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Florida International University

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC: How will the new Clerk of Council and Executive Assistant use their new positions?

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

The Single Life: To some, the perfect date takes perfect planning. However, our columnist shows us that sometimes all it takes is a quiet day at the beach.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



What does a henna tattoo, the Olympics, a steel drum band, and a comedy show have in common? BBC's three-day One World Celebration.

EDITORIAL PAGE 9



A smoking ban has been placed in FIU. Is this a legitimate ban and can it really be upheld?

OPINION PAGE 9

In case you weren't paying attention, FIU is now selling Pepsi products. But nobody asked the student body.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Marvin Roberts scores 28 points in 96-81 victory over UALR as the team tries to keep up with the rest of the conference.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Women's basketball unable to keep up with conference foe UALR as team struggles to stay in contention.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robert Farber, Jan. 25, 3:30-5 p.m.
Are you a photography enthusiast? Check out this photographer lecture for free at the Frost Art Museum.

Noche Argentina, Jan. 26, 10 p.m. Live bands - Rock en español. No cover charge. Event will be at Chocolate's Place, 754 Washington Ave.

Lunch and a Movie, Jan. 27, 1-4 p.m. "Le Chiavi di Casa." Hosted by the Italian Club. Will be held in GC 140 for free.

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

WEATHER



MONDAY
PM T-Storms
LOW: 59 HIGH: 78



TUESDAY
Sunny
LOW: 58 HIGH: 71



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
LOW: 58 HIGH: 71

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Students recall Haiti earthquake

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

FIU graduate students traveled to Haiti for a course in sustainable development, unaware they would experience one of the worst natural disasters of the Western Hemisphere.

The course was taught by a non-governmental organization called Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihood, on site in Cap-Haïtien; a city of about 180,000 people, located approximately 85 miles north of Port-au-Prince. The course is part of a joint venture between FIU and University of Miami.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, at around 4:53 p.m. local time, Craig Marcklinger and Ann Marie Warmenhoven had their day interrupted as they began to feel the earth shake for approximately 45 seconds.

"I would say it's like when you are in a car and everyone is trying to rock the car, except you're in a building," Marcklinger said, a native of Ohio, who had not experienced an earthquake before.

"There were electrical problems, there were poles sparking down the street," he added.

According to Warmenhoven, a graduate assistant for the Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU, there was much confusion due to misinformation being given out by the radio stations the students listened to in order to get a sense of what was going on.

"We didn't know the extent of the damage," Marcklinger said.

Among Warmenhoven's concerns was

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SGA

BBC president in dark about band funding

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

With an estimated \$130,000 from student Activities and Service fees expected to fund the new marching band, Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay President Sholom Neistein admits he had little to do with the deliberations.

"I have no involvement whatsoever. All I know is that we want to bring [the marching band] back and that's it," Neistein said.

According to Neistein, Anthony Rionda, SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus president, has not kept him informed about the decisions made.

The initial agreement to revive the marching band was made in October 2009 during a University-wide meeting in which members of the council, including Neistein, fully supported the motion.

"Who doesn't want a marching band? We don't want to be the only ones in [Division I] without a marching band," he said. Both [the marching band and football team] have a synergistic effect with both the students and the team."

However, in previous years the band was funded by SGA, Athletics and The College of Architecture and the Arts. But due to the \$1 million cut that Athletics suffered in June 2009, they opted not to

make any financial contributions. This occurred shortly after CARTA zero-funded their majority portion of the band.

Neistein, however, is "perplexed" about the decision to heavily fund the marching band and proposed, during the U-wide meeting Jan. 13, that Athletics should give back.

"I don't think we should fund the marching band with nothing in return," Neistein said.

Neistein gave the suggestion that Athletics should consider allowing students to sit in the middle of the field instead of in the end zone during football games.

"We should have a marching

band but if we're paying for it, Athletics should be appreciative," Neistein said.

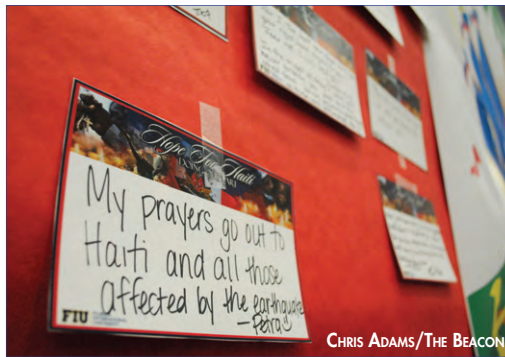
Neistein is also concerned that future administrations will have to fully fund the marching band.

He fears that Athletics will continue to depend on the funds even if their budget increases.

"I am a proponent for funding the marching band but not for perpetuity, I don't think it should be full-funding forever. The economy will shoot back up and they will get their funding back," he said.

Neistein was also unaware of the expected course to be offered

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On Jan. 20 the University held a series of events to remember the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Students, faculty and staff came together to express their solidarity with the Haitian people.

The University community wrote letters, prayers, and thoughts that were posted on the wall of the GC Pit. A candlelight vigil was held on the steps of PC, where President Rosenberg, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones, students and others spoke about personal testimonies and how the University will contribute toward relief efforts.

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NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Conan O'Brien's final hoorah on NBC

"The Tonight Show" host Conan O'Brien hosted his final show Friday, Jan. 22. O'Brien brought on guests Tom Hanks along with Will Ferrel and Neil Young.

O'Brien, who hosted the show for seven months was to have his show pushed to 12:05 a.m. while former Tonight Show host Jay Leno was to have his current show, "The Jay Leno Show," pushed to 11:35 p.m.

NBC made this decision after ratings fell substantially for both Leno and O'Brien during the previous months. O'Brien reached a deal earlier last week with the NBC for \$42 million dollars after he said he was unwilling to be pushed to a later hour. Leno will now continue to host "The Tonight Show," which he did for 18 years.

LOCAL

Want a Budwiser with that Whopper?

Burger King announced Friday Jan. 21 that they will be opening an location in Miami Beach that will be serving beer to customers along with their usual menu.

It is their first location that will be serving alcoholic beverages. They will serving Anheuser-Busch and MillerCoors products. The typical Whopper Combo with fries will cost \$7.99. The location is set to open in mid-February and will have walk-up service, outdoor seating and delivery services.

– Compiled by David Barrios

Technology fee backs new services

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

A technology fee of up to 5 percent of the tuition per credit hour was implemented in the Fall term.

The revenue from this fee is used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty, according to Florida Statute

Section 1009.24.

Proposals were submitted to the Division of Information Technology that were approved or declined based on their compliance with this statute.

Min Yao, the vice president and the chief technology officer of the Division of IT explained which proposal was the most signif-

icant to him and the advisory council.

"In my view, the most popular and important proposal is perhaps the offering of free Microsoft Office and free McAfee anti-virus program to all FIU students. This is a significant benefit that all FIU students can enjoy. We provide both PC and Mac versions of the

MS Office and McAfee anti-virus program," Yao said.

John Cabraga, the marketing coordinator for the IT division, explained the status of some of the other proposals that were submitted.

"We are currently working on launching each project/initiative approved," Cabraga

TECH FEE, page 3

Band budget to be discussed at University-wide meeting in April

SGA, page 1

by The College of Architecture and the Arts, which band members are required to take. Money from this course will be put into the band.

Rionda, who has stated he met with University Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell, CARTA Director of Bands Catherine Rand and University President Mark Rosenberg regarding the band, said he asked the U-wide council to take authority over the issue and was granted.

"I brought it up to the U-wide council and I asked for the authority. If Sholom feels left out, I apologize for that,"

Anthony Rionda, President
Student Government Council - Modesto Maidique Campus

"I brought it up to the U-wide council and I asked for the authority. If Sholom feels left out, I apologize for that," he said. "It's not about us and them. The agreement was made by the U-wide council to back up the marching band."

Rionda said "it wasn't a major decision" and during

previous deliberations in prior years the SGC-BBC president was not involved.

"I followed the protocol and we needed to act immediately," he said.

During the meetings Rionda stated they discussed the amount of money that would be

necessary to fund the band and the needs of its members such as the equipment, instruments and new uniforms possibly provided by clothier Perry Ellis.

"I am just shocked at how people are reacting. I thought everybody wanted a band," Rionda said.

"I have spoken to Rionda. I do want to be filled in the loop. I think I should," Neinstein said.

The estimated \$130,000 to fund the band must still be approved during the U-wide budget hearings in April.



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Gold Garage will remain open at all times

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Nocturnal students parked in Gold Garage will no longer need to use their cell phones as flashlights as of Jan. 15.

Over the winter break, the University decided, amid large student interest, to keep the lights on permanently in the Gold Garage between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Bill Foster, executive director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, was responsible for recommending the change to Associate Vice President Liane Martinez and Senior Vice President and CFO Kenneth Jessell.

"We started looking at it in December ... this led to a discussion of completely closing the garages and never letting anyone stay parked after 2 a.m. or keeping the Gold Garage open 24/7 and the lights on all night. We decided to

keep the lights on," Foster said.

Up until then, the Gold Garage was closed after 2 a.m. and the lights were turned off leaving students to search in a dark garage for their cars.

Deliberations on whether to keep the lights on had already begun before the Fall finals week. The lights were kept on due to the number of late night studiers during finals week and the large amount of post-midnight parking.

"The Gold Garage's lighting was looked at in December after we realized there was a demand to keep the lights on. We were able to get the Gold Garage open and the lights on during exams so we started looking at keeping it open permanently," Foster said.

Another factor in the decision to keep the lights on all night was student pressure.

Eric Feldman, a senior majoring in criminal justice, created the 300-plus strong

"Improve Safety in the Gold Garage" Facebook group in Dec. 2009 and was active in gathering student interest and pressure.

"The reason that I started this effort is that there have been countless times that I have had to go with my friends to their cars in the parking garages after 2 a.m. due to being on campus really late," Feldman said.

Feldman cited the issue of safety for those parked in the garage after 2 a.m. as the primary reason for his campaign to keep the lights on but also FIU's potential liability if someone was hurt.

"Being in a parking garage with absolutely no light made me very uncomfortable, and it was a situation that I don't think any student should be subjected to," Feldman said.

Bill King, chief of FIU Police, noted that there have not been any crimes committed or incidents after 2 a.m. in the Gold Garage and police officers consistently check the

garages.

"FIU Police routinely patrol in and around the garages to guarantee the safety of the student body before and after 2 a.m.," King said.

Keeping the lights on in the Gold Garage for the extra four hours will cost \$10,000 just for the electricity, not including the greater maintenance costs associated with the longer usage.

"We're willing to spend the money because we think that it's something important. If this is a place people are coming after hours then it needs to be open and we'd rather do that than keep the Gold Garage closed and in the dark," Foster said.

All other garages besides Blue and Gold will remain closed after 2 a.m. and be subject to ticketing and possible towing if the vehicles remain parked overnight.

Skype connects victims to families

SOIL, page 1

the tsunami warning issued for all of Haiti, as well as the Dominican Republic and its surrounding areas.

"We were a little concerned about it because we were only about five blocks from the water," she said.

The students taking part in the SOIL program who were at Cap-Haitien had very little information on what was going on in Port-au-Prince.

"We just heard that the department building collapsed and that the national palace had collapsed. No one could get in touch with their relatives because cell phones were down," Marcklinger said.

"The folks that work for the [organization] we were with – all the Haitian folks – worked pretty well with one

of the senators from the north and when they found out the department building collapsed they were concerned about him and just not knowing was absolute torture for them," he added.

"They were in tears, we were not sure how to comfort them," Warmenhoven said.

For Warmenhoven, the biggest challenge was dealing with the lack of information.

"Here in the U.S. you're used to being surrounded by CNN, text messages, Facebook, Twitter and instant updates, whereas you kind of take that for granted when you're trying to find basic information on what is going on 85 miles from you," she said.

In order to reach out to their relatives, the students at Cap-Haitien turned to Skype, which they were able to use

from a house which still retained power, as well as Internet service.

One man who was working with SOIL, a Haitian native from Port-au-Prince, tried desperately to reach his relatives, as well as an orphanage in Port-au-Prince which he ran.

"He was using my Skype, trying to call relatives and trying to get a hold of people. The hardest thing for me was to see him go through that," Warmenhoven said.

"He knew his family was OK, but he was hearing from friends that their children had died," she added.

According to Marcklinger, the program hosted by SOIL tried to maintain its normal schedule, but was stopped due to liability concerns expressed by UM. This led to FIU and UM coordinating

with an airline called Caribbean Express, in order to fly their students out of there.

On the drive to the airport, Marcklinger recalled the somber experience.

"Driving to the airport being six white folks in a pickup truck when you know that everyone around is in dire straits because they don't know whether or not their families are alright; and you are able to leave just because you are the Americans. You feel like you're abandoning the people whom you're there to help," he said.

There are still SOIL members in Haiti hard at work with relief efforts. In an e-mail that Warmenhoven received, SOIL co-Founder Sasha Kramer described the scene heading into Port-au-Prince.

Initially, as she drove into the city past the airport, it looked like about one in five houses had sustained damage and perhaps one in 20 had completely collapsed. However, the further they got into the city, the more severe the damage appeared; Kramer estimated that perhaps one in five buildings completely collapsed.

"I have never seen anything like this; honestly it is hard to even feel. People have not even begun to mourn as everyone is still in a state of crisis," Kramer wrote.

Students react negatively to technology fee

TECH FEE, page 2

said.

Other initiatives are easier to implement, such as extending computing lab hours or providing a technical walk-in support location in the Green Library, which are already available to students, according to Cabrera.

The third type of initiative, those that require more planning and more time will have special attention dedicated to them from committees within the IT division. For example, the expansion of the wireless network or providing all students with virtual labs.

The proposals are meant to adhere to the University's basic goals, such as enhancing the quality of students' learning experience through the use of technology, raising students' technology competency and promoting the integration of technology into the University's curriculum, according to the technology fee bylaws.

The proposals that best met the goals were graded

on a 100-point scale using the criteria given in the bylaws.

A few students also reacted to the implementation of the new technology fee and the initiatives the profits will be used for.

One student, Anthony Diaz, believed that his tuition money could be better spent in other areas.

"I believe that my money should be going toward more class offerings, smaller classes, etc.," Diaz said, a senior majoring in business. "It is fine that they want to use our money toward more technology, but calling it a fee isn't a great idea."

Amanda Chen, a junior majoring in social work, also had a comment on the technology fee.

"I don't think extended computer lab hours and free anti-virus software should be the priority for the University at the moment," Chen said.

According to the bylaws, proposals are allowed to be submitted each Fall semester.

THE BEACON

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THE BEACON

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LIVING SINGLE

In some cases, not all good dates go according to plan

When it comes to dating, planning can be just as important as the date itself.

For men, you get a chance to make all the necessary arrangements to insure that the date runs smoothly, such as buying flowers and making dinner reservations.

For women, you get a chance to pick out the right outfit and get all dolled up so that when you open the door, you get to hear those four words every woman loves to hear: “Wow, you look stunning!”

But what if you didn’t get a chance to plan ahead? Can an improvised date work? Last week, I shared one of my dating horror stories with you. This week, I’m going to share a story about a date that was unplanned, unexpected, but turned out to be exactly what I was looking for.

It was a Saturday afternoon. I was just getting off from work and was feeling blue. It had been almost a year since my boyfriend and I broke up. I didn’t want to go home to my apartment, so I decided to go to the beach instead. When I got there, the sun was setting and colors filled the sky. I pulled a beach chair up to the shoreline and stuck my feet in the warm sand. Sitting there with the wind blowing on my face, I began to feel much better. But when I looked off in the distance and saw a couple kissing, my sadness returned.

“Maybe I should try one of those dating Web sites,” I thought to myself. But then again, those people might be crazy. “Just forget about it,” I said, then leaned back and closed my eyes.

“Just forget about what?” I heard a nearby voice say.

I opened my eyes, and standing in the sunset was Mike, one of my old co-workers, fishing on the pier. I was on the beach ... alone.

“I’m here by myself too,” he said. “Do you want to go fishing with me?”

I had never been fishing before, but Mike was willing to teach me, or at least attempt to.

“Now you just wait until you feel something tug on your line.”

Just then, my arm jerked. “I got something!”

Mike stood behind me and held my arms, “Nice and easy, you don’t want to snap the pole.”

When we finally got the fish up to the pier, it was wiggling and going crazy. It jumped near my face and I screamed, throwing the fishing pole in the water.

Everybody at the pier started laughing, including Mike to my relief. Since I had thrown away the only pole we had, we decided to leave the pier.

We walked along the shoreline and continued to laugh.

“I’m really sorry about your fishing pole; let me buy you another one,” I said, shaking from the wind.

Mike stood in front of me and rubbed my arms.

“Now what kind of man would I be if I made you buy me another pole?”

“No, I insist,” I said, trying to sound sincere.

“Well if you insist on replacing my pole, then I insist on giving you a kiss.”

Before I could respond, he placed his lips on mine and gave me the softest kiss. I looked past him at the moon-lit sky and thought, “Man, I love the beach.”

We went out to eat and had a wonderful evening – and it wasn’t even planned.

But unplanned dates and instant romance: that’s all a part of living the single life.

If you have any dating stories you would like to share e-mail me at sabrena.johnson@fiusm.com.



SABRENA JOHNSON

SGC-BBC



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

Clerk of Council Mawou Francois, far left, and Executive Assistant Roxette Miranda, second from left, sit beside Christin “Cici” Battle, SGC-BBC vice president, and Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president during a meeting held on Jan. 20.

Council fulfills positions for executive assistant, clerk of council

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The vacant positions of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus have now been filled by Mawou Francois for clerk of council and Roxette Miranda for executive assistant.

The clerk of council is in charge of keeping meeting minutes, taking note of when members arrive, and keeping track of what is discussed. The executive assistant is responsible for minding the president and vice president’s schedules, most notably helping to avoid overlaps in commitments.

During the senate’s deliberation at SGC-BBC’s meeting on Jan. 20, Senator-at-Large Josh Numa vouched for Francois, saying that he has worked with the senior accounting major and knows him personally enough to know he is a fit candidate. However, there was a difference in opinion about Miranda, a sophomore political science major.

“It seemed as if [Miranda] wasn’t all that interested in joining SGC; it seemed like she was more interested in joining Student Health Advisory Council,” said Gregory Jean-Baptiste, SGC-BBC’s

Arts and Sciences representative.

During the meeting, Miranda mentioned several times that she wanted to be a part of SHAC, a committee that promotes health and wellness. She said she wanted to join SHAC because she wants to help students “who have drug issues and who aren’t informed about the benefits of Planned Parenthood.”

On Jan. 22, Miranda told *The Beacon* she “kind of agreed with [Jean-Baptiste]” but said SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein put her in SGC for a reason.

Miranda believes that gaining Neistein’s approval for the position was a “win-win situation” because she is able to voice her concerns about health issues on campus and be a part of SGC-BBC.

“I’d prefer the position of executive assistant because I can make changes in the student body and I want leadership skills,” Miranda said.

Francois says he has never second-guessed being a part of the SGC-BBC family and mentioned he was a part of the student government at Miami-Dade College, but “the student government there didn’t really have a voice.”

“I’ve always been involved in the

student government association since high school, but when I came to FIU, SGC seemed to be more visible and it clicked to join them,” Francois said.

Francois is already working to implement ways to promote school spirit, inform students about SGC and educate the student body in general.

“During the first week of school, school spirit is high, then after that, it’s just ‘blah.’ I want to fill that void,” Francois said.

Francois said he wants to set up a financial aid orientation to help students fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid. He figures this way students will come together, get educated and get to see what SGC is about.

Francois believes being a part of SGC builds character. He started out as an intern for SGC and recalled going on a trip to Fort Myers to rally sponsors for a toy drive for orphaned kids, and a time when the group did a betterment exercise where members had to critique the flaws they saw in each other.

“[SGC] has a lot of strong-minded people. The internship helped me learn how to work in teams,” Francois said.

SPC to host celebration of world cultures

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

With FIU being a campus that prides itself on diversity, it would only make sense that it would strive to expose its students to a variety of cultures.

On Jan. 26 through 28, the Student Programming Council at BBC is hosting the One World Celebration, taking place in Panther Square from 12 to 2 p.m. each day. The purpose of the event is “to expose the students to a different part of the world. It will be like living a day in the life of that country,” according to Alia Silvera, a senior business administration major and SPC-BBC treasurer.

“I decided to focus on countries that

people normally don’t pay attention to,” said Demi Marroquin, a freshman and the One World Celebration chair.

On Jan. 26, India will be the featured country. Activities include a complimentary lunch including curried chicken and couscous and a henna tattoo artist serving those interested.

On Jan. 27, students will be exposed to the culture of Greece. For lunch, students will be able to make their own gyros. Afterwards, they may engage in an astrological reading or participate in the mini-Olympics, thus having a chance to win Miami Heat game tickets.

On Jan. 28, the Caribbean will be the main focus. As students enjoy a dish of jerk chicken with rice and peas, they

may enjoy the sounds of a steel drum band. Furthermore, students can make their own masks and island jewelry.

Also Jan. 28 is the Stand Up for Diversity Comedy Show taking place at the WUC Theatre at 8 p.m. The show will feature comedians Rob Stapelton, Hasan Minhaj and Erin Jackson. Andre Dawson, the head of Special Events is confident that “the comedians will bring diverse experiences” to life through their performances. Admission for students is free, but general admission will cost \$5.

Starting tomorrow, be sure to have your passport ready.

For more information, call 305-919-5280 or visit <http://www.facebook.com/fiuspcbbc>.

SPRING

ARTS PREVIEW

2010



THEATER DEPARTMENT

Spring dramas relate to modern day issues

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

For the Spring 2010 semester, FIU Theatre has two dramas and a student-produced play festival ready to hit the stage.

The semester kicks off with *Lie of the Mind*, a drama set in the rough American West.

The play – written by film and stage actor, Sam Shepard, and directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Wayne Robinson Jr. – tells the story of two American families bound by marriage but torn

apart by violence.

The play centers on Jake and Beth and the action spirals when Beth suffers from brain damage at the hands of her husband. The story unfolds as Jake and the rest of the characters try to find the meaning of life after the tragedy of Beth's hospitalization.

"We chose *Lie of the Mind* because its author, Sam Shepard, is one of the most important American playwrights of our time," Robinson said.

The play was also chosen because of the immense acting and design opportunities it provided for theatre students.

Robinson said audiences will be able to relate to the family theme of the show because everyone has a family and none are perfect.

"This is the story of two American families who are brought together to work out their problems," he said.

Even though a violent act brings them together, Robinson said there is no difference between the families on stage and those at home. The only difference is that Beth, Jake and company are "just a bit more theatrical."

THEATER, page 6



Women's Work / Men's Work: Labor and Gender in America is the first exhibition in the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at The Frost Art Museum

Returning events join new galleries, exhibits at University museums

ASHLYN TOLEDO
Life! Editor

The Frost and Wolfsonian Museums have strived to enrich the experience of University students and art enthusiasts alike with a broad range of exhibitions and talent.

This semester, the two are working more closely than ever before, introducing the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at the Frost which will feature faculty and student-proposed exhibits intended to facilitate research and learning.

The first exhibit featured in the new gallery, *Women's Work/Men's Work: Labor and Gender in America*, opened on Jan. 25 and will run until April 25. This first exhibit in the teaching gallery is organized by Professor Alex Lichenstein. Lichenstein, who teaches history at the University, will use this exhibit in conjunction with a course this semester which focuses on 20th century labor history.

The Fantastic World of José Gurvich also opened on Jan. 20 at the Frost and will run through April 11. The exhibit features the work of Uruguayan artist, José Gurvich, who was influenced by real-life experiences around the world. Gurvich attempted to capture a truer, more spiritual reality in his paintings by blending the fantastic with the everyday.

Also currently on display at the Frost is a video collection by Colombian performance artist Maria Teresa Hincapié. The exhibition is being curated by Francine Birbragher and will run through May 16.

On Feb. 19, the Frost will feature an exhibit focusing on Asian art called *Taiwan Discovered*. This will mark the first exhibit at the Frost curated in-house.

The exhibit will feature the works of Taiwanese contemporary artists who blend various influences and mediums while exploring new, unique approaches to their art.

In addition to the multiple exhibitions at the Frost, *The Green Critics' Lecture Series* will continue in the spring with a lecture by Olga Viso on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Frost Art Museum.

Viso has worked as a curator, scholar and

administrator at the Smithsonian Institute and helped bring a shift to its Hirshhorn Museum to a stronger focus on contemporary art. She has also helped organize exhibitions for many prominent artists such as Juan Muñoz and Robert Gober.

This semester, the Frost will continue Target Wednesday After Hours with two scheduled events on Feb. 10 and March 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The first event, *Artworks!*, will feature an exhibition devoted to art therapy that will show case the work of students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools who participate in an art therapy program, as well as art by cancer patients participating in the Arts in Medicine Program by the Children's Cancer Fund.

On March 24, the annual FIU MFA exhibition reception will be held in conjunction with the Honor's College's annual student-curated exhibition. During the reception, the Betty Laird Purchase Award will be given to one of the graduating students.

The event will include guided tours, refreshments and a musical performance by Honors College students.

The Wolfsonian-FIU, located in South Beach on Washington Ave., is also part of FIU.

On Jan. 29, they are having a two-hour Deco & Design tour, which starts as a walk through the Art Deco District and moves inside to collections in the Wolfsonian.

The Florida Grand Opera Young Artist Studio is also performing, "An Evening of British Song" Jan. 28, where they will play music by British composers of the early 20th century.

Feb. 25 there will be a film at the Wolfsonian titled, *My Son the Fanatic* about the relationship between an immigrant father and son and different views of modern British identity.

All events and exhibits at both museums are always free to FIU students. For more information regarding the museums and exhibits, visit their Web sites, thefrost.fiu.edu and wolfsonian.org.

Additional reporting by Amanda Batchelor



Students in the symphony orchestra rehearse pieces for an upcoming concert this February. The orchestra is directed by Professor Huifang Chen.

All-around musician will head flute choir while pursuing master's

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Staff Writer

You may have run into the School of Music's principle clarinetist, Joseph Saenz, at the atrium in the Graham Center where he works at Einstein Bagels.

Saenz is a senior in his sixth year at the University where he's majoring in instrumental performance.

He is at the top of the flute studio in both age and performance, which means an exhibition devoted to art therapy that will show case the work of students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools who participate in an art therapy program, as well as art by cancer patients participating in the Arts in Medicine Program by the Children's Cancer Fund.

"I'm very excited for this semester because we have an amazing director," Saenz said. "I'm mostly looking forward to the end of the year Wind Ensemble

because it's just the woodwind instruments playing whereas, in the other concerts throughout the semester, there will be other sections of the orchestra playing."

Some of the organizations Saenz is dedicated to are the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band fraternity, the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity, Golden Panther Marching Band and FIU's Court-side Players, who perform at basketball, tennis, volleyball and soccer games. He has participated in many gigs with the flute choir, some of which are paid, such as an upcoming wedding gig they have in February.

However, the flute isn't the only instrument Saenz plays. He plays all the woodwind instruments and percussion proficiently and also sings soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and some bass. He will be performing with Kappa Kappa Psi at the March for Babies walk coming up in Crandon Park.

Besides being involved with his own music, Saenz enjoys watching other musical performances such as opera and ballet. He said he never watches any of the theater performances unless they have music in them.

Saenz's plans for the future include continuing his education by getting a master's in instrumental performance or music education, and performing and

Wind concert piece commemorates fallen flutist

MARIA MURRELL
Contributing Writer

This Spring, the University will be overflowing with events, activities and candor from all areas and departments, and the FIU School of Music is no exception.

Presenting a well-varied and consistent array of concerts and recitals, FIU music students embarked on their semester-long performance journey on Jan. 14.

Presentations will continue to roll throughout every month of the semester, February being the most heavily-scheduled.

As for January, most of the shows have passed. However, on Jan. 31 there will be an organ concert that, according to music education intern and FIU graduate Matthew Murrell, will be well worth the price.

"We have a beautiful organ that was donated to the School by Wertheim himself, and I would definitely go see the concert," he said.

Flutist Jonathan Parker expressed particular excitement about the first upcoming Wind Ensemble concert on Feb. 27.

"Of course I'm excited," said Parker, a junior music education and instrumental performance major. "[The concert] has a unique repertoire and plenty of good players."

Catherine Rand, director of bands, showed equal enthusiasm about the act.

She noted that the Feb. 27 concert will be the first time at FIU where "whirlies" will be used in a production.

"It's this big tube [you] swing around your head," Rand explained, citing the horn-like sound produced from the whirlies.

This particular concert will feature a piece titled *Angels in the Architecture* about the Sydney Opera House which, according to Rand, "is like Heaven [when you walk in]."

Rand's heart, however, goes to an earlier event.

The FIU Chamber Winds Concert on Feb. 6 is shaping up to be both an ominous and sentimental affair.

It features David Maslanka's "Songbook," – what is to Rand an "amazing piece of music" that was composed specifically for flutist Christine Neild. A flute solo, "Songbook" encompasses movements that relate in surprising ways to Neild's musical trajectory, who passed away of breast cancer a year after her second live performance of the song.

With a movement titled "In Loving Memory," it's almost inconceivable that Neild's life would take such turns, let alone that they would be implemented in a piece composed particularly for her to play.

Rand's anticipation at having this piece performed stems from various nooks of reason, one of them being that she witnessed its last live performance by Neild.

"[It's a] peaceful piece, and it reminds me of the woman who

played it because it emulates the kind of person that she was."

Rand also mentioned that the Chamber Winds Band would be incorporating a work by Mozart. She labeled it a traditional cornerstone for wind band.

"It's one of the pinnacle starts of chamber music for wind band."

According to Murrell, the School of Music hopes to grow more popular among FIU students in order to better showcase the talent in residence.

"Not enough people come see the shows, but the College of Architecture and the Arts has been doing a better job of advertising so I do think attendance will get better," Murrell said.

For a schedule of all the performances from the School of Music, visit <http://music.fiu.edu> or stop by the Wertheim Performing Arts Center in Modesto Maidique Campus.

All concerts are free for students, unless otherwise indicated.



Joseph Saenz (left) and fellow flutists perform during his Senior Recital last semester.

THEATER

Playwrights Festival highlights student-written performances

THEATER, page 5

It's not all sadness for *Lie of the Mind*. Robinson said there are funny moments in the play and a live band has been incorporated into the show.

The play makes its FIU debut Jan. 28 with performances until Jan. 31, and runs again Feb. 11-14 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center in the Modesto Maidique Campus. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8 p.m. and Sundays are matinee only at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for students, alumni and seniors.

The next big production is *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov.

The play deals with a Russian family losing their home and beloved cherry orchard and the grief of something not physically but emotionally valuable being ripped from a family's life.

The period piece was a way to offer both the students of the theater school and audiences "a heavily classical production," said Philip Church, professor at the School of Theatre and director of *The Cherry Orchard*.

The play takes place at the turn of the 20th century, but its theme of economic crisis is pertinent in today's society.

"The play deals with the incalculable value of place and space with regards to personal history and memory. The market today appears to be all about banks and investment. We don't sense any of these properties carry a history that makes the sale of such spaces and places imaginable," Church said.

The play will run from March 4-7 and 11-14 at the WPAC at MMC. *The Cherry Orchard* will follow the same weekend performance schedule as *Lie of the Mind*.

Closing out the season is the 2010 FIU Playwrights Festival.

Under the direction of Professor Michael Yawney, students will act and direct in a series of 10-minute plays written exclusively by students.

The plays do not only come from theatre students, all submissions are welcome.

"Anyone can submit a play – in fact, over the last three years of the festival, plays written by students from outside the theater department have figured prominently," Yawney said.

The 2010 FIU Playwrights Festival will celebrate its third year with performances on April 16 and 17 in DM 150.

Tons of unrecognized hard work goes into putting on productions each season.

"Creating and coordinating all the elements of a

live theatre show is very time consuming and complicated – all to make it look simple," Robinson said.

The selections are decided by a committee comprised of theater faculty and student representatives and are not chosen based on commercial appeal, but rather on the needs of what the committee feels students need next in their theatre experience.

Church said productions are chosen to meet the needs of diversity and "so no two years start to seem identical in theme or periods."

Instead of pleasing the masses, Church said the committee tries to find a balance within their season.



Chelsea Duran and Dixon Gutierrez rehearse for *Lie of the Mind* premiere on Jan. 28.

This means less mainstream musicals – consummate crowd pleasers.

"To deny students a chance to work on esoteric play-wrights is robbing them of an exploration of theater other than the popular forms of theater. So, we probably risk box office attrition but the credibility of the training program must come first," he said.

EXPLODING HEAD

Airhorn sound in dubstep proves hard to probe into

So for the past month and a half, I've been trying to scratch dubstep's surface, trying to find as many artists and labels to play on the radio so that I could one day, in the near future, start a dubstep/grime show on Radiate FM.

Dubstep, a genre assembled in the heart of London, mixes aspects of jungle, drum & bass, reggae/dub and house music. Add a little bit of bass to establish the foundational rhythm and you've got dubstep.

I've been rummaging through dubstep blogs and labels' archives, trying to dig my way into this odd, intriguing London culture. Through my research, I came across Zomby's *Where Were You in '92* and, while listening to the record, I was reintroduced to the repetitive airhorn sound effect. Most of Zomby's songs contain the airhorn but *Where Were You in '92*, in particular, goes excess on it. On purpose, though, because the album acts as a retrospective jungle throwback record.

It's the same damn sound effect played in almost every dubstep, dancehall and reggaeton song. It's the same sound effect you've been wondering about since you first heard it on that Nina Sky or Sean Paul song. I've always wondered why this sound effect, of all sound effects, is used so heavily in these songs. Why these songs? Why not indie-rock songs or electro?

Is it a big, raucous behemoth of a sound that acts as some form of a global beacon for music that isn't from America? Most of the songs that supply the horn are by artists from South America, the Caribbean or across the pond starting in Africa and ending somewhere in Brighton. Is it simply just a cool sound used because it adds complexity to the song? I've heard a lot of dubstep songs use the horn sample excessively, possibly to safeguard the track from mediocrity. Well, I'm shoeing in on my former hypothesis.

I also found it singular and weird that I'd spend an entire article writing about a horn, or that I'd spend more than one article traveling around the Internet and making a

couple of phone calls finding an answer to my question. So this article will definitely be continued into a series of articles branching different explanations for the sound and, possibly, analyzing the genres in which the sound is employed.

I've been losing my mind, Pixies-style, trying to understand it, and I feel as if I'd be providing good service to the concerned reader/music aficionado if I was to tell them what the horn was used for and not just settle for the horn being used by producers for funksies

sake. If you're as obsessive as I am about these little quirks, then hopefully you'd appreciate my trek to make sense out of this damn horn.

Just from simplistic Web research and DJ forum-browsing, there are different handles for this dancehall SOS. Some DJs refer to it as the Dub Siren, though this name is a little deceiving. The Dub Siren is actually a synth/effects pedal used for clubs and parties to modify different preset sounds. It's used mainly for effect and DJs adjust it through a pitch nob. Most of the sounds you'll hear are familiar since they have the same cultural resonance as the airhorn sample.

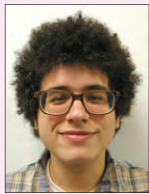
You can purchase one on eBay for cheap, as far as equipment goes. The seller, circuit-bender, included the product was good for raves, but apparently nobody told them that the "rave" died in the mid-90s.

Though, with ever-evolving technology and the portability of autotune, a DJ can just download a Dub Siren on the iPhone app store and form a rave wherever they go. Basically, the physical Dub Siren effect/synth pedal is obsolete these days and can only serve the purpose of being an obscure novelty.

But the airhorn is definitely not called a Dub Siren. So, I will consider that statement **DEBUNKED!**

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music. Look for it every Monday.

COLUMNIST



RYAN MOREJON

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APPLY IN GC 210 and WUC 124

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, JAN. 25

YOGARDEN



Come join the Yoga Club and de-stress.

WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Garden (between Baseball Stadium and nature preserve)

U.S. - China Relations in the Year of the Tiger

Lecture series hosted by Sigma Iota Rho.
WHEN: 2 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

YOGA IN THE PARK

WHEN: 6 - 7:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Tina Hills Pavilion Bayfront Park

Preksha Meditation Club

Weekly meditation.
WHEN: 4 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314/305

ROBERT FARBER



Photographer Lecture.
WHEN: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

TANGO NIGHT



Tango lessons.
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Tapas & Tintos 448 Española Way Miami Beach
For more info, call 305-538-8272.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

FOOD LECTURE



Gary Yourofsky will speak on Food Connections to Social Issues. Vegan potluck to follow.

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130
For more info call 786-683-1905.

SPC PIT EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

LECTURE/CONFERENCE

Visiting scholar Dr. Michaela Moura-Kocoglu discusses Indigenous Women's Studies and Feminist Theory.
WHEN: 2 - 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 100A

The Zoological Society at FIU

First general meeting.
WHEN: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

REAL ESTATE CAREERS



uCREW discusses careers in real estate.
WHEN: 6 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: CBC 232

NOCHE ARGENTINA



Live bands - Rock en español. No cover charge.
WHEN: 10 p.m. - 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Chocolate's Place 754 Washington Ave

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Fresh, local, organic produce.
WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Central Fountain (between GC and PC)

Need Money? There's an app for that!

Financial aid presentation.
WHEN: 12:30 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

FAITH JAM

Hosted by Catholic Student Union.
WHEN: 1 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 2215

CATHOLIC MASS

WHEN: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

Yoga at the Farmers Market

Relax and de-stress!
WHEN: 1 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Between GL and Central Fountain (along red wall)

LUNCH AND A MOVIE



"Le Chiavi di Casa." Hosted by the Italian Club.
WHEN: 1 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

FREE WEDNESDAYS

Enjoy free admission at the Coral Springs Museum of Art.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 2855 Coral Springs Drive (954) 340-5000 www.csmart.org

THURSDAY, JAN. 28

BLOOD DRIVE



WHEN: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
WHERE: Panther Hall Residence Hall
For info, contact Brittany Bartlett-Pina: 617-697-2814

Study Abroad Club at FIU

First meeting ever! Positions available.
WHEN: 4 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: PC 113

SPC COMEDY SHOW



Eric O'Shea performs.
WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

Building an Undergraduate Career

Presentation on how to build CV.
WHEN: 5 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MARC Pavillion

GREEN WATER TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION



Learn about drinking the right water for your health.
WHEN: 7 - 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Water Truth 309 W. 23rd St.
RSVP: watersofhealth@gmail.com www.watersofhealth.com

LADIES NIGHT AT PURDY LOUNGE

Ladies drink free.
WHEN: 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Purdy Lounge 1811 Purdy Ave. www.purdylounge.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Initiative to ban smoking on University grounds flawed and unenforceable

Recently the University Health Task force claimed a huge victory in "banning" smoking on campus, and came one step closer to eliminating the use of all tobacco products on University grounds.

The measure to ban smoking has been approved by various sectors of the University including the operations committee all the way up to President Mark Rosenberg, and is expected to be implemented this summer.

While there is no argument about the overwhelmingly negative effects of first and second-hand cigarette smoke, The Beacon maintains the position that an outright ban infringes on an individual's rights and disregards the adequate measures currently in place.

As mandated by the State of Florida, smokers are required to stay at least 20 feet away from public buildings while they smoke, where second-hand smoke poses little to no danger. In our opinion, this restriction suffices.

The fact that this measure was passed without the consultation of students, faculty or staff is also troubling, as those are the most affected parties. The move seems geared merely to garner publicity for the University, as other notable institutions such as the University of Florida and the University of Miami have recently banned tobacco products.

But even those institutions made an effort to gauge the community's interest in the matter; the University of Florida went as far as to survey students before making a decision. No such measure were taken by the administration.

The Beacon can only credit the Student Government Association in surveying students, as they held Town Hall forums where most students voiced their opposition to the measure. Citing student opinion, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate voted in favor of a resolution supporting the enforcement of the current state smoking policy, rather than an outright ban.

The issue is not how bad cigarettes are for you, it is what authority, if any, the University has in telling people how to lead their lives.

Though the University is pushing this measure forward with the best intentions, *The Beacon* questions the methods in which this ban may or may not be enforced. "Social enforcement," as it is called, is a vague and undefined term that will no doubt serve to confuse and possibly create hostility.

Some may interpret "social enforcement" as a mandate to take a harsh and less sensitive approach to asking their peers to put out the cigarette.

In the best case scenario, everyone will just be polite in their efforts to get others to curb their habit. But politeness aside, people's smoking habits are just nobody's business if they are a safe distance away from buildings in designated smoking areas.

The only way for social enforcement can work is by having a majority behind the cause. In this case their may or may not be a majority, but we would never know it, because nobody was asked.

If there is to be a non-smoking movement within the University, it should be an educational movement among the student body. Posters and assemblies among other events can be arranged to carry the message, which is certainly valid in the eyes of *The Beacon* Editorial Board.

It would allow for freedom of expression among non-smokers without imposing their will on smokers.

FIU's Pepsi decision highly unfair

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

During winter break, I found myself on campus, attending to business inside the University. As I walked toward the vending machines on the second floor of Graham Center to get a Coke, I saw two large men unloading the machine.

These two men informed me that a new age had come to FIU: the Pepsi era.

It is worth noting that I personally dislike Pepsi - always have and always will. It's a matter of taste, and to me, the Pepsi corporation produces a product that is far too sweet.

But nobody asked me for my opinion. Did anybody ask you? Probably not. There wasn't much consultation to the student body.

The Beacon reported on Jan. 11 that Pepsi was the new beverage provider for the University. So long to Coke and its extended family, which had been under contract for seven years.

This new deal will bring \$8 million to the University and will last for five years. Pepsi is providing new vending machines that are efficient in their energy consumption and they're providing specially branded bottles and cans with the foot-

ball team's schedule on it. Certainly, the presence of Pepsi on campus has been more pronounced than Coke's ever was.

Walking down to Pollo Tropical on the first day of this semester, I found the entire crew in Pepsi garb. Out of instinct, I ordered a Coke.

"What's that?" the cashier asked.

"I said I want a Coke."

"You mean a Pepsi," the cashier said.

"I know sometimes the thought is 'oh it's about the money' but it's really not. If anything I would say it's about the service," said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president for business services.

Krablin oversaw the bidding process and helped negotiate the contract.

"Certainly dollars have a part but it was really the other services that swayed us to Pepsi's side," he said.

A valid point. It seems like great business. But the manner in which this was decided is highly problematic.

The committee which negotiated the contract with Pepsi included Krablin, a faculty member, an administrator, a student and a staff member from Athletics, according to the article.

One student? Is that the best the University could do?

Were there any town hall meetings,

such as the ones held for the initiative to ban smoking on campus? Was there any vote or any advertised way for the student body to ultimately contribute to the conversation?

It does not seem so. And naturally, those who'll be consuming these products are a large number of students. Over 39,000 students to be precise. I don't believe I need to emphasize that point.

One student will also work as a liaison between FIU and Pepsi to help contribute to marketing and voice student concerns about the product.

One student's word for 39,000 does not make sense.

The logical solution to get student turnout would have been a town hall meeting for students.

The meeting could have been sponsored by student government. Students and faculty should have been able to express their opinions along with a possible vote among those attending to preferences between the Coke and Pepsi brands, considering that both brands are the largest in the world.

A decision was made for us that we now have to deal with, however, and a matter of business superseded a matter of consultation.

Controversy on declassifying papers

President Obama's newly passed plan is a step in the right direction

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

The Obama administration has been no stranger to controversy, especially when it comes to issues concerning federal overreach.

Amid bank bailouts and health care reform, public debate has raged on between Americans that feel government is getting far too large and those that believe it is acting within its mandate.

In the midst of the battle over health care reform, Obama ordered the declassification of millions of pages of secret documents spanning several decades through the Cold War and its aftermath. It is easily one of the shining moments in his administration.

On Dec. 29, 2009, President Obama signed an executive order to establish the National Declassification Center, to sift through and publicize millions of pages of documents, mostly those backlogged since the Cold War.

Obama began his term with a declared commitment to a more open government. On his first day as president, he directed federal agencies to be more receptive to requests for classified documents, as codified under the Freedom of Information Act.

In a greater show of force, Obama also reversed an order by George W. Bush, whereby former presidents and vice presidents would've been allowed to block the declassification of any documents pertaining to their time in office. The NDC is the next logical step in this movement.

Furthermore, the NDC would centralize the process and have all agencies look through the same documents at the same time; this would break from the status quo in which each federal agency has its own guidelines and procedures for declassification.

Such an action is intended to speed up the process that can often take years, as well as encourage inter-agency cooperation.

The plan would also require all agencies to review and update their various classification manuals, which determine what is suited for declassification and what isn't.

The timing of the executive order was vital: Dec. 31, 2009 being the deadline for the instant declassification of at least 400 million pages of secret documents.

If Obama had not taken action by that date, millions of documents would have been automatically declassified, with the possibility of many not yet being screened for sensitive information.

There are 2,000 guidelines in total, two-thirds of which are in need of updating.

These revisions would help bring all agencies up to speed with the Freedom of Information Act (signed into law in 1966), technically making declassification easier.

In these thrifty times, it could save money with the convoluted process for protecting information costing taxpayers almost \$9 billion last year (versus \$42 million to declassify). But issues are still sure to abound.

Many liberals feel Obama's order doesn't go far enough, believing that he should order a "mass" declassification rather than extend the due date. Others may consider this initiative as yet another example of government overreach with the administration forcing dozens of agencies to declassify on its own terms, rather than theirs.

And still others may criticize what they believe is an eventual weakening of America's national defense as the order's reforms could set a precedent that will make future sensitive documents harder to keep secret.

Whatever its perceived flaws, Obama's plan would still be a step in the right direction. Given the current political environment, an attempt at transparency - both retrospective and for the future - is certainly needed.

Though the Cold War has long been over, a lot can be gleaned from the millions of pages worth of intelligence reports and operations. Think of what we can learn from documents regarding Vietnam or other Cold War-era interventions pertinent today.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

WINNER/LOSER



"Markus," a gigolo in Nevada, has become the first legal male gigolo in the state. He is working for the Shady Lady Ranch currently, and reports from the Associated Press claim that his itinerary is filled throughout the next week. Hooray for gender equality.



Lynn Middlebrooks Geter of Warm Springs, GA wins the worlds worst mother award. Mrs. Geter is accused of forcing her son to kill his pet hamster as punishment for the child's bad grades. Remember when they used to just take your Xbox away?

QUOTATIONATION

"The relevant judicial authorities have decided this case, and we should say this person, according to Chinese law, is where he should be."

Ma Zhaoxu, Chinese Foreign Minister on disappearance of human rights lawyer

TENNIS

FIU opens season in dominant fashion

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

After a 19-6 season in 2009, the No. 32 ranked FIU tennis team handled Florida Atlantic in its first match of the season on Jan. 21.

Then, playing with heavy hearts on Jan. 23, they took down Troy while sporting purple shirts in remembrance of assistant coach Karie Schlukibir Pennock, who recently lost a battle with cancer.

"It's been an emotionally tough week for these girls and myself," said head coach Melissa Applebaum. "If we can do it for her this season and that's a little bit more motivation, then why not?"

The motivation, apparently, is working.

After defeating Florida Atlantic on Jan. 21, 7-0, the Golden Panthers took care of Troy decisively.

The Golden Panthers swept all three doubles matches against Troy to take the doubles point, giving FIU a 1-0 advantage going into singles competition.

In singles play, Liset Brito, Chrissie Serendi, Priscilla Castillo and Maria Vallasciani all won their matches.

Castillo has been a dominant presence through the season's first two matches, defeating

FAU's Cassie Bergeson 6-0 and 7-5 and Troy's Emma Smith 6-3 and 6-1.

"They're going to make some good plays once in a while, but if we continue to fight then we just breeze through," Castillo said.

The Golden Panthers have won 16 of their last 17 games dating back to last season, their aim being to continue that success on a nine game road trip spanning through Feb. 29.

Applebaum credits the victories to the mental preparedness of her team.

"We just take it one weekend at a time and get the girls back for academics. Consistency is key to success," she said. "When you can go in, even if your game is not on, if you're mentally prepared I think that helps."

The Golden Panthers are booked next weekend, with three matches against Southern Methodist, Virginia Commonwealth, and another team to be announced.

They will not, however be wearing their purple tees in the coming matches.

"Unfortunately we're not allowed to, but we'll be wearing them proud around campus and when we travel. We did get some pretty cute [uniforms] for the season, so we've got to make use



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

Junior Liset Brito helped the Golden Panthers sweep the weekend against Troy and Florida Atlantic.

of them," Applebaum said.

Despite having finished just one weekend of competition, the anticipation for the postseason has already begun.

Last year the Golden Panthers

reigned supreme in the Sun Belt Conference and they look to do the same this year.

"I want them competing at a high level, getting ready for April. Each match is one step closer,"

Applebaum said following the win against Troy.

The Golden Panthers will be competing in the ITA Team Indoor Championship qualifiers this coming weekend.

Season high scoring output lifts Golden Panthers to win

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just nine times.

"We definitely came out with more energy tonight than on Thursday," Otero said. "It just feels great."

UALR forward Alex Garcia-Mendoza was the high scorer for the Trojans with 20 points in the game.

Guard Ricky Davidson went 2-4 from beyond the arc. He leads the NCAA in three-point shooting with a .573 shooting percentage from downtown.

OTERO BACK

"I thought having [Otero] back for us really helped us win the game," Thomas said after the win over the Trojans.

Otero sprained his hamstring a week before the Arkansas State game on Jan. 21.

Otero played his best game of the season scoring, 19 points, 6 assists and 9 rebounds.

"Last game I thought if we would have had him we would have been able to make more

transition shots," Thomas said. "He helped us with his three-point shot, ball distribution and energy."

FIU 61, UALR 76

FIU struggled mightily from three-point range, shooting just 37 percent from beyond the arc, as they lost 61-76 to Arkansas State University (11-7, 6-1 Sun Belt) on Jan. 21.

We definitely came out with more energy tonight than on Thursday. It just feels great.

J.C. Otero, Forward
FIU Basketball

"Of course if we can't shoot the ball they are going to play zone," said point guard Phil Gary Jr. "And we just couldn't knock down shots."

GOING COLD

The previously red-hot Marvin Roberts went ice cold against the

Red Wolves, going 5-15 from the floor.

The Golden Panthers built a 5-point lead midway through the first half, before giving up a 17-4 run to end the half.

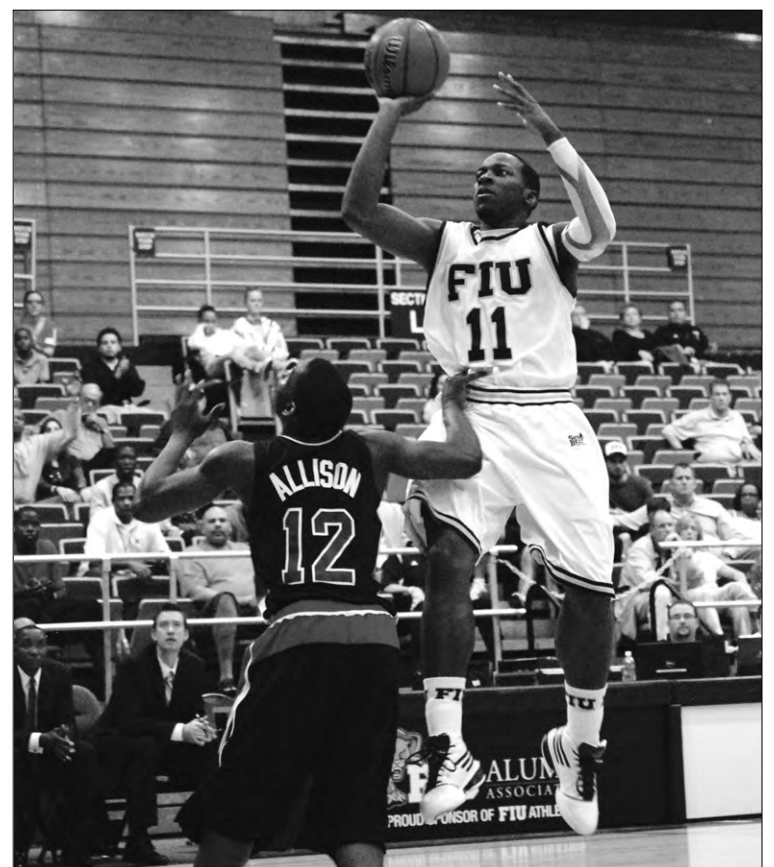
"They simply out-rebounded us," Thomas said. "Our missed shots simply killed us."

FIU won the turnover battle against the Red Wolves, but still were out-rebounded 47-35.

ASU also scored 10 second chance points.

Guard Brandon Reed led the way with 25 points and shot 11-20 from the field.

"We just lost our aggressiveness," Thomas said. "When we missed shots is when the aggressiveness hit."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Marvin Roberts scored 28 points, one of four FIU players who scored in double-digits, helping propel the Golden Panther offense over UALR.



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SWIMMING & DIVING

Unexpected visitor delays start prior to road loss

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

When the FIU swimming and diving team showed up in Ft. Myers for a meet against the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles, both squads were expecting an 11 a.m. starting time.

What they weren't expecting was an alligator taking a morning swim inside the FGCU swimming facility.

"It was very exciting, not the kind of story you can make up," said Coach Noemi Zaharia. "We had to wait until they caught and released it back in the swamp behind the pool before either team could warm up."

Once the match got under way, the Golden Panthers struggled and lost by a score of 194-94.

"It was a good preparation meet," said Zaharia. "It was a longer type of meet with different types of events for the girls to get used to."

Elly James came up with a first place finish for the Golden Panthers in the 400 yard IM and on the diving board, Namiko Shibata finished first in the one-meter springboard while Jamie Stinson had a second place finish. In the three-meter, Shibata came in second with Stinson coming in third.

"We had some good performances," Zaharia said. "But we had to deal with different things, like this flu going around. Now we have to focus on next week and the conference tournament coming up."

FIU finishes its regular season with a meet at home on Jan. 30 against St. Leos.

Golden Panthers look to get on right track against rival

WOMEN'S, page 12

can go into the tournament and win with the worst record," said Gonzalez. "Right now we're just trying to improve so we can be a better team when the tournament comes."

For Arkansas-Little Rock (15-5, 8-1 SBC), the victory continues a win streak

of what is now 10 games while FIU (8-13, 3-7 SBC) has now lost six of their last eight and will have FAU (9-10, 5-4 SBC) to deal with next.

"We have to win that game [against FAU]. I'm going to win that game," said the seemingly frustrated Gonzalez. "We're not going to let them do what they did last year. We're just going to work hard."



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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 96, UALR 81; ASU 76 FIU 61

OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION

Roberts drops 28 points in key win

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

With eight minutes remaining in the second half and FIU (7-16, 4-6 Sun Belt) up by one, Marvin Roberts brought some much needed energy to the Golden Panthers.

Roberts, who was celebrating his 22nd birthday, emphatically slammed home a dunk and gave the crowd of some 900 fans his signature salute.

Roberts sparked the Golden Panthers with his 28 points, and FIU out-scored the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (5-15, 1-8 Sun Belt) by 15 from that point on, as the Golden Panthers scored a season high in points in defeating the Trojans 96-81 on Jan. 23 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"I like the way we're playing," said head coach Isiah Thomas. "When I

first started talking to [the media] I said we would strive to get better."

FIU played one of its best games of the season, shooting 49 percent from the floor.

Four Golden Panthers scored in double figures, and the bench contributed 43 points in the win, J.C. Otero leading the way with 19 off the pine.

"The better they play offensively, the more confidence they have in their teammates," Thomas said. "When they're not playing well offensively, they become stingy and do not give the ball to each other."

The Golden Panthers surprisingly out scored the larger Trojans team in the paint, 32-26.

They also forced 13 turnovers while playing a very efficient offensive game, giving the ball away

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VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Phil Gary was one of four Golden Panthers to score in double figures, putting up 12 while leading the team in assists.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 44, UALR 52

Golden Panthers struggle to stop Reed; fall at home



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers struggled offensively, shooting just 38 percent from the field as they lost at home to UALR.

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Coming into Saturday night's game, FIU women's basketball coach Cindy Russo had to make the decision of who would defend one of the top scorers in the Sun Belt Conference, Chastity Reed.

Russo surprisingly called on freshman Finda Mansare, but nothing fazed Reed as she dropped a game-high 27 points and tallied nine rebounds to lead Arkansas-Little Rock over the Golden Panthers, 52-44, on Jan. 23 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

According to Gonzalez, Mansare, along with a 2-3-zone defense, seemed to be the best options to matchup against Reed.

"The reason [Finda started] was because in practice we tried a lot of different options to see who would guard [Reed] because she's a post player but she can also play outside," said Gonzalez. "Finda can do the same

thing so we thought that would be the best match. We decided to go in a zone [defense] so everybody could help with her. It worked sometimes but sometimes we just didn't do it the right way."

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, it mostly went the wrong way.

Center Maja Krajacic, who usually starts, played just six minutes off the bench and did not attempt a single field goal.

Meanwhile, forward Marquita Adley, who has played 359 minutes this season compared to Mansare's 68, also did not attempt a field goal and played just one minute.

Elisa Carey was the most productive player on a night FIU shot just 38.1 percent from the field.

The junior totaled 22 points and eight rebounds while also knocking down a career-high 10-of-11 shots from the free-throw line.

The Golden Panthers seemed to have a spark

early on as they jugged out to 4-0 lead after Carey and Mansare converted. However, consecutive jumpers by Kim Sitzmann and Reed enabled the Trojans to tie the game at 11 with 11:06 remaining in the first half.

Freshman Carmen Miloglav knocked down a jumper to give the lead back, 13-11, but Reed responded with a jumper at the 8:52 mark to tie the game and spark a 16-0 run for Arkansas-Little Rock.

"That's the best defensive team I have seen in the conference," said Gonzalez. "They're always in your face. They held, they recovered, so it was hard for us to score."

FIU was finally able to score again when Carey was fouled and sent to the free-throw line with 2:45 remaining in the first stanza.

The forward knocked down both shots to decrease the Trojans' lead to 12.

Gonzalez was then able to cut the Trojans lead to

eight with a three-pointer just before the buzzer to end the first half.

"I think in the first half we started well and communicated well but it dropped off for no reason," continued Gonzalez. "Sometimes things are going to get a little tough and you just have to get tougher with it."

The only scoring in the initial three minutes of the second half came from the charity stripe.

Asriel Rolfe was finally able to knock down the first field goal at the 16:56 mark, a three-pointer, to increase Arkansas-Little Rock's lead to 35-23.

The Trojans were then able to go up by as much as 16 points and maintained a double-digit lead until Mansare converted a layup with 18 seconds remaining, which was the final field goal of the game.

"We want to win more games but sometimes the record isn't everything. We

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