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The Beacon, January 29, 2010

Florida International University

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Fistfuls of Tech:
iPad just a larger iPod

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FIU gears up against FAU
for weekend doubleheader

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



The School of Hospitality Management is providing an upscale dining experience while teaching their students how to cut it in the restaurant business.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

The Council has decided to convert the former second-floor cafeteria space into a lounge for students and new space for the Women's Center.

OPINION PAGE 4

Manufacturer of rifle scopes decides to add bible inscriptions into their products. Anybody remember separation between church and state?

OPINION PAGE 4



Students and faculty question the validity of banning smoking on campus but ignore the real issue.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Lie of the mind: Theater school's first production of the semester starts Thursday.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Hands on Haiti: A new club is raising funds for Haiti and is looking to students for support.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Tennis will try to dominate once again as they travel to Gainesville to take on undefeated Southern Methodist.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday night movies, Jan. 29, 5 and 8 p.m. *V for Vendetta* will play. Free for students, GC 140.

Kayak Days on the Bay, Jan. 30, 10 a.m. Come kayak with community members on the last Saturday of every month. Meet at behind Aquatic Center at BBC.

Pro Bowl, Jan. 31, 8:30 p.m. NFL all-star game. Tickets vary from \$50-\$195. Sun Life Stadium, 2269 Dan Marino Blvd.

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

WEATHER



FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 69 HIGH: 77



SATURDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 63 HIGH: 81



SUNDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 63 HIGH: 72

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SPRING PRODUCTION KICK-OFF



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Senior Brian Espinoza and senior Chelsea Duran play "Jake" and "Lorraine" in *A Lie of the Mind*, the first Spring production of the Department of Theatre.

Ensemble features all-senior cast

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

One week before the curtains go up on the Department of Theatre's first Spring production, Sam Shephard's *A Lie of the Mind*, the stage is abuzz with preparations being made.

Racks full of costumes and props line the walls, while performers run through lines and the crew sets the blocking and scenery. After long hours of work, an assembly of cast and crew walk through the theater wing of the Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing

Arts Center as they reach a point for a break.

The cast has been on a fast-paced production schedule, with only three weeks to prepare rather than the usual six for previous performances.

This reduced window of time is due in large part to the Youth Fair takeover that dominates the theater school's side of Modesto Maidique Campus. Both Main Stage productions have to be done by March, shooting *Lie* straight into production at the start of 2010.

Professor Wayne Robinson, the play's director, said he did

not want to rush the actor's character development. He called on junior Lilly Paez, a theater student who was excelling in both her acting and directing classes, to help put the show together.

"We divided our rehearsals. She was able to work with actors while I worked with actors. We were sort of putting the show together – together," Robinson said of Paez's contributions.

With plenty of experience as a stage manager, Paez had already established a role as

THEATER, page 5

President addresses faculty at forum

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

President Mark Rosenberg hosted the first open forum at FIU on Jan. 26, in which faculty, staff and administration were able to attend and ask questions on anything regarding the University and its progress since the beginning of his tenure in 2009.

In an e-mail sent out to all members of the community, Rosenberg invited everyone to the event which took place in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Faculty and students who could not be present were given the opportunity to view the forum live through the Internet, which included those located at the Biscayne Bay Campus and Pines Center.

The questions presented to Rosenberg ranged from how the commute to the Engineering Campus could be made safer for students despite current construction hazards, to how the University's green initiatives might yield paperless evaluations.

"We are a public university and our mandate is to respond to public needs. Whether it's being more responsive to questions, finding ways to facilitate enrollment, listening to concerns about PantherSoft; we have an obligation as a public institution to be open

FORUM, page 2

Dance Marathon kicks off 13th annual event

GABRIEL ARRARAS
Asst. News Director

FIU students, faculty and friends will be putting on their dancing shoes for the 13th annual FIU Dance Marathon.

The dance marathon was first implemented in 1997 and has raised more than \$600,000 since, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

Last year, during FIU's Nintendo-themed dance marathon, students danced for 25 hours straight while

entertainment was provided by the Y-100 Street Team, DJ Cato-K and the Miami Heat dancers, among others.

To participate, dancers were asked to donate a minimum of \$150. According to the University, last year's dance marathon broke records when it raised \$137,000. The funds raised were used to help programs like Health on Wheels, the Heart Center, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit as well as other initiatives of Miami Children's Hospital.

DM, page 2

COLLEGE OF LAW

Law themed exhibit displayed at college

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

The "May it Please the Court" art exhibit by Xavier Cortada was unveiled on the second floor of the College of Law on Jan. 15 to the public and members of the faculty and staff. Cortada has a long-standing relationship with FIU and has artwork on display in the clinic on the first floor of the College of Law.

In addition, he has his work displayed at the Supreme Court of Florida, the White House, the World Bank and Miami City Hall to name a few, according to Cortada's Web site.

Cortada explained why he chose to display this particular art exhibit at the College of Law instead of contracting a loan with another venue.

"I wanted the future lawyers of

ART, page 2

Fair displays opportunities abroad

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

Students were treated to a trip around the world as they walked the main hall of the Graham Center Jan. 13.

The Office of Education Abroad held a study abroad fair to showcase study abroad programs for the summer 2010 semester. The fair was held between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The goal of the fair was to give students the opportunity to actually speak to faculty about their programs and how they could benefit them.

"This is an opportunity for students to enrich their academic career, go back to their roots or simply experience another culture," said Cheryl Johnson, program assistant for African and African diaspora studies.

"Our fair in the Fall is usually bigger but this one is going good," said Laura Marks, a senior majoring in Spanish and student assistant for the Office of Education Abroad.

Since there was not much advertisement for this fair many students were caught off guard when they walked into GC.

David J. Moscoso, a junior political science and economics major, did not know there was a fair until he walked into GC.

Moscoso has never studied abroad before but he went to the tables in order to see what information they could give him.

"Intercultural experiences broaden your perspectives," Moscoso said.

"Seems rather expensive but I am interested. There is no other way to learn a language," said senior and international relations major Carlos Rodriguez, while looking for the France table.

There were tables representing countries from the Czech Republic to Spain, with faculty and students waiting to answer questions.

Some tables did not have people occupying them, like the Japan and China tables; instead they had pamphlets along with the faculty member's contact information in case students were interested.

"Studying abroad is a great experience," said junior international relations major Christian Franco. Franco added that he has never studied abroad but would like to one

day, particularly Brazil because he "loves the culture and is fluent in Portuguese."

Professor Barbara Weitz, director of the film studies program and the Czech study abroad program, ran the table for the Czech Republic program. In her work with the study abroad program, Weitz said has taken over 1000 students to the Czech Republic.

Miriam Kashem and Rebecca Peterson, present at the table alongside Weitz to give students a first hand account of the benefits of studying abroad.

"Studying abroad teaches students that we are a part of something bigger, it gives us perspective," Kashem said.

"Studying in the Czech Republic allowed me to see more of the world,"

"The Czech Republic put me in touch with something greater, a sense of history and perspective that I would never have gotten elsewhere," Peterson said.

Students interested in studying abroad can contact the Office of Education Abroad at 305-348-1913 or visit educationabroad.fiu.edu.

Dance charity hopes to raise \$160,000

DM, page 1

Mari Campuzano, coordinator for the Center of Leadership & Service, told the University their goal for this year's dance marathon is to raise \$160,000.

"We already have more than 160 dancers and more than 20 teams registered, and we are hoping more people will join us," she said in a University press release.

Campuzano told the University that she believes this is a great opportunity to help children in medical need.

All students of the University can participate and are encouraged to bring friends and relatives for support.

This year's Dr. Seuss-themed dance marathon is scheduled to begin at noon Saturday, Jan. 30, in the Recreation Center of Modesto Maidique Campus.

Textbook prices, Pepsi discussed by Rosenberg

FORUM, page 1

and helpful to those who are already here," Rosenberg said.

University response to the earthquakes in Haiti were emphasized with Rosenberg informing the public that FIU has created a Haiti Relief task force, which will be lead by Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, vice president for Community and University Relations. The project, among the donations it will be collecting, is preparing to send medical assistance to the island when they see the time is right.

He pointed out the major initiatives that FIU has taken, such as holding a teach-in which brought together experts from the University to discuss the future of Haiti and a candlelight vigil organized by various campus organizations.

"We've brought together all of the critical stakeholders of this community to develop a coordinated and coherent response with the view toward understanding that it's not how you begin the race, it's how you end it," said Rosenberg. "As professor [Richard] Olsen said at the teach-in,

this is not a disaster, it is a catastrophe."

Touching upon a pressing subject for students throughout the beginning of the semester, the president addressed the high costs of class text books.

"On a semester by semester basis, our students are putting out on average from \$500 to \$800 for their textbooks," Rosenberg said.

He acknowledged the University bookstore is now offering a textbook rental program that offers around 50 titles to students. The pilot program is expected to expand throughout the years to include more books which the book buy-back program will begin to do as well. President Rosenberg urged the faculty to inform their students of the buy-back opportunity since, according to Rosenberg, only 40 percent of the textbooks that students purchase are being sold back to the bookstore.

"We're in a new era and we've got to be very proac-

tive in garnering out-of-the-box resources," said Albert Dotson, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "We're very lucky to have President Rosenberg, who understands that from a global perspective and is now taking us into a new area of a student-centered university that is sensitive to the needs of all South Florida populations."

Other new initiatives were stated, such as the recent contract agreement with the Pepsi Bottling Co.; a deal that will last for the next five years and establish Pepsi as the University's official beverage provider.

"When I became president, I promised that we would have a forefront funding offensive and I'm very proud of the fact that we have signed a new agreement with Pepsi; that agreement will bring in millions of dollars," he said.

"It symbolizes our need, desire and recognition of the fact that we have to be more entrepreneurial and have to



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

President Rosenberg addresses faculty and staff at an open forum on Jan. 26 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

develop win/win partnerships so that we can have the financial diversification that we need to have the quality university we desire," Rosenberg added.

With the deal in place, he mentioned that both campuses will now have a wider variety of non-carbonated drinks, while still maintaining popular names such as Mountain Dew.

Among the recent announcements, the two new members to the Board of Trustees were revealed: Joseph Caruncho, an FIU alumnus and the chief executive officer of Preferred Care Partners, as well as Michael Adler, chairman and chief executive officer of Adler Group, Inc., one of the region's largest real estate companies.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 22 calendar in Life!, the "Chocolate and wine tastings" event was dated incorrectly. This event occurs on Thursdays and Fridays, not Saturdays.

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

THE BEACON

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Art exhibit highlights court cases

ART, page 1

our country to see this and be motivated by the exhibit to pursue their careers," Cortada said. "The pieces depict important Supreme Court cases outside of what they read in the four corners of a black-and-white document."

The exhibit itself displays the seven Supreme Court cases that originated in Florida.

"It is a perfect way to mix my love for my state and the love I have for the law," he said.

Students from the College of Law were on hand at the unveiling explaining the basics of each case.

Beginning with the case of Gideon v. Wainwright that dealt with the Sixth Amendment and ending with the case of Profit v. Florida that questioned the concept of cruel and unusual amendment, according to the mock court teams.

However, the artist was most motivated by the cases of Gideon v. Wainwright and Palmore v. Sidoti.

"There were 100 ways to paint Gideon but I wanted to depict him looking for his freedom and being deprived of his liberties," Cortada said.

According to Cortada, Palmore v. Sidoti is important because it deals with discrim-

ination that is still very prevalent today.

"This is about not losing sight that discrimination is wrong no matter when, where or how it occurs," he said.

An important factor in getting Cortada to display his artwork at FIU was Troy Elder, a clinical assistant professor who teaches human rights and immigration law.

"I have been an admirer of Cortada's work ever since he put the large piece in our clinic a few years ago. His work adds a lot of the color to these walls. His work also evokes the struggles people have with the law," Elder said.

College of Law Dean R. Alex Acosta, University President Mark Rosenberg and other members of the FIU community were also in attendance at the exhibit.

"We are honored to house Cortada's artwork after it was on display at the rotunda at the Supreme Court of Florida," Acosta said.

In closing remarks, Cortada reiterated his wish to have this exhibit impact the future lawyers and that they in turn can assist society with their talents.

"I want students walking to and from classes to stop by in this hall and say hi to Gideon," Cortada said.

Luncheon series provides dining experience for all

SABRENA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Students at the School of Hospitality Management will be displaying their managerial skills and providing outside visitors with an upscale culinary experience.

SHM resumed its luncheon series on Jan. 26. The luncheons will be held at BBC in the SHM dining classroom HM 129. The series will take place three times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and will run until April 9.

“These luncheons have been hosted by the SHM since the school opened 20 years ago. The purpose of the series is to give the students of the Advanced Food Production Management class an opportunity to get hands-on experience at effectively managing an upscale restaurant,” said Mohammed Qureshi, assistant dean of SHM.

According to Qureshi, the luncheons are part of a three-credit course and are a requirement for SHM undergraduate students. They are designed to prepare them for management positions in the food services field.

The 29 students will be divided into teams of five. The management teams will instruct the employees on what foods to prepare and then supervise the preparation and serving of the food to outside guests.

Each week students will alternate between management and employee positions.

The three-course meal will consist of an appetizer, an entrée

with corresponding sides, a dessert, and a glass of wine. Coffee will also be served with dessert. The menu will be selected in advance by the students and supervised by chef instructors Michael Moran and Andrew Lyman.

“The students will be preparing dishes they have already learned how to cook in their prerequisite classes. Each team will get a chance to practice and perfect their dish a week prior to serving,” Qureshi said.

The menu will have a different theme each week and will consist of food from Italy, France and other areas.

“Because seating is limited to 65 people, reservations have to be made in advance and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The menu will be available a week in advance but is subject to change,” Qureshi said.

Seating for the luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. and the cost is \$18. Payments may be made by cash or check and must be made at the time of the reservation. Due to the upscale dining experience, the dress code is business casual.

“We will be providing a high quality experience for a very good price. We will be serving homemade bread with butter, and the meals are made with pure olive oil. Where else will you be able to have an appetizer, choice of entrée, dessert and wine for only \$18?” Qureshi said.

To make reservations call Paula Wright at 305-919-4500.

HALF-EMPTY OR HALF-FULL?



PHOTOS BY TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

LEFT- Gyujin Chae, (right) a senior hospitality management student and Eduardo Mora, (left) a senior and marketing major, sip on wine at the Friends of Wine Club’s wine tasting on Jan. 25.

RIGHT- Jennifer Puebla, a junior, hospitality management major, and President of Friends of Wine tests the scent of a wine, on Jan. 25, for the club’s wine tasting event.

BOTTOM- Sandyanne Munroe, (center), a junior and Hospitality management helps herself to some food, alongside Carlos Gonzalez, (right) a junior and hospitality management major, and Loraine Tejada, (left) a senior and hospitality management major on Jan 25.

SGC-BBC

New student lounge may include foosball, pool tables

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus is planning to convert the former cafeteria on the second floor of the Wolfe Center into a lounge.

The large meeting room west of the former cafeteria will be divided into two parts which fits about 150 students each, according to Tanha Dil, SGC-BBC justice.

“Clubs and organizations will use the [meeting room] space to hold meetings and events. The former cafeteria space will turn into a lounge where students will get the chance to do homework,” Dil said.

Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe Center and Student Affairs says having the lounge is a “big desire of the students.”

According to Battle, the reason a lounge wasn’t built sooner is because there was “no space” for one.

“The idea is for students to access the lounge as they wish to study, chat and lounge,” said Olson. “We might ask students to present a Panther ID card for free use of paddles and no scheduling of the rooms will be required.”

Students will also be able to bring their own game consoles and hook them up to the televisions in the game room, according to Dil.

The Women’s Center and Center for Leadership and Services will claim the new space east of the lounge.

This lounge is a need. Students...shouldn’t have to go to [Modesto Maidique Campus] to hang out.

Greg Olson, senior director
Wolfson University Center

Bronwen Bares, assistant director of the Women’s Center, said she is excited about the new office space because their current office is too small for their operations.

“We’re very excited, it’s going to be more space for us,” said Bares. “It’s very

positive and it’s a great opportunity to expand our programs.”

According to Olson, the design concept for the lounge is still being finalized. Dil says she and Christin “Cici” Battle, SGC-BBC vice president, are pushing for the lounge to include a pool table, foosball table and comfortable moveable furniture like beanbag chairs.

Furthermore, at a Jan. 27 meeting, SGC internship coordinator Kielia Samuels said she will be conducting surveys to find out what students would like to see in the lounge.

“We’re trying to have a real lounge atmosphere, so we don’t want to have any harsh ‘classroom’ lights,” Dil said.

Dil said she has spoken to the architect about the noise level in the lounge becoming an issue.

“The walls will be padded and the architect promised us carpeted floors instead of wood because wooden floors resonate sound,” Dil said.

According to Dil, about seven or eight years ago, the Campus Life office was a game room. Assistant Director of Campus Life Rafael Zapata recalls the old lounge.

“The old lounge was revenue-based, but it made no money, so it basically went bankrupt; it was supposed to be self-sufficient,” Zapata said.

John Morris, manager of the Teams Ropes Adventure Challenge, an FIU program that teaches students how to work in teams, also remembers those days of being able to have a place to simply relax.

“I remember we had a game room when I was a freshman and it wasn’t a distraction for students; everything worked out fine,” Morris said.

Dil says the idea of having a new lounge built had been around since last year. Even though the plans are now being put into action, Battle says she has “no idea” about how much the new endeavor will cost or the lounge’s operating hours. Zapata could not confirm the lounge’s cost at press time.

Olson insists that it is important for students to engage in leisurely activities.

“This lounge is a need and should be done in about four months. Students can’t study all the time and they shouldn’t have to go to [Modesto Maidique Campus] to hang out,” Olson said.

Smoking ban correct direction for students

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

On my walks around campus, there is one scene I constantly see play out: students and faculty with a cigarette in hand. It is not the sight of a person smoking a cigarette that bothers me. What concerns me, like with so many people, are the negative effects smoking and second-hand smoke have on my health.

Recently, FIU approved a measure to become a “smoke-free” campus, creating restrictions on smoking throughout the university. The university is using “social enforcement” to try and break people’s addictions and uphold the new policy.

It’s a move in the right direction and one that several schools have also adopted.

According to the Sun Sentinel, several Florida schools such as Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and Nova Southeastern University in Davie have also created restrictions for smoking within their universities.

The choice to smoke is indeed a personal choice. It was a choice made by those who chose to light up, and one that they will have to deal with. However, I think that it is unnecessary and unfortunate for innocent bystanders, such as myself, to be negatively harmed by secondhand smoke. Hence, I am fully supporting the new restrictions for health reasons.

I am in no way suggesting that smokers should quit smoking simply because I consider it a bad habit. In the end it is their choice.

By allowing students to smoke throughout the campus and adhering simply to the old 20 foot restrictions, FIU had been placing its non-smoking students at risk. The new restrictions currently implemented are for the best.

Some people argue about smokers rights. But what about simple facts that are common knowledge?

According to www.cancer.gov, “Second-hand smoke is responsible for an estimated 38,000 deaths among non-smokers each year. This negative exposure to smoke contains at least 60 cancer-causing agents such as formaldehyde, benzopyrene, and nitrosamines as well as toxins such as nicotine and carbon dioxide.”

In addition, figures from the state legislature reveal that over 78 people in the state of Florida die each day from tobacco-related illnesses. Of these figures, more than eight of these victims are nonsmokers.

These illnesses and deaths should not be taken casually. The longer FIU withheld a change in their policies regarding on campus smoking, the more preventable harm would have been exposed to their students.

Some complain about the new ban, which

OLD HABITS DIE HARD



allows people to call in smokers who are violating the ban. Since smoking is a personal choice, you cannot eliminate it.

The original plan to curb smoking asked for designated smoking areas, which is a great compromise.

By permitting smoking in certain areas, smokers still have the opportunity to take their cigarette break while other students will be able to walk around campus without the unfortunate exposure to second hand smoke.

Christopher Patron, an occasional smoker and junior international business and finance

major said, “I don’t really mind the new restrictions. I understand if students dislike the smell and the negative effects. I should still be able to smoke during my breaks at a designated spot.”

According to the American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation, about 365 colleges and universities have gone completely smoke-free. Sun Sentinel also reported that starting in July, smoking is completely prohibited at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

I think that by limiting the available smoking areas, FIU is respecting smokers’ choice and considerate to non-smokers.

Bible verses cross fine line between church and state

KELSEA JONES
Contributing Writer

Biblical inscriptions emblazoned on combat rifle sights used by the U.S. military have incited critics to point out the layers of hypocrisy that not only involves the violation of church and state but common sense.

The combat sights, produced by military contractor Trijicon, allow shooters to create light when aiming at targets in the dark and are currently used in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ironically, the inscriptions that appear in small, raised lettering at the end of the rifle-scopes contain scripture that alludes to the light of God.

The Trijicon Reflex sight is stamped with 2COR4:6, a reference in the New Testament’s Second Letter to the Corinthians wherein Paul says, “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

If this acts as a metaphor for the act that the biblical passage is now being attached to, essentially, the “light” that is shining out of darkness is a light that is one not of “the knowledge of the glory of God”, but one that is making the act of killing more precise.

There is no “light shining” in the shoot-

er’s victim’s heart, but, instead, a bullet.

Surely, this is not a kind, godly light that illuminates but a sort of death beam – the last light one might see before total darkness. This seems hardly Christian in its nature.

The whole notion of biblical inscription on machines that are designed not just to assist in killing, but make it almost perfect, seems wholly un-Christian; a religion that says “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52) and more importantly, “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

Though the U.S. military has come under scrutiny from purchasing Trijicon combat rifle sights from because of the biblical inscriptions, the military claims that the scopes do not violate the anti-proselytizing law in place.

Trijicon has been supplying to the military since 1995.

With this topic, it is less about the Trijicon Company for making such hypocritical machines. Rather, the greater question at hand is, why should the United States military be purchasing them.

Trijicon is a private company that picks up on contracts to the army. They meet their specifications for design and price and do their jobs.

It is a matter of Capitalism 101 that says

that as long as there is a demand, business has a right to make and market whatever they want.

So if Trijicon is making combat scopes with verses of Christian Scripture on them, they have every right to sell them to private entities. Blackwater, maybe?

However, individual or private firms don’t have the same obligations toward religion as the state.

Whether the U.S. government should abandon its secular promise by being the chief consumer of these products is another issue.

As a government, the U.S. has the responsibility to hold up the integrity of the United States Constitution – a constitution that makes distinct in its very first amendment the separation of church and state.

Yet taxpayers money is being used to violate one of our core institutions and ideals. The concern with the Trijicon rifle-scopes begs the issue of whether the United States is loyal to the capitalist machine or the U.S. Constitution.

Furthermore, the U.S. military is not just partaking in supporting a blatantly non-secular business, but a Christian business.

Though the United States is primarily Christian, (82 percent of Americans are estimated to be Christian), the possibility of having active military using combat scopes with Christian messages inscribed on them is daunting.

President of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Mikey Weinstein said of the Christian combat scopes, “I don’t have to wonder for a nanosecond how the American public would react if citations from the Koran were being inscribed onto these U.S. armed forces gun sights instead of New Testament citations.”

He also noted that the argument could be made on the part of the Taliban that Americans are Christian crusaders that are invading Muslim countries, with the combat scopes acting as the classic crusader’s shields adorned with a cross.

Though the war in Iraq and Afghanistan is not quite a crusade, the battlefield dynamic is oftentimes a place where men and women hold on to their faith. Because in light of the horrors of war they’re witnessing, faith is often the only beauty they see. It’s the only thing that they can cling to.

I do not attack those with deep faith. After all, there is no atheist in a foxhole. I attack the violation of the standards they are supposed to be fighting for.

Faith is a deeply personal experience, especially in any combat situation, which is why the U.S. military is myopic in its sole Christian support and further goes on to overstep ethical and constitutional boundaries by explicitly promoting religion in a faction of government.


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WINNER/LOSER

 Anderson Cooper, American Hero. Cooper continues to broadcast from earthquake ravaged Haiti two weeks after the event. He’s saved children from mobs and people trapped under rubble with a refined edge that keeps up ratings and keeps us watching. Anderson Cooper for President.

 Toyota’s reputation and sales numbers. The automobile manufacturer is recalling over 2.3 vehicles because of faulty gas pedals that get stuck and cause unintentional acceleration. They’re also suspending sales of their line. Not good news in this economic environment.

QUOTATIONATION

“The president is a strong persuader, as they say, and I think it makes an awful lot of difference, and I think he will bring everybody together”

Rep. John Larson, D-Conn.
on future of healthcare reform bill

ON STAGE

Live band connects audience with actors

THEATER, page 1

an authority figure among her peers. She humbly gives all the credit to the actors.

"I just asked questions and they went with their instincts. Sometimes, I would tell them 'try this, try that,' and they were wonderful at taking my advice," she said.

The play centers on the marriage of Jake and Beth, a young California couple torn apart by violence – not that the marriage was solid to begin with, as audiences will find out minutes into the play. Jake accuses his wife, a struggling actress, of having an affair with a fellow actor. His jealous rage leads to the beating of Beth which leaves her



hospitalized and brain damaged. What follows is the tale of the couple's families coming to deal with the tragedy.

Robinson said the play is not about domestic violence. The beating is an effective way to deal with these two families that are lost. They are trying to find their identity as families and as Americans.

American identity is a prominent theme throughout the show. Jake's family members are descended from the "Okies," ripped from their family farms back in the mid-19th century and still unaffected by the changes of society and culture. Beth's family, the Pioneers, are from Montana and living in a similar social situation of being unable to find their place in the world.

This production features an all-senior cast and, for some, it will be their final appearance on the University Main Stage.

"I'm really nervous because it's my last Main Stage performance. We're all freaking out inside but there's a calm collectedness about it on stage. This is an ensemble piece, there's no real lead, everyone has a main role. It's

a cool piece for us to work together on for the last time," said Carolina Pozo, who plays Sally in the play and is a senior majoring in acting.

A live band performs on stage, something not included in all productions but that Shephard thought was integral to the productions, which has become a crucial part of the FIU production.

"We want the audience to see the band as a part of the cast – not something separate," Robinson said.

The band underscores the action on stage.

"[They are] there to make a little bit of commentary on each of the characters. They focused on Baylor and the relationship between Beth and Mike," Paez said.

"They offer a way in for the audience, kind of like a chorus," Robinson added.

Coming up with the music has been a collaborative process.

"I wanted the band to be participatory on stage and the audience to know they are there and not hidden in the back. We wanted to find actors who could play instruments, opposed to musicians that we would bring on. So all four of the band members are actors and they are also very good musicians," Robinson said.

The actors sat in on rehearsals and developed the music, all of which is original with a few exceptions.

Robinson said, "[The band members] don't have lines but I like to consider them actors because they are so present. We're not hiding them. We're not pretending they're not there.

We're letting the audience see them watch the play. See them comment on the play."

The play opened Jan. 28 with performances until Jan. 31, then has a second run Feb. 11-14 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at MMC. 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 and \$10 for students, alumni and seniors.

A LIE OF THE MIND

Jan. 28-30	Jan. 31
• Time: 8 p.m.	• Time: 2 p.m.
• Where: Wertheim Performing Arts Center	• Where: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

Hands on Haiti reaches out to students

JANET CAREAGA Staff Writer

There has been a spotlight on Haiti recently because of the catastrophic earthquake that occurred on Jan. 12.

One organization on campus, Hands On Haiti, is doing its part to make a difference by hosting an event on Jan. 29 called "Positive Vibes."

The Positive Vibes event will be a forum for students emotionally affected by the earthquake to talk about those memories and what they felt, or to just learn about the beau-

ties of Haiti. Donations for Haiti will also be accepted at the event.

"In the same way that it is relieving to reminisce about good times with a loved one who passed, we believe that this will lift people's spirits," said Marcia Darbouze, president of Hands on Haiti.

Unlike many of the other FIU organizations helping Haiti, Hands on Haiti's mission is to make a difference by traveling there and forming resolutions that will foster lasting progress.

Darbouze and Hands on

Haiti's current vice president, Gina Balthazar, both came to FIU as transfer students and were looking for an organization that had an interest in traveling to Haiti.

"There were many community service organizations, but none with a focus on Haiti. There was also the Haitian Student Organization, but their focus was more on uniting the Haitian student body and celebrating the culture," Darbouze said.

Hands on Haiti focuses primarily on health and environmental issues. They are looking

to solve the core causes of those problems. For example, they are currently planning on carrying out programs that teach Haitian citizens basic life skills like preventing infectious diseases, CPR and dental hygiene.

The organization is currently planning a trip to Haiti in late summer to volunteer at a clinic in Jacmel, overseen by Service for Peace.

They are also working on becoming a part of the Alternative Breaks program to make Haiti an official site.

HAITI, page 6

Guest lecturer speaks out on animal cruelty

LEONCIO ALVAREZ Staff Writer

The Wertheim Conservatory became much more than a greenhouse Tuesday night as animal rights activist Gary Yourofsky gave a lecture about veganism and animal slaughtering that may have made some regret their Burger King lunch.

Yourofsky defines vegan as similar to vegetarian, but vegans also refrain from consuming milk, cheese, eggs, honey or any animal product whatsoever. They also don't wear any animal skins.

For about 25 years, Yourofsky was not vegan. He described wearing leather clothing, like most people, and even fessed up to owning a fur coat at one point. But something that has never changed for him has been his connection with animals.

"Animals are victims, the most oppressed ever," Yourofsky said. "My goal is simple. All I want to do is reconnect people with animals, awaken some emotions and some feelings and some logic that has been buried and suppressed intentionally by our society."

Yourofsky believes in that reconnection because he feels we were all once animal rights activists at some point – when we were kids.

"When we were young we used to be in awe of animals. They used to make us laugh, giggle and smile. They made us happy and there was a time when we would do just about anything to make them happy as well," he said. "If somebody was mean to an animal in front of us we would scream and cry, and that's because we all understood the difference between right and wrong."

An extremely graphic video depicting animal cruelty at its peak at different slaughterhouses was then shown. Yourofsky asked the audience to not close their eyes during the video because, as he put it, "If it's not good enough for your eyes, why is it good enough for your stomach?"

According to Yourofsky, humans shouldn't really be eating animals to the extent that we do. A main point he stressed was how humans are not actually carnivores, we are plant eaters.

"The length of our intestines is seven to 13 times the length of our torso, the same length as all herbivore animals," Yourofsky said. "On real meat eaters, it's only three to six times their torso. They have a short intestinal tract to push through animal proteins – like cholesterol, saturated fats, trans fatty acids – which is why it is impossible for them to clog their arteries."

At first sight this man seemed a little crazy, but he started to make a lot of sense after a while.

"The No. 1 killer of humans who choose to eat meat, cheese and eggs is heart disease from clogged arteries," Yourofsky said.

Just in case his words had been able to convince some people to change their eating habits, Yourofsky spoke about some foods available at supermarkets that are accepted by vegans.

"LightLife has smart bacon made from soy. You fry it like bacon; it looks, smells and tastes just like real bacon. But guess what, not one pig had to suffer and die for this," Yourofsky said. "LightLife also has soy chicken and a full line of deli meats. Vegetarian Plus sells citrus spare rib cutlets which are fantastic and Gardenburger has meatloaf, chicken patties and veggie burgers. Nate's even has meatless meatballs."

Yourofsky's personal favorite right now is the artichoke burger by Five Star Foodies.

"If your local grocer doesn't have these things, then speak up, it's supply and demand. If they don't know you want it how are they going to sell it?" Yourofsky said.

FISTFULS OF TECH

eBook reader salvages Apple's disappointing iPad

Fistfuls of Tech is divided into two sections this week. I wrote a "pre-game" before the Jan. 27 Apple press event and a "post-game," which was written immediately after.

PRE-GAME

Every time an Apple event is on the horizon, I sit and wait with child-like excitement.

However, this year Steve Jobs has a lot on the line. Apple's rumored tablet is all but confirmed and needs to be nothing short of awesome to find a spot in the market.

Let's face it, a market for a device that rests between an iPhone and a Macbook doesn't exist, so this thing needs to forge its own market, something only accomplished by the legendary iPod.

The tablet's success, if even released, will depend on a lot of factors. Price, content partnerships and technological feats are just a few of the points that will determine whether this is the next iPod (a good thing) or the next Apple TV (a bad thing).

So what are my predictions for this event? A new tablet and new version of the iPhone OS are almost a certainty. We might also see a possible end of AT&T's exclusivity agreements over the iPhone, but I am not so sure about that.

Apple has wanted to get out of AT&T for a while and tap Verizon Wireless' extensive customer base, which has been contemplating Google phones. Anyway, the show is about to start, we'll see how it goes.

POST-GAME

All hail the glorious Apple iPad! Sort of. Steve Jobs finally announced the product that nerds have been clamoring for since the rumors began to drop in 2003. But I am less impressed than I thought I would be.

The iPad itself, despite a name that sounds like a technologically advanced tampon, is a stunning device.

It features a more robust version of the iPhone OS that incorporates a lot of the features you would see in the standard

version of OS X.

A good example of this is the music player, which is a good combination of the iPhone's iPod app and the actual desktop version of iTunes. It's actually really intuitive, but not completely one thing or another.

Despite this feat, the iPad is still a bit underwhelming. I expected something amazing but, in the end, it's just something that combines two things I already have: a Macbook and an iPhone.

However, where this device shines is the iPad's eBook reading capabilities. Ultimately this feature is the iPad's saving grace.

Partnerships with prominent book publishers and newspapers will make this device a major competitor for the Amazon Kindle. I can only imagine how much of an impact this will have on textbook sales, distribution and even design.

The pricing of the iPad is competitive, starting at \$499, but compared to the Kindle's \$269 price point, it's not competitive enough.

Sure, the Kindle is by far inferior to the iPad, but for someone who has a laptop and iPhone, it would be a large and slightly questionable purchase.

In the end, the iPad isn't a massive departure from what we have already seen. As most tech analysts like to say over and over, it doesn't "shift any paradigms." It doesn't multi-task and it doesn't do anything too crazy. It's a giant iPod Touch, that's it.

Will I buy it? Probably. Even though I am a little disappointed with it, I still would like to have an eBook reader and, honestly, this is a far better choice than the Kindle.

Overall, this Apple event was a little disappointing. No iPhone OS update, no iLife or iWork updates and definitely no departure from AT&T.

Some people say that the iPad is Steve Jobs' final product, the cherry on the sundae that is his legacy. I think this cherry has been sitting in the fridge a little too long.

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

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Quick Picks

MOVIES

Extraordinary

4.5/100
3.0/100

"Harrison Ford has obviously enrolled in the Al Pacino School of Old Man Acting. He yells, sputters and glowers his way through the ultra-ordinary and well-intentioned Extraordinary
Claudia Puig
USA Today



Legion

3.3/100 1.9/100

"Legion may traffic in signposts of the apocalypse, but the whole affair mostly indicates that we're in the movie wasteland that is January."
Robert Abele
Los Angeles Times

MUSIC

Fool's Gold

7.5/100 7.6/10

"Fool's Gold stretch Western pop templates out into African shapes; and this debut album belies their name by being a genuine gem"

Spencer Kornhaber
Spin

There Is Love In You

8.3/100 8.6/10

"It's a theme that recurs throughout the record, and, indeed, that defines the Four Tet canon: mesmeric, melody-laden music, with varying degrees of difficulty."
August Brown
The L.A. Times Music Blog



Fool's Gold

7.5/100 7.6/10

"Fool's Gold stretch Western pop templates out into African shapes; and this debut album belies their name by being a genuine gem"

Paul Clarke
BBC Music

GAMES

Mass Effect

Xbox 360
9.6/100 9.6/10

"It's the way that Mass Effect 2 expands upon the narrative established in the first game that marks a true breakthrough for interactive storytelling."
Gerald Villoria
GameSpot



Tatsunoko vs. Capcom: Ultimate All Stars

Wii
8.6/100 9/10

"It's no wonder 360 and PS3 fans are begging for the game to see a multi-console version, as Ultimate All Stars is a true gem worthy of the Capcom fighting legacy."
Mark Bozon
IGN

No More Heroes 2: Desperate Struggle

Wii
8.9/100 8.8/10

"Quirky, crass, and incredibly fun, Suda51's stylish sequel to 2008's No More Heroes slashes its way onto the Wii with even more boss battles, much-improved gameplay, and loads of worthwhile new content."
Will Herring
GamePro



LEGEND

Metacritic.com ign.com Pitchfork Magazine Rottentomatoes.com

COMPILED BY ASHLYN TOLEDO

Date auction to aid Haiti

HAITI, page 5

"This organization is going above and beyond lending a helping hand and actually making a long lasting impact on Haiti," said Vanessa Coletto, a senior majoring in philosophy.

Their upcoming events include fundraisers and other events where people can donate to fund their mission trip as well as earthquake

relief efforts.

On Feb. 26, in collaboration with Sigma Lambda Gamma, they will be hosting a Date Auction where the winners will get to share dinner and a movie.

Hands on Haiti meetings are every other Friday starting Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. in GC 314. For more information, contact Hands on Haiti at handsonhaitifu@gmail.com.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

CHINESE CLUB

First meeting and mahjong playing.
WHEN: 3-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Lakeview North Lounge at MMC

Green Critics' Lecture Series

Presentation by Olga Viso, director of Walker Art Center.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

V FOR VENDETTA

SPC-MMC presents Friday night movies.
WHEN: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

CRITICAL MASS BIKE RIDE



Take to the streets with Critical Mass on the last Friday of every month.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. (Ride starts at 7 p.m.)
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Government Center Metro Station 101 NW 1st St. Contact Viktor at velsa001@fuu.edu for more info.

POSITIVE VIBES

Hands on Haiti presents an open forum. Donations accepted.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314 handsonhaitifu@gmail.com 754-204-4147

SATURDAY, JAN. 30

DANCE MARATHON



Help raise funds for Miami Children's Hospital.
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Recreation Center

KAYAK DAYS ON THE BAY



Last Saturday of the month. Swimwear recommended.

WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Meet by the water behind Bay Vista Aquatic Center, BBC. More info: 305-919-4701

South Florida's Winter Orchid Extravaganza

Free lectures and classes, plus 50 growers.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$7, free for children under 12
WHERE: Fuchs Pavilion Dade County Fair Expo 10900 Coral Way miamiorchidfestival.com

Music Saves Lives

Acoustic Coffee House Show. Prize giveaways.
WHEN: 6 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Starbucks NW 19th St and 107th Ave.

W. SWIMMING & DIVING
FIU vs. St. Leos.
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center

SUNDAY, JAN. 31

ORCHID FESTIVAL



Free lectures, classes, plus 50 growers.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$7
WHERE: Fuchs Pavilion Dade County Fair Expo 10900 Coral Way

The Flying Trapeze School



WHEN: 4 - 6 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$40 for one class, \$10 one time
WHERE: Bayfront Park 301 N. Biscayne Blvd. www.theflyingtrapeze.net

PRO BOWL

AFC vs. NFC
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50-195
WHERE: Sun Life Stadium 2269 Dan Marino Blvd. www.ticketmaster.com

GAME DAY FAN PLAZA

Celebrate prior to the Pro Bowl!
WHEN: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sun Life Stadium 2269 Dan Marino Blvd. southflorida2010@nfl.com

SOBAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Exhibit opening.
WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. deeringestate.org

Sudoku answers from 1/27/10

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

Keep playing every week!

FIU looks for redemption after last season's sweep vs. Florida Atlantic

WOMEN'S, page 8

playing so many minutes, but I'm trying to do my best," said Mansare. "I don't want to mess up or make mistakes while I'm in the game but it's not my decision to be in the game or on the bench so I'm just trying to do what [the

[Rodgers] adds a dimension to our team that we don't have right now, and she's irreplaceable.

Cindy Russo, Head Coach
Women's Basketball

coaches] tell me to do so that I can help my team."

Mansare has averaged 5.0 points and 3.2 rebounds in six games, including one start, which came against Arkansas-Little Rock just last week.

The lone start proved to

be her best game yet as she tallied nine points and nine rebounds in the 52-44 loss.

Miloglav has chipped in with 3 points and 2.3 assists per game.

Her most successful game so far was on Jan. 17 against Western Kentucky where she scored 10 points and dished out five assists.

Head coach Cindy Russo seems to be impressed by the young players, especially Miloglav's ability to contribute quickly.

"I'm really happy with [Miloglav's] development," said Russo. "After missing games at the beginning of the season, for her to adjust so well is great. She plays good defense and she fits in well. She helps out and I couldn't be happier."

Although she's happy with the play of her freshmen duo, Russo continues to be frustrated with the lengthy list of injuries the Golden Panthers have accumulated this season.

"We're pretty beat up and it remains to be our biggest problem this season," said Russo. "We have not played one game

this year without having two of our major players injured. It's discouraging and frustrating."

The biggest loss this season for the Golden Panthers has been Rakia Rodgers.

The sophomore, who has now missed eight games since spraining the MCL in her left knee, went down as the team's leading scorer, and a time frame for her return is unknown, according to Russo and the team's athletic trainer.

"She adds a dimension to our team that we don't have right now and she's irreplaceable," Russo said.

Mansare agrees that Rodgers' injury has been detrimental to the team,

"When Rakia went out it created a big hole in our team," she said. "She's so energetic on the court which helped us a lot. Rebounding, scoring, and even just making the team hyped, she takes care of everybody."

Meanwhile, Marquita Adley is dealing with knee problems and will most likely not play against the

Owls this weekend.

The forward, who averages 8.8 points and 9.0 rebounds per game, will be a significant loss for FIU's front court.

Adding to the list of injuries is Asia Wilson and Erin Knight. Wilson, a sophomore, has been dealing with a tweaked ankle and her status for Saturday's game is unknown.

Knight, on the other hand, was granted a medical redshirt after dealing with pain in her back and not playing this entire season as a freshman.

With the injuries lurking, Russo made it a clear point that the team must continue to play hard, especially against Florida Atlantic, a team that beat FIU twice last season.

"If we had all of our best players healthy and on the court at the same time, I think we would be a lot more successful," she said. "The good thing about this year is that we're going to get these injured players back next year. [Against FAU] we'll have to handle pressure."

Golden Panthers look to continue rivalry success

MEN'S, page 8

strong 8-2 record at home.

"Having the crowd in the game will kill us," Gary said. "We have to keep them out of the game."

An FIU win would knock the Owls out of first place in the East Division and bump up Middle Tennessee, whom FIU defeated earlier this season.

A NEW TEAM

Last season the Golden Panthers beat the Owls both times they played last season.

First-year Head Coach Isiah Thomas brings new and notable players to the FAU matchup, including leading scorer Marvin Roberts.

FIU also features a couple of familiar faces in the line-up who have improved from last season.

Marlon Bright leads the Golden Panthers in field goal percentage this season with a 49.7 percent mark.

"He's a guy that can constantly give us 10 rebounds and 10 points," Gary said. "He battles every night and pumps

us up every time we need him to."

Bright is playing aggressive and efficient basketball this season while also leading his team in rebounds with 145 on the season.

OWL PRIDE

Starting guard Raymond Taylor is ranked first in the Sun Belt Conference in assists with 129 on the season.

Guards Greg Gantt and Taylor are neck and neck this season, both leading their team in scoring with 15 points per game.

FAU is first in the conference in blocked shots and turnover margin.

The Owls can also score from beyond the arc, which the Golden Panthers have struggled to play defense against all season.

They are third in the conference in three-point field goal percentage with 39 percent.

"We have to win," Gary said. "Whoever wins the game will have bragging rights for the rest of the season."

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†Message and data rates may apply. By entering via text you will automatically receive Discovery mobile alerts. For official rules and an alternate method of entry go to www.sunsentinel.com/discovery/rules. Text STOP to quit. No purchase necessary. *Price includes the cruise, U.S. port taxes, 2 all-you-can-eat buffet meals on board, and all-you-can-drink alcoholic (house brands) and non-alcoholic beverages on board. Does not include port parking fees or a \$35 per person surcharge including the Bahamian departure & harbor fees, security and CBP user fees, and ticket transaction fee. One free conventional suitcase per adult passenger. Passengers should be committed to responsible drinking and this is the passenger's sole responsibility. Discovery will not serve alcoholic beverages to passengers under the age of 21 while the ship is in Florida waters and Discovery will not serve such beverages to passengers under the age of 18 outside Florida waters. Although Discovery does not control or manage private or public transportation at any port of call, it understands that a sufficient number of taxi cabs or other means of public transportation may be available dockside upon arrival for passengers who choose not to operate their own vehicles upon debarkation. It is the passenger's responsibility to act with due diligence when deciding whether to operate a motor vehicle after consuming alcoholic beverages. Facilities & services are subject to change without notice. Advance reservations & payment required. Prices may be higher on weekends & holidays. Discovery, its employees or agents, cannot be held responsible for the accuracy and for errors or omissions in the content of this promotion. Certain restrictions apply. Offer expires June 30, 2010. Ship's registry Bahamas. FL Seller of Travel Reference No. ST36121.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Liset Brito looks to make a play in a match against Troy on Jan. 23 at FIU. The Golden Panthers are 2-0 on the season.

TENNIS

Golden Panthers gear up for ITA championship qualifiers

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

No matter what happens, someone is going to take home their first loss of the season on Friday as FIU (2-0) will be going up against Southern Methodist University (4-0) in their first match of the ITA Indoor Qualifiers in Gainesville, Fla.

“We are going in against a tough competitor who has obviously done well in their past season,” said FIU coach Melissa Applebaum.

The SMU Mustangs, currently ranked No. 23 in the country, are coming off of a doubleheader in which they defeated Louisiana

Tech and Texas State in the same day. SMU has won 20 of their 21 points through four matches.

This weekend will be the qualifier to the ITA Indoor Championships, to be held from Feb. 11-14.

“We are playing indoors so it’s a really different situation,” said Maria José Vallasciani. “You have to adapt.”

The No. 32 Panthers are accustomed to playing on their outdoor courts under the Miami skies, but they will have to adjust to hardwood floors in a gymnasium.

“It’s a little quicker than outside,” said Priscilla Castillo, a senior on the team.

If the Panthers defeat SMU, they will be facing either No. 24

Brigham Young University or No. 8 University of Florida. The Gators would be the highest ranked opponent the Golden Panthers have played since they lost to No. 6 Miami in the NCAA Coral Gables Regional to end last season.

The Golden Panthers defeated Florida Atlantic and Troy at home to start the season, but will not return to FIU until they match up with Boston College on Feb. 3.

The long road swing is something the team hopes it emerges from successfully.

It starts with SMU. “This weekend, we have to get past SMU. Then we’ll probably have UF and they’re pretty tough,” Vallasciani explained.

ROAD TO BOCA RATON

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Injuries continue to handicap team late in season

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU women’s basketball team has trusted a pair of freshmen to be frequent contributors in their first season as Golden Panthers.

Carmen Miloglav and Finda Mansare were unable to play in the first nine games of the season due to eligibility issues, but they’ve since combined for 358 minutes in 11 games.

The young players will look to contribute largely once again when FIU faces Florida Atlantic on Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. in Boca Raton.

“I’m surprised that I’ve been



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

[Left] Freshman Finda Mansare has provided a lift for the Golden Panthers, averaging 5 points and 3.2 rebounds over her 6 games. Marvin Roberts [right] continues to lead the men’s team in scoring.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Resurgent Owls lead division coming into game

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

In the mouth of the south, FIU travels to Boca Raton on Jan. 30 to play arch-rival Florida Atlantic University in the first of their two showdowns this season.

While FIU is looking up at the rest of the division with a 4-6 conference record, the Owls are leading the way with a 6-3 mark.

“Coach [Isiah] Thomas and I are from Chicago and we know all about rivalries,” said point guard Phil Gary Jr. “This matchup is like the White Sox vs. the Cubs.”

The Golden Panthers take on an impressive FAU team, who hold a

MEN’S, page 7

WOMEN’S page 7

FIU VS. FAU WOMEN’S

- Time: 5 p.m.
- When: Saturday, Jan. 30
- Where: Florida Atlantic
- Broadcast: WRGP.org

FIU VS. FAU MEN’S

- Time: 7 p.m.
- When: Saturday, Jan. 30
- Where: Florida Atlantic
- Broadcast: WRGP.org