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The Beacon, February 08, 2010

Florida International University

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Miss FIU crowned, awarded scholarship

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Thomas addresses rumors of his return to the NBA

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Student Organization Council presents new Participation Point System to members in hopes to relieve complaints.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Author Stanley Hordes shares with students the secret lives of Crypto-Jews and their migration to the Caribbean.

EDITORIAL PAGE 6

For this year's elections to be a success, SGC-MMC must act fast to learn from last year's mistakes.

OPINION PAGE 6

American pundits continue to dominate the airwaves and slowly alter American politics for the worse.

OPINION PAGE 6



Iran's nuclear program is slowly developing. How can the West deal with this possible threat?

LIFE! PAGE 7

The Beacon interviews - Krave: The new R&B girl group is set to release their first album in September.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Women's basketball defeats visiting North Texas to extend win streak to three as the team looks to finish season strong.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yogarden, Feb. 8, 1-6 p.m. Come relax with the Yoga Club at the FIU Garden located between Baseball Stadium and nature preserve.

BBC town hall meeting, Feb. 9, 2-4 p.m. President Rosenberg and administrators answer your questions. Free at the Wolfe Theatre at BBC.

Wednesday Target After Hours, Feb. 10, 6-9 p.m. Enjoy "Artworks!" at the Frost Art Museum.

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

WEATHER



MONDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 62 HIGH: 73



TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 65 HIGH: 77



WEDNESDAY
Few Showers
LOW: 55 HIGH: 74

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NURSING'S NEW HOME



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Nursing students practice reviving a mannequin undergoing cardiac arrest in the new Simulation Center at the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences building.

College of Nursing debuts Health Sciences building

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

The University celebrated the inauguration of the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences Building with a day-long event held Feb. 4.

The \$34 million, 115,000 square foot CNHS building is the first ever LEED-certified building in the University's history. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a third-

party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable green building and development practices.

Among the myriad of "eco-features" that the CNHS building includes is the city of Miami's first "green roof," which is visible from the lobbies of the third, fourth and fifth floors. The green roof has low maintenance grass and vegetation which is sustained by natural

rainwater and helps insulate the corridor below while absorbing the heat of the sun's rays.

"This new building will not only be one of the most advanced and dynamic nursing and health care education and research facilities in the region, but also serves as [a] successful example of the University's growing commitment to environmental awareness and

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SGC-MMC ELECTIONS

Meetings no longer required

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Two informational meetings for candidates wishing to run in this year's student government elections are no longer mandatory.

However, attendance to the meetings by prospective candidates, held on Feb. 10 and 11 at 5 p.m. in the Graham Center, Room 150, is "strongly encouraged" by Elections Commissioner Christy Flores.

Last week Flores sent out a message to members of the

Facebook group promoting the 2010 elections saying that the meetings were mandatory.

"If you are not in attendance, you will not be eligible to run for a position," Flores said in the message on Facebook.

The mandatory status has now been downgraded to "strongly encouraged," according to the e-mail.

The change came because of a mistake in the scheduling.

According to Elections Code, the Student Elections Board must host a "manda-

tory candidates meeting" for all general elections to go over codes and answer any questions. The codes also stipulate that these meetings should be held following the deadline for registration, this time around they would come a week before that deadline.

"We apologize greatly," Flores told Student Media.

Applications to run for senator, president and vice president are available both online and in the SGA office, GC 211. Applications are due Feb. 18 by 5 p.m.

Students lend Haitian refugees a helping hand

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

The College of Law Human Rights and Immigration Clinic began holding training sessions on how to help Haitians receive Temporary Protected Status in the U.S. following the devastation from the earthquake.

The student attorneys in charge of the training sessions are Stuart Hartstone and Thomas Juliano. Both students, along with the guidance from Professor Troy Elder, have been coordinating and speaking at all the training sessions so far.

At the sessions, Hartstone and Juliano walk students through a brief history of TPS, go through the necessary forms and, lastly, discuss the fees required to submit the forms.

"It is a good feeling to know that us law students are able to assist Haitians in their time of need," Hartstone said.

According to Hartstone, TPS is defined as allowing eligible nationals to work and live in the U.S. for the next 18 months with the possibility of renewal. The end of the 18-month period will be July 2011; at that time, the possibility of an extension will be assessed.

"It is estimated that 100-200,000 Haitians are eligible for TPS and most are residing in South Florida or New York. The deadline for them to apply is July 21, 2010. It may take up to 90 days to approve or deny them for TPS," Hartstone said.

After reviewing the basics of TPS, Hartstone then went through the basic requirements of receiving TPS.

"The first few necessary requirements are the most significant. These include physical presence, being a Haitian national and having no criminal history," Hartstone said.

He explained that physical presence means that they must have been present in the U.S. prior to Jan. 12 which was the date of the earthquake.

Being a Haitian national is defined as at least having one parent who is from Haiti, being born in Haiti is not a requirement for TPS.

"Lastly, criminal history is probably the most important requirement, this means that the person must have no felony charges or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S.," Hartstone said.

The next step in the training session was a walkthrough of the two most significant forms needed for submission. Juliano then took over and helped students understand both forms.

"The two forms that need to be submitted together to apply for TPS are the I-821 which gives the person TPS and the I-765 which gives the person permission for employment in the United States," Juliano explained.

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NEW BUILDING AROMA



PHOTOS BY BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

TOP: President Mark Rosenberg talks to faculty and students before the dedication ceremonies were held, on Feb. 4 at the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences building.

BOTTOM: Samanda Vasquez, physical therapy major, guides visitors through the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences building on Feb. 4. The building is the first LEED certified building for the University.

FAFSA simplifies form

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

College students do not have to work up a sweat anymore when it comes time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The new user-friendly application has eliminated 22 questions and 17 web screens. The changes, which took effect Jan. 1, were unveiled Jan. 5 by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Dr. Jill Biden in a local Washington, D.C. high school.

The Department of Education streamlined the application form by programming the software to skip questions that do not apply to the student. It will tailor questions based on the applicant's previous responses, eliminating any irrelevant questions.

"It is a lot more intelligent," said Francisco Valines, financial aid director at FIU. "If you are a male over 26 it won't ask you about selective service, if you are a veteran, it won't ask you if you are a dependant."

Other changes include allowing low-income students to skip questions concerning their family's material assets, eliminating questions about drug convictions for incoming

freshmen and questions about the FAFSA, Ashwarya Ram, legal residency for applicants who have lived in the same household for five years or more.

In the new application, families can also retrieve their tax return information directly from the Internal Revenue Service onto their FAFSA application, allowing the applicant to skip over redundant questions and in effect reduce errors increase, according to Valines.

Valines predicts the effects of that will be seen in the 2011-2012 school year since families are now beginning to file their taxes and the FIU deadline for FAFSA is March 1.

"FAFSA was a barrier that deterred many students from applying for federal aid; the simplifications will make it easier for students to apply," said Gregory Cendana, president of United States Student Association, a national student advocacy organization that lobbies for higher education reform.

According to USSA, approximately 4 million aid-eligible students did not apply to FAFSA, linking that to the complexity of the application.

Before the changes to

the FAFSA, Ashwarya Ram, sophomore in chemistry and theatre, needed help from her older brother and sister to fill out the tedious application.

"My brother and my sister pretty much filled it out for me, but now it is a lot better: like filling out a survey with straightforward questions, no big vocabulary," said Ram. "A 15-year-old can fill it out."

Valines said that although the new form will not increase the applicant pool, it will increase the number of students who do it correctly, and in effect lessen the time it takes to process the information and disburse the financial aid to students.

Revisions to the FAFSA is one of the provisions included in the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which passed Congress in September, and awaits approval in the Senate.

FIU has several upcoming events to help students fill out their FAFSA application.

On Feb. 19 at 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. in the GC Pit there will be counselors and assistants available to help with the application, and on Feb. 24, there will be another information session in the Student Plaza outside of GC.

Global Learning *for* Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title: "This Video is No Longer Available"

Moderator: Hannibal Travis (College of Law)

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1:24 / 1:41 360p 2,262 views

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Time & Location: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
12:30pm - 1:30pm
GC 150
Lunch and refreshments provided.

presented by **The New York Times**

FIU Student Government Association

FIU Global Learning

THE BEACON



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New building includes state-of-the-art learning tools

CNHS, page 1

preservation," said Dr. Divina Grossman, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The CNHS building also features light detecting sensors on both the interior and exterior. These sensors will tie into the building's lighting system and help regulate power usage.

At the educational core of the new CNHS building are the third floor Simulation Center and the fourth floor Rehabilitation Center.

The "Sim Center" includes eight simulation rooms, three control rooms, two debriefing rooms and a basic nursing lab.

The simulation mannequins housed in the center are fully capable of simulating what a patient experiences in events such as cardiac arrests, allergic reactions as well as other medical

scenarios.

"It's all about getting as close to a real world treatment scenario as possible to make the students more confident in their abilities so that when they go out to the actual workforce, this won't be a shock to them," said Mary Sudasassi, a spokesperson for FIU.

The "Rehab Center" includes eight different labs, ranging from neuromusculoskeletal lab to a speech and language skills lab.

"Whatever you would find at a rehab center or therapeutic facility, you will find here. Once again, students have the opportunity to learn on the equipment that the professionals are actually using out there in the workforce," Sudasassi said.

"There are a lot of high-tech modern features that are really going to make a huge impact on the new students coming in here,"

said Nicho Diana, a nursing student in his second year.

"It's a shame I only get to be here for one semester, but this one semester, that I'm one month into, is awesome," he added.

The CNHS building also features a "student-centric" design with dedicated group and individual study areas, as well as social gathering spots.

"I think it's a big improvement compared to the old nursing building," Diana said.

Grossman began the opening remarks of the ceremony by acknowledging all of the gifts and donations that made the construction of the CNHS building possible; as well as the several FIU alumni in attendance, including five members from the first graduating class of the College of Nursing.

Grossman, who was recently promoted to vice president of

Engagement, savored every moment of the inaugural celebration.

"It is the last day I can call myself dean and I will enjoy it immensely," Grossman told the crowd.

Grossman will be replaced by Dr. Sharon Pontius, former associate dean of academic affairs, who starts the position of interim dean effective Feb. 5.

After her remarks, Grossman introduced FIU President Mark Rosenberg, who greeted the crowd jokingly.

"At some point we will all need a nurse," Rosenberg said. "So, we know why you are all here."

Rosenberg called the story of the CNHS a great example of the FIU story.

"Many of you can remember when this plot of land, indeed this campus, was nothing but an

outfield, and look what has been accomplished in such a relatively short amount of time, 40 years," Rosenberg said. "Just think about what we can do together in the next 40 years."

After the presentation, those in attendance were treated to a tour of the building. Visitors were able to see students in action in a number of different scenarios, including one of the mannequins undergoing cardiac arrest.

These scenarios are actually classes where students work accordingly while a teacher runs the simulation via laptop control, allowing the teacher to control the fates of these lifelike mannequins.

"Hopefully this gives FIU a name for physical therapy, occupational therapy and nursing," said Samantha Vasquez, a first year physical therapy student who was acting as a tour guide.

Fee waivers, do's and do not's explained in sessions

HAITI, page 1

According to Juliano, the other forms needed are the G-28 that will give the notice of appearance and also fee waiver applications.

"The I-821 form is [a] minefield of booby traps", Hartstone said.

"We want these applications to have as many 'no's' as possible. A 'yes' to any

question may be a red flag and the application could be rejected," Hartstone said.

"However, it is important to be honest, fraud is the worst thing you can do in the immigration world."

The fees were then discussed at the session.

Juliano explained that for a person between the ages of 14-65 years, the total application fee would be \$470 unless they

are able to get their fees waived.

According to Hartstone and Juliano, they must show proof that their income is below the federal poverty guideline or that they have a disability or medical condition in order to get their fees waived.

Hartstone explained how important it is to help Haitians receive TPS and remind them that these services are meant to be free.

"FIU will be holding more sessions. Catholic Legal Services and legal aid are helping Haitians fill out the forms properly and as law students with legal training we are important to the process," Hartstone said.

"Many lawyers are scheming to charge for filling out these TPS applications. It is absurd to ask money from people that have nothing at the moment," Hartstone said.



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Increased participation part of new point system

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

After many complaints from student organizations at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Student Organizations Council has decided to make changes to the Participation Point System.

"We were receiving a lot of complaints from clubs that felt the point system was not inclusive," said Didier Georges, president of SOC. "The clubs felt that they were doing all these things and not receiving any credit for it."

Georges also said that another problem with the previous point system was that it lacked uniformity with the Modesto Maidique Campus' point system.

"With our new point system we hope to have more uniformity with [MMC]," Georges said. "Right now by raising the maximum amount of points earned from 17 to 50 we are getting closer. [MMC] has a 75 points maximum and we're trying to get closer."

Christopher Sequera, vice president of the BBC Science Club, says the new points are easier and more useful, making the system more efficient and easier to understand.

"Before we were not getting points for a lot of things we did. Now we are," Sequera said.

The meeting, held on Jan. 28, began with Georges encouraging the various club representatives present.

"Go for it guys," he said. "This is to help you guys out and to get your organization out there."

He also pointed out that this semester will have more requirements and involvement with the Center for Leadership and Service is required. There are also extra points being awarded for participation in programs such as the Academy

of Leaders or the Sisterhood Retreat.

According to Georges, Special Projects and Blue & Gold Spirit Points will also be mandatory this semester.

"We want the organizations to not only be active in SOC but throughout the entire FIU campus," stated Georges. "[Club members] can participate in events hosted by the Student Programming Council, pep rallies, Student Government Council events, sport games, or any shows."

Club members this semester will also be able to receive extra points for collaborating with another organization.

"We want to encourage you guys to work together," Georges said. "You can host a special project and collaborate with another club and possibly double up your points."

Georges ended the meeting with a thorough discussion of the new feature called the Over-achiever Category.

"It is designed so that club members who fulfill all requirements and earn all extra credit points possible can still earn some more," Georges said.

The SOC has not said how much money each organization will receive per point.

"We cannot say right now because we do not know what the budget will be like," Georges said.

Representatives present said they understood the issue with the budget.

Zahra Arbabi aski, president of the Muslim Student Association said, "It's understandable, they do not know what the budget next semester will be like."

Questions regarding the Point System can be directed to the Campus Life Office at 305-919-5804.

COME ONE, COME ALL



LESTER ESCOTO/THE BEACON

Left to right: Marie Wray, senior, Alia Silvera senior and Bernishka Hanna, junior, dance and tell jokes to promote the Pan-African Celebration event held on Friday Feb. 5.

Symposium reveals the complex world of secret Jewish communities

LAURA DE LA FE
Staff Writer

Students at the Biscayne Bay Campus were given a historical tour of the Jewish migration to the Caribbean islands during a symposium entitled "Secret Jews of the Caribbean" on Feb. 4.

Stanley Hordes, a professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute of the University of New Mexico, spoke at the symposium and shared an island-by-island look at the records of Crypto-Jews (secret Jews) in each of the Spanish-speaking islands.

"I want to show who we are as a community and how far we have gotten today," he said.

According to Hordes several people still secretly practice their faith in these areas.

"I thought this all died out hundreds of years ago, and then people started coming to me to relate how their friends and neighbors were secretly practicing Jewish customs," he said.



HORDES

"People still have a fear of being something other than what they appear to be."

Mr. Behar, who refused to give his full name, was a member of a Crypto-Jewish family in the Americas.

"My family left for Cuba from Turkey, and when they got there they said they were from Salamanca [Spain] so they wouldn't be persecuted," Behar said.

According to Hordes, Crypto-Jews live in fear and would baptize their children in Christian churches then give them a ritual cleansing at home to wash off the baptism.

The symposium was sponsored by the President Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry which provides training and offers lectures and seminars about Oriental and Sephardic Jewish Studies and Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honor society.

Hordes, the author of the book, *Identities of Crypto-Jews in the Caribbean- A Historical Perspective*, read testimony

of a Crypto-Jew in Cuba who confessed during the Spanish Inquisition.

"I decided to do this, because we are all trying to figure out who we are. I wanted to try to strip the veneer of stereotypes and show the fabric of Jewish history is far from what people think," he said.

In search of the identities of their descendants, Dr. Seth Kunin from the University of Durham in England is working along with Hordes, co-founder of the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies.

"I have the daunting task of trying to find documentation on people who tried not to leave any tracks behind," Hordes said.

According to Hordes, researchers have estimated that about 20 percent of Hispanic men have a certain DNA code associated with people of Jewish descent.

Both Hordes and Kunin are uncovering the history of the Crypto-Jews in the Caribbean, specifically in the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Jamaica.

Old tensions do little to stop Cuban band

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press Writer

One by one, musicians from the renowned Cuban salsa band Los Van Van made their way past immigration officials at Miami International Airport and into the bright lights and cameras of the Spanish-language media.

"I didn't come to do anything political," bassist Juan Formell said. "We came to play music."

Los Van Van are the latest in a string of Cuban bands to visit the United States under the Obama administration — and the most controversial. Many characterize the group as having a cozy relationship with the Castro government, making them an emblem for conservative exiles of a five-decade long dictatorship.

Aside from Los Van Van, La Charanga Habanera and Buena Fe, a pop duo, each made recent appearances to sold-out crowds in Miami. The Septeto Nacional visited in November. Folk singer Carlos Varela met with politicians and sang in Washington. Legendary singer Omara Portuondo is scheduled to

perform here in March.

When Formell formed the group in 1969, the Castro regime was kicking of a campaign to produce 10 million tons of sugar. A popular slogan was "Los diez millones van," or "The 10 million go." Picking up on the phrase, the group was named "Los Van Van," basically, "The Go Gos."

"I would say virtually every timba group owes an inspiration debt to Los Van Van," said Chris Johnson, a producer for radio station KXLU, home of the long standing Latin music program "Alma del Barrio" in Los Angeles.

Cuban-American radio stations have avoided playing music from groups from the island in the past, but that has begun to change. About six months ago, Al Fuentes, programming director for Spanish Broadcasting Systems in Miami, began playing songs from Los Van Van and other Cuban artists on his morning show.

"People have been scared to offend parents, like my father," Fuentes said. "I think we need to realize there is a new generation that grew up in Cuba with that music, and the people that are here now make the decision."

Holy day offers free water, crucial message

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

An Islamic holy day presented itself as an opportunity to spread a life lesson to students along with something to quench their thirst.

In honor of the day of Ashura, members of the Biscayne Bay Campus Muslim Students Association handed out free water bottles and pamphlets detailing the story of Imam al-Husayn's stand against Yazid, the corrupt caliphate of Medina, on Feb. 5.

According to the story, Husayn was the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. When Yazid demanded that those under his rule pledge allegiance to him, Husayn refused, citing that he could not pay allegiance to an open sinner. Upon recognizing the danger of his stance, Husayn and his family fled to Mecca. During their journey through the desert, an opposing army met Husayn and his family. During the struggle they were defeated, making Husayn into a martyr.

While Muslims honor the day of Ashura by designating it as a day of mourning, the MSA honored this day by spreading the underlying importance of Husayn's stance. According to Zahra Arbabi aski, Husayn's legacy is crucial to Islam.

"If it wasn't for Imam Husayn standing up to the tyrant of the time, then possibly no one would know about Islam today," she said.

According to Arbabi aski, handing out

the water bottles were symbolic of Husayn due to the fact that Husayn and his family died thirsty.

The event was scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., but the 200 water bottles and the pamphlets did not last for long.

"I am glad – even though [the water and the pamphlets] were gone in an hour," Arbabi aski said.

The display also included a mural depicting Husayn's martyrdom and a display board with further information, which drew attention to several passersby.

"I really like the painting," said Maria N. Reynaga, a sophomore international relations major.

Several people were also moved by the message. According to Arbabi aski, several people came back after reading the summary on the water bottle and expressed enthusiasm behind the underlying message of standing up for one's beliefs, like Dawn Paris, a senior journalism major.

"I was very impressed when I read the label on the water bottle since it meant a lot to me," said Paris. "I support those who fight against 'downpressors,' the oppression of the lower class by the hierarchy."

Several students asked Arbabi aski the "catch" behind receiving a free bottle of water

"Just take it, read it, learn a lesson – that's the catch," Arbabi aski said.

Arbabi aski also noted that each year, on the day of Ashura, it rains. Above her, the clouds rumbled.



PHOTOS BY SERGIO MOTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

TOP: A banner depicting the martyrdom of Imam al-Husayn and his family was on display. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Victoria Aguila, a junior in journalism (left), receives a bottle of water from Zahra Arbabi aski, president of the MSA (right), at the entrance to Academic I on Feb. 5. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The bottles that were handed out tell the story of the Islamic hero Husayn, as well as the meaning of the holy day Ashura.

THE BEACON

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BaAaAaaBbBBbyyy!

Through the good and bad you've been there for me and for that I love you. Love your bear!

Eddie,

You are my best friend, the light in my life, and my biggest supporter. I love you more each and every day. Love, Debbie

Contact us at 305-348-6993, email beacon@fiu.edu, or visit GC 210.

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS
Where curiously creative minds meet.

ArtWorks!

February 10, 2010 / 6-9pm

The Frost Art Museum presents ArtWorks!, an exhibition devoted to healing arts. The ArtWorks! art therapy exhibition showcases students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the art therapy program and will also feature art by cancer patients participating in the Arts in Medicine Program sponsored by the Children's Cancer Fund, an affiliate of The Jackson Memorial Foundation. On view The Fantastic World of José Gurvich; In Body and Soul: The Performance Art of Maria Teresa Hincapié and Women's Work / Men's Work: Labor and Gender in America.

For a full list of events please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>

All events are free and open to the public.

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10975 SW 17th Street | Miami, Florida | 33199
<http://thefrost.fiu.edu> | 305.348.2890
Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

THE BEACON | Editorial

As elections approach, SGC-MMC must start early to fix last year's problems

As the Student Government council at Modesto Maidique Campus begins preparations for the 2010 elections, trends that were visible in last year's controversial elections could once again cause many problems.

In order to rid this year's elections from similar troubles, SGC-MMC needs to remain mindful of the past and be open to change for the future.

SGC-MMC is off to a slow start in devising their strategy to improve the current elections system. In late January, SGC-MMC finally confirmed an elections commissioner; Christy Flores. Flores was only confirmed by the senate two weeks ago, well into the summer-to-summer term of the student elections board.

Also, with only seven weeks left till the elections, the board itself has yet to be confirmed. According to SGC-MMC Press Secretary Ben Badger, it could be up to two weeks before the board is confirmed by the senate.

The board should have been confirmed well in advance, at least by the end of the Fall semester. If it does not act quickly, SGC-MMC runs the risk of not having a board established by the application deadline of Feb. 18.

Elections Commissioner Flores, while showing some promise in reforming the system, has been unclear in several instances regarding meetings and their importance to prospective candidates who are mandated to attend them.

A series of four messages were sent starting Feb. 2 from the official elections Facebook group in regards to the scheduling of these meetings. Both the dates and importance of the meetings were then changed in subsequent messages.

In the messages, Flores not only changed the dates of the meetings from Feb. 3 and 4 to the current Feb. 10 and 11, but also was clear that the meetings held were mandatory for all those who wanted to be a candidate in this year's election.

"If you are not in attendance, you will not be eligible to run for a position," Flores said.

On Feb. 5, SGC-MMC Press Secretary Ben Badger sent a fourth message clarifying that the meetings were no longer mandatory but were rather "strongly encouraged."

Communications regarding elections should be clear, unambiguous and succinct. Changing the dates, times and circumstances of these meetings is confusing and can lead to a miscommunication that may result in qualified candidates being disqualified.

When candidates' entire eligibility rests on whether or not they attend a meeting, and with \$11 million of student funds at stake, *The Beacon's* editorial board cannot take errors like this lightly.

Furthermore, had these mandatory meetings gone forward, and candidates disqualified for not attending them, *The Beacon* feels that it would have been in violation of the elections code.

According to the code, while the board is required to hold a mandatory candidate meeting prior to the commencement of campaigning, it is also clear that "this meeting shall be held following the deadline for registration," which in this case is Feb. 18.

After last year's abysmal turnout (roughly five percent of students), and a voting system malfunction which required a reversion to paper ballots, this year's elections board must learn the lessons of the past and correct them for what is shaping out to be a very-much contested race.

This editorial is the first in a two-part series, the second of which will be published Feb. 10.

Iran buys time by dragging out talks

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Just a week and a half ago, one of the 21st century's most intractable problems would've come to an end. But as past events have cruelly established, Iran and the West – namely the U.S. – once again remain at an impasse with regards to nuclear programs.

The latest attempt to end the deadlock sought a rather pragmatic solution: Iran would export most of its stocks of enriched uranium to the West and receive it back within a year, as fuel rods for its nuclear reactor.

On paper, it seemed to be an ingenious move, since Iran has long claimed that its nuclear work is for peaceful-civilian energy use. The western powers would do the work of converting the uranium into fuel while keeping it out of Iran's hands to prevent the making of a bomb. Furthermore, the fuel rods, once returned, would be difficult to process into bomb-making quality.

Not only did the plan offer an ostensibly good-will deal to spare Iran the cost and trouble of energy production, but it also bought crucial time for allowing the talks to continue without secretive enrichment work looming over them. It was presented to the Iranians last fall by the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the backing of the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany.

As before, Iran remained obstinate. It rejected the offer verbally, although it has yet to do so officially, leaving negotiators unsure as to its true intentions. To complicate matters, the Iranians proposed a seemingly half-hearted alternative, offering to trade its

The nuclear troubles are further complicated by the social and political unrest that has continued since Iran's rigged elections last summer.

enriched uranium only on its territory and in exchange for research fuel.

Furthermore, the uranium would be turned in a piecemeal, and not within any tight timetable, leaving enough material in Iranian hands to continue the project. Essentially, the counterproposal rejected the entire point of the scheme, which was to put the controversial nuclear work on hiatus.

Adding to the confusion, Iran took a more conciliatory tone earlier this week, with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad claiming that "there is no problem" with sending nuclear fuel to the West.

"If we allow them to take it, there is no problem," he stated in a recent interview.

Despite the more agreeable tone, neither Ahmadinejad nor Iranian diplomats specified whether they were in favor of the IAEA plan, the Iranian counterproposal, or another offer altogether. Regardless, Washington officials have asserted that their proposal was not negotiable. Consequently, neither side seems likely to accept the other's compromise.

Iran's ambiguity and diplomatic flip-flopping has aroused the suspicion of analysts and diplomats who conclude that Iran is simply trying to buy time as it continues its business

as usual. Some hint at an even larger plot: the threat of U.N. sanctions becomes an alternative as Iran drags its feet on an agreement.

China and Russia, which can veto such a measure, seem increasingly reluctant to approve any sanctions. Iran may be dragging out the negotiations in hopes of wearing them out from the process and ensuring no harsher measures are taken.

Of course, all of this is just conjecture. Iran has shown little consistency and much secrecy in its intentions. The nuclear troubles are further complicated by the social and political unrest that has continued since Iran's rigged elections last summer.

Protests remain sporadic but wide-scale; even government officials have expressed opposition to Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Khomeini, who are widely seen as influential figures behind the nuclear program.

Such unprecedented resistance has produced a wildcard: Will the strife make the regime even more paranoid, and likely to continue with the project? Or will it divide the regime enough to stall it?

Woe to the officials who must figure this out while the clock ticks.

America needs patriots not biased pundits

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Pundits are on the rise and have become the screaming heads that define the political landscape for lazy Americans; for those who don't have the time or inclination to follow politics with enough detail.

For the past two decades, although Congress has become increasingly polarized and partisan, experts have continued to claim that the majority of people in this country are somewhere close to the center of the ideological spectrum. Pundits, wielding their energized and over-the-top biases, have helped galvanize people at either end of the spectrum and prevent the very thing we need in this country: the ability to work together.

Glenn Beck, a popular right-wing pundit has made quite a few sensationalist claims. They include that our country is "headed toward socialism ... totalitarianism," claiming that President Obama's so called "czars" are "wicked, crazy, evil people." This is despite the fact that the czar system has existed in Washington politics even during the previous administration. During a time when Obama has been depicted as none less than the Joker or as a Nazi, Beck seems to want to fan the

flames. And, that's what pundits do: they exacerbate and fuel animosity and even hatred.

Pundits of course aren't only found among the GOP. Keith Olberman, a television host, has resorted to direct insults. He has called Senator Liberman a "senatorial prostitute" and Chris Wallace a "monkey posing as a newscaster." To what good does this serve? Sure, it may make Olberman feel better but for those watching it in all likelihood concretizes their opinion that people who are not on the left cannot be reasoned. It promotes stereotypes.

Both Beck and Olberman have made some good points. Beck has warned against the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of its ramifications and its obvious disregard for the Constitution. Both Beck and Olberman will be, however, dismissed by those on the other side of the ideological fence.

Now is not a time for good ideas to be ignored simply because the speaker comes from one party or another. The economy is in the worst state since the Great Depression. Meanwhile, there are two wars being waged; the health care industry needs major reforms. It's the same problems that we've been facing

for what seems to be eons.

But these pundits have slowly become the modern equivalent to the "yellow journalism" over a century ago, except that the Pulitzer's and Hearst's have been replaced by the Olberman's and Beck's.

And, what of Chris Matthews? During the New Hampshire primaries in 2008, Matthews compared Obama's victory with great enthusiasm to a military victory by Col. T.E. Lawrence during World War I. Journalistic integrity goes out the window.

There are those out there who give thorough and fact-based opinions, such as Fareed Zakaria. Yet men like Zakaria are much less pundits than analysts.

We need to shift away from pundits, which are being so absorbed in their biases that most of what they do is rail against opponents like rabid dogs. Their mannerisms, methods and tone, all serve to both entertain and divide. We need objective and insightful opinions on our very serious problems, which are quite complex and don't have easy solutions.

We need people to work together. While we may not all agree on every point, I think we do agree on wanting to make this country better. We won't get there by calling people heretics.

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

DISCLAIMER

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

OPINIONPIECE

8.4

Amount, in millions, of Americans currently out of work due to the current recession according to a new U.S. government report.

QUOTATIONATION

"I love the women's movement, especially when walking behind it. This idea that I don't like women is absurd. This is Miss America. And if there's a Mr. America out there, it's me."

Rush Limbaugh
on Women's Movement in America

Miss FIU

Women compete for scholarships on the road to Miss America



On Feb. 5, 14 contestants competed to be the next Miss FIU in the Graham Center Ballrooms. [TOP] Stephanie Jimenez was crowned the 2010 Miss FIU by former Miss FIU Stephanie Lozano (left) and Lauren Perez, executive director of Miss FIU (right). Contestants presented their talents, exhibited lifestyle and fitness in the swimsuit competition and answered on-stage questions in the evening gown competition.

**AMANDA BATCHELOR
ANASTASIA MOHAMMED**
Beacon Staff

It was an eventful night at the 2010 Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant, hosted by the 2009 Miss FIU Stephanie Lozano and comedian Robby Valls. Fourteen contestants competed for the title that would reward them with a scholarship and a spot in the Miss America Pageant.

The Miss FIU Pageant

is part of the Miss America Organization, which is the largest provider of scholarships for young women in the United States.

"The Miss America Pageant, along with the state pageants and local preliminaries, provide contestants with the opportunity to enhance their professional and educational goals," said Lauren Perez, executive director of the Miss FIU Pageant. "The Miss America Organization is a non-profit

corporation that is solely run by dedicated volunteers."

The 2010 Miss FIU Committee was full of enthusiasm and commitment to the cause and Christine Ale, the stage design and production chair, was happy to have an opportunity to support this cause.

"It is a great opportunity to see women on campus empowered and making an impact. I want to be their support system."

Second runner-up was

Caressa Gonzalez and first runner-up was Cristina Bosmenier.

Stephanie Jimenez was the big winner of the night. In addition to winning the title of Miss FIU, she also won prizes for most photogenic and best interview.

"I still can't believe it, I'm on cloud nine," Jimenez said.

For her Overall Interview Award and Most Photogenic Award, she won an official Miss America Trophy, a \$50 gift certificate courtesy of Koko & Palenki and a floral bouquet.

For winning the title of Miss FIU 2010, Jimenez got a \$1,250 scholarship; an offi-

cial Miss America crown, official Miss America sash; official Miss America pin, a floral bouquet; \$350 gift certificate and earrings courtesy of Regalia Magnificent Apparel; \$50 gift certificate courtesy of Koko & Palenki; a three-month gym membership courtesy of Planet Fitness; \$150 toward her talent costume for the pageant courtesy of the Miss FIU Committee and \$400 toward her gown for Miss Florida courtesy of the Student Government Association.

This isn't the only pageant that this 19-year-old has

PAGEANT, page 9

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: **KRAVE**

Local hip-hop trio prepares to release first album in September

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

There is new music on the East Coast that people are craving, and it's right here in Miami's hottest clubs.

The Beacon recently had a chance to speak with the ladies of Krave, an all-female hip-hop trio from Atlanta who are the latest buzz in the music industry.

Chanel Ross, Jasmine "Jaz" Kears and Shanquilla "Shan Q" Robinson are the three members of the song and dance group.

They describe their music as "ghetto pop." Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe

them.

Although in the dictionary *crave* is defined as desire, they thought the word to mean respect, confidence and unity with everybody. Then they "funked it up" by changing the "c" to a "k."

The three petite women have been compared to the '90s trio TLC because their members also include two singers and a rapper.

"It is an honor to be compared to them but those are big shoes to fill," Ross said. "We are trying to make our own lane."

According to Krave, they are different from other girl groups because of the way they were developed.

"Devyne taught us that this is a 24/7 job. It's about the performance, the look, the music," Kears said. "We are here to bring entertainment back."

Krave has worked with popular artists like Pit Bull, Akon and Nelly.

"It is a great privilege to work with them," Robinson said. "It is a pleasure to have these people on our record that we idolize and make our songs even better. We're in a good situation."



Ladies of Krave from left to right: Jasmine Kears, Shanquilla Robinson and Chanel Ross

Krave is currently finishing their first album that is set to come out by September. They will soon begin shooting their music video for their first single, "Girls Go Crazy," featuring Flo Rida, and there is some high school and

college touring in the works as well.

"We worked hard to get where we are and we are going to work harder to get to the top," Kears said. "We really work hard because we want people to like us."

SCITUNES

Online music video project aims to make science accessible to all

JAMES RADZIEWICZ
Asst. Life! Editor

A Web site is gaining popularity by turning some of the most well-known and respected minds of science into the Internet's newest singing sensations.

The topic of scientific phenomena may not evoke the idea of popular music for most. However, John Boswell, creator of *symphonyofscience.com*, made this connection.

In 2009, Boswell decided to combine his passions for science and electronic music with a music video project.

This first video, "A Glorious Dawn," featured the late geniuses Carl Sagan and Dr. Stephen Hawking. This duo seems an unlikely pairing for a catchy song, but Boswell's use of Auto-Tune has them spouting concepts of modern science in rhythm with electronic background music.

Most scenes and words are drawn from the acclaimed PBS series "Cosmos," which Boswell credits as a large influence on his work.

Interspersed with discussions of wormholes, questions about the universe and the human brain, Boswell immortal-

izes Carl Sagan's words, which convey the astrophysicist's whimsical passion for the pursuit of science: "A still more glorious dawn awaits; not a sunrise, but a galaxy-rise; a morning filled with 400 billion suns."

Concepts of science are, at times, written off by those who dislike mathematical formulas, expansive concepts and an abundance of raw data and facts. This song attempts to evoke the beauty and wonder that lies at the heart of the scientific quest for knowledge and understanding, rather than teach it.

"Mathematics sounds 'scary' and formulas sound 'dry,' but it is what they tell us that is so riveting," said University physics Professor James Webb. "I think any attempt to popularize science is wonderful and should be pursued."

Boswell seemed successful in beginning to bridge this divide between the "mind" and "heart" of science.

"A Glorious Dawn" received a strong reception, especially on YouTube, where multiple versions, including subtitles in other languages and remixes for the song have reached combined totals of more

SYMPHONY, page 9



The Perricone's Marketplace sells many of the featured ingredients as well as deli sandwiches and gourmet desserts.

Budget-conscious diners savor Pasta Thursdays

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Eating leftover chicken fingers doesn't seem so appetizing after the amazing meal I had Thursday night at Perricone's Marketplace and Cafe, but at least I can head back next week, and maybe every week, for their very affordable pasta special. Along with Perricone's, I declare Pasta Thursdays.

I had been to Perricone's before and knew that I would not be disappointed when leaving. Hands down, this delightful Italian eatery serves some of the tastiest, stay-on-your-mind food in Miami. From the baked brie appetizer served in a puff pastry drizzled with a warm apricot glaze to the pistachio-crust double rack of lamb to the chocolate sushi, everything on the menu is deserving of a taste. But on Thursdays, the tables are filled with pasta orders. Normally the price for a pasta dish can range from around \$14 to \$19, but all pasta dishes become just \$10; fine dining rarely

comes so cheap, so I left my big bills at home and made my way downtown.

Perricone's is nestled adjacent to Allen Morris Brickell Park where trees with the brightest green lead the way to the restaurant. Once inside, a quaint marketplace awaits with everything you would expect from an Italian market. The deli serves a variety of sandwiches including a creamy curry chicken salad sandwich, and an Angry Sicilian: five different meats including prosciutto and capicola with provolone cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, roasted peppers and sprinkled with aged balsamic vinegar.

All the delicious desserts on the menu come from the bakery also inside the market where different chocolates are all lined up ready to take home after your meal. An array of frozen treats like hazelnut, coffee and coconut gelatos are the final part of the bakery right before one of many seating areas. A grand selection

PERRICONE'S, page 9



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Pageant a success despite technical difficulties throughout

PAGEANT, page 7

participated in. She competed in various pageants throughout her years and has held the titles of Miss Hialeah USA and Miss Kendall USA.

After speaking with many people in the audience, it seemed Jimenez also got the vote for best dressed for the evening, because of her two-piece, white, sequined talent costume and her floor length, flowy, white evening gown.

It wasn't all glitz and glamour during this pageant for everyone, however. The

DJ messed up a few of the contestant's music during the talent portion, which caused some of them a few extra moments on stage in silence.

Contestant Ellen Durham had to try her color guard routine three times before her music didn't stall and finally kept going.

To make matters worse, the talents portion was one of the highest percentages of their overall score.

"I think Ellen handed it very well," said Maria Sabando, a junior and international business major. "She smiled the whole time which demonstrates her

patience and positive attitude."

Talents varied from singing to dancing to performing monologues.

The contestants got scored from one to ten in each category, which included lifestyle and fitness, a 10-minute interview they had in private with the judges, the on-stage interview question, talent and the evening gown.

Now that Jimenez has won the title of Miss FIU 2010, she is anxious to get started.

"I hope to really advocate my platform, which is helping people with disabilities,

by working with organizations such as Best Buddies, the Center for Disability Services, SGA, Special Olympics and faculty and administration," she said. "It is a cause very near to my heart."

She says she would also like to be active at FIU events and is planning to train and prepare very well for the Miss Florida America Pageant in July in hopes of representing the University to the best of her ability.

"Who knows if I could win and go on to Miss America?" Jimenez said.

Music, science collide in Web videos

SYMPHONY, page 8

than 4 million hits since its release six months ago.

The popularity of this first video prompted Boswell to expand on the idea, and the Symphony of Science project was created. Since its foundation, three more music videos have been released, with the most recent being launched last month. The songs combine audio samplings, documentary video and pictures that capture the natural beauty that science seeks to discover and share.

Symphony's second video, "We Are All Connected," expanded to other great minds of science to explore the link humans share with the universe. This offering drew on the works and interviews of Richard Feynman, Neil deGrasse Tyson and a nostalgic hook by none other than Bill Nye the "Science Guy."

"Our Place in the Cosmos," Boswell's third video, combined Sagan's image with contemporaries Richard Dawkins and Michio Kaku. This song uses a slower, electronic funk style combined with synthesized piano with beautiful imagery from satellites and various documentaries.

Last month's song "The

Unbroken Thread" saw Symphony moving in a new direction. The ever-quotable Sagan is now joined by David Attenborough and famed biologist Jane Goodall. Jumping from the previous topics involving space and the universe, "Thread" discusses the idea of evolution and the similarities of development in the animal kingdom.

These videos have drawn praise from music critics, news sources and even Sagan's own son, Nick Sagan.

"John Boswell is ... a mad genius," said the younger Sagan about the first video. "[I] love it. Dad would have loved it, too."

"I think people who like science will like them a lot, and others may find them sort of fascinating," Webb agreed.

Though Symphony of Science is the most recent effort to combine science and music and is currently enjoying popularity on the Internet, it is by no means the first attempt to create music with ideas of science.

Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, an Italian astrophysicist, has used her own unique approach to sharing the beauty found in science. Collecting radio waves sent across the universe, Terenzi converts these readings into sounds which she then uses in her own electronic music.

Having collaborated with such celebrated personalities like Herbie Hancock and Dr. Timothy Leary, her work has earned its own popularity. She currently teaches at Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Fla. Information on her books and music may be found at www.fiorella.com.

Terenzi is not the only local professor interested in blending a passion for science with music. Webb, in addition to being a music enthusiast, enjoys making his own.

His endeavors have included a song about the James Webb Space Telescope, a playful number about the assumptions people have made of him and the telescope's namesake.

Webb made another video, featuring students from FIU, extolling his enjoyment of his work in the science field called "I Can't Believe They Pay Me for This."

Webb's other songs and information can be found at myspace.com/astrojimwebb.

In a world where the height of Internet entertainment seems to be watching a child get his finger bitten by his baby brother, symphonyofscience.com and other science appreciators seek to offer viewers a little more mental stimulation.

Pasta night ends

on a sweet note

PERRICONE'S, page 8

of wines is available as well and an assortment of cheeses can be bought for pairing. The restaurant's wine cellar changes every week so diners can have a unique experience each time.

My party was sat in a patio-like area in a lush garden environment.

Above us was a balcony where a pianist and bassist were exchanging jazz riffs for the ears. Upon ordering we were given bread and a bowl of diced tomatoes in what seemed to be a mix between *pico de gallo* and an Italian *bruschetta*.

I ordered the *focchi gorgonzola* and the waiter smiled and said, "Great choice, that's my favorite." This dish might be my favorite too. The perfect combination of salty and sweet are given by pears and four cheeses stuffed inside big purse-shaped pasta (*focchi*), floating in what can be called a *gorgonzola* and walnut soup. At least that's what I consid-

ered it; after finishing my pasta I took a spoon and drank the sauce like a soup — and no, I'm not ashamed. You'd do the same, I promise.

Chicken can be replaced by salmon on my plate any day. I tried some of the whole wheat penne with salmon, pine nuts and broccoli and I must say I did not miss chicken at all. I could have done with a little more salmon, but the pink sauce really gave the dish great flavor.

For dessert we shared some *nocciola* — the hazelnut gelato — and bought some Amaretti cookies in the market for the car ride home. At \$15 per person, I think it would have been hard to find such great food at such a low price.

Next time I think I will try the homemade *gnocchi* or the spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli. It doesn't really matter, there are plenty of Thursdays to come at Perricone's.

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

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, FEB. 8

LIVE, LOVE & LAUGH



Sigma Iota Rho's Valentine's Day fundraiser.

WHEN: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

PHI CHI THETA

General meeting.
WHEN: 8 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 276

YOGARDEN



Come relax with the Yoga Club.

WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Garden (between Baseball Stadium and nature preserve)

FREE HIV TESTING

WHEN: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wellness Center @ MMC

MIRACLE BALL



"A Tribute to the Children," presented by FBLA-PBL @ FIU and CMN. Look for the ball circulating campus.

WHEN: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: All around MMC.
For info: Megan Lee 786-216-8499

AIDS AWARENESS DAY... I GOT TESTED!

WHEN: 12 - 5 p.m.
WHERE: Graham Center

TUESDAY, FEB. 9

TOWN HALL MEETING



University President Mark Rosenberg and administrators answer your questions.

WHEN: 2 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wolf Theater @ BBC

SPC-BBC SPOKEN WORDS

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wolfe University Center Theater

AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM



WHEN: 9 a.m. (registration)
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MARC Pavilion
RSVP for lunch at agroecol@fiu.edu or call Dr. Mahadev Bhat (305) 348-1210

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Discussing Lawrence Lessig's "Make Way For Copyright Chaos."

WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

SCREENING OF UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS



Presented by Women's Studies Student Association. Light refreshments provided.

WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

MOVIE NIGHT

Pan-African Celebration. Showing "The Black Panthers."

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Local, organic food.

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Central Fountain between PC and Green Library (along red wall).

YOGARDEN

WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Garden (between Baseball Stadium and Nature Preserve).

CATHOLIC MASS

WHEN: 12 - 1 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

CSO MEET & GREET KARAOKE SOCIAL

Meet your CSO officers, earn points for your club, and enjoy the free food and giveaways.

WHEN: 6 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Faculty Club

STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET

Second general meeting. Refreshments provided
WHEN: 1 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

WEDNESDAY TARGET AFTER HOURS



ArtWorks! sponsored by Target.
WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum
For more info: 305-348-6963 thefrost.fiu.edu

THURSDAY, FEB. 11

A LIE OF THE MIND



Presented by FIU Theatre. Runs until Feb. 14.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 for students, \$12 general
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
carta.fiu.edu

PRESTON SCOTT COHEN LECTURE



Presented by FIU Architecture.
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: PCA 135
For more info visit carta.fiu.edu

ITALIAN CLUB

General meeting.
WHEN: 3 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

LATE DAY LATTE



Coffee and refreshments for commuter students.

WHEN: 4:30 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Academic I (BBC)

FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by the African and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Student Association
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.: "Jamaica for Sale"
7:15 p.m.: "Tulia, Texas."
8:20 p.m.: "HomeGrown: HipLife in Ghana"
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: All films will be shown in GC 140

Write to calendar@fiusm.com to have your event featured.

NFL commissioner discusses potential changes

BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

With the Super Bowl now in the rear view mirror, the NFL likely will enter its first season since 1993 without a salary cap. What effect an uncapped year will have on the 32 teams is uncertain.

"I don't think anybody wants to see a work stoppage," commissioner Roger Goodell said Friday at his annual Super Bowl-week news conference. "There are no benefits to that. If it comes to anything like that, we would all have failed."

Failure is not a familiar word in the NFL, which has enjoyed soaring television ratings in a season filled with intriguing story lines. But a lack of progress on a new collective bargaining agreement casts a shadow over the nation's most popular and prosperous sport.

"We have to sit at the table and we have to get an agreement that works for everybody," Goodell said. "And that's what people expect. They expect solutions, and I think it's our responsibility to sit down at that table and work out the issues. I think there's been a lot of dialogue, but we need productivity."

Goodell bristled about a statement union chief DeMaurice Smith made Thursday. Smith estimated the chance of a lockout next year was "14" on a scale of 1 to 10.

"I couldn't make that prediction, and I sure hope he's wrong, and I sure hope it doesn't become a self-fulfilling prophecy," Goodell said.

"Right now we don't need a lot of focus on that. We need to take advantage of the opportunity we have right now to structure an agreement and sit down and negotiate. That's how this is going to get done, and we will have an agreement. It's just a matter of when, but talking about options like work stoppages

is not going to get us there."

The owners opted out of the current agreement in 2008, claiming the players' 60 percent share of revenues was too high. Goodell said Friday that since the 2006 agreement was struck, the NFL generated \$3.6 billion in additional revenue, and \$2.6 billion of that went to the players.

"The owners are actually \$200 million worse off than they were in 2006," Goodell said. "So the system is not working for at least one side of the equation. And that's the point. You have to have a system that works for everybody here."

On other issues, the commissioner said:

- There's more work to do on the issue of concussions, but the league has made progress in player awareness and changing the culture.

"We want to make sure people understand that they are serious injuries, and make sure that we deal with them in a conservative and medical fashion," Goodell said.

- Extending the season will be part of the discussion when talks with the union resume. Goodell favors adding one or two games to replace exhibition games.

"I consistently hear from players and fans that the quality of our preseason is not up to NFL standards and that we need to fix that," he said. "This is one way of doing that, and what I believe is an effective way."

- The NFL is still eyeing a return to Mexico; the Cardinals and 49ers held the league's first regular-season game outside the United States in Mexico in 2005.

"We would like to expand the number of games we're playing internationally," Goodell said. "The restructured season, actually, is one of the ways to do that. By adding two more regular-season games, it gives us a little more flexibility to be able to reach our international audience."



Bill Kestroun/Associated Press

Goodell has overseen some of the NFL's best years, but a number of problems loom for the league's commissioner.

- Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth will be reinstated after the Super Bowl from his suspension for killing a pedestrian while driving drunk last March in the Miami area.

"I met with him when I was down here in South Florida approximately a month ago," Goodell said. "I think he's in a better place than he was. I think he recognizes what he did and the horrific nature and the unfortunate outcome, and I think he's prepared himself to get back in and play."

- The overtime system is unlikely to be changed.

"We saw overtime in two games this postseason, and they were two of the most exciting games we've had," Goodell said. Arizona beat Green Bay 51-45, and New

Orleans reached Sunday's Super Bowl against Indianapolis by beating Minnesota 31-28.

- Attendance at Jacksonville Jaguars' home games remains a concern, and with crowds of around 40,000, "you can't continue to have an NFL franchise," Goodell said the league wants to keep a team in St. Louis, where the Rams may be sold, and wants to return to Los Angeles.

- The cold-weather Super Bowl bid for the new Meadowlands stadium in 2014 remains under consideration.

"There are real benefits to the league considering this," he said. "Playing in the elements is central to the way the game of football is played. I think being able to do that and celebrate the game of football in the No. 1 market could have tremendous benefits."

With late season surge, Russo deserves another chance

DELGADO, page 12

The Golden Panthers had built a 15-point lead with a few minutes remaining. It appeared that FIU would leave Boca Raton having breezed their way to a road win.

But then the Owls caught fire, and relentlessly fought back. The Panthers crumbled, and the Owls tied it in the closing seconds to send the game to overtime.

After winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament in 2002 and earning a bid for the NCAA Tournament, the team has not returned since.

After the 2003-04 season, FIU finished below .500 for the first time since 1980.

And it all culminated last season, as the team finished dead last in Sun Belt play with a 6-24 record.

What had happened? What had changed?

There were rumblings around fan circles as to whether FIU should look elsewhere

to turn the program around.

It appeared as if Russo had run out of gas, run out of ideas, run out of answers. Before the start of this season, it didn't look like any change was in sight.

Russo's legacy at FIU was in jeopardy and it was unclear whether she would be able to recover in time to save it.

REBOUNDED EFFORT

As the overtime period started, the fans gathered at FAU Arena could taste it; they knew their squad had the momentum and that FIU was on the edge, all that was needed was a little push.

But Michelle Gonzalez took over, scoring all of the Golden Panthers' 10 points in the overtime period and delivering them from the brink, surviving the thriller in Boca with a 77-75 victory.

This season has had high points and low points for Russo's squad, but without a doubt it has signaled a noticeable

turnaround.

The team has already matched their win total for last season, and the victory at FAU has sparked victories against both Louisiana and North Texas.

The Panthers now have a three-game winning streak, building momentum as they enter the later stages of the season.

But Russo isn't "back." Not yet, anyway.

She still has a long way to go before she can regain the status she had earned at FIU during the '80s and '90s.

But it is by no means an unattainable

level.

With young players like Michelle Gonzalez taking a leadership role at guard and Carmen Miloglav traveling across the globe to bring her hard-working style of play to Miami, Russo still has a lot to talent to work with and develop.

This year has earned Russo another chance to turn the ship around.

And proves to her doubters and naysayers that her work at FIU is far from over.

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with **Peter Rogen, Amir Vaheb** and
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MEN'S BASKETBALL: UNT 68, FIU 66

North Texas downs FIU as late run closes game

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

Something about FIU gives North Texas trouble.

That something was present when FIU defeated the Mean Green in Denton on Dec. 20.

It also showed itself when the Golden Panthers made a 15-1 run in the second half of Saturday's game to take a 63-56 lead.

Unfortunately for FIU (7-19, 4-9 Sun Belt), the Mean Green figured it out and finished the game on a 12-3 run to leave the U.S. Century Bank Arena with a 68-66 win on Feb. 6.

"Our kids fought hard and we just got to keep getting better at the little things," said FIU coach Isiah Thomas. "It's not the small things that hurt you in the end of the game; it's the small things that hurt you at the beginning of the game. We have a tendency to focus on the last three or four minutes of the game, but the things where you probably lost the game in were the first three minutes of the game."

With North Texas (15-8, 8-5 SBC) leading 67-63 down the stretch, FIU guard Stephon Weaver knocked down a three-pointer to bring FIU to within one point.

With 18 seconds left in the game, the Golden Panthers looked for a go ahead basket which resulted in a Phil Gary Jr. three-point miss.

UNT forward George Odufuwa snatched the rebound and got fouled, making one-of-two attempts at the stripe.

The Golden Panthers then tried to

inbound a full court pass with 2.2 seconds left, which was not completed.

"When J.C. [Otero] came up to set the screen, he set the screen on the wrong side," Thomas said of the Gary shot. "But that's neither here nor there. [UNT] did a good job at the end of the game."

In many ways, the game came down to free throws, where the Mean Green knocked down 15-of-27 attempts while FIU hit on 8-of-16 tries from the charity stripe.

"I thought we did a good job in taking care of the basketball, but I thought the 27 free throws they shot to our 16 was probably the difference in the game," Thomas said. "They did a good job, a much better job, of getting to the foul line."

The Golden Panthers, eighth in the SBC in free throw percentage, struggled to get to the line and to convert on the few opportunities they had in the close game.

"We missed a couple of free throws we should have made," said FIU forward Marvin Roberts. "If we would have knocked down a few free throws and a couple of key baskets, we would have won the game easily."

Roberts led the team in scoring with 16 points on 5-for-15 shooting from the field.

UNT was led by Tristan Thomas, who dropped 19 points to lead the Mean Green and got to the foul line on 11 instances.

FIU lost its third consecutive game after a blowout win over UALR on Jan. 23.

"Every team makes runs," Roberts said. "They hit us unexpectedly, instead of us capitalizing on it."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers at one point owned a seven point lead in the late minutes, but could not close in their 68-66 loss to the North Texas Mean Green on Feb. 6.

Thomas does not address NBA rumors; 'happy' here

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

Amid rumors that he could become the next coach, general manager, and president of the Los Angeles Clippers, Isiah Thomas would not disclose if he has spoken to the Clippers about joining their organization. Thomas, however, was adamant that he is "very happy" at FIU.

"We've got a great recruiting class coming in next year, one of the best recruiting classes in the school's history," Thomas said after FIU lost to North Texas on Saturday. "My 2011 class, I hope that's even better. I think we got a chance to build something really special here. I like being in between the four lines and I love coaching."

Foxsports.com first reported that Thomas could join the Clippers a few days ago, a story that the Clippers denied on *espnlosangeles.com*. After the UNT game, FIU team spokesman Paul Dodson said that Thomas has not been in contact with the Clippers either.

The Clippers organization was not available for comment.

When asked if he would consider coaching in the NBA in the future, Thomas would



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

Just 26 games under his belt as a college basketball coach, Thomas has reportedly received interest from NBA teams.

not go into detail.

"I like what I'm doing now," Thomas said. "I don't think you look any further than that. I love the challenge that's in front of me and we're on the right track."

Thomas is 7-19 in his first season coaching the Golden Panthers. He signed a five-year contract with FIU last

April, one that will pay him roughly \$1.3 million.

"We've got good recruits coming in 2010 and we've got good recruits coming in 2011 and, knock on wood, we'll have good recruits coming in 2012. If we can get the school behind us and get the support and keep building, I think we can do good things here."

THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 22, Issue 53

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

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SPOTLIGHT

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Our Editors are looking for ambitious writers who enjoy pursuing stories, getting the facts – and who have a mid range to high writing skill level.

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The Beacon is looking for persons who have an eye for design; although experience with Photoshop and InDesign isn't required, it is preferred.

Submit your application in GC 210 or WUC 124.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 72, UNT 55

CAREY'S BREAKOUT

Junior dominates with career-best performance

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After picking up two straight road wins, Elisa Carey traveled back to Miami with the FIU women's basketball team, but decided to leave herself on cruise control.

The junior dominated North Texas on Saturday with a career-high 26 points and a game-high 14 rebounds, allowing the Golden Panthers to cruise past the Mean Green, 72-55, at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The forward, who has now scored in double figures in four straight games, seemed close to unstoppable as she calmly sank 10-of-10 shots from the free throw line and 8-of-10 from the floor.

"I think she now understands how important she is to the team," said point guard Michelle Gonzalez in reference to Carey. "The other teams always have players that can match up with [Monika Bosilj and I] but our post players are the best in the conference."

Carey was effective early on as she scored the first four points of the game. The rest of the Golden Panthers (11-13, 6-7 Sun Belt) followed as the team ran out to a 12-5 lead in the first five minutes of the game.

The Mean Green, however, gave FIU a fight later in the first half when they decreased the lead to just one point, 24-23, after Raquel Cuffie knocked down two free throws with 3:22 remaining.

After the teams exchanged layups, North Texas was able to come within one point again after Brittney James, who scored a team-high 13 points, hit a three with 55 seconds remaining in the half.

FIU guard Cherrisse Buddy was there to respond again as she hit a jumper and was fouled by Cuffie. The senior converted the three-point play to make the score 32-28 at the half.

"We have eight players who can all be the first five," said Gonzalez. "If they come off the bench and do what they need to do when the starters can't, that's great. Fanni [Hutlassa] did her job and so did Cherrisse, that's what we need."

North Texas started the second half with a three-point shot by Denetra Kellum to once again come within one point of tying the game, however, Carey converted a jumper followed by two three-point shots by Fanni Hutlassa and Bosilj to increase the Golden Panther lead to seven.

The Mean Green came no closer than two points the rest of the way and went down by as much as 17 in the final minutes.

FIU shot 45.5 percent for the game compared to 40 percent for the Mean Green (6-18, 3-10 SBC).

The Golden Panthers won the battle in the paint with 26 points compared to 18 for North Texas while also out-rebounding the opponent 36 to 23.

The win marks the third consecutive for FIU and also notes their first conference sweep of the season.

"We finally found out how to come back in a game when we slow down," said FIU guard Carmen Miloglav who dished out six assists in the game. "We have good chemistry now and we're playing better. I'm comfortable now because the team allows me to be like that."

The Golden Panthers hope to keep on cruising as they head to Alabama next week to take on Troy and South Alabama.

"I think that this team is playing together and that's why the wins are coming," continued Miloglav. "Everyone is scared of us now because we are getting better."



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON



ABOVE: Freshman guard Carmen Miloglav [left] attempts to drive by a North Texas defender Brittney James [right] en route to the basket. Miloglav had a team-high in assists [6] and steals [3] to go along with two points in a gritty performance. Miloglav has made herself known for her physical play throughout the regular season and is making a case to be a force by the time the Sun Belt tournament rolls around in March.

LEFT: Fanni Hutlassa [right] passes North Texas guard Nia'ky Hughes [left] as she contributed five points, including a crucial three-pointer early in the second half, to the Golden Panthers' winning effort. Hutlassa was shot 20 percent from the field.

Coach Russo's legacy not yet set

It's impossible to describe else in between. Cindy Russo's coaching career in one sentence.

But last weekend, in that poetic manner that we often see in sports, her entire tenure at FIU was summed up in a basketball game at Boca Raton when her Golden Panthers battled arch rival Florida Atlantic.

As that game unfolded, it was hard not to see the parallels, the story within a story and a metaphor for a career that has had bright spots, rough patches and everything

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

FAST START

The team got out to a quick start, creating an early lead and making their presence known, silencing the Boca crowd as FAU had trouble finding an answer to the offensive outburst.

Russo's career had a similar start. It would have been smart for fans to buy their postseason tickets and plane tickets early. Russo was taking her team to

various NCAA Division II tournaments in her first decade and then when FIU made the transition to Division I, regular trips to the NCAA Tournament were the norm.

Russo, who was honing in on 500 career coaching victories, appeared to be riding high and was building herself one of the most impressive coaching careers in college basketball.

But at the turn of the century, something changed.

TURNING POINT

DELGADO, page 10