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Florida International University

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Weekends with Paradise: Paradise gives you ideas of turkey-day themed presents that won't cost an arm and a leg for those dinner parties.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

SGA has much to be proud of and much left to accomplish in the new year.

OPINION PAGE 4

A study finds that over 40 million Americans are living at the poverty line.

OPINION PAGE 4



Getting Schooled: Tuition hikes at the University of California ignite protests from students.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Wind Ensemble performs concert focusing on women.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Greek Life!: Parsan wins Tri-Sigma's backwards pageant.

LIFE! PAGE 6



Comic Book Review: Despite flaws, Dark Reign comic delivers on its promises.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Poor shooting night leads men's basketball to lose at home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIU Yoga Club, Nov. 25, 11 a.m.
Enjoy this banquet event featuring free food in the GC ballrooms.

Megadeth, Nov. 25, 8 p.m.
Get in the Thanksgiving spirit with this metal band, playing at Revolution. Tickets are \$33.

Winternational Thanksgiving day Parade, Nov. 26, 10 a.m. Enjoy this parade, sponsored by the City of North Miami, taking place between 6th and 12th ave on 125th st.

— More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
T-Showers
LOW: 70 HIGH: 79



THURSDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 63 HIGH: 78



FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 55 HIGH: 72

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

Maidique awarded bonus

Trustees vote to give Maidique a \$100,000 compensation reward

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

The FIU Board of Trustees voted to give former University President Modesto Maidique a \$100,000 performance bonus.

Maidique will be paid in two separate installments:

\$50,000 performance bonus, as promised in his contract, and the remaining will be paid in the future once the University has enough funds.

The recommendation was made by a subcommittee on compensation, which ranked Maidique's

performance during his last year as president. The committee concluded that Maidique went beyond expectations; he was given a rank of "superior."

The FIU Foundation has already saved \$50,000 for Maidique's bonus. The addi-

tional funds will come from the foundation's general reserves.

The proposal set up a spirited debate during the hearing, with some trustees arguing that the amount was suitable, while a minority argued that the amount was too much.

Former BOT Chairman David Parker pointed out that Maidique's contract was

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SGC-MMC

Bill calling for cabinet job descriptions voted down

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Following heated debate by senators and members of the executive branch, the senate of the student government at Modesto Maidique Campus voted down on a council bill that would add formal requirements to any new cabinet position created by the SGC-MMC president, on a Nov. 23 meeting.

Members of the cabinet are subject to approval by the senate, and the bill would require any new cabinet position to have a document detailing an exact title and the functions and duties of the position.

In addition to the nominee's vitals like e-mail address, major and previous experience, the nominee would have to make a presentation at his/her senate confirmation hearing.

Trying to avoid cases that happened in the past where five positions were confirmed at the same time and not all nominees were present, the bill also had a provision stating that nominees had to be confirmed individually.

The bill was met with audible jeers and accusations of overstepping the boundaries of the senate.

"This looks like a self righteous power grab," said College of Arts and Sciences Senator Adam Johnson during debate. "It is not necessary."

Johnson urged the senate to not mess with the cabinet as it was a separate body.

The opposition to the bill was spearheaded by the SGC-MMC president and vice president, who interjected their voice into debate in the name of clarification, and was based on the perception that the bill was restrictive in nature.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda was perturbed with the sponsoring senators not showing him a bill relating to the cabinet beforehand, and defended his right to create all the positions he saw fit.

Rionda claimed the authors of the bill did not read the constitution while writing the bill.

Sponsoring senators told Student Media that they had run the legislation through the judicial, by having

SGC-MMC, page 2

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

DOING GOOD: Freshman Virginia Narramore, psychology major, donated clothing at Lakeview South. The clothing drive held by Lakeview South resident assistants Amanda Humbert and Daniel Stokes will continue through Dec. 4.

Resolution to hold bimonthly meetings passes

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate at Modesto Maidique Campus passed a resolution that calls for the senates of both Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC to meet bimonthly for a joint senate meeting.

The resolution was in response to sentiment in the senate that the

University-wide Council should be more unified.

Last month, a resolution passed in the senate that asked student leaders to look into avenues that made the student government more unified.

The 'Restructure Resolution' ignited controversy as it suggested having one central student leader.

Some at BBC saw it as an

attempt to wrestle away authority from their government.

This resolution clearly states the need for both student government bodies due to "two different cultures at each campus."

The resolution does not require both senates to be physically in the same location, they could meet in person or via teleconference, says the text.

The meetings will be run as a joint forum, and no actual legislation will be voted on in those forums.

The senate at BBC passed a similar resolution during its meeting on Nov. 18.

The next senate meeting will be held on Nov. 30.

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Radiation leak at Three Mile Island under investigation

Pennsylvania authorities are investigating a radiation leak at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant.

The leak, which occurred on Nov. 22 in the Unit One containment building, resulted in the evacuation of 150 employees. According to CNN, that unit has been closed for cleaning and repairs since Oct. 26. The Three Mile Island Facility is no stranger to nuclear leaks. In 1979, the facility experienced a partial meltdown that resulted in the permanent decommission of the plant's second reactor.

HarperCollins to publish two Crichton books

HarperCollins will posthumously publish two books from recently deceased author Michael Crichton.

According to *The New York Times*, *Pirate Latitudes* was written at the same time as his newest novel, *Next*. The novel was discovered by Crichton's former assistant. The book is a departure from Crichton's usual statements of the consequences of science and technology.

Before his death, Crichton was under contract for two books. His second book is only partially written, and the estate will look for a co-writer to finish the book with Crichton's notes.

TECH

iPhone takes over half of the world's mobile data traffic

The Apple iPhone is responsible for 50 percent of the world's mobile data traffic.

According to *AppleInsider.com* and a report released by AdMob, Apple's iPhone upped its market share from 43 percent last year.

Symbian came in second with 25 percent and Google's Android operating system came in third with 20 percent.

AdMob released the report shortly after the announcement that Google would acquire the company for \$750 million. AdMob is a company that develops online marketing and advertisements for mobile devices.

-Compiled by Jorge Valens

Contest promotes sustainability

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities on their campus communities, according to its Web site.

In the upcoming year, FIU plans to participate in this competition in order to motivate students to recycle more on campus and as an overall way to go green.

For the previous year, the University participated in RecycleMania as a benchmark school, meaning that it did not participate in competition. However, Alexandra Dutton, the leader behind RecycleMania at the University, is certain that it will do well in next year's competition.

The competition will run from Jan. 17 to May 20 and will incorporate around 500 universities.

Over a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data, which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate, according to RecycleMania's Web site.

Every week, FIU will know where it

stands with the others and will recycle more accordingly, Dutton explained.

"I believe students will get more into it if it's a competition. They will be motivated to do more and more each week", Dutton said.

Even though FIU was a benchmark school last year, the campus as a whole recycled 20 more tons than they had previously been doing without the incentive of RecycleMania, according to Dutton.

Dutton is currently the Sustainability Program assistant for the new committee that University President Mark Rosenberg started this year with a goal for FIU to become a greener campus.

Her tasks currently include working on the events to promote RecycleMania.

"The event kicking off RecycleMania will be held on Jan. 20 that is being done in coordination with the farmers' market. It will include carnival games, food and perhaps a craft table," Dutton said.

Other ideas in the works include a Spring clean-out for all faculty and staff and a "dorm storm" in which Roary would storm all the dorms and encourage recycling. Also, for St. Patrick's Day, the baseball team is planning a green baseball game, according to Dutton.

The plans for a greener campus, however, do not end with RecycleMania.

Dutton plans to have the dorms recycle more throughout the year. Other plans include educating the students on environmental issues and encouraging students to carpool and use alternative transportation.

Additionally, all the new buildings are lead-certified and are required to meet certain environmental standards, according to Dutton.

"The organization Students for Environmental Sustainability has also been a great help in this green initiative. However, our plans are to get all the students involved," Dutton said.

A Web site, *gogreen.fiu.edu*, has been created to inform students about the daily events occurring around campus and to inform them how to participate in RecycleMania and other events.

According to the RecycleMania Web site, the prize for winning the competition is a trophy and bragging rights for the individual school.

But Dutton believes that students should be encouraged to continue this green initiative throughout the years.

"I believe we should take care of what we have, we need to cut down on what we use. Or if that cannot be done, we need to find other uses for our resources. Throwing it away will cause more damage to the environment in the end," Dutton said.

Rionda says no to compensation

BOT, page 1

drawn up based on national compensation trends and studies.

"The most successful year President Maidique had was last year in terms of fundraising, despite a number of challenges. This has been benchmarked and appropriate in my opinion," Parker said.

Trustee Jorge L. Arrizurieta, chairman of the faculty senate, opposed the measure, citing that Maidique was already being paid hand-

somely with a \$50,000 bonus.

"I'm prepared to agree to the \$50,000, anything above that would be inappropriate," Arrizurieta said.

Other BOT members argued that Maidique's contract does not take into account the economic situation the University and the state are in. The contract's only condition is if Maidique met the benchmarks stated in the contract.

Parker added that the amount of \$100,000 is small when put into perspective. Last year, the FIU Foundation raised \$77 million, which is three times more than during 2007, according to Parker.

"It's hard to say this because this is a lot of money, this is a fair recognition of what he contributed to the corpus of the foundation,"

Parker said.

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda, also a member of the BOT, said that despite Maidique's many accomplishments during his 23-year tenure, it was difficult to vote in favor of the proposal because of the lack of funding for student scholarships.

"I know this contract says \$50,000, and I'd love to give him a million, but this vote would be very tough for me, and very tough for students," Rionda said.

Vice Chairman Albert Maury and Chairman Albert Dotson made a last minute push to influence the trustees, arguing that Maidique's service to FIU speaks for itself.

"Dr. Maidique earned

every penny," Dotson said. "And I would say to you that it is customary, when one retires, and does an exemplary job, that they are justly rewarded. I would hope that the trustees would understand that in the depths of their hearts, this is the right thing to do."

The proposal passed, with three nays from trustees Thomas Breslin, Arrizurieta and Rionda.

Rosenberg left the meeting right before the final vote, citing he had a flight to Kentucky to catch for FIU women's volleyball Conference Championship.

Dotson thanked the trustees for the vigorous debate.

"It's not easy to make decisions on tough issues like this, but that's why they pay us the big bucks," Dotson said jokingly.

Senators to bring bill back

SGC-MMC, page 1

a justice read it, and that the bill worked within the constitutional boundaries.

"We want clarification, that is all we want," said Senator William-Jose Velez, a sponsor of the bill. "We are not restricting his power; we are not giving us additional power."

Hector Mujica from the College of Business and Vignesh Doraiswamy from the Honors College were the other sponsoring senators.

Velez told Student Media all he wanted was for the senate to be informed on new positions.

"For us to label them with one little title, it keeps us from serving our students," said Vice President Mykaelle "Myka" Figueiredo.

Mujica, the other sponsoring senator, said that they only wanted a brief description of the position.

"We are not asking for a line by line description of every position and saying that position

can not do anything outside that description," he said. "We just want a brief synopsis and overview of what every new position is going to do."

However, some senators disagreed with the bill and stressed that it was up to the president to choose officers.

"We are overstepping our boundaries," said nursing Senator Alejandro Garcia. "It's an executive privilege to pick your cabinet members."

That was the sentiment among the majority of the senate. The opposition then voted to bypass a second reading of the bill in a clear attempt to not give the bill a second reading. It was then voted down 15 against to 10 for.

The authors of the bill said they would bring the council bill back to the senate after they consult with the executive branch. They are not bound by the constitution to check with the executive branch when writing bills involving other branches. It will be a courtesy.

THE BEACON

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Scholar examines history

Lecture to highlight Arab-Israeli relations

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

The tension between Israel and its Arab neighbors has escalated over the past years, but there was a time when these two groups lived in harmony.

Henry Abramson, dean of academic affairs and student services at Touro College, a Jewish-sponsored independent institution of higher education, will discuss the early interaction between the Jewish and Muslims during the early rise of Islam.

The lecture, titled "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish," will take place Nov. 25 in Academic II, Room 115 at the Biscayne Bay Campus from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The lecture is free and open to all students.

Zion Zohar, director and chair of the President Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry invited Abramson and organized the lecture.

The Navon Program, under the College of Arts and Sciences, provides academic training in Sephardic and Oriental Jewish Studies. It offers lectures and seminars by University faculty and

other locally-, nationally-, and internationally-renowned scholars and artists, according to its Web site. The program is based at BBC, but courses are also offered at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

In an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*, Abramson said that despite the controversies between the two religious groups in this century, they both consider the biblical Abraham to be their common ancestor.

They once lived in harmony for a period of 1,000 years, according to Abramson.

The issues that surround Israel and its Arab neighbors will not be addressed during the lecture, according to Abramson.

Although Abramson said Jewish and Muslim students will benefit most from the lecture, he also said students with open minds will grow and learn from it.

"Students who have already made up their minds would probably be better off leaving early for Thanksgiving break," Abramson said.

Students who are not Jewish or Muslim will learn about the complex shared

history of the two groups, he said.

"There is far more heat than light shed on Jewish-Muslim relations," said Abramson. "This lecture might help students understand that simple answers to complex questions are usually wrong."

According to Zohar, students will learn about a time when there was fear of interacting with the "other religion." Those with that fear will learn, too, he said.

"It doesn't matter if you are Muslim, Christian, Jew, or Buddhist, Hindu whatever. All those will learn from this example of tolerance and cooperation," Zohar said.

Abramson, who has a doctorate in history, said he does not consider himself a specialist in Islam or Arabic history, but he said that he has broad training in the period that he will discuss.

The research Abramson conducted over the past 20 years focused on the interactions between Jews and non-Jews, particularly in areas of great tension such as the birth of Christianity, medieval anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, he said.

When Zohar saw Abramson lecturing on this topic to other students, Zohar felt it would be great for his Navon Program at the University, so he decided to ask to speak to students at the University.

"As always, when Zion

MUSICAL POTLUCK



ABOVE: Camilo Medina, a junior graphic design major at the Miami International University of Art & Design (left), and Davis Lopez, a freshman anthropology major at Broward College (right), of the band Flower Flower Yes, perform during the Ethnobotany Club's Potluck event on Nov. 23.



LEFT: Aveah Marks, a junior hospitality major, grills shrimp, tofu and vegetable shish kabobs for the Ethnobotany Club's Potluck event on Nov. 23.

PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

asks, I'm happy to cooperate," Abramson said.

Zohar encourages students to attend the lecture because some

professors will give extra credit for attending.

"I don't see any professor in the University that would not want their

students to be open minded to ideas and concepts of others," Zohar said. "So I think in any class students can ask for extra credit."

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Give thanks this holiday season with wallet-friendly gifts

As a former fat kid, I cannot even begin to tell you how much I adore Thanksgiving.

Between the food, spending time with loved ones, shopping, parades and football games, I am convinced that it's the ultimate holiday.

The only downside to all this fun is knowing what to bring as a host gift when you go out to dinner.

If you're anything like me, you always end up going to Walgreen's right before dinner to grab a box of chocolates. But this year, I am ending that tradition and thinking ahead.

I am going with presents that remind me of the holiday, starting with coffee from The Coffee Scene, located at 15955 Pines Blvd. in Pembroke Pines.

As a die-hard Starbucks addict, I am willing to admit that the caramel apple coffee The Coffee Scene sells is totally worth the \$1.65 for a small cup. I swear, it tastes like fall in a cup.

It's a light-bodied, fruity coffee that is well balanced. It lacks the acidity that I normally look for in a brew, but it's still drinkable. I'd recommend having this with something like fruit tarts, key lime pie, lemon meringue or any dessert that has berries.

Now, they don't sell the beans for this brew in the store, unless you order it in advance. I called in for a pound for only \$8, which is about \$4 cheaper than a Thanksgiving blend over at Starbucks.

You can either bring it over ground up so the host can just put it into a pot at dinner time, or put the whole beans in a festive gift bag and give it to the host.

Just a warning: If you want to give coffee that is pre-ground, make sure you know what kind of filter the person you're giving the gift to has. It makes a difference in the grinding process.

Since there are some crazy people out there who don't like coffee, I have an alternative host gift to bring to Thanksgiving dinner: a serving plate.

COLUMNIST



PARADISE AFSHAR

presto, you have a cheap host gift.

The best part is that the yellow and red of the fruits look festive enough to pass as a holiday-themed gift.

If you do this, please don't go cheap on the Vodka! Use the Grey Goose laying around instead of the Smirnoff. No one likes bottom shelf- not during the holidays anyway.

So tomorrow, when you go to the house of a relative or friend to eat, bring something that comes from the heart and that won't break the bank.

Just think ahead - no sense on missing the parade just because you don't have a host gift.

This week's Weekends with Paradise was published on Wednesday due to the Holidays.

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

BEACON | Editorial With accomplishments at its back, SGA has work cut out for Spring semester

This editorial is the second installment of the editorial published Nov. 23.

In relaying the Student Government Association's promises and current accomplishments, *The Beacon* continues to outline both councils triumphs and failures.

In the Summer, SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda passed a motion, with the advice of SGC-MMC advisor Jose Toscano, to create a special election committee that would evaluate the importance of special elections and how council vacancies are filled.

In a previous editorial, *The Beacon* approved of the motion as we felt it was a step in the right direction. After attempts to follow up on the status of the motion failed, *The Beacon* concluded that no further attempts were made by SGA to create the committee. The process of filling vacancies thus remains unresolved, and it merits far more attention from SGC-MMC.

The senate's failure to act on this matter raises serious questions. If the Senate opposes the motion, they should say so. If they support it, they should have acted on it long ago.

But by simply ignoring the issue, they raise serious doubts about whether they have the collective ability to address complex problems or the courage to oppose President Rionda and the SGC-MMC advisor.

One goal that Rionda has delivered on is establishing a point-to-point Panther Safety Tram system to safely escort students around campus. The Panther Tram system was originally implemented by former SGC-MMC President Arthur "A.J." Meyer during his administration.

While Panther Tram is funded by both SGA and Parking and Transportation, Rionda was successful in advising the latter department to implement a loop system, in which a golf cart circles the busy areas on campus transporting students back and forth.

Rionda and SGC-BBC President Shalom Neistein also both outlined plans to make the campuses more eco-friendly and promote green initiatives. *The Beacon* feels that both councils have taken steps in encouraging students to be more environmentally friendly; one of the most notable of these initiatives was the distribution of recycling bins on both campuses.

SGA and University Custodial services collaborated on the University-wide recycling program. At least 40 of the bins were donated by the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and BBC received 30 more as part of a single-stream recycling program offered by World Waste Management.

The University has also announced its plans of making the campuses smoke-free, much like the University of Florida. Students spoke up mainly against the initiative during a town hall meeting and Internet forum.

In the end, SGC-MMC passed a resolution which called for the enforcement of the current campus smoking policy, rather than a University-wide ban. *The Beacon* commends SGC-MMC for passing a level-headed measure in line with the sentiments of students shared at the forums, rather than bowing to pressure from administrators.

Both councils have accomplishments to be proud of and areas to improve upon. *The Beacon* hopes that student government is capable enough to build on the former and humble enough to address the latter.

Poverty stats must affect health care

Over 40 million live below line

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

With so much talk nowadays about obesity, poor quality public schools and healthcare, one issue strangely takes a backseat in public discourse: poverty in the United States.

An article from *The South Florida Times* reports that the number of poor Americans in this country – normally tallied by the Census Bureau as being close to 40 million – is actually far higher, according to the National Academy of Sciences, which did its own measurements.

The NAS has calculated that the number of Americans below the poverty line – in other words, officially poor – is closer to 50 million, at around 47.8 million to be exact. That would mean that close to 16 percent of the population – one out of six Americans – is poor, as opposed to the 13.2 percent figure originally determined by the official Census Bureau.

Why the great discrepancy? Unlike the Bureau's data, the NAS's measurement takes into account a slew of other factors: transportation costs, child care costs and most crucially, healthcare costs,

which apparently accounted for most of the increase. It also counted those who receive government aid money through Medicaid or food stamp programs, which the older measurement doesn't include.

The result is not only a larger poverty rate, but the revelation of yet another element in the heated healthcare debate.

That is because the new data, when broken down into detail, reveals that a little more than half of the "extra" 7 million people added to the poverty level are over the age of 65: that's 3.4 million to be exact.

This would mean that 18.7 percent all

public option, the need to improve Medicare and whether or not the elderly will lose out in the name of greater, cheaper coverage for the rest of population.

Depending on how healthcare works out (if it ever does) the inefficiency could be exacerbated or solved through a better way.

Furthermore, the fact the new poverty figure roughly coincides with the number of uninsured – usually placed at around 47 million as well – suggests that there is indeed a link between having no health insurance and poverty. However, correlation doesn't equal causation, but nonetheless the figure reinforces the idea that the lack of universal healthcare is disenfranchising impoverished Americans, or even miring them in poverty further.

Tellingly, a comprehensive report published by Public Citizen, a nonprofit organization that represents consumer interests in

Congress, found that Medicaid only covers around 40 percent of the impoverished. So it's not too farfetched to suggest that inefficient healthcare is a factor in this country's relatively high poverty rate – and that a better healthcare system needs to be implemented.

While it would be only one of many issues to be tackled in fighting poverty, it would nonetheless lift a major burden for many Americans that struggle with even basic amenities.

The reasons for such a large number of impoverished elderly seems to point mostly to shortcomings in health care.

senior citizens over 65 are in poverty. That literally doubles the original census data.

The reasons for such a large number of impoverished elderly seems to point mostly to shortcomings in healthcare: Medicare premiums have gone up and there's a huge gap in drug coverage, which leaves some elderly covered but leaves others forced to pay out of pocket with their pensions.

This revelation adds a whole other dimension to the healthcare issue, as people argue about the efficiency of a potential

GETTING SCHOOLED

Tuition protests in Cali shouldn't resort to damage

Students enrolled at the University of California are fuming as a UC governing-board committee approved a 32 percent tuition increase, which would go into effect next year. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that the proposal would raise tuition for undergraduate students by \$2,500.

George Blumenthal and Campus Provost David Kilger.

Photos provided along with the administrative statement reveal the reception area and other offices completely trashed with garbage, damaged electronic conferencing equipment and broken furniture.

While no arrests were made, there was damage on the second floor of Kerr Hall, which will have to remain closed for days.

UC-Berkeley also had a group of students who barricaded themselves within a campus building to demonstrate their frustration with the hike. Forty students locked themselves within Wheeler Hall for 12 hours, according to The Daily Californian, an indepen-

dent newspaper run by UC-Berkeley students.

After the demonstration, all 40 protestors and an additional three demonstrators were arrested.

Although students have a right to be angry about these tuition hikes – and who wouldn't be – any student's wallet needs all the money it can keep. But destruction of university property is always unwarranted. Violence in any form, including damage to property, undermines their cause. It's going to take money to repair what these students have damaged.

The plus side for these protests, however, is the attention they garner.

Our own University has faced stubborn students in the past. This year, a number of students protested against the renaming of the University Park

campus to the currently-named Modesto Maidique Campus, in honor of the University's fourth president.

Students created Facebook groups for the cause and circulated petitions to gather support. As a result, local news outlets as well as The Miami Herald covered their efforts.

While FIU students did not win the battle for University Park, they still received plenty of attention without scrawling "UP FOREVER" with spray paint on campus buildings.

There are many avenues for students to take to voice their concerns on any given issue, including hikes. Writing letters, making assertive phone calls and appealing to the campus paper are a few – anything but destroying property.

Getting Schooled appears every Wednesday.

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

OPINIONPIECE

2

The percentage increase of hate crimes in the United States, as reported by the FBI.

QUOTATIONATION

"... It is important that someone sits with Iran, talks with Iran ... so that society returns to a certain normality in the Middle East."

*Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva
Brazilian president, on the visiting of the Iranian president*

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

AIN'T WELL BEHAVIN'

Wind Ensemble concert honors strong women

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

"Well behaved women rarely make history." This quote by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich was the theme for the School of Music's last wind ensemble concert on Nov. 19, and also served as the event's title.

"Good girls get no credit. Bad girls have more fun," said the conductor, Catherine Rand.

Rand promised the audience the opportunity to hear the good girls of composition and the bad girls of history.

The first piece was "Celebration Fanfare," composed by Joan Tower, from the 1993 ballet *Stepping Stones*. The piece consisted of rising tones

izing the progressive stages of a women's development.

Danza de los Duendes, composed by Nancy Galbraith, was the second piece the wind ensemble played.

"I really liked the entire performance," said Isabella Febbo, a freshman majoring in biology.

"My favorite was the 'Danza de los Duendes' though because of how the sound of the instruments were twittering."

"Timepiece for Wind Symphony," composed by Cindy McTee, was performed next, followed by "Early Light". "Early Light" was inspired by the "The Star Spangled Banner."

The composer, Carolyn Bremer, is a huge baseball fan and wrote it with the thought of her feelings of happy anticipation during the national anthem before a game.

At the end, sound is heard that resembles the crack of a baseball bat.

The last piece was "Medea's Dance of Vengeance" by Samuel Barber.

It was the only piece not composed by a woman was inspired by the famous female character from Greek literature.

The music was from Barber's 1946 ballet, "Medea," also known as "Cave of the Heart."

He commissioned it for modern dancer and choreographer, Martha Graham.

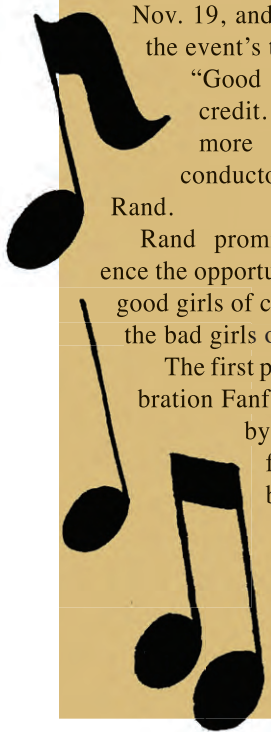
"It is interesting because you don't hear about women composers or music for them," said freshman bass trombone player Kevin Gonzalez.

"It is a different style and you have to get used to it," he said.

The performers did get used to it after five weeks of rehearsing three times a week and put on a show the audience seemed to enjoy.

The School of Music's next performance will take

place on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The Chamber Wind Concert will include music from the Renaissance to holiday favorites. Rand promised there will be a lot to offer the audience.



GREEK LIFE

Tri Sigma hosts charity pageant

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Staff Writer

Sororities aren't just about having a good time. Every semester, each Panhellenic sorority has a philanthropy event to raise money for their charity of choice. On Nov. 18, the ladies of Tri Sigma held their annual Backwards Pageant, which raised money for the Robbie Page Memorial - a national foundation which raises funds for play therapy for terminally ill children.

There were 12 male contestants who participated. The winner, Dale Parsan, is a sophomore majoring in business and member of Beta Theta Pi.

There were four sections of the pageant. In the first section, the men participating had to dress up in formal gowns and walk the catwalk.

The second section was the talent portion.

"Some contestants played the keyboard, others played the harmonica, painted, danced or sang," said Enid Soltanian, junior sociology major who is the sister in charge of the

event.

The third was the "Girl Talk" portion, where each contestant answered one Tri Sigma question, one "girly" question and another question.

The final round consisted of each guy going on stage wearing self-made costumes that they felt best represented the sorority, Tri Sigma, and stating why they wanted to be the winner of the pageant.

Parsan's talent was a performance to Shania Twain's hit, "Man, I feel like a Woman." Fraternity brothers, pledges and close friends of his helped with his performance. For his costume he decided to dress up as a Tri Sigma superhero, named "Sigma Girl."

"Before the pageant, I sat down trying to figure out what I could dress up as to properly do justice to the wonderful Ladies of Tri Sigma and nothing jumped out at me, mostly for the fact that everything was important in its own aspect." Parsan said. "So, by knowing this, I decided to create something,

TRI SIGMA, page 6

Local venues sponsor karaoke nights

MARGO BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Have a favorite song that you love to sing in front of a mirror as an imaginary crowd cheers you on? Karaoke, a Japanese word for empty orchestra, will you give you the opportunity to be a star for the evening.

Karaoke provides a medium for you to stop performing at home and move it to the stage in front of an actual crowd.

Below are just three venues around school that provide the opportunity for its patrons to participate in karaoke.

Kendall Village Diner, a 1950s style restaurant that is located at 8695 SW 124 Ave hosts 'Karaoke Thursdays' that begin at 12 midnight and end at 4 a.m.

There is a \$3 cover fee for those who participate. The singer can choose from a wide variety of music provided by the DJ.

They have music from as early as the 70s all the way to songs that are popular today. During karaoke nights, patrons under 21 are allowed to participate in karaoke, and those who are 21 and over will receive a wristband which will allow them to order drinks from the bar in addition to enjoying their drink specials.

Patrons can also order food to enjoy while they are being entertained during karaoke.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at the diner all day.

You may also watch any sporting event that is broadcast on one of several televisions.

For more information, visit www.kendallvillagediner.com or call (305) 595-4444.

Little Hoolies, a sports bar and grill, is located at 13115 SW 89

Place. It holds karaoke nights on Wednesdays and Sundays. On Wednesday, the event begins at 8 p.m. and lasts until 1 a.m. On Sundays, the event begins at 9 p.m. and runs until 2 a.m. Karaoke is free on both days.

During these hours it is also ladies night and drink specials are available. A DJ provides music on both days and has different genres of music available.

While enjoying karaoke you can watch the sports events airing that evening. You can also order foods such as appetizers, soups, salads, pastas, wings, a host of sides and deserts. For more information, visit www.littlehoolies.com or call (305) 252-9155.

Village Tavern is located at 8002 SW 81st St. Karaoke night is held on Thursday and begins at 9:30 p.m. A DJ from Kara-O-King provides the musical selections for the participants.

The participant can select a song from various genres. Flat screens TVs inside the tavern allow you to watch sporting events.

Their menu includes many dishes such as American finger foods, various seafood dishes and even Cuban cuisine.

For more information, visit villagetavern.net or call (305) 273-6123.



Students avoid high airline ticket prices by driving

TIFFANY HUERTAS
Contributing Writer

For FIU students, Thanksgiving signifies a level of stress. With the fall season coming to an end, students begin to countdown the days until finals. Many out-of-state students fly home to spend the holidays with the ones they love.

Even though it is only a couple of days, FIU students look forward to this day.

"I am flying back home to be with family and friends," said Amy Elliot, Florida Community College-Jacksonville transfer student. "I booked my ticket months beforehand because the rates become expensive."

A number of students have opted to skip flying altogether. According to the Associated Press, the AAA auto club reported earlier this week that more Americans would be traveling by car this year. One reason for this may be, as Elliot said, the cost of airline tickets which can sometimes be quite high. Even so, some students have found it easier to fly due to traffic and scheduling concerns.

"I am leaving for the whole week to Naples," said Glenda Socarra, an RA for the FIU everglades housing building. "I can't wait to sit down with family and friends and listen to music."

Some locals are celebrating with their family at home or at a relative's house in South Florida. "This Thanksgiving, I am going to my aunt's

This Thanksgiving, I am going to my aunt's house and I am eating the traditional turkey with stuffing, the Cuban picadillo style

Jessy Pou, Nursing Major

house and I am eating the traditional turkey with stuffing, the Cuban picadillo style," said nursing major, Jessy Pou.

This year some FIU students are spending time with family during the day and will then be going to clubs in the evening. One club, Reno's, will be holding a "Thanksgiving Fiesta."

They will be having \$1 drink specials, and an open bar from 11 to 12 p.m.

Julian Arango, a junior and head promoter for the club, predicts that that is when people will begin to arrive.

"People will start showing up after they are done spending time with their families at around 11," Arango said.

Sorority-inspired super hero wins charity beauty pageant

TRI SIGMA, page 5

with the help of Vanessa Garcia, that would be remembered by everyone. I created, "Sigma Girl," a crime-fighting super-hero who bared the colors of the sorority and was protected by a Sigma shield made of pearls and bonds of friendship."

Parsan had never competed in a pageant before but chose to for this one to represent his fraternity and show support to the ladies of Tri Sigma. He said it "evolved into a sprint for the gold as the pageant loomed closer and closer."

According to Parsan, what he felt won the judges over was a combination of the crowd cheering him on, all of the costumes worn throughout the rounds and the amount of effort and thought that he put into every aspect of the pageant.

What Parsan loves most about these women is, "the bonds of friendship that these girls share. It reminds me a lot of the great feelings I had when I first joined Beta Theta Pi."

The women of Tri Sigma were thrilled with the way this philanthropy event turned

out. There was a large crowd supporting these women as well as the men participating.

"The Backwards Pageant seems to be one of the most humorous ways that someone can raise money for our philanthropy," said Nicole Soto, a freshman and new sister of Tri Sigma. "The response from the students that night was really exciting and supportive. I didn't realize how dedicated our contestants would turn out to be but overall the night was a success and I look forward to next year's festivities."

REVIEW: DARK REIGN

Spider-man, Iron Patriot finally meet face-to-face



PABLO PENTON
Contributing Writer

Marvel has entered "Dark Reign," a dark, twisted time where our heroes are now on the wrong side of the law. It's a place where Norman Osborn is the most powerful man in the world and no one is able to stop the evil he has planned.

Osborn has just settled into his role as the Iron Patriot, a blatant rip-off of Tony Stark's Iron Man based off of the same technology, and as the leader of H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force that replaced S.H.I.E.L.D., Osborn decides to take action against all major super heroes to guarantee that no one will get in his way. He makes a checklist which includes the likes of Nick Fury, Wolverine, Punisher, Daredevil and others. Of course, he's saved the best for last: Spider-man.

"Dark Reign: The List - Amazing Spider-man" starts off differently than the other one-shots in that it's Spider-man who brings the fight to Osborn.

Peter Parker decides that it's time to expose Osborn to the world for the true murderer he is, so he breaks in to Norman Osborn's Avengers Tower to retrieve an incriminating video of him testing a hybrid of Goblin Formula and Super Soldier Serum on an unwilling test subject.

Meanwhile, Osborn decides to work on some pet projects in the very same room Spider-man is in and catches him.

Dan Slott could have come up with a more interesting way for the two to encounter each other. It's a bit spontaneous that after a year Spider-man would finally be fed up with Norman's reign and decide to do something about it. Osborn finding him is also a bit too coincidental, but it gets the job done.

Spider-man flees Avengers Tower to get the video file to news outlets across the country.

Spider-man is shot by Osborn's uni-beam (the energy blasting weapon on his suit's chest), but Spider-man realizes it doesn't hurt as much as Iron Man's. The reason?

Osborn changed the design to be

shaped like a star, instead of the simple circular design Tony Stark used. It's a simple reason, but one that goes a long way in revealing Osborn's character. Norman Osborn is someone who overlooks the basics and exchanges simplicity in favor of egotistical glamour, while Peter Parker is someone clever enough to notice.

Spider-man delivers a strong kick to Osborn's uni-beam, causing it to backfire and giving Spider-man a chance to escape.

Peter changes out of his costume and walks into a local internet cafe to upload the video. Osborn follows the trail of webs and eventually finds Peter. He doesn't know Spider-man's secret identity, but knows that where Peter Parker is, Spidey can't be far off.

Osborn arrives too late. Peter confronts Osborn, telling him he's uploaded the video and daring him to shoot him in front of all the TV stations who have been following Norman during the course of the fight.

Knowing he's been beat for now, Osborn flies away.

This isn't the big showdown that some readers may have been hoping for, but it delivered on exactly what it promised: the beginning of the end of "Dark Reign." Osborn's patriotic reputation and hold on the world is at stake and it's all because of Peter Parker.

Adam Kubert's art is gorgeous, although the pace of this issue was a bit inconsistent. It also feels a few months too late, showing that the Amazing Spider-man's thrice-monthly publication can sometimes hurt itself. It's had to dance around this subject for a while in order to have it coincide with the rest of the Marvel Universe, giving this event an overall feeling of being overdue, but at the same time rushed.

Still, "Dark Reign: The List - Amazing Spider-man" is a great story and shows each character's true personality better than a lot of titles have done this past year.

Most importantly, sets the stage for the final showdown between Spider-man and Norman Osborn in Marvel's next major event, "The Siege."



RADIATE FM

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PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

OLD WAYS: T.Y. Hilton had been slowed by injury prior to his 174 yards of total offense against UF. He hauled in 75 yards on four catches including a spectacular one-handed catch.



MARQUITA ADLEY

The senior poured in 22 points, two shy of her career-high and added 13 rebounds on her way to her second double-double of the week against Green Bay Wisconsin. She has a double-double in every game this season.



PHIL GARY

In helping Isiah Thomas pick up his first win as a collegiate head coach, Phil Gary established a new career-high with 27 points as the Golden Panthers beat Florida Memorial. The junior transfer from Chicago averaged 20 points per game during the week.

Golden Panthers hurting inside with lack of size

MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 8

lead changes in their favor, all early in the first half.

With about eight minutes remaining in the first half the Dukes took their second lead of the game by going on a 15-2 run, giving them a four-point lead to begin the second half.

"They were more desperate for a win than we were," Thomas said.

Starting point guard Phil Gary Jr. led the contest with 16 points, but it was his defensive performance which stood out with four steals while the rest of the team struggled on the defensive side.

"Defense is about heart and determination, and I left everything all on the court," Gary said. "Coach is always telling us as long as we leave it all on the court you should have nothing to worry about."

Marvin Roberts was a big contributor for the Golden Panthers with two double-doubles to his name this season, but he went cold against James Madison shooting just 30 percent in the

game on 4-for-13 shooting.

Forward Julius Wells dominated the Golden Panthers by shooting 54 percent from the field giving him 23 points in the winning effort.

Guard Darren White had 20 points on the night as well and forward Matt Parker contributed 13 points.

"They played with a lot of confidence and energy tonight," Thomas said. "They're a pretty gritty team."

SIZE DISADVANTAGE

The undersized Golden Panthers' 2-4 record can be attributed somewhat to the injuries in the front court.

Forwards Nikola Gacesa and Cedric Essola, both 6-foot-9 apiece are both inactive due to injury.

James Madison took advantage of the Golden Panthers' size differential out-rebounding them 78-68.

"We're definitely still a work in progress," Thomas said.

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 - »» Waxy O'Connors (2 Stages) ««
 - »» Gordon Biersch ««
 - »» Red Bar ««
 - »» Havana Dreams ««
 - »» Japengo at the Hyatt ««
 - »» Ecco Lounge ««
 - »» Finnegan's River ««
 - »» Mekka (3 Stages) ««
 - »» La Guaracha ««
 - »» Artoconecto...pug in at Macy's ««
 - »» Wallflower Gallery ««
 - »» Blue Martini ««

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MMF



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(\$35 with valid Student ID)

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(\$20 with valid Student ID)

* **Single venue** admission: **\$10**

(as space is available)

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Must be 18 to enter some venues, 21 to enter others. Venue policies listed on miamimusicfestival.org

BASKETBALL: JAMES MADISON 81, FIU 68

PANTHERS GONE COLD

Shooting drought leads to first loss at home

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

The three-point shot has not been a strength for FIU through five games this season and it didn't change against James Madison on Nov. 22.

After winning back-to-back games at U.S. Century Bank Arena, the Golden Panthers lost their first game at home against the Dukes 81-68.

"We're a small team and we depend on our three-point shooting," said Coach Isiah Thomas. "When we are making our three-point shots, it is extremely tough to beat us."

DIE BY THE THREE

James Madison went on a tear from beyond the arc shooting a

stellar 54 percent from three point land; nailing 13 out of their 24 attempts, due mainly to 2008-09 College Athletic Association rookie of the year Julius Wells who knocked down six of his 10 three-pointers.

FIU on the other hand struggled from the three-point line going 6 for 27 from beyond the arc.

Contributing to the tough night from the perimeter, the Golden Panthers failed to get into the paint and create shots.

"We definitely have to start driving more to the basket," said point guard Phil Gary Jr.

'DESPERATE'

The Golden Panthers were down most of the game only forcing three

MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DRIVE THRU: Golden Panthers' leading scorer Marvin Roberts shot just 30 percent in a home loss to James Madison University.

COMPARING '08 TO '09 THROUGH 6 GAMES

	2008	2009
Record	3-3	2-4
Points per game	58.0	71.7
Points allowed per game	62.8	84
Shooting percentage	.397	.388
3-point percentage	.312	.218
Rebounds per game	35.3	36.0
Blocks per game	5.167	2.167
Assists per game	10.67	12.83
Turnovers per game	14.83	15.167

2009 Scoring leaders: Marvin Roberts 17.5 per game, Phil Gary Jr. 12.5, Stephon Weaver 11.0, Marlon Bright 9.5, JC Otero 9.2, Antoine Watson 7.5

2009 rebounding leaders: Roberts 7.7, Otero 6.7, Bright 5.7, Watson 2.8, Gary Jr 2.8, Weaver 2.7

2009 FG% leaders: Bright 26-49 .531, Otero 23-47 .489, Gary Jr 23-53 .434, Roberts 33-81 .407

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: GREEN BAY WISCONSIN 67, FIU 56

Turnovers spoil good shooting day as streak stops at two

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The first win streak of the season is already over for the Golden Panthers women's basketball team.

After two consecutive wins against Western Michigan and Jacksonville, the Golden Panthers' (2-2) streak was snapped by the Green Bay Wisconsin Phoenix (3-0) with a 67-56 loss on Nov. 21.

FIU shot 56.3 percent from behind the arc (9-of-16) but was unable to limit turnovers as they mishandled the ball a season-high 32 times.

Another struggle for FIU proved to be the absence of Monika Bosilj who has now missed two consecutive games with a bruised bone in her knee.

"We missed [Monika]," said Coach Cindy Russo. "She's very instrumental when trying to break the press [defense]."

Russo told Student Media that Bosilj is

Once we get our ammunition and our troops back, I think we'll be more successful.

Cindy Russo
Head Coach

wearing a knee brace and is unsure when the senior guard will return to the starting line-up.

Meanwhile, forward Elisa Carey returned for the first time this season since a leg injury.

She scored two points and totaled two rebounds, two blocked shots, and a steal off of the bench for FIU.

"[Elisa] kind of got her feet wet but she's only playing at 50 percent," said Russo. "She got in the game. Hopefully this week she will be at 75 percent."

Senior Marquita Adley led all scorers with 22 points and 13 rebounds, which marks

her fourth consecutive double-double of the season.

Forward Fanni Hutlassa contributed with 14 points on 4-of-7 shooting from the three-point line.

Tied at six, early in the first half, Hutlassa knocked down a 3-pointer to give the Golden Panthers a 9-6 advantage. Unfortunately, that moment marked their only lead of the game.

"As soon as we get some chemistry going, we get hurt," said Russo. "I'm focused on getting these kids healthy; they're not season ending injuries which is good."

At the end of the first half, FIU was trailing by eight points, 30-22, and had already committed 18 turnovers.

The Golden Panthers were able to cut that Phoenix lead to three after forcing five turnovers in the first four and a half minutes of the second half, however, the team's momentum did not last.

Green Bay's leading scorer, Kayla Tetschlag, responded with 11 of her 19 points in the remainder of the second half.

"I felt Kayla played with a lot of poise in the second and really helped put points on the board," said Green Bay head coach Matt Bollant, to greenbayphoenix.com.

With FIU (2-2) down by 21 with 5:36 remaining in regulation, the Phoenix proved to be too much to overcome after putting the game away on a 24-6 run.

"To come out 2-2 I think we have more than a head above water," Russo said. "Once we get our ammunition and our troops back, I think we'll be more successful."