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The Beacon, January 15, 2010

Florida International University

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South Beach Comedy Festival returns with Comedy Central crew

PAGE 7



FIU Track and Field schedule released for 2010

PAGE 10

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



SJMC Alumni will be spending their Saturday rescuing endangered mahogany trees in Oleta State Park in honor of The Second Annual Panther Service Day. See how you too can join them.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC: The Broward Pines Center senator has been approved for removal due to a lack of attendance and participation. However, this could be the case due to a lack of communication.

OPINION PAGE 6



Senator Harry Reid proves that he is a moron with questionable statements about President Obama's race; the perfect opportunity for the Republican party to take a bite at him.

LIFE! PAGE 7

Album review: Vampire Weekend's latest album, *Contra*, is unfairly criticized for being unauthentic.

SPORTS PAGE 12

FIU swim team members discuss their transition to America and adjusting to college life.

SPORTS PAGE 12

The Beacon sits down and has a Q&A with new FIU football defensive coordinator Geoff Collins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, Jan. 15, 8 a.m. Celebrate this holiday with a free breakfast in the GC Ballrooms.

Pinecrest Gardens Fine Arts Fest, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. For free you can attend this Arts Festival at the Pinecrest Gardens.

Miami Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 17, 8 p.m. For \$15-75, you can enjoy the classical sounds at the Knight Concert Hall.

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

WEATHER

FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
LOW: 67 HIGH: 75

SATURDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 68 HIGH: 79

SUNDAY
T-Showers
LOW: 61 HIGH: 77

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Continuing the Dream

University honors rights activist

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

The 81st birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. is Jan. 15, and the University will commemorate it with a week of events on both campuses.

The events started Jan. 12 and will end Jan. 20. Multicultural Programs and Services, the organization planning and hosting the events, will have a break-

fast Friday morning from 8 to 10:30 a.m. marked by keynote speaker Michael Eric Dyson.

Dyson, a professor of sociology at Georgetown University, will be addressing the theme of "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of the Dream." After the breakfast, which is in its 19th year, Dyson will be signing books he's written, which will be avail-

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UNIVERSITY-WIDE COUNCIL

Council discusses band's return

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

In their first meeting of the semester, the University-wide Council discussed the proposed student-funded marching band, and dealt with a schedule conflict that had elections taking place the week of Passover.

The Jan. 13 meeting held at Modesto Maidique Campus was the first time the UWC, which is made up of student government leaders from both campuses, discussed the new marching band proposal that will be heavily funded through Activity and Services fee that all students pay as part of tuition.

There was no explicit opposition to the new band by the UWC, but some wondered about the role of the Athletics Department. In the new incarnation of the marching band, Athletics will provide no financial support. This led to an incensed defense of the plan by SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda.

"It's not us and them, it's us," Rionda said, pounding the table. "And it's not Athletics, it's FIU's marching band."

Rionda pointed out that Athletics did not have the financial capabilities to be a contributor.

"We can't put a band in

a program that had to cut its cheerleading team," he said. "Athletics does not have money to operate [some of] its sports programs."

New details regarding the band were made available during the meeting. According to the SGC-MMC president, all new band members must be FIU students or enrolled in a non-credit course.

"We will not be paying non-FIU students to play in the band," Rionda said.

In addition, everyone interested in joining the band will have to try out, including any

UWC, page 3

University reacts to devastation in Haiti

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Editor in Chief

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince late Tuesday afternoon sent shudders through the University's Haitian community, with many students reporting little to no success in contacting their relatives on the island.

With preliminary death toll estimates as high as 500,000, as reported by The Associated Press, the possible catastrophe stands to be among the worst natural disasters ever recorded in the Western hemisphere.

Students reacted to the news by supporting peers with family members in the region, and by expressing utter shock that something so terrible could happen to such a poor country.

"It's devastating because we can't contact them right now," said English major Vinchina Paulina, who was born in Port-au-Prince but moved to the U.S. when she was 4. "We just don't know their status."

Paulina, like many others students, has relatives in Haiti's capital city and has been unable to reach them due to the collapse of basic services such as water, electricity and telephone lines.

"My father's blood pressure actually went up the night we found out," Paulina said. "We're worried about him too; he's worried about his sister ... it's very traumatizing."

Though food and supply drives are planned and the initial public reaction in terms of international aid has been substantial, those with relatives on the island are particularly conflicted.

"It's hard because we're not physically there," Paulina said. "So you feel kind of helpless."

Junior international relations major Dalourny Nemorin was not born in Haiti, but travels to the country every year for mission work.

"I've talked to a lot of my Haitian friends, and we don't know who's going to go out and rescue these people," Nemorin said. "They don't have 9-1-1; the only people who can help them don't even live in the country. They are depending on us."

Even prior to the earthquake, Haiti was considered to be one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with an estimated 80 percent of its population living in poverty, according to the CIA World Factbook.

"When I got the news, I remember thinking to myself: what else can happen to these people?" said Nemorin, who also serves as the cultural chair for the Black Student Union. "These people had nothing and now they have even less. How much worse can it get?"

Even people on the island itself were having trouble communicating with loved ones who were only across town.

"I heard from my aunt who said her side of Port-au-Prince was not affected heavily," said biochemistry major Hema Pierre. "But she has not heard

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NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

China censors Google's response against censorship

China news agencies censored news regarding Google's announcement that it will consider ending operations in the country after it imposed internet censorship against the search giant.

Media agencies in China began removing references to "free speech and "surveillance" in Google's statements.

This situation stemmed from a series of cyber attacks launched against the company's computer systems that targeted Gmail accounts of human rights proponents in China.

Subpoenas sent pertaining to AIG scandal

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York was subpoenaed by a House committee to provide all of Timothy Geithner's communications pertaining to the bailout of insurance giant American International Group.

According to *BusinessWeek*, the order issued by the House Oversight and Reform Committee will help make a decision to pay back banks that bought insurance from AIG.

The report added that the New York Fed "had resisted" sending over communications without a subpoena. The order also requested e-mails and phone logs from various other New York Fed officials.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

CORRECTIONS

On the issue dated Jan. 11, 2010 the article titled "Obama's foreign policy challenge," the writer name was credited as Brian Alonzo. His correct name is Brian Alonso.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Interim general counsel appointed

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

University President Mark Rosenberg announced the appointment of Isis Carbajal de Garcia as interim general counsel for Florida International University.

In an e-mail to the members of the University community, Rosenberg thanked the previous general counsel, Cristina Mendoza, for her hard work and dedication.

According to Rosenberg, "Isis has served as deputy general counsel since 1997 and brings with her an exemplary record of legal work in both the public and private sectors

spanning 31 years."

Before arriving at FIU, Garcia was a member of the law firm of Gunster, Yoakley, Valdes-Fauli & Stewart, P.A. and, prior to that, served as an associate general counsel at the University of Florida for 13 years.

She has also served as a staff attorney with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and as a legal intern with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Community Legal Services, Inc.

"Carbajal de Garcia received her B.A., with high honors, from the University of Florida and her law degree from the University of Penn-

sylvania Law School, where she was a school representative in the Philip J. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition," an e-mail sent by the University read.

"Isis is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, is an active member of the Florida Bar and an inactive member of the Pennsylvania Bar."

A search committee will be appointed "shortly" to conduct a national search for the permanent general counsel, Rosenberg said.

"I am confident that Isis will keep the General Counsel's Office running smoothly and provide the highest level of legal service," he added.

Earthquake 'could end country'

HAITI, page 1

from my uncle and his side of the family, who live in the most affected area."

Reports coming out of the capital described a flattened city, with significant damage to the city's historical district. Many of Port-au-Prince's most famous landmarks have been destroyed, including the Presidential Palace and the Port-au-Prince Cathedral.

"It's very shocking," said second-year grad student Zakina Ogbourne. "It didn't hit me until a friend told me that their friend was missing."

While an earthquake in the Caribbean may come as a surprise to most, geologists have been warning about the high possibility of seismic activity in the region for years.

The southern part of Haiti lies along the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault zone, a transform strike-slip fault similar to the San Andreas Fault which runs through California and caused the famous 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Strike-slip faults move past each other horizontally.

In the case of the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden Fault, pressure is built as the more southern Caribbean Plate moves east in relation with the larger North American Plate. Eventually the plates "slip," releasing the stored energy and causing an earthquake.

"What we know is that the motion along those faults is relatively slow, so it takes a long time for the

pressure along the faults to build up," said earth science professor Grenville Draper, who specializes in Caribbean geology. "So these big earthquakes occur more infrequently."

"But their infrequency makes them particularly dangerous because many generations pass without people feeling anything more than a temblor," Draper said. "So they don't really have the perception that there is an earthquake hazard."

Draper attributed the mass devastation with the epicenter being so close to the capital, and said that because Port-au-Prince was built primarily on a river gravel foundation, rather than a solid rock one, the vibrations from the earthquake were actually amplified.

Haiti is also missing set building codes, and buildings are often shoddily constructed due to a lack of resources.

"My colleagues and I have discussed about when we thought the big was going to happen in Hispaniola," Draper said. "Well this is just about as big as it's going to get."

The earthquake also has the potential to further devastate an already fragile political infrastructure on the island, according to Richard Olson, chair of the political science department. Olson teaches about the political repercussions of natural disasters.

"You always have to be particularly concerned when a major disaster affects not just an urban area, but the urban area that is the national



JORGE VALENS/THE BEACON

Sophomore Eric Allen, public relations major, tables in front of the Graham Center fountain to collect money, canned goods, and other supplies for the relief efforts in Haiti.

capital," Olson said. "When you have a disaster that affects the capital city, the seat of government, it raises all sorts of questions."

Olson predicted that as more countries became aware of the extent of the destruction, foreign aid would start arriving, but not necessarily distributed, as the government would have to rely heavily on non-governmental organizations to distribute aid.

With a population of nine million, the estimated 500,000 person death-toll would equal roughly 5.5 percent of the population.

"There is no good scenario for this. From a political point of view, this could set Haiti back 10-15 years," Olson said. "That essentially ends the country, for all intents and purposes. 500,000 would be the worst disaster in the history of the Western Hemisphere – and by a wide margin."

"The death toll will probably come down," Olson said. "But if it doesn't, then we are talking about a completely different phenomenon."

Additional reporting by Gabriel Arrarás, Jasmyn Elliot and Jorge Valens.

THE BEACON

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MLK celebrated with events on both campuses

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able for purchase.

The week of events is funded partly by student government, outside sponsors and ticket sales.

Tickets to the breakfast were sold for \$35 each and are already sold out. A total of 550 tickets have been sold.

"We usually sell out by December," said Jeffrey McNamee, associate director of MPAS at Modesto Maidique Campus.

McNamee said the reason the breakfast is not free is because student government isn't fully funding it. He added that the breakfast is the only event that isn't free.

Student government has a table at the breakfast that McNamee said sometimes doesn't get filled.

"8 a.m. on Friday is a big deterrent," McNamee said.

MPAS has support of the University administration, McNamee said, regarding to whom the tickets are sold. He said tickets are often sold to heads of departments that often buy tickets for their respective staff.

Freshmen students this year competed for three prizes by submitting an essay with King as the

inspiration. The prizes were scholarships for \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 for first, second and third place, respectively. Each of the prizes also included a \$1,000 meal plan from Aramark, the University's food service provider, and \$500 from Barnes & Noble for books.

Immediately following the breakfast will be a speaker's reception that will not be open to the public. The reception is for MPAS' corporate sponsors, essay winners and University administration.

There will be a "Day of Service" the day after the breakfast, Saturday Jan. 16. The day of service will be the beautification of Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead. Student volunteers will be at the park from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to a press release, there will be 150 student volunteers that will be working with students from the Yvonne Learning Center.

In addition, Dorret Sawyers, director of MPAS at Biscayne Bay Campus, said they are expecting between 200 and 250 volunteers from local middle and high schools.

A dinner will be held in honor of the late civil rights activist Jan. 19 and Karlyn Hylton, assistant U.S.

district attorney, will be the speaker.

The final day of the events will be held Jan. 20 at BBC.

A MLK Youth Forum and Peace Walk, both in their 10th year, will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. The youth forum will be keynoted by Dr. Pedro Greer, chair of the Department of Humanities, Health and Society.

Sawyers encourages University students to attend the forum.

"The message will be important for everyone, not just middle and high school students," Sawyers said.

After the keynote by Greer there will be a 15-minute peace walk behind the WUC as well as lunch from Papa John's that will be sold for \$5.

Greer, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House last August, said that he wants to motivate people to follow in King's steps.

Greer said that it is important to him because he will be speaking on times that he lived through and that people should know not only what King did, but why he did it.

"It is a great honor to be speaking in honor of someone that is so important," Greer said in an interview with Student Media.

PACKING UP



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Graduate student Nunzio Auricchio, disassembles Ichi Ikeda's 80 Liter Water Boy, on Jan. 12, as the Frost Art Museum de-installs "The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama." On Jan. 20 the museum will open three new exhibitions.

Date for elections agreed upon by both campuses

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returning members.

"I don't think it's just about having a band, it should be a good band," said SGC-BBC Vice President Christin "Cici" Battle.

Rionda described the new system, where students pay the majority of expenses, as more stable than the last one. He described the old system where the College of Architecture and Arts paid the most, then student government, then Athletics, as a tripod that would collapse if one leg fell off. He feels that the need for a band is imperative for the reputation of the University and its students.

"We can't look ridiculous ... we can't be in *Sports Illustrated* without a band," Rionda said. "If the band fails, then we all fail."

The discussion came a month before budget deliberations, where the \$130,000 of student money is en route to be allocated for the band.

The UWC also took up the issue of elections scheduling. The elections were going to be held during the week of Passover.

Newly confirmed SGC-MMC Chief Justice Luis Robayo explained to the UWC that current laws called for elections to be held on the second week after spring break, and campaigning the week before.

After some deliberation, it was decided that March 22-26 would be used for campaigning while elections would be held on March 29 and 30.

Passover is set to fall on March 30 this year, and is typically observed starting on sunset of the prior night.

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The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

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College of Law professor to discuss genocide, war crimes, reform in Iraq

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

The Middle East Society will host a lecture called "Justice After Saddam: War Crimes Trials in Iraq" to discuss Iraq's transition to democracy and how the prosecution of leading figures under the late Saddam Hussein's regime has made way for political stability in Iraq.



TRAVIS

Hannibal Travis, assistant professor at the College of Law and Harvard Law School graduate, will speak on Jan. 15 at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 2:30 p.m. in Academic I, Room 194. The event is free to the public and parking is free.

According to Travis, students interested in U.S. politics, international relations, international law, human rights, Middle East studies and the crisis in Darfur or Southern Sudan may benefit a lot from this lecture.

"I will discuss the possible implications of the findings of Iraqi courts in war crimes cases for the trial of the president of Sudan and potential trials of other leaders before the International Criminal Court," Travis said.

In his lecture, Travis will define genocide, name those who have been found guilty of genocide in Iraq, and explain how criminal tribunals and legal reform can both reconcile former rebels against the state with their government, and further estrange those deciding to remain as rebels.

The lecture comes at a time of greater interest in justice and human rights, according to Travis.

"Students may learn about the human rights aspect of the United States and what led the coalition's case for invading Iraq in 2003," Travis said.

Until the arrival of coalition forces in Iraq, leaders of Hussein's Baath Party, such as Ali Hassan al-Majid (also known as "Chemical Ali") and Taha Yasin Ramadan, were involved in heinous acts against fellow Iraqis, which included systematic torture, mass killings and ethnic cleansing. Travis will explore some of the trials of these former leaders and talk about the prosecution process itself.

Travis teaches and conducts research in the fields of cyberlaw, intellectual property, antitrust, international and comparative law and human rights.

He has published articles in the *American University Law Review*, *University of Miami Law Review* and *Yale Journal of Law and Technology*, among others.

His works focused on copyright, antitrust law and trademark. His article on copyright liability of Internet service providers in the U.S. and the European Union published in *Europe*. In 2008, his article on Google and intellectual property was selected by West Group as one of the best articles relating to intellectual property law.

Travis, who has book chapters forthcoming from the Oxford University Press, Thomson Reuters and Transaction Publishers, is the first author of the first comprehensive history of physical and cultural genocide in the Middle East and North Africa. He graduated from Washington State University with a major in philosophy, and graduated from Harvard Law School where he served as a member of the *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology* and the *Harvard Human Rights Journal*.

For more information on the lecture, students can contact the Middle East Society at 305-919-5381.

MEET AND GREET



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Peola Bradshaw, a senior in criminal justice, is greeted by Bradford P. Burton I, assistant director of Campus Life, and receives a calendar of events from Danny Anzueto, a senior in psychology, and Orientation executive assistant of Campus Life.

Alumni volunteer to rescue plant life

SABRENA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Going green has become very important in today's society.

Alumni of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication are onboard with this initiative, and are giving students an opportunity to give back to the community.

The SJMC Alumni Chapter will host the second annual Panther Service Day at Oleta River State Park on Jan. 16. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the SJMC Pavillion inside the park.

Students, faculty, family and friends are invited to come out and lend a hand to help rescue the park's young endangered mahogany trees.

According to Heather Radi-Bermudez, SJMC marketing coordinator, the FIU Panther Service Day was started by the FIU Alumni Association.

"The purpose of Panther Service

Day is for FIU alumni chapters and Golden Panthers around the country to team up for various service projects that will positively impact the communities in which they live. Each chapter selects their own service project," she said.

"Our chapter, which was established in 2006, aims to engage a diverse group of graduates worldwide through programs and services that addresses the needs of its members," Radi-Bermudez said.

This year's project will be to help the Oleta River State Park protect its most endangered species.

"We have the unique opportunity to help rescue endangered mahogany trees that would otherwise perish of natural causes. Volunteers will be responsible for digging up these baby trees, securing them in pots and transporting them to the park's nursery where park rangers will rehabili-

tate them for future re-planting," Radi-Bermudez said.

Although the event is being hosted by the SJMC alumni chapter, it is open to all FIU students who are interested in helping out in the community. Volunteers must be 16 years old or over.

Due to the nature of the project and the outdoor environment, all participants are required to wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.

It is also recommended to bring gloves and water bottles if needed.

Snacks and refreshments will be available for all volunteers.

The Oleta River State Park is located at 3400 NE 163 St. North Miami, Fla 33181. There is a \$6 per car park entrance fee.

Anyone interested in participating in the SJMC Alumni Service Project at Oleta River State Park is asked to contact Heather Radi-Bermudez at hradi@fiu.edu or call 305-919-4411 in advance.

SGC-BBC

Broward Pines Center senator removed from council

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

As Claudia Ruby, senator for the Broward Pines Center, recalls Welcome Back Week, she may no longer be a welcomed member of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ruby was voted out by the senate on Jan. 11. She said she "had no idea" about the unanimous decision.

"I had been doing Welcome Back Week, I haven't been able to drive down to [BBC] every Monday and Wednesday because I live in Plantation," Ruby said.

Ruby said she spoke to Christin "Cici" Battle, vice president of SGC-BBC, and Sholom Neistein, president of SGC-BBC

before the winter break.

At the Jan. 11 meeting, Battle asked between laughs, "Who is Claudia? I don't even know what she looks like."

According to Article VII, Statute E of the Student Government Council constitution, "Any discussion resulting from a recommendation for removal or censure of the accused from office, will be open solely to the voting members of the SGC and the student judiciary."

The constitution also states that if a trial is deemed necessary, the chief justice, in consultation with the SGC advisor, will exchange an information session with the charged student informing him or her of the charges and their rights.

Thereafter the student has the right

to challenge these charges in a scheduled hearing, according to Statute G of the constitution.

Other members of the council said they've noticed Ruby's absences.

"She has only come to one meeting and she hasn't been present by phone," said Tanya Williams, SGC-BBC speaker of the senate.

Ruby told *The Beacon* that her dad fell off a roof and she has now been spending her days taking care of him, but admits she hasn't spoken to Battle or Neistein about it.

Neistein said he did not know that Ruby was up for removal, but he knows it is "very hard for her" to get to BBC.

Ruby said that she meets her responsi-

bilities as senator for the Broward Pines Center.

"SGC had one meeting here at the Broward Pines Center and some of the council members weren't even there. I am doing my job," said Ruby. "I am just unable to go to all of the meetings."

Going to all the meetings is a part of Ruby's job.

The SGC-BBC constitution states that a senator cannot miss more than three senate meetings or two consecutive senate meetings.

"We need all of the senate or most of the senate to have an official meeting," said SGC-BBC clerk Larissa Adames. "[Senators] have voting power. If they're not there, their vote can't be counted."

Olympic medalist returns to games after hardships

PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

For Jennifer Rodriguez, the crying finally stopped last month.

The Olympic medalist has endured so much pain over the past couple of years: the death of her mother, the end of her marriage, financial problems that left her all tapped out.

For months, hardly a day went by without some sort of breakdown, the tears streaming down her face as she struggled to cope with one blow after another.

Finally, she turned a corner — and just in time for her fourth trip to the Winter Games.

“I would be in my hotel room, crying all the time,” Rodriguez said this week. “But just about a month ago, I kind of stopped that. Maybe I’m kind of going through the healing process, getting over the part where I’m crying all the time, where I’m feeling so sad all the time. That’s kind of going away a little

bit. It took a long time, a good six months. But I think I’m actually on the way back up. Things are starting to look bright again instead of looking so gloomy.”

The 33-year-old Rodriguez was a pioneer at the speedskating rink, among that first batch of warm-weather inliners who made the switch to ice.

A Cuban-American from South Florida — hence her nickname, “Miami Ice” — she made her first Olympic team in 1998 and won a pair of bronze medals four years later in Salt Lake City.

“Sometimes I wish I hadn’t quit, because I know I could be even better than I am now,” said Rodriguez, who’ll skate three individual events in Vancouver (500, 1,000 and 1,500) as well as the team pursuit. “But you really don’t know. Maybe if I hadn’t quit, I would have been so burned out by now that I wouldn’t be skating well.”

Coming back after such a long layoff is always a

struggle, especially for an athlete in her 30s. But at least Rodriguez found some measure of peace at the rink — gliding along the ice, escaping from her troubles.

Last month, Rodriguez finished third in the 1,500 at a World Cup meet on the Olympic oval in Utah, where she won those two bronze medals in 2002.

But she’s realistic about her chances in Vancouver, a sea-level track that won’t be nearly as fast as those high-altitude rinks where she’s had more success.

Rodriguez wants to savor the experience at one last Olympics, knowing there won’t be another comeback for 2014. She wants to feel better about her skating than she did after the disappointment of 2006, even if she doesn’t finish any higher.

“I didn’t enjoy Torino, not one bit,” she said. “I’d really like to enjoy these games and leave this sport with a good taste in my mouth.”

STAR QUALITY



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Sarah David-Williams, Campus Life manager, does touchups to her tie-dye shirt in front of Academic I on Jan. 8 as a part of Fun Day.



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Reid's remarks questionable

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

Senator Harry Reid should be on top of the political world at the moment.

The 70-year-old senator from Nevada has been able to navigate a health care bill to the brink of becoming law; a bill bringing significant changes to a flawed health care system. It should be a triumph not only for his party but for himself.

Reid is under fire and being called to step down from his position by Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee and other members of the GOP for racist comments made over a year ago that, though show great ignorance, also expose ignorance from his accusers.

In the newly published book *Game Change* the Senate majority leader is quoted as saying in early 2008 that President Barack Obama would be a possible winner in the election because Obama was a "light skinned" African-American with "no negro dialect."

There is no defense of Reid's statements. Though made in private, they show extreme ignorance on his part with his choice of words. Yet Reid spoke with the president, who accepted an apology. Obama said to the media that the matter was closed.

Cue Michael Steele.

Steele called for Reid's resignation and on last Sunday's Meet The Press, he said, "What's interesting here is when Democrats get caught saying racist things, an apology is enough. If that had been [Senate Minority Leader] Mitch McConnell saying that about an African-American candidate for president of the United States, trust me, this chairman and the DNC would be screaming for his head, very much as they were with Trent Lott."

When asked by young reporters earlier this year about his plans to bring diverse cultures into the Republican Party, Steele said, "Y'all come... I'll bring the fried chicken and potato salad."

Did I miss something? Double standard? But it's OK, Mr. Steele because no major network has picked up on your quote yet. Does anyone else smell just another political ploy from a kicking and screaming Republican Party, doing their best to unite for the upcoming midterm elections? Protesting for the sake of protesting?

Reid referring to Obama as a "negro" is awful, but there is no comparison between Reid's statements to those of Trent Lott. Lott, former Republican Senate majority leader said at a dinner for Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday that if Thurmond had won his 1948 segregationist bid for the presidency, "all these problems" America faced would not have happened.

It was the equivalent of walking onto a mine field and Lott's career was finished.

Reid certainly didn't advocate a heartless and disturbing practice. His remarks, along with his push for health care reform will probably find a Republican sitting in his seat next January.

Dating Web site cuts membership 'Fatties' do not get a chance at finding their soulmates

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Over the winter break, 5,000 souls were digitally thrown to the curb in a Judas-like move by their very own dating Web site, *BeautifulPeople.com*. They were no longer being able to satisfy the attractiveness requisite mandated for site membership. The action was taken in response to some Christmas pounds put on by the used-to-be members.

"Letting fatties roam the site is a direct threat to our business model and the very concept for which *BeautifulPeople.com* was founded," said site founder Robert Hintze.

Who's pretty and who's not is determined by the rating system installed since the creation of the site, where established members vote over a 72-hour period on the applicant's physical desirability. Those who don't make it in, and only one-in-ten do, are sent an apologetic letter urging them to re-apply as soon as they become more attractive. On the contrary, those admitted are given the keys to the fey world of *BP.com*.

A cursory look at the Web site reveals exactly what one might expect from a site devoted to self-aggrandizing muscle-heads and cadaverous calorie counters. Note the home page's gloriously happy and good-looking couple.

Stage right: appropriately symmetrical Caucasian woman with pearly whites that are orthodontically aligned and bleached, skin airbrushed to 2 pores/sq. inch, and eyes that are thoroughly saint-seducing and beg "Come hither ... Him. Not You."

Stage left: equally as white man with Patrick Bateman-like facial characteristics. His brown hair is that treated kind which looks like it would break or crack rather than tussle if you noogied it.

To highlight that he is in fact real, a slight amount of stubble is lain (think astro-turf) over his Superman-like chin. He's wearing this odd grimace/smile that makes me think he's one of those people who flush the toilet while sitting down.

"Do you want to guarantee your dates will always be beautiful? No more filtering through unattractive people on mainstream sites. Meet beautiful people locally and from around the world –

now." That's a caption that lays next to the photo of the ultimate couple.

The only problem I have, besides the sheer hubris and effrontery of BP's existence, is the assumption that the members are actually beautiful. The word "beautiful" carries far more connotations than say pretty, handsome, gorgeous, or suave.

Beauty is something intrinsic and combines all those unseen but deeply felt personality traits such as intelligence, humility, and humor into something that supersedes bust size and eye color.

You can't judge someone's beauty solely on a profile pic. Beauty is a mosaic of who that person is, not only what they look like.

I could very easily get away with calling Mother Teresa a beautiful person but, admittedly, I'd be a crime to name her empirically attractive or (gulp!) hot. She was brilliant and kind and beautiful in the way the founders and members of *BP.com* ironically are not.

The 5,000 schleps ejected from *BP.com*'s inner sanctum are probably taking this to heart ever since they've become victims of their own narcissism. Hopefully they, the now rejected, and prospective members of BP, realize that the world doesn't need any more preening morons but maybe a little more understanding and communication and a few more Teresas.

Julia Tuttle homeless longing for shelter

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Asst. Opinion Editor

It seems as though everyone in Miami wants the cold weather to go away. Frankly, I'm starting to get annoyed by the growing number of complaints. There are homeless people out on the streets with no protection from the cold. What's worse is that some of them are being turned away from shelters. How do you fathom?

This is what many homeless sex offenders in Miami have to deal with. Not only are they literally quarantined under the Julia Tuttle Causeway, but now even a night in a shelter to get away from the cold seems perfectly absurd. The Weather Channel reported low temperatures of 38 degrees on Jan. 9.

As the temperatures lowered and broke records last week, counties state-wide opened emergency cold-weather shelters for the home-

less. However, not all the homeless were welcome.

According to *The Miami Herald*, the homeless sex offenders, living under the causeway say they were turned away by the county's homeless shelters due to strict laws imposed on sex offenders in Miami-Dade County.

Laws about where sex offenders are allowed to live (or do anything, really) vary from county to county and depend on the severity and nature of the crime for which the criminal was convicted. Under Florida state law, sex offenders can't live within 1,000 feet of schools, child-care centers parks or other areas where kids congregate. Miami-Dade County, though, is stricter and places a 2,500-foot ban on its sex offenders.

To follow through with the law, the only place they can live in is under the Julia Tuttle Bridge. And here they are, trying to escape from the cooler breezes by the bay –

being turned away from shelters on some of the coldest nights yet.

The law is clearly not on their side. Of course, many could easily say that they deserve this kind of treatment because they are dangerous criminals who prey on innocent children. Not all sex offenders are guilty of the same crime. Some sex offenders may be on the list for things like dating a minor. Yet, their crimes are not what we should be looking at.

These offenders have paid their time in jail. Because of the county's strict restrictions surrounding where they can live after they serve their time, it is hard for them to find any place to live or even walk around.

The law forces them to cluster under highways like the Julia Tuttle. The law also forces shelters to ban them in near freezing temperatures. The law, with all its power and thirst for justice, has directly isolated them from healthy

reintegration into society.

I understand that some sex offenders are responsible for heinous crimes. But I don't understand how other types of criminals can come out of jail and live under restrictions a lot more lenient than those imposed on sex offenders. I wonder what the criminal records of the other homeless people in those shelters look like. It's safe to assume that those who actually were let in were not your typical goody-two-shoes but they got in just fine.

There are 53,201 registered sex offenders in the entire state, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. For the registered sex offenders of Miami-Dade in particular, life seems to be a bit more troublesome.

By clustering former sex offenders and forcing them to live in unbearable conditions, the problem becomes bigger. It is shameful, disgusting and unjustified.

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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.

DAILYQUERY

What are your thoughts on Senator Harry Reid's comments? Does it say something more about America or is the critical response to these statements just an attempt from the GOP to stay competitive for the next elections? Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com

OPINIONPIECE

33

The amount in billions of dollars President Obama asked for the 2010 fiscal year for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

QUOTATIONATION

"It's the most horrific thing I've ever seen. We have to get food and water. We're trying to stay alive."

Bob Poff
Salvation Army, on Haiti earthquake aftermath



PUNCH-LINEUP

Big names expected to bring big laughs

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

For the fifth year in a row, the South Beach Comedy Festival will bring Comedy Central's biggest names to the many stages of South Beach.

The festival, which begins on Jan. 20 and will run through Jan. 23, will take place in four main locations throughout the South Beach area.

Performances will be held at the Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre, Lincoln Theatre, Colony Theater and the Lincoln Road Stage on Euclid Avenue, which is home to the festival's nightly, free outdoor comedy stage.

For the first time, special shows and official events will be held at some of South Beach's hottest clubs.

Kicking off the festival will be Mad Cat Theatre Company's "Shepherd's Pie" on Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Colony Theater.

Thursday night will be Mike Birbiglia's shot at

getting some laughs.

Audiences will get a live view of his funny man stunts that they might have seen on one of his three Comedy Central specials.

The Massachusetts born comedian will bring his acclaimed storytelling to the Lincoln Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Also performing on Thursday is Gabriel Iglesias, who performed at FIU back in 2005.

The self-proclaimed "Fluffy" comedian, who resurrects his personal and daily issues and experiences, will perform at the Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets for Iglesias' show are on sale for \$34.

Another past FIU performer is Kevin Hart, who participated in UP-Roar back in November 2009.

Hart will take the stage Friday night at the Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre.

Hart got his first big break when he was cast as the lead in MGM's *Soul Plane* opposite funny man

Tom Arnold and hip-hop heavy weights Snoop Dogg and Method Man. Hart's recent film credits include *Drillbit Taylor*, *Epic Movie*, *The Last Stand*, *Scary Movie 4*, *In the Mix* and *The 40 Year Old Virgin*. Tickets are \$35.50 and the show will kick off at 8 p.m.

Martha Lopez, a junior broadcast journalism major, said she's not too excited about this year's lineup compared to past years but does feel that SBCF redeemed itself with the inclusion of Iglesias and Hart.

"I'm not that excited for this year's festival. In previous years, they've had better comedians. The only two comedians I'm looking forward to seeing are Kevin Hart and Gabriel Iglesias. I've seen both of their Comedy Central specials and their performances here at FIU and I think they are amazing," she said. "They both have these outrageous personalities and comedy routines that make you laugh so



AZIZ ANSARI



JON LAJOIE



MIKE BIRBIGLIA



MAD CAT THEATRE



JOHN OLIVER



GABRIEL IGLESIAS



BRIAN REGAN



KEVIN HART



JOE ROGAN

COMEDY, page 9

Band's newest album reflects its individuality

CHRIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

There has always seemingly been a premium in music placed on authenticity.

Kurt Cobain talked about how depressed he was – and joked about killing himself – so the only possible way to secure himself a place in the annals of musical history was to put a shotgun shell through his skull.

Tupac often talked about the merits of "thug life" and was gunned down the same way a common drug dealer might be. It made him a tragic figure, but it also lent legitimacy to his career.

In most cases, artists can only be helped by being true to themselves, no matter how stupid their true self might be.

This is what made the initial backlash to Vampire Weekend, a foursome composed of former Columbia University classmates, so strange.

On their sunny, self-titled debut, they sounded like what they are: upper middle class white kids with a little too much education and a little too much interest in world music and Paul Simon.

And yet, the backlash was swift – much of it based on factors other than the music. Their background lent itself to criticism that was both unfair and completely predictable, even though there was never a time when they pretended to



PHOTO COURTESY OF VAMPIRE WEEKEND

BOURGEOIS: Members of Vampire Weekend from left to right: Rostam Batmanglij, Ezra Koenig, Chris Tomson and Chris Baio.

be anything other than what they are.

On their second album, *Contra*, the band makes the bold decision to continue being exactly who they are. Maybe more so than on their debut.

It's a little less sunny, maybe, but it is unmistakably the same band that made the soundtrack for every coming-of-age movie in 2008.

Through the first few listens, the most

striking thing about *Contra* is the lack of killer melodies that really carried the first album.

Musically, it seems to be a little more layered and interesting, but nothing hits you over the head quite like "A-Punk" or "Oxford Comma," or really, any of the tracks on a first album which was chock full of hooks.

From the sampling of M.I.A.'s "Diplomat's Son" to the auto-tuned vocals on "California

English," this seems an album consciously attempting to lash back at some of the critics, making an effort to be more "weird" than the first.

It seems like a step back, but one that is not wholly without merit through the first few listens.

But it is an album that rewards repeat listens. It might never lend itself to in-concert sing-alongs like the debut but, as a whole, it is just as rewarding a listening experience.

Where the first album took very few risks, staying well within the realm of guitar pop, this one isn't afraid to go further, delving into low-key electro pop with "White Sky," or moody atmospheric ballads like "I Think UR a Contra."

What is most striking about the album is how much more confident the band sounds being themselves. They had only been together for a couple of years at the time of the debut and the intervening time has been good for the quartet.

Maybe it's me projecting on them, but this album sounds more like what the band wants to be.

There's a certain type of strength in taking criticism and being able to use it to your advantage, and that's just what happened. It's refreshing to see a band so comfortable being who they are, and it's great to listen to as well.

The Beacon does not accept any free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

FISTFULS OF TECH

3-D not the wave of the future

I hate 3-D content. There, I said it.

The Consumer Electronics Show, a yearly expo which tends to dictate the tech trends for the year, was dominated by 3-D television sets by Sony, Samsung



JORGE VALENS

and Vizio, to name a few.

Sadly, that can only mean that 2010 will be the year of 3-D technology – God help us all.

Capitalizing on the success of James Cameron's 3-D epic, *Avatar*, television makers are very quick to make 3-D a staple in the living room, but I don't think we're ready for that yet.

3-D technology has had its successes and failures. In the late 90s, the technology was rolled out to many IMAX theaters as a ploy to get people to watch cheesy nature documentaries narrated by Laurence Fishburne and Tom Hanks.

However, after the three-hour-long migraine that was "Secrets of the Serengeti," I came to the conclusion that perhaps 3-D technology wasn't ready then, just as it is not ready now.

Avatar was a great proof of concept that 3-D movies can

bring in serious money and it can be done right. That being said, *Avatar's* 3-D experience is very similar to its distant 3-D predecessors', apparent by the migraine that I endured shortly after.

I don't see myself, or anyone for that matter, getting home after a long day of staring at a computer screen, slipping on a pair of 3-D glasses to strain my eyes to watch something in 3-D.

3-D is a gimmick, something to get people to show up to a movie that has a lackluster story and a big budget to pay back. This isn't something that movie studios put in to make the movie watching experience more enjoyable.

Movie studios are putting everything behind 3-D movies because a 3-D movie is impossible to pirate and it ensures higher revenues and a secure stream of viewers who won't be tempted to hit the torrents to catch a highly anticipated movie.

Nothing makes this a more apparent point than watching a 3-D movie where characters in the movie are constantly throwing things at the camera or sticking their spears out, to woo the audience with obvious executions of 3-D.

This technology is merely an afterthought in films and isn't

even a valuable tool in story telling.

I can definitely see Cameron on the set of *Avatar*, spewing a profanity filled rant to Sam Worthington about how he should thrust the spear at the camera every now and then, to give the audience a little rush. Spare me.

At the end of the day, the people who will benefit from this are the hardware makers.

These guys are seeing that people are complacent and content with their TV purchases, and want to squeeze in every gimmick possible in order to sell them something new.

This year, Sony showed off some 3-D glasses that it will sell as a separate accessory with its 3-D TV's that are worth \$100 a piece.

I know what you're thinking and yes, Sony does love to sell overpriced tech. I just never thought they would stoop so low as to overprice something you get for free at the movie theater.

I am not going to pay Sony \$5,000 for a 3-hour migraine, no matter how oddly attractive blue Zoe Saldana may be.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.

Quick Picks

Movies



The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus
83/100

The Lovely Bones
77/100

Youth in Revolt
62/100

Music

Of the Blue
Colour of the Sky
OK Go
79/100

Y Not
Ringo Starr
67/100

Games

Bayonetta
(Multi)
91/100

Army of Two: The
40th Day
(Multi)
91/100



Darksiders
(Multi) 84/100



Metacritic.com is a Web site that provides an average rating of movies, games, television, DVDs and music based on scores given by respected critics in those areas.

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Museum backdrops electronic music concert

ASHLEY CAPO
Staff Writer

Passersby strolling past the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at FIU will witness quite a treat on Jan. 16.

As the second of a six-part concert series, The New Music Miami International Society for Contemporary Music Festival will be presenting an audio/visual show in the Avenue of the Arts in front of the museum.

Differing from the first concert of the series, which featured woodwind instruments including several performances by famous flutist, Margaret Lancaster, this concert will incorporate electronic arts and music, including video that will be projected on the outside walls of the Frost Museum.

The event will feature the FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts ensemble as well as

faculty and well-known electronic music composer, Diego Garro, and animator and composer, Dennis Miller.

The New Music Miami ISCM Festival, initially named the May in Music Festival in 1997, is the brainchild of Orlando Jacinto Garcia, director of graduate music programs at the University as well as a member of the composition faculty.

Throughout its existence, the festival has featured a plethora of internationally renowned composers and, as of 2002, it is an official associate chapter of the FIU School of Music, incorporating the works of faculty members and students.

Past festivals have seen and heard the works of composers from the U.S., Canada, Spain, Mexico, Italy and Cuba and many of the composers have even held music workshops and question and answer sessions for students.

Among the faculty involved in the

event is Paula Matthussan, director and professor of music technology. Composer of both electroacoustic and acoustic music, her work has been performed in numerous venues around the U.S. and Europe including Merkin Music Hall, WAX and the Aspen Music Festival. Matthussan will be debuting her piece, *Hommage à Salon Bruit e*.

"I collected actual noise samples from Berlin and used them to create my piece. As it is named, it is a homage to the salon bruit e, a place I admire very much," Matthussan said, referencing a non-commercial theater in Berlin that allows for composers and animators interested in the electronic arts to display and present their work.

Although very much a tribute to the city as well as the venue, Matthussan mentions that her piece is in no way a peaceful orchestration.

"It's a very noisy piece, actually," she

said.

With the use of sound bytes of all sorts, street noise included, the focus of the pieces are inspired from things one may listen to every day, but never listen to as music; or even think of as being a possible musical instrument.

Something as everyday as the sound of snapping fingers serve as the musical notes of the compositions.

The sounds of the springs of a trampoline will be used in a piece composed by Kristine H. Burns, associate dean of cultural affairs for the College of Architecture and the Arts, and will be performed live by students.

The New Music Miami ISCM Festival, Concert II, will begin at 8 p.m. outside the Frost Art Museum on Jan. 16.

More information about the festival and other concert dates can be found at www.orlandojacintogarcia.com.

Ex 'Fear Factor' host among this year's comedians

COMEDY, page 7

hard it hurts. I cannot wait to see them live again and have a good laugh."

Jon Lajoie, known for his crude subject matter, will take the stage on Friday night with two back-to-back performances at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

In his set, Lajoie talks about everything from his private body parts to getting high. Coupled with smart lyrics, his retelling of everyday situations is irresistibly funny. If you have not seen any of his shows before, proceed with caution. This is not the kind of comedy show you want to bring your little sister or brother to.

Joe Rogan is the old host of NBC's "Fear Factor." You know, the show where people eat cockroaches. His name may not ring a bell, but you've surely seen this comic's face before and will probably recognize his voice. His current gig is acting as

a commentator for Ultimate Fighting Champion on pay per view and Spike Television, and he also hosts the hit show "UFC Wired." He's been on the comedy circuit for 20 years now and his show is known to provide some good laughs. Unfortunately, he probably won't be eating any cockroaches. He will perform Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Lincoln Theatre.

Closing out the festival will be Aziz Ansari and Brian Regan.

Brian Regan's fan base is one of the strongest of this generation's league of comics. The one downside to going to see his show is that ticket payers will have to fork out \$45.

Aziz Ansari is better known for his job on NBC's "Parks and Recreation." If you're not familiar with any of his work outside of the show, you can pick up his CD/DVD set, *Intimate Moments for a Sensual Evening*, on Jan. 19 – just in time for the show.

Catherine Arronte, a junior public relations major, is excited for Ansari's set. She calls him, "witty and unexpected."

"I'm looking forward to seeing some of his stuff from his new stand up and what we don't see from him in 'Parks and Recreation.'"

Cost of tickets may be out of reach for some students, especially during the beginning of the semester with so many expensive book purchases. No worries, the South Beach Comedy Festival will be offering plenty of free shows throughout the weekend – just don't expect any big names.

Gabrie Swingler, a sophomore majoring in women's studies and hospitality, said, "I can't wait until the South beach Comedy Festival. I saw Kevin Hart when he performed at FIU and he was hilarious. I'm especially excited that there are some cheaper options for the festival like the free shows on Lincoln Road."



Sudoku answers from 1/13/10

Keep playing every week!

3	6	2	8	5	7	1	9	4
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	8	3
4	9	8	3	1	6	2	7	5
7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
9	8	1	6	4	3	5	2	7
6	5	4	1	7	2	8	3	9
2	7	3	9	8	5	4	6	1

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

MLK BREAKFAST



WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

WORLD FAMOUS LIPIZ-ZANER STALLIONS

Exhibition of white horses
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$18.50
WHERE: Bank United Center

THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$60
WHERE: The Actors' Playhouse at Miracle Mile

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Friday Prayer
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

FRENCH CLUB - MEETING



WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

LAUGHING GAS COMEDY IMPROV

WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Barnacle State

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

PURE IMAGINATION LIVE



Fun short story reading!
WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sweat Records

JEWISH FILM FEST

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Colony Theatre

ARTURO SANDOVAL

FIU's one and only!
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15-30
WHERE: Magic City Casino

EDWIN ADAMS

Local Musician
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The News Lounge

PINCREST GARDENS FINE ARTS FEST



WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Pincrest Gardens

ARBOLES LIBRES



WHEN: 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Churchills

SUNDAY, JAN. 17

2010 MARLINS MANATEES OPEN AUDITIONS

WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock

GRAND OPENING CABARET

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Carl Fischer Clubhouse

MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15-75
WHERE: Knight Concert Hall

2010 MARLINS MERMAIDS OPEN AUDITION

WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel

THE VAMPIRE ACADEMY



Book reading for the vamp geeks
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Coral Gables Congregational Church

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HOW MUCH: \$2 donation
WHERE: Miami Beach Community Church

Track and field releases schedule for 2010 season

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst Sports Director

After a successful outdoors season last year, FIU track and field announced its 2010 schedule on Jan. 11.

The women's team finished with runner up honors in the 2009 Outdoor Sun Belt Conference Championship while third-year head coach Eric Campbell also added success by being named the SBC Women's Coach of the Year.

The team will kick off the new season at the Great Dane Classic on Jan. 22.

The meet is hosted by the University of Albany and will take place indoors at the Armory Track & Field facility in New York.

Although the women and men's teams graduated a combined 12 seniors, Campbell seems confident about the schedule that lies ahead.

His confidence is helped by his largest-ever recruiting class, which includes a program-high 26 student athletes.

"We are so excited about the direction this program is moving and it's going to be very exciting to see how these young people help push this program to the level it can really be," Campbell said to *fiusports.com*. "We are excited about our schedule and believe it is one of the best in the state of Florida."

Following the Great Dane Classic, the Golden Panthers will head to Gainesville for the Jimmy Carnes Invitational on Jan. 30.

The third meet on the schedule will take FIU back to New York for the ninth annual New Balance Invitational from Feb. 5-6. The Golden Panthers will face previous

NCAA champions such as Texas A&M, LSU, Florida, USC, and UCLA.

FIU will then travel to Michigan to compete in the Green Valley State University Big Meet on Feb. 12-13, which is a new addition to this season's schedule and the final meet before the SBC Championship in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The outdoor schedule begins with the UNF Spring Break Open in Jacksonville

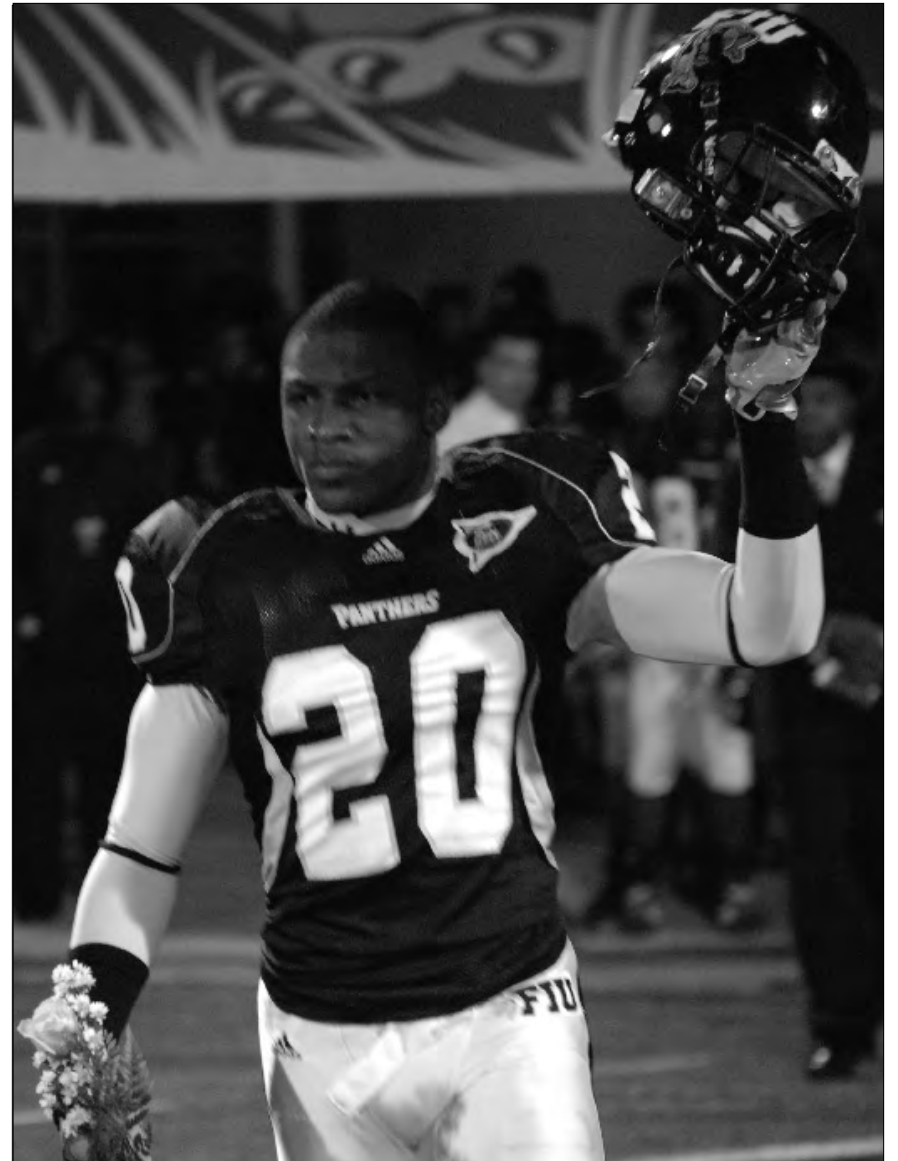
As a staff we collectively want to run, jump and throw against the best in the country week in and week out to raise our program's level to new heights

Eric Campbell, Head Coach
FIU Women's Track & Field Head Coach

on March 5 followed by 10 more matchups before the NCAA regional's and championship on June 9-12.

"At FIU, we always want to nurture and cultivate a competitive spirit at all times," Campbell said to *fiusports.com*. "As a staff we collectively want to run, jump and throw against the best in the country week in and week out to raise our program's level to new heights."

SECOND TO ONE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Senior Cornerback O'Daris D'Haiti finished 2nd for the 2009 Rudy Award, losing out to LeVon Morefield of the Akron Zips. The Rudy Award is given annually to the college football player who shows exemplary character on and off the field.

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Collins looks to improve rush defense

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GC: The only thing I can speak of to that is that when I went to Western Carolina University, I inherited one of the worst defenses in the country. We are going to be one of the best defenses in the country. Whether it happens this year, next year or the year after, we will make significant improvement if the kids buy into the scheme and the fundamentals that we are going to teach them. By the fourth year at Western Carolina, we were top 20, so this kind of thing doesn't intimidate me.

Jonathan Ramos conducted this interview

Global athletes discuss experiences

SWIMMING, page 12

Sun Belt Conference Co-Female Diver of the Week on Dec. 23.

"I like it here, it's not as cold, usually," Shibata joked.

Like Baxter, she sees that there aren't many things that South Florida and Canada have in common.

"It's different," she said.

Shibata is soaking in her new surroundings and has been able to make the adjustment to college life on her own, thanks to her teammates and others.

"I'd never been to a football game or a baseball game before coming here," she said. "It's helped me grow up, living on my own and being independent. And getting an education is the most important thing."

While Canada may seem far from Miami, Elly James' experience proves it's all relative. The sophomore has traveled almost 10,000 miles from her home in Australia to come to FIU.

"I've wanted to come to the states for a while," James said. "I really liked the warm

It's helped me grow up, living on my own and being independent. And getting an education is the most important thing.

Namiko Shibata, Sophomore Diver

weather and the academics [FIU] offered. And being near the beach was a plus."

James is no stranger to living outside of the country, as she lived shortly in Singapore when

she was younger.

But like many other college athletes, this was her first time living away from home.

"I've definitely become more independent," James said. "I've made so many friends like Amy Jackson [from the women's soccer team who is also Australian] who made the transition much easier for me."

This season, James was named Sun Belt Conference Co-Swimmer of the Week on Dec. 23 and has said that this season has been a turn in the right direction for the Golden Panthers.

"I know what's expected of me and I believe our team has improved as a whole, 100 percent," she stated. "We are always pushing each other and the new members on the team have brought in a great attitude."

With the season winding down and the Sun Belt Championships not too far off, the challenges mount for the team not only in the pool, but in life as well.

"There's always a different challenge and I love waking up here in Miami and facing those challenges," James said.

Earthquake hits home for FIU and national athletes

MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

Pierre Garcon waited for word as his mother frantically tried to reach relatives in Haiti.

Three days before what is expected to be his first career playoff game, the Indianapolis Colts receiver was without his trademark smile.

"Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews. We still have not heard much from them, and my mom is still trying to call them," Garcon said. "I'm keeping in contact with my mom. It's tough to get in touch with people down there because of the phone lines."

Garcon and other athletes of Haitian descent were devastated Wednesday by the powerful earthquake that struck the capital of Port-au-Prince a day earlier and is feared to have killed thousands — perhaps more than 100,000.

The parents of WBC welterweight champion Andre Berto are from Haiti, and he has many relatives on the island.

"Like many other Haitian-Americans, my family and I are working to reach my loved ones," Berto said. "From what we have learned to this point, some of my family members are still missing, and we have already been informed that members of my family have passed away in the earthquake."

The Miami native fought for Haiti at the Athens Olympics after barely missing the U.S. team.

He's scheduled to face Sugar Shane Mosley on Jan. 30 in Las Vegas in the biggest bout of the undefeated fighter's pro career, but his training was interrupted by the tragedy.

Berto (25-0, 19 KOs) has been heavily involved in charity work and relief efforts in Haiti for years. He's working on another charity initiative to help Haiti's recovery from his training camp in Winter Haven, Fla.

Philadelphia 76ers center Samuel Dalembert, who grew up in Haiti, told ESPN.com he has been able to reach his father, but others are left unaccounted for.

"I can only imagine what people there are going through," he said. "... It's really killing me right now. ... It's unthinkable. Imagine all the people just inside, and the building just collapses."

In addition to notable professional athletes who have endured hardship, a few FIU student-athletes have also been affected by the tragedy, including Golden Panther football players O'Darris D'Haiti and Dudley Laporte.

D'Haiti said that most of his stepfather's family is based in Haiti, and that he has not been able to contact them.

Most of D'Haiti's family is in the United States though, and he has not been directly affected.

Laporte's situation is potentially more ruinous, however, as most of his family, besides his siblings and mother, live in Port-au-Prince.

HOME KICKING



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

Sophomore defender Katrina Rose earned a spot on Jamaica's U-20 World Cup Qualifying team, set to compete in Guatemala for a chance to play in this summer's U-20 World Cup in Germany. Rose adds National Team Member to a resume that includes first and second team All Conference selection in two seasons.

"I still haven't spoken with them. all communications are off, so we cannot even email them," Laporte said. "My Grandma, cousins and almost everybody. Were just praying and hoping for the best."

Laporte, a junior, remains optimistic but can only wait at this point.

"Were taking it one day at a time," Laporte said. "We dont want to jump to conclusions."

Garcon, a second-year player from Mount Union in Ohio, was born in Carmel, N.Y., and attended high school in Florida. But his parents immigrated to the United States from Haiti and most of his relatives still live there. Garcon said there are too many to count.

Last season, Garcon went back

to the country for his grandmother's funeral, and he planned to return in April with his charitable organization, the Pierre Garcon Foundation.

But when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck Tuesday, devastating one of the world's poorest nations, Garcon changed the plan. Instead of waiting until spring, Garcon jumped onto his Twitter account and started asking fans for help.

At one point, he tweeted: "We need the US military as soon as possible n haiti We need the 4 million Haitian that live out side of haiti to Act now, we need da world!"

As he prepares for Saturday night's playoff game against Baltimore, Garcon intends to use the NFL's stage as a pulpit to seek more

assistance in the recovery effort.

"That (Twitter) is how we got the pictures out, the word out; that's been really helpful," Garcon said. "Spreading the word and helping others is really what it's all about, and this is the best situation to do that now."

Coach Jim Caldwell and teammates offered their support, help and prayers for Garcon, who is coming off a breakout season and is expected to play Saturday despite missing the last two games with a bruised hand.

"It's hard, not knowing what's going to happen," he said. "The rebuilding process is going to take forever."

Jonathan Ramos contributed to this story.



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SWIMMING & DIVING

TAKING THE PLUNGE

International athletes make impact for swimming and diving

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports director

It has been a year of progress for the Golden Panthers, who have had to go up against tough opponents in addition to enduring frigid weather over the past two weeks.

It's been a year of growth, and that movement forward has been aided by some of the more experienced members of the team, some of whom have traveled a great distance and have had to adjust to a new lifestyle at FIU.

Penny Baxter, a senior who transferred to FIU prior to the 2007-2008 season, has had an interesting experience as a Golden Panther.

Originally hailing from Canada, the change of scenery increased the difficulty of making the adjustment to life in Miami.

"It was different for me and it was difficult," Baxter said recalling her first season at FIU. "It's a completely different attitude and atmosphere back home than it is here."

Baxter, an avid traveler, has been able to make the transition well as a new class of freshmen has come in, and she has been able to use her time here as a life experience that she will



LESTER ESCOTO/THE BEACON

Kariann Stephens prepares to dive during a meet against Worcester Polytechnic Institute. During the meet, Stephens helped FIU finish first in the 200-yard relay. Namiko Shamata also finished first with winning dives in the 1 and 3-meter dive events at the meet.

be able to fall back on in the future.

Baxter is a linguist of sorts, with an ability to speak six languages, including French, English and Spanish. She hopes to become an ambassador for her home country one day.

"It's been really hard work," Baxter said.

"But now I'm able to multi-task better and I'm able to juggle many things at once, and that'll help me later on when I have family and work."

Baxter is one of two Canadians on the team, the other being diver Namiko Shibata.

Shibata, a sophomore, is having a breakout year this season, qualifying for NCAA Diving Zones with a score of 286.95 in the 3-meter springboard on Jan. 7. She was also named

SWIMMING, page 11

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: GEOFF COLLINS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCFSports.com

Former University of Central Florida linebackers coach Geoff Collins was hired as FIU's new defensive coordinator. His linebackers helped UCF achieve a top 5 rush defense in 2009.

New coordinator discusses team

Geoff Collins was announced as the Golden Panthers next defensive coordinator earlier this week, replacing Phil Galiano after a season in which FIU was ranked 119th in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Collins joins the FIU staff after serving as Central Florida's linebackers coach last season, but previously worked under Nick Saban at Alabama, in addition to a stop at Western Carolina as a defensive coordinator.

Collins was a big part of UCF's nationally fourth ranked run defense in 2009, and will look to have a similar effect on FIU's defense.

Why did you decide to come to FIU?

Geoff Collins: I have been aware of the program since coach [Mario] Cristobal took over. Any time a Division I program is in the state of Florida, you know you're going to have an opportunity to get some great talent.

It's just my job now to get them in the right situations and right alignments, with a little energy and a little enthusiasm.

A good scheme to help them show their talent on the field.

What did you learn the most out of your experience working for Nick Saban at Alabama?

GC: Coach Saban is one of the best college coaches in the game. The biggest thing coach Saban always talked about was the process that it takes to be great. We live in a results-oriented world, but the process you take on a daily basis to be successful should never change. Whether you are winning or losing you have to stick to the process as long as it's a sound one. I think the results speak for themselves, and just being around somebody like coach Saban who preaches and believes in the things that I have always thought were the way to do things. Also with coach Saban, recruiting is the No. 1 deal. I have been a recruiting coordinator before, and recruiting has been a big part of how I make a name for myself, and even though I'm a defensive coordinator, the focus on recruiting will not change. I want the best defensive players in the country to come to FIU and build something special here.

What is your defensive philosophy

and what will you run here?

GC: The defense we ran at UCF was highly successful, we led the conference USA in defense. That defensive scheme is based out of a 4-3 quarters coverage formation with a multitude of coverage's and a multitude of blitzes is an NFL-style defense. I want to sit down in the next couple of weeks, watch every game from last year, study the offenses we're going to play against and see the personnel we have and take all my years of experience and exposure to basically every type of defensive system you can run, to figure out what works best for FIU.

And individual players you are impressed with?

GC: There are some that stood out. The most important thing to me is finding the guys that are hungry, the guys that want to be great. Guys that are embarrassed by their performance last year and want to improve.

What is your expectation for next season?

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