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VENEZUELA

Chavez backers march in Caracas

Thousands of supporters of President Hugo Chavez filled a Caracas avenue to demonstrate their backing for the socialist leader's crackdown on crooked real-estate and construction companies.



KENYA

Couple freed by Somali pirates after 1 year

A British couple kidnapped off their private yacht by Somali pirates more than a year ago were set free, ending a drawn-out and dramatic hostage situations since the rash of piracy began off East Africa.



RUSSIA

Cosmonauts begin 6-hour spacewalk

Video broadcast from mission control showed two Russian cosmonauts, Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Skripochka, making their way out of a hatch for a spacewalk expected to take about six hours.

Grievances filed against senators for unexcused absences

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

A look at the recently added Compliance Dashboard for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Senate's website reveals that two Senators at Large, Janice Rubio and Daniela Gonzalez, are currently at large.

The Compliance Dashboard, a system installed by the Student Government Association earlier in August, was made to ensure all members are performing their duties as tasked by the constitution. The dashboard is also intended to keep students informed of all open senate seats, as well as any legislation in progress.

According to the dashboard, both senators have not attended four senate meetings out of the 12 meetings that have been held this fall semester. Their absences are a direct violation of the statutes which state that all senators must attend the senate meetings every Monday at four.

"For their unexcused absences, we have nothing on record showing why they were absent," Senate Speaker William-Jose Velez told Student Media. "In the case of Senator Daniela Gonzalez she had notified [us] that she has a class at 5:00pm."

Velez went on to explain that when Rubio did attend senate meetings she gave her constitutionally mandated reports, while Gonzalez has not given reports from Oct. 4 to Nov. 8. A requirement of the constitution and senate statutes is that all senators must attend senate meet-

ings every Monday to deliver reports on their specific colleges. Because of their absences, they have not been able to deliver their reports in person at the meetings. Each senator is also required to submit two reports for the fall semester.

According to the dashboard, only Rubio has submitted her first report for the fall semester while Gonzalez has not yet submitted her first fall report.

Because both Rubio and Gonzalez are senators at large, they do not need to hold a "Meet Your Dean" event, which is required of senators of a specific college.

Two grievances have been filed against the two senators because of the absences from senate meetings and missing reports. The grievances, submitted by the senate's Speaker were submitted to the SGC-MMC judiciary, which will review the grievances.

SGC-MMC Attorney General Altanese Phenelus explained that now that the grievances are filed, Rubio and Gonzalez would have a chance to defend themselves and their positions during a senate hearing.

These hearings will be much like when SGC-MMC senate called forth SGC-MMC Director of Campus Life Alex Lastra, Comptroller Maria-Rosa Blanco, Chief Information Officer Julio Yanes, and Director of External Relations Andrea Alhadari on Sept. 27.

After both senators have presented their cases, the senate will decide whether to censure or remove the senators.

SIX BACK



LLAURA PACCHIANI/THE BEACON

Mr. FIU Robby Valls and commentator Olivia Iglesias take center stage at the Ninth Annual FIU Fashion Show hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma. All proceeds went to Janelle's Wishing Well Foundation.

Secretary of the Smithsonian to visit Frost Art Museum Friday

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Wayne Clough, will be bringing a new perspective to The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum on Friday, Nov. 19.

The lecture, entitled "New Perspectives at the Smithsonian," will have the 12th secretary of the

museum and research complex speaking on the work he has done to expand the Smithsonian's global reach as well as help shape the institution's future through research on major current events.

Before starting his tenure with the Smithsonian, Clough served as president of the Georgia Institute of Technology for 14 years. He received

both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Tech in 1964 and 1965, respectively. He was also received a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1969. Since he began working at the Smithsonian, Clough has been part of several major openings at the Smithsonian, including: the

David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, the Sant Ocean Hall at the National Museum of Natural History, and the reopening of the National Museum of American History.

This event is part of the Steven and Dorothea Green Critic's Lecture Series and is free and open to the public. The event is scheduled to start at 8 p.m. in the Frost Art Museum.

Garcia officially named dean of College of Education

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Dr. Delia C. Garcia, who has been serving as Interim Dean of the College of Education since June 2010, accepted an offer from Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok to officially serve as the college's dean.

The decision to present Dr. Garcia the position, according to Wartzok, sparked from the overwhelming support faculty of the College.

"Since she has been in this position there has been a marked increase in the enthusiasm among the faculty for the clearly articulated vision for the College," said Wartzok.

According to the recent Memorandum

released by the Provost, it is his hope that Garcia's role as dean will coincide with the College of Education's successful goal to employ the "intellectual capital of academia to solve community problems and to publish these solutions for the betterment of civic engagement nationwide.

While serving as Interim Dean, Garcia was an Associate Professor at the College of Education and concurrently served as director of the Urban Education graduate program. Her participation as principal investigator and director of family literacy and teacher education sponsored research projects sought to meet the needs of South Florida schools—particularly surrounding parental commitment and teacher training.

Prior to her period as Interim Dean, Garcia was Chairperson of the Depart-

“Since she has been in this position there has been a marked increase in the enthusiasm among the faculty for the clearly articulated vision for the College.

Douglas Wartzok
University Provost and Executive Vice President

ments of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Leadership and Professional Studies. Dr. Garcia has worked diligently to acquire more than \$11 million in federal, state, and foundation grants to tackle the issues in familial literacy and

urban teacher education.

As Interim Dean, Garcia placed an emphasis on support for the University's education of minorities seeking higher

Garcia recipient of \$2.8 million grant from Government

GARCIA, page 1

education. Due to her extensive research and widely adopted programs—serving over 3,000 families—Garcia was most recently awarded a \$2.8 million grant

from the U.S. Department of Education. Through this five-year grant, the College of Education has developed the Creating Latino Access to a Valuable Education program.
By reaching out to local low performing

schools, it is the College’s hope that CLAVE can provide Hispanic-American teachers from low performing schools the opportunity to pursue their graduate studies while enhancing their effectiveness in an urban environment.

“We need teachers who understand and are sensitive to the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse students and possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to maximize learning opportunities for students in urban schools,” said Garcia in an interview about CLAVE.



CLAVE is seen as a program with the opportunity to support the University as a Hispanic-serving institution.

Wartzok’s Memorandum stated, “through this program, the College of Education will be able to offer tuition scholarships to

teachers and administrators...and enhance student support services and mentoring opportunities in the College.”

Dr. Garcia’s research in teacher education has led to over 250 tuition scholarships for teachers seeking a graduate degree in urban education, along with being published in the areas of family involvement, teacher and parent efficacy, and urban teacher preparation, and developed curriculum guides and instructional materials for teacher education. As a leader and chair of several professional organizations,

“It is important that students have role models,” said Garcia, in reference to her work with CLAVE, and will serve as the ultimate role model as dean for the College of Education.



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WEIRD NEWS

LOCAL

Buy a truck, get a free AK-47 from dealership

Nations Trucks, a used car dealership in Sanford, Florida has begun a new promotion for Veteran’s Day which will last until the end of the month and allow buyers to get a free AK-47 with their purchase.

General sales manager Nick Ginetta told local news station WKMG that with a purchase of a used truck, anyone will get a \$400 voucher to a local gun store. Customers will have to qualify under state and federal laws. If customers are not interested in an assault rifle, they can receive \$400 in cash. Ginetta told WKMG that he realizes the promotion is controversial, but it’s already bringing in business. At the close of business Thursday, he told WKMG News, the business had 47 appointments scheduled for Friday. Typically, he said there’s only three.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arrarás

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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 69, BARRY 54

FAST START

Frederick leads Panthers to 2-0 start with FSU looming

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

With a showdown at home with Florida State looming later in the week, it could have been very easy for the Golden Panthers to overlook another in-state opponent.

The Barry University Buccaneers made sure they weren't an afterthought, giving FIU all they could handle for the better part of 40 minutes on Nov. 15.

But the Golden Panthers broke away late in the second half and remained perfect through two games with a 69-54 victory over the Buccaneers.

"The defensive effort and intensity picked up in the second half and we were able to get out in transition and score," Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. "I told them to trust the things we believe in and we need to get back to playing the way we practice."

It was a slow start for the Golden Panthers as they struggled to hit their shots from the outside and the Buccaneers took an early 10-2 lead to open up the game.

Eric Frederick, providing his down-low presence to go along with his effective perimeter game, helped give the Golden Panthers a spark early on that carried through for the rest of the evening.

Despite regaining their compo-

sure and battling their way back into the game, FIU struggled to break away from a scrappy Barry team that forced eight Golden Panther turnovers in the first half, allowing the Buccaneers to keep the game competitive for most of the opening twenty minutes of play.

The Buccaneers (0-2), powered by seven first half buckets from beyond the arc, took a five-point lead into the locker room as the Golden Panthers (2-0) struggled to find consistency, shooting a paltry 40 percent from the field in the first half.

That all changed in the second half as the shots began to fall for FIU as they battled their back into the game. Frederick picked up where he left off, continuing to provide most of the offensive production.

There was a bit of a scare with a little over 13 minutes remaining, however, when the 250-pound forward fell to floor after getting elbowed near the eye by fellow teammate DeJuan Wright going for a rebound.

"We are always fighting over rebounds and everyone is calling me Nelly now," Frederick joked afterward. "I just wanted to go out and keep playing."

But Marvin Roberts picked up the torch, electrifying the crowd with a monstrous dunk on a Barry defender while drawing the foul to help shift

the momentum back in FIU's direction off a Barry turnover.

Moments later, Jeremy Allen followed with a one-handed slam of his own as the Golden Panthers began to display their scoring ability on the fast break.

"I thought we had a couple defensive stops that changed the momentum of the game," Thomas said. "That's what really gave us control of the game."

Frederick, who re-entered the game with a new jersey and a bandage on his right cheek, continued to provide an offensive boost and finished the game with a team-high 21 points before getting stitches on his right cheek after the game.

Three other Panthers scored in double digits, including Allen (14), Phil Gary (12) and Wright (11).

A home date with Florida State on Nov. 18 has the team excited about a potential upset in what could be the biggest home win since FIU defeated Michigan in the U.S. Century Bank Arena in 2000.

But things need to go a bit differently if the team expects to remain unbeaten.

"If we play like we did it's going to be ugly," Frederick said.

Wright added: "We have to respect our opponents. If we do the things we're supposed to do, anything can happen Thursday night."



MAHLIA AHMAD/THE BEACON

Jeremy Allen [left] and Phil Gary [right] celebrate as FIU outscored Barry 39-19 in the second half en route to a 69-54 win.

VOLLEYBALL: SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Team recounts importance of outgoing seniors

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Teams go through times of transition. Players are constantly coming and going at the university level. It can be a hard process to find players that will contribute to a program at a high level on a consistent basis, on and off the court. Every once in a while, a coach will find players who will leave a lasting legacy.

For Head Coach Danijela Tomic, she had two of them this year.

Seniors Natalia Valentin and Ines Medved played their last game at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Nov. 13, when the Panthers swept South Alabama in straight sets. It was a dominant performance by FIU, who has been looking for this team to grow and play at a high level all season, who seems to be clicking at the right time. Although it's been four years, for Valentin, she feels it has been too fast.

"It's so much fun. I just can't believe it's over. I haven't realized it yet," Valentin said. "I mean, it's not over but I'll never play on this court again. It's another step in my life. My teammates are like 'Oh my God, you're leaving,' and I told them 'Guys, enjoy it, because it goes by so fast.'"

With such a young team, the seniors were forced to be the leaders, although it didn't come

as a surprise that the two would step into the roles so easily.

"For the two of them to have this leadership role this year with this young team that we had and the struggles that we had and putting all the pieces together put a lot of pressure on the two of them," Tomic said. "They stepped up every time I needed something."

Jovana Bjelica, who has played with the two seniors for two seasons now, felt that she couldn't have been with a better pair of players.

"I can say that these two seniors are the best people that I have met here," Bjelica said. "I am glad to have had the opportunity to play with them. To be roommates with them. To interact with them. They have something that is going to be very hard to replace. I don't know how we're going to replace them."

Ines Medved came to FIU in the summer of 2007 with a chance to play in the World Junior Championships for the Croatian Junior National Team. She passed up the opportunity so that she could get ready for her collegiate career. A dedicated individual, Medved was asked to fill different roles in her four years as a Panther,

from outside hitter to setter, all to which she accepted in stride. Although her play was limited throughout her time at FIU, that didn't stop her from contributing to the program.

"What she brought to the team on the court this year is what she has brought since she got her," Tomic said. "She helps her teammates.

If I felt that someone needed help off the court with classes, getting adjusted to a new culture, anything that I needed, Ines was the first person I would go to because she is so mature and so understanding."

Players who can be a mentor to others are key to have on any team. Someone who players can turn to and seek out advice or help. Medved feels she has learned all these keys from her coaches and teammates.

"This is one of the best experiences I've had in my life," Medved said. "Those people are really good people. They make you a better person and push you in every way. From volleyball, to being a better person to your teammates and the rest of the people in your life, to school and work. You pretty become a better person after this experience."

"She works really hard everyday in prac-

tice. She was like the team mom," junior Andrea Lakovic said. "Whenever we were down, she was there to help us, to listen to us, to advise us. I'm really happy to have her in my life."

"With Ines, it's just a pleasure to play with her," junior Sabrina Gonzalez said. "She sets a great example for her teammates on and off the court and she's an amazing individual."

"You have those kids that you'll always remember and Ines is one of them," Tomic said. "Maybe when you look in the record books, her name is not going to be there as much as Nati [Valentin] and [Yarimar Rosa], but she brought to this team as much as any player that I have coached."

If Ines was the go-to player for coach Tomic off the court, Valentin was the go-to player on the court.

Natalia Valentin, who played for the Puerto Rican Junior National Team in 2007 along with Yarimar Rosa, has put up the numbers to be remembered in the history of FIU volleyball. With 4,341 assists, Valentin will walk away as the schools all-time assists leader. Valentin also ranks second all-time in digs at FIU, with 1,087. The stats only tell half of the story.

"Even last year, when [Rosa] graduated, I said that Yari is one of the players that if you're

FIU VS. DENVER

SBC Tournament

- Time: 3:30 a.m.
- When: Nov. 18
- Where: MTSU

Valentin, Medved further season to SBC tournament



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

FIU setter Natalia Valentin has had a historic career in an FIU uniform

SENIORS, page 3

lucky in your coaching career you meet and get a chance to coach that type of player. Natalia is in that category,” Tomic said. “She is going to be very hard to replace. Just her passion for the sport. Her playfulness, which sometimes we had to manage that side of her. a leader. She’s a winner.”

“Nati was my first connection when I got here,” Lakovic said. “She was the first person who I got connected with on the court. Valentin and Medved will have a chance to have their season continue this weekend, as the Panthers have a first round matchup with No.6 seeded Denver Pioneers on Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. to open up the Sun Belt Conference Tourna-

ment. Every game from this point forward could be Valentin and Medved’s last in an FIU uniform.

The Panthers defeated the Pioneers earlier this season, with a 3-0 sweep at home on Sept. 24.

The most important thing for Tomic, even more important than winning, is that her players set an example to people. On and off the court, to be a person that others strive to be.

“One thing I’ll add is that we talk to our players being role models,” Tomic said. “Thinking how they started, seeing someone playing for the first time and how they were inspired to start volleyball, I always tell them just think of all these young kids who come to see you play.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Panthers drop two of three at World Vision Invitational

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

The Panthers went to Texas for the World Vision Invitational and came back with a lesson learned.

You must win close games.

The Golden Panthers lost two of three contests during their season opening tournament, with a blowout loss to Baylor, a close defeat to Montana State and a victory by a small margin against Rice.

The weekend started off rough for FIU as they were beaten on Nov.12 by the No.2 team in the country, Baylor (5-0), 83-36.

The Bears started the game on an 18-0 run before Fanni Hutlassa sank two three-pointers to stop the run. It would be the closest the Panthers would get, as Baylor rolled to a win with Brittany Griner leading the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Although Griner came second in the nation in blocks last season, she managed not to record a block during the game. Hutlassa led the Panthers with nine points and six rebounds. Jerica Coley and Carmen Miloglav chipped in with 7 points each, while Michelle Gonzalez added 4 points and 2 assists. Although she did not score, Maja Krajacic managed to grab 5 rebounds on the night.tyu

The Panthers bounced right back the next night to defeat the Rice Owls (1-2) 66-65. Freshman Jerica Coley led the Panthers with 16 points, while Rakia

Rodgers and Michelle Gonzalez chipped in with 15 points each. FIU (1-2) held the throughout most of the game, even having a 47-37 with 13 minutes to go.

Rice made a furious comeback, as they trailed by 8 with two minutes left, but with 11 seconds to go, leading 64-62, Gonzalez hit two clutch free throws to increase the lead.

Although Rice would hit a three late, it would not be enough as the Panthers escaped with a win.


FIU had one more test before leaving Texas. Montana State (1-2) was looking for their first win and would find it against the Panthers, as the Bobcats escaped an FIU comeback to win 58-57.

The Panthers trailed by seven with two minutes to go before going on a 6-0 run capped off by a Rodgers jumper with 42 seconds cut FIU’s deficit to one at 56-55.

The Bobcats were able to score to get back up to a three point lead. As time winded down, Liene Jekabsone hit a two that was not enough to enough to tie the game, letting Montana State squeeze out the victory.

Over the invitational, Rodgers led the team in scoring with 12.7 points game, while Hutlassa contributed eight rebounds a game. Gonzalez averaged 1.7 assists per game and Coley had two steals per game.

The Panthers will play their home opener on Nov.20 vs. Eastern Kentucky (1-0) at 4:30 p.m.



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INSTANT KARMA

Student releases R&B album



RONALD CALERO
Staff Writer

Kenia Arias isn't your typical FIU student. Instead of just dreaming about becoming a superstar, she went for it.

"Ever since I was little, I just wanted to sing. To tell stories, to relate to people through the music, and to

touch them in a meaningful way," said singer/song-

writer Kenia Arias as bells rang in the middle of the Graham Center courtyard.

"I like the bells," she pointed out, "It reminds me of *The Sound of Music*."

Born in Puerto Rico, from Dominican and Puerto Rican parents, Arias was brought to the United States in a

vessel of salsa.

Settling in Long Island, NY, Kenia was brought up in a musical environment, with the aforementioned salsa from the old and the fresh new sounds of hip hop and R&B of the time.

By the age of four, she was already singing along the TV and radio, and at the age of six, she decided that singing was her thing.

"I recorded my first demo when I was 14 in someone's basement. It was actually a really, really pimp studio; I was impressed!" After reassurance we all have to start somewhere, she went on with her tale: "I first recorded covers, because the process of writing my own music at the time seemed overwhelming, and as long as I was singing and felt a connection to the music, I was happy".

She was signed to a production company at 17, and even though she was no longer doing covers, she still wasn't doing her own music, something which had now begun to bother her.

"There was a lyricist with the production company, so they weren't covers. But they weren't mine either," she said.

So after one cover album, she decided to do her own music.

"I said to myself, 'What really draws my attention the most? What am I feeling right now?' And from that I made a demo with 12 songs on it. And that I just mailed to everyone: Please sign me! Please sign me! Until someone finally did!"

Everything was going great for Arias, until her parents told her they would be moving down to Florida, and there was nothing she could do to change it.

The prospect of going from the bustling and rich artistic scene in New York to a place where "Everyone is 80 years old," according to Kenia, didn't excite her in the very least. Mostly because her career was already off to a good start, and moving from New York would seriously affect that. In the end, she had to do it.

"I cried a lot, but I fully understand now why my parents wouldn't just let me stay. Besides, I never really wanted to leave their side," said Arias.

But how do you manage a singing career in New York from Florida?

"I flew off for everything," she said.

Auditions, gigs and interviews in the Big Apple were still being attended by Kenia from Florida.

The breaking point came when she got a call back from an audition

for *Rent* to play the role of Mimi, asking her to come back to New York for a second audition. At the time she was in Florida, attending college and with no budget to afford a plane ticket. She realized then that the hectic commuting wasn't going to work out, so she decided to start from scratch.

Surprisingly enough, FIU proved to be the starting point for her operations. Asking around in the music department got her into a couple of classes that landed a couple of auditions and resulted in signing a deal with independent label Tate Publishing and the recording of her first album, *Karma*.

Sounds easy, but it wasn't. Signing record deals and recording albums is all great and dandy, but there's still homework to do.

That's right, Kenia is a full time student at FIU. How do you accomplish all of this successfully? The answer is you don't, and as Kenia admits, some of her classes were not getting her full academic effort, since most of her attention was focused on the music. She took a semester off for music, but still, Kenia plans to graduate with a degree in Special Education from FIU next year. "I'm a big believer of finishing what you start."

You can head over to her MySpace at myspace.com/keniaarias to find out more.

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Kanye West's 'Runaway' expands rap's boundaries

Let's get this out of the way first: if you are expecting something like what Kanye West has done before, don't.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

To anyone who saw the incomprehensible full-length "Runaway" music video, this statement is probably self evident, but to those of you who missed it, you should understand that this isn't your typical Kanye West record.

This is West seemingly losing his mind in a studio, splattering every idea that came to him on the canvas and building an album from there.

Oh, sure there were elements from his previous albums; Kanye West is no stranger to grandiose musical (or otherwise) declarations.

But *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* (due Nov. 22, Roc-A-Fella Records) is the album where it all comes out; from sampling revolutionary black spoken word poems from the 60's, to an appearance from indie-rock darling Bon Iver, this album is all over the place.

The only way to describe this album is massive. It covers so much territory in its 67 minutes that it's hard to pin things down. Beats

drop, voices are digitally manipulated and guests come out of the wood work constantly (including a standout verse from Nicki Minaj that brings to mind Lupe Fiasco's coming out party on "Touch The Sky" if Lupe Fiasco had swallowed Busta Rhymes whole.)

It all seems overwhelmingly scattershot at times.

Much of it could be written off by detractors as musical fluff, unnecessary details cluttering the record because its creator is too self indulgent to self-edit and too secluded to take any real criticism from anyone around him.

Those would be valid criticisms if the music weren't so overwhelmingly on the mark. This is Kanye's grand artistic achievement, the work of a twisted genius gorging himself on every impulse in the studio.

It teeters on the edge of not working, but with the exception of one miss (Chris Rock's unnecessary cameo in "Blame Game"), this album hits its mark every time.

Kanye has always been self indulgent, at times to a fault, as in 2008's too long and too same-y *808s and Heartbreak*, but the breadth and scope

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THICK AND THIN



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Dr. Joshua Alexander of Sienna College spoke last Wednesday on behalf of the Department of Philosophy. This lecture was called The Challenge of Sticking with Intuitions through Thick and Thin.

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Florida governor’s past shows he is untrustworthy

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

The election of Rick Scott as Governor of Florida showcases the all-too-often phenomenon of political candidates not being held accountable for past corruption.

His multi-million dollar election ad campaign that touted his experience as CEO has evidently impressed voters. But, there seems to be a collective amnesia about the historic \$1.7 billion dollars in fines that his company, Columbia/HCA, was forced to pay because of fraudulent health care billing. In 1997, amidst the federal government hosting of an inquiry that surfaced complex systems of fraud, Scott resigned as CEO. According to Politifact, the investigation revealed that, “Columbia billed Medicare, Medicaid, the Defense Department’s TRICARE health care program, and the Federal Employees’ Health Benefits Program for lab tests that were not medically necessary or not ordered by physicians and the company attached false diagnosis codes to patient records in order to increase reimbursement to the hospitals.”

In addition to costing taxpayers’ money, Scott put profit over basic business ethics and it is notable that this type of crime, victimizing patients and federal programs is particularly morally reprehensible.

Scott’s statement saying “Columbia/HCA made mistakes, and I take responsibility for what happened on my watch as CEO,” is not reassuring. His follow-up statements that he was completely oblivious to the corruption and fraud his company was committing is laughable. As journalist Carl Hiassen wrote, “If he truly didn’t know what was happening all around him, he’s an incompetent fool. And if he did know, he’s a lying crook.”

It is embarrassing that, as a state, we have elected a man who failed to properly, ethically and efficiently run a health care organization. Running as a political outsider, a maverick, who wants to shake up Tallahassee and end big government was the most ironic platform Scott could have chosen; this man resigned as the CEO of a company that plead guilty to 14 felonies and paid the biggest fraud settlement in this country’s history. This man epitomizes the gross corruption and exploitation of the masses that his supporters so decry. His hypocrisy is startling, Scott promises to diligently end the wasteful spending of taxpayers’ money. But, as the CEO of Columbia/HCA, his company exploited Medicare by filing completely fake claims to both local and state governments.

I beg to differ that this is politics as usual. It has been a tempestuous, temperamental political environment in America for the past 10 years. Voters need to look at the facts and not at whether the candidate has a D or R next to his name. An ousted CEO, infamous for the sheer magnitude of fraud his company systemically implemented is probably not the best choice to lead our state.

If voters are hoping Scott is a more honest and ethical politician than he was CEO, there needs to be a conscious effort not to transfer the total unaccountability for his past corruption to total unaccountability for his actions as governors. Given his alarming history as a potential “lying crook,” a close eye needs to be kept on Scott or Florida residents will also be “incompetent fools.”

Cosmetic surgery not worth the risks

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Elective plastic surgery has proven to be a very popular way to improve people’s self-image and is also an expensive way to enhance confidence and perhaps improve lifestyles.

With advancements in medicine, it may seem safe and easy to quickly fix any part of our bodies that we don’t like. All the while there are societal influences telling us all that if we look good we will be happy.

It is no wonder so many men and women decide to go “under the knife” with the intention of improving themselves. Cosmetic surgery can improve self-esteem and boost confidence, but it does so for all of the wrong reasons.

Real confidence is something that cannot be bought and hiding behind surgical improvements is a quick fix to a larger problem.

In all but rare occasions, elective surgery is completely unnecessary and many self-image problems can be solved in much safer and noninvasive ways, such as a healthy lifestyle and a positive attitude.

When it comes down to it, it is completely up to the person to decide how he or she feels about his or her body, and with just a little bit of daily positive thinking, a negative self-image can slowly be converted into a positive one.

One possible reason why so many resort to cosmetic surgery is because of pressure from society that says we have to be beautiful to be happy.

Although we are taught from childhood that physical appearance is so important, more people need to realize that beauty cannot be mass produced and sold, as real beauty comes from how people carry

Simply wanting to look a certain way is in no way worth risking your health and, in some cases, permanent scarring and disfigurement.

themselves. Beauty really shows when people are confident in how they portray themselves.

In many cases, getting surgery is a futile attempt to combat the effects of aging when, in reality, most people should be proud of the bodies they live in and present their natural selves confidently.

Many surgical procedures are very risky. Although in some cases it may be small, there are risks associated with almost every cosmetic procedure.

Throw unlicensed and inexperienced surgeons into the mix and you have a good chance that things will not turn out as expected. Fake credentials and unlicensed practitioners are common and it can be tough to distinguish the real from the fake, especially when fake doctors lure in customers with lower prices.

There have been cases where men looking for pectoral implants walk away with women’s breast implants and women receiving caulk injections, the same stuff used in bathroom maintenance, for buttocks enhancements.

Simply wanting to look a certain way is in no way worth risking your health and, in some cases, permanent scarring and disfigurement. Many “botched” cosmetic jobs leave the customer looking worse than originally.

Plastic surgery procedures, from the minor to the invasive, are often completely unnecessary. It is never a good idea to be willingly cut open by someone who may or may not know what he or she doing. Elective surgery can be defined as an intentional wound in a controlled environment and it is rarely in one’s best interests to deliberately cause harm for a temporary boost in appearance.

Anyone contemplating any kind of cosmetic surgery should be aware of all risks. Many of those risks can easily be avoided by simply playing your strengths, accepting who you are and working on improving confidence from within.

Student etiquette in need of refinement

MARGARET DEPASS
Contributing Writer

I have been noticing students’ conduct on campus that reflects both their good etiquette or lack thereof.

The most obvious is putting feet up on seats. By the time the students have left where they were sitting, there are stains and dirt, which causes excess and unnecessary cleaning on the part of the campus crew to maintain a healthy and clean environment.

If students absolutely need to have their feet up, removing their shoes will surely lessen the wear and tear on the seats. Unless someone has smelly feet or holes in his or her socks, which is more of an embarrassment, it is much more pleasant and the best after-effect to remove one’s shoes before putting feet up on furniture.

Most of the time, I see women guilty of doing this even though they are wearing flip flops, which are easy to take off.

Coincidentally, while pondering the writing of this

Many of us spend more time at school than at home, and it would be such a pleasure to have the benefits of a nice learning environment.

article, I sat next to my usual spot outside of my classroom waiting for it to become available. I had a business meeting that day and was nicely dressed.

As soon as the classroom was available and I stood up to go in, two of my classmates pointed out that there was dirt on the back of my pants. I was annoyed! There had been someone with her shoes on the sitting area in my spot when I first walked up, that is why I was sitting next to my usual spot, but I didn’t expect my seat to be dirty.

I know most students don’t wear their business attire to school unless they have a function, but, I wonder if they put their feet up on their furniture at home or if they take better care of their home than

their school?

Another problem I see caused by dirty shoes on seats is when I take the shuttle between the two campuses. I know we all experience our legs falling asleep, but putting dirty shoes up on the material and upholstery of the bus seats is not the answer.

I have also observed that, even though every professor for each of my classes put in the syllabus and also reviewed the expected code of conduct on the first day of class, those of us who are trying to pay attention to the lesson being taught are still distracted by inconsiderate students seated close to the front of the class who are daring enough to engage their laptops with either videos, games or Facebook, while others are conversing.

Another observed breach of etiquette is by those students who sit in someone else’s routine seat. Those of us who are there to learn and chose a routine seat which best suits our visual and hearing needs can encounter hostility or annoyance from someone who randomly decides to sit in our routine seats.

Those hostile students don’t usually show an interest in learning and it is obvious that they have a social agenda for sitting in that seat.

Many of us spend more time at school than at home, and it would be such a pleasure to have the benefits of a nice learning environment and pass that legacy along to our next generation by acting appropriately in a social setting.

VERBATIM

“The U.S. always seems to be trying to stop the last event after it has already happened.”

Arthur Hulnick, former CIA agent on the ban of certain ink cartridges on U.S.-bound flights

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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



BRAZIL

VP has heart attack, in stable condition

Brazil's vice president, Jose Alencar, was removed from an intensive care unit and was in stable condition a day after he suffered a heart attack, officials said. He has been fighting abdominal cancer since 1997.



CUBA

First of 13 political prisoners freed

The first of 13 remaining dissidents jailed since 2003 was released from prison and returned to his home, a strong signal the government intends to release all of the men despite their refusal to go into exile.



MEXICO

Hotel blasts kills 5 Canadians, 2 Mexicans

A powerful explosion that killed five Canadian tourists and two Mexican workers at a resort hotel on Mexico's posh Riviera Maya was apparently caused by build up of gas from a nearby swamp, authorities said.

Students take part in clean-up effort of bay

NADRA MABROUK
Contributing Writer

Walking by the bay shore, students can be heard yelling out "bottle cap!" in the early morning hours of a Saturday.

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus hosted its annual community service project of the Fall on Nov. 13. The event was held by the bay and had members from different University clubs, such as the Kayak club, the Black Student Union, and Alternative Break.

The cleaning began by the Hospitality and Tourism Management building at 9 a.m. and ended at the Kovens Conference Center at 1 p.m.

Marie Wray, SGC-BBC special events coordinator and senior psychology major, organized the event whilst Oehleo Higgs, SGC-BBC press secretary and senior advertising major, helped bring a freelance writer from The Miami Herald to cover the event.

Students were given a check-off list when signing-in where they tally up the amount of each item listed they may have come across whilst cleaning by the shore. The list includes beverage bottles, clothing, shoes, pull tabs, food wrappers and even diapers and syringes.

The students were given three different bags: a black one for garbage, and two clear ones for plastics and paper.

The event held an orientation at 8:45 a.m. where students had a small yoga session and an ice breaker. The first 100 students who showed up received a free



PHOTOS BY DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus held "Day at the Bay," its annual community service project, on the morning of Nov. 13. Bottom: A board signed by those who attended to commemorate the event.

"SGA" t-shirt. The next 75 received a free "SGA" recyclable bottle. All the participants received "FIU" hand sanitizers.

During the Spring semester, SGA would like to host another community service clean-up project similar to this one.

Christin 'Cici' Battle, SGC-BBC president, is hoping to make it a larger one by including more activities such as kayaking on the bay to attract more participants and help students feel more connected to the beauty of the bay and the environment.

"I think it's a wonderful event for the bay and environment. It brings awareness to the FIU

community because it is right in our backyard and it's important to keep our campus clean and free of hazardous debris to the marine ecosystem," said Nakeia Calvert, senior history major.

At the end of the event, participants signed a wooden board found by the bay to help commemorate the event.

"It's important to lead by example and it's important because by partaking in this event, it brings us one step closer to the go green initiative," said Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president and junior hospitality major.

By 10:50 a.m., there were 40 student participants signed up and by the end of the event there were 50.

SGC-BBC is looking for an environmental affairs director. The person in this position must be passionate about the environment and bring awareness to the University community regarding issues of environmental concern. The environmental affairs director also hosts events to get students involved.

"Being the event was held on a Saturday, I was satisfied with the amount of students that participated," Higgs said. "However, I feel we need more support from alternative FIU organizations and regular students because more involvement shows we're all on board with environmental awareness on campus."

FOODGASM

Gourmet burgers a growing trend

What do most people associate with a hamburger? Likely, the answer is fast food. Sure there are many upsides to fast food, unfortunately food quality is not one of them. McDonald's may have served billions of customers, but has it served them a "better burger"?

While gourmet burgers may sound like a paradox to some, they are actually a growing food trend. Restaurants steadily compete to out-do each other's burgers by using better ingredients, making bigger burgers, and coming up with new varieties.

My first experience with upscale burgers came years ago on a trip to Los Angeles. Before I was introduced to the Father's Office burger, I never considered myself a burger enthusiast. However, after hearing about how incredible this burger was I was dying to try it, and it surely did not disappoint. Later I modeled my own burger recipe after the "Office Burger's" mouthwatering flavor, juiciness, and style.

A local spot called Le Tub on 1100 North Ocean Dr., Hollywood, has been ranked by *GW Magazine* as the number one burger you have to eat before you die, and also featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." When I heard this news, I had to try it for myself. Le Tub's burger is more traditional than what I had at Father's Office. It comes with a poppy seed bun, lettuce, tomato, and onion, seemingly nothing out of the ordinary. What makes this burger special is the juiciness and flavor derived from nearly a pound of seasoned and slow cooked sirloin.

As much as I hate to toot my own horn, I do like to think that my personal burger recipe is a must-try. Instead of beef my recipe uses ground bison meat. Besides being healthier than beef I like bison meat for its robust flavor.

Visit fiusm.com for a recipe and step-by-step instructions on how to make Bison Burgers.

Foodgasm is a bi-weekly cooking and all-around food loving column published on Wednesdays. Gene Kravets is a hospitality major.

COLUMNIST



GENE KRAVETS

Hospitality students win barbecue cook-off for second straight year

CHARITY VERGARA
Contributing Writer

A foot-tall cowpig trophy has been sitting comfortably in the office of chef Michael Moran for the past two years and will remain there this year thanks to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management's win last week.

The seventh annual American Institute of Wine and Food's barbecue cook-off was held on Nov. 7. Competing universities served up their best recipe for the BBQ and a side dish. The University's recipe, under the direction of Moran, was deemed the winner.

"It was all about the collaboration of the team," Moran told *The Beacon*. "Teamwork produces great results. I expect to make this

same statement next year."

The team began preparing for the competition almost one month ago. Team captain Christian Poole started early to develop the set menu.

"I was very impressed because it was a very team effort this year. I was really happy to see that," Poole told *The Beacon*.

The team made a beef brisket with smoked chipotle BBQ and caramelized applesauce and a sweet cranberry sauce.

A secret ingredient makes Moran's spice rub "award winning," but team member Max Albano said, "I can't tell you what's in it otherwise he might kill me."

"We had it sitting for two days. It was delicious," Albano added.

For sides the team made "Fall Slaw," which

is coleslaw with green cabbage, granny smith apples, smoked corn, and apple cider rehydrated cranberries. A pumpkin crème brûlée with candy pumpkin seeds and whipped cream spiced with cinnamon was served for dessert.

Poole led a team which consisted of mostly teaching assistants: Rodney Barchi, Andrew Kutz, Max Albano, Laura Manon, and Elie Fornier. Catherine Pugh was the only non-teaching assistant member, but she is in the school's beer brewing class and helped brew the Irish ale stout beer that was served with their winning dish.

"Why not use the brewing class? It's perfect. We brewed our own beer and that shows a lot of effort," Poole said.

Competing schools consisted of Johnson and Wales University, Le Cordon Bleu, The

Art Institute, and Lincoln Culinary Institute. All schools received \$1,000 scholarships, but only the University took home the cowpig trophy which Moran equates with "bragging rights."

"We're a non-culinary school up against four culinary schools. We had secret weapons though. Christian, Andrew and I all went to culinary schools," Albano said.

Both Poole and Albano were part of the winning team last year as well.

"I'm already looking forward to next year and I can't wait to make our menu even better. I know everyone's gonna be thinking 'We gotta kick their butt next year,'" Poole said. "We set the standard for this BBQ competition between last year and this year. We gotta keep pushing the envelope."