

Culinary Excellence

Spearheaded by Miami Culinary Institute alumna Sachi Statz, the Tinta Y Café restaurant was recently recognized in the prestigious Michelin Guide.

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Manning The Point

Abdias “Speedy” Carcamo hopes to return to full strength after playing eight games last season for the men’s basketball team due to an Achilles injury.

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**Taylor’s Back!**

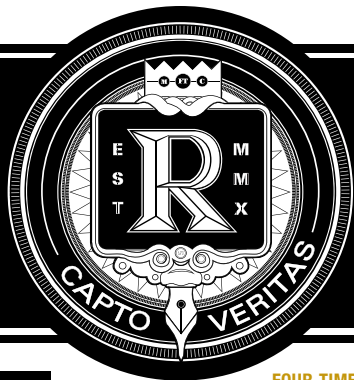
After a two-year hiatus, Taylor Swift put the pop world into a frenzy with her new album *Midnights*. The project was released on Oct. 21.

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Be Grateful

Hugo Guillen recalls his childhood memories in Peru’s impoverished neighborhood to encourage readers to be grateful for living in the United States.

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The Reporter

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

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URBANA

Urbana Begins New Chapter After Winning Its First Magazine Pacemaker



Dynamic Duo: Pictured from left to right are *Urbana* Vol. 16 co-director of social media Adriana Garcia and co-editor-in-chief Nicole Viloria.

BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

□ This Fall, Eduardo J. Padrón Campus professors Alicia Garcia and Omar Figueras replaced Emily Sendin as co-advisors to *Urbana*. Sendin, who founded the literary arts magazine in 2007, served as the publication’s advisor for 15 years.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
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When a trailblazing band of students at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus contemplated starting a literary arts magazine in 2007, they

asked professor Emily Sendin to be their advisor.

Fifteen years later, *Urbana*, which originally spawned as an online product with only six members, has morphed into a literary heavyweight that features about 20 members and has won more than 100 national and state awards.

The magazine has a weekly podcast—*Urbanites*, a robust social media presence, a YouTube channel and a yearly print edition.

Last month, the publication won its first magazine Pacemaker at the Fall National College Media

Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct 28.

Sendin, who was inducted into the Florida College System Activities Association Hall of Fame last year, has been the publication’s driving force.

But this school year, the 48-year-old, who has taught English, literature and creative writing at Miami Dade College for the past 23 years, was forced to relinquish the reins of the magazine she birthed.

On Aug. 22, Sendin was replaced by composition and literature professors Alicia Garcia and Omar Figueras.

The action is a result of a stipulation enacted at Padrón Campus in 2018 that doesn’t allow a professor to oversee the publication for more than three years—unless no one new applies.

Garcia and Figueras were selected by a faculty member from the Communication, Arts & Philosophy Department who was asked to oversee the process by the department chair.

Urbana is the only Miami Dade College magazine to use this policy.

“It wasn’t a decision of my own making,” Sendin said. “I’m not

stepping down. I wanted to leave on my own terms, but I’m not.”

New Leadership

Garcia, who has been an English professor at Padrón Campus since 2018, said her decision to advise the magazine stems from a desire to connect with students.

“I’ve been on campus a while,” said Garcia, who has a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a master’s degree

TURN TO *URBANA* PAGE 5

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// BRIEFING

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School Of Justice Instructor Wins Jiu-Jitsu Championship

TARRAGO

Steven Tarrago, an instructor at the North Campus School of Justice, won a gold medal in the lightweight division at the 2022 World Master International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation Championship.

The tournament took place in Las Vegas, Sept. 1 through Sept. 3. Tarrago previously won a silver medal at the competition in 2019 and 2020.

"The more you enjoy doing something, the more you want to do it and excel," said Tarrago, who has been active in martial arts for 45 years.

To prepare for the competition, Tarrago lifted weights, sparred, did mobility training,

breathing techniques and performed visualization strategies twice a day for several months. He lost 21 pounds during the past year to compete in his weight division.

The 58-year-old has black belts in karate, kung fu, Indonesian knife fighting and close quarter combat. He is working on a fifth black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Tarrago started his law enforcement career at the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department in April of 1988 where he worked until July of 2017.

From July of 2017 to August of 2020, he served as the project manager for Feick Security. He has served as a detective in the criminal investigations division for the Miccosukee Police Department since August of 2020.

Tarrago, who graduated from the Miami Dade College Police Academy in 1988, has been an instructor at the School of Justice since 2019.

—Nicole Del Rio

Scholarship Program For Nursing Students Available Through Nov. 16

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is accepting applications for its Nurse Scholars Program.

The initiative allows ten Miami Dade College nursing students to do a four-semester pediatric nursing internship, observing registered nurses perform day-to-day activities.

Additionally, the program will offer recipients up to \$10,000 to cover tuition costs.

Eligible applicants must be eligible to work in the United States, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and be a part of MDC's nursing program. They also need two recommendation letters, college transcripts, their resume and a short introductory video.

Applications can be completed through Edcor at <https://bit.ly/3Czwfyh>. The deadline to submit is Nov. 16.

—Aubrey Rosenhaus

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Is Accepting Applications

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation is accepting applications until Jan. 13.

Goldwater scholars can receive up to \$7,500 for the academic year to cover tuition, fees and any other additional needs.

Eligible students must be U.S. residents or citizens, be full-time sophomores or juniors, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and intend to pursue research in natural sciences, math or engineering.

Interested students must submit a pre-application to Magda Castineyra, the interim dean of The Honors College, who serves as the Goldwater Representative at Miami Dade College.

The pre-application can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/3SOGDsc>.

If selected as a strong candidate by the Goldwater representative, students will complete a final application consisting of one questionnaire, a research essay, three letters of recommendation and college transcripts.

For more information or to check your pre-application status contact Magda Castineyra, at mcastin1@mdc.edu or (305)237-3381.

—Veronica Romano

Homestead Campus Appoints Dalia LaFargue As Interim Chair For Math And Science Department

LAFARGUE

Dalia LaFargue was appointed as the interim chair of the Math and Science Department at Homestead Campus on Aug. 1.

La Fargue, 58, will oversee the department's faculty, course offerings and education projects.

"I am honored by this great opportunity to serve as a guide and mentor to students interested in science," LaFargue said.

LaFargue began working at Homestead Campus in 2009 as an adjunct professor teaching anatomy and physiology before becoming full-time. Six years later, she became a grant coordinator for the Strategic Improvements

for Students in STEM. In 2020, she became the SIS-STEM's associate director.

She has a doctorate degree in general medicine from the University of Medical Sciences of Havana, a master's degree in public health from Purdue University Global and a master's degree in anatomy and physiology from Northeast College of Health Sciences.

—Nicole Del Rio

Wolfson Campus Adds Phone Charging Lockers

The Wolfson Campus now features three Chargetech stations, allowing students to safely store and charge their cell phones for free in a secured static locker.

Stations are located in the building 1 atrium, the student life patio in building 2 and the building 3 breezeway.

Each station includes eight mobile-friendly lockers containing one Apple Lightning cable and one Type-C PD cable for Android devices. Every cubicle also features a UV-C disinfection module for sanitation.

To use a station, students must select a locker, create a password and store their device. To retrieve it, users must enter the created passcode. There is no time limit on how long devices can be stored.

For more information, contact Wolfson Campus student life department at (305) 237-3536.

—Nikole Valiente



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRISTIAN LAZARRI / MDC MEDIA SERVICES

Kendall Campus To Open Esport Game Room

Kendall Campus will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate its new Esports Room on Nov. 15.

Miami Dade College students can use the space starting on Jan. 4 said Campus President Anthony Cruz.

Located in Room 101, the 12,174 square-foot facility will contain 20 gaming computers equipped with 32 gigabytes of RAM, high-end NVIDIA video cards and Intel eight core processors.

Each computer will be equipped with a 27-inch high-refresh rate monitor, a gaming mouse and keyboard. Gaming computers will be pre-loaded with popular games such as Dota 2, League of Legends, Overwatch 2 and Fortnite.

The room can accommodate up to 30 people at a time.

Reservations for the facility will be available through a web page expected to be developed by next Spring semester. Hours of operation will be: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Kendall Campus Student Life at (305) 237-2321.

—Allyson Castillo

Miami Dade College Set To Launch New Coding Program

Miami Dade College will launch Miami Codes, a project that aims to help minority students improve their computer programming skills.

Courses will take place at West Campus next Spring. They will be offered through Apple's community education initiative that offers two rigorous, eight-week iOS app development courses using Swift—an increasingly popular programming language.

Aside from providing the necessary hardware to complete the course, the program will cover participants' tuition, certification and commuting costs.

To register, fill out the form provided at this link.

—Nikole Valiente

For more information, contact:
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Miami Dade College Online Appoints New Vice President Of Academic & Learning Technologies

Nestor Pereira was appointed as the new Vice Provost of Academic & Learning Technologies at Miami Dade College Online on Sept. 26.

"I'm looking forward to helping all our students achieve success through the use of cutting-edge and innovative technology tools," Pereira said.

Pereira, 47, will lead the division's educational technologies and services that include the learning management system, instructional technologies, testing, online learning, student engagement, and collaboration.

Prior to MDC, Pereira worked as an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University from 2003 to 2009. A year later, he started a seven-year stint as the campus technology officer at Broward College's Central Campus.

After serving as the dean of business affairs & innovation at Broward College's South and Online campuses from 2017 to 2020, Pereira worked as an associate vice provost for academic & learning technologies and enterprise resource planning at MDC until his current role.

Pereira obtained his bachelor's degree in business communications from Florida International University in 1996. Four years later, he earned his master's degree in educational technology from Nova Southeastern University.

—Veronica Romano

PHOTO BRIEFING

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BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Child's Play: The cast of *Insectos y Bicharracos*, a play by four-time Grammy nominee Rita Rosa Ruesga, captivates the audience at the Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Dancing In The Dark: Oneysis Valido dances across the stage at the Miami Beach Bandshell Oct. 2 during the first installment of Arts in the Park series.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Intrigued: In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the cast of the children's play, *Insectos y Bicharracos*, illuminated the stage at Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Serenading The Crowd: Rita Rosa Ruesga engages with the crowd during a performance of her original play, *Insectos y Bicharracos*. The production commenced the Arts in the Park series at the Miami Beach Bandshell on Oct. 2.

// NEWS

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SODA

Digital Agency Allows Students To Get Real-World Marketing Experience

□ Miami Dade College's Business Innovation & Technology Center officially launched the Student Operated Digital Agency on Oct. 13. The program, which first operated as a pilot, gives students real-world digital marketing experience.

By Paola Proenza
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Minerva Roca fell in love with digital marketing when she took a capstone course at Miami Dade College last spring.

Five months later, she joined the Student Operated Digital Agency—originally a pilot program at the Business Innovation & Technology Center at Wolfson Campus—that allows students to gain real-world marketing experience.

For the past eight months Roca and six other students assisted Dinerazo, a local finance and education startup, to meet their marketing goals. The cohort, made up of finance, digital arts and business majors, provided branding and social media advertisement strategies for the company.

"SODA allowed me to go from a designer that barely knew how to introduce herself correctly to a creative director that confidently speaks about her knowledge," said



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Inauguration Day: After eight months of being a pilot program, the Student Operated Digital Agency held its official inauguration ceremony on Oct. 13 at Wolfson Campus. The program offers students the opportunity to sharpen their digital marketing skills.

Melany Rodriguez, who serves as SODA's creative director.

On Oct. 13, the BIT Center officially inaugurated SODA during a celebration at the Downtown campus.

The next cohort is expected to include 24 students. They will work with local businesses selected from a pool of eight applicants.

The agency arms students with marketing tools so they can gauge

the digital footprint of companies to tackle marketing and business challenges. Participants will earn certifications in Hootsuite, HubSpot and Google.

"We're here for clients to reach

their marketing goal[s]," said Maximiliano Ramirez, the manager of the BIT Center.

Ramirez, who is also an adjunct marketing professor at MDC, serves as the group's main faculty advisor. His experience includes working as a digital marketing sales specialist at CBS and several ad agencies in New York City.

The pilot program's team will provide mentorship and guidance to the rising SODA cohort. Recruits will also receive support from companies such as Google, Facebook and Dave & Cooper Advertisement.

Students interested in joining SODA can visit the agency's website and fill out a Google form application. Some applicants have experience while others have never ventured into the field.

Participants can work a maximum of five hours per week on projects. They will meet on Zoom for client or brainstorming sessions and use Room 2103 at the BIT Center.

While the program is in its infancy, it eventually hopes to have dedicated spaces throughout all eight MDC campuses.

"I think [it's] the perfect formula for our students to succeed in their life and that's really what we want to help them with," said Chechu Lasheras, the BIT Center director.

RETIREMENT

Vice Provost Of Human Resources To Retire After 19 Years At MDC

□ Illiana Castillo-Frick, the vice provost of human resources at Miami Dade College, is set to retire after 19 years at the school. Her last day in the office will be Oct. 27.

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

Beate Hughes-Brown was looking for guidance when she connected with Illiana Castillo-Frick.

Following a workforce development program hosted by the University of Miami in 1993, the pair discussed how Hughes-Brown could transition from the hospitality field to human resources.

Twenty-seven years later, Hughes-Brown is a seasoned human resource administrator with experience at companies like Bank of America, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Feld Entertainment.

"If not for her, I would not be where I am today," Hughes-Brown said.

Hughes-Brown's testimony is not unusual. Castillo-Frick has mentored human resources professionals for the past four decades, earning a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Miami Society for Human Resources Management in 2000.

After leaving her mark in the human resources arena for the past 43 years, Castillo-Frick is retiring from Miami Dade College. Her last day in the office will be Oct. 27.

"It's time to move to this next journey in my life," said Castillo-Frick who worked at MDC for 19 years. "I still have my mother who's 93 and I want to spend time with her."

Early Beginnings

After arriving from Havana, Cuba when



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Goodbye: After a four-decade long career in human resources, Illiana Castillo-Frick is retiring on Oct. 27. She has worked at Miami Dade College since 2003 and has been the vice provost of human resources since 2007.

she was 15, Castillo-Frick and her family settled in Hialeah. The youngster quickly developed an affinity for cultures and languages such as French, Spanish and German.

While at Hialeah Senior High School, she dreamt of becoming an interpreter for the United Nations.

By 1976, Castillo-Frick had earned an associate's degree in languages from North Campus.

During her time at MDC, Castillo-Frick began working in the accounting department for a now-defunct company that specialized in floor manufacturing. After

earning a bachelor's degree in hospital management and French from Florida International University in 1979, the company asked her to lead their personnel department.

Since then, Castillo-Frick has devoted her life to human resources.

In 1984, Castillo-Frick became the employee relations manager for Wachovia—a now-defunct financial services company. Eight years later, she transferred to Bank of America where she served as a human resources and recruitment manager until 2000.

That same year, she began a two-year

stint as the senior executive vice president for corporate resources at BankUnited.

Following a gap year, she started at MDC, first working as an associate senior vice provost for human resources until becoming the vice provost in January of 2007.

"She had a wonderful career," said Mary de Laosa, who has worked with Castillo-Frick since 2001 and will replace her. "We worked very hard to make human resources the profession that it is today."

Ready To Enjoy Life

For the past two decades, Castillo-Frick has been a member of the United Way and March of Dimes—two non-profit organizations that help people improve their education, financial stability and health.

In 2016, the United Way appointed her as the chair for Women's Leadership. From 2016-17, she led a 48-member executive council to promote personal growth, fundraising and volunteering.

"It's about paying it forward and helping the people in our community," Castillo-Frick said.

During retirement, the 66-year-old will continue serving others but will also dedicate time to her hobbies.

An avid walker, she plans to train in her Coral Gables neighborhood for her fourth half-marathon in the past 15 years and travel to Spain, France and Italy.

Castillo-Frick also hopes to land a part-time job at William Sonoma at Merrick Park—a Coral Gables upscale chain store offering gourmet foods—to feed her passion for healthy, Italian and Spanish cuisine.

"I wish her all the best," Hughes-Brown said. "I know she's going to be missed because she has an impact wherever she goes."

Padrón Campus' Literary Arts Magazine Set To Embark On A New Journey

FROM *URBANA*, FRONT

in linguistics from Florida International University. "It's time for me to start carving out relationships with students outside the classroom."



GARCIA

Previously, the 41-year-old taught English to elementary school students in South Korea before becoming an English, literature and journalism teacher at LaSalle High School from 2006 to 2017.

Outside of the classroom, Garcia's passion for theater led her to co-found the Society Circus Players improv troupe in 2014. For the past six years, she has also taught improv at local after-school programs.

On Sept 21, Garcia used her acting experience to lead an improv workshop that helped Padrón Campus students sharpen their improvisation and storytelling skills.

"I'm super happy that this is something I get to do," Garcia said. "My priority is that the students feel supported in what they want to do."

Figueras, who has a bachelor's degree in humanities from FIU and a master's degree in creative writing from Spalding University in Kentucky, has taught English at Padrón Campus for the past eight years. Previously, he served as an adjunct English professor at Broward College from 2013 to 2016.



FIGUERAS

According to a 2016 YouTube interview, he said his love for English stems from his childhood when his father bought him composition notebooks.

He has served as an advisory board member for Reading Queer—a writing academy—and as fiction co-editor for the online literary magazine *Blood Lotus*.

His work has been featured in the *Composite Arts Magazine*, *Penumbra Literary Magazine* and *The Louisville Review*.

Figueras previously co-advised *Urbana* with Sendin from 2016 to 2019. He did not respond to three email requests for an interview for this story.

Humble Beginnings

In 2007, as Sendin prepared to start *Urbana*, she reached out to Marta Magellan, who at the time was advisor to *Miambiance*, Kendall Campus' literary magazine.

With Magellan's help, Sendin learned layout design, the importance of photos and graphics and how to mentor students.

"She was an amazing resource," Sendin said. "She sat with me and taught me the ropes."

In the first few years, Sendin scrambled to find space to host *Urbana* meetings.

"A lot of the meetings took place in my office where we just sat on the floor to fit," Sendin said. "It was a small group."

The magazine launched its debut volume in 2008 with a limited print run of 100 copies. Eventually, students learned how to navigate intellectual property rights and sharpen their design skills.

Fifteen years later, they are among the nation's elite.

Urbana's awards include back-to-back Gold Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, two first-place Pinnacle awards from the College Media Association and a first-place general excellence recognition from the Florida College Systems Publications Association last March.

Urbanites have also won first-place individual awards from the ACP, CSPA and FCSPA in categories like short stories, poetry, creative writing, editing, artwork design and photography.

Last year, their efforts earned



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Award-Winning: Minutes after winning their second straight first-place Pinnacle award, members of *Urbana's* staff take a celebratory selfie. The award was announced on Oct. 27 during the Fall National Media Convention in Washington D.C.

them a coveted Innovation Pace-maker Award in October of 2021.

Building A Community

Students who have participated in *Urbana* say the magazine has shaped their lives.

Nicole Vioria started her first year of college pursuing an associate's degree in veterinary sciences. She joined the magazine to explore her love for creative writing and storytelling.

After working on the publication's podcast and writing segments for the magazine, Vioria was tantalized by how *Urbana* connected to the Little Havana community that surrounds the campus. Inspired by her experiences, she changed her major to English and is now one of *Urbana's* co-editor-in-chiefs.

The 19-year-old credits Sendin with being instrumental in her journey, often receiving constructive criticism and reassurance

from the long-time professor.

"Professor Sendin is someone who really cares," said Vioria, a sophomore in the Honors College. "She's understanding, passionate and really cares about making a difference."

This year, Vioria and her team, which includes co-editor-in-chief Maria Alejandra Albarracin, aim to revamp *Urbana's* TikTok presence and host more collaborative events with other clubs and organizations at Padrón Campus.

For students like Erika Hernandez, *Urbana* offers a sense of community.

Despite the heavy workload and strict deadlines, the tight-knit group thrives on strong communication and encouragement.

"It's a supportive environment," said Hernandez, a second-year psychology student. "We accept all kinds of ideas since we really want people to express themselves freely."

Stefani Davila echoes Hernandez's feelings.

During her tenure as *Urbana's* co-editor-in-chief last year, she improved her management skills, efficiently planning meetings and late-night editing sessions.

"I learned that things work best when there is desire and heart," said Davila, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar studying business administration and management at Emerson College in Boston.

The Final Chapter

Like many of her students, Sendin has dedicated her heart to education and community service. After earning a bachelor's and master's degree in English language and literature from FIU, she has served as a professor at Padrón Campus for more than two decades.

A staunch advocate for student engagement, she founded a bevy of clubs including a Hermione's Army Chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance (now called Fandom Forward), the Imagination Federation

“ Professor Sendin is someone who really cares.

She's understanding, passionate and really cares about making a difference.

Nicole Vioria, *Urbana's* co-editor-in-chief

Service Club and the Sigma Kappa Delta Gamma Eta Chapter.

Her leadership efforts have earned her two endowed teaching chair awards and a Fulbright scholarship to the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

Outside of MDC, Sendin jump-started initiatives such as Tengo un Sueño and Hermandad MayKnoll High School—two projects that raised more than \$50,000 combined to educate children in rural Nicaragua.

But Sendin's most treasured memories are connected to *Urbana's* alumni.

She has attended weddings, baby showers and received regular updates about her former students' professional and personal endeavors.

"[Professor Sendin's] passion for her profession goes beyond the classroom," said Daniela Hernandez, who led the web design team for Vol. 13 of *Urbana*. "Her unconditional support led me to always try and seize opportunities."

In the future, Sendin hopes to participate in the IREX Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge and potentially start another publication.

But she said *Urbana* will remain in her heart—forever.

"I hope that I will see it with happiness and not with sadness," said Sendin as she tearfully recalled her time at *Urbana*. "I'm not the advisor anymore."



Founding Legacy: Emily Sendin, who served as *Urbana's* founding advisor in 2007, helped the magazine win more than 100 national and state awards in 15 years.

BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Restaurant Led By MCI Alumna Featured In Prestigious Michelin Guide

□ Tinta Y Café, a popular Coral Gables restaurant, was included in the Michelin Guide, a national publication that recognizes excellence in the culinary industry.

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

Rafael Santamarina had a passion for Cuban food.

That love inspired him and his sister, Neli, to open Tinta Y Café, a restaurant that specializes in Cuban sandwiches, pastelitos and cafecito.

Two years after founding the Brickell eatery, Santamarina's nieces Sachi and Malu Statz and his son Carlos honored his legacy by continuing the establishment after he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Fifteen years later, the business is still booming.

This summer, the bistro, which relocated to Coral Gables in 2015, was one of 65 Miami-based restaurants featured in the Michelin Guide, a publication that highlights culinary excellence. The catalog also awarded Tinta Y Café, a Big Gourmand award for its affordable prices.

"It's like winning an Olympic gold medal," said Sachi, who earned an associate's degree from the Miami Culinary Institute in 2016. "It's very surreal."

Sachi, who grew up consuming episodes of the Food Network and the Cooking Channel, has served as the restaurant's owner since 2015.

In addition to the quaint location in Coral Gables, Sachi added a second restaurant in Miami Shores in 2017.

Inside the Coral Gables cafeteria, guests are greeted by a mid-century modern aesthetic accented with old typewriters, vintage cameras, a large collection of art books and minimalist furniture in muted and vibrant colors.

The decor was influenced by Neli's love of newspapers, literature, art and European Cafés. To encourage people to socialize, the restaurant doesn't offer Wi-Fi and has a no-laptop policy.

"It feels like home," said Javier Ramos, who has been a customer for the past three years. "When you're inside it's very comfortable and sociable."

Family Cuisine

The restaurant offers more than 20 sandwich options, seven salad choices, two breakfast menus and a daily soup special.

Salads cost about \$14 and include Caprese, Mediterranean and Honey Mustard Chicken. The soup of the day can be had for less than \$8 and is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sandwich selections range from classics like Cuban, Italian and BLT sandwiches and house specialties such as the Tinta Y Café sandwich, which features pork, manchego cheese and caramelized onions. Cost ranges from \$10 to \$14.

Orders are created in an open-design kitchen which features a six-burner stove, two panini presses and two separate stations to store vegetables for salads and



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Dynamic Duo: Miami Culinary Institute alumna Sachi Statz and her former instructor, Victor Santos, lead operations at Tinta Y Café. Statz is the owner and Santos is the chef.

prepare sandwiches.

The kitchen is led by Brazilian chef Victor Santos, who met Sachi while teaching at Miami Dade College, where he served as the executive chef at Tuyo—MCI's fine dining restaurant.

After being laid off by the Grove Bay Hospitality Group, where he served as head chef, Sachi offered him an opportunity to work at Tinta y Café.

"I have customers who come here every single day," said Santos, who helps prepare about 100 orders daily. "It's nice to be part of somebody's daily routine."

Love For Coffee

Tinta y Café showcases one of the few coffee ventanitas in Coral Gables. The space includes a commercial espresso machine and a stand for pastries such as pastelitos, croquetas and pandebono.

The coffee flows at the counter under the direction of Yaima Córdoba, who started working at Tinta y Café eight years ago after Sachi took notice of her barista skills at El Arepazo—a local Venezuelan restaurant.

Coffee is in the 41-year-old Córdoba's blood. In her hometown of Sancti Spiritus, her grandmother, Armina Macias, is known for uniting the community with her strong Cuban coffee.

"[It] has always been a part of my family," Córdoba said. "When I wake up in the morning my favorite thing to do is prepare myself a coffee."

Her love for the craft attracts dozens of customers like Peter Rivero and Eduardo Oropeza.

The duo visits Córdoba two to three times a week to quench their coffee cravings.

"It's very detailed from all the other coffees that I've tried," said Oropeza, whose go-to order is a cortadito. "I love the flavor."

Tinta y Café's path to success was not an easy one.

With no prior culinary experience, the family learned to operate a restaurant from scratch.

They transitioned from handwritten orders to allowing customers to order digitally. During



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Cozy Spot: Tinta Y Café in Coral Gables features Cuban cuisine, minimalist mid-century furniture, art books, vintage cameras and typewriters to create a European cafe aesthetic.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Crunchy Specialty: Since 2005, Tinta Y Café has focused on serving sandwiches. Current selections range from classics like Cuban, Italian and BLT sandwiches to house specialties such as the Tinta Y Café sandwich, which features pork, manchego cheese and caramelized onions.

the pandemic, Tinta y Café relied on their Coral Gables ventanita to do take-out orders to keep the business alive.

Today, the bustling restaurant hopes to add a third location—a return to Brickell—within the next two years.

"Tinta y Café means family," Sachi said. "That's what it stemmed from and it's what we create."

PACEMAKER

Four MDC Publications Win The Coveted National Pacemaker Award



COVERS COURTESY OF AXIS, URBANA, MIAMBIANCE AND THE REPORTER

THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS ANNOUNCED THE PACEMAKER WINNERS AT THE FALL NATIONAL COLLEGE MEDIA CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON OCT. 28.

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

Miami Dade College student publications—*AXIS*, *Urbana*, *Miambiance* and *The Reporter*—won prestigious National Pacemaker awards at the Fall National College Media Convention.

The recognition, which is the highest distinction given to collegiate publications, was awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 28.

Judging was based on work published during the 2021-22 academic year.

“Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true,” said Ammy Sanchez, who served as the paper’s editor-in-chief during the 2021-22 academic year. “It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

The Reporter, which competed

“Winning this prestigious award is a dream come true. It made the effort my team and I put into feel seen and appreciated.”

Ammy Sanchez, 2021-22 *The Reporter* editor-in-chief

in the two-year student newspaper category, was awarded the prize for the second year in a row. It has won four Pacemakers since its founding in 2010.

The paper also received several individual honors: Sanchez placed fourth in the Reporter of the Year category and she and Victor Gonzalez-Vaca received an honorable

mention in Sports Feature for a story on Andy Rodriguez, a pitcher who defected from the Cuban National Team and played at MDC last season.

AXIS, *Urbana* and *Miambiance* won the award in the two-year literary arts magazine category.

This year’s award was *Urbana*’s

“I’m very proud. It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication.”

Megan Carrion, *Miambiance*’s former editor-in-chief

first magazine Pacemaker since its founding in 2007. The literary magazine at Padrón Campus also received honorable mention in the Podcast, Blog and Social Media Promotion categories.

Last year, the publication won an Innovation Pacemaker.

“It’s like the cherry on top,” said Emily Sendin, who served as *Urbana*’s advisor during the last school year. “It’s obviously very

“It’s like the cherry on top. It’s obviously very special because they’re recognizing our content and design of the entire magazine.”

Emily Sendin, *Urbana*’s former advisor

special because they’re recognizing our content and design of the entire magazine.”

AXIS, who has been a Pacemaker finalist for the past five years, won its fourth Pacemaker. The North Campus literary magazine, previously received the prize in 2018, 2020 and 2021.

“I was just astounded and thrilled for them and for all the students that were in the magazine,” said Carmen Bucher, one of *AXIS*’ advisers. “[The magazine] is the voice of North Campus.”

Miambiance, the Kendall Campus literary magazine, won its third Pacemaker. The publication previously won the award in 2009 and 2018.

“I’m very proud,” said Megan Carrion, who was *Miambiance*’s editor-in-chief last year. “It was a lot of blood, sweat and tears and dedication.”

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Urbana Wins Second Pinnacle Award In Two Years

□ The student-run publication at the Eduardo J. Padrón Campus earned its second first-place Pinnacle Award.

By **Juan S. Gomez**
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For the second year in a row, *Urbana*, the literary magazine at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, won a first-place Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association in the two-year literary magazine category.

Results were announced during the Fall National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27.

Winners were selected based on work published during the 2021-22 school year.

“I’m very proud of my students,” said Emily Sendin, who served as *Urbana*’s advisor during the 2021-2022 school year. “The team was really focused on working together towards a goal.”

Urbana’s fifteenth edition emphasized the rites of passage. The cover featured a quinceañera princess created by Design and Art Director Camila Ramirez.



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Urbana Pride: The literary arts magazine at Eduardo J. Padrón Campus received a first-place Pinnacle Award from the College Media Association for their fifteenth edition.

The artwork featured accounts of overcoming trauma and experiences such as first kisses and

graduation. For Urbanites like Maria Alejandra Albarracin, the magazine

served as a catalyst for creativity. After struggling to find an outlet to explore her interest in creative

writing, Albarracin joined *Urbana*. She edited the blog, podcast and wrote sections of the magazine during her freshman year.

Now, the second-year mass communications student is the publication’s co-editor-in-chief.

The magazine also won second-place individual awards for Best Social Media Strategy and Best Social Media Presence.

“*Urbana* has taught me to express myself in writing more,” Albarracin said. “It was like something new that helped me get out of my shell.”

Kendall Campus’ *Miambiance* and North Campus’ *AXIS* placed second and third respectively in the two-year literary magazine of the year category.

Miambiance also earned an honorable mention for Best Photo Illustration.

Ammy Sanchez, who served as *The Reporter*’s editor-in-chief last academic year, earned a second-place honor in the Best Profile award for her story on Noah Thomas—an 11-year-old prodigy taking college courses at Kendall Campus.

BOOK FAIR

Miami Book Fair Marks Its Annual Return, Nov. 13-20

□ The Miami Book Fair in Downtown Miami will feature a Street Fair, presentations by more than 100 authors and in-person programming in English, Spanish and Creole.

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

The 39th annual rendition of the Miami Book Fair will host more than 100 renowned authors from across the globe at Wolfson Campus from Nov. 13-20.

"Every year it's a completely different Book Fair," said MBF Director of Programs Lissette Mendez. "There are different conversations to be had, different books to read and different authors to meet."

Writers, journalists, and poets set to appear include famous actor and playwright **Harvey Fierstein**, former *New York Times* reporter and civil rights activist **Charlayne Hunter-Gault** and award-winning Indian American author and poet **Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni**.

Also featured will be prominent figures in the music industry such as "punk poet laureate" **Patti Smith** and New York City-based rapper and producer **Jose "Fat Joe" Cartagena**.

The popular *Evenings With* series will include former *Saturday Night Live* comedian **Kevin Nealon**, former University of Miami, Dallas Cowboys and Miami Dolphins football coach **Jimmy Johnson** and Pulitzer prize-winning physician, biologist and author **Siddhartha Mukherjee**.

For the first time in its history,



REPORTER FILE PHOTO / ELI ABASI

Book Mania: The 39th annual Miami Book Fair returns to Downtown Miami from Nov. 13-20. The festival will feature more than 100 authors, including famous actors and singers, award-winning writers and renowned political figures.

the Book Fair will host ReadingEast—a program exploring Middle Eastern and South Asian culture through conversations with fiction, nonfiction and poetry authors.

It will include speakers such as Iranian-American scholar and Emmy- and Peabody-nominated producer **Reza Aslan** and Bangladeshi-American poet and writer **Anuradha Bhowmik**.

"This is one of our goals," Mendez said. "To make sure people in

Miami are in touch with what's going on around the world."

Aimed at Miami's Hispanic community, the IberoAmerican Program will present panel events showcasing Spanish-speaking presenters. Presenters include famous Colombian musician **Juanes** and Cuban exiled journalist **Carlos Alberto Montaner**.

Former Ecuadorian president **Jamil Mahuad**, who was ousted from power during a military revolt in 2000, will speak about

the dollarization of his country's economy during his tenure as head of state.

The ReadCaribbean series will present reading discussions, workshops and children's programming that explores the Caribbean Diaspora.

Culminating the festivities will be the popular three-day Street Fair that will take place from Nov. 18-20. Hosted at Wolfson Campus from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. it will showcase books, handmade goods and

live music. Admission will be free for everyone on Nov. 18.

Featured attractions at the Street Fair include The Children's Alley, which will host activities such as arts and crafts, storytelling, plays and musical performances.

Artists such as **DJ Carlos Menendez**, the **Miami Beach Rock Ensemble** and electro-funk band **Sol and The Tribu** will be featured at The Off The Shelf music festival at Kyriakides Place on NE 1st Ave. Musical performances will take place throughout the three-day Street Fair.

On Nov. 19 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Off The Shelf will host a poetry panel featuring presidential inaugural poet **Richard Blanco**, award-winning writer **Sandra Cisneros** and Miami-Dade County Mayor **Daniella Levine Cava**.

Miami Dade College students, faculty and staff can attend the Street Fair for free by using their MDC ID. Entrance fees for non-MDC attendees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors; children under 12 are admitted for free.

To purchase tickets, click here. Customers who use the code STUDENT at checkout will receive a full discount for single-day tickets.

"Books and reading are important in everyone's life to be able to grow, learn and feel part of the human family," Mendez said.

To view a detailed guide of the Book Fair, click here. For more information, contact (305) 237-3528 or wbookfair@mdc.edu.

FILM

SEDT Student Produces Film Featured At Raindance Film Festival

□ *Iguana Like The Sun* premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London, England on Oct. 31. It was co-produced by School of Entertainment and Design Technology student Khotan Fernandez.

By **Paola Proenza**
paola.proenza001@mymdc.net

Renowned Mexican playwright and actor, Carlos Olmos, dreamt of bringing his play *El Eclipse* to the big screen.

But he didn't see it come into fruition; Olmos passed away at the age of 55 in October 2003, due to respiratory failure.

However, his former student, Julian Robles, kept hope alive.

Robles teamed with Mexican telenovela star Khotan Fernandez—currently a student at the School of Entertainment and Design Technology at North Campus—to create a film based on Olmos' play.

"On my first read of it, I knew that it was a movie. I've always said that some movies have heart," Fernandez said. "So I took the challenge of trying to get this movie done."

Iguana Like The Sun held its world premiere at the 30th annual Raindance Film Festival in London, England on Oct. 31. The movie's title was inspired by a line from Olmos' original play.

Fernandez, who co-produced the project and was an actor in the film, enrolled at Miami Dade



NEYMAN CANELO-GARCIA / THE REPORTER

Premiere: School of Entertainment and Design Technology student Khotan Fernandez co-produced a movie, *Iguana Like The Sun*, that premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London, England on Oct. 30.

College two years ago to learn about new technology being used to shoot and edit films.

"It's been a great learning curve for me," said Fernandez, who has had lead roles in soap operas such as *Al Otro Lado Del Muro*, *Perro Amor* and *Eternamente Tuya*. "The process of producing a movie [and] at the same time being [a student at] MDC has enabled me to understand filmmaking from

another perspective."

The 100-minute movie explores the themes of loss and tradition, describing the grieving process of a Mexican family dealing with the passing of their patriarch. It occurs during a single day as a mystifying solar eclipse hits an isolated small town during peak tourism season.

During the film, each member of the family shares their

perspective on how they are coping with the events. The movie forces viewers to think about the connections found in a traditional Latin-American family.

"It's not exactly a totally traditional narrative film because it has a lot of themes," said Robles, who wrote and directed the film.

Robles originally wrote the screenplay for the movie in 2012. However, production was delayed

because they had to find additional funding.

He further developed the storyline, recruited actors and raised funds to produce the film with Fernandez—a 48-year-old, who has been an actor for nearly three decades.

They secured \$1.3 million for the project. The majority of the funding came from a fiscal incentive—the Eficine grant—that encourages filmmakers to make movies in Mexico.

Most of the money was used for necessities, such as room and board throughout the production, technology and salaries.

The movie, set in Chiapas, Mexico was filmed in 2018. It hit an additional snag when post-production was delayed for more than a year due to the pandemic.

"It cost us a lot in the post-production process," Robles said. "In a world where everything was closed and where finance and life as a whole stopped."

Final touches for the movie were done at the start of 2022, mere months before its world premiere at Raindance where they were nominated for Best Cinematography.

Robles hopes to have the movie featured at more film festivals across the United States and to release the movie on multiple platforms.

"I want to see how audiences are going to respond—hopefully well," Robles said. "I want the film to have its own life."



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Announcer Lends His Voice To MDC Sports To Expand Program's Reach

□ Daniel Torres, the creator of the *Plug Talk Sports* podcast, will start announcing games for the Miami Dade College athletic department in November during basketball season.

By **Victoria Martinez**
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When Daniel Torres attended volleyball media day at Miami Dade College in September, he saw an opportunity to expand his thriving sports career.

Torres, the creator of *Plug Talk Sports*—a podcast that airs on YouTube—approached Alysia Dyer, the school's athletic director, about serving as the program's on-air commentator.

A month later, Torres became the College's sports announcer, the athletic department's first in five years.

Torres, 24, is expected to call his first game in early November when basketball season starts.

He will cover all MDC athletic home games. Streaming will be available on the MDC athletics YouTube page.

"I saw he was very professional and organized, so I wanted to bring him on board," Dyer said.

Torres received his associate's degree in journalism from Kendall



NEYMAN CANELO-GARCIA / THE REPORTER

On-Air Talent: Daniel Torres, the creator of the *Plug Talk Sports* podcast, will start announcing Miami Dade College sporting events in November. The commentary will air on the athletic department's YouTube page.

Campus in 2018 and a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Florida International University in 2021.

In 2018, he began his sports media career as the founder of *Plug Talk Sports*. The podcast features Torres and various panelists opining about South Florida sports teams such as Inter Miami CF and the University of Miami and

Florida International University football teams.

A year later, he joined the staff of *Panther Now*, FIU's student newspaper. He wrote and edited football, basketball and soccer articles. Eventually, he started announcing FIU softball, baseball, basketball, football and soccer games as an intern in the athletic department from June of 2019

until February of 2021.

He also served as a part-time play-by-play commentator for Inter Miami CF for eight months in 2021.

"It's those long hours that he puts in, not just on game day, but leading up to game day that really gives him, not just the talent, but the edge over [other] commentators," said Isaac Gomez, who has

worked with Torres at *Plug Talk Sports* and at FIU.

Torres, a 2016 graduate of Christopher Columbus High School in Westchester, is also a mentor to budding journalists at the Christopher Columbus News Network, the school's student-run broadcast show.

He meets with the program's talent three to four times a week, helping them prepare for interviews, organizing their notes, and helping them with the Thursday pregame show before Friday's live broadcast.

The program won first place in general commentary and sports commentary at the Student Television Network Awards held in Long Beach, California in February.

"He's been a very valuable asset to our team," said Omar Delgado, who oversees the CCNN program. "I trust him and the kids love him."

In the future, Torres wants to continue announcing Major League Soccer games and expanding the reach of *Plug Talk Sports*.

At MDC, he looks forward to projecting his voice from the skybox at the Theodore R. Gibson Health Center at Kendall Campus.

"We really just want to encourage everyone, from our students [to] everyone who works at the institution and alumni to come out and support," Torres said.

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// SPORTS

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BASKETBALL

Sharks Eagerly Await Return of Star Point Guard

□ Abdias "Speedy" Carcamo, who suffered an Achilles tendon injury last October, is expected to rejoin the team in late November. He played in only eight games last season.

By **Victoria Martinez**
victoria.martinez015@mymdc.net

More than a year after suffering an Achilles tendon injury, the Miami Dade College men's basketball team is waiting for the full return of star point guard Abdias "Speedy" Carcamo.

Carcamo, who was limited to eight games last season, has been doing calf raises and rubber band assisted stretches to strengthen his left achilles tendon.

He is expected to rejoin the team in the next couple of weeks.

"[Speedy] is getting ready to be back," said Sharks assistant basketball coach Dillon "DJ" Jenkins. "We're being very cautious with him in terms of workload."

Carcamo, who has missed the team's first four games this season, has been doing light workouts in practice, working on his form, ball handling and shooting.

"The hardest part has been getting back in shape," Carcamo said. "You have to be in great shape [to play] defense."

Carcamo first reported feeling pain in his left leg in October of 2021. He sat out 13 of the team's first 14 games as the injury got



YAIRI LORENZO / THE REPORTER

On The Mend: The Miami Dade College men's basketball hopes to have point guard Abdias "Speedy" Carcamo back on the court in late November. Carcamo played in only eight games last season after sustaining an Achilles tendon Injury but averaged 14 points in limited action.

progressively worse. Eventually, he played in seven games in the spring including a 28 point performance versus Hillsborough Community College on Jan. 12.

He averaged 14 points, 3.8 assists and had a 46.2 shooting percentage from the three-point line in eight games last season.

"He was our leader," said

sophomore shooting guard Matthew Khoury. "In those eight games, he helped us tremendously."

To prepare for this season, Carcamo has concentrated on getting stronger, working out in the weight room several times a week and improving his conditioning by running one to two miles every

day at the Kendall Campus track.

In his absence, the Sharks have used Will Ehlen at point guard. The freshman is averaging 3.8 points and three assists per game.

Freshman Dylan Edwards from Prince George's County, Maryland and sophomore DJ Harrell from Cleveland, Ohio have also filled in at point guard. Edwards

is averaging two points and 1.7 assists per game. Harrell, who has logged the majority of his minutes at shooting guard, is averaging 14.3 points per game.

But the team is built to run around Carcamo's skill set. He provides leadership, crisp passing, and sharp shooting. The Brooklyn native has been playing basketball since he was four years old.

He attended Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York, averaging 12 points and six assists per game during his senior year.

They are banking on Carcamo's return giving the team a boon in the win column.

The Sharks, who were 10-17 last year, lost four conference games by less than three points last year. They rejuvenated their roster with a plethora of new players including forwards Tyriek Weeks and Jamichael Stillwell and guard Mayoum Mayoum. Miami Dade College has implemented a 5-out motion offense, which thrives on spacing, three-point-shooting and positionless basketball.

"Everybody has good energy; we relate [to each other]," said Ibrahim Wattara, the sophomore forward from Togo, West Africa. "We are trying to get to the next level."

The Sharks next game is at home versus Polk State College on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Theodore R. Gibson Health Center, 11011 S.W. 104 St.

Read The Reporter.

MOVIE REVIEW

Don't Worry Darling Is A Psychological Thriller Worth The Watch

□ If you haven't heard of the psychological thriller, *Don't Worry Darling*, you have been living under a rock. The project is directed by Olivia Wilde and stars Florence Pugh, Chris Pine and Harry Styles.

By **Isabelle Greiner**

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There has been a lot of buzz about *Don't Worry Darling* since it began production in late 2020. The film is based on the screenplay written by Carey and Shane Van Dyke and adapted for the big screen by Katie Silberman.

Directed by Olivia Wilde, it features Florence Pugh, Harry Styles, Chris Pine, Gemma Chan, Wilde and Nick Kroll in a psychological thriller set during the 1950s in a small town in California. The film, released on Sept. 23, follows Alice (Florence Pugh) and her husband, Jack (Harry Styles), a young couple in their honeymoon phase.

All the men in the town work for Frank (Chris Pine) on the classified Victory Project. Typical of the 1950s social construct, the wives stayed at home while the husbands went to work.

When Alice's friend, Margaret (Kiki Layne), starts speaking out of turn at a social event, it sparks curiosity in Alice about her place in Victory. From that point, Alice starts having flashbacks and hallucinations and goes on a journey



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Big Buzz: *Don't Worry Darling* stars Florence Pugh, Harry Styles and Chris Pine. The psychological thriller is based on the screenplay written by Carey and Shane Van Dyke and was adapted to the big screen by Katie Silberman.

to understand what is happening while her husband and friends disregard her concerns.

With such an incredible cast, more was expected than was delivered. *Don't Worry Darling* was definitely overrated, but it also wasn't as bad as critics said it was.

The film was beautifully shot with a yellow, gold hue that gives the illusion of living in a daydream. While there were many questions about Style's acting, his performance is up to par with the rest of the cast. The score fits the movie well, emphasizing moments of ease and discomfort. Pugh and Pine's performances were outstanding and carried the film.

Don't Worry Darling gives the audience enough information to proceed with the plot but no connection between characters to explain their actions. Many small details—like the airplane and earthquake scenes—do not add to the story and make you question their reason for being included. In addition, several storylines, like those of Margaret and Shelley (Gemma Chan), were undeveloped and should have been further explored.

The film would have been better off sticking to the original screenplay because it did a better job of explaining the plot and guiding the audience. However, the movie is still worth the watch, especially if you enjoy movies like *The Matrix*, *The Truman Show* and *Get Out*.

ALBUM REVIEW

Midnights Sweeps Swifties Into Mayhem

□ Taylor Swift released her 10th album, *Midnights*, on Oct. 21. The project marks a return to her pop era with lyrics that revolve around sleepless and thought-provoking nights.

By **Isabelle Greiner**

isa.vieiragreiner001@mymdc.net

On Aug. 28, Taylor Swift announced her 10th album at the MTV Video Music Awards, where her infamous encounter with Kanye West occurred 13 years earlier.

Midnights, Swift's long-anticipated comeback album, marks her first project since *Evermore* in 2020 and a return to her pop era.

Released on Oct. 21, *Midnights* became the music provider's most-streamed album in a single day after it caused the app to crash.

Midnights tells the story of 13 sleepless nights spent in agony and joy throughout Swift's life and is reminiscent of her past pop projects like *1989*, *Reputation* and *Lover*.

Lavender Haze kicks off the album with the central theme of young love. According to her *Midnights Mayhem With Me* series, the idea for the song was born when she heard the term used in a *Mad Men* episode; the title of the song was commonly used in the 1950s to signify being in love.

Maroon feels like it could be a song on *Reputation* with production that incorporates heavy bass and electronic beat sounds. The song speaks about losing touch with someone, being forgotten but still left thinking of them.

The lead single, *Anti-Hero*, is very similar to her sound in *1989* with similar melodies and instrumentals. It's very upbeat but covers her innermost insecurities and thoughts during the night. "At tea time, everyone agrees" is a lyric that refers to people gossiping about her when they attack all the things she doubts about herself.

Snow on the Beach has a very mellow sound. The song features Lana Del Rey but it left fans disappointed by her lack of involvement.

You're On Your Own, Kid talks about Swift's upbringing in the music industry. It's similar to the song *Ronan* featured on *Red (Taylor's Version): From The Vault Chapter*.

*Vigilante Sh*t* is a track deeply rooted in revenge. Because of her issues with Kanye West and her former manager Scooter Braun, who bought the rights to all her old

music—which prompted Swift to re-record her earlier albums—many fans believe the song is either about Braun's divorce or Kanye's marriage to Kim Kardashian ending.

Bejeweled is *Midnights* second single and blends sounds from *1989* and *Lover*. The song is very amusing and upbeat and marks her return into the pop music genre. As Swift has explained, the song is about finding and regaining confidence.

Would've, Could've, Should've is thought to be about her

ex-boyfriend and singer/songwriter John Mayer. It tells Swift's side of the break-up, leaving listeners to believe he took advantage of her with lyrics such as: "And if I was a child, did it matter if you got to wash your hands?"

With the help of co-writer and producer Jack Antonoff, *Midnights* creates the perfect concoction of Swift's musical catalog with a distinctive pop sound and deeply personal lyrics.



Return To Pop: On *Midnights*, Swift reconnects to her pop roots but flexes her lyrical muscle with songs that center on deeply personal thoughts that have kept her up at night.

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// A&E

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STUDY SPOTS

These Local Spots Are Ideal Study Spaces For College Students

☐ The workload of college students is heavy, but studying in the right place can make the process smoother. Here are some local spots that can help.

By **Colleen Padron**
Colleen.padron001@mymdc.net

Many students are struggling with time management as the fall semester kicks into high gear. To help you, these local spots provide the perfect ambiance for your academic needs to boost motivation for intense study sessions.

Aguacate Sanctuary of Love, 12100 S.W. 43 St., is located in rural Kendall. It is perfect for someone who needs to rein in their stress levels under a peaceful atmosphere. The space takes you away from the rush of Miami life into a different world. Its hippie-styled Zen garden and farm exude a relaxed vibe. The instructors at this holistic community make you feel at home the minute you enter. As you sit, you feel your mind, body and soul heal. With a vegan-oriented juice bar and natural food dishes, you can find a suitable dish to fuel your brain. One of the more popular dishes is the Aguacate Burger made from beans, quinoa, beets, flax, hemp and chia seeds. And if you are craving something sweet, their Nutella



BRIANNA ACEVEDO / THE REPORTER

Wall-To-Wall Books: Books & Books in Coral Gables allows students to escape from the stress of studying with unique features like occasional live music and a charming cafe.

French toast with berries and bananas can satisfy your needs. If that isn't enough, you

can take a meditation or yoga class to unwind after completing your work.

Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave #5008, located in Coral Gable is the bookshop of bookshops. With its rows of floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, one can't help but be persuaded into utilizing a scholarly mindset. The Mediterranean style building dates back to 1927 and features a quaint café with indoor and outdoor seating options. A popular coffee choice at the café is the chai tea latte. It supplies the perfect amount of caffeine to fuel you through your study sessions. The ambiance offsets the fall energy that Miami lacks with its steamy weather. Books & Books often hosts local bands in the courtyard adding a unique vibe to any study meetup.

Shoma Bazaar, 9420 NW 41st St, is a food hall in Doral that has gained popularity recently. On every corner, there is a unique restaurant for you to try. From ramen to burgers to poke bowls, all the food you crave is at your call to get you through any cram session. For those with a sweet tooth, there are a variety of options like the Market Milkshake Bar. With fifteen food vendors inside the industrial building, you won't be short of options. Seating is available in the form of couches, hanging chairs, stools or tables, making it the ideal space for group projects. The art pieces and flower sculptures add class to the environment.



NEYMAN CANELO-GARCIA / THE REPORTER

Zen: The Aguacate Sanctuary of Love in Kendall offers a relaxed setting for anyone looking to lower their stress levels while they study.



NEYMAN CANELO-GARCIA / THE REPORTER

Study Cravings: With 15 vendor options, Shoma Bazaar in Doral keeps students' appetites quenched while they study. The menu includes traditional burgers and ramen.

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COMMUNITIES

The Benefits Of Having Walkable Communities

□ Tight-knit communities featuring mixed zoning and walkable urban spaces reduce car dependency, promote public health and create a greater sense of community.



By **Christian Rodriguez**
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Before moving to Florida, I lived in Montreal.

Located in Quebec, Montreal is known for its lively and walkable neighborhoods filled with densely packed businesses and entertainment.

That feature is common in European cities such as Barcelona, Paris or London.

In stark contrast, Miami and its suburbs feature an appalling dependency on cars.

Strolling through my neighborhood, it takes a considerable walk

to find a grocery store and even more to stumble upon recreational areas such as parks or theaters.

On top of that, walking to these places is unpleasant and even dangerous because a high volume of cars in that area speed.

Miami's wide roads and missing greenery, attract heat and generate noise and pollution that ruins communities.

Being forced to travel in a car, for even the smallest of errands, deprives us of the interaction and conviviality that comes from walkable neighborhoods.

Walkable areas also promote a safer and more interactive setting for children to play outside. For adults, being able to run quick errands on foot leads to more active and healthy communities.

Dense communities also benefit the environment.

By mixing residential and commercial spaces, we limit greenhouse emissions by reducing travel fuel demand. Additionally, emphasizing spaces for people allows for urban designs to feature more foliage, gardens and other plant life.

More importantly, neighborhoods that prioritize walking spaces create a tight-knit community that cultivates civic and political engagement.

When your neighbors and local businesses are a few steps away,



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people are bound to develop a sense of belonging that will make them more likely to fight for their communities interests.

Miami, which is facing one of the nation's worst housing crises, should seek to develop more

dense and walkable communities instead of continuing its suburban sprawl.

This can be done by redeveloping underused spaces, building more promenades like the one in Lincoln Road and offering

citizens more public transportation options.

Not only will it reduce traffic, but it will create a healthier, more environmentally friendly city for the future.

TV SHOW

Seinfeld's Series Finale Was As Ingenious As It Was Hated

□ Despite its surrounding controversy, the iconic sitcom's 1998 finale serves as the perfect encapsulation of the show's brilliant and ironic theme.



By **Dylan Masvidal**
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Saying *Seinfeld's* ending was controversial is an understatement.

The sitcom series, which garnered more than 76 million viewers during its final episode, left a bad taste in its audience's mouth.

The crime was so foul that Jerry Seinfeld himself says he regrets the way it was handled.

Even co-creator Larry David attempted to give fans closure by filming a "reunion" episode in season seven of his own program, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. While many fans lost admiration for the two comedy juggernauts following the 56-minute ending, let's revisit it.

For context, *Seinfeld's* finale sees the unapologetic quartet breaking the "Good Samaritan" law after idly standing by and laughing as a helpless man gets carjacked at gunpoint.

The episode then follows the gang as they try to beat the case with everyone's favorite lawyer, Jackie Chiles. But the episode inevitably ends with the four serving a full year in prison.

Avid fans of the series were disappointed to see their beloved personalities have a

sour end to their stories.

Facing the consequences of their actions was nothing new for the sitcom's characters, but the fact that David and Seinfeld acknowledged how morally bankrupt the group was made viewers feel like they were taking a middle finger to the face instead of being rewarded.

This is where the disconnect between the writing and the audience becomes clear.

The pushback can be identified differently by two separate groups of *Seinfeld* fans: Those who tuned in every Thursday at 9 p.m. looking for a laugh and those aware of the "no hugging, no learning" rule but hoped that David would give in to sitcom formalities and send everyone home comfortable and happy.

The latter is the smoking gun.

What has always given *Seinfeld* a distinct feel from other sitcoms of its era is the running joke that the show is about "nothing."

It was a series that prided itself on the absurdity of everyday life instead of a so-called "escape from reality."

While there is no denying that, there is more nuance to it.

Realistically, all sitcoms are about "nothing."

No grand, philosophical theme ties them together, but the presence of possible romantic relationships between characters, character growth and lesson-learning gives it some sort of storyline.

Seinfeld was never interested in providing fans what they wanted. Its interest was the exact opposite of *Cheers* or *A Different World*.

The textbook definition of an "anti-sitcom."

Seasons went by, and the show continued to push more buttons than a baby with a switch box.

Nevertheless, NBC never put its foot down and hit self-destruct for the series.

A comfort comedy where its main characters turn on each other, rob an elderly woman for her rye bread and leave their deceased fiancé only minutes after their passing to grab some coffee.

What I just described sounds like an after-hours presentation on AdultSwim, not a 90s network program appealing to mainstream audiences.

More importantly, notice how comedies of the current age that take inspiration from *Seinfeld*, most notably *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, is a TV-MA production on FXX and not something akin to *Big Bang Theory*.

NBC utilizing David and *Seinfeld* to write jokes that kept it TV-PG was equivalent to fitting a square peg in a round hole. Their ability to not just cross the line, but leap over it and remain untouched by the studio was groundbreaking.

It was an irregularity, a glitch in the system.

Putting this into perspective makes *Seinfeld's* finale all the more brilliant.

It butters you up in the beginning with Jerry and George's pilot being picked up by NBC once again and a tease of Jerry and Elaine's romantic revival, just to pull the rug right from under you.

Mix that in with a full-circle moment for "Art Vandelay," a conversation about shirt buttons that elicits déjà vu and a stand-up routine for inmates in the end credits, to create a masterclass in light-hearted cynicism.

Seinfeld was never solely a show about "nothing." It was a show that critiqued and rejected societal norms in a hilarious and immoral fashion.

If you can't get down with that, then "no soup for you!"



NINA CUESTA / THE REPORTER

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CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

The Importance Of Appreciating What You Have

☐ *The Reporter's* Hugo Guillen shares his experiences living in a working-class neighborhood in Peru to encourage readers to appreciate the benefits of living in the United States.



By **Hugo Guillen**
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Can you imagine doing homework in the street under a public light?

That is the reality for many children in Latin America. Even in 2022, there are people who have no electricity in their homes.

Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

After arriving in the United States from my native Peru last year, I began working at Auntie Anne's. During one of my shifts, I heard a 16-year-old complain to his father after he got a 2019 gray Camaro instead of what he wanted—a green 2022 Camaro.

Witnessing that made me



AIMEE SALVADOR / THE REPORTER

realize how different everyday problems are here.

In my homeland, there are no brand new cars. Everything is from China or an outdated model from popular companies. Additionally, it's also illegal for teenagers to drive and work.

The average Peruvian is unable to afford a car. Hence, most people rely on public transportation, which is dangerous because most drivers tend to ignore traffic laws.

Despite those risks, buses are a

better option than walking.

Peru's streets are menacing—even for the wealthy. So much so, that people hide their phones and other valuables at all times.

Certain streets give you the vibe that you are being followed and watched. The paranoia is so strong that being mugged is the least dangerous circumstance.

When I was 16, I took three different buses to travel to school. The situation was nerve wracking. I encountered stray dogs,

non-existent sidewalks and poor lighting.

I've also experienced blackouts, a lack of water and muggings. When you tell this to Peruvian immigrants, no one is surprised. Many have seen even worse.

That is just how Peru is. As someone who's seen children doing homework in the dangerous streets of Peru, my plea to you is to appreciate the blessing of living in a country as prosperous and developed as the USA.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Cuba Needs To Stop Being Used As A Political Tool

☐ Since the 1960s, the Island's controversial history and government have been exploited by right and left-wing demagogues to promote their skewed political views.



By **Sabrina Chaviano**
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Since the 1959 Revolution, Cuba has been used as a political pawn to promote radical ideologies.

This political game has only endured due to the ignorance of the country's history and disregard by major media outlets to cover most of the nation's events.

During the 2021 Cuban Protests, unjust police brutality and suppression of free speech were largely discussed. However, most

outlets failed to mention the death of a 36-year-old man and the hundreds of others who went missing.

Even in Florida, Cuba's history is mostly neglected except for the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the 1962 Missile Crisis and rudimentary facts about Castro's Revolution.

Additionally, those excluded from the Cuban exile community lack awareness of the country's history. An issue that is exacerbated in other states that have no ties to the Caribbean island.

That ignorance results in the country being used in political commentary as either a cautionary tale of liberal policies or a socialist paradise.

Turning Point USA is a conservative non-profit organization that provides media coverage about Cuba.

Though they give valuable insight into the government's structure and public opinion, the organization manipulates Cuba's status as an abusive and failing state to denounce liberal policies.

Their belief? That all liberal policies—moderate or otherwise—will always lead to totalitarian communism.

On the other hand, extreme leftist groups praise Cuba as an example of functional socialism despite the country's clear shortcomings.

Senator Bernie Sanders and



ALEXANDER ONTIVEROS / THE REPORTER

Hasan Piker, a twitch-streamer and popular left-wing commentator, have praised Cuba's high literacy rate.

Others have touted the island's medical advancements, free education and humanitarian aid while ignoring first-hand accounts of human rights violations.

Using Cuba as a political tool does nothing to help political debate or the eleven million people living under totalitarian rule.

Instead, it spreads misinformation by manipulating facts. That dehumanizes the Cuban people and dismisses the nation as a one-dimensional talking point.



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