

Second Chance

North Campus TRIO director Carlton Daley received a kidney transplant in early August. He is expected to return to campus by the end of the month.

▶ PAGE 7

Center Of Attention

Liany Becquer Leblanch, who played on Cuba's national basketball team for nearly a decade, is one of the Lady Sharks' key additions this season.

▶ PAGE 11



Sophomore Album

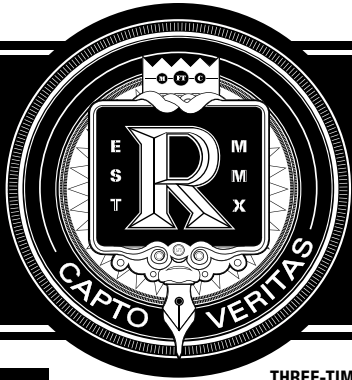
South Korean girl group Blackpink, who is at the forefront of K-pop's rising popularity, released their second album, *Born Pink*, on Sept. 16.

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Go Vote

The Reporter's Isabella de Paula encourages people to become civically engaged by voting in the upcoming midterm elections in November.

▶ PAGE 15



The Reporter

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

VOL. 13, ISSUE 3 — OCTOBER 18, 2022

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TOWER THEATER

Protestors Fight To Keep Tower Theater In MDC's Hands: 'THIS ISN'T THE END'



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Public Outrage: Film enthusiasts gather in front of Miami's famed Tower Theater to protest the city's decision not to renew Miami Dade College's lease to manage the property. For more photos from the protest, turn to page 3.

□ Dozens took to the streets of Calle Ocho on Oct. 4 to protest the City of Miami's decision to end Miami Dade College's lease agreement to manage the iconic Tower Theater in Little Havana.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
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Tears welled in Manny Soto's eyes as he recalled childhood moments spent at Tower Theater.

After arriving from Santiago de

Cuba in 1962, the then five-year-old frequented the Little Havana art house with his family. They didn't have a lot of money but sacrificed, shelling out 15 cents a ticket to watch movies twice a month.

Their first film—the 1939 classic, *Gone with the Wind*.

"It was a safe haven," said Soto, who received a Documentary Achievement Award for his movie, *A New Dawn*, during last year's Miami Film Festival Audience Awards.

On Oct. 4, the veteran

screenwriter was one of the dozens of protesters in front of Tower Theater holding handmade signs and chanting "save the theater."

The backlash comes two weeks after the City of Miami informed Miami Dade College, who has managed the facility for the past two decades, that it was ending its property leasing agreement with the school.

The decision is effective Jan. 2, 2023.

"We thank you for your services in managing the Property for the

past few years," said the signed letter from Jacqueline Lorenzo, the city's interim director of Real Estate & Asset Management.

According to a College official, the news comes as a surprise. They had been negotiating with the city for the past 20 months to renew the lease.

Trouble started percolating three days before the notice was sent to MDC when city commissioner Joe Carollo sponsored a measure to have Tower Theater run by the Bay of Pigs Veterans

Association, Brigade 2506. But when the group said they had no interest in overseeing the property, the plan was nixed, according to *Miami New Times*.

"It's never about the preservation of culture or history or cinema," said Miami filmmaker Billy Corben, who is known for the documentary, *Cocaine Cowboys*. "Miami Dade College is the collateral damage to the acts of a wannabe tin-pot dictator."

TURN TO TOWER THEATER PAGE 4

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// BRIEFING

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Former Reporter Editor Lands Internship At WLRN



SANCHEZ

Ammy Sanchez, who served as *The Reporter's* editor-in-chief during the 2021-2022 school year, was selected as an intern at WLRN—South Florida's public radio station.

Sanchez, who will begin the 12-week internship on Sept. 21, will record, edit, pitch and write stories.

"It's exciting," Sanchez said. "They get to mold me at this internship. Whatever they teach me, is what I'm going to take with me as a foundation."

Sanchez began her journalism career at *The Reporter* in 2020 writing for the news, sports, forum and briefing sections. During her tenure,

she earned a first-place award in humor writing and a second-place honor in feature writing from the Florida College System Publications Association.

The 19-year-old has also been selected as a 2022 finalist in the Best Profile category by the College Media Association and a 2022 Reporter of the Year and Sports Feature Story finalist by the Associated Collegiate Press.

Sanchez earned an associate's degree in mass communications and journalism from North Campus in May before transferring to the Honors College at Florida International University this fall where she is majoring in organizational communications.

—Jaime Blanco Pinto

Kendall Campus Appoints Interim Honors College Director

Aurora Alonso started as the interim Honors College director at Kendall Campus on Aug. 29.

Alonso will help Honors College students with enrollment and advisement.

She replaces Cynthia Okoe, who is now the interim chairperson for the school of engineering, technology and design at Wolfson Campus.

"I'm very excited to work with honors college students and faculty," Alonso said.

The 36-year-old started her career at Miami Dade College as an academic advisor for the school of continuing education at Kendall Campus. In 2015, she was promoted to the campus' senior academic and career advisor role, a position she held until this past August.

Alonso earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and social work in 2009 and a master's degree in social work in 2010 both from Florida International University.

—Victoria Martinez



ALONSO

Former Reporter Photo Editor Lands Communications Internship In New York City



MORENO

Alice Moreno, who served as *The Reporter's* photo editor during the 2020-2021 school year, was selected as a communications intern at Avenues The World School—a private K-12 school in New York City.

She started her internship on Sept. 6. The 21-year-old's responsibilities include editing newsletters and writing profiles about faculty, staff and students. Moreno also takes photographs for the school's social media account—@avenuesed.

"I feel that taking pictures can tell a story without saying it," Moreno said. "It really puts the reader into the perspective of the story and makes them feel like they're there."

During her tenure at *The Reporter*, Moreno received a first-place award in feature photography and a third-place honor in the picture story category from the Florida College System Publications Association.

Moreno earned an associate's degree in journalism from Kendall Campus before transferring to Fordham University in New York City, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in journalism.

She joined *The Fordham Observer* as a staff photographer in 2021. Her work has appeared in multiple sections including news, arts and culture, opinions and sports. In April, Moreno was promoted to serve as a multimedia editor.

—Nicole Del Rio



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK KENT COOKE

Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Accepting Applications

Applications for the prestigious Jack KenteCooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship will open from Oct. 6. to Jan. 12.

The scholarship awards up to \$55,000 annually to cover tuition, living expenses, books and additional fees at any four-year academic institution.

Eligible students must be transferring sophomores at any accredited U.S. two-year institution in the United States, have a minimum 3.5 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Applicants must enroll full-time in a bachelor's program next fall and have no enrollment history at a four-year institution.

The application requires three recommendation letters, eight short-response essays, a questionnaire and financial information.

Students can apply online in the Transfer Common App.

For more information, visit the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship page at <https://bit.ly/3LX0WBX>.

—Veronica Romano

Kendall Campus Art Professor Featured At LnS Art Gallery

An art exhibit—*Lasting Impressions: A Cessation of Existence*—featuring the Everglades National

Park, Big Cypress National Reserve and the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is being showcased at the LnS Gallery.

The work, created by Kendall Campus professor Jennifer Basile, aims to promote environmental protection. It opened on Sept. 16 and will run until Nov. 19.

Basile has taught studio art at Kendall Campus for the past two decades. During her teaching tenure, her artwork has been displayed at the Kala Art Institute, Vermont Studio Center and the Jentel Foundation.

The LnS gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information about the exhibit, contact the LnS Gallery, 2610 SW 28th Lane, at (305) 987-5642 or at info@lnsgallery.com.

—Juan S. Gomez



BASILE

Miami Dade College's School Of Education Appoints New Dean

Carmen Concepción was appointed as the dean of Miami Dade College's School of Education in September. Concepción will oversee the Early Childhood Education, K-12 Teacher Education Program and Center for Professional Development Departments within the School of Education.

"My goal is to continue growing the School of Education so we can better meet the needs of our public schools and leave a positive impact on students," Concepción said.

She started her career in education at Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1993. During a 13-year run, she taught social studies at Miami Springs Middle School and English as a second language at Lawton Chiles Middle School.

From 2007 to 2008, Concepción served as a Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence Center coordinator at the University of Central Florida. In August of 2008, she returned to MDCPS for a 13-year stint, working as a professional development specialist, an instructional supervisor, executive director for the office of professional development and evaluation and as a reading specialist at Hialeah Gardens High School.

For the past year, she worked as a staff development director at Florida Virtual School.

Concepción has an associate's degree in education from MDC, a bachelor's degree in social studies education from Florida International University, a master's degree in teaching English as a second language from Nova Southeastern University and a doctorate degree in K-12 administration from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

—Nicole Del Rio



CONCEPCION

Padrón Campus Appoints Interim Honors College Director



MADURO

Marianne Maduro started as the interim Honors College director at the Eduardo J. Padrón Campus on Aug. 29.

Maduro will help Honors College students with enrollment and advisement.

She replaces Magda Castineyra, who is now the interim dean of the program.

"I'm really thankful for this opportunity... and really excited to start working with the students and building relationships with [them] right away," Maduro said.

Maduro, 42, began working at Miami Dade College as an assistant to

the dean of the Honors College eight years ago. In 2021, she became the manager of the Teaching & Learning Center at Wolfson Campus. While there, she worked on the Opening the Gateways grant which focuses on mathematical success and emotional intelligence.

Before MDC, Maduro worked as a senior programs officer for The Miami Foundation—a local philanthropic foundation—from 2011 to 2014. A year prior, she served a year-long tenure as a market specialist at Bank of America.

After graduating with an associate's degree in psychology from MDC Kendall in 2001, Maduro transferred to Florida International University where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology in 2005 and a master's degree in public administration in 2018.

—Victoria Martinez

MDC Kendall Campus' Social Sciences Department Awarded \$10,000 Grant

The Social Sciences Department at Kendall Campus was one of 10 recipients to receive the President's Innovation Fund this May. It awards up to \$10,000 for faculty-led initiatives implementing artificial intelligence in the classroom.

Funding will be used to conduct a comparative study that evaluates the educational efficiency of Packback—an online student-led discussion learning platform that uses AI to coach students' writing.

The study is expected to be completed in the spring term.

"We're so happy that it's gotten off the ground," said Velisse Grimes, one of the professors leading the study. "We can't wait to see how it benefits our students."

Five students will be selected to assist in the research. Participants must be majoring in social sciences with a minimum 3.0 GPA and undergo an interview process.

To apply, contact Velisse Grimes at vgrimes@mdc.edu or Yuly Pomares at ypomares@mdc.edu.

—Jaime Blanco Pinto



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

PHOTO BRIEFING

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BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Upset: Dozens of protestors voiced their displeasure on Oct. 4 with the City of Miami's decision not to renew Miami Dade College's lease to manage the Tower Theater in Little Havana.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Voicing Her Opinion: Margarita Batlle believes Miami Dade College should continue to manage Tower Theater.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Sign Of Support: Turner Cathey, one of dozens of protestors, holds a sign showing his approval for Miami Dade College's management of Tower Theater. The College has overseen the venue since 2002.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Taking It All In: A baby sits in a stroller as protestors hold signs in support of Miami Dade College's management of the Tower Theater. The school's lease to oversee the Little Havana theater is not being renewed by the City of Miami after it expires in January of 2023.

// NEWS

Juan S. Gomez, Editor-in-Chief // (305) 237-2715 // juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

Protestors Fight To Keep Tower Theater In MDC's Hands

FROM TOWER THEATER, FRONT

Corben's outrage is echoed by local filmmakers like Chris Molina, who serves as the interim Short Films Programmer at the Miami Film Festival.

He created a petition on change.org to reverse the decision. More than 6,000 people have signed it since Sept. 27.

"It's one of the few historic cinemas in the city," said Molina, who led chants at the protest using a makeshift megaphone created from what appeared to be a poster board. "This isn't the end of us fighting to keep the Tower under Miami Dade College."

For many directors like Jonathan Cuartas, the Tower Theater holds a special place in their hearts. A decade after his first trip to the theater, Cuartas premiered his debut film, *My Heart Can't Beat Unless You Tell It To*, at the cinema last June.

"It came full circle when me and my brother played our own films there," said Cuartas, who graduated from the School of Entertainment & Design Technology. "It was just a wonderful way to come back."

College officials said the school has invested more than \$1 million in renovations to the property since 2002. They include a digital marquee, laser projectors and new screens, seats and flooring. More than 45,000 people visit the Tower Theater every year.

The cultural landmark sits in the heart of Calle Ocho, nestled next to Domino Park, the Azucar Ice Cream store and the Ball & Chain nightclub.

"It's a beautiful venue," said Rene Rodriguez, who served as a movie critic at the *Miami Herald* for two decades and now manages the Bill Cosford Cinema at the University of Miami. "It's a critical element of our cultural fabric."

Tower Theater opened in December of 1926 in Shenandoah—a thriving Jewish neighborhood that later became Little Havana.

At the time, an undeveloped Miami was recovering from the catastrophic aftermath of the Great Miami Hurricane, which



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Cultural Landmark: Tower Theater opened in December of 1926. By the 1960s, it was the first local theater to feature Spanish-language subtitles and films.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Rallying Cry: Local filmmaker Chris Molina stands in front of the protestors and encourage them to contact their local representatives to keep Tower Theater in Miami Dade College's hands.

wreaked havoc on the city three months prior. But after the Tower Theater was bought by a local media company in 1931, the cinema thrived.

"It was a theater for enjoyment in an area where no other theaters were nearby," said Paul George, a retired MDC history professor who now serves as a resident historian at HistoryMiami Museum. "It was just magnificent."

By the 1960s, the theater had adapted to an influx of Cuban exiles by offering Spanish subtitles and Spanish-language films. Since then, it has become a portal to American culture for newcomers.

After closing in 1984 due to urban decay, the City of Miami reopened the facility in 2000. After two underwhelming years of operation, MDC took control.

Since then, the theater has become a hub for foreign and indie films while hosting cinematographic events such as the Miami Film Festival and the Gems Film Festival.

Tickets at the venue are as cheap as \$8.25

for MDC students. The intimate setting features two auditoriums, one with 250 seats and another with 104.

Currently, they are screening *Moonage Daydream*, a documentary about music legend David Bowie, *Argentina, 1985*, a drama about a young prosecution team that seeks justice against its country's military junta, and *The Good Boss*, a comedy about a Spanish industrial scale company that awaits a visit from a committee that holds its fate in its hands.

Until MDC's lease of Tower Theater ends, the College will continue hosting its regular programming, including the GEMS Film Festival set to take place from Nov. 3 to Nov. 10.

"People just really feel like this is their second home," said Nicolas Calzada, who oversees the Tower Theater for the College. "We are the leading art house cinema in Miami, and if that goes away it's a huge loss for the community."

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CARING CARDS

Service Project Spreads Positivity One Card At A Time

□ Honors College students Natalia Llerandi, Katerina Jimenez and Angelica Pita started a service project last month that creates appreciation cards to brighten peoples day.

By Paola Proenza
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Katerina Jimenez is on a mission to spread positivity.

This summer, the second-year Honors College student teamed with classmates, Natalia Llerandi and Angelica Pita, to form Caring Cards, a service project focused on "spreading love through writing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIA LLERANDI

Showing Appreciation: Pictured are some of the letters distributed during the Caring Cards event on Sept. 14 at North Campus.

Once a month, the trio sets up a table at North Campus in the breezeway of the 4000 building. Armed with paper, pens, envelopes and stickers, they go to work, creating cards of gratitude.

"You truly see their faces light up," said Jimenez, a pre-nursing student. "This is such a small act that [can] change someone's day and remind them how much people care about them."

The scholars first Caring Cards event was held on Sept. 14. It focused on making cards for Miami Dade College faculty and staff.

Approximately 40 students attended the event and 60 cards were created. The letters were hand-delivered during a two-week span.

"I thought it was nice that the kids thought of me and appreciated what I do here at the college," said Carmen Bucher, an associate professor at North Campus, who received three cards at the event. "Especially because they were handwritten cards. I think that makes it more special. They took the time to handwrite something with their time and energy."

Gabriel Martinez, a psychology student who participated in the initial Caring Cards event, believes the initiative is a simple opportunity to sprinkle positivity.

"[Faculty and staff] do a lot for us and I thought this was a great opportunity to be able to tell them that we appreciate everything that they do," Martinez said.

Each letter is made of card stock material that measures five ½ by four inches. Students can choose from colors such as red, neon pink, brown and salmon. Each envelope has a white circular sticker with the name "caring cards" engraved in black.

The group's next event will be held on Oct. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the building



ULYSSES DEL PINO / THE REPORTER

Thank You: Pictured from left to right are Angelica Pita, Katerina Jimenez and Natalia Llerandi. The North Campus students started Caring Cards, a project focused on promoting appreciation.

4000 breezeway. It will support breast cancer patients who are undergoing treatment at local hospitals or were previously diagnosed as part of the campus' Breast Cancer Awareness Month planning.

In November, the project will honor caregivers such as nurses and doctors, December will honor hospital patients and January

will celebrate first responders like police officers, military members and veterans.

"We [want] the project to be universal and inclusive," said Pita, a criminal justice student. "That way the impact can be on multiple members in our community instead of [a] specific group."

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MCI

The Culinary Institute's Café Reopens For The First Time After The Pandemic

Following a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and renovations, the Café at the Miami Culinary Institute has reopened with a new menu and seating space.

By **Isabelle Greiner**
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After a job interview two years ago in downtown Miami, Sedy Reimers came across Tuyo, the Miami Culinary Institute's rooftop restaurant.

Her meal—chicken and mashed potatoes—prompted her to apply for the Chef Apprentice Program.

"I fell in love with the atmosphere," said Reimers, who is pursuing an associate's degree in culinary arts management.

Now, the Canadian-born aspiring chef is practicing her craft at the Miami Culinary Institute's Café, located on the first floor of building 9 at Wolfson Campus.

Reimers is one of several students who get daily experience at the facility. She starts her shift at 7 a.m., setting up the kitchen and preparing pastries.

It's an opportunity that's been missing from the MCI curriculum for the past two years after the Café was closed due to the pandemic.

The facility marked its return on Oct. 12 when it hosted a reopening celebration.

"I'm very excited," Reimers.

Guests who enter the Café are greeted by the aroma of freshly baked goods that include butter

and chocolate croissants, empanadas and chocolate chip cookies. Items sell for less than \$4 each.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., guests can enjoy lunch for \$8 or less. The revamped menu features lentil, creamy tomato and Italian wedding soups, primavera and Bolognese pasta, burgers, Cuban, BLT and Italian sandwiches.

"The most popular item is the pasta of the day," said Dominique Ravenberg, a first-year hospitality student from Suriname who also works at the Café. "I love the cheese Danish."

Burgers, salads and sandwich options are always available, but soup and pasta selections vary daily.

"The tuna is really good," said Esther "Shelly" Smith Fano, who serves as the Miami Culinary Institute Chairperson and the executive director of MDC's Hospitality Institute.

All earnings from the eatery go toward the Culinary Institute's food stock supply that's used to run the Café.

Tips fund Miami Dade College scholarship programs such as Rising Black Scholars, Presidential Scholars and the American Dream Scholars.

Renovations include a new kitchen on the first floor outfitted with a fryer, oven and grill. The old kitchen on the seventh floor will continue to be used for baking.

The seating area now includes a connection to the ballroom in



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Back Again: Staff from the Miami Culinary Institute Café have welcomed guests for the first time in two years after the facility was shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Room 6100. The space, which was previously used for meetings and events, now has several big-screen TVs, height chairs and couches.

Aileen Valdivia, an animation major at the College, was intrigued by the "classy" ambiance the space now has.

"I got the shrimp pasta," Valdivia said. "It was really good."

For students interested in

learning how to run a restaurant on an administrative level, the Café will host a new Culinary Management Internship course—FSS2381. The four-credit class will be offered during the fall and spring semesters.

Vicky Ardaya, the course's culinary instructor, and guest chefs Paolo Osorio and Kannon Swaris will train students on how to work

as baristas, order the menu and serve as a cashier.

Swaris and Osorio, who earned a culinary arts degree from Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, have more than seven years experience at local businesses and hotels.

The Café is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

PACEMAKER

These MDC Publications Are In The Hunt For A National Pacemaker

The award, the highest honor for student publications, will be announced by the Associated Collegiate Press on Oct. 28 at the Fall National College Media Convention.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

Four Miami Dade College student publications—*AXIS*, *Urbana*, *Miambiance* and *The Reporter*—have been selected as finalists for the prestigious Pacemaker award.

The prize, awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press, is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications. Finalists were selected based on work published during the 2021-22 academic year.



THE REPORTER

“This means the absolute world to me. I’m blessed to have been part of such a high-caliber newspaper.”

Ammy Sanchez, *The Reporter's* former editor-in-chief

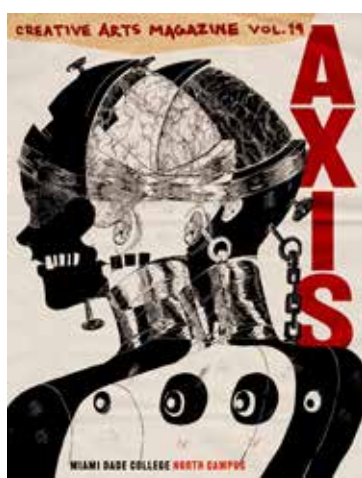
Winners will be announced at the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct 28.

The Reporter, the student media outlet at Miami Dade College, is one of six finalists nationwide in the two-year student newspaper category.

Among the top stories tackled by the publication last year: A feature on an 11-year-old—Noah Thomas—taking classes at Kendall Campus, coverage of the College's return to in-person classes and a profile on a baseball player who competed at MDC last year after defecting from the Cuban National Team.

The paper has won three Pacemakers since its founding in 2010 and was awarded the prize last year.

In addition, Ammy Sanchez, who served as the publication's editor-in-chief, is a finalist for various individual ACP awards including Reporter of the Year and



COVER COURTESY OF AXIS



COVER COURTESY OF MIAMBIANCE



COVER COURTESY OF URBANA

Sports Feature Story.

"This means the absolute world to me," said Sanchez, who is now a junior studying organizational communications at Florida International University. "I'm blessed to have been part of such a high-caliber newspaper."

In the two-year literary magazine category, MDC placed three of the six finalists—*AXIS* at North Campus, *Urbana* at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus and *Miambiance* at Kendall Campus.

AXIS, the literary arts magazine at North Campus, has been a Pacemaker finalist the past five years. They won the prize in 2018, 2020 and 2021.

Last year's publication took an existentialist approach to the deconstruction and reconstruction of the self through pieces that

showcased secret confessions, dream aspirations and coming-of-age stories.

"We really wanted our readers to witness a journey of self-discovery that they could relate to within the magazine," said Anthony Barrios, who served as the editor-in-chief for *AXIS* last year.

Miambiance, the literary arts magazine at Kendall Campus, has won Pacemakers in 2009 and 2018.

Their volume concentrated on student self-expression through horror pieces that showcased body parts such as lungs, breasts and female genitalia. They represented topics like eating disorders and sexual abuse.

"I feel really proud to see it being nominated [and] getting recognition," said Megan Carrion, the

editor-in-chief of *Miambiance* last year. "It was a huge labor of love."

Urbana, the literary arts magazine at the Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, won an Innovation Pacemaker last year. This year's issue focused on a coming-of-age theme, featuring pieces reflecting on first experiences and overcoming trauma.

Additionally, several Urbanites were selected as finalists for individual ACP awards including Social Media Campaign, Podcast, Blog and Social Media Promotion.

"We put heart and passion into it," said Stefani Davila, who served as the magazine's co-editor-in-chief. "Seeing we were nominated made us feel accomplished."

RECOVERY

TRIO Director Receives Second Chance At Life After Kidney Transplant

Carlton Daley, the director of the TRIO program at North Campus since 2006, received a kidney transplant after a four-year wait for the procedure. He hopes to return to campus on Oct. 31.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
juan.gomez070@mymdc.net

Carlton Daley had been waiting for four years, ever since the tri-weekly dialysis sessions became the norm to keep him alive.

The first glimmer of hope came in 2019 when a kidney match was found. Daley's optimism was soon dashed after his body mass index was too high to go through with the procedure.

So here he was, three years later, fielding a similar call on July 30 at 10:30 p.m.

A match was found.

"I hesitated for two minutes because I'm saying no, I'm making arrangements to get kids on the college tour," Daley said.

Two months later, Daley, who serves as the director of TRIO Student Support Services—a program at North Campus that prepares first-generation and low-income students to assimilate to college—is recovering and thankful for a second chance.

"Someone had to die early to give my dad a kidney," said Carlton's daughter, Taylor. "I'm just shocked in amazement and feeling extreme gratitude."

Road To Recovery

To be eligible for the transplant, Daley changed his life. He abandoned the meat-heavy, high sodium and sweet-based meals that caused his kidney failure.

As a sign of support, his family changed their diet too. Fruits and vegetables such as mangos, cucumbers, tomatoes and avocados soon took priority.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Second Chance: Following a four-year-long battle with kidney failure, Carlton Daley obtained a life-saving kidney transplant in early August. Daley, who serves as the director of TRIO, plans to return to campus on Oct. 31.

Daley also began exercising every day. He walked three to five miles daily, mostly around his neighborhood but sometimes around campus. The regime helped him trim 117 pounds.

The 58-year-old also visited Jackson Memorial Hospital weekly to test his blood. He recorded his vitals—heartbeat, blood pressure and sugar levels—in a journal for his doctor.

Daley also took 48 different medications, including prednisone, myfortic and prograf, to maintain his health.

"He never gave off the impression that

this was debilitating him," said his son, Carlton Daley III.

To keep his kidneys functioning, Daley underwent dialysis—a four-hour-long process that pumps blood through a filter to purify it and send it back into the body—three times a week. In between that arduous process, he answered emails, attended online meetings and graded papers for his American history class.

"You can't find a more committed person," said Michael Mason, a retired Miami Dade College administrator, who befriended Daley during her tenure as the

Meek Center Student Services Director. "It's taken a journey in regard to doing what he needed."

Despite the severity of his condition, Daley's commitment to his students never waned. Eon Alleyne-McMayo, who serves as the academic advisor for the TRIO program, recalls Daley calling from the intensive care unit to check in.

"That's the kind of guy he is," Alleyne-McMayo said.

Return To Campus

Daley, who earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications from The University of the West Indies in 1986 and a master's degree in American History in 2000 from Florida International University, hopes to return to campus on Oct. 31.

His first priority, he says, is to serve the 172 students in his cohort. Whether it be through a conversation about life, a hearty laugh or help with school work, Daley knows that "TRIO works."

The slogan, which he often repeats, is evident in the hundreds of kids' lives he has transformed during his 16-plus years at MDC.

"I love Mr. Daley," said Zion Bennett, a second-year pre-nursing student at North Campus. "He's like a dad, uncle, advisor and consultant all in one."

Some of his alumni have become published authors, student leaders and program coordinators for nonprofit organizations such as the Aspen Institute.

"He's a remarkable individual who is always giving of himself and never thinking of himself," said Gener Romeo, one of Daley's close friends and the director of the Gibson Education Center in Coconut Grove. "I'm glad he is still with us to touch many more young lives."

ENTREPRENEUR

These Brownies Cater To Your Sweet Tooth While Helping Poor Communities

Bouza Brownies, an online business founded in 2013 by Miami Dade College alumni Nicole and Lauren Bouza, was awarded \$5,000 in July by Scale Up Miami, a project aimed at improving small businesses.

By **Jaime Blanco Pinto**
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At St. Theresa Catholic School, Lauren and Nicole Bouza were known for their homemade brownies.

The pastries, baked by their mother—Rosemarie Bouza—were so popular that teachers at the private Coral Gables catholic school jostled to have the siblings in their classrooms so they could get a taste.

By their freshman year at Immaculata-La Salle High School, the sisters—inspired by their mom's baking skills—began making their own brownies.

Today, the Miami Dade College graduates run Bouza Brownies, an online-only business that raises funds for mission trips to assist countries such as Bulgaria, Zambia, Cuba and Palestine.

The entrepreneurs won \$5,000 in July from Scale Up Miami, an Idea Center program aimed at improving the growth and leadership

skills of small business owners.

"The competition was so big for us," said 29-year-old Nicole, who earned an associate's degree in business administration from the Honors College at Wolfson Campus in 2013. "Winning definitely gave us the confidence we needed."

During the 12-week competition, the duo learned online marketing strategies and how to sharpen their budget and management skills.

Nicole and Lauren founded Bouza Brownies nine years ago to pay for an 11-month Christian evangelical mission that included countries such as Honduras, Albania, Malawi and Cambodia.

After the trip, the sisters continued the business to cultivate a spirit of philanthropy. To date, the business has raised thousands of dollars for non-profits promoting youth development programs like Amigo Skate or Christian evangelism such as Adventures of Missions.

Last August, the project built water wells and taught native women how to create reusable sanitary pads using local materials in Livingstone, Zambia.

Bouza Brownies offers nine flavors—pecan, raspberry, rice krispy, Oreo, traditional triple chocolate, strawberry Nutella and

M&M, classic and guava blondie.

This month, they are adding two new options: a peanut butter brownie with M&Ms on top and a dark chocolate brownie with white chocolate swirl.

Customers can buy six brownies for \$15 or a dozen for \$35. They also offer brownie cakes shaped like letters or numbers. Vegan, sugar and gluten-free cake options are available.

"Not only are they delicious, but...it's also a family-run business," said Gretel Schumaker, a customer. "It's just the trifecta of a company."

Despite not having a traditional brick-and-mortar storefront, Bouza Brownies ships to more than a dozen customers each month. That includes batches to local stores—Mr. Tastings Café in Kendall and Books & Books in Coral Gables.

"My favorite brownie that they make would have to be their guava Blondie," said Pedro Collazo, the owner of Mr. Tastings Café. "It's one of my biggest sellers."

To keep up with the growing demand, the sisters moved production of the sweets from their Coral Gables home to a commercial kitchen in Kendall. The site features a 60-quart mixer and double-decker ovens that hold up to six pans.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Dynamic Duo: Inspired by their mother's brownies, Miami Dade College alumni Nicole and Lauren Bouza created Bouza Brownies in 2013. The online brownie business funds mission trips to countries such as Bulgaria, Zambia, Cuba and Palestine.

"The oven and the mixer are a game changer," said 25-year-old Lauren, who has an associate's degree in photography from MDC and frequently visits the kitchen on Saturdays to bake. "We can bake up to 20 pans in the span of five hours."

Since the pandemic, the sisters have made Bouza Brownies their

main priority. They hope to open a physical location within the next year in South Miami or Coral Gables.

"I'm flattered and very proud of my children," Rosemarie Bouza said. "They have an amazing project on their hands and we're very excited to see where it takes them."

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Kendall Campus Setting The Gold Standard For Student Engagement

□ Campus president Anthony Cruz held his first Colada with Cruz event on Sept. 21. The social, one of several jump-started by Cruz to drive student engagement, gives attendees the opportunity to drink coffee with the president. It will be held monthly.

By **Victoria Martinez and Juan S. Gomez**
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After her psychology class on Sept. 21, Angelina Fuentes met with friends at Finn's Bistro.

At the popular hangout in the heart of Kendall Campus, Fuentes found campus president Anthony Cruz drinking coffee and hobnobbing with students.

The event—Colada with Cruz—will be held monthly. It's the latest initiative created by the social media savvy president, as he aims to increase student engagement.

"It's awesome that he would take time out of his day to talk to students," said Fuentes, a freshman studying pre-veterinary medicine. "It shows a lot of leadership and compassion on his part."

Fuentes chatted with Cruz for about ten minutes. The Honors College student shared how the Student Government Association allowed her to meet new friends and how she started the Veterinary Sciences Club.

"I was looking for a way to engage people on campus in an informal way," Cruz said. "It's about building a sense of community on campus."

In June, Cruz started *Keeping Up With Kendall*, a bi-weekly social media show inspired by the talk show *¿Qué Pasa Hialeah?* that

he led when he served as Hialeah Campus president.

Thus far, the segment has produced seven 15-minute episodes that feature alumni, community leaders and faculty.

The show's slogan has also been plastered on blue, navy and green T-shirts that feature flamingos and beach balls. They have been distributed to students and staff for free.

Each episode is recorded on the second floor of the Learning Commons and can be seen on the campus' Instagram, Facebook and YouTube accounts.

In the past eight months, the campus has also undergone several beautification projects to the soccer, tennis, basketball gym and baseball field. In addition, pickleball courts have been added and furniture such as hammocks and outdoor rocking chairs have been strategically placed in the Fred Shaw plaza area.

"I just love seeing the campus so busy," said Sophia Chebli, a second-year engineering student. "It feels a lot more like a college experience than last year."

Future campus upgrades include making an esports room and a career closet inside the Student Life Department.

The esports room, which will be located in Room 101, will showcase various video game characters and include rows of gaming computers. The facility hopes to host a campus esports club and high school gaming competition. It's expected to open on Oct. 25

The career closet was inspired by the one operating at Hialeah Campus since last Spring semester. It will offer Kendall Campus students access to professional



REPORTER FILE PHOTO/ DANNA QUINTERO

Trendsetter: Since becoming the Kendall Campus president eight months ago, Anthony Cruz has implemented several initiatives to bring students back on campus. His latest, Colada With Cruz, afforded him the opportunity to drink coffee and chat with students.

attire to use in interviews.

Items will include suits, ties, collared shirts, dresses, skirts, shoes, heels and blouses.

The facility, located in Room 130, will allow students to select items free of charge when it opens on Nov. 7. Currently, the campus is raising funds to stock the closet.

Kendall Campus has also hosted several events with non-profit organizations—such as the Miami Dade College Foundation and Farm Share—to increase student participation.

On Sept. 20—the 10th anniversary of voter registration day—the Institute for Civic Engagement & Democracy and Engage

Miami held an event featuring food trucks, a mechanical shark and a DJ.

More than 70 students registered to vote by the end of the event, according to Engage Miami.

"The campus has been more lively," said Janeth Zaldivar, a political science student and voter engagement intern at iCED who organized the event. "This gives us an opportunity to host more events that will have a greater turnout."

Cruz has been at MDC for three years. His first assignment was president of Hialeah Campus, a position he started in 2019. In January, he also became the president

at Kendall Campus.

He held both positions simultaneously until Georgette Perez was appointed as the new president at Hialeah Campus on Aug. 15.

Before MDC, the 53-year-old worked in student affairs for two decades at institutions such as Broward College, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Sinclair Community College and St. Louis Community College. At every stop, he always made student involvement a priority.

"I really believe that engagement is very powerful," Cruz said. "The bottom line is changing lives."

GLOBAL IMPACT

North Campus Professor Refurbishes Computers For Kids In Belize

□ Associate professor George Gabb donated more than 40 refurbished computers last summer to kids in rural areas in Belize. He plans to expand the project through a study abroad program.

By **Paola Proenza**
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Renowned Belizean sculptor George Seymour Gabb, whose most famous artwork—*The Sleeping Giant*—was featured on his country's \$100 bill, believed in helping his community.

Gabb, who had a passion for educating children about art, often allowed homeless kids to use his studio to create and sell their work.

That generosity stuck with his son George Michael Gabb.

More than a decade after his father's death, Gabb started Digital Tribe, a foundation that refurbishes computers to help Belize's impoverished communities. The non-profit has renewed more than 40 computers.

This summer, the computer science professor at North Campus shipped the electronics to an orphanage and two local schools in Belize. Next year, he plans to extend the program to include 10 additional schools.

"We wanted to inspire the youth of Belize to choose STEM careers," Gabb said.

And the project will continue to expand. North Campus will offer a six-week study abroad course next summer to support the program. Their goal is to repurpose 100 computers.

The desktop computers will be renovated by students in four computer support courses offered at Miami Dade College this spring. In summer A, a contingent of students will take the machines to Belize. The group will be there for five weeks to set up the equipment.

Anthony Lee, a computer science professor at North Campus, will be charged with helping the students fix the computers. They are expected to gain experience working with other cultures and a deeper appreciation for service learning.

After the computers go online in Belize, students will have access to code.org, a site that teaches kids coding without a teacher's assistance.

"This is going to be a great joint effort between Miami Dade College, led by Dr. George Gabb and persons or organizations there in Belize, that's going to build a great long-term relationship that will allow students there to have our technology," Lee said.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Closing The Digital Divide: North Campus associate professor George Michael Gabb refurbished more than 40 computers and donated them to kids living in rural areas in Belize.

Gabb, who has visited Belize four times in the past decade, has a vested interest in the initiative. The 54-year-old was born in Belize and moved to the United States when he was 17 to pursue an education.

In the late 80s, he earned an associates degree from Broward College. He eventually added a bachelor's in psychology, a master's in

computer information and a law degree, all from Nova Southeastern University.

By 1998, Gabb was tabbed as chairperson of the North Campus EnTec Department, a position he held until 2013. He has been a computer information systems professor for the past nine years.

Gabb hopes the study abroad project to Belize blazes a path

for more cultural exchange opportunities.

"This project brings exposure and experience and learning opportunities, both academically and socially, for MDC students," Gabb said.

To find out more about the study abroad project to Belize, contact George Gabb at ggabb@mdc.edu



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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Sharks Catch Break, Defensive Setter's Injury Not As Serious As Originally Feared

□ Kiaraliz Perez is expected to return to the Lady Sharks lineup in the next few weeks after sustaining a mild posterior cruciate ligament injury during a practice in late September.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
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As Kiaraliz Perez felt her right knee buckle and a sharp pain shot down her ankle, she feared the worst.

"The only thing that went through my mind was, 'I won't be able to play again,'" the Lady Sharks star defensive setter recalls thinking after suffering the injury during a team practice in late September.

Perez soon had a fever, a swollen knee and was unable to walk for four days.

The symptoms were consistent with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, an injury that would require season-ending surgery and months of rehab.

But a week later, her prognosis vastly improved.

A magnetic resonance imaging

scan determined that Perez sustained a mild posterior cruciate ligament injury—not a tear.

The injury will not require surgery. Perez believes she can return to action before the regular season ends.

"It's a relief," said Lady Sharks Head Volleyball Coach Kiko "Origenes" Benoit, who a week earlier called the injury "a big loss."

While she recovers, Perez is using crutches to walk. She is undergoing physical therapy, lifting weights to strengthen the knee and icing it down to reduce inflammation.

"I'm good," Perez said. "Much calmer knowing that I won't need an operation and that I don't have a serious injury."

The 21-year-old has been the team's defensive spark plug this season, commanding the back row while leading the squad with 300 digs, including an impressive 6.52 per set.

For her efforts, she has been named the Florida College System Athletic Association's Division I volleyball defensive player of the week twice this season.

During her absence, five-foot-ten inch Italian outside hitter Beatrice Carulli has filled in for Perez. She struggled in her first match, notching only five digs.

"It's hard for me because it's



PHOTO COURTESY CRISTIAN LAZZARI / KENDALL CAMPUS MEDIA SERVICES

Nursing An Injury: Kiaraliz Perez rests her right knee on a crutch during a Lady Sharks game versus Eastern Florida State College on Oct. 6. Perez sustained a mild posterior cruciate ligament injury in late September.

new," Carulli said after the Lady Sharks 3-0 victory versus Eastern Florida State College on Oct. 6.

But Carulli has proven to be a quick learner. She had 18 digs versus Hillsborough Community College on Oct. 8 and 16 versus

Daytona State College on Oct. 13, both MDC victories.

With four games remaining in the regular season, the Lady Sharks are 17-4 and ranked No. 4 in the nation. Poised for a deep playoff run, they look forward to

Perez's return.

"She transmits confidence," said sophomore outside hitter Romina Cornelio. "When you see her you don't worry about covering the whole court because you know she is there."

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// SPORTS

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ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Center Signs With MDC After Defecting From Cuba's National Basketball Team

□ Lianyí Becquer Leblanch, who played on Cuba's national basketball team for almost a decade, joined the Miami Dade College women's basketball team in August.

By **Scarlling Manzanarez**
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When Susan Summons got a call this summer informing her that a six-foot-five-inch player from Cuba's national basketball team had defected and was living in South Florida, she was intrigued.

Five days after arriving in Miami, 25-year-old Lianyí Becquer Leblanch—who had represented Cuba since she was 16—got a call from Summons, the associate head basketball coach at Miami Dade College.

"I don't know exactly what she told me because she was talking to me in English," Becquer said, as she fondly recalled her first conversation with Summons in late June.

A few hours later, Becquer arrived at the Kendall Campus gym for a workout.

"We offered a scholarship primarily based on her leadership and experience," said Lady Sharks interim head basketball coach Erica Redman. "We knew she would be an asset to the team."

Becquer brings a high basketball IQ, strong leadership traits and a passionate disposition to a young Lady Sharks squad that replenished its roster this offseason after losing 23 games last year.

"Lianyí is excited about being a student here at Miami Dade College," Summons said. "She is full of enthusiasm, life, energy [and] is hungry for the opportunity. She is working very hard academically and is destined to be a star."



YAIRI LORENZO / THE REPORTER

International Experience: Lianyí Becquer Leblanch joined the Miami Dade College women's basketball team in August after she spent nine years on the Cuban national team.

Coming To America

This summer, Becquer's prospects were dimmer. After a falling out with coaches on the Cuban national squad, she felt her time on the team was coming to an end. In June, she was mentally fatigued and out of shape for a commitment with a team in Mexico.

As a result, her performance suffered. A week before the team was scheduled to start the playoffs, her contract was canceled.

"I don't wish that experience on anyone," Becquer said. "It was something complicated that I lived [through]."

Less than a week later, she was

in Miami and a former coach connected her with Summons.

And just like that, Becquer's decorated basketball career in Cuba, which has taken her to Argentina, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, was over.

She was worried. Representing Havana is all she knows. Becquer was 14 when she was selected to play in the Superior League of Basketball in Cuba.

By 2018, she had won silver medals at the Central America and Caribbean Games in Colombia and the Women's Centrobasket Championship in Puerto Rico.

The following year, she played in the International Basketball

Federation's Women's Olympic Pre-Qualifying Tournament. Becquer led the team in rebounding with seven per game.

Adapting To A New Culture

Summons knows better than most how Becquer's story can play out. Sixteen years ago, she welcomed another highly-touted player—Dayna Rodríguez—from the Cuban national team to MDC.

Rodríguez was a six-foot-two-inch center, who joined the Lady Sharks in 2006 after also defecting from Cuba. She eventually led the Lady Sharks to back-to-back State Tournament championships. As

a senior, she averaged 16.5 points and 12.6 rebounds per game before transferring to Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

Despite the roadmap laid out by Rodríguez, Becquer, who is learning English, has encountered setbacks. The first time she took public transportation to get to her classes at Wolfson Campus, she got lost.

To communicate with Becquer, her teammates downloaded the Google translate app. The tool has made for some interesting moments for a team that has players from Serbia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Macedonia and Sweden.

During a recent practice, as Becquer passionately yelled out instructions, one of her teammates didn't understand what she was saying. They stopped practice and referred to the Google translation app.

Eventually, they realized Becquer was encouraging the teammate to be more aggressive and shoot.

"She has that infectious personality that even though she doesn't speak the language you can't help but gravitate toward her because she is so enthusiastic," Redman said.

As the team prepares for their season opener on the road versus Palm Beach State College on Nov. 1, Becquer is working on her conditioning because the nearly four-month hiatus away from the game caused her to gain weight.

But she calls the opportunity to play basketball in the United States "a dream come true" and aspires to eventually play in the Women's National Basketball Association.

"Basketball is my life," Becquer said. "I love it."

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WRESTLING

Professional Wrestling's Blurred Lines: What Is Too Far?

□ Professional wrestling's ability to keep the viewer guessing whether a ring sequence is reality or scripted is a complex point of discussion.

By **Dylan Masvidal**
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The dramatic world of professional wrestling is synonymous with irony.

A combat sport with predetermined results and episodic storylines produces the most backstage beef between talent—the universe's way of reminding us that life imitates art.

And yet, instead of handling their real-life issues diplomatically, wrestlers allow them to seep into on-screen rivalries to create the most volatile work environment on the face of the Earth.

We should be asking ourselves whether this is morally right.

However, when it comes to mankind and its need to be entertained, there is no regard for human resources' approval.

We love drama.

Wrestling companies provide a toxic combination of reality and fiction, with varying degrees of impact on the company itself. Because ultimately, that is where the pondering begins: Is this hands-off approach best for business?

The answer is more complicated than you might think.

World Wrestling Entertainment's Survivor Series pay-per-view in 1997 is exhibit A. The genuine hatred between Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart in the main event was palpable. Hart was not willing to lose the championship to Michaels that night, especially not in his home country of Canada.

With WWE facing pressure from the rival organization, World Championship Wrestling, and no guarantee from Bret that he



HECTOR ZUMBADO / THE REPORTER

would surrender the title, owner and chief executive officer Vince McMahon made the controversial decision of breaking “kay-fabe” (the staged performance) and forcefully giving Michaels the belt through executive order. That created what is known as the infamous “Montreal Screwjob.”

But instead of allowing the situation to derail the company's viewership, McMahon utilized the setback as part of the WWE mythos, simultaneously creating his own persona as the Kafkaesque ruler of the wrestling business.

What transpired next was the biggest

boom in the business's lifespan since the sports' 80s golden age and the “Attitude Era” was in full effect. In an illogical turn of events, the wrestling juggernaut was rewarded for playing stupid games.

Fast-forward to the current day, and to no one's surprise, history has repeated itself.

All Elite Wrestling, the fledgling organization hoping to establish itself as the industry's new top dog, has recently been engulfed in a flaming ball of controversy and a real-life spectacle, leading to the suspension of many of its top stars and casting a dark cloud on the company's locker room.

Regardless, this hasn't deterred fans from tuning in to the Wednesday program and raising ratings.

Professional wrestling is a paradox.

When wrestlers decide to air their qualms on live television, fans become more invested, but the company hurts on the inside—unless it doesn't.

Both can be right, and that's what makes it such an anomaly. The beauty of the performance is how little sense it makes.

Like many of life's intricacies, sometimes the best thing we can do is sit back and revel in the madness.

KOREAN POP

K-Pop Is Dominating The World And Blackpink Is At The Forefront

□ South Korean girl group, Blackpink, is making waves in the music industry with their sophomore release *Born Pink*. The project dropped on Sept. 16.

By **Natalie Gelman**
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Korean Pop, or K-pop, has exploded in popularity in the last few years.

One of the genre's breakout acts is the widely-popular girl group, Blackpink. From their intricate dance moves to their perfectly crafted pop songs, the super group has quickly become a force to be reckoned with in the music industry.

Their second studio album, *Born Pink*, was released on September 16 and Blinks (Blackpink fans) are thrilled.

It's been two years since the group's first project, *The Album*, dropped. The latest project shook the internet to its core. *Born Pink* debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard album 200 in the United States and their hit single *Pink Venom* got 90 million views in just 24 hours, making it the most significant music video debut of the year.

So why are millions of people from around the world so captivated by pop music from South Korea?

K-pop is more than just a musical style. It provides audiences with top-notch choreography and catchy songs you can't stop listening to. The K-pop industry produces the best boy or girl groups in the world, something that America hasn't been able to successfully do since the Spice Girls or Destiny's Child in the 90s.

Debuting in 2016, Rosé, Lisa, Jisoo and Jennie were brought together by YG Entertainment, a South Korean entertainment agency, to become stars. Blackpink radiates



PHOTO COURTESY OF YG ENTERTAINMENT AND INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Breaking The Norm: Blackpink's success isn't just monumental, but proof that foreign, women-led groups can take over the music industry with aggression.

girl power. In fact, Blackpink's name directly refers to the juxtaposition of the colors Black and Pink. Black represents power and edge, while pink represents the nature of femininity.

The first single from *Born Pink* is entitled *Pink Venom* and opens with Jisoo playing the geomungo, a conventional Korean plucked zither with frets and bridges. This small detail in the introduction honors the beauty of Korean culture. Even when implementing their native sounds, much of their music is mainly pop with electronic dance music, hip-hop and trap elements. During Jennie and Lisa's raps, the singers pay homage to legendary artists such as Rhianna, The Notorious B.I.G. and 50 Cent by sampling lyrics from *Pon de Replay*, *Kick in the Door* and *P.I.M.P.*

Shut Down is the second track on the album. It reached No. 1 on the Billboard Global Charts and became the longest-running No. 1 K-pop song on Spotify's global chart. Not only is the song incredibly catchy, but the video is visually satisfying. They even recite their iconic line—“Blackpink in your area”—on the track.

The video also references older music videos from the past, which signifies the closing of one chapter of the group's musical careers to the next.

Show Down's overall message makes it clear that Blackpink is on top of the world..

Born Pink is a powerful album. From upbeat songs to ballads, it has a diverse range of tunes. Every detail, costume, lyric or dance on the project has significance. Whether paying homage to inspirational artists or showcasing the beauty of traditional Korean culture, it has the intention of making a statement that there is power in femininity.

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YE

Kanye West Is Not Happy With GAP And Adidas

Using a series of Instagram posts, the rapper aired out multiple grievances with the two companies following a controversy that was sparked after his brand's design was changed without his permission.

By **Hector Zumbado**
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It's lonely at the top for Kanye West.

Ye has taken to social media to voice his displeasure with Adidas and GAP.

In a flurry of now-deleted Instagram posts, the artist claims both companies have been shutting him out of meetings and using his designs without his knowledge.

Yeezys have changed the shoe game entirely since their release with Nike in 2007. Ye then went on to collaborate with Adidas, making his sneakers one of the most popular pairs of kicks in the 2010s.

Throughout the majority of their partnership, Adidas gave Ye the creative control he wanted and assisted in making his products more accessible to the public. But as of late, Adidas has been creating different designs and colorways without his approval, according to West.

In his collaboration with GAP, the artist aimed to create affordable clothing that would be available in stores nationwide. The partnership was going well until he



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE BRINKER FROM UNSPLASH

Suffering From Success: Despite his creative output leading to increased interest in GAP and Adidas, Ye can't seem to get along with both companies as he demands more creative control.

noticed items similar to what his brand features were being released by GAP. Ye soon realized they were having meetings about his products without him.

Since then, Adidas and GAP have both taken significant backlash from West's followers.

On Sept. 15, Ye notified GAP that he was terminating their partnership, citing dissatisfaction with the company's progress on building physical Yeezy stores.

"Everyone knows that I'm the leader, I'm the king. A king can't live in someone else's castle. A king has to make his own castle," West said in an interview with CNBC.

The controversy has left Ye with Yeezy Supply as his only brand. But his reach with the general public is not as strong under Yeezy because of the product's exorbitant prices.

If he were to stop releasing products with Adidas as well, it hurt his reach even more.

Nevertheless, with or without these companies, Ye will find a way to succeed in the fashion industry.

The difference between Kanye and other artists is that he doesn't cooperate with what people believe is right, but what he believes is right.

Through music, fashion or even religious beliefs, Ye will always stand by his word and promote it alongside his image no matter the backlash he faces.

D23 EXPO

Disney's Best Upcoming Projects Were Touted At D23 Expo

The three-day convention included announcements about upcoming Disney projects including the new Black Panther movie, Indiana Jones's fifth film and Avatar's long-awaited sequel.

By **Alejandro Izcaray**
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The D23 Expo, Disney's premier fan event, known for showcasing and revealing upcoming projects from the House of Mouse was held at the Anaheim Convention Center from Sept. 9 to 11.

It featured major announcements regarding the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Star Wars, Pixar, 20th Century Fox, Walt Disney Studios and Walt Disney Animation.

Here are some key takeaways.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

The D23 crowd was treated to never-before-seen footage of the highly anticipated sequel. Fans are not only excited about the film but are solemnly curious as to how the franchise will move forward following Chadwick Boseman's tragic death.

All the promotional material has promised a heartfelt, intense and action-packed movie. It will build not only on the original's

success but also the legacy left by the MCU's King T'challa. The movie, directed by Ryan Coogler, opens in theaters on Nov. 11.

Werewolf By Night

Marvel Studios released a trailer for the TV special expected to be released on Oct. 7. The project, directed by composer Michael Giacchino, showcases a black-and-white look at the supernatural side of the MCU.

It introduces the famed half-man, half-wolf who was first conceived in 1972. The trailer is in the style of a 1940-50s Halloween special presentation and is a significant dissent from the MCU's usual way of doing things.

Indiana Jones 5

The long-awaited fifth entry will have Harrison Ford reprise his role as the swashbuckling archaeologist and feature Phoebe Waller-Bridge joining the cast. The universally-adored Ford has a legacy of being in some of the most exhilarating cinematic adventures ever.

James Mangold will direct the film. Ford confirmed that this will be his final outing as Indy.

The Mandalorian

The first trailer for the show's third season was released at D23.

Rick Famuyiwa will serve as the show's executive producer and Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni also return. Additionally, Pedro Pascal will continue as Din Djarin/The Mandalorian, trekking the galaxy with Grogu, or as the public affectionately deems him, "Baby Yoda."

Inside Out 2

The sequel to the Pixar favorite was confirmed with Amy Poehler returning as Joy to provide the happiness and glee. It promises

to follow Riley as she braves the feelings of growing up. The film is slated for a summer 2024 release but nothing is yet known about the sequel.

Avatar: Way of the Water

The world of Pandora will return to theaters after 13 years. After it became one of the highest-grossing films of all time, fans have been excited to see what stories director James Cameron will tell in this colorful and vibrant world.

Attendees at the panel were treated to footage from the long-awaited sequel that will release in theaters only on Dec. 16.

The Little Mermaid

The live-action remake of the iconic animated film of the same name released a teaser trailer showcasing Ariel, who is being played by Halle Bailey, singing one of her most famous songs: *Part of That World*. The release window for the project is the summer 2023.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Sneak Peek: This year's D23 Expo featured major news about some of Disney's most recognizable franchises.

To write for the A&E section, contact: Dylan Masvidal at (305) 237-2715 or dylan.masvidal001@mymdc.net

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media Is A Threat To Our Democracy

□ By creating spaces in which only one view is consistently affirmed, social media can fragment our democratic process in the digital age by fomenting extremism and a lack of compromise.



By **Sabrina Chaviano**
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In an era fraught with political polarization, social media has only added fuel to the fire.

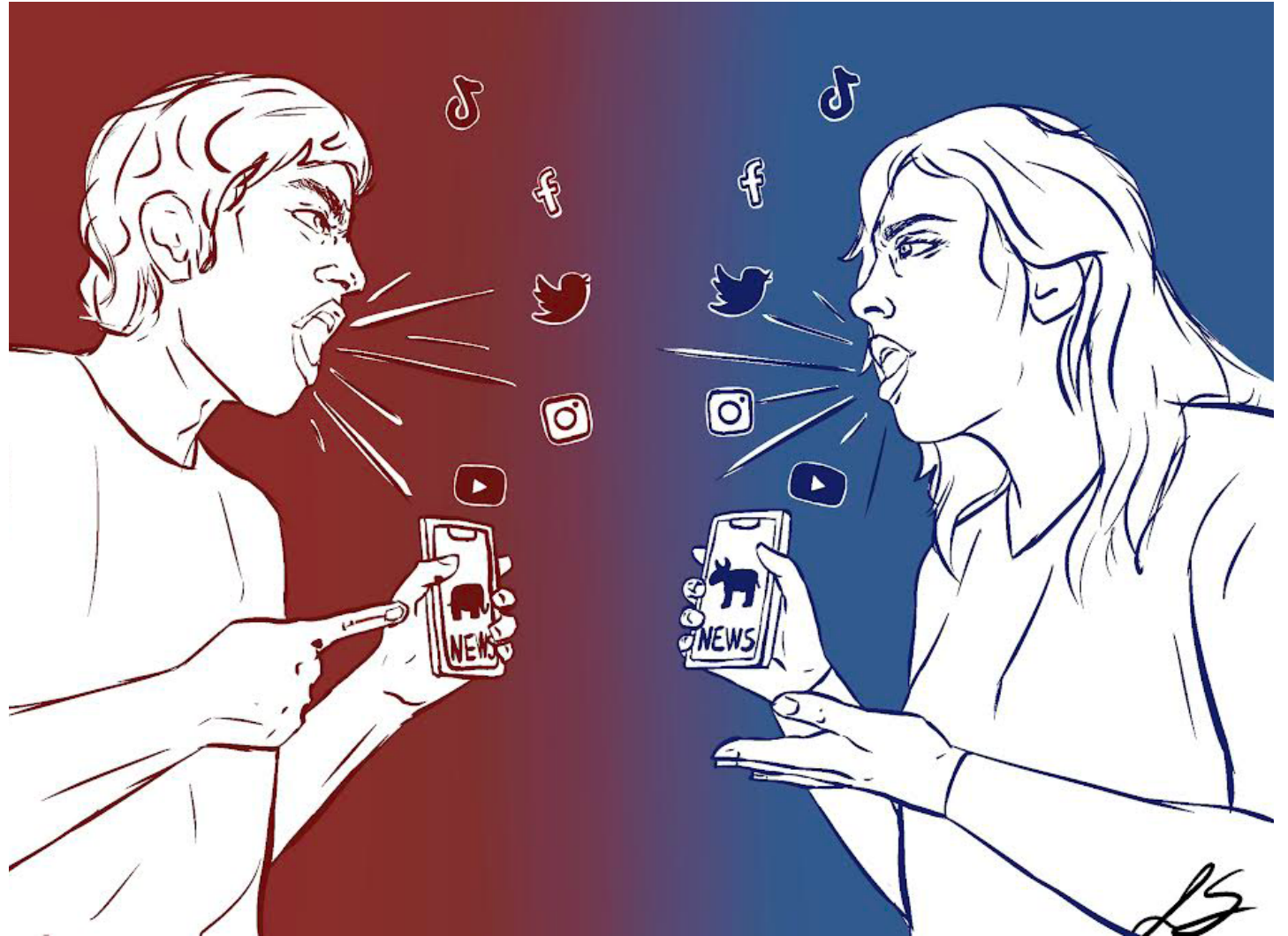
By the nature of its design, social media only shows us what we want to see.

When it comes to family pictures or inspirational quotes, this does no harm. However, when it comes to political ideology, things are different. By recognizing political patterns of thought, social media can create echo chambers in which only our own views are continuously reaffirmed.

The past two years have seen decisive political events that have divided the country—the 2020 election, COVID-19 restrictions, Black Lives Matter protests and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

With these issues affecting millions of people, it's not unreasonable to not expect a political conviction. Nonetheless, the use of social media to discuss these events has led to political identity becoming interwoven with social identity.

On one hand, political beliefs become part of a person's life as they advocate on behalf of their beliefs on their personal accounts.



JESSICA SOTO / THE REPORTER

This transforms political views into moral issues which can define the way they see people.

If someone disagrees with them, they will be bound to see others as immoral and cut them out of their lives. The anonymity of the internet also exasperates online arguments where people are immune to the real-life ramifications of spewing vitriol at one another.

Unsurprisingly, this has led to a rise in political extremism.

This generation often overlooks the danger of political polarization since they lack memories of a time before modern

technology and the division it has brought.

Unfortunately, the inability to respect opposing opinions even causes in-group fighting. This is seen in the stratification of the Democratic Party, which is often unable to make compromises between moderate liberals and extreme leftists.

Similarly, the support or disapproval toward former president Donald Trump, especially after last year's capital riots, has divided the Republican Party.

The consequences of this crippling division are seen in our democracy through a faulty legislative branch, a distracted executive branch and a manipulated judicial

branch.

It would be ignorant to suggest social media can be removed from modern life. However, its effects on political polarization have had devastating consequences that must be mitigated.

The current level of extremism, which only seems to be rising, will result in the collapse of our democracy.

As individual users, we should be aware of how social media manipulates our opinions while also striving to ensure the companies running the platforms are held accountable and liable for how they influence the masses.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Gentrification Is Miami's Next Great Challenge

□ Miami's geography makes it prone to climate gentrification. The process, which displaces poorer communities with affluent residents fleeing climate change, can be tackled with proper planning.



By **Christian Rodriguez**
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Aside from its glamorous beaches and vibrant nightlife, Miami is known for two things: a lack of affordable housing and its vulnerability to climate change.

What you might not know, is that these problems are making each other worse.

Climate gentrification is the process in which a poor urban population is displaced by a wealthier community moving in to escape climate change. In Miami, this process is expected to worsen in the coming years



AIMEE SALVADOR / THE REPORTER

given the city's precarious geographical situation.

Historically, seafront properties are the most expensive and desirable for Miami's upper class. However, rising sea levels and harsher weather conditions have turned the attention toward historically overlooked terrain like Little Haiti, Overtown and Little Havana.

Even without considering the predatory practices many real estate companies use to push residents out of their homes, the careless gentrification of these neighborhoods is causing considerable harm.

When luxury residents and businesses suddenly appear without proper planning, property prices skyrocket for everyone.

To prevent this, we must establish legislation that ensures proper precautions are put in place. We can start by ensuring affordable housing units are built alongside the development of luxury units.

Reserving employment opportunities for local residents when new businesses are developed could assist in ensuring that locals can adapt to a higher cost of living.

Additionally, multiple neighbors can work together—often with the help of non-profit organizations—to buy their block and make collective decisions on what development can be built.

These solutions must be implemented to prevent Miami residents from being displaced in the upcoming years. We must keep the cultural fabric of our city intact.

// FORUM

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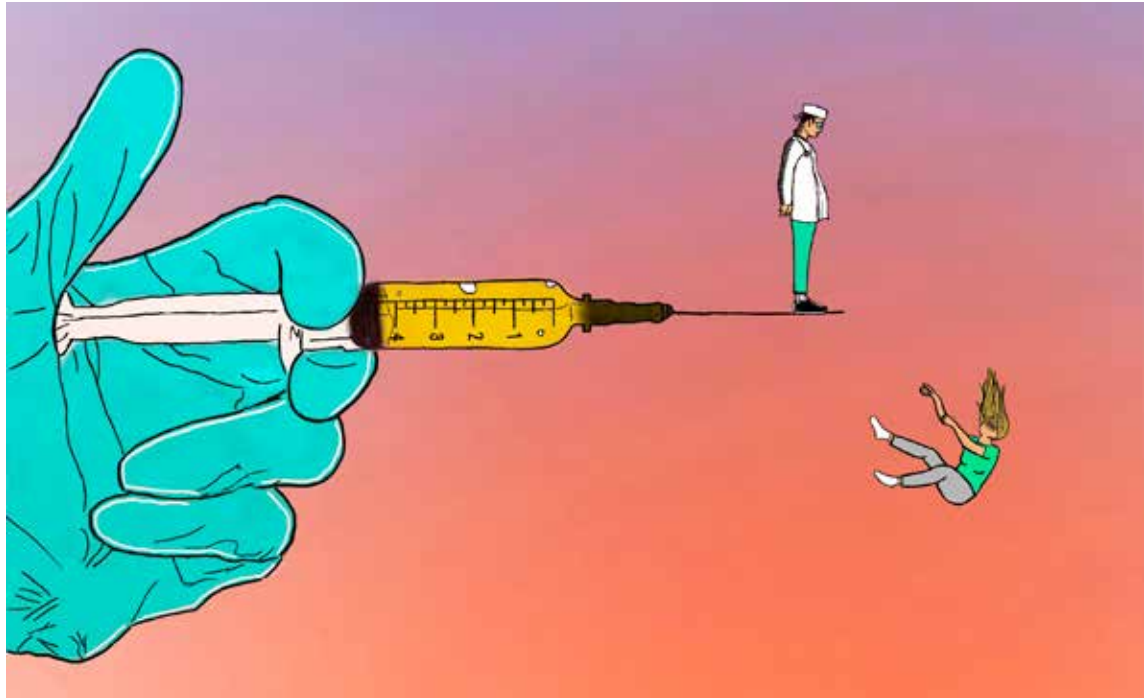
EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia Is An Act That Undermines The Value Of Human Life

❑ The process of painlessly killing an incurable patient for mercy violates the medical principle to protect life while offering loopholes for healthy patients to end their lives prematurely.



By **Yesenia E. Lobaina**
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GERARDO VEGA MENDOZA / THE REPORTER

Post-*Roe v. Wade*, America continues to debate the beginning of life, but what about the end of it?

Death is the permanent cessation of all vital functions. That usually happens naturally during old age or through tragedy.

Euthanasia is the other side of the choice-and-life coin. The process, which is the practice of killing hopelessly sick or injured individuals, is seen as a painless ticket to death in the name of mercy.

However, what constitutes hopelessly sick or injured? According to an article by AP News, a 61-year-old Canadian named Alan Nichols was euthanized a month after being placed on suicide

watch in June of 2019.

The fatal health condition that permitted his request to be fulfilled? Hearing loss.

A mentally ill and disabled patient was murdered at the hands of a “merciful” medical staff who relieved him of living in a deaf world.

With the passing of laws for the “right to die,” many doors have been opened.

Will we encourage our senior population to end their lives for the betterment of society? What about children with disorders and illnesses? Will they eventually

qualify as well? According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, these questions are already a topic of unresolved discussion.

Medical assistance through death is being debated as an option for “mature minors” of all ages. What exactly defines a “mature minor” is yet to be determined. In a country where voting rights begin at 18, it’s odd that a 10-year-old would have the mental capacity to make a life-or-death decision but lack the ability to vote for political leaders.

In the United States, 10 states have legalized physician-assisted

suicide for someone with a terminal illness. If more states follow suit, we will lose the opportunity to prevent innocent deaths like in the case of Alan Nichols.

Euthanasia shows our society has chosen an easier, more twisted version of empathy. The kind where we kill in cold blood to prevent from giving the compassion that brings solace to those in suffering.

No living creature carries greater value, purpose and soul than a human, which is why we can’t degrade that value by killing a person at the first sight of inconvenience.

VOTING

Remain Civically Engaged During The Upcoming Midterm Elections

❑ This November, it’s important to fulfill your civic duty by voting and having your voice heard in the upcoming midterm elections scheduled for Nov. 8.



By **Isabella de Paula**
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Voting is a great way to become civically engaged and stand up for what you believe in.

Fortunately, people can exercise that right this year during midterm elections, which will take place on Nov. 8 but there is the option to vote early between Oct. 24 and Nov. 6.

The last day to register was Oct. 11.

If you are registered, you can



ALEXANDER ONTIVEROS / THE REPORTER

check your voting district, polling place and request a vote-by-mail ballot by visiting Miami-Dade County’s voter information website at <https://bit.ly/3CsJGGn>.

The last midterm elections in 2018 yielded a record-breaking 53% turnout rate, according to the United States Census.

While that was the highest turnout in four decades, it still meant more than one-third of eligible voters didn’t cast their votes. So if you are a registered voter, remember to complete the process by visiting the polls on election day.

During the upcoming midterm

election, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 seats in the Senate will be contested. Thirty nine states, including Florida, will also hold gubernatorial elections.

Some of the topics of contention on the ballot include abortion rights, environmental protection, gun control, student loan forgiveness, foreign policy and the current state of the country’s economy.

With such decisive issues on the table, this is your chance to have your voice heard and incite the United States to keep improving

by choosing politicians who will care about the work they do and who they do it for—the people.

But before voting, do your research about the candidates by visiting their campaign pages and social media accounts, watching debates and town hall meetings and studying their voting and financial donation history.

To check a politician’s voting history, search their name at <https://www.congress.gov/>. You may also study the factual validity of their beliefs by visiting <https://www.factcheck.org/>.

Once you identify a candidate to support, you can continue your civic engagement by volunteering for their campaign and spreading their views through in-person word of mouth, phone calls and social media activism.

You can also become a paid poll worker at your local Miami Dade College campus or partner with non-profit organizations such as the Institute for Civic Engagement and Democracy.

Voting is a privileged tradition in which we inspire change in our community, state and nation. This November, we have the chance to join that tradition by voting and having our voices heard.



The Reporter

The Reporter is the free, biweekly student newspaper at Miami Dade College. All content is produced by MDC students. The opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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The Reporter welcomes letters to the editor. All submissions should be 300 words or less and must be typed. Writers must include their full name, contact number, campus, student number and e-mail address. Faculty and staff should include the title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for purposes of brevity and clarity. Letters can be sent via e-mail to mdc.thereporter@gmail.com, with the subject “letter to the editor.”

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