

4-12-2010

# The Beacon, April 12, 2010

Florida International University

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Stonewall2BBC sponsors  
*Day Of Silence*

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Organic Garden  
receives USDA award

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Panthers win series  
over Ragin' Cajuns

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## SPOTLIGHT

### AT THE BAY PAGE 5



The Walt Disney College Internship program allows students to live in Orlando and gain work experience.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 5

According to the Office of the Vice Provost, students at BBC feel that the quality of service and staff members leaves something to be desired.

### LIFE! PAGE 7

Panthers have a second place to call home with the opening of the Panthers Sports Bar and Grill just down the street from MMC.

### OPINION PAGE 11



Jorge Valens takes a break and talks about the future of environmentally friendly sports cars and spouts about his new love: the Porsche 918 Spyder.

### EDITORIAL PAGE 11

The last time the University's Health Fee increased was 2006. The time for the increase is right, if long overdue.

### SPORTS PAGE 13

FIU baseball struggles on the road, dropping two straight games to Middle Tennessee.

### SPORTS PAGE 15

Freshman Jabari Henry makes an unforgettable entrance as a Golden Panther.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Take Back The Night, April 12, 7 p.m.**  
Learn about how to prevent sexual abuse toward women, at the Graham Center Ballrooms.

**Wind Ensemble Concert, April 13, 7:30 p.m.** Presented by FIU Music at the WPAC Concert Hall. Prices are \$10 for FIU students.

**Finals Oasis, April 14, 12 p.m.** Come relax before finals with free food, games, music, yoga and more, at the GC Panther Suite.

-For more events, look for our calendar in the Life! section on Mondays and Fridays.

### WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 70 HIGH: 79



**TUESDAY**  
Showers/Wind  
LOW: 71 HIGH: 79



**WEDNESDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 68 HIGH: 78

### CONTACTS

Editor in Chief ..... 305-348-1580  
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

MMC Office ..... 305-348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office ..... 305-919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections ..... 305-348-2709  
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising ..... 305-348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

## LET'S GET CRAZY



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Pitbull and Kid Cudi perform in the U.S. Century Bank on April 7 as part of SPC-MMC's UP-Roar Week. For more photos of the concert and UP-Roar Week, turn to page 8.

## New law ties teacher pay to students' test scores, progress

**BILL KACZOR**  
Associated Press

Gov. Charlie Crist says no other issue has put as much political pressure on him during his more than three years in office as a bill that would make it easier to fire Florida teachers and tie their pay to student test scores.

How much pressure?

"A ton. A ton," Crist said Friday while visiting a state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office in St. Petersburg, his

hometown. Crist has backed off from his earlier support of the bill, and he now says he's unsure whether he'll sign or veto it.

Teachers are upset over the legislation (SB 6). They've been holding demonstrations across the state and flooding the Capitol with phone calls and e-mails urging Crist to veto the bill.

The Florida Education Association, the statewide teachers union, and local school officials also oppose the bill. It is supported by business interests and most Repub-

lican politicians including former Gov. Jeb Bush, still an influential force in Florida politics.

Crist also is getting lobbied from within his family.

"My dad used to be chairman of the school board," said Crist, who was once the state's education commissioner. "Two of my three sisters have been public school teachers here in Pinellas County. I am hearing a lot about it everywhere. They're making very

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### STRATEGIC PLAN

## Plan looks to set goals for next ten years

**MELISSA CACERES**  
Staff Writer

With the beginning of a new decade, it is time for the University to create a new version of what is known as the Strategic Plan.

In a forum held April 8, the committees in charge of carrying out the new plan of action allowed University members to contribute ideas to the three main topics of focus: finance, infrastructure, and student success.

"The community forums that we will be having this month and the one's we will have in September will really identify and shape the validity of the plans and hopefully everybody's enthusiastic support for the direction that the University is going to take," said Dr. Douglas Wartzok, the interim provost, executive vice president and chief operating officer at FIU, who lead the forum.

Faculty and staff ranging from professors to college deans filled the majority of the room, located in College of Business.

Those at the Biscayne Bay Campus were able to attend the event and give their input to the discussions via webcast.

"The important point for us is that we'll be focusing on the 5 year timeline and less on the 10 ten year timeline," said Wartzok. "The one thing that we don't want to have is that everyone put forth so much effort

STRATEGY, page 3

## New garage to add classrooms, retail venues

**ALEXANDRA CAMEJO**  
Staff Writer

With the development of new venues and improvements on campus, Panther Dining and Business Services are aiming to create a new look at Modesto Maidique Campus that will not only target students' needs for more choices but generally improve their experience at FIU.

"Come Fall, there are going to be lots of new things going on," states Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of Business Services.

Not only will students return to renovated areas of the Graham Center, and a brand new Chili's Too, but FIU can also expect the opening of a new parking facility, named PG5 Market Station.

The PG5 Market Station, the name chosen after much deliberation by both Business Services and University administration, is the first multi-use parking garage constructed on campus.

The \$40 million facility is much more distinctive than the parking garages students are accustomed to.

**The real objective is to make it a place to gather, a place to be able to spend time, and a place to be able to meet people.**

Jeff Krablin, asst. vice president  
Business Services

Aside from containing 2,000 additional parking spaces, PG5 Market Station will contain 29,000 square feet of classroom, retail and dining space on its first floor. Although the retail locations have

yet to be determined, this garage will also be the new home to the University Police Department.

Equipped with the latest tech-

PG5, page 4

use your  
**PANTHER  
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Panther Bucks at [www.pantherdining.com](http://www.pantherdining.com)  
or GC 114

\* minimum deposit \$100

# Plan hopes to double enrollment

STRATEGY, page 1

into developing the plan, that then say ‘okay it’s a ten year plan, let’s take a break and then we’ll get back to it.’ By that point, [the plan] will all be irrelevant.”

Wartzok also announced the chairpersons of the committees that would be presenting; Aime Martinez (Finance), who is the assistant vice president of the FIU Foundation, Professor Yong Tao (Infrastructure), from the College of Engineering, and Bill Beesting (Student Success), assistant dean of undergraduate studies.

Every ten years, FIU’s administration engages in “strategic planning,” a process that involves identifying the desired future for the institution as well as deciding what actions should be made to reach that goal. These initiatives, which are updated in order to fit the needs of the University for the coming decade, focus on key areas of University interests.

FIU’s last strategic plan was called the ‘2001-2010 Millennium Strategic Plan’ and centered on improving institutional infrastructure, State University System governing systems and graduate and undergraduate education.

“The appointment of President Mark Rosenberg in the Fall of 2009 coincided with the need to develop a new strategic plan,” Wartzok said in

the presentation.

Many of the ideas brought up by the audience members revolved around progress in the area of student success. They felt that the University should invest time in the faculty connection to the students.

“I’m strongly in favor of doubling the size of FIU in terms of enrollment within the next ten years. I think that that is going to give us the kind of resources we need to become a strong research University, which I think is essential,” said Brian Peterson, an associate professor in the history department.

Peterson went on to suggest that the committees invest in cohort programs, that would involve students consistently staying with the same group of classmates and professors throughout a period of their undergraduate education. In this experiment, he advised to involve a mixture of mainstream and at-risk students, such as University athletes.

“With that we could significantly increase our graduation rates for that group of students,” Peterson said.

Dr. Connie Boronat, the director of assessment and evaluation of student affairs and undergraduate education, expressed concern over the effect of failure among students when it came to College Algebra.

Research has shown, according to Boronat, that a student’s outcome in that particular class more than likely determines their empowerment to

continue their university education. She informed the committee that the Strategic Plan should involve looking into ‘gateway’ courses, such as Algebra, in order to increase student success.

However, the issue of a united campus involvement within the Strategic Plan as a whole was brought up during the later half of the forum.

“I think it’s of up most importance to us that we don’t leave Biscayne Bay out of ‘health,’ ‘arts,’ or ‘global’ or any other topic,” said Stephen Moll, the interim vice provost of the Biscayne Bay Campus via webcast. “We need to be a part of what everything every committee thinks about and not just thinking about the Modesto Maidique Campus as being FIU. We are all FIU.

This would be the first of two forums that will draw ideas from the crowd; with the second taking place on April 14 which will target the remaining strategic themes; arts, environment, global, and health.

So far, the committees are still gathering information for their final draft of the plan and will continue during the second open forum on April 14 as well as those during September. The entire package will be presented to the FIU Board of Trustees by December 2010.

*For more information on the Strategic Planning, visit stratplan.fiu.edu*

## NEWS FLASH

### NATIONAL

**Justice Stevens stepping down from Supreme Court**

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced that he would be stepping down from his position later this year.

Stevens said last Friday, April 9, that he will be stepping down when the court finishes its work for the summer in late June or early July.

President Barack Obama commented on Stevens’ retirement and praised his record.

“I’ll seek someone in the coming weeks with similar qualities: an independent mind, a record of excellence and integrity, a fierce dedication to the rule of law and a keen understanding of how the law affects the daily lives of the American people,” said Obama.

The announcement of his retirement comes just 11 days before Stevens’ 90th birthday. Stevens is currently the oldest person sitting on the bench and was appointed in 1975 by President Gerald Ford.


**Review Confirms PTSD in Gulf War Vets**

A new study has confirmed that Gulf War veterans suffer disproportionately from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychiatric illnesses.

The study, released last Friday by the Institute of Medicine claims that large numbers of veterans who fought in the Gulf Region between 1990 through to present day conflicts in the region are susceptible to a variety of disorders.

Persistent fatigue, chronic fatigue syndrome, irritable bowel syndrome, memory problems, headache, bodily pains, disturbances of sleep are among disorders attributed to PTSD. The committee however did not release full numbers as to how many veterans had been affected by the condition.

– Compiled by David Barrios



Global Learning *for* Global Citizenship


# Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title:

## “Grounding Religion: Meaning-Making Practices for a Planet in Crisis.”

Moderator:




**Whitney Bauman**  
(Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies)



Time & Location:

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010**  
**12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
**GC 150**  
*Lunch and refreshments provided.*

presented by



## CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR BIRTH CONTROL

New Age Medical Research Corporation is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.


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- ➔ Investigational oral birth control medication

Females who are 18-40 years of age, sexually active, and have regular menstrual cycles may be eligible for participation. Compensation up to \$750 is available for time and travel.

For more information about this research study please call (305) 596-9901

Participation is completely voluntary.



**Janet Gersten, M.D.**  
**New Age Medical Research Corporation**  
**8900 SW 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Suite 207-B**  
**(305) 596-9901**

# NASA shifts focus away from space

SETH BORSTEIN  
Associated Press

NASA may not be going to the moon anytime soon and its space shuttles are about to be retired, but it could conceivably increase the number of agency jobs under a new reorganization, NASA's chief said Thursday.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said that because NASA has more money overall, it should have more jobs compared to the previous administration's plans for a moon mission. But more of those jobs will be on research into airplanes and climate change. NASA also plans to spend billions of dollars more over the next five years on developing new rocket technology and helping private firms build their own ships to take people to the international space station.

"You have more money and that would say you have more jobs," Bolden said during a telephone press conference. But he said the agency has not come up with any real figures on employment and that the more-jobs claim is just based on correlation with spending.

Thursday's press conference outlined how NASA would change under a new space plan that President Barack Obama unveiled in February with his 2011 budget.

That space plan kills a return-to-the-moon mission, dubbed "Apollo on steroids" that his predecessor proposed in 2004. To pay for that moon mission, then-President George W. Bush announced the retirement of the space shuttles by the end of 2010

Space shuttles will still be mothballed within months. Instead of spending tens of billions of dollars on the moon mission, the Obama administration plans to divert the money to researching new rocket technology for general exploration, fostering commercial space industry, climate change science, and aeronautics. The ultimate exploration goal is Mars, Bolden said.

"We're expanding the amount of programs we have so we can try to put people to do work who want to be involved in the space program," Bolden said.

That will be a big issue next week when President Obama goes to Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where people are concerned about losing their current jobs, to try to sell his space plan.

Bolden said in NASA's reorganization some areas that concentrate on the space shuttle will lose contractor jobs because the shuttle fleet is being retired this year.

Under the reorganization, Kennedy Space Center will be in charge of the new \$6 billion program to encourage private companies to fly astronauts. The launch complex will get a \$2.3 billion overhaul. Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Ala., also figures to be hurt by the shuttle retirement, but it will be put in charge of trying to come up with a new heavy lift spaceship to take giant parts beyond Earth's orbit. Johnson Space Center in Texas will be in charge of a new \$6 billion technology development program.

All those plans are subject to approval by Congress.

# Autiello: Bill 'great' for teachers

## EDUCATION, page 1

good suggestions from the heart."

The Florida House, controlled by Crist's fellow Republicans, sent him the legislation at 2:26 a.m. Friday on a largely party-line 64-55 vote. All Democrats and 11 Republicans voted against it. The roll call came after more than eight hours of often passionate debate that began Thursday evening, although opponents acknowledged from the start they didn't have the votes to stop it.

The governor's office had received 8,473 phone calls opposing the bill to only 53 in favor as of 5 p.m. Thursday. E-mails from organized campaigns were 3,104 against to 279 for and individual e-mails more than 8,700 against to only eight in favor.

A veto would put him on a collision course with his own party's leaders including the bill's sponsor, Sen. John Thrasher, who also serves as Florida Republican Party chairman, and Bush who has heavily lobbied the bill through his Foundation for Florida's Future.

Crist, who polls show is trailing former House Speaker Marco Rubio in their GOP primary race for the U.S. Senate nomination, has seven days to decide and plans to use every one of them.

"I think it's too important to do anything hasty," Crist said.

Advocates say the legislation will help attract and retain better teachers

with pay raises while weeding out the bad ones. Merit pay is something that's been tried before in Florida and other states.

Opponents say the tenure and recertification provisions are unprecedented anywhere in the nation. They argue the lack of job security and testing that can be skewed by outside factors such as students' home life could discourage good teachers from working in Florida.

Teachers in Miami-Dade schools planned a walk out on April 9, which some teachers are referring to as "Black Friday", according to WSVN. The report added that on April 8, protests were held outside the Broward Teachers Union.

Elementary school teacher Fere Trujillo, who teaches math and science at Meadowlane Elementary School in Hialeah, was "dumbfounded" by the decision.

Teachers have "no control over the student's home life," said Trujillo, emphasizing the role parents play in a child's education.

She added that coupled with the fact that the bill removes incentives teachers receive when they attain masters or doctorate degrees, that moral at the school will be low.

"It's a very sad state right now," Trujillo said.

Maria Fernandez, associate professor of math education at the

College of Education, said that this bill might impact the profession in that it would increase the turnover rate for new teachers.

"There are schools where it's harder to show that growth and performance, and new teachers may end up in those schools," Fernandez said. "New teachers are on one year contracts, if they don't show an increase they will be let go."

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus tabled a resolution in favor of K-12 reform in mid-February. Then chief of staff and current Vice President-elect Nick Autiello was one of the resolution's biggest supporters.

"It's going to be absolutely great for our teachers," Autiello said. "We have no way of rewarding our best teachers who get up every day, go to these inner city schools and are really the miracle workers."

He adds that the fact that only 50 percent of the teacher's evaluations are based on student performance makes the system fair.

Autiello said the problem is that the teachers unions and politicians on both sides of the aisle made this in to a "fear thing."

"They've turned this in to 'if this passes, you'll lose your job' ... none of that is true," Autiello said.

Additional reporting by Jorge Valens.

# FIU Bookstore to get GameStop

## PG5, page 1

nology, the large-scale auditorium classrooms will seat 144, 120 and 96 seats respectively.

With the additional parking and classrooms, PG5 Market Station will bring various dining options to campus. A Dunkin Donuts, Chick-fil-A, Moe's Southwest Grill, Papa John's Pizza, Salad Creations and a sixth unconfirmed food outlet are all slated to open in the new building.

The Market Station will contain extensive outdoor and indoor seating surrounded by TVs as well as a lounge-type cyber café. Styled with the University's blue and gold colors throughout, modern furniture, and touches of steel and aluminum, Business Services is aiming to create a space for students to gather and study while targeting a need for more food venues and outlets at FIU.

"The real objective is to make it a place to gather, a place to be able to spend time, and a place to be able to meet people," Krablin said.

Krablin and his team hope that the upcoming developments and improvements will create and spread a "Pantherized feel" throughout FIU, and give students enough options and comfort to stay on campus more than they already do.

Along with the opening of PG5 Market Station, Business Services and Panther Dining are excited to launch Chili's Too in GC. Chili's Too is a smaller version of the popular restaurant chain and will have a few scale-backed items.

Roger Clegg, Resident Aramark district manager, states, "It is designed for speed. Getting people in and out in time so they can get back to class, and get back to work."



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Aimed to open during Summer B, PG5 Market Station will contain 2,000 parking spaces, retail, dining space, classrooms and be the new home of FIU Police.

Clegg said that Chili's Too will contain all of the signature food options and prices that Chili's customers know and love. What will set Chili's Too apart from FIU's other dining locations is not only the fact that customers' food will be delivered to their tables, but students 21 and older will be able to order beer, wine and specialty drinks as well.

"We're going to push to have Saturdays open, and we want to do games, and eventually be the destination for college sports," Krablin said.

Chili's Too is expected to open in Summer B.

While students may be able to see construction underway for PG5 Market Station and Chili's Too, they should know more is to come along the way.


Aside from new venues, GC will receive its own renovation with more


seating and a new look for the café in the FIU Bookstore. The patio portion of the café will be extended and covered to offer students a more comfortable and spacious dining experience.

In addition to all of these renovations, the Bookstore will also house a GameStop, a popular video game and entertainment software retailer.

GC's convenience store, Panther Stop, will also be revamped "with the intention of providing more space and a quicker checkout time for customers," said Susana Guerra, assistant director of Marketing and Communication.

Both Panther Dining and Business Services ensure that these improvements are not so much about getting more business but about expanding the choices that students have to come together and spend time at the University.

THE BEACON



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## Students speak out for gay rights by staying silent

JASMYN ELLIOTT  
BBC Managing Editor

As the clock struck 1 p.m. on April 8, yells erupted in Panther Square.

Although National Day of Silence is officially on April 16 this year, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus decided go silent in an event that protests violence and bullying against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community.

The event was a part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Ally Pride Week. This marks the third time the event, sponsored by Stonewall2BBC, has been held.

Before the event officially began at 11 a.m., members of Stonewall2BBC handed out t-shirts, wristbands, and informational cards to those participating.

“Most people stay silent for the whole day,” Alvaro Rivas, a senior psychology major and Stonewall2BBC member, said, “but we are staying silent for a couple of hours.”

According to Daniel Anzueto, a senior psychology major and president of Stonewall2BBC, participants were encouraged to remain silent between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. while wearing a t-shirt and/or a wristband with the event’s logo. They were also instructed to hand out the cards to those that did not know why they were being silent.



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

During the Day of Silence event, students were encouraged to hand out informational cards. Here, junior advertising major Carolina Levy (right) hands out fliers for Stonewall’s Day of Silence event on April 8.

SILENCE, page 5

## Survey reveals campus staff needs improving, training

MELODY REGALADO  
Staff Writer

One complaint often heard by students at the Biscayne Bay Campus is the lack of good customer service available to them.

“There is no accountability with the way students are treated,” said Christin “Cici” Battle, president-elect of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Last year, the Office of the Vice Provost began taking steps to improve upon these issues.

“This office continues to stress putting the student and other BBC community members first and offering the best service possible,” said Julissa Castellanos, director of operations at the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC.

The office also created an online survey to evaluate how students, faculty and staff perceive customer service at BBC.

The survey evaluates the quality of service experienced at various campus establishments, including the campus bookstore, the cafeteria, and the registration office.

The rating scale ranges from one to five, or poor to excellent, and there is space available to write additional comments underneath each question

At the moment, ratings averaged between three and four, or good and very good

Between January and March 2009, 294 people have taken the survey. Of those respondents, the majority were students but it was representative of just 3% of the BBC student population.

Next, respondents were asked, “In thinking about your last visit, what is your perception of the quality of service you received at each of the following locations?”

According to a results report issued by the Office of the Vice Provost, one comment claimed that disparities existed between the quality of service available at both campuses.

“Overall the BBC should have the same resources and abilities as [Modesto Maidique Campus]. The students at BBC have the same financial obligation but the amenities are less than appropriate,” wrote the commenter. “The competence is also lacking, not to be disrespectful. I’m not sure if it is empowerment or training but everything seems to have to go through [MMC].”

Jackie Schuck, a senior journalism major, feels it seems they don’t like their jobs.

“Sometimes they forget that they’re here to help students, not give us a hard time,” she said.

Most feedback regarding the question of staff perception expressed concerns over the lack of communication between both campuses and the lack of more timely responses for their issues.

Among the comments dealing

with the professionalism and attention received from University staff were suggestions to train all staff in customer service and being more helpful when it comes to registration and financial aid.

“I think the attitude some students receive deters them from doing a lot,” said Battle, “There needs to be a way to monitor how students are being treated.”

During the Spring 2009 semester, over 100 faculty and staff went through a customer service training program sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost through Claudia Castillo, assistant director of academic support services at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

On average, the lowest rated departments included Financial Aid, Registration, the Cashier, Parking and Transportation, Dining Services/cafeteria and Human Resources.

The highest rated departments, on average, were the bookstore, the library, the Learning Center, the Office of the Vice Provost and several academic departments.

Other comments recommended that other departments be evaluated in the survey, including the Wellness Center, Housing and the Health Clinic.

Castellanos encourages students to take the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DL7GNN>.

## Disney internship opportunity arrives

KATHERINE PORRAS  
Contributing Writer

In a few months, students will have a chance to work for “the most magical place on Earth.”

Walt Disney World, the entertainment, hospitality, and marketing empire, is offering a paid internship to all interested students for the Fall 2010 semester.

According to Danette Michael, the Disney College program recruiter and Disney College alumna, the internship is a wonderful experience to work for a Fortune 100 company such as Disney.

“It allows for students to network and gain work experience that they can put on their resumés,” Michael said. “When employers see you worked for Disney, it stands out and today with this economy you want to stand out.”

According to Michael, the Disney College program was established since 1982 in Orlando’s Disney World and recently opened in California’s Disney Land minutes away from Los Angeles.

The internship provides apartments for participating students, which are fully furnished, and include all basic utilities.

“We take the housing fee from your paycheck so you do not have to worry about making payments,” Michael said.

The program also offers free major-specific Disney courses in human resources, entertainment, engineering, and finance to name a few.

“The classes are free, but may require textbooks or other materials you would have to buy on your own,” Michael said. “Some courses allow for the student to get one-on-one time with the big people from Disney, such as the vice president of marketing, and allows for the student to network.”

Brianna Bellantoni, a senior majoring in broadcast journalism and Disney College alumna, described the experience as “amazing and life-changing.”

“At first, I was hesitant because I did not know if it fit in with my major, but once I did it, I found it amazing,” Bellantoni said. “It is just an amazing company and I am sure I want to work for Disney.”

Harold Clayton, associate director of Career Services, was proud to see that the Disney College program once again made a stop at the University.

“What keeps bringing [Disney] to our school is the professionalism and quality of students found [at FIU],” Clayton said.

The internship program lasts four and a half months. In order to apply, students must attend a mandatory information presentation.

If you missed the presentation held on April 8 at the Biscayne Bay Campus, you can still attend an e-presentation available now on their website. The deadline for applications is April 25.

For more information, contact BBC Career Services at 305-919-5607, Danette Michaels at Danette.L.Michaels@disney.com, or log on to [disneycollegeprogram.com](http://disneycollegeprogram.com)

**SILENCE, page 4**

Athena Obregon,  
freshman hospitality major,

“There are people around the world and in our community that won’t speak out and I feel that we are representative of that,” she said. “We speak on their behalf by not speaking.”

## A black and white photograph showing a group of students at a booth. In the foreground, a table is covered with a dark cloth. On the table, there is a sign that reads "MEDIA EQUIPMENT ACI-193 FIU". A white wicker basket sits on the table. A student in the foreground, seen from the back, wears a dark t-shirt with "DRY RAINBOW" printed on it. To the right, a student wearing a white hard hat and a dark t-shirt with "PANTHERS" and "FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY" on it is writing on a box. Other students are standing around the table, some looking at equipment. In the background, there is a store with shelves of books and a sign that says "mark".

A line of students forms as they sign in and receive their t-shirts, fliers, and wristbands before the Day of Silence event begins in Panther Square on April 8. The National Day of Silence event gave students the opportunity to protest bullying and harassment against the LGBTQA community.



## Organic garden nominated for USDA award

**ADRIAN ESPINOZA**  
Staff Writer

Tucked in between the wildlife preserve and the Baseball Stadium, the University's organic garden, still relatively unknown to the student body, is up for review by the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Mahadev Bhat and Dr. Krish Jayachandran from the Department of Earth and Environment founded the garden that is now a contender for federal acknowledgment.

It was recently nominated for The People's Garden Award by USDA affiliate Vladimir Diaz, who works with universities in South Florida and Puerto Rico. The nomination by the USDA employee gives FIU's garden an edge in the competition where it can hopefully become Miami's first recipient of the award.

The People's Garden Initiative is a federally funded program that pushes the development of gardens in local communities and worldwide USDA facilities. Employees at

the USDA facilities nominate local gardens that meet the requirements of the types of gardens the USDA wants to see propagate around the world.

The gardens can range in a variety of sizes and types but must meet certain requirements within three categories: They must benefit the community, be community based, and must incorporate sustainable practices.

Although the gardens aren't expected to be the same, the terms that do uniform them define what a garden should include. Benefiting the community means that one or more of the following must be present: The garden should be located in a place of leisure or recreation, it must provide food for those in need and habitat for wildlife native to the area, or control storm water while improving water quality.

The next stipulation that will get a garden nominated is its incorporation of sustainable resources, which can include a number of arrangements: Introducing native plants, encouraging pest-repelling insects, collect-

ing water in barrels, and composting and mulching, to name a few. Most importantly, it is a community endeavor and must utilize the efforts of neighbors, volunteers or students alike.

On April 9, the Garden Club, headed by Stephany Alvarez, organized a carpentry workshop to build a picnic table and construct the market garden bed.

They wrapped up the carpentry portion of the day by preparing the spot where the new bulletin board would be placed.

Students also discussed the work they performed with their own garden beds and what they have learned from their research.

"That is what is interesting about the garden, you use what you learn there and apply it to tackling bigger social problems," said Alvarez, who is pursuing a master's in environmental studies.

After the workshop, a movie on botany was played, followed by a dinner using

**GARDEN, page 10**

### THE BEACON REVIEWS: PANTHERS SPORTS BAR AND GRILL

## Friendly staff, mixed events make bar a must

**RONALD CALERO**  
Staff Writer

Just a couple of blocks away from the Modesto Maidique Campus, on Eighth Street and 121st Avenue to be precise, Panthers Sports Bar and Grill has just opened its doors for business. Seeing as the venue bears the name of our University mascot and is so close to our school grounds, it was my duty as a journalist to attend its soft opening to ask a couple of questions.

If the address sounds familiar, then you may remember that both a Sizzler and a Cami's Seafood & Pasta used to be at that location, but now it is the Panthers' time.

As you would expect from a sports-type bar, Panthers is fully decked out with all the usual refinements: A comfortable and relaxed atmosphere, full bar, pool table, flat screen TVs, projection system, music, digital jukebox, in-house DJ and



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Panther Sports Bar and Grill opened its doors on April 8.

plenty of staff. From the Miami Heat to the New York Yankees, the waitresses cover a nice selection of lineups.

"Everybody liked the idea of all the

waitresses dressing the way they are," said Erick Andrew, manager and owner

**PANTHER BAR, page 10**

### EXPLODING HEAD

## Albums worth lending an ear to

I had a conversation the other day with a classmate about my column. Since we're both journalism majors, I guess we're both internally programmed to not really converse with people, but to interview them – as if we're both trying to dig out information from one another and not necessarily be generally interested in what we have to say. Maybe he was interested. I'm not too certain. He, essentially, asked if I've ever gotten any feedback about my column and whether I've ever gotten complaints from people not knowing any of the bands I've written about. He actually sounded pretty condescending, but maybe that was just his "interview" voice. He made it sound as if I only write this column for my "little group of friends."

If this is the general consciousness of "Exploding Head" readers, I would like to state that the music I write about in this column is not for some niche collective of "peers." I wrote this column so that people would seek out new music, rather than hear someone's opinion on music they've already heard. And if you've heard it already, well then come by the radio station and we'll chat about it. Sure, I can just talk about the Trey Songz record or how O.G. Rick Ross is, but you've already formulated an opinion on the subject. You already know it's good and you've already heard it. Why not listen to something you haven't heard?

A good question to beg is if I have any authority to even be writing about what's good and what's not. Well, I've been music director at the University radio station, Radiate FM (this is a plug), for about a year and a half. I get about 30 records coming in the mail each week. It's one of the only times I can say that I get paid to listen to music, which I don't think is a good thing. You don't really get to enjoy or fully consume the record you listen to. You're more concerned about finishing the record so you can stack it onto a pile and move on to the next record.

Point is, I listen to my fair share of music and I feel like if I can set up a more than decent rotation for radio airplay, one that exhibits the picture of unknown gems that deserve to be heard, well then I feel I have just a bit of authority on what's good and what's not.

So, that's a stamp of reassurance to not only myself, but to you. This is actually my last column, so I feel like I'd want the few people that read it to know my intentions. Maybe that will embed my run into a hint of context. Now, I'll leave you with some records to listen to while I'm gone.

### TITUS ANDRONICUS - THE MONITOR

Great record from fellow Jersey kids who make some kind of weird allegory about life in the Garden State and the Civil War. I don't know. It's just awesome.

### HARLEM - HIPPIES

This garage-rock band from Austin is just personified fun.

### DEERHOOF - APPLE O

Great little art/noise rock band that has my heart. This is a great album and it's being reissued (re-pressed on vinyl) for Record Store Day (April 17).

### JAVELIN - NO MAS

**EXPLODING, page 10**

### COLUMNIST



RYAN MOREJON



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

# UP ROAR

## 2010

### University brings big names for end-of-year festivities

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
Senior Staff Writer

Mr. 305 and a few guests visited the University on April 7 as part of Student Programming Council's signature event, the Up-Roar concert.

On that day the U.S. Century Bank Arena was reserved for the concert that lasted from 8 p.m. to almost the next day. The concert featured Cleveland, Ohio native Kid Cudi and Miami's own Pitbull.

SPC-MMC started giving out tickets on March 24 and they were all gone by March 29, according to Joshua Brandfon, coordinator of Campus Life and SPC-MMC adviser.

They gave out over 1,900 tickets the first day and a total of 3,200 tickets.

The concert cost \$110,000 and

was paid for with money from the Activities and Service fee collected through student tuition and distributed by student government.

The money covered the artists themselves, sound, lights, the stage, security, marketing for the concert and the rental fee for the arena. SPC-MMC had to rent the arena from the Athletics Department.

This was meant to cover the Athletics staff on hand during the concert and the custodians who would clean up the arena after the concert.

The money also covered the fee of the agency used to book the artists, Concert Ideas. SPC-MMC has been working with Concert Ideas for as long as two years, which is as long as Brandfon has been working for the University. Brandfon estimated the University has been working with Concert Ideas for at least 10 years.

SPC-MMC did research for the concert during the Fall semester to find out what students wanted and worked with their agency to find out which artists perform at colleges in Miami and their prices.

"We tried to find who was hot," Brandfon said.

Their research showed that what students wanted were hip-hop and Latin music. Pitbull and Kid Cudi were booked in January.

The concert was just one part of SPC-MMC's Up-Roar Week. Comedian Jo Koy performed on April 6 in the Graham Center Ballrooms, with more than 750 attendants, according to Brandfon.

The week ended with a showing of *Sherlock Holmes* on April 9.

Plans for next year's Up-Roar Week are still up in the air as they will be decided by the new SPC-MMC executive board.



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

# Panthers bar hopes to attract university crowd, especially FIU

## PANTHER BAR, page 7

of Panthers. “I’ve always had an idea to open up a place like this, and just decided to finally do it.”

Andrew boasts 20 years of experience as a sushi chef, six of which were spent over

in Russia, opening up several sushi bars in places like Moscow and Sochi.

I guess maybe that’s why, in addition to your standard burgers and chicken wings, you can also find an impressive assortment of seafood in the menu.

Strangely, there is no sushi to be found, but Andrew assured me that it’s coming.

Surprisingly enough, Andrew and his crew started and finished all the work necessary to remodel and condition the inside of the venue in a month.

“I was here day and night, everyday,” Andrew said.

He later confessed that the bar is, in fact, named after the University mascot. Being so close to the campus and calling themselves Panthers, he hopes to attract the university crowd but, more specifically, the FIU crowd.

When asked why would FIU students should come to his bar, Andrew said that, in addition to having as many beer brands as a month has days and an excellent menu, they will have something different going on every day of the week.

Right now they’re doing two-for-one drinks on Mondays, Bike Nights on Tuesdays, Ladies Night on Wednesdays and College Night on Thursday.

As a bonus, FIU students and members can present their IDs for an additional 10 percent off all promotions.

On top of all this, I can say that the best thing about Panthers Sports Bar and Grill is the excellent attention to its patrons. My waitress insisted on me having my beer cold, and so happily checked the temperature of the two or three brands I asked for and brought me back the coldest one – and quick.

Not all panthers dwell inside FIU campuses, Andrew and his team over at Panthers are proof of it. From one panther to another, I highly recommend it. Visit [www.pantherssportsbarandgrill.com](http://www.pantherssportsbarandgrill.com) for more information.



A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 22, Issue 53

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

# HELP WANTED!

**SPOTLIGHT**

As always, *The Beacon* is looking to recruit ambitious, self-driven and talented writers, photographers and graphic artists to join our staff.

Submit your application in GC 210 or WUC 124.

## *The Beacon is looking to recruit editorial positions for the 2010-2011 school year.*

**Positions include:**

- **Opinion Editor**
- **Life! Editor**
- **Photo Editor**
- **Production Manager**
- **Copy Chief**

If interested, come into The Beacon office at MMC and sign up, or email Jorge Valens at [jorge.valens@fiusm.com](mailto:jorge.valens@fiusm.com). Deadline is Monday, April 16.

Other positions are also available for the 2010-2011 year.

# Garden Club hopes Rosenberg recognizes garden’s importance

## GARDEN, page 7

produce straight from the garden. In light of the nomination for The People’s Garden Award, the club also shot a video showcasing its pride and joy. It focused on the students who were interviewed concerning their research projects on sustainable agricultural mechanisms.

The award in question would greatly help the

long-term goals of FIU’s Agroecology Program and those passionate about FIU’s organic garden. If they win, their video will receive public attention and prestige, as it will be placed on the Agricultural Secretary’s Web site.

The club also hopes to gain the notice of President Rosenberg, who they hope will see the importance of the garden and allow it to continue and grow.

# Bun B, Black Dice worth a listen

## EXPLODING, page 7

Best electronic record of the year so far? J Dilla meets The Avalanches meets Dolemite.

**BUN B - NO MIXTAPE**

You can find this on the Internet for free. It’s a silly mixtape by one-half of UGK, pioneers of southern rap who hail from Houston, Texas. Bun B is just killing it on this tape, though.




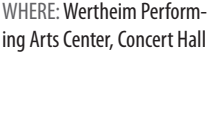
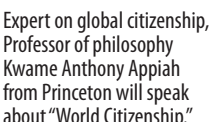
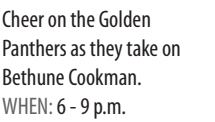

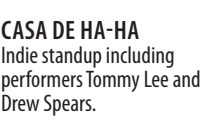

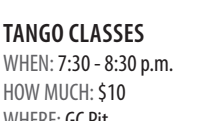

**BLACK DICE - CREATURE COMFORTS**

I’ve been looking for this record everywhere and I finally found it at Sweat Records (your local record store, sorta. It’s in Little Haiti, so not too local). If you like noise, then you might already know about it. But it’s just bassy and weird, and just one huge narcotic gaze. Love it.

Well, so long. I’ll see you around and I hope you take some initiative to seek all of this out. The internet is a friend and you should continue to ask it for stuff.

*Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music.*

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, APRIL 12	TUESDAY, APRIL 13	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14	THURSDAY, APRIL 15
<div><b>TAKE BACK THE NIGHT</b></div> <div></div> <div>Learn more about sexual abuse toward women and what you can do to prevent it and help out.</div> <div>WHEN: 7 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Graham Center Ballrooms</div>	<div><b>WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT</b></div> <div></div> <div>Presented by FIU Music.</div> <div>WHEN: 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 faculty/staff, \$25 general</div> <div>WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall</div>	<div><b>FINALS OASIS</b></div> <div></div> <div>Presented by Active Minds at FIU. Come relax before finals with free food, music, games, yoga, video games, and more!</div> <div>WHEN: 12 p.m. - 12 a.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: GC Panther Suite</div>	<div><b>SPC-BBC MOVIE SERIES</b></div> <div></div> <div>“Ferries Bueller’s Day Off.”</div> <div>WHEN: 8 p.m.; doors open at 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free for FIU students, \$3 general</div> <div>WHERE: Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, BBC</div>
<div><b>PRESIDENT TOWN HALL MEETING</b></div> <div></div> <div>The year’s first Budget Forum to plan the fiscal year.</div> <div>WHEN: 10 a.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Graham Center Ballrooms</div>	<div><b>REAL ESTATE ORGANIZATIONS</b></div> <div></div> <div>Presented by the FIU Real Estate Student Association. Various real estate organizations will be speaking about their org and how and why to join.</div> <div>WHEN: 5:45 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free, open to the public</div> <div>WHERE: MARC Pavilion, 2nd floor</div>	<div><b>ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET</b></div> <div></div> <div>Local, organic food.</div> <div>WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Central Fountain between GL and PC.</div>	<div><b>CHORAL CONCERT</b></div> <div></div> <div>Presented by FIU Music.</div> <div>WHEN: 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 faculty/staff, \$25 general</div> <div>WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall</div>
<div><b>THE LIFE OF THE MIND</b></div> <div></div> <div>Expert on global citizenship, Professor of philosophy Kwame Anthony Appiah from Princeton will speak about “World Citizenship.”</div> <div>WHEN: 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: College of Law, RDB 1100</div> <div>RSVP at <a href="mailto:provoff@fiu.edu">provoff@fiu.edu</a></div>	<div><b>FIU COLLEGE DEMOCRATS</b></div> <div></div> <div>Meeting, with guests from Organizing for America .</div> <div>WHEN: 7 - 8:45 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: GC 150</div> <div>Refreshments provided.</div>	<div><b>FIU BASEBALL</b></div> <div></div> <div>Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on Bethune Cookman.</div> <div>WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Baseball Stadium</div>	<div><b>PRE-EXAM RELAXATION</b></div> <div></div> <div>Relax and meditate with the Preksha Meditation Club and be in the right mindset to tackle your finals.</div> <div>WHEN: 5 - 6 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: GC 243</div>
<div><b>ON POINT POETRY</b></div> <div></div> <div>The grand finale of the On Point Poetry Club.</div> <div>WHEN: 7 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: WUC Ballrooms, BBC</div>	<div><b>CASA DE HA-HA</b></div> <div></div> <div>Indie standup including performers Tommy Lee and Drew Spears.</div> <div>WHEN: 9 - 11:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Sweat Records 5505 NE 2nd Ave.</div>	<div><b>FIU SOFTBALL</b></div> <div></div> <div>Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on Florida Atlantic.</div> <div>WHEN: 6 - 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Softball Field</div>	<div><b>VALOR: END OF SPRING LUNCH</b></div> <div></div> <div>Celebrate the end of the semester with a Pollo Tropical lunch by CSO.</div> <div>WHEN: 12 -1:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: ROTC Trailer next to W10A building</div>
<div><b>TANGO CLASSES</b></div> <div></div> <div>WHEN: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: \$10</div> <div>WHERE: GC Pit</div>		<div><b>HANDS ON HAITI DONATION LUNCH</b></div> <div></div> <div>Get a free plate of food and donate to help Haiti earthquake victims.</div> <div>WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: Free</div> <div>WHERE: Breezeway between the Green Library and GL 100</div>	<div><b>PASTA THURSDAYS AT PERRICONE'S</b></div> <div></div> <div>Enjoy \$10 pasta dishes all day.</div> <div>WHEN: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.</div> <div>HOW MUCH: \$10</div> <div>WHERE: 15 SE 10th St.</div>

## BEACON | Editorial

### Neglected for years, the timing is right for the increase of the Health fee

On April 7th, the University Health Fee committee announced their plans to increase the Student Health Fee by five percent, or \$15.99. With this increase, the Student Health Fee will raise from it's current total of \$67.20 to \$83.19.

According to the University Health committee, the increase will give them the funding they need to improve and expand their services, which includes plans to transition their records onto an electronic database and creating the new position of a case manager, who would be responsible for helping students manage the health care system to get what they need.

A large number of FIU students will see this Student Health Fee raise as an inconvenience rather than a step forward. In their eyes, this is only yet another contribution to what they perceive to be an already-high tuition.

This is an understandable stance, especially when you consider the fact that our Athletics fee has been raised for two consecutive years and has earned the title of being one the highest Athletics fee in the nation, let alone the state, and undergraduate tuition has increased on an almost yearly basis.

Even so, *The Beacon* believes that this health fee increase is long overdue. Since the University can take a five percent increase in Athletics, Activities and Services or Health Services once a year, and given that the last time health fees were raised was 2006, the timing is right.

As of now, the University's Student Health Fee ranks number tenth among the 11 state universities.

Even with the increase, provided that none of these other universities decide to raise their own Student Health Fees, FIU would only rank number eight. Furthermore, the Student Health Fee committee claims that only a few more amenities will be added to the basic services provided now.

Students may also argue that since they rarely if ever use the University Health Services individually, an increase in student health fees is unwarranted. However, attendance to home games of FIU athletic events has been notoriously low despite the high athletics fees.

The Men's basketball team finished second to last in the Sun Belt conference in attendance, while the Football team finished dead last in the SBC with a home-attendance average of 10,204, a number that is seemingly inflated. So as athletic fees have soared, the student body has not responded with the support.

With the health fee, the money that you don't use yourself ultimately helps those that make regular use of the University Health services. Furthermore, in case of an emergency, a student can be sure that their University Health Fee will give them their money's worth and an increase will only improve the quality of service.

In order to make sure students take advantage of these services, faculty should promote it not only to freshman, but to older students as well.

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education William Beesting said that a card will be made with information detailing the services. Faculty could also send communicate these changes to students via email, while making sure the cards are visible.

To conclude, the increase in helath fees are appropriate, given that athletic fees are already largely inflated while the health fee has not been upped in years.

## AUTO EROTICA

# Hybrid engines meet high-performance

For a while I feared that the hybrid engine was going to be the death of the fast car.

When the average person thinks of green cars, they think of fuel efficiency, electric engines, simplicity and practicality. Cars like the Toyota Prius, the Honda Insight, and the Chevy Volt come to mind.

These cars are technological marvels all on their own, especially the Volt, which looks to be the first affordable plug-in electric car. However, they all have one thing in common: they are slow and dull.

I am all for the environment, I promise. I recycle, I conserve energy, everything that Al Gore told me to do I have done or tried to do. Seriously. But to the auto enthusiast, like me, the green car represents the death of an era. Fast cars, sleek designs and throaty engines were on their way out while four-door micro sedans and hatchbacks with inclined four cylinder engines and hybrid engines were

moving in.

Hybrid cars are fine for their place and time; they serve their purpose well.

But, hybrid cars aren't beautiful; they aren't iconic. They are a business decision to appease to consumers' change in taste resulting from a sharp climb in oil prices. They're built to be minimalist during a time where being minimalist is the new black.

Even celebrities and other popular rich people dumped their Porsches for a Priuses, giving birth to the first car that blurred the line between social classes. You knew someone in a Porsche made money, but in a Prius, you weren't so sure. Were they normal like me or are they an environmentally aware venture capitalist?

Personally, I have always hated hybrid cars because there was no legacy behind them, no purpose other than to appease to America's rapidly developing environmental awareness.

But much like the auto industry itself, which changed its mind about the future of the hybrid engine, I am starting to change my mind as well.

Automobile companies are starting to realize that environmental awareness and awe-inspiring power and design are not mutually exclusive. A car can be good for the environment and be fun to drive.

In a previous piece I wrote, which inspired me to write this very column, I criticized Porsche for distracting itself by focusing on SUVs and sedan rather than sports cars, which is what they're good at.

Well, I assume they read *The Beacon* because they recently dropped the complete vision and stunning technical feat that is the 918 Spyder.

First things first, the 918 is by far the best-looking Porsche in a long time. The car draws its styling from the iconic 917 sports car that won its fair share of races back in the day.

HYBRID, page 12

## JORGE'S PICKS FOR UP-AND-COMING GREEN CARS:

- **Ferrari 599 HY-KERS:** A symbol of Ferrari's commitment to develop green cars by 2013. Keep an eye out for Ferrari's hybrid technology, which will shift the paradigm in hybrid engine development.
- **Mini E:** BMW bought Mini in 2000, made it great. The Mini E is a test platform for BMW's plug-in electric technology and is currently being leased to select customers as part of the company's field-testing program.
- **Toyota Prius:** Accelerator problems or not, you can't deny the impact Toyota has had in the hybrid car market. Future generations of the car will incorporate solar technology to power some of the cars lesser functions.

# Amendment breaches citizen rights

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Statutory Interpretation is the process of interpreting and applying, for example, the second amendment, while strict constructionism affirms that the second amendment should be literally and strictly read.

A strict constructionist would maintain that every American has the right to bear arms for his personal protection and safety, while a statutory interpreter would assert that gun control laws are for the collective good of society.

When is it permissible

to deny one group of people their constitutional rights for the betterment of society? The Supreme Court now seemingly agrees with gun rights activists that the former of the two arguments more accurately reflects the manner in which the second amendment should be viewed and applied.

An article published in the *New York Times* on March 2, 2010, "Supreme Court Still Divided over Guns," details that the Supreme Court may decide in favor of gun rights activists.

This would signify a required adherence to the constitution and extend a recent 2008 decision that first acknowledged individual's right to bear arms.

In addition, it would act as the linchpin to repealing

state laws that conflict with the possible ruling. There are several sources that gun rights activists can rightly utilize in defense of their right to bear arms.

While legal precedents in support of the second amendment predates late 17th century England, the English Bill of Rights of 1689 granted rights to arms for self defense: "That the subjects may have arms for their defense suitable to their conditions as allowed by law."

At *bestplaces.com*, Sperling's Best Places, Americans can compare, amongst other things, crime rates in different cities through the U.S.

The data used by Sperling's Best Places reflects current FBI data. In comparison to the state of Florida, The District of Columbia (D.C.) and state of Illinois have tough gun laws. A quick comparison of

crime rates in Miami and D.C. reveal, however, that crime rates in both cities are above the national average.

Moreover, Miami and D.C. have comparable property crime rates and violent crime rates in D.C. are slightly higher than they are in Miami.

When comparing Miami and Chicago, we find that both the violent and property crime rates are equal, and both are above the national average.

President Obama, a former University of Chicago Law School professor, should know that while enacting gun control laws that reduce the risk of crime is necessary, it should not be pursued at the risk of denying others their constitutional rights.

If people want to cling to their Bibles and their guns, then so be it. They are, after all, afforded such rights by the United States Constitution.

## COMMENTARY



DEAN WILLIAMS

## 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](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

## OPINIONPIECE

# 47

Ratings percentage increase among viewers watching Tiger Wood's return to the Masters Tournament last week.

## QUOTATIONATION

"I really have no response. Because last I checked, Sarah Palin's not much of an expert on nuclear issues."

President Barack Obama on Sarah Palin's attacks against new nuclear policy

# Tea Party groups get no respect

## COMMENTARY



CHRIS DIAZ

Sarah Palin and the Tea Party movement are good for this country. The U.S., which I consider the greatest democracy in the world, will find itself and the noble ideal of democracy fiercely tested in the years to come.

Polarized to the extreme and incredibly inspirational to many Americans, Palin and the Tea Party movement have grown from the cracks in our government. As many people know and feel, there are quite a few cracks.

We have had decades of poor education in our schools, health care needs improvement, the distribution of wealth is non-democratic, we are still incredibly dependent on foreign oil and we are still engaged in wars with two countries. These issues and others are not the only problems we face. The system itself needs work.

Politicians bicker among one another over issues most Americans don't care about. They are fraught with scandals, which lowers the public's trust in government.

They pay lip service to many of their constituents while devoting their attention to lobbyists and special interests. At the end of the day, it seems money rules all.

The term "teabaggers" has been used by those critical of Tea Partiers.

Whatever the criticisms are, however valid they may or may not be, is this who we are as a nation? Do we insult and mock the opposition in an attempt to marginalize them?

I thought that in this country, a nation built on the principles of liberty and freedom of speech, that Americans would engage other Americans in discussion and debate.

Difference of opinion will and should always exist. It is via the introduction of these differing viewpoints that we grow and our nation improves.

John Rawls, in his works including *Political Liberalism*, speaks about Public Reason. In his view, for democracy to function, citizens and officials need to discuss politics in an attempt to convince each other they are right.

They do this by arguing from principles and notions of what is just. Unfortunately, in this country that I love, I do not see this.

What I do see is childish and unproductive hurling of words. This seems to have no purpose other than to mock the opposition, and thereby bolster support of like-minded individuals.

This divides us as a nation at a time when we can ill afford it. We should welcome different ideas, especially those we do not agree with.

John Rawls was right in expressing that we should have Public Reason. But, he was wrong in how he cast aside fringe elements of society.

The Tea Party and Sarah Palin may represent wholly negative ideas. But if so, as citizens of a Democracy we ought to – no, it is our civic duty to engage each other over ideas. And, in our discussions, let the best ideas win.

We all want our country to improve and to succeed. We all want our lives to be better. Our difference is in our ideas.

While attacking those who are different from us, either in ideas, or in attitude, or in whatever way, may feel good, it does not help our situation.

So which is it: do we want to feel better, or do we want to make things better?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Riders beware: driver does not care

JAYSON TAYLOR  
Special to *The Beacon*

I would like to take a moment to express my discontent. I do this in response to the events that cascaded on FIU south campus. It is proper to complain of maltreatment. So, with this, I digress!

On Friday, March 26, I encountered unbecoming behavior verging of unprofessionalism. About 9:20 a.m. that morning I parked my vehicle in the area referred to as the "dust bowl." Then I proceeded up the path to catch the shuttle.

Upon entering the shuttle I expressed my intention to the driver that I would be exiting at the end of the block, or the second stop sign. With a confirming nod I settled in, for this was not the first time I rode with this driver. The exodus was smooth those times. This one time, I am afraid to say, it was not.

The reality is that I am alive. So, when we got closer to my stop, I began to get up, holding onto the back rail to steady my departure. Unfortunately, the large sunglasses-wearing latino male did not come to a full stop, and

ran the stop sign California style.

So, for a brief moment my Kung Fu grip betrayed me. I was lucky that if it was not for the strap on of my bag, I might be dead. Needless to say, my bag and I had been flipped into on-coming traffic roughly 20 feet -ripping my leather bag and damaging my computer. Not to mention the scrapes and bruises that assaulted my own body.

Moreover, I was looked back upon and laughed at by a male driver of the bus, like I was in his fraternity (not), or a rival fraternity (not). After brushing myself off and examining

my blood loss rate, I considered assaulting this shuttle driver. So, I took another breath and proceeded to my Botany test which was scheduled right then.

What would you do? What should I do? I need a Beacon of hope to remedy these issues!

My apologies for the disgruntled behavior. The run around I have encountered when talking to people about this has been extensive and humiliating; laughter hurts!

*Jayson Taylor is a Junior and majoring in biomedical science.*

# Porsche improves hybrid experience

HYBRID, page 11

What makes this car most impressive is that it has both a plug-in electric engine and a 550 horsepower V8 engine, which, after seeing the specs on the Porsche site, has a moderate thirst for gasoline, a surprising feat for an engine with that type of output.

The car is faster around the Nurburgring, the famed German test track and proving ground for all things fast, than it's now lamer sibling, the Carrera GT, and can run completely on its electric engine – switching to the gas engine to both recharge the battery and run the car.

With every amazing thing comes a catch; the 918 is still a concept and Porsche is reluctant to build it.

The technology used to make the car, however, is going to be used in both a hybrid version of the Porsche Cayenne SUV and 911 GT3 R.



Porsche 918 Spyder

Why Porsche would even consider not building this car is beyond me, but that's neither here nor there. What is important is that hybrid cars with legacy and speed are well beyond the need for proof of concept; they are now a reality.

Automobile companies of all markets are responding by making hybrid performance a priority in design and development.

Is the death of the conventional engine imminent?

No. I think there is still a place in the world for fuel burning engines. But companies like Tesla Motors, who develop 100 percent plug-in electric sports cars and sedans show that the electric engine isn't going to affect the way we, the enthusiasts, see cars.

Hybrid vehicles are well on their way to becoming a very accepted and affordable alternative when looking for a new car. However, it's companies like Tesla and Porsche, that

will develop the technology that make these practical and affordable cars fun to drive. Don't be too shocked when Ford announces a hybrid Mustang, or when BMW debuts a hybrid M3. That day is rapidly approaching.

The electric engine and the hybrid are not seeking to replace the enthusiast's idea of an automobile; it is only going to make it better for the environment we enjoy our cars in.

## SAY WHAT?!: What are your thoughts on the increasing "Tea Party" movement among conservatives in America?

*"It's good to see this movement. Opposition is good. I'm even seeing democrats cross over to the tea party lines. It's America after all. They are legitimate."*

Chris Rodriguez  
Junior, Criminal Justice

*"I think they're good for the Republican Party. They can help to start bringing reform and solidifying a more conservative base."*

Eliana Luque  
Senior, Political Science

*"I think that they are like all other radical movements and should not be taken seriously. This is just an oddity for the media to explore for a week and then forget."*

Gilberto Fonte  
Sophomore, Political Science

*"I think that they're very passionate about their beliefs. I'm not sure whether that's a good or bad thing. Their popularity will surely grow with time."*

Andrew Sanchez  
Junior, Criminal Justice

## 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.

## DAILYQUERY

Now that Supreme Court Justice Stevens has announced his upcoming retirement, who do you think President Obama should appoint to the job? What type of opposition will he be facing from the Republican Party? *Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com*

## WINNER/LOSER



The White House named MAST, a Miami high school, a finalist for its first annual Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge. Five other high schools from across the country will compete to host President Obama during the graduation ceremonies.



Pope Benedict XVI. The Catholic Church can't seem to catch a break this week. A newly leaked document from the Associated Press shows that Benedict resisted defrocking a Los Angeles priest with a history of child molestation back in 1985.

## QUOTATIONATION

*"My dear Mr. President... I shall retire from regular active service... as an Associate Justice effective the next day after the court rises for the summer recess this year."*

*Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens on his retirement.*

SOFTBALL: FIU 6, UL 2; FIU 4, UL 3; FIU 5, UL 9

## RAGIN' THE CAJUNS

Barrett leads team with dominance in the circle

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Asst. Sports Director

It was an all around effort for the FIU softball team.

After struggling with pitching in last week's match-ups, the Panthers showcased some remarkable defensive plays, timely hits, and dominance in the circle. In the end, the Panthers were able push past Louisiana-Lafayette in two on April 10 and 11 at the FIU Softball Complex.

### FIU 6, UL 2

Kasey Barrett was relieved to throw dominant game against the Ragin' Cajuns. The senior pitched a complete game to earn the win, giving up just three hits and a pair of earned runs to go along with nine strikeouts in game one.

"It's a great feeling," she said. "Since I've been here at FIU I've struggled against them so it was an awesome feeling to finally beat them."

UL had a 2-1 lead heading into the fifth inning but the Panthers exploded with five runs in that inning to make the score 6-2.

Senior Lauren Spiers ignited the offense with a single up the middle before Jenny Welch reached on a fielder's choice. Seldi Soberon then drove in Spiers with a single before Welch scored on an error. The singles kept coming as freshman Kayla Burri



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers are now ranked first in the Sun Belt Conference standings after defeating Louisiana-Lafayette in two of three games.

stepped up to the plate and drilled one up the middle to bring in Soberon. Burri then advanced to third base after freshman Beth Peller reached on a fielder's choice followed by a passed ball. Burri scored the fourth run after yet another single by the FIU offense, this time coming from Ashley McClain.

UL finally ended the inning on a double play but Peller was able to cross the plate before the end of the play for FIU's fifth run of the inning.

Peller scored a team leading two runs for the Panthers while McClain led the offense with a 2-for-3 effort.

### FIU 4, UL 3

After Jennifer Gniadek threw

five shutout innings, the Cajuns tied game two, 1-1, in the top of the sixth inning.

UL then tagged on two more runs in the top of seventh before McClain was called from right field to handle the pitching duties.

McClain not only got FIU out of the inning, the left-handed utility player also lit up the bottom of the seventh with her sixth home run of the season, a two-run shot to tie the game and force extra innings.

"Look at McClain, we wouldn't have gone extra innings and got the win without that bomb," FIU freshman Brie Rojas said. "It really got us rolling."

In the eighth inning both teams put runners on base but neither team could score. Again, in the ninth, there

were runners on base for both but it was FIU who prevailed. After Peller knocked a hit up the middle, Rojas stepped to the plate to drive her in for the walk-off win.

"I felt calm and I saw the ball," Rojas said. "[The pitcher] came at me and on the second pitch I hit it. I had nothing to lose."

Barrett pitched the two extra innings for FIU, giving up a single hit while striking out three of seven batters she faced for her 12th win of the season.

"I thought that was probably the best day we've had this year," FIU head coach Beth McClendon said. "I think [UL] is a great team, to come out and win two against them is a great day."

### FIU 5, UL 9

On day two, it was the UL that was fired up as the Cajuns scored nine runs off 10 hits to avoid the sweep on April 11.

The Panthers held a 3-1 lead before UL broke through two scoreless innings with three runs in the fifth inning and five in the sixth.

Donna Bourgeois (13-8) recorded the win in the pitching circle for UL with four strikeouts and three earned runs in seven innings of work. Meanwhile, Barrett (12-8) was tagged with the loss after giving up three earned runs and eight hits through five innings.

FIU will hit the home field again on Wednesday to face conference rival Florida Atlantic at 6 p.m.

BASEBALL: MTSU 10, FIU 5; MTSU 4, FIU 3

## Panthers drop a pair on the road to the Blue Raiders



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

Tim Jobe [above] recorded two hits, two runs, and a RBI in FIU's 10-5 loss on April 9.

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Asst. Sports Director

### MTSU 4, FIU 3

Another Golden Panther comeback came up short as Middle Tennessee dealt FIU with another loss with a walk-off fielder's choice in the bottom of the ninth.

The Blue Raiders hit a pair of home runs off of FIU starter R.J. Fondon to build a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning. But the sophomore settled down, silencing the Blue Raider offense and keeping the Golden Panthers within striking distance throughout the game.

Fondon earned a no-decision after pitching 7.1 innings and allowed three runs on 10 hits.

FIU struggled offensively throughout the game, squandering several opportunities to get back in the game. The offense broke through in the seventh inning on a series of singles sparked by a lead-off base hit by Tim Jobe.

Junior Arrojo stroked a single to left to drive

in Jobe and put FIU on the board and then Pablo Bermudez hit another RBI single to make it a one-run game. A sacrifice fly by Jabari Henry drove in Arrojo to tie the game at 3-3.

Eric Berkowitz came in to relieve Fondon in the eighth inning and pitched into the ninth inning, where he ran into trouble late.

After loading the bases with only one out, Blake McDade ended it after hitting a pitch hard to Arrojo at shortstop, whose only play was at third base. The play allowed the winning run to cross the plate, dealing Berkowitz his second loss of the season.

### MTSU 10, FIU 5

The road has not been a friendly one for the Golden Panthers (18-12, 5-5 SBC) as of late, dropping the first game of a weekend series against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (19-11, 8-5 SBC) on April 9.

Despite Tim Jobe and Jabari Henry turning

BASEBALL: JABARI HENRY

# Henry makes immediate impact for FIU

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Asst. Sports Director

Jabari Henry seems to know how to make an entrance in a big way.

It was the second game of the season against Maryland on Feb. 20, and his first collegiate start and at bat.

Almost as quickly as he stepped into the batter’s box, Henry crushed a pitch over the left field wall for a three-run home run.

His first impression was just a prelude to what he has been able to do since then. Henry has helped make the FIU offense a formidable one.

As of April 10, Henry leads all Golden Panthers in home runs with eight and has a team-high 37 RBI. After a week in which Henry exploded with five home runs, two of them being grand slams, and racking up 17 RBI while batting .500 in that span, national honors came rushing in as the freshman struggled to keep track of them all.

“All of my fans back at home are texting me, telling me I’ve won another award. Sometimes I don’t find out until some of my friends tell me,” Henry said.

In addition to winning the Sun Belt Conference Player of the

Week for his breakout performance, he was named Louisville Slugger’s National Player of the Week, earned a spot on the College Baseball Foundation’s National All-Star Lineup and was also College Baseball Insider’s National Player of the Week.

## CHANGE OF HEART

It wasn’t always baseball for Henry growing up, however. He was being groomed to be basketball player by his father, Joe Henry, but young Jabari had other plans.

“I remember he came home one day and said he wanted to play baseball,” Joe Henry said of his son. “He said he wanted to pitch so we bought him a glove and we saw he had a pretty good arm. When I got home from work we took a bucket of balls, a bat and a glove and we would go hit every day.”

Now Henry’s family comes down from central Florida frequently to catch as many home games as possible.

Watching the left fielder play from a distance has been a bit of a role reversal for his father, who has been accustomed to having more of a hands-on role in his son’s development.

“It seemed like I have seen all of it before and I’m reliving it all



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jabari Henry [above] plastered the first home run of his college career against Maryland. It was also his first collegiate start and at bat.

over again but now in the stands,” Joe Henry said.

## QUICK ADJUSTMENTS

Outside of striving to win conference championships and earning a College World Series berth, Henry has his sights focused on the tasks that lie right in front of him.

“He doesn’t look a day ahead. He always says that every at bat is a new at bat. Every day is a new day,” his father said.

While Henry has made an immediate impact, FIU head coach Turtle Thomas still believes that there are better things yet to come and expects him to continue to make progress

as an everyday outfielder for the Golden Panthers.

“Jabari is a fine young, freshman ballplayer,” Thomas said. “The biggest thing he has to do is continue learning the game of baseball and to get much stronger. We’re expecting even better things from him in the future.”

SOFTBALL: KASEY BARRETT

# Barrett proves to be a leader in and out of the circle

**ROBERT BROWN**  
Contributing Writer

Kasey Barrett came into the FIU softball program just like other things in her life.

She came without many expectations.

After playing a single season at South Florida Community College, Barrett started her career with Florida International University in 2008.

Her first major achievement came modestly while pitching a complete game versus a No. 18 ranked Ohio State team.

“Pitching just kind of happened, my middle school coach asked me to try out pitching one day at practice and I have been pitching ever since,” the 5-foot-10 team captain said.

Head coach of the team, Beth McClendon, says that Barrett is one of the best people and players that she has had the opportunity to coach.

When asked how she felt about the senior pitcher, McClendon said, “Kasey pitches until it is right, comes to practice 10 to 15 minutes early to get better and never utters a word.”

McClendon has helped mold the Golden Panther softball team into a program that strives to be a tight-knit group priding itself on work ethic and loyalty on and off the field.

This philosophy was an ideal situation for Barrett to adapt and work on her skills in Miami and has molded her into a team leader that players look up to everyday.

A small town girl, Barrett was born and raised in Starke, Florida, which boasts a population of just about 5,000.

The move from SFCC to FIU has been quite a journey for her.

“It’s completely different down here, the team is like my second family,” Barrett said.

With two siblings, she is used to being level headed and laid back in most situations, helping

her with the transition.

Barrett’s time at FIU has allowed her to take on a leadership role and become more assertive both in and out of the circle.

One of those assertions was putting on 30 lbs in the offseason to gain velocity on her pitches.

The sacrifices have seemingly paid off.

The hurler presently leads the Golden Panther pitching staff with an earned run average of 1.97 and a 12-8 win and loss record. She has also earned Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week awards three times this season.

It’s nothing new, however. Barrett has been the staff ace since she arrived on campus.

After struggling versus Florida Gulf Coast on April 6, Barrett managed to pitch a two-hitter in game two of the double header for her fifth shutout of the season.

In the game, she recorded a season high 12 strikeouts.

She now holds 12 career shutouts, second all-time at FIU.

Just this past weekend, Barrett showed dominance again by totaling 16 strikeouts over three games versus Louisiana-Lafayette. In the series she picked up two wins and a loss.

The soft spoken Barrett has let her pitching speak for her throughout her career.

“Kasey has always been the type of person to let her actions speak for herself,” McClendon said. “She has great integrity and is a hard worker.”

Although the end of the season is nearing and Barrett will not be standing on the mound next year, she hopes to still be a part of the team. She will continue to have an influence on the team by coming back as an assistant coach.

“We are a team on and off the field,” Barrett said. “And we’ll always be there to pick one another up.”



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Kasey Barrett [above] leads the FIU pitching staff with a 12-8 record and a 1.97 ERA in her final season.

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# Wittels’ hitting streak continues as Panthers fall

BASEBALL, page 13

Despite Tim Jobe and Jabari Henry turning in strong individual performances, it was not enough to overcome an early deficit as the preseason Sun Belt favorites were able to get their offense going against FIU starter Scott Rembisz.

FIU picked up a run in the top of the second to take an early lead after catcher Sean Reilly hit a sacrifice fly to center field deep enough to drive in Jobe.

But that would be the only lead the Golden Panthers would have for the rest of the night as the Blue Raiders picked up two runs in the bottom half of the inning and then scored five runs in the third, chasing Rembisz out of the game.

Rembisz picked up his third loss of the season, dropping his overall record to 4-3 on the season after giving up six runs, four of them earned, on four hits in 2.1 innings on the mound.

Down 10-3 in the seventh inning, Henry

stepped up to the plate and hammered his eighth home run of the season, a two-run shot to cut the MTSU lead to five. FIU had a chance to come back in the eighth after loading the bases with just one out recorded, but Rudy Flores grounded into an inning-ending double play, stopping the potential rally dead in its tracks.

Jobe picked up two hits for the Golden Panthers and scored twice while picking an RBI in the loss, while Garrett Wittels extended his hitting streak to 27 games after a 2-for-4 performance.

Wittels, who has started in all but three games so far this season, has hit in every game he has played in so far this season.



CHRIS ADAMS /THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

R.J. Fondon [above] gave up three runs and 10 hits to the Blue Raiders on April 10. The Golden Panthers lost 4-3.

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDINGS				
TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT	STREAK
Western Kentucky	26-7	9-2	.788	W4
Arkansas State	20-11	10-4	.645	W2
South Alabama	22-13	10-4	.629	L2
Florida Atlantic	18-13	9-5	.581	W2
Middle Tennessee	20-11	9-6	.645	L1
FIU	19-13	6-5	.581	W1
Louisiana-Lafayette	17-14	6-8	.548	W3
Troy	16-14	4-7	.533	L2
UALR	20-13	4-8	.606	W4
ULM	12-19	3-8	.387	L3
New Orleans	9-20	1-13	.310	L2
*All records up to date as of Apr. 11				

SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDINGS				
TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT	STREAK
FIU	25-14	7-4	.641	L1
North Texas	19-12	7-4	.613	W1
Louisiana-Lafayette	23-14	5-3	.622	W1
Western Kentucky	24-14	5-4	.632	L1
Troy	18-18	6-5	.500	W1
Florida Atlantic	20-19	5-5	.513	L1
South Alabama	15-15	4-4	.500	W1
ULM	17-15	6-6	.531	W1
Middle Tennessee	13-19	4-10	.406	W1
*All records up to date as of Apr. 11				



Image courtesy of FIU's Art + Art History Department

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**Crome Yellow**, Spring 2010 BFA Student Exhibition Walk-thru  
The Bachelor of Fine Arts class of Spring 2010 at FIU's School of Art & Art History, present a series of works produced during their tenure at FIU.


**Sound Image Sound**  
Sound Image Sound returns to The Frost Art Museum with a new performance. The ensemble will explore new sounds with video projection on The Frost Art Museum's exterior facade. Guest Artists include Kristine Burns, Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Eric Goldemberg, Jacek Kolasinski, Paula Matthusen, John Stuart and Daniel Viñoly, with additional performances by FLEA laptop ensemble and clarinetist Julian Santacoloma from the NODUS ensemble.

**The Art of Schmoozing - How to Work a Room**  
FIU Students are invited to join us from 5-6pm for this presentation by the FIU Career Services Office about the do's and don'ts of networking followed by a speed networking event presented by Target.


Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum's exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and performance art.

All events are free and open to the public.

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



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