

3-2-2009

## The Beacon, March 2, 2009

Florida International University

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### Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, March 2, 2009" (2009). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 264.  
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**Seniors say goodbye with 27-point win**  
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## SPOTLIGHT

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Athletics should have been more responsible and professional in renting out FIU Stadium.

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New high school to open by campus, classes begin next Fall.

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COLUMN: Chris Towers anticipates The Boy Least Likely To's next album.

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Every student faces stress—but that doesn't mean it can't be controlled.

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Baseball team nearly sweeps Brown during weekend doubleheader.

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Customer service, where quality supercedes quantity, is initiated on campus.

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The stimulus package was slimmed down, leaving students with less money.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**StudentsWrite Meeting**, March 2, 2-4 p.m.: Slap on your favorite beret and horizontal striped shirt to channel your inner writer in GC 340 for some pen and paper fun!

**Bahamian Student Organization Meeting**, March 2, 3-4 p.m.: Get back to your island roots with fellow Bahamians in GC 343.

**Italian Club Meeting**, March 2, 7-10 p.m.: Meet new people and make some *amicis* in GL 1223. You'll find no moons in your eyes like big pizza pies here, just a good time with fellow Italiani.

**Yoga Club Meeting**, March 2, 7:45-9:45 p.m.: Stressed from midterms? Limber up those muscles and feel brand new! Stretch yourself to relaxation in GC 241.

**Preksha Meditation Club Meeting**, March 3, 12-2 p.m.: Clear your mind and find your center at Preksha Meditation Club's meeting in GC 305. Get your chakras on!

For the complete calendar, please see page 5 or visit [FIUSM.com/calendar](http://FIUSM.com/calendar)

## WEATHER

**MONDAY**  
Mostly sunny  
LOW: 47 HIGH: 69

**TUESDAY**  
Sunny  
LOW: 52 HIGH: 69

**WEDNESDAY**  
Sunny  
LOW: 56 HIGH: 73

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## RELAY FOR LIFE

# DETOUR

## Fund-raiser relocates after restrictions imposed

**SERGIO BONILLA, CHARLIE GRAU**  
Beacon Staff

The Relay for Life organization hoped that students would be able to fund-raise inside the FIU Football Stadium this year. Instead, Athletics just informed the Relay for Life committee about some of its regulations, which led them to change venues about a month before the event.

"If the rules would have been set up in November, we would have said 'no' in November," said Student Director of Relay for Life Barbie Erched.

Relay for Life is a fund raiser for cancer research.

After months of preparing to hold the fifth annual Relay for Life at the football stadium, the organization decided to move the event's location back to the front of the Ryder Business Building due to several disagreements with Athletics.

Some of the issues included

### INFO RELAY

**What:** 5th annual Relay for Life  
**Where:** Lawn, Ryder Business Bldg.  
**When:** March 6-7, 2009  
**Time:** 5 p.m. - Noon

SOURCE: [WWW.FIU.EDU/~RFL](http://WWW.FIU.EDU/~RFL)

Athletics' refusal to let food and drinks onto the field, recent unexpected costs and a scheduling conflict with football practices.

"We're a student organization, and we have one of the largest philanthropy events on campus," Erched said. "We would have thought a football practice would have been able to be moved to another day; prices would have been able to be worked out or the rules would have been set up in November."

The Relay for Life Logistics Chair

Alex Parayuelos received an e-mail confirmation from former stadium Manager Shawn Thorimbert, dated Nov. 10, 2008. It read, "Yes Alex. I have reserved the 6th and the 7th in the stadium for the Relay for Life."

"They built the stadium and they want the students to enjoy it," Parayuelos said. "We have one event that we want to do in there, and it's not accommodated?"

The day before an executive meeting on Feb. 9, Stadium Manager Anthony Mozzicato called Beverly Dalrymple, director of the Center for Leadership and Service, to inform her that rules and regulations forbid food or beverages on the field.

"We would be allowed to use the field only," Erched said. "That's our entire event, feeding and providing beverages for 3,000 people to stay up for 18 hours."

**RELAY, page 2**

# Meyer addresses student body, touches on budget crisis outlook

**DAVID BARRIOS**  
Senior Staff Writer

Acknowledging key issues concerning the student body including the University's current budget crisis and noting accomplishments made by University Park Student Government Council during his administration, SGC-UP President Arthur J. Meyer spoke to students during his presidential address last Thursday.

"The financial outlook has made it so that our University has endured substantial budget cuts and may have to bear with another round in a few months," Meyer said

He stated that the quality and quantity of students' education would be affected.

"The quality of our education has been affected due to the loss of qualified professors to other universities, class options have become more limited and the University is doing more with less.

"The quantity, or value of our education has also been affected and will most likely continue to increase in the foreseeable future and will put the burden on our students to afford the value of a college education," Meyer said.

Among other achievements that Meyer pointed out were his administration's success in bringing Ivanka Trump, daughter of real estate mogul Donald Trump, to speak as a part of the Student Government Association Lectures Series.

"We have started limiting wasteful spending inside SGA and with activities and services fees. We're also proud of our many accomplishments in getting the community involved with FIU students through our Team FIU luncheons and hosting SGA meetings in our northern municipality neighbor, Sweetwater," Meyer said.

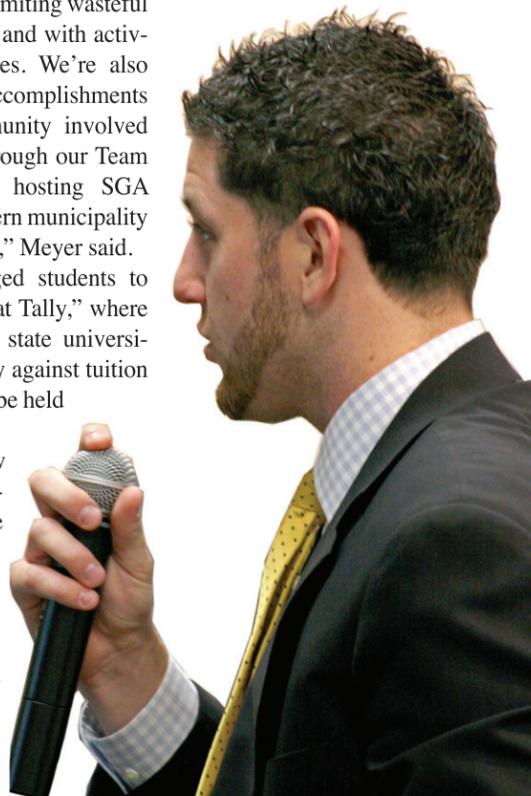
He also encouraged students to participate in "Rally at Tally," where students from all 11 state universities will meet to lobby against tuition increases, which will be held this Wednesday.

"We want to show them the accomplishments we've made during the past year – not that we've stopped working, we still have another two months to finish up any of our goals. We wanted to provide everyone with insight as to

what goes on," Meyer said.

The event, the first of its kind, was open to the public and followed with a presentation by University Chief Financial Officer Vivian

**ADDRESS, page 2**



# Priest recounts Holocaust horrors

**AMY RAMIREZ**  
Contributing Writer

The French Catholic priest who uncovered the untold stories of hundreds of Ukrainians who witnessed the shootings of Jews, in what he believes marked the beginning of the Holocaust, is coming to Miami.

The Judaic Studies Program at FIU is co-sponsoring a lecture given by the Rev. Patrick Desbois, author of *The Holocaust by Bullets*, on March 5 at one of South Florida's largest synagogues.

At 8 p.m., the shul will open its doors to everyone who is interested in the significance of Desbois' humanitarian research.

"His work will ultimately change our notion of who died in the Holocaust, when and where and how many," said Oren Stier, director of the JSP and associate professor and graduate program director of religious studies.

Desbois, with the help of a team composed of an interpreter, a ballistics expert, a photographer and an archival researcher, has interviewed over 500 Holocaust witnesses.

"He has made it his mission to research this history, make the facts known and locate the graves," said Aryeh Rubin, director of Targum Shlishi, a foundation dedicated to providing a range of creative solutions to problems facing Jewry today. "There is very little time left to interview witnesses and uncover this history.

"Father Desbois is giving us our last opportunity to do something, our last chance to uncover this history."

Between 1941 and 1944, the Einsatzgruppen – Nazi mobile killing units – publicly executed almost 1.5 million of the 2.4 million Jews living in the Soviet Ukraine.

"They rounded up Jews and took them into the fields, had them dig their own mass graves, divested them of their clothing and their personal belongings and shot them. It was a critical part of the terror of the early

**HOLOCAUST, page 2**

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

## College of Law named courtrooms after rescue volunteers

In honor of the four Brothers to the Rescue volunteers who perished when their planes were shot down by Cuban MiG fighter jets in 1996, the College of Law named one of its courtrooms C.A.M.P 4 Justice Courtroom.

C.A.M.P 4 Justice Foundation, established in memory of the fallen volunteers, established its own Scholars Program in Human Rights, which supports FIU law students' education.

LOCAL

## Florida's unemployment rate rises

The state's unemployment rose 2.1 percent since 2007, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2007, Florida's unemployment rate was 4.1 and in 2008 it rose to 6.2 percent.

Unemployment rates increased in 46 of the 50 states last year.

Florida, Nevada and Rhode Island were the only states with increases of two percentage points or more.

The national average unemployment rate last year was 5.8 percent.

## Florida ranks third in identity theft cases

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Florida ranked third in the United States in the number of identity theft complaints filed.

There were 57,472 identity and other complaints of theft in Florida last year; 24,440 of those complaints were related to identity theft.

Nationwide, there were 1.2 million complaints related to fraud, identity theft and other consumer complaints last year, a 50 percent increase more than 2007.

—Compiled by Julia Cardenuto

## Tuition increase to provide stability

## ADDRESS, page 1

Sanchez, who went into detail about the budget crisis.

"We have a very unique methodology at FIU of how to approach these [state] budget cuts. It is very unique in that no other institution is pursuing things in this way," Sanchez said.

Sanchez explained the University's budget and the purpose of tuition increases to supplement funds cut by the state legislature.

She noted that the University runs on a "rolling three-year budget," in which, rather than establishing an annual budget at the end of a fiscal year, the University would plan three years in advance.

Rather than carrying out the budget of the final two years at the end of the first

fiscal year, the budget would be adjusted again to account for new trends.

"We planned this with the mindset that the budget cuts are here and they are here to stay," Sanchez said.

The 15 percent tuition increases that are being instituted this Fall are being used to supplement the loss of funds from the state and, according to Sanchez, will keep the University financially stable.

The event was also attended by Provost Ronald Berkman and Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, who, along with Sanchez, participated in a question and answer session toward the end of the meeting.

One student asked if there were any positive facts to point out to students despite

"This event was a mechanism to communicate with the student body about our expectations ... there's a tremendous amount of confusion..."

Ronald Berkman  
Provost

the current budget cuts and tuition increases.

"This is one of the best incoming class of freshmen that we've ever had. The mean SAT score was 1162 while their GPAs were also high, meaning that the quality of our students is getting better. We've also had great progress with the medical school in the midst of a very difficult situation," Berkman

said. Jones pointed increases in student response and attendance at athletics events as another sign of improvement.

"This event was a mechanism to communicate with the student body about our expectations. In these times, there's a tremendous amount of confusion going around," Berkman said.

## Regulations force Relay to relocate

## RELAY, page 1

Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg said she doesn't believe that food was mentioned at that meeting last year, which she was not present for.

However, Dalrymple said everything needed for the event and how it was set up was discussed at the meeting with several Relay for Life members, University Park Student Government Council Chief of Staff Anthony Rionda and the stadium manager Thorimbert.

On the other hand, Berg said protecting the football field's turf was the biggest concern for Athletics.

"This is an expensive field that cost over \$1 million," she said. "It is not meant to have food or drinks spilled on it. You can't rake it like on a regular sod field."

Dalrymple said without the food on the field, the fund-raising would be hurt.

"The biggest issue was not being able to have tents, food or drinks on the field," Dalrymple said. "We have a walking track and all the tents are for fund-raising."

Another conflict was the football practices scheduled for the two days of the event. Berg said Relay for Life had the option of setting up prior to March 6, the first day of the event, and the football team would end practice at 5 p.m. to allow Relay to start at 5:15 p.m.

"We usually set up at 8 a.m. and usually finish up setting up at 5 p.m. So it's a good few hours of setting up. Ending the set up at 1 p.m. is completely unheard of in the past couple of years," Erched said.

Football coach Mario Cristobal said he was unaware the committee moved the event out of the stadium until recently. Berg also thought all the issues with the practice were resolved.

"From what I was told, it was agreed upon with the relay folks that they would have everything set up before the practice and then gain complete access when practice finished," Berg said.

Parayuelos noted that the practice problem should have been resolved with the football team practicing another day.

"When we want to have an event for cancer research, we can't move practice," he said. "Athletics wants everyone to come out to the football games and get involved and they want people to give, give, give and when it comes time for them to give back to the University – I have yet to see that."

In addition, new costs for facilities to clean up, pay for janitors and for wood to place under the tents were brought to the organization's attention.

"We didn't know any of that," Erched said. "They never gave us a set amount."

Berg explained that the cost to hold an

event like Relay for Life at the stadium were unknown.

"We didn't know all the cost until events starting happening in the stadium," Berg said. "We were learning as we were going. Now we got a handle on how much it cost to run an event there."

Once Relay for Life was moved out of the stadium, lights and a sound system were needed. The sound system cost \$2,400 and \$2,000 for lights. Relocating made the Relay for Life committee spend \$4,000-\$5,000 more than expected. If the committee is unable to pay for all the expenses, it may tap into the money raised during the event.

"In reality, they created conditions that made it impossible to have it there because the event takes a day to set up and runs all night long until the morning," Dalrymple said.

The committee will be placing stickers on all Relay for Life fliers because they have the FIU Football Stadium typed as the location. Berg expressed how much Athletics is disappointed Relay for Life will not be hosted at the stadium.

"We are upset that the Relay for Life is not at the stadium," she said. "Coach Cristobal wanted it there. We thought it would be a good match and I hope we can look at it again next year."

## True depth of mass executions retold

## HOLOCAUST, page 1

phase of what came to be known as the Holocaust," Stier said.

Because the shootings occurred near villages and towns, many of the local youth were asked to participate in the systematic disposal. An article on *msnbc.com* states that unbearable tasks were placed on local children including burying the dead and trampling barefoot on bodies in the mass graves in order to make space for more.

"One reason that his work is so significant is because, as a Catholic priest, he can talk to people in a way that nobody else can. If I went there, nobody is going to talk to me ... a lot of these elderly Ukrainians are seeing a Catholic priest come and they're unburdening themselves with their own guilt, it's like a confession. Their

opportunity to tell what happened and it's something that they may have never told anyone outside of their own small circle for maybe 60 years."

Along with publishing *Holocaust by Bullets* in August 2008, which won the 2008 National Jewish Book Award, Desbois is the president and founder of Yahad-In Unum. The main focus of Yahad-In-Unum is identifying sites of Jewish mass executions. He has been an advisor to the Vatican's commission for Religious Relations with Jews since 2003. He is a member of the French Judeo-Christian Friendship Society, and he was a personal aide to the late Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger.

"Desbois is probably one of the most amazing individuals I've ever met," Stier said. "His humanitarian work and his interests in promoting religious dialogue and reconciliation

are monumental; anybody who goes to his lecture is going to be moved in a profound way."

Students are welcome and are reminded to carpool. The Judaic Studies Program is even encouraging faculty to give extra credit when appropriate.

"A big part of the story that my students learn, but a lot of other people don't know, is that the Holocaust was more than gas chambers and death camps," Stier said.

As for what to expect, Stier said, "Expect a French-Catholic priest wearing a collar to stand in front of a packed synagogue hall talking about the work he does in interviewing elderly, Ukrainian non-Jews on what happened in their towns and villages during World War II and the massacre of Jews in Ukraine."

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## High school opening next door on Aug. 24

**DAINELYS MARTINEZ**  
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus commuters will soon face traffic caused by almost a thousand students making their way to class - but not to campus.

State School QQQ-1 Senior High will open its doors Aug. 24, across from the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center - next to BBC - on 151 Street, with an expected 700 to 800 ninth and 10th graders.

Plans to build the school started as early as 2006, according to Sally J. Alayon, State School QQQ-1 principal.

"Every time you see a school being built, it's to relieve crowding from other schools. [Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High], four miles from this school, is very crowded," Alayon said.

The construction of the school is estimated to cost \$39 million, according to Luis Darder, senior project manager for Pavarini Construction Co. Inc., the company in charge of the construction. It will be 160,807 square feet and will hold 1,614 students.

State School QQQ-1 is the generic name given to schools before an official one is chosen; community members will get a chance to propose names on March 12 at David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center.

As of November 2008, Alayon is a member of BBC's Leadership Team, which meets once a month to discuss issues that affect the campus. Vice Provost Joseph West asked Alayon and the principal of David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center to be part of it.

"We look at them as part of the FIU community," West said. "Their students will one day be our students."

Each board member gives updates on their area during the meetings, according to Alayon.

"The way we try to see it is one big educational area," Alayon said. "You have kindergarten all the way up to college within a one-mile radius. The opportunity to help students is the bottom line."

The high school's curriculum will feature different learning academies within the school, including marine and environmental science, legal studies, information technology and mass communication and hospitality and tourism management.

Students will have the opportunity to select one academic area and take one class per year in that area as part of their electives.

The high school will also have a partnership with the University in areas such as marine science, mass communication and hospitality and tourism management. High school students

will have the opportunity to get internships at the University during the summer. University professors will give lectures at the high school and college students will work with the high school's teachers with whatever they need, according to Alayon.

Because the school board mandates that for core subjects there should be one teacher to 25 students in high schools, QQQ-1 will use 30 teachers for ninth and 10th graders for a total of 100 teachers when 11th and 12th graders are incorporated. Computers, furniture and other equipment will be moved into the school starting July 20.

Miami-Dade County and the City of North Miami council are working on a possible project to increase road space, according to Alayon. However, according to Darder, no plans exist yet to widen 151st Street.

Diane Llerena, a senior public relations major at BBC, worried a little

about potential traffic headaches.

"The construction of the new high school will be OK as long as it doesn't disrupt the environment we have here," Llerena said. "It will be good for high school students to see what a University environment is. However, they should make another road coming into school."

But Alayon stressed that the high school and David Lawrence Elementary start and end classes on different schedules.

"We start at 7:30 a.m., they start at 8:30 a.m. We end at 2:30 p.m., they end at 3 p.m.," Alayon said. "It won't be everybody coming in and leaving

at one time."

This is good news for Vanessa Robinson, a student aide in the Office of Admissions.

"We've adjusted to the elementary school. As long as it's not going to be different from how it is now, I don't see a problem with it," Robinson said. "It's good that it's there because it's going to provide more exposure to this campus and University."

West agreed.

"I'm looking forward to the high school there and working with our faculty to enhance the education of the high school students," West said. "We look at them as future FIU students."

## WORKING AT THE CARWASH



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**SCRUBBING AWAY:** Ezra Mintz, freshman English major, helps wash cars for Inter-University's fundraising car wash outside Academic II on Feb. 27.

## Customer service being reviewed

**W. EARLE SIMPSON**  
Contributing Writer

In response to recent complaints from students and faculty about poor customer service at the Biscayne Bay Campus, the Office of the Vice Provost, in conjunction with the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, implemented the Quality Service Initiative at BBC for all campus staff.

"Over the last two or three years, we've received complaints and observations from students and faculty about different services on campus," said Julissa Castellanos, director of operations for the Office of the Vice Provost. "And so we wanted to evaluate the issue."

The QSI started Jan. 30 and is conducted in HM 230 at least once a month until April 10.

According to Claudia Castillo, assistant director of academics at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the program was developed in 2005 by the school, in association with the Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority, a seven-member organization appointed by the City of Miami Beach Commission to ensure the city's good image for tourism.

During the training, participants learn how to calm down an irate customer and treat customers

respectfully, among other skills.

The curriculum, which is optional, was used by the City of Miami to train its hospitality agents, as well as the staff of several private groups involved in the city's tourism sector.

"A lot of the people who have attended and evaluated the program in Miami Beach have said that they are very satisfied [with the program]," Castillo said.

Staff agree that the program is a good idea.

"I thought it was very good," said Linda Campbell, BBC Enrollment Services coordinator. "It was very informative. We watched a film and learned to look at the customers while they are talking, listen to their point of view and try to alleviate the problem they say that they are experiencing."

The classes are taught by Margareth Labelle, a School of Hospitality and Tourism Management alumna.

In order to establish the scale of the problem, Castellano's office has begun conducting a survey in all computer labs for students, faculty and staff.

"Right now, we have a survey out to the entire campus community, and that survey will let us know where we are today," Castellanos said. "[The survey] is a test to see where we started, what people

are saying about our services in 2009, and we will use that to compare with another survey in 2010."

If the surveys reveal that the issue is small and isolated, Castellanos said that, "It is never a bad thing to improve on the skills that one needs to deal with the public."

Sixty people have taken the training, and more are waiting to be trained.

"Because it has had such an overwhelming response, including from the University Park campus, we have had to open six classes. We will also be providing training for the enrollment services at the UP campus," Castellanos said.

Currently, Labelle teaches one-hour classes at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m., depending on the monthly schedule. But according to Castellanos, to facilitate the growing number of interested participants, the three remaining sessions, which are March 6 and 20 and April 10, might be extended to three hours.

According to Carmen Destrade, a junior journalism major, the service is very accommodating.

## Wellness Expo helps students, staff stay fit

**HALI NEAL**  
Contributing Writer

At the core of health care is prevention, and this is what the annual Wellness Expo hopes to teach students with its vendors, displays and giveaways.

The Wellness Expo, sponsored by the Wellness Center and University Health Services, will take place March 3 in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is open to all students, faculty and staff, and it is free to everyone.

To participate, students need to register the day of the event at a designated table on Panther Square to get a raffle ticket, a map and a bag, which they can use to store the giveaways, according to Dona Walcott, assistant director of the Wellness Center.

Such giveaways include sports bottles, pill boxes, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, throat lozenges, T-shirts, magnets, pens and pads.

Aside from the giveaways, attendees can expect to learn how to improve their health and wellness with proper nutrition and by practicing self-examinations. Attendees

will be able to talk to different vendors at the event, who will be giving away brochures with information about different health topics.

There are also going to be screenings such as skin consultations, blood pressure testing and chiropractor services, all free of charge, offered by BBC's Health Care and Wellness Centers, Community Blood Bank, FIU's Victim Advocacy Center and Mercy Hospital, among others.

Food vendors from local eateries on Biscayne Boulevard will also participate in the expo. Restaurants such as T.G.I. Friday's, Saladworks, Bar-B-Que Beach, Whole Foods Market and Pizza Fusion will be giving out free samples.

The Wellness Expo is held annually and is funded by the Wellness Center. It started more than 12 years ago as a small health fair, according to Dona Gabaroni, assistant director for the University Park Wellness Center. The purpose was to introduce the University community to the different screenings available on campus. There will also be free HIV testing held in a van parked on the curb of Academic I.

For more information, call (305) 919-5620.

— THE BEACON | Editorial —

## Relay For Life charity event was handled unprofessionally by the Athletics Department

Across South Florida and the nation, countless organizations have been preparing to hold what the American Cancer Society calls its signature event, Relay for Life. Across the country, groups hold Relay events in which teams of people, up to 3.5 million people in some years, come together to help raise money for cancer.

In November 2008, FIU's Relay for Life team had scheduled to use FIU Stadium for its fifth annual event. During an executive meeting with Relay for Life on Feb. 9, the FIU Athletics Department announced that they would be imposing certain intense restrictions that would make holding the event at the stadium nearly impossible. They declared that the Relay team would be prohibited from having food and beverages on the stadium's field, and would have to cut four hours from the time allotted to set up the event.

The reason they cited: A football practice had been scheduled for the same day as the event.

"They didn't say we couldn't have the event. They just said we cannot have food, drinks or tents on the field," said Beverly Dalrymple, director of the Center for Leadership and Services.

The money Relay for Life raises from concessions is part of the funds that go toward research.

"That's our entire event, feeding and providing beverages for 3,000 people to stay up for 18 hours," said Barbie Erched, student director for Relay for Life.

With these restrictions in place, Relay for Life was obligated to relocate to the front of the Ryder Business Building, where the event was held last year. They now have to pay almost \$5,000 for sounds and light, which would have been provided by the stadium. The Student Government Association is helping the committee pay for these extra costs, but most of the money will have to come from the fund-raiser.

Due to the inflexibility of the Athletics Department, a charitable event is going to have to spend an additional \$5,000 and scramble to move to a different location.

Money that could have gone to fund cancer research now may be used to pay the electric bill.

*The Beacon* feels that the Athletics

Department is in error for imposing the restrictions themselves, but that error was dramatically compounded by the department's failure to inform the event organizers almost four months ago that holding the event there could be a problem.

Did they just notice that an 18-hour fund-raiser would require food and beverages?

Do they do any research before approving the use of a greatly prized, newly renovated multimillion dollar stadium?

When examining a situation such as this one, *The Beacon* feels it is important to weigh our University's priorities. While winning football games is important, raising money to find a cure for cancer should take precedence, at least once a year.

At the very least, Athletics should not have led on the event organizers for so long. At this point, the cost of relocation is a huge burden.

Beyond this, the "partnership" between the student body and Athletics has led to numerous sacrifices for the sake of Athletics. FIU student government forfeited an increase in the Activities and Service fee so Athletics could raise theirs, which meant less money for clubs and events such as Relay for Life.

Students were willing to give up hundreds of thousands for Athletics, and they couldn't cancel a single off-season practice? The Athletics Department should be more of a team player.

"We're a student organization and we have one of the largest philanthropy events ... and we would have thought a football practice would have been able to be moved to another day," Erched said.

Erched is correct in assuming that something as routine as an off-season football practice could have been rescheduled. Such a move would have cost the Athletic Department nothing, and it literally would have saved a non-profit organization \$5,000 or more.

*The Beacon* is troubled by this turn of events and hopes that Relay for Life can still be a very successful event this year. We hope that lessons are learned from this and that maybe next year, when Relay for Life attempts to race for the cure, it won't find the Athletics Department standing in their way.

# STACKED

## Students can manage stress

ANDREW ZAMORA  
Contributing Writer

Between class, studying and being involved on campus, it's easy to develop stress. Stress is more than feeling anxious, annoyance and being stretched thin – it has both psychological and biological effects, making it an outright attack on your body. At its mildest form, stress is nothing but a mere irritation; however, at its worst, it can lead to serious detrimental effects on one's psychological and physical health.

I have had issues with stress in the past which have caused many problems, even to this day.

Endocrinologist Hans Selye coined the word "stress" to identify physiological responses within animals in the 1930s. His research led him to discover that all animals show three basic reactions to stressors; he called this reaction general adaptive syndrome, or GAS.

Selye identified three stages within GAS. First is "alarm" – the stressor is identified leading to the heightening of our senses. Next, "resistance," occurs when the body attempts to find a way to cope with the stressor, but the body's resources are limited. Finally, "exhaustion" occurs when the body has been pushed to its physical limit and the body breaks down, unable of retaining normal function and even retarding the effectiveness of the immune system.

Though students may acknowledge a certain amount of stress in their lives, they may be unaware of how truly detrimental it can be to their studies and health. Exhaustion can make someone feel fatigue, result in loss of concentration and, at its worst, can even manifest itself in depression and cardiovascular problems, along with psychological problems as well.

According to the National Institutes of Health's Web site, "Long-term stress can increase the risk of diseases like depression, heart disease and a variety of other problems." If you are wondering how to avoid these conditions, the NIH advises to take care of the underlying problem and then seek counseling should chronic stress persist, although medicines could help too.

FIU's Recreation Services presents various avenues for students to relieve themselves of stress, such as yoga lessons, morning spinning

sessions or just getting a good workout. Some student organizations such as the Prekash Meditation Club provide unique and effective ways of stress relief. It is paramount that students be aware of how much stress they're dealing with and how it can be managed or released.

In my own life, stress has been a large problem as I have eczema, a skin condition, on my fingers. Originally, my parents and I thought that it was an allergic reaction, but I tested negative for any allergens.

I soon realized that my eczema acted up whenever I got really stressed out. My skin would even crack and bleed during really bad episodes, and I also noticed that I became more fatigued, irritable, less motivated and even depressed after moments of high stress. My grades would also suffer during these episodes.

I determined to make a change not only in my habits but also on my outlook on life.

Nightly meditation, which I still do, has had a dramatic effect on my stress levels; it puts me back to my center and lets me see the world clearly. The most powerful stress deterrent is the mind. Ultimately, how we perceive and judge the external world is what leads to its mental representation. We actively decide what we find dangerous, stressful or challenging, and we then choose how to cope with these situations.

Finally, what people need to do is take a step back, assess the situation and take a deep breath. Confidence in your ability to act and get through the day can go a long way. Also, don't forget that you have friends and family to talk to if you need to vent.

There are many opportunities on campus for students to not only get rid of stress but also gain a calmer and more positive outlook on life. Though it's difficult for some to see how yoga, meditation, and a calm and good disposition can really help them, I implore that they at least give it a try before they doubt the benefits.



# Education should take precedence over other concerns

FIDEL LEBLANC  
Contributing Writer

Unless you've been living in self-imposed exile from American society, you know our economy is in the toilet.

Obama has made mending the economy his primary goal since becoming president. He wasted no time getting to work on an admittedly optimistic stimulus package while there were not many surprised faces when House Republicans spoke out against it, calling it "too costly" and "slow-moving."

As a student in an increasingly hostile economic environment, the first question I would ask myself is, "How will this affect me and my education?" The original plan, which cost \$819 billion, was trimmed down

by the House to reduce what they felt was reckless and ultimately pointless spending. The package that has just been passed as law was slimmed down to \$787 billion and many proposed programs were scraped off – specifically, measures that would have advanced education.

But we as students must remember that we are still included in the package. The original amount that was supposed to go toward education was a whopping and eagerly-welcomed \$150 billion.

However, since the scrutiny of the federal legislature has decreased the overall cost of the bill, so did the amount of money attributed to education. That sum now sits at \$83 billion.

It really is disappointing that even in this

era of purported change, the educational future is not seen as a major priority, though it is spoken of as one. That's not to say that the \$83 billion given to the educational system is meager – I only wish that the government could be more ambitious about it.

Why not keep the \$150 billion plan? There's certainly enough space to fit between all the infrastructure development and specific product aides (i.e. contraceptives). State budget cuts have limited the spending power of universities all across the country, money to keep modernizing campuses, keeping curricular and extracurricular programs afloat and providing extra funds for financial aid. These are all important aspects that would certainly be achievable with a heftier educational stimulus.

The onus of this plan needs to be directed toward the creation of jobs and education to facilitate the ability of the next generation to receive a quality education. I was lucky to have parents in a financially stable position who made education their main priority by taking advantage of the Florida Prepaid Fund. But not everyone is lucky.

Thus, the \$17.1 billion for Pell Grants and \$8.8 billion for the governor's specific allocation to different aspects of education should be built upon as time goes on, investing more in the future generation.

This \$83 billion is a good start but much more legislation will be required for education to be one of the prime ways to maintain the future economy, given that current problems are sorted out in time.

## BOOKIN' IT

### Museum collects books as art

MONICA PUERTO  
Staff Writer

Norma Wallace ran a legendary whorehouse in New Orleans.

In her time, in the 70s, \$10 went a long way in her services.

Her story is depicted in the book *Last Madam: A Life in the New Orleans Underworld*, which will be read and discussed this month at the Wolfsonian Museum's Book Club.

During the meetings, members of the Wolfsonian Book Club discuss books from the time period of 1850 to 1945.

And the books complement the museum's collected works.

"[It] endeavors to provide museum members with the opportunity to learn more about the social, cultural, technological, economic and political context of the objects included in the Wolfsonian collection," said Lydia Lopez, the museum's public programs manager in an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*.

Such collections include rare books, furniture and artwork that represent social, economical and technological changes according to Julieth Dabdoub, communications manager of the museum.

They have not only shown the transition to the modern era but also how much perceptions have changed, Dabdoub said.

Monthly meetings run about 90 minutes.

**As I was listening to the book club, they were discussing the famous American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright's murder ... it was frighteningly fantastic.**

David Skip, deputy officer  
Wolfsonian Museum

First-time visitors can join the book club for free but membership is required for subsequent visits.

FIU faculty, museum staff or guest speakers usually lead the meetings.

Members are also allowed to suggest books for the group to read.

In 1997, the Wolfsonian became a department of FIU offering an education and research database to quench the thirst for learning.

In 2005, the Wolfsonian Book Club was created at the Wolfsonian Museum to provide participants with a rich literature environment.

Deputy officer for the museum David Skip observed one of the meetings and hopes to be able to attend club meetings soon.

"As I was listening to the book club, they were discussing the famous American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright's murder ... it was frighteningly fantastic," Skip said.

Due to budget constraints, it is necessary for participants to become members.

Annual membership for FIU students and staff membership is \$30.

Membership for those who are not part of the FIU community starts at \$50 annually.

Membership to the Wolfsonian Book Club grants visitors access to the exhibitions, lectures, tours and documentaries for the year, according to Thea Smolinski, the museum's membership and event specialist coordinator.

The museum is located at 1001 Washington Ave.

For more information on how to become a member, join the e-mail list at <http://www.wolfsonian.org/> or call (305) 535-2622.



POP &  
CIRCUMSTANCE

## Band rekindles feelings of childhood

Creating art about childhood is an exceptionally difficult task. By the time we are old enough to truly reflect on it, we realize what a fleetingly short amount of time it truly was. We have a tendency to oversimplify it, and something is usually lost as innocence is traded for naiveté.

The best examples are generally from obvious mediums: comic strips and children's books. Bill Watterson's *Calvin & Hobbes* and Charles Schultz's *Peanuts* strips both shared numerous traits that extended them beyond the bounds of their simple black and white strips, and Norton Juster's *Phantom Tollbooth* has an ability to live on beyond its imaginative pages.

What these pieces have in common is in simplifying the world to be understandable to children, they don't lose the full range of emotions and feelings that people young and old share.

There is bitter sarcasm and unashamed joy, nervousness, love and loss intertwined throughout them, and these are universal themes which, even though children may not understand, they certainly feel.

The Boy Least Likely To is probably what would happen if the characters from all of these works got together, spent an afternoon listening to Wilco's *Summerteeth* and Beatles records, picked up whatever thrift store instruments they could find and made a band.

The Boy Least Likely To's first album combined a playful sound filled with recorders, xylophones, banjos, handclaps and a view of the world that balances a line between childlike and very adult.

Lead singer Jof Owen's whis-

pered harmonies lend to a child-like sound, and his lyrics describe being afraid of monsters and spiders. But in his world, the "monsters" serve as a metaphor for his fear that everyone he knows seems to be growing up and away from him, becoming adults, and he can't seem to handle it.

Perhaps the most poignant lyric on the entire first album, *The Best Party Ever*, is contained as the opening of the third verse of "I See Spiders When I Close My Eyes:" "I've got nothing to be afraid of/So I'm afraid of nothing."

This simple line encapsulates everything the band is about. It is a sentiment adults and children share, but in extremely different ways. While children express fears of the dark, for the fear of what they know isn't there, there is an anxiety to growing older that is perfectly captured in those 12 words.

Their second album, *The Laws of the Playground*, due for a U.S. release April 14, continues what was successful about the first and doesn't stray too far from it. The music is more well put together, with more layers and different sounds being thrown in, but if anything it just serves as an older brother to the first album.

In fact, it would seem wrong if their second album was a grand departure from the first. For a band that epitomizes the term "arrested development," both musically and lyrically, you can't expect them to grow up too fast.

Just think about how much you could miss if you grew up too fast.

*Pop & Circumstance* is a weekly column discussing all things pop music.

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS

PHD: Piled Higher and Deeper By: Jorge Cham

## diversions



## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 2

TUESDAY • MARCH 3

WHAT: StudentsWrite Organization  
WHEN: 2-4 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 340  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Bahamian Student Organization Meeting  
WHEN: 3-4 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 343  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Haitian Students Organization  
WHEN: 6:30-8 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 150  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Italian Club Meeting  
WHEN: 7-10 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 1223  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Yoga Club Meeting  
WHEN: 7:45-9:45 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 241  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

Compiled by Susana Rodriguez

WHAT: Preksha Meditation Club  
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 305  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Chinese Club Movie Night  
WHEN: 2:30-5 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 140  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet  
WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 340  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association  
WHEN: 7-10 p.m.  
WHERE: Gracie's Grill  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership, Excellence and Success  
WHEN: 8-9 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 140  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

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# Seniors end careers with dominant win

## MEN'S, page 8

healthier. Every scholarship player is active. This is the same team that in late December had just five scholarship players. That is a big reason why the Golden Panthers feel they are better than their 12-19 record indicates.

"We have so much talent with Freddy and it's so easy to play with him because he can pass, he can post you up and he's strong inside," point guard Josue Soto said. "I think our shooters are going to be a lot better. It's a new beginning for us, and I think with everybody back, everybody healthy, we're going to be a threat."

In that 90-73 loss against ULL on Feb. 5, the Golden Panthers were without Asprilla.

Early on, the Golden Panthers led 37-31 against the Owls, who had lost 16 consecutive road games coming into the contest.

It was in the first two minutes of the second half when the Golden Panthers turned up the intensity going on a 6-0 run to push the lead to double-digits for the first time in the game.

This would begin a trend in the second half in which FIU outscored FAU 43-22, shot 68 percent from the field and held

FAU to 38 percent shooting.

From an offensive standpoint, the Golden Panthers produced a balanced attack with four players reaching double figures. Galindo finished his last home game with a solid 16-point performance and six rebounds. Soto provided 14 points, five assists and no turnovers.

"Now is when this kid is beginning to get in shape to be on his total game," Rouco said about Soto. "I think he's got his confidence back."

During the last minutes of the game, Hicks was able to fulfill a goal he had been talking about all week – he made a 3-point shot. It was the first 3-point shot he has ever made, and Rouco was happy for the 7-foot center. Rouco gave Hicks permission to shoot a 3-pointer if the team had a big lead.

"If you could do something for any kid that he can remember forever, what better way to finish the season," he said.

However, Galindo said he will not let Hicks shoot a 3-pointer during the tournament.

"No, I'd be the first one to tell him, 'No,'" Galindo said. "It's my last game at home and I'm glad that we all finished with a win."

# Game slips away in second half

## WOMEN'S, page 8

throughout the rest of the half, however, ball handling would be the difference for the Golden Panthers as they headed to the locker room down by two points, 19-21, and already in double digits with 10 turnovers.

FAU came out strong in the second half, shooting at almost 60 percent compared to just under 35 percent in the first half.

They dominated the first 11 minutes with a 27-11 run to take an 18-point lead over FIU which, in return, went on a 11-0 run to cut the Owl's lead to 48-31.

Unable to claw closer, the Golden Panthers wouldn't cut the lead to less than seven points, their offense much too stagnant for the intense defense the Owl's brought in the second half.

"We played much better offense in the first matchup with FAU, but much better defense tonight," Jenkins said.

FIU held the advantage on second-chance points with 14 compared to 9 and dominated the boards 36 to 34.

Meanwhile, the Owls won the fast break column with six points compared to two for the Golden Panthers and they shot a remarkable 90 percent from the charity stripe along with 22-of-47 shooting for the whole game (46.8 percent) compared to 18-60 (30 percent) for FIU.



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

**LOSING CONTROL:** Junior Monika Bosilj loses control of the ball against FAU on Feb. 28. It was the last home game of the 2009 season.

"I think we had moments where we played really good defense but then there were also times where we let things slide. But overall, we slacked more on offense," Jenkins said.

Although they end their regular season with a 6-23 record and 4-14 in conference play, the Golden

Panthers will hit the road for the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on March 4.

"I expect us to go there and win some games, but we won't get carried away," said Jenkins. "We'll just take it one game at a time and worry about the first one."

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**Florida International University**  
**College of Law, Moot Courtroom, 1st floor**  
**University Park Campus**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2009, 5 P.M.**

**Welcome:** Leonard Strickman, Dean, College of Law

**Moderator:** Nathan Katz, PhD., Director, Program in the Study of Spirituality

**Principal Speaker:** Jack Wolfsdorf, M.D., Chairman, Miami Children's Hospital, Medical Ethics Committee: "New Challenges of Genetics and Ethics"

**Spirituality Rx:** Rev. Guillermo Escolona, M. Div., Director, Pastoral Education, Baptist Health South Florida Pastoral Care Services, "Spirituality, Religion and Health Care"

**The Business of Research:** Regina Behar, PharmD, Pfizer – Wyeth Representative, "Pharming Progress and Breakthroughs"

### Panel Members:

Fernando Valverde, M.D., Associate Dean for Community and Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine

Romeo A. Majano, M.D., F.S.C.A.I., F.A.C.C., South Florida Center of Cardiology

Danixia Cuevas, The Law Center and Institute of Compassionate Leadership of Miami – Dade College

**Closing:** Javier Torres, Program in the Study of Spirituality

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FAU 57, FIU 48

## Women unable to salvage last home game

STEPHANIE GABRIEL  
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team played their season finale at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Saturday night with hopes of defeating rival Florida Atlantic University, who won the first matchup between the two teams earlier this season.

However, a poor shooting effort from most of the Golden Panthers, particularly the team's leading scorer Monika Bosilj who went scoreless on six attempts, would be too much to overcome as FIU dropped to FAU, 57-48.

Starting guard for the FAU Owls, Carla Stubbs, led all scorers with 15 points on 7-of-11 shooting and seven rebounds.

Junior guard Ashley Traugott led the Golden Panthers with 14 points and Marquita Adley chipped in with a double-double, knocking down a season-high 12 points along with 10 rebounds.

Senior Jasmine Jenkins also contributed with a solid eight points and 10 boards in her last regular season game as a Golden Panther.

The Owls took the lead first with back-to-back layups by Andrea Taylor and Breana Turner.

Seeking the same momentum, FIU responded with six points to give them a 6-4 lead with 14:16 minutes to go in the first half.

Both teams exchanged baskets

WOMEN'S, page 7

BASEBALL SERIES: FIU 1, BROWN 1

## Golden Panthers split doubleheader with Brown

SERGIO BONILLA  
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers baseball team split a doubleheader against Brown University on Feb. 27 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

A dominant pitching complete game by Scott Rembisz led the Golden Panthers to rally back from a 2-1 deficit the seventh inning.

However, the pitching would not hold up in the second game of the series as Brown exploded for a six-run sixth inning to avoid the two-game sweep.

The Golden Panthers' record is now 3-2.

FIU 3, BROWN 2

Starting pitcher Scott Rembisz continued the dominance he displayed in the season opener vs. the Jacksonville Dolphins.

SENIOR NIGHT

# LAST STAND



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

**FINAL FACE-OFF:** Senior forward Alex Galindo stares down an FAU defender in the last home game of his FIU career. He finished the night with 16 points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 80, FAU 53

## Men finish season with rout over rival FAU

SERGIO BONILLA  
Asst. Sports Director

As seniors Alex Galindo and Russell Hicks played their last games in front of an FIU home crowd, freshman center Freddy Asprilla helped send them off with a dominant 80-53 victory over rival Florida Atlantic University on Feb. 28.

The freshman led the team with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"I'm very happy for Alex and Russell," said head coach Sergio Rouco. "To finish like that at home, the kids responded for them."

The Golden Panthers finished the injury-riddled season 12-19. The team managed to have every player healthy for the 80-53 win over the FAU Owls in its last game before heading into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on March 4 vs. University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The team's health is something Rouco hopes will prevent the Golden Panthers from losing against ULL.

"We enter the postseason with a 0-0 record and it looks like we're going to Louisiana-Lafayette, a team that spanked us last time, but now we have all of our players," Rouco said. "After a tough loss the other night when the ball just didn't fall for us, this one gives us good momentum heading into the tournament."

Heading into the SBC Tournament, the team has never been

MEN'S, page 7

BROWN 7, FIU 4

He pitched his first complete game as a Golden Panther.

Outfielder Pablo Bermudez provided the offensive support for Rembisz going 4-for-4, including a key two-run home run in the top of the seventh inning.

Bermudez missed most of the previous series against the Dolphins due to a hamstring injury suffered in the beginning of the season opener. He went on to miss the next two games.

As the lead off man, he got the offense going by getting on base four times and recording two RBI.

Outfielder Tyler Townsend provided the other RBI with a line drive to centerfield. He went 1-for-4.

Rembisz allowed just three hits during nine innings of play. He did not walk a batter, and he gave up two earned runs.

R.J Fondon made a stellar debut for the Golden Panthers until the sixth inning.

He had shut down the Brown University hitters for the first five innings of the contest.

But back-to-back hits and a walk opened the flood gates, and Brown tacked on six runs to take control of the game. Once Fondon exited the game, the FIU bullpen could not keep Brown hitters from getting on base or scoring.

The Golden Panthers' 4-1 lead quickly turned into a 7-4 deficit that the team would not recover from. FIU would not score another run in the game.

Townsend had another good offensive performance as he reached base four times.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SLIP N' SLIDE:** Outfielder Tyler Townsend attempts to steal a base against Jacksonville on Feb. 22. Townsend went 3-for-6 against Brown University during the weekend doubleheader.