

10-23-2009

# The Beacon, October 23, 2009

Florida International University

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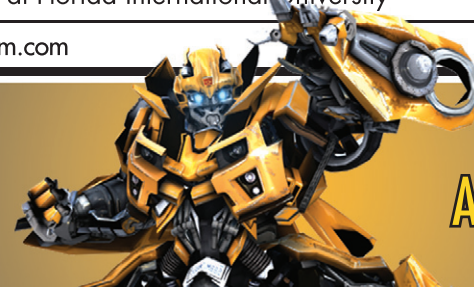
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Red Wolves looking for revenge vs. Golden Panthers.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8

Women's soccer looks to rewrite record books in weekend pair with UALR and ASU.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

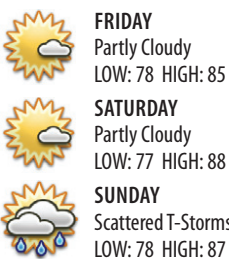
Miami City Ballet, Oct. 23, 8 p.m. Watch ballet at the Ziff Opera House this Friday. The show varies in price, from \$19 to \$169.

SPC Movie Night, Oct. 23, 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a free screening of Terminator: Revenge of the Fallen in GC 140.

Tate's Annual Halloween Sale, Oct. 24, after 10 a.m. Buy cheap comic books at this annual sale.

Lessons from South Africa, Oct. 25, 11:45 a.m. Watch a 30 minute documentary conceived by associate dean of SJMC.

#### WEATHER



#### CONTACTS

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

# INFINITE FUN

## Ft. Lauderdale film fest to feature thrillers, docs

STEVE MESA  
Staff Writer

Students who live near the Pines Campus looking for something to do this weekend might want to head to the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival.

The festivities of the 24th annual Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLIFF) will commence tonight with the Southeast Premiere of *TIMER*, at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University. Starring Emma Caulfield (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), JoBeth Williams (*Poltergeist*) and Desmond Harrington (*Dexter*), the movie is about a woman (Caulfield) who has a revolutionary biotechnological wrist implant and how she intends to meet her unknown soulmate with the help of this piece of hardware.

Each year, the FLIFF pays tribute to film talent and their achievements in the film industry. This year's honorees will include actor Kevin McCarthy (*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*) and cinematographer Mario Tosi (*Carrie*). Both of them will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. Matthew Broderick (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*) will receive a

FESTIVAL, page 6

## Miami sees its first video game convention

JONATHAN DAVILA  
Staff Writer

South Florida gamers are in for a treat this weekend: Miami's first consumer-oriented video game convention will invade the Doubletree Miami Mart Hotel and Convention Center starting Oct. 23.

Its name: Infinite Bits, a three-day event that will feature rooms with networked Xbox 360s, tournaments, an arcade with all of the machines on free-play mode and speakers from the game industry. The *Rock Band* series will be on free-play on the main stage and tabletop gaming will be around for those not into electronic games.

The convention will also have an interactive museum exhibiting almost every video game console in existence – and you'll be able to play them. "I won't say we have every video game system ever made, but it's close," said Infinite Bits' President Jason Cutler.

"Just about anything that my average person will remember we'll have – and a lot that

INFINITE BITS, page 5



## Survey asks students for input on H1N1

JORGE VALENS  
Asst. News Director

University Health Services is working with the Miami-Dade Health Department to bring the H1N1 vaccine to the University community.

Dr. Oscar Loynaz, interim director of UHS, is asking students for input, through a mass e-mail, to take an online survey to "assist [University Health Services] with effectively planning the FIU H1N1

vaccination distribution."

The survey, e-mailed on Oct. 21, asks students about their perceived risk level for H1N1 and whether they would get the vaccine if provided on campus.

"We are doing this to get an idea of who wants it," Loynaz told Student Media.

Loynaz added that the vaccine is "being recommended from a public health perspective."

H1N1, page 2

## CNN correspondent to speak on diversity

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

Soledad O'Brien knows diversity.

As the daughter of an Afro-Cuban mother and Irish-Scottish Australian father, her own lineage is a melting pot of ethnicity and race.

The CNN special correspondent will come to FIU this coming Tuesday, Oct. 27 to speak

about diversity.

The talk entitled: "Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes and in Our Lives," will come on the heels of CNN releasing a new documentary "Latino In America," in which O'Brien is lead reporter.



O'BRIEN

In the tie-in book *Latino in America*, which O'Brien co-wrote with Rose Marie Arce, she expresses her

LECTURE, page 2

## Fewer arrests during last home game

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Arrest numbers dropped significantly during last Saturday's football game.

Three students were arrested during the Oct. 17 home game against Troy University, compared to 14 arrests on the first home game, according to FIU Public Safety.

All arrests were for underage drinking. Agents of the Florida Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco agency, who patrolled throughout the game and the tailgate that preceded it at FIU Stadium, made all the arrests.

No arrests were made by Public Safety.

According to the Athletics department, 10,142 students attended the game, in comparison to the 11,047 students who attended the last home game against Toledo University on Sept. 26.

During that game, 12 arrests were made for underage drinking while one arrest was made for juvenile drinking, or drinking under the age of 18. Public Safety also arrested one student who tried to enter the game without a ticket.

According to Public Safety, updated arrest numbers may be published by the Florida ABT.

Underage drinking, on- or off-campus, violates the FIU Student Code of Conduct and state law.

Students charged will have to appear in court and comply with issued fines, community service or other designated punishments. They will also appear before the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution at FIU.

**NEWS FLASH**

**LOCAL**

**Ft. Lauderdale commissioners to vote on 30-year FPL deal**

Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners prepared to take a final vote on a deal that would keep Florida Power and Light as the sole provider of electricity in the city for the next 30 years.

According to the *Sun-Sentinel*, those who opposed the deal filled City Hall to voice their concerns to the council and ask them to conduct more research into the matter.

Though commissioners had yet to vote on Oct. 20, the deal had won tentative approval back in September.

**Police investigating FMU security guard**

Florida Memorial University officials and the Miami Gardens Police Department are investigating an incident in which an FMU security guard pulled a gun on a student.

According to the *Sun-Sentinel*, a video tape taken by a student shows a security guard brandishing a firearm to a group of students while they stood outside a bathroom.

The security guard in question is on administrative leave while the investigation is still active.

**TECH**

**Barnes and Noble's Nook prepares to compete with Amazon's Kindle**

Barnes and Noble announced the "Nook," its entry into the electronic book reader market.

The device boasts two screens, one of which is an E-Ink screen and 2GB of memory and is 7.7 inches tall and 4 inches wide.

The Nook is also built with WiFi connectivity and can access AT&T's 3G network to access an online library of over 1,000,000 books, newspapers and magazines..

It will go on sale in late November for \$259 and will be a direct competitor to Amazon's Kindle.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

**Swine flu vaccine may come to campus**

**H1N1, page 1**

The vaccine, however, is surrounded by some fears and misconceptions.

"Some fears are justified, some are unfounded," Loynaz said.

He noted that some people feel the vaccine was developed too quickly and is unsafe. However, he said the vaccine was developed from the current flu vaccine template. It has been tested and is safe.

A timetable for when the vaccine will arrive at FIU is still unclear.

Loynaz said that it all depends on when the county's Health Department will deliver vaccines.

Certain logistical and liability issues are also being worked out.

Loynaz said that students, particularly those studying in the nursing field, have contacted UHS to help

administer the vaccine to the University community.

While taking the survey, students who wish to volunteer in the distribution of the vaccine can submit their contact information.

He added that those who are not qualified for administering vaccines could also volunteer, as UHS needs personnel to help collect data and deliver vaccine shipments to different areas of campus.

All information collected from the survey will be confidential.

Recent studies published in Mexico and Canada suggest that the seasonal flu vaccine may have both positive and negative effects on H1N1.

However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, people who receive the seasonal flu vaccine are neither more nor less likely to contract H1N1.

Students who want to volunteer, or have questions regarding the vaccine can contact UHS at (305) 348-2401 or online at [fiu.edu/~health](http://fiu.edu/~health).

Information on H1N1 vaccination sites in Miami-Dade County, for those who want to be vaccinated now, can be found on [dadehealth.org](http://dadehealth.org).

**PEOPLE MOST AT RISK**

- Pregnant women
- Caregiver for children younger than 6 months of age
- Employed in health care/emergency services
- Student currently involved in clinical rotations
- Between 6 months and 24 years of age
- Between the 25 and 64 years and have health conditions such as heart disease, asthma, diabetes or HIV infection

Source: UHS survey

**O'Brien to give free lecture on Oct. 27**

**LECTURE, page 1**

need to raise the bar when doing in-depth reporting on people of color.

"I see the job I have now as my opportunity to get good reporting about black and brown people on TV," O'Brien wrote in the book. "A chance to bring people together, and to tell a fair and accurate story of communities of color, not just rehash stereotypes for the sake of drama."

According to the book, she made it a point to not just retell old stories in the documentary, but break new ground in the Latino experience.

"We had to step back and watch a more complex human story unfold," she wrote.

The new documentary focusing on Hispanics is not the first time O'Brien has gone in-depth on race, she also led the reporting for the CNN documentary "Black In America," and its sequel.

The "Black In America" documentaries delved into assorted issues facing the African-American community, like education, relationships, AIDS and what it means to be black in America.

"I learned new things about the black community that I'd lived in and covered my entire life," O'Brien wrote in her book.

O'Brien's coverage has also included Hurricane Katrina, and the tsunami in Southeast Asia. She has received numerous awards in her career including a George

Foster Peabody for her work with Hurricane Katrina and an Alfred I. DuPont Award for her coverage of the tsunami.

She is a graduate from Harvard where she majored in English and American literature.

"I think she will make a major impact on FIU students," said Christina Flores, lectures coordinator for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus. "There has been a lot of positive buzz about Soledad and her appearance."

SGC-MMC is sponsoring the lecture, which is free to all students.

According to Flores, the event cost \$27,500. The funds come from Activities and Services Fees which

all students pay as part of tuition. The lecture series has \$76,150 of A&S funds allocated to bring in guests.

The lecture will be held at Green Library 100, starting at 5 p.m. The venue was changed from the one circulated on fliers to accommodate more people. The room holds a little over 300 people.

"We had many options for speakers," Flores said. "However, Soledad's diverse background, professionalism and knowledge were major deciding factors when choosing speakers."

O'Brien is a veteran of the lecture circuit. She has spoken at other universities about journalism, diversity and her life.

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## A DAY OF DIVERSITY

### Comedians try to break stereotypes

**LAURA DE LA FE**  
Contributing Writer

Like other students on campus, Gina Balthazar, a junior political science major, didn't think that blacks and Jews had anything in common.

"I thought that black people would just look at Jews as just another type of white person," she said.

Balthazar was one of about 50 students that filled the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at noon on Oct. 20 to watch the "Black Jew Dialogues" during "Diversity Day."

"I enjoyed it a lot," she said. "It makes you open your eyes to see how people view each other."

The "Black Jew Dialogues" was created by actors Larry Jay Tish, who is Jewish, and Ron Jones, who is black, about three years ago as a funny way to start discussions about racism and prejudice. The award-winning duo has performed throughout the country and Europe. Their show features improvisations, prop comedy, humor and sketches to tell a story that starts hundreds of years ago in Egypt and ends in present-day America.

During their show at the University, they compared what it feels like to be a Jew in America versus being black.

"Be prepared to answer a question with a question, and to feel guilty about everything in your life – everything you did, should've done, and what your mother said you should've done," Tish told Jones during their skit.

Jones used various props, such as a ball and chain, a toy gun and an afro to respond to Tish.

"Imagine that the very sight of you draws up negative images of who you are and what you're capable of," he said.

The actors also brought out puppets to show their feelings. Jones took his puppet and made him swim up as a representation of how he feels everytime the black community has an achievement in civil rights. He later let it drown as a symbol of how society's prejudice puts him down. One of the skits also went back to Tish's bar mitzvah, where he described how he was considered a man at 13. Jones said his manhood was very different.

"My mother said I'd be a man when I turn 18, get a job and move out of the house," he said.

The pair also created a new term for an old concept: feareotypes, which refers to how fear motivates people to come up with specific stereotypes.

"Courage is a key aspect to fight racism," Tish said. "If human beings were invisible, we'd still find a reason to hate each other."

At the end of the skits, Tish and Jones accepted one another, saying "I got your back" while embracing like brothers.

"The reason we're together is to make what happened in the show happen everywhere," Jones said. "The problem with conversations about this is that people are too afraid of offending someone, so they don't say anything at all."

### Stories show transgender struggles

**ASHLEY SALAMANCA**  
Contributing Writer

Jeanette, who decided to not disclose her last name to protect her family, is the mother of a 9-year-old girl named Jazz. The fourth-grader was born a boy.

"She wanted the good fairy to come with her magic wand and change her body into a body that resembled her sister's," said Jeanette, who was part of the panel at the Transgender Forum on Oct. 20 at Biscayne Bay Campus, part of "Diversity Day."

She told students her story: one of her three children was born a boy, but never felt like one.

She said Jazz's femininity first became noticeable when she was 15 months old, when she showed interest to feminine colors like pastels and pink, and insisted on being called a "good girl" rather than a "good boy".

"She knew," Jeanette said. "She's always known."

Marilyn K. Volker, Ed. D., a sexologist and gender specialist for more than 36 years, who moderated the forum, broke the ice by asking students one question: "How many of you grew up knowing exactly what was between your legs?"

Volker argued that while it may seem obvious to many, assigning a "he" or "she" pronoun is not as easily answered by the

transgendered. Biological traits may provide clues, but gender is what Volker describes as "what is between your ears."

She explained that gender is determined by self-perception of oneself as male, female or as an androgynous combination of both feminine and masculine traits. Volker said that biological factors are starting to explain reasons behind being transgender. Brain scans demonstrate that there are such things as female, male, or androgynous brains.

The panel was comprised of four people that shared their stories, like Jeanette, and answered questions from the audience.

Jessica Lam, a 39-year-old facilitator for Pridelines, a Miami-based organization that provides a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, is a single parent of two sons who are 19 and 20 years old. But she was born a man. She transitioned from male to female in her mid 20s. Delia and Lariann Garner have been married for 30 years, and since January 2000, Lariann completed her full-time transition from Larry. What kept them together was their commitment to each other and their promise in maintaining an open, honest relationship, Delia Garner said.

"Marilyn Volker helped me understand where Lariann was coming from,



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

**DISCUSSION:** Charity Vergara, a junior in broadcast journalism (left), speaks with Marilyn Volker (right) about her views on transgender relationships at the Transgender Panel Discussion in the Wolfe Ballroom on Oct. 20.

and I choose to be with this person because I love her," Garner said.

Before entering kindergarten, Jazz started dressing like a girl full time. Just like any other little girl, she likes flowers, Barbie dolls, and likes to play dress-up with makeup and nail polish, Jeanette told the audience. But she is concerned of her daughter's safety.

She said she knows of other families with transgendered children that have received death threats in the past, including a family whose pet was stabbed to death with a message that read "Your child is next."

The forum was a chance

for students to reflect on the discussion and share their thoughts.

Mariela Quintanilla, a senior in public relations, shared her experience meeting a transgendered female-to-male when one of her straight female friends introduced her to her new boyfriend.

"After I met him, every time I would talk or hang out with him, I would forget that he used to be a woman," said Quintanilla. "If society was more accepting on how others feel as male or female, then more people would be open to accept what they are or want to be."

## Iranian author recounts her coming to the U.S. as a teen

**PARADISE AFSHAR**  
Staff Writer

When Firoozeh Dumas first approached an agent with her idea of a humorous book about her experiences as an Iranian immigrant in the United States, she was given a flat-out no.

The agent told her no one would buy a book about a Middle Eastern woman who wasn't oppressed.

"[The agent] said 'where's the oppression?'" Dumas said. "Not every Middle Eastern woman is oppressed, and I was going to get published just to spite her."

But Dumas, an Iranian native who lives in California, playfully told students on Oct. 20 in a presentation celebrating "Diversity Day" at the Biscayne Bay Campus that she was determined to do it.

"When you're from my part of the world – Northern California – you believe in

destiny."

So with that one "no," Dumas wrote the *Los Angeles Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* best-selling memoir, *Funny in Farsi*. She later wrote *Laughing Without an Accent*.

During her hour-long lecture in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, she shared some of the stories from her first book with an audience of about 50 students and teachers.

"She was funny," said Fabiana Ferrer, a freshman hospitality management major. "I wish she could've talked longer."

Ferrer, along with other students taking the freshman experience class this year, read *Funny in Farsi* as an assignment.

"I liked the book. My dad is just like hers when he came to America," said Ferrer, whose father was full of optimism when he moved from Argentina.

*Funny in Farsi* is about Dumas' journey to America from Adadon, on Iran's eastern

border, and her struggles to adjust to a new culture as a 7-year-old.

In her book, she tells readers how she changed her name to fit in with her American friends, and how she didn't bathe for two weeks when she was in summer camp because she wasn't comfortable with the lack of shower curtains in the restroom.

Freshman Dominic Gale related to Dumas' story of social adjustment.

"I'm from Jamaica, and when I came here, I found it hard to fit in," Gale said.

Gale recently came to this country from Jamaica, and he said the hardest part of the experience was speaking with a heavy accent.

"The book got me to slowly accept it," he said.

Dumas said the main message in her book is that the human experience is the same, and she wanted to share that thought with those who came to hear her speak.

"I think my story is easy to relate with, no matter what your background," Dumas told *The Beacon*.

As she shared stories about her family and life, she had the audience laughing out loud, even when the mood turned serious when she began describing life in America during the Iranian hostage crisis.

"I was 14 when it happened," Dumas said, referring to the Iranian students who took 53 Americans hostage in 1979. "People hated Iran, and didn't know about it."

She also told the audience that one day, she had a refrigerator repairman come to her house when she was living in California with a bumper sticker on his car that read: "Wanted: Iranians for target practice."

"Who would buy a hateful bumper sticker?" she said.

Dumas hopes that her stories serve to "humanize Iranians and show people you don't have to fear Iranians."

## CABRALITICS

### Tubby toddlers hazardous to all

America is at a crossroads. Beset on all sides by the onslaught of a terrible economy, a health care crisis and the looming onset of global climate change, it's time someone did something about the biggest threat to the United States and the world at large: fat babies.

#### COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

Thankfully, our friends in the health care industry have taken note of this growing problem. Last week, Rocky Mountain Health plans refused to provide health insurance to Alex Lange, a four-month-old, because he was too fat. Yet after mounting media pressure, the insurance company backed down.

Of course liberals and the Democrats in the media have applauded this decision, claiming it's ridiculous that a company could deny a coverage to a four-month-old. This should come as no surprise, since as we all know, the media has long held an overt probaby bias.

Despite this setback, this incident highlights the growing problems among our nation's toddlers. Once the finest and most athletic babies known to man, America's infants have fallen behind those of China and Russia. If we are to compete in the global economy, our children need to be lean and healthy.

Perhaps no one understands this more than Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey. At a svelte 178 pounds (170 without his beard), Corzine has seized upon his opponent's portliness, accentuating the Republican's girth in television ads while using phrases like, "Chris Christie likes to throw his weight around."

Some might call this a juvenile attempt by Corzine to pull ahead of his opponent in the polls, who has led him for much of the summer.

Yet the ads, some of which also include frivolous and appalling attacks on Christie for his support of the insurance industry, raise a number of deep, philosophical questions.

What kind of an example would Gov. Christie set for the children? As it is, many of the television characters targeted at children are overweight, from Barney to Cookie Monster.

What would happen if that long admired and sought-after post - governor of New Jersey - were to fall into the hands of Christie?

Of course, the menace of chubby babies extends far beyond the Garden State. Even in Florida, a state known for its large elderly population, infants are nearly ubiquitous, congregating in day care center and the toy aisles of various retailers.

Sadly, *The Beacon's* attempts to investigate the matter of local babies and their ballooning weight problems has been stonewalled, after every infant questioned at a local maternity ward refused to comment.

Nevertheless, we can feel proud knowing that after years of milling about and contributing nothing to society, the free ride for fat babies is over. The health care industry has taken the lead on this issue, and with the millions of contributions insurance companies are currently giving to Congress, we can at long last hope that the final reform bill will strike back against tubby toddlers.

*Cabralitics appears every other Friday.*

## 'Balloon boy' hoax a despicable act Stunt taken to new heights

IRIS A. FEBRES  
Opinion Editor

That poor kid.

Last week, CNN gave me bursts of information via Twitter, letting me know about a "Balloon Boy" in Colorado who apparently soared up into the sky, shocking his parents.

Seemingly a joyride gone wrong, America watched as authorities tracked the balloon down, only to find the craft empty.

As search parties were sent to find the child, we feared the worst.

Hours later, CNN announced the boy was hiding in the attic of his home. Falcon "Balloon Boy" Heene was safe and sound.

But instead of grateful sighs of relief, viewers were outraged. Luckily, they weren't outraged at the 6-year-old, but at the parents: Richard and Mayumi Heene.

After Falcon uttered: "You said we did this for the show," while the entire family - Mom, Dad and his two brothers - sat in their living room, I didn't know what to think.

I don't know if the Heenes thought twice before literally launching their hoax. And I wonder how far they would go in order to reach their dream of being on television - a dream which has been fulfilled, through nightmarish means.

The Heenes are stuck. While the situation has died down, eyes are still on them. Undoubtedly, media trucks stay parked outside their home, waiting to catch a glimpse of their faces.

The only ratings and attention they've garnered is for CNN and other news hubs. The parents will face charges, the most serious being felonies, with sentences of up to six years in prison, according to The Associated Press.

The Heenes should certainly get more than a slap on the wrist for their actions. Ultimately, as parents, they are responsible for their children's safety and well-being.

The incident is reminiscent of the infamous and ongoing Jon and Kate fiasco.

With the Gosselins, eight kids were stuck in the middle of a bitter, nasty war and subsequent divorce filings. The parents, it seemed, didn't mind the constant attention and coverage as their television show

became so successful.

Some critical viewers felt they treated their kids as an afterthought amid their spotlight, even though "Jon & Kate Plus Eight" centered on their lives as a family.

Now, it seems the Heenes used their son as a prop in order to send them to stardom. The difference between the two parents, however, is the severity of their actions.

And while they didn't actually shove Falcon into a balloon and bid him farewell with a juice box, this plot makes me wonder as to how far they would have gone to get what they want.

I'm glad we're critical of these folks, both as parents and as human beings.

I'm only shocked at how ridiculous this spectacle has become. No child should be used for profit, and I'm glad we're not tolerating The Dad Who Cried Wolf.



## Feud tarnishes Martin Luther King's legacy

ANA AROCHA  
Staff Writer

In 1963's march on Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. engraved into the minds of a torn nation the hope that one day, his dream of equality and peace would overcome all adversity and become a reality.

Forty-six years later, the nation he helped bring together watches as his family publicly falls apart.

On July 11, 2008, the civil rights icon's children, Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III, sued their brother Dexter King for withdrawing a considerable amount of money from their mother and father's estates and for withholding their right to participate in deci-

sions concerning their father's estate, of which Dexter King is the administrator.

A month later Dexter King filed a counter claim in the court against his sister, asking the court to force her to hand over love letters between their parents that he wanted for a proposed \$1.4 million book deal.

Another personal item listed in the counter claim was the Nobel Peace Prize their father was presented with in 1964.

Fourteen months later, on Oct. 12, the family finally reached a settlement to split the money withdrawn from the estates evenly among the three. A term of the settlement, as dictated by a Georgia court, is that the money and personal effects will be withheld from

the siblings for a year, during which they are to mend their estranged relationship.

As a man that stood at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, urging change through non-violence, acceptance and by above all promoting unity, Martin Luther King Jr. has come to represent peace amid a riotous nation.

But King is survived by the complete contradiction to the unity he dedicated his life toward promoting. His children, each activists in their own rights, fail to uphold their father's dream of solidarity.

The lawsuit is only the most recent of inter-family disputes.

The family has a long history of friction that has resulted in various problems, one of which concerned the management of the King

Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Not to mention the protests that resulted from the decision to hold the funeral of their mother, Coretta Scott King, a gay-rights activist, in a conservative church known for its anti-gay work. The constant discord of the King family cannot be attributed to common family struggles.

Their fights have political, social and economic agendas that are advertised through the media for the entire nation to witness and reflect upon.

The family of the man who this country once looked toward for the harmony he promoted is quickly distorting that vision with their motives and by not upholding their father's dream where it should have started: at home.

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

### QUOTATIONATION

"We have started preparing for a second round. The results show the need for a second round. We will let the Afghan people decide - I am committed to that."

Abdullah Abdullah  
Chief rival to Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai

### WINNER/LOSER



Boston Beer, the maker of Samuel Adams, will be unveiling its newest beer. The beer will have 10 percent alcohol and brewed according to Reinheitsgebot - a German purity law that guarantees only four ingredients can be used in the brewing process: water, malt, hop and yeast.



Miss California USA officials are demanding that Carrie Prejean, the runner-up for the crown, return the \$5,200 they loaned her for breast enhancements. Prejean holds that the officials disclosed her private history. The officials contend they were never private after the swimsuit competition.

### OPINIONPIECE

# 59

The percentage lead Mark Rubio holds over Charlie Crist in Florida's senatorial race, according to the latest poll.

NEON NIGHTS

## ROAD TO RICHES

*Lincoln Road full of fun and fabulous fortunes*

The cold front blowing through our tropical paradise is raising goose bumps on the models walking around South Beach. They cover the sudden skittles that they smuggle in their shirts and strut down Lincoln Road chasing Cuba Libres and music video producers. I'm sitting outside of Spris, a trendy pizza restaurant located on 731 Lincoln Rd., while enjoying my beer and pizza *vegetariana* with my female companion. I set down my beer and notice a chubby little girl standing at our table with a crumpled envelope and rehearsed pitch:

"Do you want to make a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of America?" she says.

"Umm, sure. I have, like, two extra dollars. Is that enough or is there a minimum?"

"Any little bit helps," she says to me with a shrug, almost in a way that makes me believe that she is just repeating what she's been told in spite of her own growing cynicism. I smile and just give her the \$5 bill instead.

"That's a great answer," I tell her while reaching for my wallet. "You're a smart girl. Do well in school, OK?"

I insist on signing something. The girl extends out her crumpled paper for me to sign, which felt just about as official as

tagging a bathroom stall. The girl walks off with a curt "thank you" and before I could say anything, Taylor Dane surges from the speakers of a nearby bar. Score. I jump straight up and dance. A group of Jamaican women – tourists – cheer me on.

"Oooh boy! You better not party too hard," says one of them while laughing.

"Too hard? Do you ladies even know where you are?" I reply with a smile. I offer to take their picture.

This is one of my favorite places to people watch.

Spris is known for their thin crust and generous servings of mozzarella on top of their pizzas. Cheese lovers will delight in sinking their teeth through the moist mozzarella and breaking the crisp, thin crust.

The service is quick and polite and, like most places on Lincoln Road, you can eat outside and enjoy the music from the nearby bar. The prices for pizza are also not prohibitive, and two people could share a pizza.

Tourists usually react in telling ways when they walk past Score and realize that it's a gay bar. The music is always danceable and the bartenders are constantly smiling. After a little bit of dancing to Pet Shop Boys, my friend and I decide to visit Zeke's Roadhouse nearby on 625 Lincoln Rd.

Zeke's is a great, if quirky place to drink because they hold a wide range of craft and international beers for just \$4. Though the awesomeness of this place was sapped from the small price hike (beers used to be \$3), the spirit and quality of this bar has stayed strong. The bartenders know their beers, and how to make a recommendation.

"Give me the stuff that tastes like crap!" says one guy who sits down next to us while I sip on my blueberry beer. The bartenders give us all a sample of some ciders and humor all of our silly questions with honest responses.

"Why the hell is Gumby playing on the TV?" He doesn't know.

My girl friend and I pester him some more. The handsome bartender explains to us that he's from Boston, and that he moved here looking for something different. I tell him I like to take note of fine breeding and he modestly smiles and laughs. I have a lot of respect for a guy who can take a compliment for what it is.

Lincoln Road is the artery of South Beach where little platelets and cells of activity flow smoothly along the promenade. A friend once told me that the walk down the promenade was intentionally designed to have a lateral incline because it encourages people to walk and explore rather than stand around. Whatever the reason, there is an irresistible gravity here that can hardly be compared to any other place in this city. Bring money and wear nice shoes.

"Neon Nights" is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in *The Beacon* and on [FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com).

COLUMNIST



BOBBY JOE BRACY



## Video game convention hits Miami

INFINITE BITS, page 1

people won't even know existed."

Cutler said he's hoping to attract gamers of all types – from hardcore gamers, to retro gamers who have put their gaming life on pause and even casual gamers.

"We wanted to take great care of this event because we're gamers," said Marlene Monzo, vice president of Infinite Bits. "We have an idea, as gamers, of what we would want to see at a show." For those who don't want to shop or partake in tournaments, the convention will also be a host for Twin Galaxies, a worldwide authority on video game statistics that provides videogame records for Guinness.

"Anyone who wants to has the opportunity to step up and see if they can break a record," Cutler said.

Attendees can attempt breaking records in games like *Halo 3*, *Mario Kart Wii*, *Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare* and several others. They'll receive certificates to prove it too. Those who end up with sore thumbs from button mashing (or strumming plastic guitars) can take a break in the video room, where game documentaries and cartoons will be played, along with live music.

"There's a lot of people in our economic times that cannot afford to go out and spend money on dinner, and they normally spend money on entertainment at home with video games," said Robert Hernandez, the

director of catering at the Doubletree.

Cutler felt it was time Miami had an event like this. "If you want to go to a gaming event of any reasonable size, you've got to go up to Texas or Philadelphia," he said. "We figured there really needed to be a big video game event in South Florida."

This year, Cutler said they're expecting at least a "couple thousand people." If the event turns out to be successful, the couple would like to make Infinite Bits a yearly convention.

Tickets for Infinite Bits vary between \$20 and \$35 and can be purchased at [InfiniteBitsConvention.com](http://InfiniteBitsConvention.com).

IS IT WORTH IT?

## 'Revenge' an awful film, not worth seeing

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

If you stick at this job long enough, you're bound to be called a snob at least a few times. It is the nature of being the critic. You are paid to watch something and give your opinion on it.

Someone will see something different in art and in film.

Case and point, *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, a wonderfully worthy story about a boy (Shia LaBeouf) and his pet robot; that fell from outer space in the first film of this franchise with other robots to defend humanity.

Sadly enough, I wasn't a fan of the film, which grossed over \$400 million in the U.S., and has its defenders.

Certainly, there was a lot of action and a lot of running courtesy of LaBeouf and Megan Fox, his girlfriend as they rush to prevent the something or other from happening so that bad things don't happen so that the human race isn't enslaved by evil robots.

The scope is great. The explosions are cool. Megan Fox is Megan Fox and that's all right with me; shine on you crazy diamond.

There was one element missing: purpose. Any movie requires a purpose with plot and defined, interesting characters that fuel the road from point A to point B in the story and who keep you emotionally invested.

Purpose isn't just for soft movies like *Citizen Kane* or *Doubt*. Take a great action film like *The Dark Knight* or *Die Hard*. You've not only got great stories with a sense of immediacy about them, you've also got characters; Bruce Wayne, John McClane, Hans Gruber or The Joker. They all have motivations and it draws you further into the film.

As I walked out of this great, big, hulking behemoth of a film, I felt nothing.

The plot was a mess.

About two years after the end of the first *Transformers* film, Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) is off to college, still with his girlfriend Mikaela (Fox), the "hot" girl who wouldn't give him the time of day during the first film but then fell in love with the awkward teen after he managed to save her life and the world in the process.

Mikaela can't afford college, so she stays in their hometown to work at her father's auto-repair shop.

Mid-semester, Witwicky has a mental breakdown as he starts writing in Cybertronian language uncontrollably. Calling on her, Witwicky has once again become the target of the evil Decepticons, led by Megatron, who are seeking to revive their leader, The Fallen.

Witwicky enlists the help of the Autobots, led by Optimus Prime, now leading a new Autobot-human military organization called NEST, in order to help him save the day.

I never thought I'd need to type that sentence in my lifetime.

So they run around the world, fight on top of the pyramids and such for the next two and a half hours.

I don't feel that I need to elaborate on the ridiculous nature of the plot, so let's look at the characters. Witwicky is the prototypically

# 'Transformers' not worth watching

## TRANSFORMERS, page 5

awkward "nerd" who wins the girl and learns a little something about himself during the first film and doesn't do anything during the second film. Mikaela is the girl that used to be the "bad" girl but learned to be "good" in the second film. Sam's parents (Kevin Dunn and Julie White) are "stupid" and "quirky" but "loving." These are not characters, but stereotypes, written out of laziness. There is not one sincere emotion or idea or

concept about plot throughout the entire film.

Americas hack auteur, Director Michael Bay has managed to do what few filmmakers have been able to do before: create a brand name.

You know a Michael Bay movie when you see one just like you know a Hitchcock movie or Peckinpah work: slow motion, large explosions, American cars, beautiful women sweating in slow motion, even larger explosions.

Consistently, Michael

Bay's movies since 1995's *Bad Boys* have become larger. Look at *The Rock*, *Armageddon*, *Pearl Harbor* and *Bad Boys II*. They have certainly not gotten better.

Call me a snob, but I won't be recommending this week's movie.

*"Is It Worth It?" is a weekly feature rating the relative quality of films screened by SPC. 'Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen' will be showing in GC 140 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.*

# Festival to screen new films

## FESTIVAL, page 1

Career Achievement Award and Michelle Monaghan (*Eagle Eye*) will receive the Star on the Horizon Award.

On Oct. 24, Monaghan will attend her new film, *Trucker*, where she plays a woman trucker whose life changes when her estranged 11-year-old son shows up on her doorsteps.

On the same evening, actor Michael Jai White (*Spawn*) and director Scott Sanders will attend the screening of *Black Dynamite*, a spoof of the blaxploitation films of the 1970s, wherein White is an action legend who is looking to exact his revenge on the man that killed his brother.

On Oct. 25 you can see *Lessons from South Africa*, the documentary on HIV/AIDS developed by FIU associate dean and associate professor of the School of Journalism and Massm

Communication, Allan Richards.

Richards appreciates that the film is being screened at the festival.

"I'm very grateful ... It's an important message," Richards said.

He encouraged students to see the film and spread the word about the dangers and prevalence of AIDS in Miami, which ranks third among U.S. cities in infection rate.

On Oct. 29, Frank Vincent and Katherine Narceducci, stars from "The Sopranos," actor Mike Starr (*Dumb and Dumber*) and director Brian Caunter will be in attendance for the screening of *Chicago Overcoat*, an organized-crime drama about an aging hit man and a washed-up detective who are looking to settle an old score.

On Nov. 1, Broderick will attend the premiere of his movie, the ironically titled *Wonderful World*, which is

about a proof-reader who is a deadbeat father addicted to marijuana, and who is also the most negative man alive.

Throughout the festival, there will be receptions and parties where guests will get to a chance to meet filmmakers and actors.

Some of the parties include the Black Dynamite party at Bova Prime on Las Olas and a Chicago Overcoat pre-party at Carrabbas' Italian Grill and post screening party at The W.

Aside from the opening night screening, all screening will be held at Cinema Paradiso, 503 SE 6 Street in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Tickets are available to purchase now through the Web site, [www.FLIFF.com](http://www.FLIFF.com). You can also call 954-525-3456.

*Additional reporting by Chris Cabral.*

# Need a STUDY BREAK?



Come by our booth and enjoy FREE PIZZA and a chance to win a NINTENDO Wii!

**When:** Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

11:00am – 2:00pm

**WHERE:** Graham Student Center

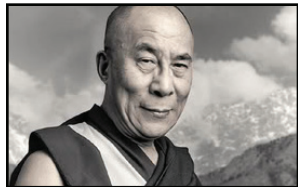
*\*If you come by the booth, you will have a chance to enter to win a free Nintendo Wii! The winner will be announced at an Army Officer Panel Discussion on October 28<sup>th</sup> and you have to be **present to win!** Please visit [goarmy.com/officer](http://goarmy.com/officer) for more information on becoming an Officer in the United States Army.*



## THIS WEEKEND

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

#### "WHY THE DALAI LAMA MATTERS" LECTURE



Dr. Robert Thurman, professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies, lecture

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: The Wertheim Performing Arts

#### SET TO MANUAL EXHIBITION

Exhibition of works in diverse media

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Girl's Club

#### MIAMI CITY BALLET

Enjoy the Ballet at the Opera House tonight!

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$19-169  
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House

#### TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN

WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 140

#### RETROSP(A)CTIVE ANNUAL PARTY/FUNRAISER

Join this event for drinks, food, music and design for the greater good!

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15  
WHERE: The Annex

#### MIASCI'S BIG BANG



Enjoy a gala fundraiser with live music, art, dancing and an open bar!

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$30  
WHERE: Miami Science Museum

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

#### FILM MARATHON



Preview films/documentaries about contemporary artists.

WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

#### TATE'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN SALE



Get comic books for cheap at this sale.

WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Tates

#### VIZCAYA HALLOWEEN BASH

Enjoy a costume party at Miami's beautiful Vizcaya Museum.

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$100  
WHERE: Vizcaya Museum

#### HOME MOVIE DAY 09



A celebration of 8mm and 16mm home movies and amateur film

WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Tower Theatre

#### JUNIOR BOYS

Enjoy an electronic indie band tonight!

WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: The Vagabond

#### FORT LAUDERDALE FILM FESTIVAL

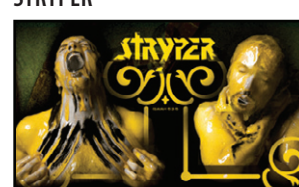


Enjoy a sci-fi romantic comedy that opens this film fest!

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: Miniaci Performing Arts

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

#### STRYPER



Catch a show by this heavy metal band!

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$22  
WHERE: Culture Room

#### LESSONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Watch a short documentary created by Allan Richards, the associate dean of the School of Journalism a Mass Communication. The documentary focuses on the Aids crisis and how people can help.

WHEN: 11:45 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$8  
WHERE: Cinema Paradiso

#### MUSIC IN THE PARK

WHEN: 2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Secret Woods Nature Center

#### BEETHOVEN'S ODE TO JOY

Enjoy a performance by the New World Symphony!

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15-154  
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center

#### OPEN MIC

Acoustic and electric music, plus, spoken word!

WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: The Castle Lounge

#### ACOUSTIC NIGHT



WHEN: 9 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: John Martin's Pub

*-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa. Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to [mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com](mailto:mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com).*

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## CONFERENCE PRESSURE



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTOS

**FACE TIME:** Anthony Gaitor (left) is probable for the game; T.Y. Hilton (middle) hopes to contribute despite a sprained knee. Paul McCall (right) has 11 touchdowns.

### Golden Panthers face Red Wolves after last season's 1-point win

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

FIU quarterback Paul McCall wanted to make an adjustment.

So before the Golden Panthers' (1-5, 1-2 Sun Belt) fourth game in conference play at Arkansas State (1-4, 0-2) on Oct. 24, McCall changed his appearance. The senior let go of most of his hair, and cut it in favor of a mohawk style.

"We needed a little change around here. I thought it was adequate for the game at hand, it's a little more serious," McCall said. "You don't want to use a cliché, but this is definitely a make-or-break game for us."

McCall is among the Sun Belt Conference leaders in efficiency (122.0), passing yards (1,461), and touchdowns (11). While wide receiver T.Y. Hilton improved upon his record setting freshman campaign and is on pace to rewrite his own records, Ty Frierson and Greg Ellingson are both in line to have their best seasons as well. But McCall has done most of his damage while facing constant pressure, and the Golden Panthers are near the bottom of the conference in sacks allowed.

Protecting McCall, who was sacked six times in the loss to Troy on Oct. 17, will be

especially important when Preseason Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year Alex Carrington takes aim at FIU's signal caller.

The Red Wolves' defense is first in the SBC in scoring and total defense, led by an imposing defensive front. The Golden Panthers defeated the Red Wolves by one point last season on a late touchdown pass from Hilton to Junior Mertile, a memorable play that kept FIU in SBC contention late last season.

#### MORE MACK

Last week, Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal had to take McCall out for a series in favor of backup Wayne Younger after a Troy defender pummeled him.

"We have to make sure that when guys are going to come free, we put our quarterback in a good situation where we could get rid of the ball," Cristobal said. "Or we have to have someone in there to block someone that's coming."

On an offensive line that has already seen significant shuffling since the season started, Cristobal said that junior guard Cedric Mack will see more playing time. Mack, who was part of the Golden Panthers 2008 signing class but was not cleared to play by

**We need a little change around here. You don't want to use a cliché, but this is definitely a make-or-break game for us.**

Paul McCall, Quarterback  
Football

the NCAA last season, is a former three-star prospect, according to *rivals.com*.

"He's come on strong these last few games," McCall said. "I saw him in the Western Kentucky game and this last game vs. Troy, and he was bouncing around and screaming at people. When other guys aren't performing we need to have that depth to be able to have guys step up."

While Mack and the Golden Panthers offensive line look to keep McCall on his feet, FIU's defensive front will have to account for one of the best rushers in SBC history as they try to halt Reggie Arnold.

Arnold, who could become the eighth player in NCAA history to run for 1,000 yards in all four seasons, is averaging over five yards per carry.

The Golden Panthers have surrendered over 160 yards on the ground to every opponent this season.

#### AVENGING

McCall is sure that ASU is eyeing revenge after the Golden Panthers' dramatic home victory over them last season.

"I remember two years ago, when they beat us when we were at their home in the last few minutes we had it circled on our calendar," he said. "You never want to lose games like that."

In a game in which the weather is expected to dip below 50 degrees, McCall hopes he will have time to deliver the football to his bevy of targets.

"Those guys are my lifeline up front and I have full faith that they will get the job done," McCall said. "They will get better and fix the holes they had last week."

- Cornerback Anthony Gaitor is probable to play after an injury he sustained against Troy, according to Cristobal.

#### INSIDE THE NUMBERS

# 14-4

The number of goals the Golden Panthers have scored compared to their opponents during their four-game winning streak.

# 69-40

The number of shots the Golden Panthers have attempted compared to their opponents during the same stretch.

# 17-29

The Golden Panthers have saved 12 less shots than their opponents by a margin during the streak. This is a result of few shots attempted against the defense.

# 10-42-7

This is the combined season record of the teams they've beaten during the four-game streak.

WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. UALR 7 P.M., VS. ASU 1 P.M.

## Team trying to make history with weekend conference win

**CHRIS GREEN**  
Staff Writer

History could be made on Oct. 23 as the Golden Panthers women's soccer team looks to set a new school record for most conference wins in one season vs. the University of Arkansas-Little Rock at home.

FIU tied the current mark of six vs. Troy and South Alabama to extend the team's seven-game undefeated streak.

Heading into the final three games of the season, Coach Thomas Chestnutt hopes the hard work from the entire season will pay dividends at the season's finish.

"We had a plan coming into this

season," said Chestnutt. "We still have things that we are working on as we go into the final section of the season."

The three-game homestand, which starts with a conference matchup with UALR on Oct. 23, marks the end of a major turnaround from 2008. Going winless until the final six games of the season, the Golden Panthers looked dismal after an extremely slow start, but ended the season on a high note.

Now, nearing the end of the season, the Golden Panthers are riding a four-game winning streak and currently sit third in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

The only two teams ahead of FIU are Western Kentucky and North Texas.

FIU gave WKU its only Sun Belt Conference loss, and is the only conference team to not lose against UNT.

For seniors Marina Pappas and Amy Jackson, finishing the rest of the year with the wins would be a perfect ending to a turnaround season.

"We have worked really hard," said Pappas. "It's good to see us winning again."

For Jackson, the current focus is still on individual games with three to go.

"We have to take it one match at a time," said Jackson. "The conference tournament is one game at a time, so it's the same mentality as we are in right now."

If FIU wins at least one of their



CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**RECORD BOOKS:** Jessica Gambill is one of the reasons the defense has held opponents to four goals in the last four games.

final three games it would be the single greatest conference record turnaround in school history for the team.