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New Frost Museum exhibit features women during war

PAGE 5



Golden Panthers beat MTSU, lose to WKU

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Muslim students start a petition to obtain a stable prayer location on campus.

OPINION PAGE 4

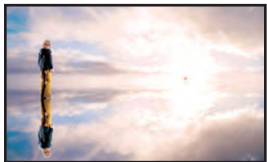


One writer's discusses trying to contact his family in the country during the aftermath.

OPINION PAGE 4

Pat Robertson, Danny Glover and Rush Limbaugh reduce a significant world tragedy into simple politics.

LIFE! PAGE 5



The Beacon Reviews: Steve Mesa discussing the upcoming *Lovely Bones*.

LIFE! PAGE 5

As Baltimore becomes a pop-culture mecca, art rock's Beach House starts to come into its own.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Former University of Illinois forward Alex Legion will join the Golden Panthers next season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mad Cat Theatre Company, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. This crazy cast will be performing at the Shepherd's Pie. Prices range from \$30-40. Contact number: 305-674-1040.

The Frost Art Museum, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. Three new exhibitions open highlighting propaganda, José Gurvich and María Teresa Hincapié.

FIU men's basketball vs. Arkansas State, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. Free for students; game will be held at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

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

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 67 HIGH: 79



THURSDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 69 HIGH: 79



FRIDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 65 HIGH: 80

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University students do their part to help victims in Haiti

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

FIU students have sprung into action by collecting donations and scheduling events to help send relief to Haiti.

Azee Johnson, president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at Modesto Maidique Campus, as well as the executive board members of the NPHC drafted a proposal for Haiti relief events.

"We have all been taken aback by the images on television and now it's time to stop looking and start taking action," Johnson stated in the proposal.

The Haiti relief proposal was sent to several FIU offices for approval, such as the Student Government Association, Campus Life, the Student Programming Council and the office of President Rosenberg.

"Everything is official. What we need [now] is legwork and ground-

work in terms of the [Council of Student Organizations] associations, to come and help out," said Bruno Phanord, the president of the Haitian Student Organization.

In collaboration between the NPHC, the HSO and the Black Student Union, these fundraising events will be held Jan. 20. The theme for the day will be "Hope for Haiti: Doing Our Part."

RELIEF, page 2

Campus ban on smoking passes

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Students and faculty were welcomed back on campus as the Spring term began, but now smoking will not.

After beginning its initiative in January 2009, the campaign for a Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free University received approval by the FIU operations committee, executive committee and University President Mark Rosenberg to eliminate smoking on both the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

The University will become a smoke-free institution, beginning Summer. The formal announcement from President Rosenberg is expected sometime this month.

"Many people say that they have a right to smoke, but it's actually not true. Smoking is a personal choice," said Jesus Medina, the current volunteer project administrator for the FIU Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Campaign and member of the University Health Task Force.

Set to begin on July 1, the new smoking policy will have the University transition into a completely smoke-free environment. The original regulations had prohibited smokers from being within 20 feet of any building on

SMOKE-FREE, page 2

EXHAUSTED



GERALD HERBERT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers from the French Civil Protection, left, and the Fairfax Va. County Fire and Rescue team, right, take a break during efforts to extract survivors from the rubble of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Religion and society class moves to MMC

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

Religion and Society in Israel is being offered as a class at Modesto Maidique Campus for the first time this semester.

Zion Zohar, the same professor who teaches the class at Biscayne Bay Campus, is teaching the three-credit elective at MMC Mondays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Religion and Society in Israel is a hybrid class, with in-class lectures and independent online learning.

Zohar, director and chair of Sephardic studies, has a bachelor's degree in religious studies and a doctorate in Jewish philosophy and

mysticism. He also does research on religious society in Israel.

Christine Gudorf, professor and chair of the department of religious studies, asked Zohar to teach the class at MMC this semester and he agreed. Gudorf said the reason she wanted the class to be offered at MMC is because it did not have high enrollment at BBC.

"I thought it would be a good idea for the class to appeal to the much larger audience at [MMC]," Gudorf said.

She also said the class being taught at MMC would go along with international relations, political science, history and sociology classes that are taught there. Like those classes, Religion and

Society in Israel is taught under the College of Arts and Sciences.

Since the class is being taught at MMC, it isn't being taught at BBC so the class doesn't compete with itself, Zohar said.

The class will cover roughly 2,000 years of Jewish history from about 70 C.E. (Common Era) to 1948. It will cover topics such as how Israel deals with issues such as war and how to treat minorities.

"We didn't have minorities, we were the minority, so how do we treat minorities? What example do we use? Do we go back 2,000? That's too far. It's a modern society, they deal with minorities differently today," Zohar

said.

The class will also cover democracy, nationality, statehood and civic rights in Israel.

Zohar said that anybody can benefit from this class – the class can help people understand the behavior of people from both sides of the Palestine and Israel line.

Michael Bender, graduate religious studies student, is taking the class as part of his master's studies. He's taking the class as part of his plan to get a Ph.D. and eventually become a professor of religious or Jewish studies.

"Modern Jewish affairs and issues dealing with Israel are nearly inseparable," Bender said.



Muslim students petitioning for a set prayer area

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

For Muslims, prayer is a religious obligation which must be performed five times a day.

However, for Muslims on campus, daily prayer has become a difficult hunt for an empty room.

“A lot of people ask if there is a place to pray and I have to tell them to find an empty room or a clean space,” said Mahira Khan, president of the Muslim Student Association at Modesto Maidique Campus.

To help facilitate this for students, MSA has begun the “Permanent Prayer Room for Muslims at FIU” petition, which is requesting a permanent prayer room for all Muslims, including faculty, staff and students. It is set to be presented to the University via e-mail and in person on March 5.

“Prayer is just a way to remind us of God and our life and God created human beings to worship them. Having prayer five times a day helps us keep it consistent,” Khan said.

Muslims must pray at specific times daily, based on a lunar calendar with times varying between 5 a.m. to 12 midnight. The five prayers are obligatory and must be performed during the time frame that is given and each prayer must be completed before the following prayer time.

“Some students even pray on the grass or skip their daily prayer and make it up when they get home,” Khan said.

According to Khan the most important prayer is on Friday, the Muslim holy day and a congregational prayer is mandatory in the afternoons.

“On Friday afternoons prayer is followed by a lecture,” she said.

The petition was originally created individually for both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses but was later combined.

“Each campus was working on their own petition, but [MMC] came out earlier so I e-mailed their president and we decided to

combine both petitions. We realized we both wanted the same but were just governing over different campuses,” said Zahra Arbabi Aski, MSA-BBC president.

According to their online petition there are at least 400 known Muslims at the University and presently, more than 300 signatures on the petition.

“There are a lot of interested students and the majority are not even Muslim,” Aski said.

According to Aski, the main difficulty is booking the room and finding a permanent place to pray that would not be distracting to students, staff or themselves.

“I personally pray in the third floor of the library but I may be distracted by students and they may be distracted by me. We’re trying to find one universal place where we can pray and be able to always go to the same place instead of jumping from room to room,” Aski said.

According to Khan, MSA has encountered difficulty booking a permanent room on the third floor of the Graham Center and a room in the Wolfe University Center. As a result MSA must book a room at the beginning of every semester, which is not always guaranteed.

“We understand they must follow protocol but booking a room is a time-consuming process. It is inconvenient for us and the GC office,” she said.

Different room numbers, according to Khan, also pose a separate issue.

“Changing the room number makes it difficult to communicate to the Muslim community, which may not reach everyone on time,” she said.

According to both presidents, the process makes it difficult for students because there is no set room for prayer and trying something more permanent would be better for everyone.

“We just want a place where we can pray peacefully and is not crowded or under construction,” Aski said.

To view the petition, visit <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/fiusmaprayerroom/>

GIVING BACK



PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

Sebastian Montaudon, junior public relations major (left), and Romy Recio, a volunteer for Success for Kids (center), explaining their organization to Roxette Miranda, sophomore political science major (right) at the Center for Leadership’s Volunteer Fair on Jan. 14. Montaudon is also a volunteer for Success for Kids.

Fla. law makers discuss job crisis

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

They came from all corners of the state in search of a common goal — finding ways to get the more than 1 in 10 Floridians who are unemployed back to work.

Suggestions offered Friday at a Jobs Summit ranged across the board: lift regulations on the construction industry, promote alternative energy, encourage credit forgiveness and lower taxes. More than 300 business owners, politicians and economists attended the conference hosted by Florida Senate President-Designate Mike Haridopolos and Florida House Speaker-Designate Dean Cannon, both Republicans.

“Jobs, jobs, jobs is the message today,” said Republican Gov. Charlie Crist. “It’s the most important issue facing the state.”

Florida’s unemployment rate was 11.5 percent in November, the highest rate since 1975. Only California, Michigan, Nevada, Rhode Island and South Carolina had higher unemployment. Some forecasters aren’t expecting much job growth until next year.

Economist Tony Villamil told the crowd that Florida’s economic problems were cyclical rather than the result of fundamental flaws, even though the state went from

being the biggest job creator in the nation mid-decade to scraping near the bottom of the barrel.

Villamil recommended suspending a tax increase on employers used to provide income for Floridians who have recently lost their jobs, extending the tax holiday which made some back-to-school products tax free and developing a promotional plan that would let the rest of the world know Florida is still open for business. He said nothing was more important than investing in education.

“There is no other way to improve the long-term future of Florida,” Villamil said.

Some felt government should take a limited role.

“The only thing the government needs to do ... is get out of the way,” said Lauren Trent, who owns a real estate company in Brevard County with her husband, Roy.

One of the biggest boosts to rejuvenating the real estate industry would be for lenders to allow people with bad credit to still get loans without having to wait seven years for their credit scores to be cleaned up, said Roy Trent.

“If someone had a difficult year a couple of years ago — lost their home, invested in properties and lost their properties — now their

credit is shot,” Roy Trent said. “Because their credit is destroyed, we can’t even get a person into a rental. That person can’t stay here now because he doesn’t have a place to live.”

Florida Agriculture Secretary Charles Bronson suggested getting more of Florida’s tax-exempt land onto the state’s tax rolls. He said close to half of the state’s land is off the tax rolls because it is environmentally protected or owned by government or universities.

AFL-CIO leader Rich Templin proposed spending money on training workers for high-skilled green-energy jobs. Al Zichella, vice president of the Florida Home Builders Association, recommended loosening regulation of the building industry, which traditionally has been an engine of economic growth in Florida.

“We’re being regulated to death in the middle of a recession,” he said.

But it took a Florida outsider to offer some optimism on where the state’s economy could be headed. Robert Grow, a regional planning consultant from Utah, said the current economic slowdown could be used for smart planning for the future.

“Don’t get down in the dumps,” Grow said. “It’s going to change, but take advantage of it now.”



Blackwater cannot
erase past crimes
with settlement

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

A few days ago, the private military contractor Blackwater (now called Xe) settled seven federal lawsuits enacted by Iraqis accusing the company of “cultivating a reckless culture that allowed innocent civilians to be killed.” The plaintiffs sought compensation for injuries and deaths, with the firm offering \$100,000 to families whose relatives had died, and \$30,000 to those injured.

Contrary to federal probes, which sought to indict specific Blackwater employees for their actions, the lawsuits charged the company as a whole with perpetrating an environment of impunity and recklessness leading to a pattern of civilian deaths. One lawsuit asserted that “Mr. Prince personally directed and permitted a heavily-armed private army ... to roam the streets of Baghdad killing innocent civilians.”

The settlement spanned several incidents in which Blackwater employees and U.S.-contracted securities for diplomats and other personnel, were said to have killed several Iraqi civilians. They include the killing of an Iraqi guard in 2006, and 17 Iraqis in Nisoor Square in Baghdad a year later, among other incidents

Unsurprisingly, Blackwater’s operational contract for Iraq was revoked the day after the Nisoor Square killings. It led to at least five investigations, including one by the FBI that concluded the company’s various shooting incidents “were unjustified and violated deadly-force rules in effect for security contractors in Iraq.”

Following a congressional hearing, the House passed a bill subjecting contractors serving Iraq and Afghanistan to greater persecution and scrutiny. This has been disputed as invalid by both the U.S. Department of Justice and Iraqi Government, which have since tried to repeal it.

Despite being banned from Iraq and having its services replaced by a competitor, Blackwater retains contracts with the State Department. Its legal status remains contentious. It still functions in Afghanistan where another shooting incident occurred in May, involving the death of two civilians. Since the Nisoor Square debacle, the company changed its name and management, slowly shifting focus away from security work to disassociate from a tarnished reputation. However, attempts to change its image has not cast aside all problems and legal troubles.

Blackwater is also being sued by relatives of employees killed in action, claiming that they died due to negligence. It has been accused of several crimes including kidnapping, soliciting sexual services from Iraqi prostitutes, illegal drug use and weapons trafficking. With Afghanistan hosting the services of an estimated 70,000 contractors, including some from Blackwater, this bad press on the largest private military group will trouble an already flailing war effort.

Recent settlement with Iraqis has been met with trouble, according to a report by the *Los Angeles Times*. Apparently, the plaintiffs had been coerced into accepting Xe’s deal by their lawyers. It seems controversy will pursue the company for forthcoming years, adding yet more tragedy and cynicism to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tremor instills dolefulness in Haiti

CHARLES D. VILLARD
Contributing Writer

It’s a feeling you don’t expect, but it shows you how vast your world is, and how far off people are. This is especially true when you’re enjoying something as simple as hot dogs, like I was doing on Jan. 12, at 5:56 p.m. with friends at Arbetter’s Hot Dogs.

While manners dictate not to use the phone while eating, several calls from my family told me something was wrong. After finally answering, I went blank.

What I looked like to others is beyond me, but I felt selfish for standing there holding a soda cup outside a fast food joint at that moment; considering what was happening about 600 miles away.

At 4:53 p.m. that evening, a 7.0-scale earthquake had devastated Carrefour and Port-au-Prince in Haiti. More importantly to me, it also hit Pétion-Ville, the hometown of my extended family. Cutting our meal short, I rushed home and

turned the TV on CNN.

What reports they were able to get from Haiti all said the same thing. A 7.0-scale earthquake, with aftershocks above the 5.0 Richter scale point, had hit Haiti about 10 miles from the nation’s capital. The resulting quake could be felt as far as Jamaica and Santo Domingo.

Almost all forms of communication were down except for – by some miracle – some Internet connectivity. Most phone service was down and what had survived the quake was completely overwhelmed with people trying to reach family and friends.

Social media was the only means to reach people in and out of Haiti. I immediately started to look for relatives on Facebook, trying to get in touch with whomever I could. It wasn’t until the next morning, when all of my family was located, that I could breathe a little.

My head is still reeling from that night, with thoughts of why I haven’t gone down there yet, what needs to be done to help, and why no one did anything to prevent this.

In a 2004 study presented in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, geologists found that the area along the Septentrional fault zone, a zone that runs through the Dominican Republic, was at high risk of an earthquake. With the island caught between two fault plates, it was a matter of time before it was hit by another earthquake.

So why was no one prompted to send engineers in to help? As one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, according to the CIA World Factbook, only a small percent of the population could afford a house of proper design.

With homes built of cinderblock, cement, steel rebar and aluminum sheeting, it would have been a proactive step to have U.N. engineers sent to aid in reinforcing these homes.

What is being done after the fact, however, has been promising. Presently, efforts have been under way to provide aid, order and supplies to Haiti. National governments and world organizations have sent personnel and aid to Haiti to help

with emergency medical care, food and water, and protection from unsavory elements such as escaped inmates that escaped damaged prisons.

At least 19 countries have sent aid to the distressed half-island nation, and even countries such as Cuba have helped in their own ways by granting the United States clearance to fly support to Haiti.

Relief groups have also been making astonishing strides in providing aid. In a single day, the American Red Cross collected over \$5 million in relief funds through their text message campaign.

FIU’s Haitian Student Organization held a relief drive Thursday in conjunction with local relief groups, taking donations of money, non-perishable foods and bottled water.

The support being sent now is the kind of support Haiti could have used for years, but now is not the time to mince words and politics. After a disaster of this magnitude, now is the time to help Haiti when it needs it the most.

Pundits insensitive to Haitian tragedy

CHRIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 12, 2010, Americans, as we have a tendency to do, largely joined together as an expression of sympathy and remorse.

As with the 2005 Christmas tsunami in the Indian Ocean and other natural disasters, Americans have shown a capacity for compassion that rises beyond our typical partisan infighting.

So when someone doesn’t go along with the general feeling of the day, people generally react with shock and anger at the insensitivity of those expressing those viewpoints.

Just hours after the earthquake, ancient “700 Club” show host Pat Robertson made the claim that the Haitian population was feeling divine retribution for a supposed pact with the devil made during the 18th century for their independence from France.

Putting aside the obvious ridiculousness of this claim

(why God would wait two centuries to deal his payback ranks about fifth on the list of reasons why it’s a ridiculous thing to say), the remark drew immediate and resounding criticism from all sides, deservedly so.

Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh, never one to avoid the unnecessary politicization of a tragedy if he can help it, didn’t quite reach Robertson’s level of absurdity in his remarks.

However, true to form, he took the catastrophe as an opportunity to criticize President Barack Obama and take a racial cheap shot, claiming he would take advantage of the incident to “burnish his credibility” within “the both light-skinned and dark-skinned black community in this country.”

Ignoring, once again, the obvious stupidity of his comment (why would a man who had 89 percent of the black vote in the election need to garner any support?), Limbaugh, like Robertson, received immediate backlash.

Not one to be outdone by the

absurdity to the drug addicted conservatives or the senile, actor, far left advocate, Danny Glover mirrored Robertson’s statement by saying the earthquake was “what happens” because of “what we did at the Climate Summit in Copenhagen.”

The question here is not “How could they say these things?” but rather, why are we surprised?

The 24-hour news cycle has turned the crass politicization of any event, no matter how catastrophic or mundane, into an industry upon itself and business, as they say, is booming.

Limbaugh, Robertson and Glover all have their respective agendas to promote, and the death of a few dozen thousand or so people isn’t going to stop them from taking advantage of an emotionally devastating situation.

These men serve only their own interests, not any sort of greater good, despite what they may claim. Every time there is a tragedy like this, commentators climb over each other to

be the first to be able to take advantage of the situation, and every time people react with a mix of outrage, disgust and shock.

At this point nothing should be shocking to us, and nothing is off limits. Limbaugh, remember, did an apparently hysterical impersonation of Michael J. Fox’s parkinson’s disease on his show during an election year.

It is a sad reality of our current culture that these types of commentators aren’t shunned but rather given a pulpit from which to preach on.

There is, however, comfort in knowing that the great majority of Americans are willing to put aside personal political or religious feelings in times of great need.

MSNBC’s Keith Olberman, generally a partisan blowhard of his own, summed it up perfectly on his Wednesday night program: “Mr. Robertson, Mr. Limbaugh: You serve no God. You serve no good. You inspire only stupidity and hatred.”

DISCLAIMER

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

WINNER/LOSER



Google, one of the world’s largest companies tackles China, the world’s most densely populated county. The company is threatening to withdraw from China after government hacked Gmail to get information on Chinese citizens.



The American people after Sarah Palin made her Fox News Network debut on Jan. 13. Recently signed to the network, she was a contributing guest on the highly popular “O’Reilly Factor” and will continue in this role for other FOX programs.

QUOTATIONATION

“Kids, you can grow up to do whatever you want to do in life... unless Jay Leno wants to do it too.”

Conan O’Brien
“The Tonight Show” host on schedule drama



BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Exhibit explores propaganda, gender roles in America

ASHLEY CAPO
Staff Writer

The Frost Art Museum will open a new gallery Jan. 20 that combines both art and class curriculum. *Women's Work/Men's Work: Labor and Gender in America* will be the first installation of a program by the Frost Museum in collaboration with the Wolfsonian-FIU.

The Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at the Frost, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will centralize a theme each semester around curriculum being taught at the University. Each semester's theme is chosen by a Visual and Material Culture study group made up of faculty and select students, who choose from proposals sent in by faculty interested in using the Wolfsonian collection to enhance what they are teaching in their courses. A different topic from a different faculty member will be chosen each semester.

The exhibit will "explore how art, propaganda and advertising have represented changing ideas about the

kinds of work that are appropriate for men and women," according to the press release.

The pieces in the exhibit examine gender roles in the labor force during World War I and World War II. Included in the exhibit are several paintings, advertisement prints and an actual Singer sewing machine from the 1930s.

According to the Andrew W. Mellon Web site, the foundation is a "program for art museums [designed] to help excellent institutions build and sustain their capacity to undertake serious scholarship on their permanent collections ... and to share the results of their work in appropriate ways with scholarly and other audiences."

One of the select institutions chosen was the Wolfsonian Museum in Miami Beach.

After accepting the grant, the Wolfsonian felt that their collection would be more beneficial to students and faculty at a more University-central location. With Carol Damian's support, director and chief curator for the Frost Museum and member of the

VMC study group, the gallery was provided a home.

"We are so grateful for the collegiate collaboration [between the museums] and for Carol providing the use of the space," said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian.

Alex Lichtenstein, associate professor for the history department who specializes in the history of labor and civil rights, is excited to be the first proposal chosen to inaugurate the new program and sees the opportunity to use the Wolfsonian's collection as a tool in his teaching.

"I've always used films, novels and journalism in order to get students to not only look at the textbook, but others' interpretations of the history of labor in the U.S.," he said.

Lichtenstein not only inspired the theme for the exhibit, but assisted in curating the installation. Alongside the Mellon Academic Program's Coordinator Jonathan Mogul, they chose each piece together.

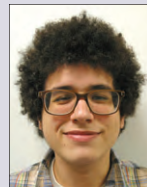
"It was a functional frustration,"

EXPLODING HEAD

Beach House sound matures

Within the past couple of years, Baltimore has become somewhat of a pop-culture hub of sorts, all thanks to David Simon, creator of the critically-acclaimed HBO series "The Wire," and Dan Deacon, father and ringleader of the city's burgeoning art collective, Wham City.

COLUMNIST



RYAN MOREJON

Now, if you were to round up all the musical acts that parade around B-More, or the Copycat Building they reside in, you'd find the majority are loose, aggressive and flamboyant electronic-based screwballs who are all about getting crazy and feeling like a community.

Yet, I'm sure Molly Siegel of Ponytail, or Wham City regular Jimmy Joe Roche, need to crash and weep over something, right? Maybe their tiger costume got destroyed at a basement show or their neon-green VHS cassette art project got stolen.

What do they listen to when they're down?

Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally's Beach House originated from "Bodymore" and Wham City, and probably acts as the most tame musical act from the group of art-rockers. A minimal clash of organs and delayed guitar pokes, their sound is a direct antithesis of the post-hardcore and math rock-inspired acts that frequent the city.

After their second release, *Devotion*, Beach House toured and Legrand contributed a guest spot on the *New Moon* soundtrack, where she put her mystical voice to good work by providing background ambience for vegetarian vampires. They also recorded *Teen Dream*, their third album and probably their most gigantic sounding record to date. Everything about this album is extroverted and outdoors.

No longer are they playing with the organ setting on Legrand's keyboard. With the addition of a drummer, Beach House can no longer be archived as electronic; these guys are a full-fledged band. They work on song build-ups now with odd time signatures and pedals/effects-galore.

The first track, "Zebra," has Legrand stacking up on the album artwork's zebra-striped theme ("Anyway you run/you run before us/black and white horse/arching among us").

I mentioned "Norway" in a previous article about how expansive it sounded, and listening to the album straight through, it feels like the most global song Beach House has ever put out. It's the opposite sound of their previous efforts: maximal. It's a song about the Scandinavian country and its landscape, musically personified by guitarist Alex Scally's immaculate string bends that almost change the track's entire sound structure.

"Silver Soul" has Legrand at her most raspy and highest pitch. It's a beautifully written song about spinning wheels.

Yeah, their lyrics are pretty out there, which is probably what Beach House has most in common with their Wham City peers. "Used to Be" was a track released prior as a 7-inch after the release of *Devotion* in 2008, but it still sounds familiar and attached to the record.

Devotion sounded like a very homey record, comfortable within the confines of their niche. *Teen Dream* is an album that had them touring the world, and what came out of it was a full-grown, mature album.

Yet, part of the appeal of Beach House was their basic guitar weeps and keyboard sinks. Legrand's voice and songwriting always triumphed. *Teen Dream* is a cacophonous record with more than just voice to move the song forward.

REVIEW

Cinematography adds suspense in Jackson’s latest film

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson attempts to depict the emotional chain reaction that occurs after a young girl is murdered and how her family reacts to the crisis in his first film in four years with the adaptation of Alice Sebold’s 2002 novel, *The Lovely Bones*. Oscar-nominee Saoirse Ronan plays Susie Salmon, a young girl with a loving family that includes her mother (Oscar-winner Rachel Weisz), her father (Oscar-nominee Mark Wahlberg), her grandmother (Oscar-nominee Susan Sarandon) and younger siblings (Rose McIver and Christian Thomas Ashdale). After she is done with school one day, Susie is murdered by her pedophilic neighbor, George Harvey (Stanley Tucci). After discovering that she is dead, Susie finds herself in a realm that combines the elements of earth and heaven called the “In-Between.” From there, Susie oversees the life of her

family and her killer and she must choose between taking revenge or letting go of the life she left behind. Aside from directing *The Lovely Bones*, Peter Jackson also happened to co-write the film’s script with his Oscar-winning screenwriting partners, Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens. With the help of Weta Digital, Jackson helps create a world unlike anything that is seen before that combines elements from Susie’s life and what heaven could possibly look like. While the “In-Between” sequences contain some beautiful images, it also has some nightmarish, grim and horrific images such as when Susie enters Harvey’s house and discovers her body and the awful truth about her killer. Jackson managed to get an ensemble with many A-list actors and actresses, but only three out of five cast members seemed to make an impression. Stanley Tucci creates a memorable performance as George Harvey and, as the movie progresses, it is revealed that the killer

has no remorse. What makes it scarier is that Tucci captures something that is more horrific than anything seen in a horror film, a seemingly normal man that can be any neighbor in any neighborhood. Ronan becomes the glue that holds the story together as she captures the essence and the innocence of a life that was taken too early as she delivers another remarkable performance. Mark Wahlberg makes a memorable impression as the grieving father who turns his obsession from building boats in bottles to searching every possible suspect/murderer of his daughter. Rachel Weisz does her best as the grieving mother but, halfway through the story, her character leaves to work in California picking fruit. Susan Sarandon comes into the picture to play the stereotypical grandmother who needs to shine to take care of the family in times of trouble. Both Sarandon’s and Weisz’s roles in *The Lonely Bones* play more like extended cameos instead of major starring roles.

Andrew Lesnie’s cinematography helps develop Jackson’s fondness for eccentric angles, exquisite close-ups and quirky perspectives that create some of the most suspenseful scenes in the film. In one scene, Harvey is talking to a detective (Michael Imperioli) in his house as if peering out from rooms of a dollhouse. In another scene that is tremendously suspenseful and almost Hitchcockian, Susie’s sister breaks into Harvey’s house in search of evidence that connects Harvey to Susie’s death. Though this is not one of Jackson’s best films, *The Lovely Bones* is an interesting experience that sort of loses its identity midway through the film. The ensemble is both a hit and miss with only three actors living up to expectations with their great performances. The combination of Jackson’s creativeness and unique cinematography helps the suspense scenes feel authentic.

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Labor exhibit presents educational materials through artistic platform

FROST, page 5

Lichtenstein jokes. “Jon focused on choosing art and materials and how they’d look on the walls, I needed to choose pieces to try and make it connect to my course. It was very much a collaborative effort.” The Wolfsonian’s collection, according to its Web site, contains artifacts dating from 1885 to 1945

that includes a variety of media: furniture, industrial-design objects – glass, ceramics, metalwork – as well as many rare books. With the location of the museum being so far from campus, the gallery hopes to provide a bridge between the University and the Wolfsonian. “The overall purpose of the gallery is to make our collection more of an asset to the students and FIU,” Mogul said. “We are doing

a number of projects to overcome the distance problem between our museum and campus; this gallery is just one of them.” The organizers of the exhibit hope that this gallery will serve students and faculty by expanding their view of art not just as an artistic expression, but as an extension of the classroom. “We not only want to provide a cultural experience, but to expose

students to look at art as research materials; to try to underscore the value of art collections for teaching and research; how you look at objects,” Leff said. Lichtenstein’s experience as a first-time curator reflects Leff’s hopes for those visiting the Frost or the Wolfsonian museums, which are free to all FIU students. “Now when I go into a museum, see artwork and read the labels, I

read them differently,” Lichtenstein said. “This was a learning process for me, which is great.” The exhibit will open for the public Jan. 20, between 6 p.m - 9 p.m. Admission is free to all and parking will be available in the Blue Parking Garage. For more information on the Wolfsonian and the Frost Museum, visit www.wolfsonian.org and www.thefrost.edu, respectively.



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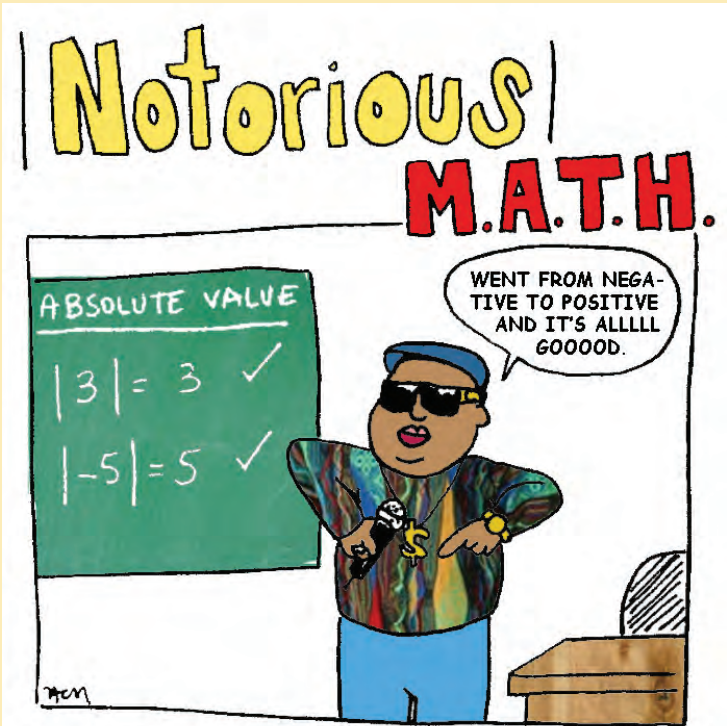
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To solve the
sudoku puzzle,
every row,
column and 3x3
box must contain
the numbers 1-9
only once.
Check your
answers in
Friday’s issue.

Puzzle Difficulty: Medium

Free throw advantage lifts Hilltoppers over FIU

WOMEN'S, page 8

"I see a lot of good things happening but unfortunately we're learning the hard way, but we're going to be out there and continue to get better," said Russo.

FIU 62, WKU 73

FIU looked to take their frustrations out on Western Kentucky (10-7, 4-2) only to be disappointed once again as they ended up with a 73-62 loss on Sunday.

Both teams converted 25-of-55 from the field, but the Hilltoppers held an advantage from the free-throw line with 24 attempts compared to nine for the Golden Panthers.

Elisa Carey led FIU with 18 points on 50 percent shooting along with eight rebounds while freshman Carmen Miloglav contributed a career-high 10 points while adding five assists.

"Carmen has been doing a great job, she plays great defense and has a very high IQ," said Russo. "She's extremely coachable and has been playing on a bad sprained ankle and you wouldn't even know it."

Meanwhile, the Hilltoppers tallied five players in double-figures, led by Kenzie Rich with 17 points.

Rich's three 3-pointers in the first seven minutes of the game gave Western Kentucky an early 17-7 advantage.

Over the next five minutes the Golden Panthers limited the Hilltoppers to three points and closed the gap to six after a Miloglav three and a layup by senior Marquita Adley.

"We played well at Western, but it's almost impossible to win on that court," said Russo. "It was a very competitive matchup."

With 2:10 remaining in the first half, FIU guard Cherisse Buddy knocked down a shot from beyond the arc to pull even closer, 33-31.

However the Toppers responded with five unanswered points to close out the stanza.

"I like the fact that our young ladies kept their focus throughout the game today, and really put together a strong effort against a

good FIU team," said Toppers head coach Mary Taylor Cowles to wkusports.com. "We talked in the second half about how our defense was going to win this game. When FIU made a run, you have to credit our upperclassmen for getting things turned back around and getting us going in the right direction again."

The Golden Panthers refused to back down in the second half as they chipped away at the Western Kentucky lead on 48.3 percent shooting in that period.

The Toppers, however, were able to put together a 13-2 run that gave them a nine-point advantage with 8:23 remaining.

"We're not clicking on all cylinders,"

It was a long trip but they're tough. These players aren't losers.

Cindy Russo, Head Coach
Women's Basketball

said Russo.

The run seemed to ruin any final hopes of a Golden Panther come back as Western Kentucky increased its lead to as much as 12 and FIU came no closer than seven the rest of the way.

"We're very tired. This Sun Belt schedule is exhausting," continued Russo. "It was a long trip but they're tough. These players aren't losers, they just need to be more disciplined and that comes with experience."

The team will look to snap the three game losing streak against Arkansas State (7-10, 2-4 SBC) on Wednesday at the U.S. Century Bank Arena where tipoff is set for 7 pm.

Golden Panthers joined by Illinois transfer Legion

MEN'S, page 8

Marlon Bright continued to show his efficiency with a game-high 10 rebounds, 6 points and 2 assists.

Forward Montarrio Haddock was Middle Tennessee's leading scorer with 23 total points and 10 rebounds. Desmond Yates contributed 16 points as well, but it wasn't enough, as the Golden Panthers made up the difference with 31 points, compared to Middle Tennessee's 13.

LIKE A SON

"When a father leaves the family and is gone, he leaves the youngest son in charge," Coach Anderson said "And Marvin was that son."

FIU leading scorer Marvin Roberts played a particularly unfamiliar role against the Blue Raiders: he did not start. Coming off the bench, Roberts scored a team high 17 points.

DEFENSIVE BREAKTHROUGH

FIU, playing one of their best defen-

sive games of the season, held Middle Tennessee to 35 percent shooting on the night.

The Golden Panthers held the Blue Raiders to just 17 percent shooting from three-point range.

FIU scored 13 points off turnovers thanks to an 11 steal performance, with six Golden Panthers getting involved in the thievery.

"We did the things in practice that we were supposed to do to win the game," Coach Anderson said.

FIU next travels back home to the U.S. Century Bank Arena to take on Arkansas State on Jan. 21.

The Golden Panthers, just 3-11 on the road, have fared better on their home court, where they are 3-4.

NEWEST PANTHER

Illinois transfer Alex Legion has officially joined the Golden Panthers. He will sit out the rest of this season and half of the following due to NCAA transfer eligibility requirements.



MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 64, WKU 81; FIU 65, MTSU 58

CONFERENCE SPLIT

FIU wins one, drops another without coach

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

With the passing of his mother, Mary Thomas, following a protracted battle with heart problems, FIU head coach Isaiah Thomas took a leave of absence from the team as they traveled to Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee to take on Sun Belt Conference opponents.

FIU 64 WKU 81

The Golden Panthers lost for the 23rd time in series history against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (10-5, 3-2 Sun Belt), 81-64 on Jan. 16 at E.A. Diddle Arena.

FIU shot just 43 percent from the floor and continued their struggles from behind the three point line with a 33 percent showing from beyond the arc.

The Hilltoppers had similar shooting numbers, but handily out rebounded FIU by a margin of 15.

The Golden Panthers kept the score close in the beginning of the first half, until the Hilltoppers went on a perfect 15-0 run to end the period.

By the end of the run, the Golden Panthers found themselves trailing 60-26 with 13 minutes left in the game, the largest deficit of the night.

Western Kentucky had three starters score in double digits, led by Steffphon Pettigrew with 16 points on the night.

Cliff Dixon recorded a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Marvin Roberts was the high scorer for FIU putting up 18 points, while Stephon



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FIU's leading scorer Marvin Roberts came off the bench and scored 17 in the win over the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders.

Weaver contributed 13 points in the losing effort.

FIU 65 MTSU 58

Anthony Anderson was the interim head coach for FIU (6-15, 3-5 Sun Belt) on Jan. 14 at Middle Tennessee State (8-9, 3-2 Sun

Belt) with Thomas missing the game.

"Our leader wasn't here," Coach Anderson said.

The Golden Panthers went into the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro, TN and responded with a motivated effort, shooting a season best 57 percent from the field to

take down the Blue Raiders 65-58.

Every FIU player shot at least 50 percent from the field on the night, including J.C. Otero, who had an impressive 11 point, 7 rebound and 3 steal performance.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 58, MTSU 90; FIU 62, WKU 73

Slide continues as FIU loses two versus conference teams



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Michelle Gonzalez's had just nine assists to nine turnovers in the Golden Panthers' two losses on the weekend.

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After starting the season 6-7, the FIU (7-12, 2-6 Sun Belt) women's basketball team had dropped three of four to conference opponents.

The Golden Panthers would try to get back on track with a set of weekend road games against Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

FIU 58, MTSU 90

Middle Tennessee (11-5, 6-1 Sun Belt), coming off it's first conference loss of the season to Arkansas-Little Rock, got all it wanted against FIU on January 13, resulting in a 90-58 loss for the Golden Panthers in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Four starters scored in double-figures for the Blue Raiders, led

by Jackie Pickel, who scored a career-high 34 points on 13-of-20 shooting and 6-of-10 from beyond the arc.

Point-guard Michelle Gonzalez led FIU with 21 points while senior Marquita Adley chipped in with 10 points and 8 rebounds.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to an early 10-5 lead after Fanni Hutlassa knocked down a three-pointer at the 12:43 mark.

Pickel answered with her first trey of the game to begin a 9-0 run which gave the Blue Raiders a lead they would not relinquish with just over 10 minutes to play in the first half.

"They're better than we are," said FIU head coach Cindy Russo. "They're a senior team and they had just come off of a big loss and they were just fired up."

After a 46-30 lead at the break, Middle Tennessee's momentum

continued as their lead increased to 27 with 12:40 remaining.

Back to back three-pointers by Pickel began an 8-0 run for the Blue Raiders with 10:01 left to go up to put them up by 33 points.

"We played well for a while but we didn't hang with them long enough," continued Russo. "It just goes back to just getting better for that level of play."

The closest the Golden Panthers would come the rest of the game was 28 and after Middle Tennessee gained its largest lead at 90-55 with 1:59 remaining.

FIU managed just three more points despite the game being well out of hand.

Middle Tennessee recorded 73 shots from the floor compared to FIU's 46 and also scored 49 points off 31 Golden Panther turnovers.

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