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Florida International University

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Get your ink on at the Miami Tattoo Expo

PAGE 5



Obama delivering on his promises of change

PAGE 4



Swim team finishes second behind senior

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

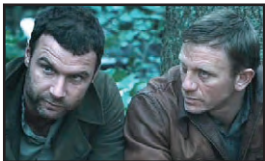


Bathroom renovations underway in the Academic I building, promising new and improved features.

OPINION PAGE 4

College students are particularly at risk to sexual assault and rape. Sadly, many attacks go unreported.

LIFE! PAGE 5



COLUMN: Film devotee Steve Mesa gives you a taste of what's hitting screens this month.

SPORTS PAGE 8



COLUMN: Patience and ball control would go a long way with the Golden Panthers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fiesta Fridays at Moe's, Today, 11 a.m.: Go a bit south of the border at BBC's Moe's Southwestern Grill and get a burrito, chips and soda for only \$5. Chihuahua not included.

Miami Tattoo Expo, Today - Jan. 11, 3 - 11 p.m.: If making your mother's initials permanent on your body is your way of "self exploration," then this expo at the Miami Beach Convention Center is just for you.

SPC Movie: Wall-E, Today, 7 and 10 p.m.: Moviegoers have two chances to watch Disney's *Wall-E* in GC 140. Catch the hard-working, lovable robot one more time on a big screen.

Gallery Walk Night, Jan. 10, 8:30 p.m.: The Wynwood and Design districts open its exhibits to the public past opening hours once a month. Most are free, but some are reduced in price.

Writing for Publications Seminar, Jan. 11, 6 p.m.: Learn how to properly report for various news outlets at this seminar offered by the Labor Center. If interested in attending, place RSVP to the Center.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

	FRIDAY Partly cloudy LOW: 59 HIGH: 76
	SATURDAY Mostly sunny LOW: 59 HIGH: 78
	SUNDAY Partly cloudy LOW: 62 HIGH: 78

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FIT TO PRINT



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

REPORT IN: Dagny Salas (left), Joe Pangburn (middle) and Ileana Llorens (right) are among 20 Hispanic journalism students from across the country participating in the New York Times Hispanic Journalism Institute, hosted at BBC by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication from Jan. 2 -12. **For the full story, visit FIUSM.com.**

SPICING IT UP

Chili's chosen to replace Gracie's Grill



CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

The vacant dining area left behind by Gracie's Grill in the Graham Center will soon be refurbished and reopened as a Chili's Too.

According to Mike Oestreich, marketing manager of Dining Services Department, the Dallas, Texas based Chili's restaurant chain was the best choice to replace the failed Gracie's Grill. "We did a large market research project last year and [Chili's] was one of the recommendations we made," Oestreich said.

Bill Debus, the director of retail operations for dining services, said the Chili's franchise is the strongest candidate for a successful on-campus restaurant, as it has already enjoyed success on other campuses such as University of Florida, Baylor University and University of Houston.

Oestreich said the new

"[Gracie's] was a very slow operation ... It was old and had run its course. Students today want more of a name brand that they know."

Bill Debus

Dining Services Department, director of retail operations

Chili's Too would be like Chili's Express, featuring a limited food and drink menu at prices determined by the corporation.

To provide that, Chili's Too will feature a wait service area as well as a counter service area. "Chili's Too will be serving beer, wine and margaritas with a limited selection of spirits.

Students will be looking forward to the prospect of on-campus two-for-one drink specials, but according to Debus, "As far as specials go, nothing's been decided."

When asked why replace Gracie's Grill with a Chili's Too, Debus said his research found

that students wanted more of a dining experience.

To provide that, Chili's Too will feature a wait service area as well as a counter service area.

"[Gracie's] was a very slow operation," Debus said. "It really wasn't performing, it was more of a place to just sit."

Debus said he tried changing Gracie's menu twice in the past, adding things like salads and specialty burgers to attract more students, but nothing ever caught on.

CHILI'S, page 2

U.S. CENTURY BANK ARENA

University community gathers for unveiling

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

The newly renamed U.S. Century Bank Arena, formerly known as FIU Arena, was inaugurated and unveiled on Jan. 9.

A crowd of over 75 people stood in front of the arena during the short ceremony as the newly painted sign was unveiled to the public.

"This is a great day for us, not only for the donation involved, but because it is the beginning of a friendship and the beginning of a partnership that will be very long lasting," said University President Modesto A. Maidique. "I think that you will be hearing many great things in the years ahead that will be done together by U.S. Century Bank and FIU."

U.S. Century Bank, based in South Florida, has agreed to donate at least \$1 million to the athletics department in an agreement that will last for five years.

"In these difficult economic times, U.S. Century Bank stepped up to the plate for our University," said Athletics Director Pete Garcia.

The arena is home to the University's basketball and volleyball teams.

"We are going to use the money to improve and enhance the arena and we're also going to develop a relationship with them," said Maidique. "They'll be coming to our games; their people will feel connected to the University."

Octavio Hernandez, U.S. Century Bank president, said he was "extremely proud to be here today. I'm an alumni and a member of the first registered class."

"Aside from that, we are a community bank and we are really glad to be in a partnership with the best public university in Florida. It is the perfect fit for us," he said. "We're proud of what the University has accomplished as we are proud of what we've accomplished."

Over 30 of the bank's employees are graduates of FIU, with almost the same amount of employees currently attending, according to Hernandez.

U.S. Century Bank, founded in 2002, is one of the 10 largest community banks based in Miami, with assets of \$1.7 billion.

The arena was previously known as the Pharmed Arena after a \$1 million donation by the Pharmed Group in 2004.

After the Pharmed Group filed for bank-

ARENA, page 2

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Jeb Bush decides not to seek elected office

Former Gov. Jeb Bush announced Jan. 6 he won't run for the U.S. Senate in 2010 to replace the retiring Mel Martinez, saying that it was not the right time to return to elected office.

Bush gave a run serious consideration after Martinez said last month he wouldn't seek a second term. Bush spoke with senators, supporters and family, including his brother, President George W. Bush. He said his decision wasn't based on politics, but on his "personal journey."

LOCAL

Business bankruptcies rise 84 percent in 2008

Business bankruptcies rose 84 percent in South Florida during 2008, setting a rate that has not been seen since 1990, according to statistics from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. The court received 1,429 business bankruptcy filings last year, compared to 778 in 2007.

Most of the 129 business bankruptcy filings in December were Chapter 7 liquidations. Only 14 were Chapter 11 reorganizations. Total bankruptcies, including consumer cases, rose 72 percent for the year. The court received 18,793 consumer filings in 2008, according to preliminary statistics.

WORLD

Journalists freed after months in captivity

Two journalists – one British and one Spanish – who were kidnapped in Somalia in November have been released, according to a Somali press group.

British journalist Colin Freeman and Spanish photojournalist Jose Cendon, both working for London's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, had been in the Somali port city of Bosasso to report on pirate activity when they were abducted Nov. 26, according to the National Union of Somali Journalists.

– Compiled by Paulo O'Swath

Former BOT Chair remembered

MICHELLE MULLER
Contributing Writer

Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., passed away on Dec. 25 after succumbing to a severe case of pneumonia. He was 87.

Chapman focused his attention on the University using his influence and power to assist in its foundation in 1969.

In the 1980s, Chapman was appointed Chair of the University Board of Trustees.

FIU's recognition of Chapman's success as a publisher, businessman and his positive influence as a Floridian leader led to the naming of the Graduate School of Business after him.



CHAPMAN

A dedicated Dade civic leader and former president and publisher of *The Miami Herald*, as well as the CEO of the now defunct Knight-Ridder Corporation, Chapman was once considered to be "the most powerful man in Miami," according to Reuters.

Born in Georgia in 1921, to a family with deep roots in the newspaper business spanning two generations, Chapman began his career as a paperboy in West Central Florida after his father was named publisher of *The Bradenton Evening Herald*.

Chapman spent time at Citadel Military College where he learned martial discipline. He also spent

time as a bomber pilot and squadron commander in World War II.

After serving in the war, Chapman dedicated his time

the Miami Performing Arts Center.

Chapman is survived by his wife and two daughters, along with a legacy that

Chapman focused his attention on the University using his influence and power to assist in its foundation in 1969.

to philanthropic causes and the flourishing of the newspapers he associated with and cities he lived in.

He moved to Miami in 1960 where he led the Orange Bowl Committee, Miami Citizens Against Crime, the city's Coalition for a Drug-Free Partnership and the committee to build

demonstrated his veracity and love for not only the newspaper industry, but to the Miami and University community as well.

The Chapman family asks that any donation made go to the Community Partnership for the Homeless in his honor.

Future Chili's brings mixed feelings

CHILI'S, page 1

"It was old and had run its course. Students today want more of a name brand that they know," Debus said.

According to Debus, it's about name recognition. There can be a deli that serves sub sandwiches, but it is not going to do as well as Subway because students know what to expect from Subway.

"It's not hit-or-miss," Debus said.

As stated by Student Government Council at University Park President A.J. Meyer in a meeting held in September 2008, the Chili's Too was slated to open by the summer of

2009.

That target date remains tentative.

Younger students are receptive to the prospect of a Chili's Too on campus.

"I think it would be pretty awesome," said freshman Morgan Garcia, an elementary education major. "It's not the healthiest, but I guess it's good food."

Freshman Mary Benson, a journalism major, agrees.

"I think it'll be a nice alternative to Fresh Food [Company]," Benson said.

However, older students are not quite as enthused.

"I think it's bull," said Laura Aguire, a senior majoring in English. "Gracie's was awesome and



MIKE COSTAT/THE BEACON

CHILLIN': Run down Gracie's Grill will be replaced by Chili's in the summer of 2009.

I miss it."

Alejandro Caos, a senior liberal studies major, shares a similar sentiment.

"Way to sell out," Caos said. "It doesn't surprise me though, they already have

a Burger King and a Pollo Tropical ... They better have two-for-ones!"

The price that the University paid for the franchise was not available as of press time.

Arena renamed; new sign revealed

ARENA, page 1

rupty in 2007, the search for a new donor began.

"We at U.S. Century Bank believe that the best way of investing in terms of the community is to invest in our educational institutions, especially FIU, the only public university in our area," said Ramon E. Rasco, chairman of U.S. Century Bank's board of directors.

Members of University Park's Student Government Council, including President A.J. Meyer and Vice President Paige LaPointe, as well as members of the Board of Trustees were present at the inauguration.

"This is easily a milestone for the University and for our students as well as athletics," said Meyer. "This is simply a great day for us."

Similar thoughts about the bank's partnership



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

BANKIN': University administrators and the directors of the U.S. Century Bank watch as the new sign for the arena is unveiled on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

with the University were expressed by most people in attendance at the unveiling.

"As FIU is committed to excellence, so too is our bank, and that is why we

want to be associated with the school as it grows," Rasco said.

THE BEACON

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AC I restrooms renovated; more changes to come

ERIKA PEREZ
Asst. News Director

Students, faculty and staff in the Academic I building are having to search for alternative restrooms while renovations are underway.

Since early December, the restrooms on the first and second floors of the AC I building have been undergoing renovations, which are being overseen by Honoriu Filimon, coordinator of construction projects and the senior project manager. The bathrooms are estimated to be completed in approximately 10 months, according to Filimon.

“[AC I] is a 24-year-old building. We needed to have the renovations. It’s not only a cosmetic improvement, it’s also functional,” Filimon said.

The renovations, which are being performed by Bi-Tech Construction, Inc., were also necessary to comply with standing codes and regulations.

According to Rafael Aguazo, president of Bi-Tech Construction and the contractor hired for the renovation project, the new restrooms in AC I will be fully improved. Changes include new flooring, electrical wiring, light fixtures, plumbing, an alarm system, porcelain tiles, new doors and a paint job.

The renovations are being funded by the Department of Facilities Development, according to Filimon, but Sylvia Berenguer, director of construction of minor projects, was not available to respond to questions about renovation costs, despite several attempts.

Though some questioned whether the restroom renovations were necessary with the current budget crisis, many welcomed the improvements.

“I think it’s good because it shows that FIU is willing to put money into the north campus, and it helps to debunk any rumors of trying to centralize the school to the south campus,” said James Lechter, a psychology alumnus. “I mean, these are bathrooms that were probably originally developed

in the late 70s with maybe a lot of 80s architecture, so you could get them to look pretty modernized and they do say, ‘the kitchen and the bathroom sell the house.’”

According to Lechter, the changes to the restrooms are proving to be inconvenient for some, though the end result will be worth it.

“They were shut down predominantly during winter break, which makes it a small inconvenience to any faculty or students,” Lechter said. “I don’t know how long they will continue to be shut down or how many bathrooms are currently available at the campus, but I do think that in the end, people will feel better about attending this school if more parts of it are beautiful.”

Ive Barreiros, mathematics and statistics coordinator at the Learning Center, which is located on the first floor of AC I, said the effort put into the renovations will be worthwhile if students put in the effort as well.

“As long as they put a sign for the people to take care of them – because it is not the University personnel, it is the users that are abusing the bathrooms. I heard the cleaning ladies complaining that they clean the bathrooms and immediately after one hour they are just awful,” Barreiros said.

Once the renovations are completed, additional improvements to the campus are anticipated by several faculty members.

“There is an elevator, particularly the one in AC I, that has been broken 95 percent of the time. There has been a sign on it for months – at least two months, maybe more – saying it is out of order and it really should be fixed, maybe replaced,” said Jayne Klein, program director at the BBC Honors College.

Barreiros also believes that the classrooms are in need of a face lift.

“I started working here in 1986 and I think that some chairs are still the same,” Barreiros said.

Additional reporting by Andrea Cruz.

FOOD FOR THE FRUGAL



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

YOU’VE BEEN SERVED: The free “Blue & Gold Breakfast,” sponsored by the Office of Campus Life & Orientation, offered hungry students eggs, bacon, pancakes and a choice of orange juice or coffee in Panther Square on Jan. 6.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Give out-of-towners experiences to write home about at these locales

There is nothing I love more than when my family comes to visit. I adore having a house packed with people living together for a while. In my house, that means 10 people fighting over three bathrooms and never having a moment of quiet.

Miami has so much to offer that I look at relatives coming down as a chance to play tour guide.

When my cousin, Hastie, came from Canada over the break I was determined to show her all the sides of this city.

Miami is so diverse that it’s hard to pinpoint just a few key things that make it unique, but almost everyone down here cares about at least one of these three things: the beach, sports and culture.

We started by doing the tourist thing and heading to the beach – come on, all tourists should go there at least once.

After we tanned, Hastie and I walked over to Neptune Seafood Restaurant (171 Sunny Isles Blvd., Sunny Isles Beach). It offers light salads and soups that are perfect for eating right after lying out on the beach.

What makes this place such an awesome after-the-beach hangout location is the underwater theme. There are fishing nets, seashells and other under-

water materials that make eating there like a trip to the ocean.

This seafood restaurant’s food is fairly priced, with meals starting at about \$10. I had the Greek salad.

Of course, there is more to living in South Florida than just going to the ocean; there is the cultural aspect as well.

One place to take advantage of the area’s diverse culture is Lemon Fizz Café & Restaurant (16310 West Dixie Hwy., North Miami Beach).

Hey, if you live in a melting pot, you may as well taste all of its flavors!

Since I’m Middle Eastern, I love that it has all of my favorite foods from the region, including spinach sandwiches, which are spinach and onions wrapped in dough.

While the food is good here, I would much rather go to take part in one of my favorite past times – smoking hookah.

This Middle Eastern smoking method consists of putting flavored tobacco in a pipe, with water on the bottom and coals on top, and smoking it out of a tube. Think of it as an exaggerated cigarette. First-time smokers should try fruity flavors, like apple or grape.

Like any good South Florida resident, I am a huge sports fan. So naturally, I want to share my love for sports with my

relatives when they visit.

I always find myself driving by Miami Prime Grill (16395 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach) and I used Hastie visiting as an excuse to stop there.

This sports bar/restaurant is the best place to show off Miami’s strong sporting tradition.

The location offers a happy hour that starts at noon, more than 17 flat-screen TVs, good prices and excellent service; I wouldn’t bring my family anywhere else.

My favorite are the pictures of great athletes such as Larry Bird and Dwyane Wade lining the walls, along with a great painting of the Miami Heat that hangs upside down over the bar.

Miami Prime is open until 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday and features Ladies Night on Thursday evenings.

Needless to say, going to all of these locations left my cousin enjoying her trip to Miami even more.

So next time your friends or family call you from out of town, relax and get ready to show off your city. I mean, it’s Miami – there is always something to do!

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.

COLUMN



PARADISE AFSHAR

SCARY STATISTICS

Ignorance, fear cause many rapes to go unreported

SHEMANA DIXON
Contributing Writer

The only thing as frightening as falling victim to rape is the thought that most instances of this heinous crime will never be reported. Since many college students are unclear or even ignorant about the definitions of sexual assault and rape – as well as the resources available to counter these attacks – they may be unable to get the help they urgently need.

Additionally, when attacked, many who experience sexual assault or rape are convinced it is either their own fault or it will appear that way.

According to a 2005 report by the Department of Justice, one out of five young women will experience rape over a five-year college career and less than 5 percent of encounters are reported to campus authorities or law enforcement.

The American Association of University Women in a 2006 article reported that nearly two-thirds of college students experience some type of sexual harassment, yet less than 10 percent of students tell a college or university employee about their experiences, while more than one-third of college students don't tell anyone about their experiences.

The AAUW article further stated that more than one-third

of college students encounter sexual harassment in their first year and harassment is most common at large universities, four-year institutions and private colleges.

Despite these dismal statistics for the actual occurrence of rape and other assaults in

one, other than to say it is unwanted sexual behavior.

Junior Afiya Matthews, who is studying psychology and women's studies, defined sexual assault as "anything someone does to a person physically to make them feel sexually uncomfortable or anything

rape), which it defines as "oral, anal or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another with other objects" without the "... intelligent, knowing consent of an individual."

Sexual assault has serious consequences for both the perpetrator and the assaulted; it can cause emotional damage and affect academic performance. It can also be costly to universities and damage their reputations.

Those who are exposed to sexual assault should take responsibility for their actions, but should not blame themselves for unwelcome sexual advances and should report any such assault to campus authorities so that the scope of the problem can be fully recognized; keeping quiet about it puts others at danger as well as makes prior victims susceptible to further assault.

FIU is also one of four in 10 schools that offers rape aggression defense training, according to DOJ. Training is available through the University's Department of Public Safety. The center also offers training to interested students on sexual assault, stalking and relationship abuse. The students are then available for giving presentations within classes, when requested by professors.

"The top reason [for not speaking up] given by students was a feeling that what happened was not ... a "big deal."

college, Public Safety has no reports of sexual assault (forcible or non-forcible) in 2005. In 2006, three rapes were documented, while in 2007 there were two forcible sex offenses and two non-forcible. These statistics cover both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campuses.

So why aren't students reporting instances of assault?

The Department of Justice Web site indicated that state and school definitions of what constitutes sexual assault widely vary. The AAUW also points out that when it comes to a common standard for defining sexual harassment, college students do not have

that person is being forced to do against their will."

Despite the views expressed by these students, the AAUW forces us to acknowledge that students offer many reasons for not reporting sexual assault, from fear of embarrassment, guilt about their own behavior, skepticism about being helped, to not knowing who to contact at school. The top reason given by students was a feeling that what happened was not serious or not a "big deal."

FIU has a no-tolerance policy on what the student handbook refers to as sexual battery (including date rape, acquaintance rape, gang rape, marital rape and stranger

FIU Victim Advocacy
Center

University Park
University Health Services
Complex (UHSC 210)

Biscayne Bay Campus
By appointment

For appointments at either
campus call:
(305) 348-1215
or
24-hour crisis line: (305) 348-3000



Barack Obama living up to his title of 'changer'

ANDREW SOLOMON
Contributing Writer

It has been almost two months since Americans voted for change and elected Barack Obama as the United States' first black president. Running as the successor to a highly unpopular incumbent in George W. Bush, Obama sold the message of "change" to voters.

Now, as President-elect, in a time when change is needed more than ever, has he lived up to his campaign slogan?

Obama has received some criticism from both political sides because he is seemingly recycling old Clinton picks – including Hillary Clinton herself – thus questioning his ability to bring about real change.

In a time where our country is involved in two wars and the worst economic crisis of our generation and following eight years of failed policies by the Bush administration, Obama is 100 percent on point when he said that it was necessary to combine experience with fresh thinking.

We saw the first glimpse of his executive decision-making skills during his historic campaign when he selected Joe Biden to be his vice presidential running mate. Obama's choice reflects extremely sound judgment, for Biden

has accumulated a tremendous amount of experience as a U.S. senator for the state of Delaware. Once Obama won the election in a mandate for change from the people of this country, he wasted no time in getting to work and shaping his administration. The day after his victory, Obama announced his transition team and set up his interactive transition Web site: change.gov.

The site features YouTube broadcasts of Obama's press conferences and weekly addresses to the nation.

Obama plans to continue to use this technology in its most effective way: communicating directly with the American people. The Web site hosts pages for job listings and people can also submit their own life stories and suggestions and visions for a better America.

No other U.S. president in modern history has used technology to reach out to the people to this extent. Obama plans to continue to use YouTube to update Americans on events in

Washington, D.C. when he is in the White House. Now, young Americans can feel like they have a president who can identify with their generation. Being technology-savvy is definitely a key element to bring about change in today's world.

Mirroring Abraham Lincoln's strategy of placing political rivals in his cabinet, Obama appointed Hillary Clinton to be the next Secretary of State.

Another former opponent, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, was also chosen for Obama's team as Commerce Secretary, before he withdrew himself from consideration due to an ongoing investigation about his donors – which would have potentially held up the hearings that would have finalized his nomination.

Obama's economic team was formed quickly after the election, showing the nation that he was focused on bringing immediate relief to this recession. People such as Tim Geithner, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, to lead the Treasury Department and former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers,

who served under President Clinton, to head the National Economic Council, are exactly the kind of experienced, capable servants Obama needs to bring our economy back to where it was before Bush.

With all this in mind, let us not forget what tends to slip further and further from our minds each year since it happened: 9/11. One of the promises that President-elect Obama made during his campaign was a responsible end to the misguided and poorly executed war in Iraq and refocusing our efforts on the real enemies: Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

In his good judgment, Obama chose to let Republican Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stay onboard. He also picked Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to head the Department of Homeland Security and former Clinton Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder to now take the step-up to become Attorney General, the chief law enforcement officer and lawyer in the U.S. government.

Obama's critics can say what they like, but so far America has spoken. But for any criticism he may face, he is still receiving overwhelming praise and support from both sides of the political spectrum.

To this American, Obama is delivering change we can believe in.



BOY OF WORK

Convention Center gets inked for the weekend

MIAMI TATTOO EXPO



MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

One of the biggest tattoo conventions is coming to town and it's bringing more than 300 famous artists from around the world.

The Miami Tattoo Expo will showcase artists from France, Italy and Tokyo. But professionals from our own backyard will also be present.

Tattoo artists will be displaying their work, hosting seminars and performing live tattooing and piercing.

Artists from Tattoos by Lou, Hell Bound City Tattoo and Pirate's Cove Tattoos and Piercing will be showing off their skills at the convention which will be held Jan. 9-11 at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Esteban Galpar, one of the artists

from Hell Bound City Tattoo will be tattooing on location with others and is hoping to gain exposure.

The event will also showcase contests in several categories that range from Tattoo of the Day, Small Color, Japanese, Realism, Arm and Leg Sleeve to Overall Best Tattoo.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place winners in each category. Anyone can register for these contests for a \$10 fee and must have a tattoo piece for each category beforehand. The only exception is the Tattoo of the Day contest which is completed on site the day of the exposition.

"I think this will be a very amazing event to see artists from all around the world and to be able to see their masterpieces and how their culture has influenced them," said freshman Neyda Carasa, whose parents won't allow her to get a tattoo.

Along with tattoo shows, there will be a car show called Street Desirez Finest, where muscle cars, sports bikes, low riders and classics will be displayed.

To contribute to this manifestation of art expression, bands such as Thick as Blood, Jay Vega, Piccalo, Madball, Jim Jones, DJ LAZ and others will be performing.

There will also be satirical and saucy burlesque shows, which are a combination of comedy acts and strip tease and the Dysfunctional Art Show.

Julie Fobert, marketing and event coordinator for the expo, said there will also be unique vendors selling bike gear, corsets and even teeth whitening products.

This will be the first big tattoo convention to be held in Miami but not the first in Florida, according to Fobert.

In 2007, it was held in Fort Lauderdale and in West Palm Beach in 2004, where it all started.

What makes this expo different from past events is its increased magnitude.

"Our size - more than 300 artists in over 200 booths and over 140,000 sq. feet of space - makes us one of the largest tattoo expos in the world. Very few are held at convention centers, and even fewer fill convention centers," Fobert said.

The expo, which will feature members from the cast of "Miami Ink" and others from well-known tattoo industries, is open to all ages from 3 - 11 p.m., Jan. 9, noon - 11 p.m., Jan. 10 and noon - 6 p.m., Jan. 11.

Single day admissions are \$20 or \$50 for all three days.

A month of movies satisfies every taste

And so it begins: A new year gives Hollywood another chance to get people into theaters with another batch of movies, ranging from the horrific to the heroic. Here are just a few of this month's offerings.

JAN. 16

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3-D

Nothing screams excitement like a horror remake in all of its 3-D gory galore. Jensen Ackles (TV's "Supernatural") plays Tom, who returns to his hometown 10 years after a killing spree claimed 22 lives.

The messed up part is that the killer was a man Tom put in a coma when he caused an accident as an inexperienced coal miner. As soon as Tom returns, the body count begins to rise as the serial killer returns in search of vengeance.

NOTORIOUS

Rapper Christopher Wallace, aka "The Notorious B.I.G.," has been featured in a lot of hip-hop related documentaries and movies. This

time, his life is told on the big screen in *Notorious*.

The movie chronicles Wallace (played by newcomer Jahlil Woolard) drug dealing on the Brooklyn streets, trying to make it big only to become one of the most influential hip-hop artists of all time.

Notorious is produced by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Voletta Wallace, Biggie's mother.

The movie features an interesting cast that includes Angela Bassett as Voletta Wallace, Derek Luke as Sean Combs and Anthony Mackie as Tupac Shakur.

DEFIANCE

Daniel Craig (*Quantum of Solace*), Liev Schreiber (*The Manchurian Candidate*) and Jamie Bell (*King Kong*) play three Jewish brothers who escape Nazi-occupied Poland into the forests they have been familiar with since childhood.

As soon as they escape, the brothers attract others who have also

JUMP, page 6

Frat Ploys

BY JOEL MALISKAS



diversions

STOP THE PRESSES!

art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez



Catch "Frat Ploys" and "Stop the Presses!" every Friday! Got an idea for a comic? Send a story synopsis and three sample installments to life@fiusm.com and you could see your work here!

Variety invigorates January moviegoers

JUMP, page 5

escaped from the Nazis. Together, the brothers form a community where they must stand against the oppression of the fascist regime.

JAN. 23 KILLSHOT

A woman (Oscar-nominee Diane Lane) and her ironworker husband (Thomas Jane) are placed in Federal Witness Protection after witnessing an extortion scheme gone wrong.

Just when they think they are safe, they become targeted by an experienced hit man (Mickey Rourke) and his young psychotic associate (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). Eventually, it becomes a battle of skills and wits that can only be solved by one objective: murder.

Killshot is director John Madden's first film in four years and author Elmore Leonard's sixth novel-to-screen adaptation.

It took the film three years to be completed due to several re-shoots and has delayed release for the last two years.

JAN. 30 TAKEN

Director Pierre Morel took moviegoers into the future and introduced the film world to the sport of free running in *District B13*, written by French director Luc Besson. Morel adapts another Besson script in which a retired government operative (Liam Neeson) must rely on his extensive training to rescue his daughter (Maggie Grace) from a slave trade operation.

BOOKIN' IT



MIKE COSTA/THE BEACON

GEARING UP: Leonel Melinsky, a junior and information technology major (right) purchases his books from junior and special education major Glorie Garcia in the Graham Center Bookstore on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

iTunes kills digital rights, lowers rates

JESSICA MINTZ
AP Wire

Apple, Inc., is cutting the price of some songs in its market-leading iTunes online store to as little as 69 cents and plans to make every track available without copy protection.

In Apple's final appearance at the Macworld trade show, Apple's top Marketing Executive Philip Schiller, said Tuesday that iTunes song prices will come in three tiers: 69 cents, 99 cents and \$1.29. Record companies will choose the song's prices.

Apple gave the record labels that flexibility as it got them to agree to sell all songs free of "digital rights management." Without DRM, downloaders will be able to copy songs or move them to and from multiple computers. Apple had been offering a limited selection of songs without DRM, but by the end of this quarter, the company said, all 10 million songs in its library will be available that way.

Schiller also announced that iPhone 3G users will be able to buy songs from the iTunes store using the cellular data network. Previously, iPhone users could shop for tunes when connected to a Wi-Fi hot spot.

Changes in iTunes marked the highlight of Schiller's run as a stand-in for CEO Steve Jobs, who used to make Macworld the site for some of Apple's biggest product unveilings, such as the iPhone. Apple said last month that Jobs would not address the throngs this time because the company plans to pull out of Macworld next year.

Apple's shares slipped \$1.56 (1.7 percent) to close at \$93.02.

Schiller got a warm welcome from the attendees — who packed the convention hall despite the cast over the industry by the economic downturn — especially at the start of his talk, when he thanked them for showing up despite Jobs' notable absence. He ran seamlessly through his 90-minute presentation, getting applause and "oohs" from the audience, varying little from the format of slides and demos established by Jobs. And like Jobs, he gushed about Apple's products being the best in the world.

"Phil did an exceptionally good job in repre-

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • JANUARY 9

WHAT: Jazz Memories featuring photos of Jazz greats
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: Barbara Gillman Gallery
CONTACT: (305) 759-9155

WHAT: Miami Tattoo Expo
WHEN: 3:00 - 11:00 p.m.
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center
CONTACT: (305) 673-7000

WHAT: Downtown Concert Series featuring Jacob Jeffries Band & Rachel Goodrich
WHEN: 5:30 - 8 p.m.
WHERE: Bayfront Park
CONTACT: (305) 672-5202

WHAT: SPC Movie: Wall-E
WHEN: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: (305) 348-3068

WHAT: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Studio Theatre
CONTACT: (305) 949-6722

WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improv Show
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
CONTACT: (305) 461-1161

SATURDAY • JANUARY 10

WHAT: So You Think You Can Dance?
WHEN: 10 a.m.
WHERE: Graham Center
CONTACT: (305) 348-1735

WHAT: Miami Tattoo Expo
WHEN: 12:00 - 11:00 p.m.
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center
CONTACT: (305) 673-7000

WHAT: University of Wynwood Lecture Series
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Brikolodge in the Wynwood Lofts
CONTACT: (305) 758-5862

WHAT: Hip Hop for Human rights: Artoficial, Mayday, Brimstone127
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: PS14
CONTACT: (305) 358-3600

WHAT: Martin Russo-The Man With a Thousand Voices
WHEN: Call
WHERE: Pasta Live
CONTACT: (305) 868-7777

WHAT: Gallery Walk Night
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wynwood & Design District

SUNDAY • JANUARY 11

WHAT: Great Taste of the Grove Festival
WHEN: 10 a.m.
WHERE: Peacock Park
CONTACT: (305) 444-7270

WHAT: Miami Tattoo Expo
WHEN: 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center
CONTACT: (305) 673-7000

WHAT: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
WHEN: 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: (786) 777-1239

WHAT: Avenue Q
WHEN: 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Broward Center Au-Rene Theatre
CONTACT: (954) 462-0222

WHAT: Cats
WHEN: 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House
CONTACT: (305) 949-6722

WHAT: RSVP: Writing for Publications Seminar
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Labor Center 110, UP campus
CONTACT: (305) 348-1905

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

senting Apple," said Tim Bajarin, president of technology analyst group Creative Strategies, Inc.

Lowering iTunes' prices was Apple's only nod to the recession — and an oblique one at that, as record labels have been asking for years to set varying song prices. Rather than an inexpensive new Mac to lure budget-conscious buyers, Schiller unveiled a new \$2,800 Macbook Pro laptop with a 17-inch screen and the sleek aluminum casing the company debuted with the super-thin Macbook Air.

He also unwrapped new versions of two software packages for Macs, including the iLife multimedia programs. For instance, iPhoto '09 can recognize faces and sort photos based on who's in them. GarageBand '09 includes videotaped, interactive music lessons given by Sting and other musicians. Apple also added more

professional video editing features to iMovie '09.

Apple's response to Microsoft Corp.'s Office productivity suite, called iWork, also got a makeover, including zippy new ways to add animation between slides in the Keynote presentation software. Also, Apple unveiled a "beta" test version of a Web site for sharing documents, *iWork.com*. Unlike Google Inc.'s online documents program, however, Apple's version does not allow people to edit documents in a Web browser.

Apple said the thin new 17-inch aluminum-cased Macbook Pro, which joins an existing 15-inch model, will start shipping at the end of January. Perhaps the biggest twist is the laptop's battery, which is designed to last longer on each charge — up to seven or eight hours — and work after more charges than older batteries. But like

Apple's iPod and the super-slim Macbook Air, the battery will be sealed within and owners won't be able to remove and replace it themselves. Instead, they'll have to spend \$179 to have an Apple store expert swap in a new one.

Jobs' decision not to attend Macworld sparked a new round of fears that the CEO, a survivor of pancreatic cancer who has seemed gaunt in recent appearances, was in worsening health. To put the questions to rest, Jobs said Monday he is getting treatment for a hormone imbalance that caused him to lose weight, and urged Macworld attendees to relax and enjoy the show.

And after the Tuesday keynote, in which nothing purely new was disclosed, the company's decision to substitute veteran salesman Schiller for master showman Jobs seemed even less questionable.

NOTEBOOK: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers' point guard unfazed by new role

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

When sophomore point guard Michelle Gonzalez made the transfer from Cisco Junior College in Texas to the Division I level, she expected to play as a backup to Iva Ciglar, the No. 4 all-time assists leader for FIU.

However, Ciglar decided not to use her final year of eligibility, but rather chose to play professionally for Croatia, leaving no one to fill her Adidas but the 5-foot-6 Puerto Rico native.

"It has been a big adjustment from playing basketball in junior college. It's really competitive but not that big compared to Division I," said Gonzalez. "I think this has been a good start."

The Golden Panthers' record (3-11, 1-2 Sun Belt) doesn't reflect a good start, but it's the new point guard's numbers that are improving fast. Gonzalez reached double figures just once in her first six games, but over her last eight games she averaged 12.3 points and 4.9 assists.

The sophomore is currently tied for second in the conference with 4.5 assists per game. She also leads the SBC in minutes played at 37.6 per game.

"This is something new, but all of my life I have been liking new things," Gonzalez

Being a point guard, I already have a lot of pressure and now I have to lead 12 players ...

Michelle Gonzalez
Point Guard

said. "Such as when I came from Puerto Rico to the United States. It's a new language, but I like it. When they said, 'You're going to start and play 40 minutes,' I said, 'Alright, I can do it.'"

Looking across the stat sheet for Gonzalez, there is a downfall that stands out: 87 turnovers in 14 games, an average of 6.2 per game. However, she refuses to see that as an obstacle as the women's team finishes all their remaining games vs. conference squads.

"I think I have to work on my defense, I also get frustrated during the game – I need to stop that and just play," said Gonzalez. "In turnovers, I just talk to my teammates,

not just in practice, but outside. I tell them that I need them there and if they're going to pressure me I need [them] to take care of the ball."

On a team with three seniors and four juniors, there's a lot of experience to go around for the young players.

Aside from her coaches, Michelle Gonzalez expressed how much help the other women have been in her adjustment to the new league.

"Being a point guard, I already have a lot of pressure and now I have to lead 12 players and be positive all of the time. The coaches are helping me a lot, as well as my teammates. The juniors and seniors tell me what I have to change or do better," she said. "I don't see it as an obstacle in my life."

Team matches up against any Sun Belt Conference team

BONILLA, page 8

displays a constant flow of firepower.

Standing at 5-foot-10, she poses a matchup problem for the smaller guards in the conference.

She can use her height advantage to score close to the basket or light up slower, bigger guards from the outside.

Bosilj managed to score 32 points against then No. 15 Auburn; she can score on any conference foe.

On the other side of the ball, the defense has tightened as well. After allowing 93 points to Boston College on Dec. 14, the Golden Panthers have not allowed any more than 70 points to any other team.

These two players

coupled with the team's front-court senior forward Jasmine Jenkins and sophomore Elisa Carey should have their hands full. Both players are almost averaging a combined 17 rebounds per game.

But if their hands are constantly taking away the Golden Panthers' ball, then the strong backcourt and effective frontcourt disintegrates.

Turnovers are the key ingredient to a losing team.

An improved offense and defense yielded more wins, but the turnover problem just won't go away.

Last season, the Golden Panthers suffered various injuries and still managed to get past the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. This



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

VETERAN GONE: The Golden Panthers lost their leading scorer from last season with the graduation of LaQuetta Ferguson.

team faces much less adversity, so it should be able to at least make it to the tournament. They just need to listen to Axl Rose.

SPORTS REPLAY

Thomas adds Damas to staff

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

MDC, the team posted a 202-70 record.

Baseball head coach Turtle Thomas added Frank Damas to his coaching staff on Jan. 5.

Prior to joining the Golden Panthers baseball coaching staff, Damas was an assistant coach at Miami Dade College from 2003 to 2008.

"We feel like we have a great young coach who is very knowledgeable in the game of baseball, especially in the recruiting of South Florida players," said head coach Turtle Thomas to *fiusports.com*. "He knows Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and even Puerto Rico as good as anybody out there. He's outstanding."

During his tenure as an assistant coach with

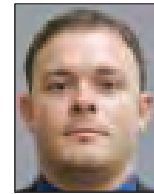
Damas recruited several current and former Golden Panthers including Eric Berkowitz, Greg Waddell and James Lajiness. With his hiring, coach Thomas adds the third assistant coach to his staff as the baseball team's season opener is set for Feb. 20 at home against Jacksonville.

SOCCER GAME

The FIU stadium, home to the Golden Panthers football team, will host the national teams of Chile and Honduras on Jan. 18.

This is the first time FIU hosts an international soccer game.

Both teams are in the middle of the World Cup Qualifying Cycle for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



DAMAS

NOTEBOOK: MEN'S BASKETBALL

Point guard Soto sets limit of games for his return

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Sophomore point guard Josue Soto has waited much longer than expected to make his debut as a Golden Panther.

Although he is healing on schedule from a broken right hand he sustained during a pre-season practice, he hinted for the first time that it might be better suited to take a medical redshirt and not burn a season of eligibility.

Soto sat out last season per NCAA transfer rules after one season at Florida State and there is a chance he will miss consecutive seasons.

"I don't know yet. It depends when I come back, I want to play but I shouldn't play just a couple games," Soto said. "It's still a bit stiff, it's kind of painful but I think I'll be back by February," he said.

The sophomore has set a limit on the amount of games it would be worth returning for.

He is hoping for an accelerated recovery and a late-January return, but ruled out playing less than 10 games on the season.

"At less than 10 games, I don't think I would play," Soto said.

COOLING OFF

Junior Nikola Gacesa's breakout season has hit a slide of late, with the forward experiencing a small slump recently.

Over the last seven games, Gacesa missed two due to injury and has touched double-digit scoring just once, with a 10-point effort at Troy.

Over the unfavorable stretch, beginning Dec. 12 at Miami, Gacesa is averaging 7.2 points on 31 percent shooting from the field, both considerably below his season

averages.

SEASON BEST

Marlon Bright recorded a season-high 11 points in the Golden Panthers' loss to Troy on Jan. 3, which is the most since he scored 20 vs. Palm Beach Atlantic on Dec. 22, 2006.

Bright, a walk-on who first joined the team in 2005, and played for two seasons before taking last season off to focus on his

hectic academic schedule, has been a valuable veteran to head coach Sergio Rouco's injury-riddled rotation this season.

GAME RESULTS

Game results for the Jan. 8 home meeting against Western Kentucky can be found on *FIUsm.com*.

The Golden Panthers resume play on Jan. 10 at Middle Tennessee State at 8:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

HONOR STUDENTS: Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org.

SWIMMING

Team starts new year with win

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

The swimming team started the new year on the right track, finishing second at the FIU Invitational on Jan. 3. In the relay-only meet, the Golden Panthers finished second behind Oakland University and ahead of American University and Carnegie Mellon.

The Golden Panthers finished second in the 500-yard freestyle, 400-yard freestyle, 200-yard backstroke and 400-yard medley relays.

Elly James, Colleen Neubert, Caroline Foster and Kariann Stevens finished less than a second behind Oakland in the 400-freestyle with a time of 3:45.44.

Led by senior Sara Giovannoni, who was the first swimmer in FIU history to qualify for the NCAA Championships and place 18th in the 200-yard breaststroke, the Golden Panthers are looking to make a splash this year.

The native of Italy, who began swimming at the age of 3, holds the school record in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.07) and three other records (200 breaststroke, 200 individual medley and the 400 free relay), is aiming to cut down her best times.

Giovannoni said the team has been swimming more this year, which should give them more endurance during meets.

Head coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia, who has been the swim team coach for its five years of NCAA competition, believes this year's team has a lot of strong swimmers.

"We have lot of strong motivated personalities on the team that are goal-oriented and know what they have to do and go for it," she said.

The Golden Panthers will take on Kansas and Cabrini on Jan. 9 at 5 p.m. in a 13-event order and will face Florida Atlantic, Iowa, and Purdue on Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. Both meets will be held at the Miami Shores Aquatic Center at 10200 Biscayne Blvd.

"All the teams we are swimming against: Kansas, Iowa, Purdue, are some of the top ranked teams in the country. So we're competing against the best of the best and competing against them is not going to be easy," Lung-Zaharia said.

CONFERENCE LOSS



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

DOWN THE LANE: Sophomore forward Elisa Carey goes up for a layup during the Golden Panthers game against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers on Jan. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. The Golden Panthers shot 32 percent from the field on their way to a 54-47 loss.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Talented squad lacks valuable experience under pressure

*It'll work itself out fine
All we need is just a little patience
- Guns N' Roses "Patience"*

If only Axl Rose could suit up for the women's basketball team this season, then he might be able to calm down the young team that could win the Sun Belt Conference crown if it would just be patient and protect the ball.

With their leading scorer LaQuetta Ferguson and point guard Iva Ciglar not returning to the team this season, the Golden Panthers started

the 2008-09 campaign 1-8.

Now the team has had enough time to learn to play together just in time for its most vital set of games against Sun Belt Conference opponents.

COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

Despite an impressive road win vs. Arkansas State, the Golden Panthers have not yet maximized their potential due to lack of experience.

With inexperience comes impatience, which leads to mistakes under pressure.

Their talent is not the problem. Yet talent becomes obsolete when the team

leads the conference in turnovers. If the Golden Panthers could create a game plan to counter full court presses and double teams, they would be an above .500 team.

Early struggles are expected from a team with a new starting point guard with no prior Division I experience and just two seniors on the depth chart.

But sophomore Michelle Gonzalez is no longer the timid player she was during the first nine games.

She fast-forwarded her evolution as the offense's brain by gaining trust in her shooting abilities and her coach.

She may be leading the team in turn-

overs, but she's also leading the team in assists, steals and minutes.

It's logical for the player with the ball most of the time to turn over the ball more than any other player.

Gonzalez runs the offense, but she is not its main source of points. Junior guard Monika Bosilj has taken charge of most of the scoring duties this season, averaging nearly 18 points per game.

Her development as the leading scorer dates back to last season. She used to show spurts of offensive sparks, but now