, visits BC

Ana Cedeno

North Buerau Chief

Broward College North Campus held its first artist talk of the year on Jan. 31. Artist Jerry Bleem, teacher, artist, and author, held a lecture in BC's library auditorium. As he spoke, Bleem showed the audience slides of his sculptures and explained the stories behind them.

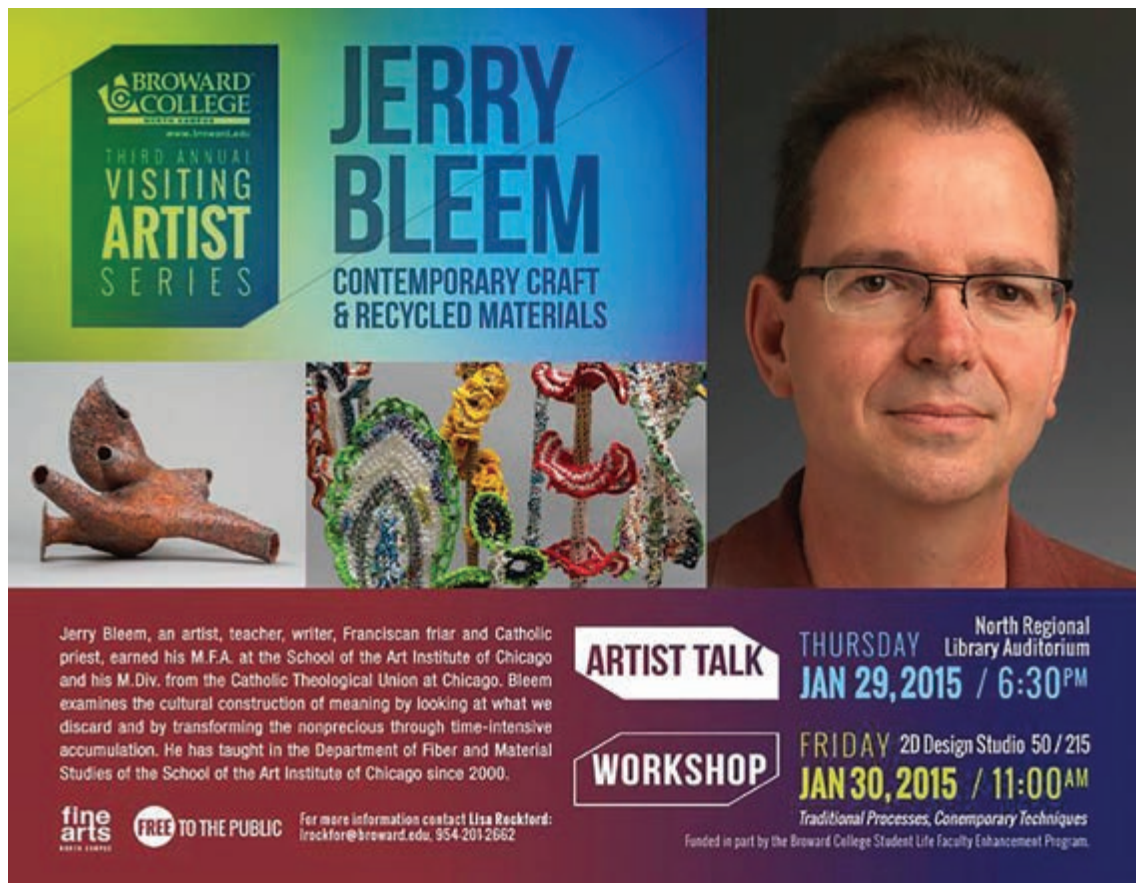
"I think that underlying most of my work is a search for understanding how we assemble meaning and I do think it's a cultural process," Bleem said. "That's really what interests me, the idea of how we create meaning."

Bleem has a column for U.S. Catholic Magazine and has published articles in SDA journals and Fiberarts Magazine. He has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Craft, the Northern Illinois Art Museum and the Sixth International Fiber Biennial.

Bleem is also represented by Packer Schopf gallery.

Additionally, Bleem has taught in the Department of Fiber and Material Studies at the Art Institute of Chicago and has been a visiting professor at Arizona State University.

He is also an instructor at Penland School of Crafts.



Official flyer made by BC to advertise Jerry Bleem's visit.

During the artist talk, Bleem presented pictures of his sculptures, most of which were made of materials most people wouldn't think valuable.

These materials include plastic bags, which Bleem uses for a lot of his sculptures.

"I'm trying to deal with this issue of how do I see and what am I missing, particularly

the plastic bags," Bleem said, "which are so much a part of our lives."

One of the sculptures employed the use of an American flag which Bleem had unraveled to compose a sculpture.

"In my nationalism series I'm reconfiguring to ask some questions about what does

it mean to be patriotic and what kind of patriotism exists around us," Bleem said as he presented the slide.

Bleem also informed the crowd of his childhood. Bleem spoke of growing up in a farm in Southern Illinois and how that shaped him as an artist.

"I think that my first education as an artist came

from nature," said Bleem.

"I learned sculpture from observing nature."

Living in Illinois also shaped his view on what the term nature entailed.

"Land is human invention as well. There is no plant that lives without having some sort of human interaction," said Bleem.

Bleem then confessed that a lot of his work was influenced by the concept of time.

"What I hope time gives to the viewers is the sense that they think I spent my time considering. I want to convey to my viewers that this is something worth thinking about," said Bleem.

The lecture was put together by BC's Student Life department and presented by Lisa Rockford, Fine and Applied Arts professor at BC.

According to Rockford, "Bleem examines the cultural construction of meaning by looking at what we discard and by transforming the non precious through time-intensive accumulation."

A video of Bleem's lecture is available on BC's Youtube channel.

For more information on upcoming presentations from the Visiting Artist series, contact Rockford or check BC's Facebook page.

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Results of new baseball approach yet to be seen

Thomas Gerald
Sports Editor

Broward College Seahawks men's baseball team is doing something a little different this season.

Coming into the new season with only seven returning players and 19 new ones (seven freshman and 12 transfers), head coach Ben Bizier is rebuilding his team and hoping to lead them to a successful season.

"Our set up is a lot different," said Bizier.

Bizier added that while they looked for players that had one or two tools to add to the game in the past they searched for overall good players this season.

One such player is Rigo Beltran, a sophomore transfer from Palm Beach State College.

"I feel good about where we are heading," said Beltran.

"Here we gear more toward the fundamentals of baseball."

During the spring the baseball team saw more losses than wins, with a record of 22-24.

With his new approach to create a solid team of players, Bizier hopes that he can turn that around.

"We recruited a lot different. We recruited a specific type

of player. We recruited really solid baseball players."

Among the returning players is lead-off hitter sophomore Tyler Fichter, who Bizier describes as "the most overall complete player of the team."

Like Bizier, Fichter is not only hopeful for the new season but is looking forward to a good one.

"We're a lot better than last season," said Fichter.

"This season we have better players. Players that want to be here and work hard to win."

Sophomore right hand pitcher Ryan Guerra, also a returning player, added, "I think we're going to do good. We have a good chemistry. Everyone is pulling for each other."

While focusing on the fundamentals of baseball and improving their skills as players, the team feels that Bizier is also helping them as students.

After their three to four hour daily practices, the baseball team is required to attend an hour and half long study hall.

Fichter, a Fire Science major, said, "after practice ends we go to study hall from 6 to 7:30. It's there to help the students that aren't doing so well and keeps them eligible to play."



Left-handed pitcher Rico Beltran practices his throwing during practice. **Photo credit: Bella Riccitelli/The Observer**

The study hall has helped the team to maintain an average GPA of 2.8, one of the highest among all of the BC athletics programs.

"Our team GPA is 2.81, which is probably the highest it's been in a long, long time. It's very high for a program wide GPA," said Bizier.

The next home game of the Seahawks men's baseball

season will be on Feb. 20, against ASA College at 6 p.m.

This games will be followed by more two homes games on Feb. 21 and 23 where they will face ASA College again, and then Saint Thomas University.

Bizier is looking forward to a productive season with a good line up.

"With junior college baseball you never know what the

season is going to be like but I like the group and I expect us to be a really competitive team," said Bizier.

"You always try to win more games than you lose. That's what I'm expecting," said Bizier.

Fichter added on, "We have the heart, we have the passion and the will to win."

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What to do on Valen



SINGLE

Valentine's Day is upon us and everyone is rushing to get 'boo'ed up.'

But hold up, wait a minute, think about putting some single time in it.

Rushing into a relationship or frantically searching for a mate to avoid being alone on Valentine's Day is quite possibly one of the biggest mistakes any single person can make. Or any person, really.

There are a million and one things for the lonely, single, and a little bit desperate to do while everyone else is out celebrating the (current) loves of their life.

On Valentine's Day, everyone is treating those who they love so why shouldn't you do the same?

Treat yourself to a day of lavishness, gifts and time.

Go to a movie; buy that thing you've been eyeing.

Just do something with yourself, by yourself.

And if you feel bad about treating yourself, just say, "I love me and it's Valentine's Day, the

one day I can treat the person I love the most."

Chances are that someone is going to invite you out and they are going to be half of a couple.

Go and spend the night poking fun at them.

While this may seem mean, it's just as mean to invite a single person out to rub their loneliness in their face.

In fact, that's down right sadistic.

Point out how silly they look while fawning over each other.

Then, order the most expensive drink and leave. They invited you, so they'll pay.

Get a group of your single friends together and hit a bar (if you're of age of course, if not, then hit a Denny's.)

Being alone doesn't mean you have to physically be alone, and chances are those single friends are probably thinking and feeling exactly like you are.

Go out, have fun, drink a few drinks and party the night away.

There is probably going to be a group of the opposite (or same) sex out wherever you are that is doing the same thing.

So you may not end the night alone after all (wink, wink.)

Everyone has at least one neglected hobby that they just never

have the time to really focus on. Well, instead of investing time on a stranger, invest time in that.

Spend all day playing that video game you never beat.

Dust off that expensive camera you bought that you never use and take pictures of all the poor saps in love.

Build a barn in your backyard if that's what you've been neglecting to do.

Or you could stay home and do nothing at all.

There is nothing wrong with staying home on Valentine's Day and doing absolutely nothing.

Stay in, grab your favorite snacks, visit the Redbox or binge watch your favorite show on Netflix.

Or, swing by Barnes and Nobles and grab that book series you've been meaning to catch up on.

Wouldn't you rather be enjoying a good movie or book in the comfort of your own home and not fighting a bunch of strangers for that nice table at that overpriced restaurant where the servings are too small and the food isn't good?

Article by Thomas Gerald

Valentine's Day if you're...

TAKEN

Couples around the world look forward to the international holiday of love: Valentine's Day.

While women look forward to all of the presents and sweets they receive on this day, men usually would rather do romantic gestures rather than spending all of their money that they've been saving for months.

However, couples don't have to view Valentine's Day as the day they spend the most money, or a second anniversary.

Valentine's Day can be fun and stress-free.

In order to get a table at any decent restaurant, reservations are usually required almost months ahead of time.

If waiting in a line to get into a restaurant because reservations were never made isn't something that seems appealing, other activities could be considered as a romantic date for Valentine's Day.

Almost every supermarket now has a Redbox in their stores.

Buy a movie or two, get some popcorn and chocolate, and enjoy a night in with each other in the privacy of your own home.

Even though it is the middle of February, South Florida is known for the heat, which still seems to happen even in winter.

The beach is a place where people spend tons of money to spend their vacations, and we have full access to it all day and all night.

Having a picnic on the warm beach is a romantic way to have a meal with your significant other.

Once the picnic comes to an end, swimming can be an option, because even though it is February, the water will still be as warm as it was in July.

When the sun goes down, the remainder of Valentine's Day can be spent on the boardwalk, where couples can spend personal one-on-one time while holding hands and having a distraction-free conversation under the moon.

Every hopeless romantic loves when their significant other is even more romantic than them.

If this is the case, then don't be afraid to go all out on the corniest things possible.

Start with making a

mix CD with iTunes.

This CD has to include all of the songs that remind you of each other, and any songs that your significant other has randomly told you to listen to.

This way, they will know that you listen to them and listened to the songs.

Once the CD is finished, decorate it with romantic things, such as writing out your anniversary.

Another hopeless-romantic act is putting balloons on their car.

When your significant other walks outside for the first time that day, they will be surprised and happy to see heart-shaped balloons tied to their door handles on their car.

Just when they think this is all that's planned, the best that is yet to come is just about to arrive.

Top everything off with a basket.

Fill the basket with a bear, the CD, their favorite flowers, and chocolate.

There are tons of other things that couples can do on Valentine's Day other than go out to eat.

To spice up your relationship, try to do something different this year with your Valentine's Day date.



Article by Bella Riccitelli

Design by Bella Riccitelli

Amy Poehler's new book shares valuable lessons

Ashley Lokken
Copy Editor

"Figure out what you want, say it loud, then SHUT UP." Thank god, someone finally said it. As a human race we have tendencies to beat around the bush when it comes to life and life lessons.

In Amy Poehler's new book, she graces us with important life lessons flat out and straight forward. Her book is titled "Yes Please," to demonstrate the values she has discovered that come with being polite.

42-year-old Poehler was in the process of a depressing divorce, taking care of her young children and trying to remain sane in her earthly existence while writing her book.

"I had no business agreeing to write this book," said Poehler in the preface.

"What's it been like writing Yes Please? It has been like hacking away at a freezer with a screwdriver," said Poehler.

Despite all of the obstacles she had to face while creating her book, it remains honest, creative, brilliant and exceedingly hilarious.

"I also learned that writing topless tends to relax me. Go figure. Life is a mystery," said Poehler.

Poehler exclaims how intimidating it is writing a book to compete with brilliant and talented writers/actresses such as Lena Dunham and her best friend (and partner-in-crime) Tina Fey.

She sets the bar so low for your expectations, but she does not give enough credit to herself.

"Everyone lies about writing. They lie about how easy it is or how hard it was. They perpetuate a romantic idea that writing is some beautiful experience that takes place in an architectural room filled with leather novels and chai tea. No one tells the truth about writing a book. The truth is, writing is this: hard and boring and occasionally great but usually not," said Poehler.

Poehler was born in 1971 in Newton, Mass. Her parents were teachers; the family lived in a ranch house. She still has a lot of what she calls "lower-middle-class Boston issues." She recalls: "My friends and I fell asleep to the sound of our parents arguing about car payments and tuition. It was our soundtrack, this din of worry."

She eventually learned making people laugh was her passion, her drug. She

attended Boston College and joined an improvisational group called, "My Mother's Fleabag," which eventually led her to meeting her comedic soul mate Tina Fey.

She moved to New York in 2001 and was hired by Saturday Night Live. From there, her career jump-started. Poehler writes and jokes about drugs, "cocaine is terrific if you want to hang out with people you don't know very well and play Ping-Pong all night. It's bad for almost everything else."

She uses her witty sense of humor to put points across about serious subjects. "Poehler is not shy about the pot she's smoked or the sex she's had," said Zach Dionne of Rolling Stone magazine.

Poehler speaks openly about birthing her children. "I have the Angelina Jolie of vaginas. But even with my glamorous vagina, I worried about delivery," said Poehler.

She speaks of everyday issues she faces with her body image. She catalogs her physical deficiencies. It's a list that includes, "I wish I were taller or had leaner hands and a less crazy smile," proving she is exactly like all of us.

"Poehler is happy to point out the glaring flaws ... and cruelty



Amy Poehler before her millions. Photo Courtesy of bostonmagazine

of the human condition, but ... you get the sense she does it because she believes everyone capable of change," said Mary McNamara of the LA Times.

Poehler is extremely down to earth. I would describe her as the fairy godmother of comedy and wit.

"And then you just do it. You just dig in and write it. You use your body ... You put your hand on your heart and feel it beating and decide if

what you wrote feels true. You do it because the doing of it is the thing," said Poehler in her book.

Poehler deserves to remain a universally acknowledged woman of empowerment, class, intelligence and humor.

I highly recommend this book to everyone.

It can be purchased on amazon.com for \$14.99 or less.

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Empire TV show draws in millions of viewers

Jayda Hall
Staff writer

Step aside *Scandal*, because “*Empire*” is coming through.

The title itself speaks volume.

FOX has released a new drama series, “*Empire*”, based on the movie “*Hustle and Flow*,” starring Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson.

Howard plays former hip-hop artist and now CEO of Empire Entertainment, Luscious Lyon. Cookie, played by Henson, was incarcerated for 17 years after being convicted for selling drugs. Cookie was able to sell \$400,000 worth of drugs, which helped Luscious get into the music industry.

Once released from prison for good behavior, Cookie realizes how much she has missed and left behind.

She discovers Empire Entertainment, which was previously just her and Luscious making music out of a garage, and demands the money for half of what she helped start.

While fighting Luscious for half of the company, she finally gets to meet her three sons who she wasn’t able to raise after being incarcerated.

Cookie also gets to meet



Watch Taraji P. Henson and Terrence Howard in the hit television show “*Empire*.” Photo credit: play.google.com

Luscious’ new lover and head of A&R, Anika Calhoun, played by Grace Gealey, and each episode, the feud between them intensifies.

In the beginning, it was brought to light that Luscious suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and only had up to three years to live.

He doesn’t give anyone the bad news just yet. Instead, he informs his sons that one of

them must take over and this creates controversy between everyone.

Stuck between a rock and a hard place, Luscious must decide between his youngest son who only cares about fame, his second oldest son who he looks down on for being gay, and the oldest son, who holds the most business experience out of the three, but has no charm.

It’s no secret that Luscious wants his youngest son Hakeem, played by Bryshere Gray, to take over Empire Entertainment.

But with money, fame, and women being Hakeem’s only concern, he doesn’t fit the criteria of a CEO.

Jamal, played by Jussie Smollett, is Luscious’ least favorite son being that he is gay.

Despite his son’s talents, Luscious doesn’t want his son to perform under his name or run the company because of his sexuality.

Luscious’ older son Andre, played by Trai Byers, plans on taking over Empire Entertainment by causing mayhem in the company, which will leave him the position to take over.

Between family matters, health issues, and competition with other record labels, Luscious has a lot on his plate, and more to come.

The drama gets intriguing with each new episode.

After being released Jan. 7, “*Empire*” has drawn in 11.3 million viewers.

With the amount of views increasing every week, “*Empire*” has managed to take lead over “*American Idol*.”

Also, it held the number one position in Xfinity’s on-demand rankings, back to back.

It is apparent that numbers never lie.

“*Empire*” is the show of the year and it’s never too late to get hooked.

You can catch “*Empire*” on FOX every Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Johnny Depp should stick to being a pirate

Victoria Watson
Staff Writer

Mortdecai arrived in theaters on Jan. 23.

David Keopp directed the film.

Keopp casted Johnny Depp as the main character, Gwyneth Paltrow as his wife (Johanna Mortdecai) and Paul Bettany as Jock Strapp, or his “man servant.”

In case you aren’t familiar, the film is an adaption to *The Mortdecai Trilogy* which is a comic novel written by Kyril Bonfiglioli, published in 1991.

The main character is a British aristocrat, who introduced himself as Lord Charlie Mortdecai.

He can’t seem to gain enough of himself and is not a trustworthy art dealer. Mortdecai and his wife were on the verge of bankruptcy, causing them to struggle with funds to maintain his aristocratic lifestyle, hence the shady art dealings.

When the famous Goya painting gets stolen, an old colleague Inspector Martland, played by Ewan McGregor, asks Mortdecai to assist in finding the piece.

Mortdecai accepts and must travel the world to find it.

Mortdecai isn’t the only one on the hunt for the Goya painting, which as it turns out, is rumored to possess the code linked to a long lost bank



Johnny Depp plays yet another corky character in the somewhat humorous *Mortdecai*.

Photo courtesy: azcentral.com

account of Nazi gold.

The best way one could describe this film from beginning to end is by taking the idea of *The Pink Panther* from 2006, starring Steve Martin as Inspector Clouseau, and turning it right on its head.

Although *The Pink Panther* is PG rated and *Mortdecai* is rated R, I assure you the film’s humor is just as childish.

This may lead one to believe the only reason it was rated as such is because of cleavage

and bad sexual innuendos.

Let’s not forget the naïve main character.

It soon becomes clear that the only aspect differentiating the two is the fact that the main character is a silly aristocratic con artist from Britain rather than a not so everyday French officer who guards priceless objects.

The film seemed to have promise and did include a fantastic cast, but after the first few scenes it was soon ruined for me.

The film encompassed a predictable plot that has you groaning with a lingering feel of de ja vu, because let’s face it; we have all seen this very same plot with many other action comedies.

Even the puns have been used more than once.

The film falls flat quickly and eventually becomes a bore to continue watching.

I have nothing against the cast; I just simply believe that this was not their best work.

As soon as one hears

Mortdecai’s, “man servant and thug” claims, the name of Jock Strapp, sums up what to expect from the movie as a whole.

If you’re into Americans pretending to be Europeans with offbeat accents and mustaches, this may actually be the right movie for you, but I would recommend staying home and watching Austin Powers movies with friends.

I promise you will have a much better time.

Coffee tastes better with sugar and a hint of hipster

Ryan Serpico
Staff writer

Throughout my life I have primarily been exposed to one kind of coffee brand: Starbucks.

I feel like this is the case for many people my age. It's fine, Starbucks has a consistent experience and okay coffee.

But when you are exposed to only one coffee brand, you don't get a sense of what really good coffee tastes like.

I felt like I wanted to explore the coffee world that exists outside of Starbucks, so I decided to pay a visit to Panther Coffee.

With only two locations in South Florida, one in Wynwood and one in Miami Beach, Starbucks dwarfs Panther Coffee.

But Panther Coffee's small size may be its strength; since they're so small, they can tightly control the coffee experience by doing things like roasting their own beans.

This is very important in brewing coffee, since coffee beans lose their flavor as time goes by after they're roasted.

And since the coffee beans are roasted on site, you are guaranteed the freshest cup of coffee possible.

Along with incredible coffee, Panther Coffee is also a retailer.

Panther Coffee sells their own coffee, scales, brewers and clothing.

The Miami Beach location isn't much on the outside, but on the inside, it is furnished

and decorated as a coffee shop that you would expect to see in some indie movie.

It had a rustic, industrial look combination, with wood finishing everywhere with dim yellowing light bulbs lighting the place.

It felt very laid back and relaxed, somewhere you would want to do a school project or hold an appointment at.

As I approached the counter, I was greeted by two of the baristas that were there.

They were not wearing any uniforms whatsoever, not even aprons.

This is a stark difference in relation to Starbucks, where the baristas wear their iconic green aprons, khaki pants, and black polos.

These baristas were wearing hoodies and baseball caps.

Once I picked up their menu and flipped to the coffee portion, I was amazed by the incredibly detailed selection.

All the coffee blends had foreign names, some that I couldn't even pronounce. The menu also featured details of who grew them, how they were washed, and the altitude they were grown at.

Disoriented, I asked the barista helping me to just brew me his favorite, which turned out to be Lekempti (which thanks to the menu I know was grown by the Jipat Group in Ethiopia).

Once served, I began the coffee tasting by sniffing the aroma of the coffee, and it was just incredible.

It didn't smell like any coffee



A wall in Panther Coffee displaying their merchandise that is on sale.

Photo credit: Ryan Serpico/The Observer

I had before.

If you were to have blind-folded me before I smelt it, I would have told you it was flowers, because it smelt so sweet.

The coffee tasted fruity, with notes of honey, orange, and mango.

I can now understand coffee snobs who frown upon people who automatically pour cream into their coffees, because you miss out on this beautiful flavor.

Panther Coffee is widely known. Previously, this South Florida-based coffee shop has been featured in the Miami Herald, Miami New Times, and NBC Miami.

The pricing was a bit more than what you would see at Starbucks, but considering this is freshly roasted coffee, you are paying for quality.

And as I learned after having the coffee, it is definitely well worth the price of admission for this fantastic cup of joe.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with Panther Coffee, so much so that I plan to stop by their Wynwood location every second Saturday of the month for the Wynwood art walk.

I highly recommend anyone who wants to expand their coffee taste palette give Panther Coffee a try.

Country stars leave the chilliness for South Florida

Jennifer Beardslee
Radi
News Editor

The Kiss Country Chili Cook-Off celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, with tons of South Florida country music fans.

With a crowd filled with tons of people, it is time to find a bigger venue for the event, or maybe put a cap on the number of tickets being sold (somewhere below the maximum capacity, please).

The concert started at 10 a.m. with the Cadillac Three.

Although many concertgoers don't make a point to see the first act, if they weren't already inside C.B. Smith Park before 9, chances are they weren't going to see it anyway.

There was a line of traffic leading its way from Pines Blvd, all the way to Taft St., and then west, it was a wonder if the person at the end of the line was able to make it in for the headliner, Brad Paisley.

Now, some of the Chili Cook-Off goers made the decision to park their car at Walmart or other local stores and walk into the park, just to see the show.

Others who opted for a pre-event tailgate and wanted to start drinking well before the show started were already parked by a pavilion inside with their stereos blasting and beer pong games in full swing.



Country stars Brad Paisley and The Band Perry headlined the annual Chili Cook Off held in Broward. Photo Courtesy: SouthFloridaCountryMusic.com

Once inside the gates, a crowd of people greeted fans dressed in camouflage or flannel shirts and girls (and some guys) wearing the shortest of jean shorts, even if it was a little cold out.

While the purpose of this event may seem to be the chili, considering the name, the music is definitely the focus.

This year the Cadillac Three, opened the show, and while they had a great energy, their Tennessee vibe and strong, raspy vocals didn't seem to resonate well with the audience.

The Swon Brothers, former contestants on 'the Voice', were up next and left the crowd singing their single "Same Old Highway", maybe only because they repeated it

so many times through out the song.

Bottom line, the lead vocalist tried to capture the audience's attention and while he put in a great effort, the crowd seemed bored, and anxiously awaited the time when they would bid the audience farewell.

The Band Perry stole the show. Kimberly Perry, the lead singer, left the crowd mesmerized and all the girls whispering, "she is so pretty."

With the vocals as strong as the lyrics, she hyped up the crowd to a level no performance before her could.

Their stage presence was impeccable and every song they sung had the crowd singing along.

They played hits one after another, "If I Die Young",

"Chainsaw" and "Done" to name a few.

Perry announced that she liked her shows to be loud so she did all sorts of crowd involvement to keep the crowd screaming and cheering.

It was exhausting.

One audience member, Meghan Buchholz, said "They totally rocked the park."

The concert could have ended right there, and I would have been just fine.

However, the headliner Brad Paisley still had to make his way onto the stage.

Brad Paisley closed the show from the moment he walked on stage.

He lacked excitement and wasn't at all what people expected.

Many audience members

starting leaving after his first couple of songs.

Once he warmed up, he began to perk up a little bit, and the audience responded.

Towards the end of his performance, he was pretty hyped up.

I have to say the only thing that seemed to keep the show energized was that almost everyone in the audience knew every word to every song.

Paisley was extremely humble and even took photos and videos on the iPhone that a fan had thrown at him.

With \$4 bottles of water, selfie sticks flying high, and an inflatable can of Bush's Baked Beans bouncing around the crowd, this event was one to remember.

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Self esteem issues spawn from society

Jayda Hall
Staff Writer

Nothing is worse than a woman with low self-esteem. Over the years, the media has brainwashed women to believe that what they have isn't enough. So what do you do to get the look that the media labels 'fabulous' or 'stunning'? Plastic surgery.

Honestly, a woman who goes through a plastic surgery procedure is a woman who looks in the mirror for too long. She's also the woman who takes a selfie and stares at it too long, pointing out all of her flaws. If you know you are beautiful, you wouldn't care about the opinions of others. You would also know that a body like Amber Rose can get a guy's attention, but won't keep him around for long.

Plastic surgery was created by the devil himself in my opinion. What woman in her right mind would want a fake cleavage, a fake butt, a fake nose, and so on? Seriously.

Take the Kardashians for example. Almost every sister has had some type of work done to her body. The minimum price for a procedure like a breast augmentation is \$4,000, excluding silicone. Luckily for them, they have the money to get plastic surgery without it breaking their pockets.

However, there are many women who save thousands of dollars for surgery to gain acceptance from society. Many of those who get plastic surgery are unaware that you must go back for more procedures to keep your fake breasts from sagging after a while.

According to statistics, 52 percent of women are unhappy with their appearance. Celebrities in the media have the most impact on women. In fact, it has been reported that women are spending a great deal of money on beauty products and surgery just to look like their favorite celebrity.

But let's forget about women just for a second. Guess who else is under the knife as much as women? Men. Men, who are known for not caring about how others feel about them, are scheduling appointments with surgeons to get a nose job.

You can't blame someone for having low self-esteem. You can't tell someone that they're gorgeous in your eyes when they think otherwise. We can only blame the media.

Every time you go grocery shopping and pick up a magazine, there's a perfectly made woman on the front page. Looking at this flawless woman is someone who is intimidated and overpowered by the influence of plastic surgery. The low self-esteem that forced this praised celebrity to get an entire do-

over is what causes the rest of humankind to take extreme measures in order to have the perfect body.

Wanting to be thin with a big butt is scarring our society today. Many strive for the perfect body but sometimes surgery isn't the answer. I am thankful that states are taking the initiative to create laws against such a horrid trend.

How can something that used to be frowned upon be on the next woman's to-do list? Cancer isn't the only killer in this world, thanks to plastic surgery. Only time can tell if we'll ever get rid of the mindset of being perfect. Besides, beauty is on the inside, anyway.



Pressure from society leads people to make unrational decisions about their appearance. **Photo courtesy: Google**

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Love means knowing when to swipe right

A Day in the Life

Kyle Rambo

There is always a glimmer in someone's eyes when they look at something they love. I'm not talking about when you're family or spouse is talking to you. I'm talking about what you're actually looking at when they're talking. Your \$400 LED screen.

The most romantic relationship we have in our lives is with our phones. We spend a lot of money on it every month, we sleep with it, we even complain when someone else has it in their hands for too long (all things I didn't do with my last girlfriend). It's only natural that we use our true love to find someone that can attempt to satisfy us half as much. So I decided to join the world's number two "future missing person's" network, Tinder, (number one is Craigslist if you had any doubt).

As I created my account I was filled with hopes of being rejected through a screen instead of being rejected in a dark bar with the girl's six foot tall boyfriend ten feet away playing bass guitar in a Nickelback cover band.

Setting up an account is all

about putting pictures that cover up the many flaws you have that led you to create a dating app profile.

For girls the theme seems to be selfie pictures with a filter heavy enough to make them look more like a Pixar animated character made out of cake batter than an actual Disney princess. Additional pictures must include other desperate girls, I mean friends, in too tight dresses while inebriated at a shady night club. But don't worry they all let you know in their description that they're not here for hookups (although I doubt that was their word choice in the club). Other musts in the

description column include their enjoyment of laughing, their pursuit of a Master's Degree in women's studies, and how they are only on the app because "friends made me" (I feel like "friends made me" should be replaced by "daddy issues").

When first swiping through, I felt like Ryan Gossling looking at the many applications of women hoping to have my DNA inside them. I swiped left and turned down their applications like Google selecting nerdy exchange student summer interns.

After a few matches I realized prostitutes were extremely attracted to me. The matches

didn't seem like prostitutes until they sent me links to a website that's guaranteed to have a virus (just like the women on it). Unfortunately my financial aid does not cover strange women on the internet so I did not pursue their offer, and the women on 72nd street offer better deals (or that's what I've heard).

After a few days of swiping you quickly realize that it doesn't really matter what connections or matches you get because you can just keep swiping in hopes of a better one as new pictures of random faces will not run out. It's like watching a commercial of Olive Garden's never ending

pasta bowl over and over again but never actually going to dinner.

It's easy to pick one of the 20 women in the bar to actually take time and talk to but it's different when you can pick anyone within 50 miles.

Tinder represents society's unlimited options and why it doesn't work. Even when we do decide to pick one of the options, whether it be an online date partner, new job, new car, or even just what to do for the night, we find ourselves thinking of how good the other option could be rather than taking in the full experience of the choice we made. Sometimes being present is more important than craving something better.

If you are a person who enjoys allowing strangers to decide if you look attractive wearing a tight tank top in LA Fitness's mirror than sign up immediately. If you hope to fill this Valentine's Day with a Grey's Anatomy-esque romantic scene than maybe register at eharmony. There your soulmate really is a click away.

Just think, it can't be as bad as meeting people in real life. If that doesn't work out than at least you'll have your phone to keep you company.



Your face has now become a dating resume. Photo courtesy of jetsetfarryn.com

College is about managing time to the fullest

Jennifer Beardslee Radi

News Editor

College gives students the convenience of being able to select their own schedule. While choosing a morning or an evening class may be an option available to all students, it doesn't mean that a four-classes-a-semester,

full-time schedule is an option for everyone.

Many BC students have children to support and rent to pay and don't have the time to be full-time. So as a part-time Seahawk, we schedule our classes around our work schedule and enroll in the tuition payment plan.

There is nothing wrong with being a part-time student. In fact, I would encourage

anyone who can't handle their current schedule to consider its benefits. However, there is a down side to students who consider themselves to be a part-time student, and that is thinking that they don't deserve, or don't have the time for a full-time college experience.

A "full-time" college experience doesn't have to be working with Student Life,

and being in several student organizations. It can be as easy as taking advantage of some of the workshops and events that your tuition fees pay for. Of course, time is precious, and sometimes the only thing it seems to be worth trading for is a measly \$8 an hour. Although it is easy to get caught up in working extra shifts, the resources available and BC are what can eventually

help students get out of their current, low-paying job.

So, take the time to find an organization that is relative to your major, and meet people at BC who enjoy the same things as you. Maybe you can't make it to every Friday meeting at 12:30 for The Observer, or GSA meetings fall on a day you are not on campus... and that is fine.

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EXTRA CASH WITH EXTRA GAS



Girls" as the gas tank goes from empty to full.

In an era where gas was getting to be over \$4 and gas tanks seeming to last for four minutes, it was pretty important to take the quickest route. A spontaneous night out on the town could happen with friends again without the worry of how far they'll get, but rather if they'll ever stop.

It wasn't too long ago when asking for a ride would get the same response as asking for a kidney or getting the 'side eye' like in some kind of western will be less common.

Looking for ways to save gas was essential to many; one way was having the passenger jump in or out of a moving car (no joke.) Many are now certified stunt doubles. Now, they don't

literally have to jump in, but instead just walk in like a normal person.

There are only so many excuses to give your friends when telling them why you can't pick them up. Your Aunt Jamie can't die for a third time, let alone a second. So it's only evolution that people make up new reasons why they don't want to give rides.

No longer is an unfaithful lover confined to their immediate area. They have the gas now to travel further. The whole seeing lipstick on the collar is so old school, these days will be about catching your man on an empty tank ladies, because if he's not going by you or work where's the rest of the gas going? (Let the paranoia begin.) Praying For Gas Usually praying

for sins to be forgiven is what happens after the club, not for enough fuel to get back home. Jesus doesn't work at Hess; he already died for our sins, let the man rest now that gas is so affordable again.

Your dad actually did take a milk run to the store and never left, he just didn't have enough gas to get back. The family will be whole again because he'll finally come back now that gas is down. Nah, can't bring someone's hopes up like that.

Now that gas has hit an all-time low for the first time in years, drivers are finally able to enjoy their time again without having to mapquest the shortest route. What will you do with your full tank?

For the last couple of years, gas has been the wallet-drainer for all drivers. Gone were the days of choosing to get some snacks at the gas station and asking if they took Visa; instead it became more like, "Do you take souls?"

Now that gas is not a life-or-death situation anymore, the amount of things people can afford to do has opened up.

No longer must one have to duck when seeing someone they know at the bus stop. They can proudly roll by familiar faces and exclaim "get in," instead of "no habla ingles."

It's a noticeable difference lately that more people have

been driving with their windows up. It's not too hard to believe college students forgot their car came with an A/C since it was rare to ever have it on.

The struggle was clear when looking at someone driving in the heat, sweating like a barber around LeBron James' hairline. Everything is a little cooler now with the only thing having to worry about on the road is old people.

\$5 is officially gas money again; the days of friends rolling up their window once you pull out that five are over. Filling up at a gas station nowadays will have you feeling more like 2 Chainz rather than "2 Broke