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The Beacon, February 16, 2009

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SPOTLIGHT

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SGC-UP should rethink their Lecture Series strategy after Legend baits.

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Museum docents share knowledge, culture with guests.

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FIU defies convention with professors who steer clear of irreligious banter.

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Rollover voting rights to more SGC-BBC members could solidify council.

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Desiree Fink helped power three weekend wins in Felsberg Memorial.

OPINION PAGE 4
An escaped convict is on the loose thanks to a private prisoner transport company. Shouldn't transporting prisoners be in the government's hands?

AT THE BAY PAGE 3
Nation of Islam members come to speak about race issues for Pan-African Month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Philosophy Club Meeting, Today, Feb. 16, 3:30 p.m. Do you question everything? Fan of ancient Greek attire? Then this club is for you! Join today at GC 314

Italian Club Meeting, Today, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. Learn about the country that gave us high fashion and men that make our men look like Homer Simpson!

Chinese Club Meeting, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m. Need help passing math? Join this club and I am sure you'll find someone that can help!

Florida Panthers vs. New Jersey, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Watch an event that is not so popular in South Florida, but is still loads of fun with guys in ice skates killing each other for a little black puck at the Bank Atlantic Center

Miami Live Comedy Lounge, Feb. 17, 9 p.m. Do you have the "I spent Valentines Day alone" blues? Turn that frown upside down by going to this event at Miami Improv.

For the complete calendar, please see page 5 or visit FIUSM.com.

WEATHER



MONDAY
Mostly sunny
LOW: 58 HIGH: 79



TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 59 HIGH: 74



WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 59 HIGH: 77

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

UP Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOO BAD: Student Government Association announced Feb. 13 that John Legend's performance at FIU was cancelled.

Legend unable to reschedule

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

"An Evening with John Legend," a lecture and musical performance by the six-time Grammy Award-Winning artist, has been officially cancelled by the Student Government Council at University Park.

The cancelling comes after Legend postponed his planned Feb. 11 performance at the U.S. Century Bank arena, following the death of his grandfather last week.

"While the Lectures Coordinator, Nivv Oudit, vigorously tried to negotiate a future date for an appearance, Mr. Legend's schedule would not permit it," said Ben F. Badger, SGC-UP press secretary.

A refund policy for the students

that bought tickets is being assembled by SGA but has yet to be announced.

Students can expect more information about refunds this week.

"It is important that all students, faculty and alumni who purchased a ticket hold on to it," Badger said. "It will be needed during the refund process."

The tickets were being sold for \$25 for floor seats in the arena, and \$20 for bleacher seats.

Legend was scheduled to lecture and give a fully acoustic performance during the event, which was advertised as part of the SGA Lecture Series.

Student reaction was mixed.

"I am really indifferent about it," said Sophomore Chris Rodriguez. "I'm sorry to hear about his Grandfather's death, but I wasn't

even planning to buy tickets. I suppose that it is a shame that he's not coming though,"

Junior Fernanda Torres was surprised by news of the cancellation.

"I think that they went about it the wrong way. There should have been more widespread announcements about Mr. Legend not coming. I bought tickets and I found out about his cancellation over a Facebook message," Torres said.

There have also been talks about bringing another speaker to replace Legend.

"The Speaker's Bureau felt that changing the promised guest would be an even greater insult to the student body, which purchased tickets for the event," Badger said.

Valet parking option rolls in

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

FIU's Parking and Transportation offers an alternative to parking issues.

Gold Star Parking Systems Inc. has been contracted to provide a valet service to University Park, starting Feb. 16

The new program will offer great convenience for commuters, according to Executive Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster.

"We think that the service will address some parking convenience needs of the University and has a good chance for success," Foster said.

Valet operation hours will initially be from 8 a.m to 6 p.m, but may change through program development.

The cost of parking is \$5.00 per hour, or \$20.00 an entire day for students, faculty and guests. All vehicles will be parked in either parking lot 3 or in lot 5.

Foster said the new valet program will have a smooth transition into FIU's parking and transportation.

The program is being used as a model for future development and can be altered for specific uses.

Gold Star Parking Systems was established in South Florida. The company is a part of the Florida Parking Association, according to their Web site.

The pilot program will run through April 30, when it will be evaluated according to its success.

"We do not foresee any conflicts, but are implementing this as a pilot program to help identify any positive or negative impacts so that they can be properly addressed," Foster said.

The valet kiosk is located in front of the bookstore, by Lot 3 of GC.

'Deep Seascape' showcases sounds of nature

AMY RAMIREZ
Contributing Writer

Deep-sea sound exploration is translated into art by Eric DeLuca, professor of Music Technology, who researches underwater acoustics as part of his master's thesis and extends an invitation to the South Florida community.

A performance is scheduled for March 21, 8 p.m. at the University's Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Concert Hall.

"I'm going to try to recreate an underwater environment, leave a lot of room for interpretation and let the

sound be the focus," DeLuca said.

DeLuca transposes the recordings of high and low underwater frequencies into octaves the human ear can hear and will arrange these sounds in a musical composition that will allow the audience to feel just like they are underwater.

"It's very difficult to recreate a natural environment because we obviously can't hear too well underwater," he said. "You can sometimes hear shrimp snapping if you scuba dive or snorkel but you can't really hear the subtleties unless you have underwater microphones. They pick that stuff up."

The performance, "The Deep Seascape," is going to showcase almost a year's work in collecting underwater sounds.

The underwater microphones, or hydrophones, were lent to DeLuca by Thomas Hahn, professor of Marine Biology at University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

"Part of the underwater sound environment is that it's really indeterminate and stochastic," DeLuca said. "So there are a lot of different variables that come into play and depending on one variable, something will happen like temperature,

for instance."

He explained that when temperature is cold, sound travels slower, while in warm temperatures sounds travels faster.

Even though the performance consists of focusing on auditory perceptions, visual components will sometimes form part of the overall experience. DeLuca will incorporate images to the presentation by collaborating with Venessa Monokian, conceptual photographer, and Izlia Fernandez, a visual artist.

Instrumentalists and vocal-

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Holocaust lecture co-sponsored by University

FIU is co-sponsoring a lecture by the Reverend Patrick Desbois on Mar. 5.

Rev. Desbois, President of Yahad-In Unum and author of the 2008 National Jewish Book Award, *The Holocaust by Bullets*, will be lecturing about the mass murder of Jews in the Ukraine during World War II.

The event will take place at The Shul, located on 9540 Collins Avenue and it is free and open to the public.

For more information, call The Shul at (305) 868-1411, ext 7319

NATIONAL

Economic stimulus package passes in House of Representatives

The House of Representatives approved Barack Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus package on Friday, Feb. 13.

The bill passed by a 246-183 margin, in what is considered a huge victory for Obama's new administration. The package will now go to the Senate for approval where a vote on the bill is scheduled for this afternoon.

The bill provides for \$281 billion in tax cuts for individuals and businesses while more than a half-trillion dollars are going towards government spending. The money would go for infrastructure, health care and help for cash-starved state governments, among scores of programs. Seniors would get a \$250 bonus Social Security check.

– Compiled by David Barrios and Paul O'Swath

Composition draws notes from sea

MUSIC, page 1

ists from FIU's School of Music will perform an original score, environmentally inspired, composed by DeLuca.

In addition, Clark Lundberry, English professor at University of North Florida, wrote text installations that are going to be both sung and spoken.

The surround sound eight-channel, two-tiered will portray the underwater environment.

"If you're sitting in the bottom floor and you heard those sounds that are elevated, you would feel like you're below those sounds just like if you were sitting on the bottom of the sea, on the sea floor," DeLuca explained.

During the first part of the evening, DeLuca will establish the context of his work through a 15-minute sound exhibit, where the audience will be engulfed in total darkness and will wear eye masks that will block their vision but enhance their hearing to fully appreciate the music of the deep.

The second portion will move into a musical experience. Rather than creating a stark division, DeLuca will use the installations to manipulate the sound throughout the performance.

The idea for researching and recording natural environments that focus completely on underwater sounds surged mainly from DeLuca's travels this past

summer.

"In New York City when you're walking down the street and you hear the beeping taxi cabs which are so percussive, you hear these sorts of rhythmic patterns that just form spontaneously," he said. "Things like walking in the woods, you'll hear birds communicating back and forth and at the same time you'll hear little acorns falling off a tree and all this comes together and makes a soundscape! It's natural music."

In order to pursue the specifics of his research, DeLuca went through an application process to

receive a grant. Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council awarded DeLuca the grant he applied for through the physics department with the help of physics professor James Webb.

Webb said DeLuca first became involved through his class, Physics of Music.

"During that course I played some of my quasar music for my students, basically observations from quasars turned into sound and I think that sort of caught Eric's attention," Webb said. "So he got the idea of using natural sounds like under the ocean and making music out of that."

"I found the low sounds of the snails and goldfish interesting because they are specific sounds you wouldn't hear on a daily basis," said Martin Camacho, a music technology major.

Because "The Deep Soundscape" is the epitome of an interdisciplinary art project, DeLuca hopes for a variety of people to attend.

Also, the projects' emphasis on sound opens a creative door for the visually impaired and DeLuca is specifically planning to contact special-needs organizations.

LEAD ON



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

SHOW OFFS: Student leaders present an activity in Residence Life Coordinator of UP Towers Murillo Soranso's "The Fishbowl Effect in Cyberspace: Role Modeling & the Internet" session at the Leadership Summit.

Experts address nation's power issues

SOLDANAYS MUJICA
Staff Writer

An event with international relations experts aims at discussing the role America will take on during the next several years.

The one-day summit, called "America and The Rising Powers," will begin at 9 a.m. and host four highly known foreign policy and international relations experts.

The School of International and Public Affairs will be hosting a geopolitical summit at FIU's University Park campus on Feb. 24.

"The purpose of this summit being held at FIU is to emphasize the importance of Inter-

national affairs in our university," said Dr. John F. Stack Jr., Interim Director of SIPA. "The summit couldn't have come in a better time during our economical crisis, with President Obama in office, and during the first semester of our new School of International and Public Affairs."

The summit will be divided into four plenary sessions for each one of the speakers. Each session will also consist of FIU professors that will speak as well.

The four experts and main speakers are Dr. Francis Fukuyama, Dr. Robert Kagan, Parag Khanna, and Dr. Fareed Zakaria.

There will be Q & A

portions within each plenary session for students and faculty to address questions or concerns.

Tickets for the summit are free and will be distributed in both UP and BBC bookstores starting Feb. 16 until Feb. 19 with proof of a valid student I.D.

The summit will also introduce FIU's new School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), a school consisting of international, governmental, and social studies.

Fukuyama is a Bernard Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University, as well as the Director of its International Development Program.

Kagan, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund, also writes a monthly column for the Washington Post and is a contributing editor for the Weekly Standard and News Republic.

Khana, the Director of the Global Governance Initiative and Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation, is also an author of *The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New Global Order*.

Zakaria is the editor of Newsweek International, columnist and host of CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS. Zakaria is also an author to a national best seller *The Post American World*, which is about the growth of China, India, Brazil and many other countries and what's in their future.

President Modesto A. Maidique will open the summit and introduce its first speaker, Fukuyama.

"This summit comes at a propitious time, as President Barack Obama takes office and sets a new course for U.S. foreign policy," said Maidique in a press release. "It also comes as FIU establishes SIPA, a school that fulfills the promise of Florida International University's name – a global university committed to making 'international' a part of every student's experience."

THE BEACON

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NATALYA COHEN/THE BEACON

INSPIRING: Esther Hamilton, president of Club Africa, talks to Minister Muhammad before the panel discussion on Feb. 12 in Wolfe Center.

Panel talks Obama, religious unity abroad

NATALYA COHEN
Contributing Writer

The purposes of Pan-African Heritage Month include exposing the truths about segregation and hoping that history not repeat itself.

With this theme in mind, the "America's New Beginning: Now That We've Made History, Where Do We Go From Here?" lecture and panel discussion took place Feb. 11 in the Wolfe University Center's Ballrooms.

"We must unite," said panel leader and host Minister Lyle Muhammad, member of Muhammad Mosque No. 29 in Miami.

The lecture, which was organized by Jayne Klein, professor in religious studies, and the Honors College, was centered on the presidential election and the hope it brought for America and for members of various faiths throughout the world.

Minister Rasul Muhammad, leader of Muhammad Mosque No. 29 in Miami, was the keynote speaker of the event.

"Some see President Barack Obama as the new messiah, but don't make the mistake of thinking that one man will solve the problems in our country," Rasul Muhammad said. "His slogan was not 'Yes I Can,' but 'Yes We Can.'"

Klein feels it is important to students' education to learn more about different cultures and religions.

"We're at a juncture in human history. We can follow the past of segregation, whether in race, religion or political ideology, but that

will get us nowhere," Klein said. "It is the time to unite. Otherwise, that is the end of change and ultimately humanity."

Many in attendance, including Antonia Shachar, senior psychology major, agreed that the election brought about change to the country.

"Young Americans may have been skeptical before the election, but after Obama's election, something changed," Shachar said.

During the event, each member of the panel took questions from those in the audience. While many of them were about Islam and its teachings in regards to unity, others were about the importance of education.

"The No. 1 enemy of the human race is not another race, it's ignorance. People are not ignorant just because they are ignorant," Rasul Muhammad said. "The word ignorant comes from the word ignore. So actually, when one is ignorant, they are actually lazy in an age of information. Therefore, the ignorant are really fools."

According to Rasul Muhammad, there is a need to educate the nation on how to take the steps to achieve Obama's desire for change.

"If the world sets aside their differences and realizes that we are all children of God, we can change. The educational and economical system in America does not need a bailout, it needs to be revamped," Rasul Muhammad said.

Those in attendance thought the lecture was beneficial and helped them learn more about the topics discussed.

"I am grateful to the minister for sharing his wisdom," said Esther Hamilton, a hospitality major.

SGC-BBC SENATE

Chairpersons given right to vote

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

The introduction of voting rights for Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus members may improve the body's effectiveness.

"Because [committee chair members] don't vote, it's a lack of interest," said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC speaker of the Senate. "They feel there's no incentive to come to the meetings; they feel insignificant."

During a general meeting Feb. 11, SGC-BBC discussed a resolution stating that committee chair members can vote until the new constitution takes effect.

"We want committee chair members to vote because they show up to meetings and can't vote, and they should be able to," said Neistein. "This resolution will solidify our council."

As of now, only SGC-BBC senators have the right to vote during meetings, according to the SGA Constitution and SGC-BBC bylaws. But when the constitution is revamped and

According to Neistein, this resolution is just to expedite the process. Committee chair members will have full rights as senators, even though they don't hold that position, and

Panther Power director.

According to Neistein, the positive aspects of committee chair members having voting rights include that there would be "no bitterness" between senators and committee chairs because they both would have equal voting rights.

"The con would be the workload, because they would be in charge of senator and committee chair duties," said Neistein. "They would have to run in elections. Before they were just appointed, so it's better for students, as they can elect [committee] members."

With the majority of committee chair members asking for personal privilege, which is permission to leave due to personal responsibilities, "having the right to vote will increase the incentive for commitment to the meeting," Neistein said.

This resolution will solidify our council.

Sholom Neistein, speaker of the Senate
SGC-BBC

modified at the University-wide meeting on Feb. 23, committee chair members will also be given that privilege.

"Is this actually legal, based on bylaws? Have you guys researched that if this passes you would also have to write a council bill to amend the bylaws?" asked Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president. "A resolution is just a group of people saying we agree to it, but it doesn't give the final legal say."

they will have the same voting rights.

"They say they want to vote, but they're not here," said Karin Guerrero, SGC-BBC lower division senator.

If the amount of voters increases, so does the amount needed at the meetings for quorum, two-thirds of the senators in attendance, according to the SGA Constitution.

"My worry is that if we're not here, we won't get any business done," said Natalie Vera,

Custodian combines gospel, hip-hop, faith in debut album

DAVON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Avery Mitchell never imagined himself being a custodian at the University. Rather, he wanted to be a student. But life had a different plan for him.

"I grew up with dreams of being a human rights activist and planned to attend FIU to major in photography, but I didn't have any support and money was getting tight," Mitchell said. "So I started to work at FIU as a custodian in order to save up."

Although getting a degree has been one of Mitchell's goals, he now has a dream of being a Christian artist.

Mitchell hopes to become a positive example to divert people from making bad lifestyle choices, as he has done in the past. Before turning his life around, Mitchell lived in and out of jail.

"I was in the streets smoking, drinking and stealing," Mitchell said. "After I was released from jail for the fifth time, when I was 18, my mom told me that God was watching over me. That's when I knew I needed a savior and decided to give my life to God."

Promising himself that he would start a new life, Mitchell started attending church.

"Once I repented for my sins, got baptized in the name of Jesus in 2006 and became a real Christian, I started to preach about God to people in the streets of my local neighborhood, and soon after, my brother gave me the nickname 'Preach the Minister,'" Mitchell said.

Ever since, those around Mitchell say they have noticed a change for the better.

"[Mitchell] is a humble person with a lot to give," said junior criminal justice major Andres Olivares. "I've known him since fifth grade and he has made an immense improvement in his lifestyle."

Though Mitchell is influenced by artists such as Tupac, Run DMC and LL Cool J, all of whom are not classified within the Christian genre, he's also influenced by gospel artists.

"I listen to Christian artists such as Yolanda Adams, Kirk Franklin and Donnie McClurkin, but I haven't had any influences from any Christian rappers because I didn't think that I would become a rapper," Mitchell said.

Mitchell grew up in a Christian family, but didn't go to church.

"I was too young to understand and spent all my time in the streets doing things that contradicted God," he said.

After his baptism in 2006, Mitchell began to work on his musical career. He started recording his first album in 2008, but is not looking to sign with labels anytime soon.

"I don't want a label company to brand me and make me change my style," Mitchell said.

Mitchell has performed at places such as Miami's Hip-Hop Grub Spot, located in Miami Gardens, Cameo Nightclub in Miami Beach, the Broward County Fair and the University's Diversity Day.

"'Preach' is an extraordinary and outgoing person," said Mitchell's friend Albertha Jones, a graduation officer in the enrollment center. "His music is very informative, deals with today's society and speaks positively to the young generation."

Mitchell's debut album, *The H.A.T.E U Give* has 13 tracks and features hip-hop artist and record producer DJ NickTunez.

"The album focuses on the oppression, stress and worries that I had while competing against good and evil," he said. "The moral of my music is basically to demonstrate that everyone goes through hard times in their lives, but we can learn to take the negative tribulations and obstacles and turn them into positive outcomes if we only have faith in God."



"PREACH"

THE BEACON | Editorial

With cancelling of Legend event, SGC-UP should reconsider its lecture strategy

More than 1,000 students were ready to spend an evening with John Legend at the U.S. Century Bank Arena Feb. 11, courtesy of University Park's Student Government Council, but they had to find alternate plans. The show was postponed and ultimately cancelled due to the unfortunate passing of Legend's grandfather, Raymond E. Lloyd, Sr., at the age of 88.

SGC-UP could not have possibly predicted the circumstances under which this highly publicized event would not have come to fruition, and though *The Beacon* feels that this event would have been memorable, the its cancelling brings up concerns about the council's general philosophy toward their lecture series.

The funding for the Legend event actually came out of SGC-UP's Lecture Series budget, which is funded by the Activities & Services fee tacked on to our tuition, meant for SGC-UP to bring relevant and engaging speakers to campus.

While we are sure that the most die-hard Legend fans would feel that paying \$20 to hear their idol speak is well worth it, this may not be the case when they realize that they already paid for him, through their tuition.

According to budget records, SGC-UP's budget for lecture speakers for the 2008-09 school year was \$50,000. In the Fall semester, they spent more than half of that budget, \$30,000, bringing Ivanka Trump, daughter of real estate mogul Donald Trump, to speak to a small crowd in GC-243.

SGC-UP could only manage to bring Legend by risking going over budget in the hopes of selling out the show and recouping the debt with the gate sales. Had the council not managed to raise the money to

break even, they would have likely had to rely on reserve funds to meet the contract agreements.

If you do the math, you notice that it would have been very hard for the council to break even. According to SGC-UP, they had about 1,100 tickets sold as of Feb. 9. If 1,100 students bought tickets at \$20 a piece, SGC-UP only would have recouped \$22,000 of the debt, ensuring that more than \$8,000 would have to be accounted for by other means. It is likely that as the event neared more tickets would have been sold, but it was still a risk that could have backfired.

SGC-UP was unable to market the event as a proper concert, as Legend was scheduled to be in the area for a performance and it would conflict with tickets sales for that event. The irony of the situation is the fact that the only events SGA can actually charge students for are concerts. The event was promoted as having both a lecture and performance component.

The idea of charging students for a lecture to begin with is troublesome. Students pay substantially every semester through fees to fund SGA's more than \$9.5 million total budget, part of which is already earmarked to bring us engaging speakers. In this or any economy, \$20 or \$25 may not be so easy to come by for college students.

The Beacon believes that in the future, SGC-UP should do their best to fund lectures with the allotted budget for lectures, so students need not pay twice.

The council should also consider a greater variety of smaller lectures, so we are not left with that inevitable empty feeling after more eggs than we ever had to begin with were put into a single basket.

COEXISTING

University sets 'faithful' example

CHRISTINA VERDECIA
Contributing Writer

Every fall, parents kneel down, close their eyes and fold their hands before entering prayer. They pray not for financial gain, good health or guidance, but for strength for their sons and daughters as they enter college, fearing the worst for their children's faith.

Karin Martinez, a junior majoring in education, shared her story of her church expressing concern.

"They would give statistics about the number of Christians going into and getting out of college," Martinez said.

Her church saw the obvious erosion of the faithful and felt the need to warn her of college life. Professors are seen as very liberal - most of them atheists, "hell-bent" on changing the views of their students. Glenn Beck, a well-known conservative reporter, published an article in 2008 titled "A conservative professor's view from a liberal wasteland," in which he argues that Martinez's fears are not only true, but are becoming a threat. Beck writes, "Nowhere is this clearer than in freshman orientation programs in colleges and universities throughout the United States that feature compulsory, one-sided events designed to undermine new students' traditional beliefs about sexual morality and decency."

Although I cannot speak for other universities, at FIU, this is certainly not the case.

In the Graham Center, members of three organizations - the Muslim Students Association, FIU Shalom and Intersity Christian - discuss with one

another how they spent their weekends. Professors, whose beliefs run across the spectrum, express everything from Buddhist opinions to Catholic teachings, always attempt to keep their beliefs separated from what they teach. This attitude is known as cultural relativism: keeping what you believe present, but separating yourself from your beliefs in order to further study another culture's beliefs.

As a political science and religious studies double major, it's impossible for me to avoid controversial debates. However, not one professor has attacked my beliefs.

In my first political science course, I came to realize these debates weren't the useless ones I had in high school. They delved into theory, thought and creation; rather than debating the validity of philosophers, I found myself debating why someone of a specific time would think the way they did. It was a relief to know one of my greatest fears would not become a reality. I'm not alone, either.

"I haven't been afraid to express my beliefs and ask questions in most classes where discussion is welcome and open," said Joel Delgado, a freshman majoring in political science.

In one case, Delgado was in an international relations class, a class with presumably mixed views. The professor asked four

people to go to the front of the class and discuss how terrorism should

best be dealt with. Delgado's opinion differed from the rest of the class, but he felt comfortable sharing. Considering that religion can often have great impact on political tendencies, those with strong religious views often fear that their strong conservative views may be rejected.

"I didn't feel discriminated against. It was just a part of the discussion at hand," Delgado said.

My family and I were relieved to find the college experience at FIU is nothing like how the media portrays it.

Thanks to Miami's diverse cultures, not only have I been able to maintain my views in intense debates, I've been

able to learn about and understand the views of others to an extent that I didn't think I would. This year I'll celebrate Easter and Christmas - plus

fast during Ramadan and Yom Kippur, celebrate Vesak Day and Holi and attend several lectures about different myths and mystics.

To those who aren't political science or religious studies majors, I urge them to take at least one class in either field. Like Karin, Joel and myself learned, you will come to find that at FIU, these discussions should be enjoyed, not avoided.



Outsourcing of prisoner transport unacceptable

JADE SCHUSTER
Contributing Writer

Thanks to an irresponsible prisoner transportation company, a once-captured inmate is on the loose.

On Feb. 4, a prisoner who was being transported in a "secure" van escaped while en route from Florida to Pennsylvania. He was reported missing just after a rest stop in Annapolis, Md. Shockingly, the prisoner, Sylvester Mitchell, is an attempted murder suspect. Mitchell was being extradited to Philadelphia, where he once lived, to face murder charges.

How is it that a private prison transportation company, Prisoner Transportation Services of America, LLC, based in Nashville, Tenn., was able to "lose" an attempted murder suspect?

Granted, the prison transportation service was manned by little more than security guards and not U.S. marshals, but how is it possible

that a private company that transports over 100,000 prisoners a year is able to mislay a convict traveling in a van that is, according to the company's Web site, "compartmentalized for maximum safety and security?"

Clearly something is lacking, especially since this is the second successful escape from this transportation service within the last six months. In September 2008, the last shackled escapee - a man convicted for attempted murder who was serving a life sentence in California - slipped through the fingers of a Prisoner Transportation Service guard at Philadelphia International Airport, but was later caught and detained in Elkton, Md., according to *StarTribune.com*. He escaped while en route to his new prison habitation in Delaware.

As of yet, the prisoner who escaped on Feb. 4 has not been captured.

According to Margaret Winter, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project in Wash-

ington, it is not apparent as to how many escapes actually occur within the confines of a private prison transportation service, as these companies are not required to keep records of "escapes, accidents and numbers of inmates they transfer," as reported by *The Los Angeles Times*. The problem is that these private companies are often "thinly staffed, fly-by-night operations that quickly close up shop when they're sued," Winter said.

But where do we draw the line? Are we content to let these so-called criminal justice professionals transport hardened criminals? I think not.

This story reminds me of when I was a flight attendant several years ago for a charter airline out of Fort Lauderdale. On my flight, 100 or so prisoners clambered aboard, destined for yet another prison. For me this was just another day at the office, but why were we allowed to travel in such close proximity to the scourge of society? The answer is simple: We were in the good hands of U.S. marshals

and also safe in knowing that a gun containing rubber bullets was strategically placed in a locked box somewhere on the plane.

Why is it that the government allows private contractors to set up shop as prisoner transportation services when the good old U.S. marshals are well-trained and perfectly capable of being the sole providers of prisoner logistics? After all, the marshals are currently responsible for transporting almost 300,000 prisoners/aliens across national lines and international territories on an annual basis.

Unfortunately, money talks, and even the transportation of jailbirds may seem appealing to some companies. This is just one example of how the government chooses to outsource certain services, from mental health clinics to information technology systems to janitorial and messenger services. As ironic as it may seem, it is a pretty sad world we live in when a private prisoner transportation company can, according to its Web site, "move your prisoner at less cost than if you did it yourself."

Frost Art Museum docents deliver artful experience

NATTY LEVY
Contributing Writer

Along with the Nov. 29 opening of the FIU Frost Art Museum came the beginning of the FIU Docent Program.

Founders Miriam Machado, the museum's education assistant and Linda Powers, the curator of education, were challenged with creating a workforce of people with a passion for art who wanted to help spread it to the community.

Originally trained by Virginia Mecklenburg, the senior curator of painting and sculpture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the docents are students or members of the community who go through constant, intensive art training. Docents at the University provide free tours to groups who visit the Frost Art Museum.

Machado works with Powers to further train docents in becoming ambassadors for the museum.

When it became apparent that the Frost Museum would be the only one of its kind in South Florida, with accreditation from the American Association of Museums as well as being a Smithsonian Affiliate, Machado and Powers saw that it would be necessary to implement an equally stellar docent training program.

"Docents are here to help. They are here because they love art and want to learn about this treasure in the community," Machado said. "The hardest part has been maintaining a large, varied group of volunteers, but opening was very successful and the feedback was very positive. The students were amazing. This institution merits a lot of attention, Miami's community needs something like this."

Each docent is a volunteer. The training they receive is continuous: They meet for sessions every Friday. In trying to bring art to both the Miami and FIU population, they have to learn to put art in terms that appeal to everyone, from children to alumni and



NATTY LEVY/THE BEACON

CULTURE SHOCK: Miriam Machado, the Frost Art Museum's education assistant, tours guests through the Modern Masters collection.

students to museum curators.

"If you're a docent here you just never know who you're going to meet or interact with. Their involvement in the development of the museum means there's always something unique and interesting to experience," Machado said. "There's a tremendous sense of community among the volunteers. They're here because they love art."

Aimee Boulos is a senior who is a docent. She started off with the program because as an art history major she needed experience working in the art world.

"I've learned so much," Boulos said. "It's hard, learning all the information, but it's so worth it."

The docents are challenged with memorizing the works, artists and details in all nine galleries at the Frost Museum to work as effective and knowledgeable guides.

Miriam Alvarez is a Cuban-born artist who moved to Miami more than 45 years ago and works as a docent. She specializes in leading tours solely in Spanish.

"We thought it was a good idea to take art to the only Spanish-speaking community," Alvarez said. "This beautiful, beautiful museum, along with so many people working to do their best has motivated me to do the same."

The museum has not been able to escape the budget cuts that have

plagued so many art programs.

"We expected to have funding that just didn't come in," Powers said. "To support events we thought we would have funding for has been very difficult."

In addition to everyday activities and training, the docents also lend a helping hand leading tours and giving out information during fund-raisers.

"Everyone here works with a team spirit," Machado said. "Everyone has to work together in all areas."

Entering the docent program is an opportunity to see a side of the art world others don't. Docents learn the ins-and-outs of museum life and how much really goes into making art accessible to those who wouldn't otherwise get the chance to enjoy it.

"It's a great opportunity for students or people in the community to learn about the arts and meet artists at all levels," Machado said.

Free tours are led on Fridays and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Frost Art Museum.

To apply for the Docent Program, call (305) 348-6963 or e-mail Linda Powers at lpowers@fiu.edu or Miriam Machado at mirmac16@bellsouth.net. For more information on the Frost Art Museum, visit www.thefrost.fiu.edu.



POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Nostalgic pop-punk combo reconnects

If you read my column every week (and I know the three of you that do), you were undoubtedly awed by my proclamation of love for all things sugary and poppy.

I mean, here we have this well-respected music critic coming out and declaring support for the bottom of the pop barrel, angsty pop-punk.

Well, for those of you who were disappointed, you might not want to

continue, because it's about to get a lot worse. For those of you who are brave enough, read on and see how far down the rabbit hole goes.

In the previous column I mentioned my rediscovery of Blink 182, one of the most popular, legitimately musical bands to come out of the TRL hit factory.

I must admit, I really do still enjoy the nasal singing and three-chord-distorted pop songs that they wrote, so the news of their reunion at the Grammy's was quite exciting to me.

In my musical universe, Blink 182 did not exist until their excellent breakthrough single "What's My Age Again," when I was in sixth grade.

Through middle school and into my first year of high school, they were probably the band I listened to more than any other, which confirms just how unoriginal my teenage experience truly was.

Not surprisingly, these guys never got much love from serious-minded music critics.

However, there is a large segment of our population, born between the years of 1986-1990, that has a much different relationship with the group than the rest.

Obviously, the reason for this is the fact that pretty much everyone loved this band in middle school, and no matter what generation

you are discussing, they will always have a special connection with the music that dominated pop stations during those 11-15 years.

Take my parents, born in 1965. To this day, there is not a disco song my mom won't sing along to, and my dad still loves those arena rock giants of his time, and nobody is mistaking any of these artists for the Beatles.

Middle schoolers tend to have pretty terrible taste in music, opting for loud, danceable, sing-along songs over music with substance. This kind of stuff is generally looked down upon by pretty much everyone else.

But when I hear "Rock Show" or "All of the Small Things" it reminds me of a certain time and place in a way that is so detailed, I can still remember not doing my pre-algebra homework.

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY •

FEBRUARY 16

WHAT: A Woman Called Truth
WHEN: 8pm
WHERE: The M Ensemble Actor's Studio
CONTACT: 305-895-8955

WHAT: Andrew Reach: Full Circle
WHEN: 9am
WHERE: Frost Art Museum
CONTACT: 305-348-2890

WHAT: Anri Sala: Purchas Not by Moonlight
WHEN: 9am
WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art
CONTACT: 305-893-6211

WHAT: Philosophy Club Meeting
WHEN: 3:30pm
WHERE: GC 314
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Italian Club
WHEN: 7pm
WHERE: GC 1223
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

TUESDAY •

FEBRUARY 17

WHAT: Florida Panthers vs New Jersey Devils
WHEN: 7:30pm
WHERE: Bank Atlantic Center
CONTACT: 954-835-7825

WHAT: Miami Live Comedy Lounge
WHEN: 9pm
WHERE: Miami Improv
CONTACT: 305-441-8200

WHAT: Chinese Club Meeting
WHEN: 2:30pm
WHERE: GC 150
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet
WHEN: 3:30pm
WHERE: GC 314
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Muslim Students Association
WHEN: 5pm
WHERE: GC 243
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

diversions

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art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez



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Injuries to backcourt limit scoring

WOMEN'S, page 8

Alabama to increase the lead once again and back-to-back shots by Peterson put the Jaguars up 52-41 with 6:22 left to play.

FIU wasn't able to get closer than nine points the rest of the game, and South Alabama led by as many as 14 after Sippio closed the deal on a jumper with 10 seconds left in regulation.

Both teams shot under 40 percent for the game, FIU at 36.4 and South Alabama, at 39.3 percent. South Alabama out scored the Golden Panthers in second chance points 15 to 9, and also held the advantage from the bench, getting 24 points compared to 7 for FIU.

The Golden Panthers (6-18, 4-10 Sun Belt) will have a week off and then they'll hit the home court on Feb. 18 to take on Troy.



CHARLIE GRAU/THE BEACON

ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: Elisa Carey was efficient on offense (6-of-9 from the floor) and solid on the boards (12 rebounds), but FIU needed more from its depleted backcourt.

Bats finally come out of hibernation

SOFTBALL, page 8

career and put FIU up 3-0.

"There was a feeling of relief in the dugout," said head coach Beth McClendon. "I have no doubts about that kid. I'm glad that she got it started today, hopefully she keeps going the same way the rest of the year."

In the fourth, FIU's offense dominated. Spiers was on second after Jenny Welch singled and Rojas was then hit by a pitch, and that loaded the bases

Soberon came up with a single RBI, to make the score 4-0. Fink then singled to bring in Welch for a 5-0 lead

Still in the fourth, Katie Bell came to the plate and smacked a three-run double. When Temple tried to break the momentum with a pitching change Rodriguez came doubled on the first pitch, driving in Bell to make the lead 9-0.

"I tell them all the time that offense is contagious. I think once one person starts swinging, they gain confidence," said head coach Beth McClendon. "I think we're where we need to be

offensively."

FIU 5, G'TOWN 4

Ashley McClain started in the circle against Georgetown, and gave up three unearned runs.

The Hoyas put up a crooked number early, with two runs in the third inning followed by another in the fourth.

FIU responded in the bottom of the fourth with RBI's by McClain, Rojas, and Fink. Spiers also crossed the plate after an error at second base to put

the Golden Panthers up 4-3.

The Golden Panthers posted the winning run in the bottom of the sixth, a bunt by Bell that scored Soberon putting FIU up 5-3.

Gniadek, who came in for three innings, shut down Georgetown in the fifth and sixth, but found trouble in the seventh.

Gniadek walked the leadoff batter and allowed a single and another walk to load the bases. A wild pitch by Gniadek then sent the runner on third home,

cutting the lead to one.

Barrett then came in to close out the night, notching her second save of the weekend, giving FIU the 5-4 win.

"In a win or lose situation, she has earned the right to make the decisions," said McClendon. "When the game is on the line, that's who we want to have the ball."



CHRISTOPHER GREEN/THE BEACON

GETTING INTO FORM: Senior Kim Rodriguez hit her first home run of the 2009 season in a Feb. 14 win over Temple

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Troy	17-10	12-3	.630
Western Kentucky	17-8	11-3	.680
Middle Tennessee	15-11	8-6	.577
South Alabama	15-11	8-7	.577
FIU	10-17	5-9	.370
Florida Atlantic	6-21	2-13	.222

*All records up to date as of Feb 14.

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Troy	26	2017	77.6
North Texas	24	1833	76.4
Middle Tennessee	25	1777	71.1
Sout Alabama	25	1772	70.9

*All records up to date as of Feb. 14

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	21-4	13-0	.840
South Alabama	18-8	9-6	.692
Western Kentucky	14-10	8-6	.583
Troy	12-13	7-8	.480
Florida Atlantic	10-15	7-8	.400
FIU	6-19	4-10	.240

*All records up to date as of Feb 12

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Middle Tennessee	25	1872	74.9
Western Kentucky	23	1593	69.3
North Texas	24	1614	67.2
South Alabama	25	1669	66.8

*All records up to date as of Feb. 12

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Two game winning streak ends in Mobile

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Women's hoops traveled to South Alabama on February 11 with hopes of extending their longest winning streak of the season after victories against Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State.

However, with guards Ashley Traugott, Antonia Zeigler, and Asia Wilson all sitting out due to injuries, the depleted team fell short against the Jaguars (17-8, 8-6 Sun Belt), 66-52, at the Mitchell Center in Mobile, AL.

Starting point guard Michelle Gonzalez led FIU with 14 points and was the only Golden Panther able to connect from behind the arc. Forward Elisa Carey chipped in with 10 points and 12 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season, while Jasmine Jenkins contributed 10 points.

Ra'Shawna Sippio led South Alabama with 14 points and nine boards. Sarda Peterson followed with 13 off of the bench.

The Jaguars had the momentum early on, taking an 11-3 lead in the first four minutes.

With 31 seconds left in the half, Jenkins clutched a layup to put FIU within three points of South Alabama. Gonzalez grabbed a steal on the Jaguars next possession and hit the layup, cutting the Jaguars' lead to one, 25-24, at the intermission.

South Alabama turned it up in the second half, increasing their lead to 8 with 12:24 to play, after a pair of free throws by Jessica Starling. FIU, however, came back on a 7-0 run capped off by Marquita Adley who knocked down a shot and was fouled, allowing her to go to the line and make the 3-point play.

Turnovers on the next few possessions by the Golden Panthers allowed South

WOMEN'S, page 7



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

GALINDO LAND: Alex Galindo nailed eight threes in a one point loss to South Alabama on Feb 12, one shy of the FIU record.

SOFTBALL

POWER PITCHING

Barrett blows batters away in 3 victories

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers' offense was explosive this weekend, much like fans from last season are used to seeing. However, FIU also saw solid performances by the pitching staff, backed by two saves from Kasey Barrett, the team was able to pick up three wins against non-conference teams in the Blue & Gold Felsberg Memorial.

FIU 5, MSU 3

Behind a season-high 14 hits, FIU topped Michigan State, 5-3 on Feb. 13.

All but one FIU starter had a hit in this game. Junior Lauren Spiers went 3-for-3 at the plate while freshman Ashley McClain went 3-for-4, and Jenny Welch was 2-for-2.

Jennifer Gniadek (2-2) pitched 5.1 innings and allowed two earned runs, and senior Kasey Barrett came in for the final 1.2 innings to pick up her first save of the season.

FIU took the lead in the first inning. With Kim Rodriguez at second and Desiree Fink at third, Jessica Landau came up to the plate and laid down a bunt for a base hit that scored Fink.

Spiers then came to plate and singled in Rodriguez, followed by a Carolina Rojas bases-loaded single to put the Golden Panthers up 3-0.

The Spartans were able to get things going when Spiers committed an error fielding a Heidi Purtzer ground ball that allowed Jessica Bracamonte to score making the score 3-1.

FIU's offense powered up again in the bottom of the third when Spiers doubled deep to right, followed by a McClain single.

Welch then drove in Spiers for the fourth run. Sophomore Seldi Soberon then singled to bring in McClain for the 5-1 advantage.



CHRISTOPHER GREEN/THE BEACON

LIGHTS OUT: Kasey Barrett picked up her first save of the year in a 5-3 win over Michigan St. with 1.2 innings of perfect relief on Feb 13. The following night Barrett pitched a three hit five inning complete game in a 9-1 win over Temple, and closed out a 5-4 win over Georgetown

ST. JOHN'S 4, FIU 0

FIU recorded just three hits and fell 4-0 to the Red Storm.

Junior Paige Cassidy made her second start, and allowed just one earned run, but dropped the decision due to an offensive power outage.

Ashley McClain also contributed in the circle, throwing three shutout innings while striking out five.

St. John's got their offense rolling in the third inning, scoring four runs capped by a two-run homer by Stacia Dopudja to make the score 4-0.

Kat Lawrence (2-0) improved pitched a complete game shut out, and Cassidy (1-1) took the loss.

FIU 9, TEMPLE 1

The Golden Panthers offense came alive when they faced Temple. FIU recorded nine hits and chased in all nine runners to beat the Owls 9-1 in five innings on Feb. 14.

Senior Kim Rodriguez set the tone in the third inning with a three-run homer. Rodriguez' home run was the 27th of her

SOFTBALL, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Late hoop sinks bid for 2 in-a-row

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Forward Alex Galindo had one of the best nights of his career Thursday, scoring 26 points as he moved into sixth place on FIU's All-time career scoring list with 981 points, but Leshun Watson made sure the night didn't belong to Galindo, draining a 3-point basket at the buzzer that pushed South Alabama (14-11, 7-7 Sun Belt) ahead of the Golden Panthers (10-17, 5-9 SBC) 66-65 in Mobile on Feb. 12.

Galindo hit one of his eight three-pointers, one shy of the FIU single game record, with 11 seconds left to give FIU a 65-63 lead, but Watson made work from beyond the arc off a Bryan Sherrer inbound pass to preserve the

victory for USA.

Late in the second half, it looked like FIU and Galindo were not going to be stopped en route to a second straight comeback win. The Golden Panthers trailed 60-50 with 5:34 to play, before Galindo made three 3-pointers to bring the team to within 62-59 with 2:33 to go. South Alabama, who led most of the contest, made 7-of-10 free throws late to weather the Golden Panther charge.

USA shot 52 percent from the floor for the game, as opposed to FIU's 48 percent clip. Despite Jaguar leading scorer Domico Tilford being held to just five points, South Alabama was able to secure major contributions forward Brandon Davis, 14 points, 11 rebounds, and forward Ronald Douglas, 10 points.

The Jaguars found their greatest advantages in the paint, where they outscored FIU 30-20, and out rebounded FIU 31-24. The bench was also too much for the short handed Golden Panthers to deal with, getting out dueled 30-14 by the Jaguar reserves.

The Golden Panthers got 12 points off the bench from Tremayne Russell, and 15 points from center Russell Hicks who added 10 rebounds for his third double-double of the season, in just 12 games played.. Starting forward and double-digit scorer (10.4 ppg) Nikola Gacesa stayed in Miami with a high ankle sprain, and center Freddy Asprilla missed his seventh consecutive game with a herniated disc.

FIU plays host to Troy next Thursday, Feb. 19th at the U.S Century Bank Arena. Tip-off is set for 7:00 PM.