Five months ago, Dale Robinson, an architecture intern, lost his job. He is no longer the sole breadwinner of his family. His wife, a challenge course facilitator, now is. With only one source of income, they find it extremely hard to make ends meet at times.

"Having an education is the best thing he could have ever invested in," Robinson said.

Robinson was one of 3,600 unemployed residents that attended Miami Dade College's annual job fair March 3-4 looking for a new job.

Cerone White
Staff Writer

"The job fair was 'Taking Care of Your Future Today,'" the job fair was held at a time when hundreds of Miami-Dade County residents have lost their jobs. According to the Miami Herald, Florida's unemployment rate jumped a full point in January to 8.6 percent. According to the State of Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, this represents 800,000 jobless people out of a labor force of 9,256,000.

"This is the biggest job fair that Miami Dade College, North Campus has ever held," said Bettye Cepeda, career services specialist.

After several years of desolation, construction toward the North Campus's soon-to-be-renovated aquatic center will resume within the next month. The construction company began investigative work of underground infrastructure for the pool. Demolition of the lap pool was completed last semester, said North Campus president Dr. Jose A. Vicente.

"Hopefully within the next thirty days the mobilization phase of the construction project will start," said Vicente.

The aquatic center is designed and coordinated by the architecture firm Rodriguez and Quiroga. The company has a history with Miami Dade College. They have worked on the Freedom Tower as well as the Homestead and Inter-American campuses. The north side walls of the 500 building are now speckled with spray paint markings along with the many ditches that reveal pipes, signs of the underground surveying of the infrastructure that has recently been completed.

The featured employers present on site were Allied Barton Security Services, American Express, Broward Sheriff's Office, Carnival Cruise Line, City of Hialeah, City of Miami Police, City Year Miami, Cool Kids Learn, Inc., Coral Gables Police, Davie Police Department, Florida Department of Corrections, DNC Travel Hospitality, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida.

GO TO POOL RENOVATION, PAGE 2

Keeping Hope Alive: Thousands of unemployed Florida residents waited in line at the North Campus March 3-4 looking for a new job.

GO TO JOBS FAIR, PAGE 2

The Job Search Begins

 Courtesy of MDC Media Services

Renovation on hold; work to resume

Michael Finch
Staff Writer

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GO TO POOL RENOVATION, PAGE 2

On Hold: The aquatic center behind building 4 is being renovated.

Cepeda said that the fair is held annually and there are over 300 job opportunities available.

Some job seekers came from Homestead and from Broward County.

“The college is not following the rules. The flyer said 9:00 am – 12 p.m. This is controversial, it’s not even noon but yet still they are turning people away,” said Daniel Nova, an MDC student who lives in Broward.

Alexis Sanchez was waiting in line for almost two hours. Sanchez said it was worth the wait; he was employed at Carnival Cruise Line as an administrative assistant.

“I get support from networking with friends and family and help from government programs,” said Sanchez. He is looking for anything that he can get, but preferable something that is clerical, Sanchez thinks his chances of getting a call back are not slim.

Gisselle Aviles, an MDC security officer, said the line extended all the way to the gym.

This is what it looks like county wise when it comes down to unemployment in South Florida. As reported by the Florida Workforce Innovation, Broward County is at 7.7 percent, Miami Dade County is at 6.8 percent, Monroe County is at 5.8 percent, and Palm Beach County is at 9.1 percent.

The Kendall Campus will be having a job fair March 24 from 5:30 p.m. and March 25 from 9:00 am – 12:30 p.m. in building seven at the gym. Also, there will be another job fair April 8 at the Hialeah Campus from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in building 1, Room 119/120.

For more information about jobs and employers, students can go to career services in building one in Room 1164. The office hours are from Monday –Thursday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, and Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FROM POOL RENOVATION, FRONT PAGE

With projected costs at $6.2 million that has already been allocated through the Physical Education Capital Outlay, the area north of the Student Center (building four) stands to undergo an extensive renovation.

The diving pool will be restored while the lap pool will be totally redone, and the neighboring 500 building will boast offices, classrooms, locker rooms, and three fitness facilities.

“The construction company and the college are negotiating the guaranteed maximum price for the construction of the remaining of the project,” Vicente said. “And it needs to be within the project budget.”

The original aquatic center was closed due to an outdated system. The area was then marked for funding during the 2004-2005 school year, when state representatives noticed the condition of the pool.

“It has been like that for a long time,” said Susanna Rivera, graphic design major, 24. “I would really like to see it look like the rest of the campus.”

According to Dr. Vicente the project is now scheduled to be completed by Spring 2010, a semester earlier than the previous Fall 2010 completion date.

“Whenever it’s finished, I can’t wait to swim in it,” said Tina Douglas, a nursing major. “I am just tired of looking at the area the way it is, something should be done soon.”
The Learning Community creates an academic family
Program helps students understand how courses relate to each other

Tabitha King
Staff Writer

The Learning Community is a group-based curriculum that helps students to achieve greater success in their studies through linked courses.

Each class is logically paired with another that acts as its complimentary part. For example, professor Diane Sloan teaches an introductory speech course, which is paired with basic reporting, taught by professor David Merves.

“These are two communication courses that will project a student’s understanding of how oral and written communication skills are important for mass communication majors,” said Sloan.

One reason professor Sloan feels that the Learning Community courses are important is because, “A group of students who take certain courses together is almost like an academic family.”

Students are required to register for all paired courses with their counterparts, so the same group of students is in each class. This is the most important aspect behind the Learning Community.

According to Sloan, students in these classes tend to form relationships and get to know each other better by sharing the same learning experiences.

They form study groups and come up with more dynamic approaches to problem solving.

“Research shows that students who study together, tend to perform better on tests and assignments,” said Sloan.

Another professor who teaches within the Learning community is mathematics professor Lourdes Espana. She has paired beginning algebra with Introduction to Computers - Micro Usage.

“Students can see how math applies to computers, and how computers apply to math,” said Espana.

However, her most successful Learning Community collaboration is between math and psychology.

The eight-year running pair includes eight weeks of Intermediate Algebra, followed by eight weeks of College Algebra, along with 16 weeks of the psychology of personal effectiveness, taught by professor Minca Davis Branley.

According to Espana, this combination has been especially triumphant because the psychology course helps students to overcome math anxiety.

“It changes their paradigm about math,” Espana said.

“Learning Communities are a great way to address learning outcomes,” said Espana.

The idea for Learning Community courses comes completely from the minds of the professors. If he or she has an idea about a good partnership between courses, it is that professor’s responsibility to present the idea to the chairpersons of all applicable departments and to find a teammate who will teach the supporting course.

It is also the professor’s job to get the word out about the new course – offerings by talking to academic advisors, posting flyers, and visiting classes to talk about these opportunities.

“Helping students find out about the courses is the hardest part,” said Espana.

One way for students to find out if any classes they’re interested in taking are offered within the Learning Community is to visit that course’s department or academic advisement.

The Falcon Times is looking for photographers, artists, and writers... For more information, call us at (305) 237-1255
Monique Dos Anjos
Movie Review

Peter Klavén (Paul Rudd, Meet the Parents) is a newly engaged, successful real estate agent. He is faithful to his fiancée and loyal to his family. So, what's wrong with his “Pleasantville” life? He sadly has no friends.

Well, who would put up with him and his awkward moments with other men? He comes up with weird nick names for other people, such as “Totes Magotes” and “Towbin.” If this movie had people, such as “totes Magotes” with weird nick names for other people who have no friends.

Role Models

P

Page 4

The concept was dreadful and there was no climax, which was highly disappointing. The children dominated the screen and went on mindless adventures throughout their community with no adult supervision. The children cause chaos on their own.

A Hispanic Home Alone portrayal

Danyelle Carter
Movie Review

trespassing, drinking beer, and stealing a car are a few of the misbehaving events that took place in the international motion picture, A Week Alone (Una Semana sola). Directed by Celina Murga, the film was featured in this year’s Miami International Film Festival (MIFF) in Spanish with English subtitles, and it revolved around six Argentine kids and one maid left alone at home.

Seriously, what would happen if six teens and one maid are left alone? In this Hispanic rendition, Maria (the main character) and the rest of the teenagers take charge of the household with no rules whatsoever. Maria asks the maid (the adult) to engage in activities away from her occupation, while the rest of the children cause chaos on their own.

Before viewing A Week Alone, the title gave away the impression that it was going to be about poor orphans who escaped from their home. Instead, it was the complete opposite. There were no disappearances or kidnapping scenarios that would have made sense to have been included with a name like A Week Alone.

The concept was dreadful and there was no climax, which was highly disappointing. The children dominated the screen and went on mindless adventures throughout their community with no adult supervision, which is not what they needed. A Week Alone even contained a random lost scene which was not even relevant to the plot.

The movie would have been more enjoyable if they would have changed the acting. The running time was also misleading, being listed at 110 minutes but ran approximately 40 minutes over.

Overall, A Week Alone was not what it appeared to be. Compared to the other two movies I viewed at the MIFF (Involuntary and Lion’s Den), the film was not to my liking. Hopefully, the festival will stay away from these types of productions in the future.

A Week Alone:

Goldie’s Conch House:

Johnt Rodriguez
Food Critic

What does a mortician or truck driver know about running a successful restaurant? Apparently a lot, since both of these professions were held by Kirkwood “Goldie” Evans, the man behind Goldie’s Conch House.

Looking for an alternative means to earn a living, Goldie began his restaurant business in 1983 at Nassau, Bahamas, where he opened and still maintains the original Goldie’s Conch House. With one successful restaurant already under his belt, Goldie decided to open another one in Miami. However, this new one has a distinctive goal: to bring a home away from home, as Goldie’s Conch House.

Rooting from Goldie’s and Isy’s childhood favorites, all of the recipes from this family operated restaurant taste like your mom’s home cooking. Nevertheless, you can find the same love from home in any dish you order.

Throughout their menu, there is so much to choose from. For example, the fried snapper is fresh, and comes with a thick, warm slice of Johnny cake, which is type of sweet bread baked fresh daily. Another delicious entrée to sample is the fried grouper dinner, which comes with peas and rice, macaroni and cheese, and plantains. If all of this seems a little heavy for you, or you dislike fried food, all of these can be prepared grilled at your request for no extra charge.

The house specialty, which is responsible for most of the venue’s sales, is also one of the best items on the menu. The conch fritters are cooked golden brown, and they come with a special squeezed homemade fruit punch.

So, for students who would like an alternative to the foods on campus, Goldie’s Conch House is located right across the street from the North Campus. MDC students receive a five percent discount with a school picture ID, and for your convenience, they take orders over the phone to-go or to dine-in. So, if you catch yourself wondering where to eat lunch while at school, give this restaurant a call and then head over to enjoy a delightful meal.

Goldie’s Conch House

11275 NW 27th Ave.
Phone: (305) 953-8406
www.goldiesconchhouse.com
Religious questions and causes controversy

Bill Maher’s 2008 documentary, Religulous, has reached a dim stream of spectators and has not conquered a solid base audience. However, it could qualify as the single most controversial film released yet.

Directed by Larry Charles, the movie focuses on Maher’s interviews with various religious groups, from Catholics to Mormons to Jews, in his quest to understand how so many people cling to ideas that are minimally ancien. On cable television, it is announced as a film that dares to question religion. In the hearts and minds of many Americans, it is a rebellious motion picture that defies moral values through unhealthy skepticism.

Maher is straightforward about his original position. When the film begins, he states that while orthodox followers or simple believers argue with certainty, his perspective comes from uncertainty, regarding to the meaning of the world and our role in it. It is interesting, at least, to see how some of those interviewed react when confronted with questions about their faith and understanding of the universe. Many are angered, some are reluctant but cooperative, and a minority accepts the discussion open-handedly.

This “fear of doubt” depicted in the documentary can be exemplified as well in several moral values that societies throughout the world accept as truth, regardless of logic. In the United States, a few of those stone-rigid values are constantly in check, such as women’s rights and same-sex marriages. Although many conservatives think otherwise, this questioning is only allowed through the separation of Church and State.

In another documentary entitled Flock of Dodos – The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus (Randy Olson, 2006), the film speaks of the explicit differences between Intelligent Design and Charles Darwin’s “Evolution of the Species” theory. Furthermore, this other rendition highlights a cultural war waged between conservatives who want Intelligent Design taught in the public school system and scientists who refuse to allow a non-scientific subject to be taught as one.

Two years before Maher’s attempt, the scientific filmmaker gathered his friends around a poker table to discuss the popularity of a school of thought that has no scientific knowledge whatsoever and how Darwin’s theory is clearly discarded in certain school systems. In Argentina, for instance, there are still educational institutes that forbid Darwin’s literature to circle freely.

Such are the double standards when it comes to the “fear of doubt.” Maher was confronted by a church member who said that if he was questioning his God, they would have a problem. On the other hand, when convenient, to question a solid scientific theory is not only acceptable, but encouraged. To question the rights of gay couples is a must. To question the rights of women to choose is absolutely accepted, but not only acceptable, but encouraged. To question a solid scientific theory is not necessarily an unconditional good. If we doubt the truth and are certain of a lie, we are no closer to salvation than if we did not think at all.

What Do You Think...

NO SPRING BREAK FOR MIAMI DADE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Laurie Charles
International Relations, 18

“With all the responsibilities that we are given and that we have, I feel one day of spring break is not enough to unwind.”

Bridgette Crespo
International Relations, 18

“It is unfair because of all the expectations the school and requirements we, students, need to meet.”

Claudia Lorenzo
Psychology, 19

“It is horrible. I do not agree with it. We should have more days off because that one day does not give us time to enjoy and relax from school.”

Marva Louis
Nursing, 19

“We should have more time off. Other schools have one or two weeks off, so it is awkward for us.”

Johnny Abreu
Game design/computer animation, 18

“We can use more time off to relax and to ease our minds.”
DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE. Hip-Hop. Top 40. Alternative. It doesn’t matter what you listen to, tobacco companies just want you to think smoking sounds like a good idea. But smoking and using other forms of tobacco can lead to serious illnesses like emphysema and lung cancer that can tune you out – permanently.
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Amit Shah ‘03
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Local artist plays the tune of musician and student

Shelby Contreras
Staff Writer

Travis Roig’s first love was not always music. But once he discovered his passion for it, he fell hard. Both a musician and North Campus student, Roig enrolled more than a decade ago after taking several years off after high school so that he could explore his passion for music.

Although Roig, 28, graduated from Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School, he spent most of his high school years studying theater at New World School of the Arts in Downtown Miami. After spending his high school years from 1999 through 2003, Roig was hired to compose the score of the highly controversial documentary, Raw Deal: A Question of Consent.

The documentary is about the alleged rape of University of Florida’s Delta Chi fraternity member John Simas, called Raw Deal: A Question of Consent. Suarez, 28, is the owner of the recording studio, Artificial Memory, where Roig has been working on his new music project. Roig’s good friend and producer, Tony Suarez, 28, is the owner of the recording studio, Artificial Memory, where Roig has been working on his new music project. What’s unique about the studio is that other musicians and friends who record their music at Artificial Memory collaborate together when they get inspired to create their own unique sound.

"He’s not afraid to explore his crazy little mind filled with crazy little things," said Alexander Calzadilla, one of Roig’s producers. Roig said he wants to play at Tobacoo Road to show off his new record. Roig and his producers have classified their new music under their own self-made music genre, “Junkyard.” They call the music “Junkyard” because of the seemingly messy combination of eclectic sounds and electrifying vocals. “It stinks,” said Suarez. “It’s funky like a junkyard.”

Making music has always come naturally for Roig, even though it wasn’t always always his passion. He has been playing the piano since he was two, and eventually decided to learn whatever famous song he desired. After years of playing the piano, Roig eventually moved on to learn guitar in his early twenties.

“[If] you want to learn to play an instrument, play everyday,” said Roig. Roig’s early interests in music helped him to discover one of his talents: his distinctive voice. His mother used to bathe Roig singing South Pacific songs and his sister introduced him to the music of different popular musicians.

“My sister turned me onto a lot of music, everything from the Beatles to New Kids on the Block,” Roig said. “It’s mimic Jordan Knight for my sister’s friends.”

According to Roig, his biggest supporters and fans are his parents and his friends who have believed in his every decision from the beginning. “They’ve provided the best possible freedom parents possibly could,” said Roig. “I don’t know if this is for better or for worse but they have never put me in a position to ask for anything.” Roig enrolled at the North Campus in the fall of 2007. His original major was social work, then business administration, and now Roig is a psychology major.

“He’s a free thinker, who is very articulate and open-minded,” Matthew Schuh, a philosophy professor.

“Travis is an honest and a real person, and he treats music like he treats people,” Calzadilla said.

Roig enjoys making his own music and is not phased by the idea of becoming a rich and famous musician. For Roig, the joy of making music is what he finds fulfilling. He wants the freedom to make his own music which he feels that a popular record label could never offer him.

“Just because you have the talent or ability to create something, doesn’t mean that you’re going to like what you’re creating,” said Roig. “A record label can’t afford me to record freedom.”

WELCOME TO ECO-FASHION101: This is an earth-conscious curriculum about style. Indulge in your inner eco-friendly fashionista to be a part of the “go-green” movement. The term “eco-fashion” refers to clothing that uses environment-friendly fabrics and responsible production techniques.

It is the production of smart, high-end fashion that is sensitively produced. It sees green design and clothing as a means of effective social and environmental change. The Eco-Fashion trend is about being styled, responsible and friendly to Mother Nature.

Eco fashion can be affordable to students like us as much as it can help the environment. We’re on a budget and can’t spend endless amounts on designer clothing. But by incorporating their designs with similar looking styles and purchasing clothing that is mostly made up of earth friendly products, we can accomplish this trend without breaking the bank.

More girls are embracing thrift stores and “bargain hunting.” You’ll be surprised how many great accessories, dresses and other basics you can find in great condition at your local Goodwill and Salvation Army stores. Granted, many people have stigmas about shopping in places like these, but with the right mind set and time to really look, you’ll grab some great finds for barely anything. Keep in mind that you should be looking for clothing made up of mostly cotton and other organic materials. As a result, you will look chic and feel fabulous about your contribution to Mother Nature. When you go shopping to wear recyclables, simply go into your closet and find things you barely ever wear and turn your trash into something different and trendy. Get creative and transform your old jeans into the latest trend, whether it’s distressed or stained denim. Find different ways of putting your outfits together; take pieces of one shirt or dress that would go great on another shirt.

You will enhance your wardrobe and style by putting a new spin on your clothes. Take some inspiration from high-end fashion from Heatherette designer Richie Rich, who created a stunning pink-and-yellow skirt made of corn fiber.

“The definitely something we’re going to continue to enjoy with,” Rich told reporters. “People often perceive the fashion world as superficial, so it’s great to work with materials that are actually good for the environment. I had my doubts, but when we actually saw the fabric swatches, we were blown away. They were gorgeous, and it wasn’t hard to design with them.”

Fashion has the potential to be created from various items like cotton, swabs, newspapers, caution tape, misprinted labels and many more. These earth-friendly materials give people the opportunity to expand their imaginations and really prove that great fashion is not only about what materials you use to create a stunning gown or chic top, but also what you can create with obscure and uncommon materials.

So the next time you go shopping, pay closer attention to the materials you are wearing, and the harm you may be causing by purchasing them. Even though you’re not expected to only wear organic clothing, that’s almost impossible for any college student that has a budget, but do try to buy less of these products and remember the new three R’s in fashion: repair, reuse and recycle.