

1-23-2009

The Beacon, January 23, 2009

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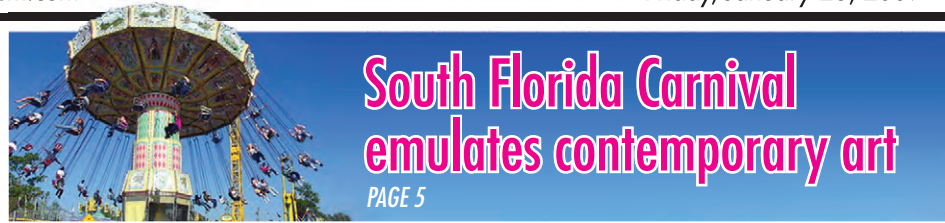
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Retailers' lower prices are a desperate move to woo clients

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South Florida Carnival emulates contemporary art

PAGE 5

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Take a break from school-work with a weekend volleyball tournament, with prizes and refreshments. Register in advance at the Recreation Center.

LIFE! PAGE 6



COLUMN: Steve Mesa shines a light on the new animated documentary *Waltz with Bashir*.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Women's hoops should prepare for next season with the team having 11 more losses than wins.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Saving money does not mean that you need to stop having fun. Have a fun weekend and do it for less.

OPINION PAGE 4



Bloggers have taken on the role of journalists through a new medium. But are they really journalists?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celine Dion, Jan. 23, 8 p.m.: Spend your night with America's favorite Canadian one-woman show. Enjoy the voice, the ego and the fashion mistakes!

Smash Bros Video Game Tournament, Jan. 24, 7:45 a.m.: Escape the problems of our economy if only for just one day with our favorite color coded Italians! Happening in the Graham Center game room.

South Beach Comedy Festival, Jan. 24, 8 and 10 p.m.: Enjoy a night with the man who makes a living out of poking fun of what we waste countless hours watching on TV. Joel McHale brings you the funny!

International Chocolate Festival, Jan. 25, 9:30 a.m.: Need we say more?

South Beach Comedy Festival, Jan. 24, 8 and 10 pm. Enjoy a night with the man who makes a living out of poking fun of what we waste countless hours watching on tv,

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

WEATHER



FRIDAY
Sunny
LOW: 56 HIGH: 73



SATURDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 57 HIGH: 76



SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 59 HIGH: 76

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BARACK-SOLID

Students, faculty bear witness as President Obama takes the oath

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

On Jan. 20, Barack Hussein Obama became the 44th president of the United States. The whole world watched as the senator from Illinois repeated the oath that 43 others had taken before him. The country is embarking on a four-year journey with him as he looks to fix many of the troubles that the country faces. And here is where our journey begins.

Washington D.C., 8:45 a.m.: Obama, his wife Michelle and his daughters Sasha and Malia attend a private prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square, while thousands of Americans make their way to Mall to make sure they have a spot to watch history unfold.

Miami, 9 a.m.: Fransico Sanchez, 31, wakes up on the streets of Miami and makes his way to the Government Center in downtown.

Washington D.C., 10 a.m.: Obama and Michelle meet President Bush and his wife Laura to have coffee at the White House before departing for the Capitol.

OBAMA, page 6



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

CELEBRATION: Sandra Willumsen Tyralla (above), who graduated from the University in 1985, witnesses history take place as President Barack Obama takes the oath of office to become the nation's 44th president. Students gather in the Graham Center pit (left) and the Green Library (top left) to see the inauguration and take part in the historic day.

SGC-UP VICE PRESIDENT

LaPointe works to fulfill campaign promises

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Inside her private office, the vice president of Student Government Council at University Park, Paige LaPointe, sits watching President Barack Obama's inauguration streaming live to her computer screen.

"It's a big day. It's incredible. And I don't even really care much for national politics but it's such an historic event," LaPointe said.

LaPointe, like the president himself, reached her position by slowly climbing through the ranks.

"I began my career as an intern during my freshman year in the internship program. From that, I ran for a lower division senate seat during my sophomore year, upper division during my junior year

and just walked up the steps," said LaPointe about her involvement in SGC-UP.

LaPointe, a native of South Florida, ran with Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP, in March 2008 as his vice presidential pick.

"We had the idea. Since he was running, he approached me and asked if I would be his running mate. It wasn't a formal approach. We were just geared up since elections were approaching and that was it," said LaPointe.

"With A.J., I feel that we've accomplished a lot.

We've been able to work throughout the year to maintain a good relationship in and out of the office. I feel that the attitude of Student Government has also improved during this year," LaPointe said.

She mentioned that there were stressful moments due to communi-

cation issues between the two while Meyer was not in the office but, overall, it had been a team effort.

Meyer met his travel obligations. Meyer's and LaPointe's campaign ran on several major plat-

"With A.J., I feel that we've accomplished a lot. We've been able to work throughout the year to maintain a good relationship in and out of the office."

Paige LaPointe, vice president
Student Government Council - University Park

"I travel a lot. In the past [as president], my job would have simply been to represent the student body," said Meyer, in a recent interview with *The Beacon*. "But in this last year, I've found myself delegating many of my tasks to Paige."

LaPointe said that one of her main tasks during this administration has been to "hold down the fort," while

forms, including the expansion of the PantherTram system into a point-to-point system to alleviate traffic, the development of PantherTV – a television station for the campus – and the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan.

LaPointe has fronted several

SGA, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Honors College students awarded laptops

Three Honors College students were awarded with laptop computers because of their outstanding academic achievements during their high school tenure.

The first-year students were recipients of the first annual Tony Menendez Computer Scholarships, named in honor of the lawyer who took part in the defense team that fought ExxonMobil on behalf of gas station owners, according to a press release.

The scholarship was made possible through a generous donation by Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff and Sitterson, PA. law firm.

LOCAL

South Florida farmers, shelters worry about frigid temperatures

Despite temperatures in the low 40s and upper 30s, emergency homeless shelters didn't fill to capacity as many had anticipated. Farmers, however, were spared from freezing crops as wind chill warnings were issued throughout S. Fla.

According to the National Weather Service, the danger is not over as they expect temperatures to reach freezing point for up to two hours on Wednesday night. Shelters in both Broward and Miami-Dade are preparing extra beds and warning the homeless to stay indoors.

NATIONAL

President Obama promises openness, changes

President Barack Obama has signed executive orders on Jan. 21 in regards to ethics guidelines for staff members of his administration, including a pay freeze for his senior staff.

Obama also promised swift action on the hurting economy by urging House Democrats to sign an \$825 billion economic recovery package that he said will save or create up to 4 million jobs and also invest in health care, energy and education.

In his first full day in office, Obama spoke to leaders from the Middle East and met with his economic team and top military officials from the Pentagon.

– Compiled by Paulo O'Swath

SGC-UP VICE PRESIDENT

LaPointe: 'You'll be seeing more results'

SGA, page 1

initiatives during her term, including her involvement with Students for Students, a scholarship program held by Student Government Association.

"We held a basketball tournament which was successful. We are now looking at hosting a soccer tournament and an eating contest during the semester," LaPointe said.

Students would pay a \$5 enrollment fee to compete in a tournament. The money goes toward the scholarship fund.

"Usually, we would use funds from the interest we accrue in our accounts to reward more money. But with the

recent economic problems and the drop in interest rates, we thought of this to maintain the accounts," LaPointe said. "We believe that it is a great opportunity for students to help out others, especially during these hard times."

LaPointe and Meyer are also looking to reach out to the community to establish a student government endowment.

"We're looking to partners that we may have had in the past or to new partners so that there will be a renewable fund for student scholarships," LaPointe said.

LaPointe has also been working with Meyer to improve the image of SGC among the student body.

"I feel that for a long time, SGA has

been seen in a negative [light]. There wasn't enough transparency and we wanted our administration to be the one that tried to open up policy," she said. "Anyone can see what we're doing and ask questions."

LaPointe is also working on several other ideas that are being formulated for implementation during this semester, including a Black Out Party.

"The idea itself is a fun initiative for residents here to save power and conserve energy. Turning off the computer or turning off the television, little things you should do while at home," said LaPointe. "I think you'll be seeing a lot more results during the next few months."

Committee reveals search process details

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

While the U.S. has long since picked its new president, the University's search has just begun.

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee had its inaugural meeting Jan. 16 to discuss the process it will take part in to help pick the new University president. The 25-member committee, comprised of various business and academic leaders from on and off campus, also considered the traits required for a new president.

The head of the committee, Executive Dean for the College of Business Administration Joyce Elam, outlined the responsibilities the new group would have in helping to select the new president, which included gathering input from important constituencies, developing a set of criteria for candidates with the external search firm, Greenwood/Asher Associates, Inc. and evaluating a group of candidates the search firm locates. The committee plans to have a new president roughly by mid-April.

"Everything is expected to be done quickly," Elam said to the committee.

To kick off the search, the committee will work with Greenwood/Asher to hold an entire day of forums on the first week of February for different constituents from within the University.

"This is an opportunity for the committee to hear from different constituencies and see what they really want from FIU," Elam said.

According to Elam, the committee will meet with faculty, staff, alumni, students and "external constituencies" tied to the University, such as business groups. During this all-day event, each group will be designated an hour to voice their opinions.

The PSAC will also be in charge of crafting a job description for the ideal candidate. Candidates interested in applying for the position will be able to apply online through a Web site that is being created by the Board of Trustees' Presidential Search Committee.

By mid-March, the PSAC hopes to have a meeting to discuss how to grade candidates. Then by mid-April, the committee expects to hold

an all-day meeting on a Friday that month where the group will assess each candidate and create a list of eight to 12 finalists. The group will meet again the following Sunday to narrow the list of candidates.

Elam reminded the committee that new candidates may still sign up as late as the Friday they will be meeting.

"When you go to bed Thursday night there may be candidates who have thrown their names into the race," Elam said during the meeting.

However, she also stated that the ability for individuals to sign up late will be "limited by the compressed timeline."

After a list is settled, each candidate will be brought by plane to Miami and given a 1:30 hour interview.

The list will then be narrowed down to three to five candidates, who will remain in Miami to undergo interviews with "key constituents" for a week.

The Presidential Search Committee will then convene and a new president will be named.

The committee members also discussed a draft of some of the different goals the University wished to achieve, such as strengthening financial stability and the qualities that were required and desired in a new president, such as unparalleled leadership with global vision.

To "increase academic excellence by improving undergraduate graduation," was one of the many strategic priorities the committee deemed important.

"Right now, our graduation rate is below the national average. That is not where we want to be," Elam said.

While the floor was open for discussion on the draft by the committee, many agreed that the new president must be able to understand the unique and diverse environment of South Florida.

Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Ana Maria Silva, who is the only student with a seat in the PSAC, argued that the new president should be more involved with the students.

"It is important for SGA to be able to reach out to the president in order to be able to voice concerns," Silva said.

CAMPUS TALK

What are your thoughts regarding the inauguration?



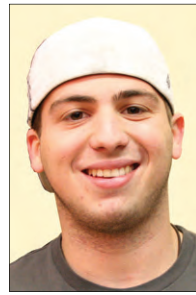
Karin Martinez
Junior

"This was one of the most defining moments in our history. It was a very beautiful moment."



Alex Uriarte
Sophomore

"[I think] it was a clear example of what it's like to have a real peaceful transition."



Derek Veliz
Junior

"The overall pricetag was ridiculous. It was kind of hypocritical, especially now that our economy is in shambles."



Diandra Sosa
Sophomore

"I've waited eight years for this and I'm really proud of this country."



Laura Gonzalez
Freshman

"For the first time in a long time I felt pride in being an American"

THE BEACON

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BBC RECREATION CENTER

Volleyball tourney helps students relax

ERIKA PEREZ
Asst. News Director

Being healthy is on everyone's mind, but who said being healthy can't be fun?

The Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center will host a co-ed sand volleyball tournament at 1 p.m. on Jan. 24 on the volleyball court beside Bay Vista residence hall.

Todd Bowyer, a senior kinesiology major and intern from James Madison University and Mark Dieu-juste, senior advertising major and resident assistant at Bay Vista, are in charge of organizing the event.

"The purpose of this event is to get students involved in a recreational program, get them active through athletic events, and since it's on a Saturday, it's not going to be conflicting with classes," Bowyer said.

Players will play in teams of two, and two to three prizes will be available for the winners, according to Bowyer. The number of teams and prizes will depend on the number of students attending.

The head-to-head tournament

is free and open to all University students. Non-students may participate as long as their partner is a student.

Refreshments will be provided at the event and participants should wear athletic attire, according to Bowyer.

"Students will get the enjoyment of a new experience and activity at BBC," said Warren Shaw, assistant director of BBC Campus Recreation. "Our department is focused on bringing new and dynamic programs to the students and staff. Beach volleyball is a great cardio activity and is also a lot of fun. The tournament should help us reach another segment of students who might not be interested in the usual basketball or football intramural."

Any physical activity helps burn calories and aids in weight loss, according to Bowyer. By participating in the tournament, as in any physical exercise, students can improve their cardiovascular health.

"[It's a] great opportunity for students to meet and greet, but also strengthen and condition the body at the same time," said Evensky

STRIDES FOR PEACE



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

LIVING THE DREAM: The Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Walk around Biscayne Bay initially served to commemorate the victims of Columbine, but has merged together with MLK celebrations in hope to further the message that "peace will triumph." The walk took place Jan. 21.

Joseph, a junior majoring in exceptional student education.

Prior registration is not required for this event, according to Bowyer, though registering early will help give the Recreation Center an idea of the possible turnout. Participants must also sign a waiver form, which will be provided the day of

the event.

Registration sheets are available at the front desk of the Fitness Center in Wolfe University Center, and at the front desk of Bay Vista residence hall.

"I think the volleyball tournament is a great way to get students to participate in an active and fun

program," said Andrea Reynoso, a sophomore physical therapy major. "It allows the student to forget about class and enjoy a recreational activity."

For more information, contact the Recreation Center at (305) 919-5678 or visit <http://wuc.fiu.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=77>.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Cutting back on spending without cutting the fun

PARADISE AFSHAR
Staff Writer

I hate saving money! No, wait. I don't mean that.

I just hate thinking about the idea of trying to save money. To me, living on a budget and watching every dollar I spend is torture and way too much math to handle.

I just look at watching every dollar I spend very closely as a form of being cheap.

But with the economy the way it is these days, I have been trying to keep an eye on how much I spend. Luckily for me, I did find a few places that made being a little frugal easier on me.

I normally go out to brunch every weekend with my little brother, Arash. We have this tradition of going to moderately priced restaurants, meaning that it costs about \$25 - \$35 for both of us. But this week, I actually made sure to cut back on how much we spent on food.

Instead of going to traditional chain restaurants, we opted for the Flashback Diner (220 S. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach.)

Now, I am one of those people who cannot walk into a diner without eating breakfast and I will tell you right now the breakfast at this 24-hour diner is worth the trip. To top it off, you can order dishes named after celebrities.

I had two eggs, home fries and toast, all for \$4.99. You might think I am crazy when I say this, but those had to be some of the

yummiest scrambled eggs I have had in a while. And the fact that they were so cheap made them taste even better!

I loved this place from the moment I walked in. What made me love it even more was the bill, which came out to \$17 for the two of us.

I saved almost half of what I would have spent anywhere else and got two great meals out of it.

Since I am so great at saving money, I took the nearly \$10 I'd saved on lunch and decided I should reward my efforts by getting my eyebrows, which were in dire need of some maintenance, done at Nail Time (14701 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach).

But I didn't mind going there instead of going to my normal eyebrow lady, who charges \$18 for a wax.

Now, I do not recommend going to a new eyebrow place if you want a shape, but for a cleanup I think it is okay to cheat on your normal waxer and go somewhere new. Trust me, they will understand.

I got my eyebrows done at Nail Time for only \$10, saving myself \$8 from what I would have spent somewhere else.

The people at this salon are very friendly and coming from a person who is obsessed with eyebrows, they actually do a decent job.

Now, like any girl, I looked at the prices for other services and I was shocked when I saw a full set of acrylic nails for \$18, which is less than half of the \$40 I usually spend on them.



PARADISE AFSHAR

Who knew that saving money could be so much fun?

In total, I spent \$27 this weekend when I would have spent close to \$53 otherwise, saving about \$26.

I can spend the savings on buying a foundation – which I am out of – from Origins, an organic cosmetics company. Instead of going to a department store and spending \$23 on the foundation, I went on www.amazon.com and found it for only \$10, saving me \$13. How exciting!

But my saving spree did not stop there. My friend Natalie McNeal, a former *Miami Herald* reporter, has this amazing blog called "Frugalista."

I adore this site and I am not saying that because I think Natalie is awesome, but because her site has tons of tips that make saving money exciting, even for someone

like me.

She blogs about free giveaways that companies are having and I totally took advantage of one of the posts she has up.

Turns out, Suze Orman, a personal finance blogger and a frequent guest on major news networks, is giving away her book, *2009 Action Plan: Keeping Your Money Safe & Sound*, for free! And guess who has ordered her free copy: me! Maybe this way I can learn how to save my cash.

After this weekend I am a lot better at saving money and it doesn't seem as bad to me anymore. I can do it.

Weekends with Paradise is a bimonthly column that highlights North Miami area nightlife. If you have any suggestions for places I should visit, please e-mail me at paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.

NEWS FLASH

FIU BBC

Biscayne Bay Campus vice provost appointed

The search for a vice provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus has ended. Joseph West, dean for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and former interim vice provost, is the new BBC vice provost.

Dean West held the position of interim vice provost since August 2008 and has since then handled both the dean and interim positions.

He will hold the vice provost position until August 2010.

– Compiled by Pamela Duque

BLOG BATTLE

Bloggers become a scary threat to authentic journalists

VANESSA ESPINEL
Contributing Writer

In the right corner, from their Lazy Boy recliner, typing with a 12-ounce can of beer – the Lonely Blogger.

And in this corner, from your local newspaper, writing with a Bic pen – the Respectable Journalist.

The match has begun.

Ever-evolving technology, being the savvy creator that it is, keeps coming up with more ways to isolate people while, ironically enough, maintaining socialization.

The Internet constantly supplies us with our daily needs: e-mail, WebCT, Facebook and/or MySpace (in no particular order, though I did wander off to Facebook before submitting my homework).

Blogging has recently joined the lineup of these usual suspects and journalists are gritting their pen caps about this new development.



The rise of the blog (short for “Web log”) has been rapidly escalating over the past few years and it is no wonder, with publication being made so simple.

Portals such as Twitter, AOL Journal, LiveJournal, MySpace and countless other blog-friendly sites offer free space that anyone can occupy with their thoughts. MySpace alone has over 200 million active blogs.

Do all these people really have something to talk about?

When I searched the blogs on MySpace, I couldn’t believe I had been missing out on “Esther’s facial hair,” “deflated balloon pythons for sale” and one that took me a while to understand: “The laws of cat physics.” (Science has never been my forte, despite all the Bill Nye shows I used to watch.)

No wonder the public has turned to these online diaries – it lets you create a voice without holding the writer accountable for their words.

“Other than talking about the issues, I really don’t want to hear about exes and your amusement over your dog,” said Wendy Padron, a senior majoring in English, international relations and philosophy.

The media is for the people and blogging is by the people. Blogging is going against the core definition of journalism, unless you’re a journalist with a blog.

With the uproar this frenzy has created, journalists are turning to blogging themselves,

following the motto of “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.” Blogging has created an everyday journalist out of the average Joe sitting in his footy pajamas next to his best bud – Weiser.

“The more ways that people communicate, the better off we are, and we know that. But when you talk about journalism, the credibility, and how the information is processed in order to make it the closest version of the truth that one can obtain, as Bob Woodward liked to say, that’s what we [journalists] are trying to do,” said Fred Blevens, Ph.D., a professor from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“But is that what a blogger is trying to do? Most of the time, no.”

Whatever happened to credibility, reliability and validity? Why bother when you have an entire network reading your blogs and digesting them as facts?

When asked whether bloggers should then be held to the same standards as journalists, Blevens said:

“If the idea is that we want to bring blogging into a credible news dissemination, professional sort-of arena: yes. If we want to continue considering blogging as just some guy down the street sitting in his pajamas with a bucket of chicken, greasing up the keyboard ... is that what we want to replace [journalism]?”

The blogosphere is a realm of freedom, providing individuals liberty to write about, debate and discuss any given topic.

The common person is unspoken for, but I think that bloggers feel this passion or urgency to share thoughts and opinions that



could provoke or entice readers – engaging people to communicate.

Journalists are on the more objective side of the spectrum and let’s face it, the world needs as many objective viewpoints as possible.

Blogging is deviating the masses from what was originally developed to inform to a medium of anecdotal viewpoints.

The emergence of this progressive rivalry is distorting the distinction between journalists and bloggers.

Hopefully, journalists can find a way to turn the public back on their side again, before bloggers completely invade our space.

A message to bloggers of this “Pajama Revolution,” as Blevens suggests in the words of a grumpy old man: “Get off my lawn!”

Desperate deals call out to cost-conscious shoppers

KIMBERLY ENGELHARDT
Contributing Writer

Have you heard? The nation’s unemployment rate rose to 7.2 percent in December as employers slashed 524,000 jobs.

Perhaps you know somebody without a job; I certainly do.

Blame luck. Blame consumer’s lack of initiative. Blame the economy. Blame the president.

We can, however, find happiness in this misery – but it involves the precious worn-out green papers in your wallet. Yes, your dollars. I know you have some. Don’t hide them from me!

As the modern depression-resistant college student that I am, it’s a great time to buy, buy, buy! Stores are willing to court your dollars with amazing sales. While stores are losing profits, it’s time to seize the moment and grab all the items on sale.

According to Yahoo! News, retailers including Bebe Stores Inc. and J.Crew Group Inc. are cutting prices on selected spring styles to lure sale-savvy shoppers. It’s like they’re calling my name.

Trust me. They’re desperate.

They fear competition from other stores’ low prices. Retailers expect compe-

titution from a rise in liquidation sales – the result of a lackluster holiday period.

They’re drowning in mounds of deeply discounted coats and sweaters and wondering how they are going to get nervous shoppers to splurge on new spring products.

But we’re their saviors. We can take off that terrible load off their hands – if the price is right, of course. Nine chances out of 10, this might be the case.

According to the Associated Press, “Overall sales of apparel fell 17.3 percent from Nov. 30 through Jan. 3, while footwear sales dropped 12 percent compared to the same period a year ago. The sales of electronics and appliances dropped 21.4 percent, while luxury goods suffered a 27.6 percent drop.”

Meanwhile, online sales rose 4.6 percent.

Whoa. Hold on: online sales rose 4.6 percent? I’m one of those savvy shoppers who avoided the terribly long lines and those angry-looking, paranoid officers at University Park’s Bookstore.

As we all know, the textbooks are overpriced to the fat bone. Why can’t our bookstore discount its textbooks? It’s probably still making a profit. Times are changing, if I would have bought all my textbooks

from the bookstore, I’d have spent close to \$600. (Those marketing books are very expensive. Science majors, I empathize with you.)

I bought my textbooks online, as well as from friends and spent less than half that amount of money. Now I can go help save the economy with that extra green in my pocket.

For those of us who can still load up on deeply discounted merchandise, the last few weeks have been paradise. According to the same AP article, the upscale DKNY store on New York’s Madison Avenue is plastered with a sign proclaiming “up to 90 percent off.” A couple of years ago this would have been unheard of.

Even Staples has gotten into the cheap, cheaper, cheapest deal game. The dollar menu has finally hit its stores.

According to *Brandweek*, the Staples program will run for the month of January and will offer Sharpies, Bic pens, writing pads, paper clips and other items for \$1.

I’ll definitely be stocking up on pens and Sharpies, especially Sharpies, so I can make a huge sign that says, “OK, I’m buying your stuff. I’m saving the economy.

Now save me! Hire me!”

Dollar deals are a better alternative to deep discounting, Leinwand said in a *Brandweek* interview. “Discounting has its consequences because people get used to those price points,” he said. “Plus there is no shame in competing directly with dollar stores ... [they] have better margins than many retail channels.”

I could get used to this. Fifty percent off is so last year. Embrace the deep discounts and, of course, spend with moderation.



EYE CANDY

Student takes a new spin on modern art at fair, sees ordinary as extraordinary

GENEVIEVE STEEL
Staff Writer

This week, an unexpected artistic adventure developed for me when I visited the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach, Fla.

As I strolled through, I began to notice the overwhelming amount of artistic expression; but it wasn't in the kindergarten or fourth-grade art displays. I made my discovery far from what most deem as art. Blinking lights, vibrant signs, enormous installations of popcorn and cotton candy, toys, greasy food and rides. They all began to take shape as magnificent installations, sculptures, paintings and performances.

There was so much eye candy. Being familiar with exhibitions deemed cutting edge in contemporary art, I was reminded in a uniquely strange, even fixating way, of how artists are influenced by popular iconography.

Contemporary art has become a transitional marketplace where art collectors and art lovers can have a range of tastes and interests. Some artists stage their work to seem artificial, resembling something mass produced. One of my favorite genres is the world of kitsch art and craft. In kitsch the cornier and worst taste, the better the work.

This is why the fair reminds me of what I witness currently in museums and galleries.

Out of all the great works in the fair, the carousel remains the

icon that is triumphant in craft, design, kinetic movement, color, lighting, audience interaction and strong aesthetic charisma. Its giant, hand-painted sculpted horses and animals, suspended on metal poles, lingering among thousands of colorful lights and classical tunes, are among the trophy winners for best of show. The first carousels were actually games of war in the early Byzantine empire, around 500 A.C.E. Later, they were used as battle practice and made their way throughout history as an entertainment device.

The carousels' composition—collective repetitions of mounted sculpture, backlighting, music and audience interactivity made my artistic side wonder if I had seen something like it, however modified, at the Whitney Museum of Art in New York City. It also reminded me of the performance artist, Matthew Barney, and the strange sets he creates using animal-like people, bright colors and cheesy music.

Another fair classic is neon signage. And I found, sure enough, up in the sky above me as I walked toward the rides accompanied by screams of delight, a multi-neon cowboy with his arm blinking up and down. He reminded me of another mega famous contemporary artist, Bruce Nauman and his neon clowns. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami had a big installation of his a few years back.

The Fireball also enticed me to the feeling of the ride. The style of

its layout was from the late 1950s with flaming, rhythmic, three-toned, red, orange and yellow blinking bulbs. Along with others, they looked like massive public art installations, except you can ride these. They are fairly accessible to the public and are more sophisticated.

Most people wouldn't consider taxidermy a fine art form, yet it was used quite often in the contemporary installations and sculptures and may look quite handsome when communicating, "You will see wild animals here."

Accumulation is a fantastic attribute of post modern art, which falls into the contemporary category too. The souvenir stands and some of the game booths took on a surprising air of methodical organization and strategic positioning.

I was really impressed with the train station. It was so tediously developed that if it had been inside a gallery and not next to a bunch of Navajo jewelry and aromatherapy foot scrub, it would surely have made it to the Whitney Museum of Art via NYC.

Some of the characters at the fair seemed to be plucked right out of a John Rivers movie, a Mel Brooks comedy or a Duane Hanson sculpture.

Overall, the fair seemed like a mini-slayer of a happy-land day in New York City's Coney Island. But something about the people walking around ignoring the beautiful art and socializing reminded me of what actually goes on at an art opening in Miami.



GENEVIEVE STEEL/THE BEACON

KITSCH FAIR: Columnist Genevieve Steel equates the carnival game prize display (top), marquee (center) and entrance (bottom) with art.

THE CINEMATIC

Award-winning documentary recreates, animates early 80s Lebanese war

One of the best documentaries and frontrunner for this year's Best Foreign Language Oscar, as well as Golden Globe winner for Best Foreign Film, *Waltz with Bashir* splices the film-making world of animation and documentary to create an unforgettable film.

A pack of 26 zombie-like dogs rampage through a crowded street. They are outside the apartment of the man who killed them, stalking him and looking for revenge.

Though it sounds more like the intro to a horror film, this is how the documentary starts. It is a nightmare told to Ari Folman,

the film's director, that one of his army buddies consistently suffers from.

Folman was one of many Israeli men who were in Lebanon in the summer of 1982, when the Israeli defense forces pushed through the southern part of the country toward Beirut. Most of them were present when Christian militiamen slaughtered 3,000 civilians in order to avenge the death of Lebanon's newly elected president, Bashir Gemayel, who was assassinated days before.

The two men conclude that there is a connection between

the dream and their Israeli Army mission in the first Lebanon War in the early 80s. After finishing the conversation with his friend, Folman is haunted by a weird recollection of naked soldiers walking on the beach in Beirut as the city's destroyed skyline is illuminated by flares. This is the only memory that Folman has of his participation in the war. This sparks an interest in Folman as he decides to interview other soldiers that were with him at the time. As he interviews his army and anyone he knows who was involved with the Lebanon War, certain memories start to resurface in Folman's



STEVE MESA

MESA, page 6

Frat Ploys BY JOEL MALISKAS

diversions

STOP THE PRESSES! art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez

A: RHETORICAL TYPE B: THE UNETHICAL APPROACH C: THE DIRECT APPROACH D: THE OMBWTF B&Q APPROACH

Americans' mindset of hope strong at Obama's inauguration

OBAMA, page 1

Boca Raton, 10:30 a.m.: At the St. Andrew Retirement Community, dozens of retirees flock into the South Auditorium for an inauguration watch party. Marie Isaacson waits patiently outside as workers make final preparations before the auditorium opens.

"These people worked really hard for Obama. It was like no one was ever home. They were always at Obama's office. My husband worked really hard on the campaign. Whenever he was gone, I just knew he was at Obama's office," she said.

The 72-year old retiree has seen her share of history. Her father William was a refrigerator engineer for the Army and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. At the age of 5, Isaacson saw the Japanese planes fly by her home before they bombed the United States fleet. Years later, she saw the civil rights movement before her eyes, man walk on the moon, the Berlin Wall fall, yet she never thought she would see what she saw on Jan. 20.

"I didn't think I'd ever see a black president. It just seems to prove we are all equal and anyone

can be president," she said.

Miami, 11 a.m.: Sanchez sits in the Government Center reading a book about the end of days. He looks up, catches a glimpse of the coverage and quickly returns to his book.

"It just don't fit the criteria. He just came in too quick. I'd just rather be sure this is the right person for the job for president," said the 31-year old homeless man.

North Miami, 11:30 a.m.: Michael Gonzalez watches the sea of people in the Mall on the big screen TV in the Wolfe Center before scurrying into class. He can't believe he is a part of history.

"Yes we can and yes we did," the junior said. "Our generation made a difference and we're going to be the ones leading change."

Boca Raton, 11:45 a.m.: Retired naval commander Phillip Lorber sits at his table with his wife Neta, watching the ceremony unfold.

"Here's your lede son. This is the most exciting event in our country and I've never seen this much excitement before. Obama is facing the most monumental problems since [Frankling D. Roosevelt]," Lorber said. "His legacy will

depend on the solutions he produces."

Washington D.C., 12:00 p.m.: Obama steps up, faces Supreme Court Judge John Roberts and takes the oath of office. At the same time, everyone at the St. Andrews inauguration party stands with him and applauds when he finishes.

Washington D.C., 12:05 p.m.: Obama begins his inauguration speech.

Miami, 12:08 p.m.: Wilbert Mitchell, a 68-year-old homeless man, didn't hear or see the inauguration, but he knew the importance of the day.

"He's just like Moses," he said. "He's going to do a great job. Anything he needs from me, I'm ready to help."

Boca Raton, 12:15 p.m.: In the back of the auditorium, Walter Lubin stands discreetly listening to Obama's words. The 27-year-old Haitian isn't able to enjoy the speech in its entirety because he is shuffling back and forth between the kitchen to tend to the food for the day's lunch.

While listening to the speech, Lubin recalled when he embarked on his voyage to the United States. At 13, he spent eight days at sea with

friends drifting toward a dream of a better life. Lubin understood the greater message Obama was trying to preach.

"It's about the importance of the country," Lubin said. "It's not about me or Obama. It's about the American people. If we put ourselves together, anything can happen."

Boca Raton, 12:25 p.m.: Tears dripped down Esther Savage's eyes. The black retiree was overjoyed.

"The country voted a certain way and we need to give these people a chance," Savage, 102, said. "It's going to take time to fix all of these problems so I hope people have patience."

Washington D.C., 12:30 p.m.: "America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words; with hope and virtue ... Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end; that we did not turn back nor did we falter. And with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations," Obama said in his inaugural address.

V-DAY NOT JUST FOR VALENTINE'S



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

FEMININE MYSTIQUE: Adriana Rodriguez, an English major and Vagina Monologues cast member and Lupe Juarez, an elementary education and VM director, sell vagina shaped lollipops to raise money for the Feb. 13-15 performances.

Graphic, surreal film captivates audience with unusual art style

MESA, page 5

mind.

Waltz with Bashir is unlike any documentary that I have seen as it feels like the story is told as a combat picture, such as *Saving Private Ryan*. Without spending a lot on realistic recreations, Folman recreates the stories told to him by his interviewees through animations that are vivid and surrealistic. It is more fascinating watching the art that goes into recreating certain events in the Lebanon War, rather than the more common format known as talking-head documentaries that use photos and archival footage to support the documentary.

The animation used in this film is nothing new. This style of animation was used in Richard Linklater's film *Waking Life* and *A Scanner Darkly* and Brett Morgan's *Chicago 10*.

In order to create this odd and fascinating documentary, the collaboration of art director David Polinsky and director of photography Yoni Goodman allowed Folman to unravel the memories and bloodshed of the war he participated in.

Waltz with Bashir also brings you to question how well prepared the Israeli soldiers were for the Lebanon War. For instance, a young group of soldiers storming the beach fire their guns at the first thing they see – a car occupied with a family of three. Another sequence of the film shows the young soldiers shooting off the canons on their tanks wildly despite not knowing why they do so.

The final sequence of the film is deprived of any animation. At the end, rolling graphic footage of the aftermath of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps' massacre show the moviegoer the impacting reality of what happened in the Lebanon War.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 21

WHAT: Movie - Tulia Texas
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: 305-348-3068

WHAT: Celine Dion
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHAT: Gaelic Storm
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Culture Room
CONTACT: 954-564-1074

WHAT: The Jean Marie
WHEN: 11:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Vagabond
CONTACT: 305-379-0508

WHAT: The Song Remains the Same: A Tribute to Led Zeppelin
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Maurice Gusman Concert Hall
CONTACT: 305-382-2203

THURSDAY • JANUARY 22

WHAT: Smash Bros Video Game Tournament
WHEN: 7:45 a.m.
WHERE: GC Game Room
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHAT: Just The Funny Improv Comedy Theatre Company
WHEN: 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium
CONTACT: 305-MY-FUNNY

WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improv Show
WHEN: 11:00 p.m.
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
CONTACT: 305-461-1161

WHAT: Miami Heat Vs. Orlando Magic
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival
WHEN: 8:00-10:30 p.m.
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
CONTACT: 305-673-7300

THURSDAY • JANUARY 22

WHAT: International Chocolate Festival
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
CONTACT: 305-667-1651

WHAT: Died in A Plane Crash
WHEN: 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Churchill's Pub
CONTACT: 305-757-1807

WHAT: ING Miami Marathon
WHEN: 6:30 a.m.
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center
CONTACT: 305-673-7000

WHAT: Miami Jewish Festival
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Sunrise Cinemas - Intercoastal 8
CONTACT: (305)949-0064

WHAT: Mamma Mia! (Performance)
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Broward Center AuRene Theatre
CONTACT: 954-462-0222

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to write for the Life! section?

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Team needs more experience, balance to flourish next season

BONILLA, page 8

midway and forward Adley played more than 15 minutes in just six games.

Meanwhile, guard Monika Bosilj had to assume the majority of the scoring responsibilities with no true partner in crime to complement her.

In other words, the roster is as thin as Calista Flockhart.

Even with 10 games left against conference teams, recovering from the first 19 games with injuries and limited depth is too tall a task for the team this season.

This is a team that leads the conference in turning the ball over and is last in scoring. Those types of problems cannot be remedied over the next 10 games.

It would take 10 games plus the off-season to fix those problems.

Giving more freshmen a chance to log in some minutes for next season doesn't look like

such a bad idea right about now.

Guard Asia Wilson is a freshman with explosive speed who can drive to the basket but has some trouble completing the score.

Giving her more minutes to prepare for a role as a reliable backup next season might make sense for the Golden Panthers.

Now, I would hate to see the team just give up. But even more so, I would like to see the women's basketball program catch and take a break.

Rewinding to last season, the team was heading into the latter stage of the season with a full head of steam, then leading scorer LaQuetta Ferguson tore her ACL and her season and career as a Golden Panther was over.

The team had so much depth that it managed to advance to the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament before being eliminated vs. the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

If it's not one major injury,

it's two equally debilitating ones to Hutlassa and Adley. Hutlassa was that extra shooter to help out Bosilj and an extra target for the young point guard Gonzalez. Adley coming off the bench made the team deep in the frontcourt, allowing Carey and forward Jasmine Jenkins to be more effective. The pieces are there – just not together this season.

Statistically, the Golden Panthers are far from done.

It's just that with the unfortunate luck of the team, a preparation plan for the next campaign should be a priority.

So, as much as I would like to say the team could still make a push for the Sun Belt tournament, the team's biggest issues this season are strong as ever.

Ending the season with valuable experience for the freshmen and sophomores will make 2009-10 a more enjoyable campaign to watch. Especially if the younger players can use the time to develop.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

GOING UP: Golden Panther forward Jasmine Jenkins goes up for a score in the 55-52 win against Denver on Saturday, Jan. 17

Coach Cindy Russo, who has 627 career wins, most likely has a plan for next season already in mind, but if her team doesn't improve greatly, Russo could

have the worst season of her 32-year coaching career.

And that's nothing to smile about.

Guard leads team in three-pointers

DOMINGUEZ, page 8

Although he possesses other skills valuable to the team, it's apparent that Dominguez's best attribute is his ability to put the ball in the basket. He currently averages 11.4 points per game, third behind Galindo (15.2) and freshman big man Freddy Asprilla (13.2).

"He's just a great scorer," said point guard Harley Fuller, who is Dominguez's roommate.

Of the 20 games the Golden Panthers have played this season, the sharpshooter has made three or more treys 10 times and averages 2.6 three-pointers made per

game.

And just like the game against FAU, the junior guard is prone to hitting game-changing shots – even when he was in high school.

"When we were in the state championship game in his junior year, we had a tight game against Deming High School," Senteney said. "We were down two – about 30 seconds left. We said, 'Let's take it in to the hole.' Mikey took a 30-footer – nothing but net. We ended up winning the state championship."

WHY SO SERIOUS?

Aside from the skills he

brings to the basketball court, there is one off-the-court attribute Dominguez possesses that teammates enjoy.

"He's definitely the team comedian, by far. When we're walking, he'll hand me his camera phone and while someone is walking he'll grab their legs from behind, and they'll fall right on their face," said Fuller. "It's so funny. He keeps me up."

Dominguez's importance on the team is evident, and he has made his presence felt in more than one category.

"He does a little bit of everything," Rouco said.

Huizenga completes sale of Dolphins to Ross

STEVEN WINE
AP Wire

Thanks to Bill Parcells, Stephen Ross takes over the Miami Dolphins with the franchise's fortunes on the upswing.

And Ross expects to keep Parcells around.

Ross, a New York real estate billionaire, completed his purchase of 95 percent of the franchise for \$1 billion Tuesday, with Wayne Huizenga retaining a 5 percent interest.

Ross then addressed speculation he and Parcells might not be hitting it off. The sale triggered a clause in Parcells' contract allowing him to leave and still receive the \$9-12 million remaining on the four-year contract he signed a year ago.

"Parcells is in charge," Ross said in a conference call. "He's staying, and I think we're very fortunate to have someone like Bill Parcells, who

I think people have come to recognize as probably the best football mind in America."

When the first phase of Ross' purchase was completed last February, the Dolphins were coming off a 1-15 season, the worst in team history. Under the new Parcells regime, they improved to 11-6 this season and made the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

Ross plans to meet Friday with Parcells, general manager Jeff Ireland and coach Tony Sparano, and said he foresees no changes on the football side. Ross said he found the atmosphere at the Dolphins' recent playoff game electrifying and wants to build on this season's success.

Ross said Bryan Wiedmeier will remain as team president, and negotiations regarding a position on the business side are ongoing with Arlen Kantarian, former U.S. Tennis Association CEO.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Make changes to existing website, search engine friendly improvements and SEO to increase ranking. Contract position for startUp. Call Sylvain at 305-864-4733 or leave a message.

PLAYING A KEY ROLE

Michael Dominguez has impacted the team beyond his shooting

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

When Golden Panther guard Michael Dominguez decided to attend FIU after two seasons at Northeastern Junior College, he knew he could immediately help a team whose goal is to win the Sun Belt Conference.

"I came to start. They didn't really have any shooters besides Alex [Galindo]. I knew I could come in and make an impact," he said.

Dominguez, making good on his word, has been one of the key additions to this season's Golden Panthers basketball squad. The junior guard has been the go-to three-point shooter, knocking down a team-leading 52 shots from beyond the arc so far this season. He's also the team's best free-throw shooter, knocking down 83 percent of his attempts.

But what he also brings to the team is something that won't be seen on any stat sheet.

"He's a very, very good defender. He probably has the highest IQ on the team that we have," said head coach Sergio Rouco.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The first-year Golden Panther knows that it's his knowledge of the game, not just his shooting stroke, that makes him special to the team.

"I'm not going to shoot well every game. I'll be diving for loose balls. I've only missed one

practice. I try to be a leader by example," he said.

The New Mexico native showed that type of leadership Jan. 15, when the Golden Panthers faced Florida Atlantic University at FAU Arena. With his team down at the end of the first half, Dominguez knocked down a 3-pointer to start the second half and subsequently put his index finger over his mouth, quieting down the FAU crowd.

"He's a tough kid – a very heady kid," Rouco said.

Late in the same game, Dominguez orchestrated a FAU turnover that led to two Tremayne Russell free throws that iced the game for the Golden Panthers.

He then knocked down two clutch, game-winning free throws in the final minute in a home win against the University of Denver on Jan. 17.

"He has a sense of where the ball is going to go. He's got a good, strong mental mind – a great student of the game," said Dominguez's high school coach Mark Senteney, currently the top varsity basketball assistant at Capital High School. "I was fortunate to coach Michael for four years."

Dominguez has also played in every game this season, something no other incumbent starter besides point guard Nick Taylor has accomplished.

MR. BIG SHOT

DOMINGUEZ, page 7



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

'GREAT SCORER': Junior guard Michael Dominguez is third on the team in scoring, but has also brought intangibles and leadership to a team that has dealt with an array of adversity this season.

NOTEBOOK: MEN'S BASKETBALL

Soto, Hicks set to rejoin team

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

FIU will look to hand Louisiana-Monroe its sixth loss in as many games Jan. 24 at Louisiana-Monroe. The streaking Golden Panthers (8-12, 3-4 Sun Belt) will look to win their second straight road affair against the Warhawks (5-13, 1-6) and continue their recent climb in the standings.

Forward/center Freddy Asprilla is still battling a sore back, according to head coach Sergio Rouco, but the Sun-Belt conference leader in rebounds will play in the game, and there is a good chance he will be joined by the player he replaced in

the starting lineup. Rouco said that senior center Russell Hicks is close to returning from a stress fracture he sustained in his left ankle that has held him out since November.

HELP ON THE WAY

After the Golden Panthers practiced on Wednesday, Hicks walked off the stationary bike he was using on the sideline as FIU women's basketball player Marquita Adley climbed into the seat.

Hicks will soon be able to move from the machine to the court. The Pre-season All-SBC performer was averaging 8 points per game before his injury and will give the Golden Panthers arguably the best

pair of centers in the conference, as Asprilla is having one of the best seasons ever for an FIU freshman.

FIU will also welcome the return of sophomore point guard Josue Soto, who practiced for the first time last week since he broke his hand before the season. The Florida State transfer has yet to play a game for the University.

THE STROKE

Senior Marlon Bright does not take a lot of three-pointers, but when he does, he makes them. Bright is 5-of-13 from beyond the arc, and only has one game in which he has attempted more than one three-pointer and not converted.

Issues too many to overcome this year

For the first time in 2009, women's basketball head coach Cindy Rouso had a reason to smile.

Her team snapped its six-game losing streak against Denver University and it was the team's first win since Dec. 22, 2008.

With the return of forward Marquita Adley, the Golden Panthers' frontcourt had one of its most dominating games on both ends of the court, disrupting the Denver offense for the full 40 minutes.

Yet Adley's return and the progress of forward Elisa Carey may have come a little too late for the 4-15 team.

As painful as it is to utter the worn out adage, "Get ready for next season," the Golden Panthers might be better off trying to regroup and develop players for next season's team.

This season, sophomore Michelle Gonzalez is the lone point guard. Fanni Hutlassa, a forward, was lost

COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

BONILLA, page 7