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CUBA

Foreign minister blames US media

Cuba's foreign minister has accused U.S. media of inciting violence and military aggression in Libya, where forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have left hundreds dead.



CHINA

Citizens who call for protest detained

Officials in China charged Internet users who had reposted a call for protests with subversion as they continued its campaign to crush any Middle East-style democracy movement.



LIBYA

Ex-minister: Gadhafi ordered Lockerbie

Libya's ex-justice minister was quoted as telling a Swedish newspaper that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi personally ordered the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in 1988.

University ranked first in energy conservation

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

A report released by the Florida State University System ranked FIU number one among all state universities in energy conservation during the fiscal year 2007 to 2009—saving the University millions of dollars in utility expenses.

FIU is one of five state universities that was able to meet the 10 percent reduction goal set by a state mandate requesting colleges to reduce energy consumption by that set amount using the 2007 to 2008 fiscal year as a benchmark.

Along with Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, Florida State University and New College of Florida, FIU submitted a report in January regarding the specifics of how each university achieved the reduction goal.

Out of the 11 state universities that participated, five universities were able to meet the 10 percent goal. However, FIU surpassed that goal with 13.5 percent—reducing consumption by 1.5 percent and utility costs by 12 percent.

The University's effort to perform at its fullest potential proved rewarding as there was a \$3 million disparity between FIU and the University of Central Florida, which ranked

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS



JUAN SATIZABAL/THE BEACON

The FIU Immigrant Rights Task Force held a rally in the Betty Chapman Plaza outside the Graham Center on Feb. 23. Carmen Iglesias (above, left), who has a masters degree in Public Health advocates on behalf of immigration reform to sophomore Giselle Iglesias (above, right). Iglesias is the president of the FIU Immigration Rights Task Force. Carlos Santos (left), of the FIU Immigrants Rights Task Force, places a flag above a sign asking students to sign a petition encouraging Florida lawmakers to consider immigrant rights.

second.

The data also indicates that if the University had performed at the SUS average, it would be spending \$21 million more than its current expenses.

"We believed we had a good program here so we thought we'd be in the top three. This was the first time we got to see data from the other schools, so we are thrilled that we ranked at the top," said John Cal, associate vice presi-

dent of Facilities Management.

Nick DiCiacco, senior director for Facilities Management, believes that what possibly made the biggest difference between ranking first and second was the efficiency of the central utility plants driven by a central chilled water loop that monitors the air conditioning system.

All universities have chilled water loops, but "all water loops are not created equally or

operated the same way," said DiCiacco.

Unlike other schools, the University's Facilities Management department does not follow the standard water temperature.

According to Cal, there is an industry standard that says it should be 42 degrees, but they have concluded that they could still be efficient at 45 degrees.

SAVINGS, page 2

Candidates for Student Government elections announced

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

The release of the 2011-2012 Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus election candidate list shows that for the first time since 2008, elections at MMC will have a contested presidential race.

Out of the last five elections, four have been uncontested. The last contested election was between former SGC-MMC President AJ Meyer and Jennifer Ruiz in the spring of 2008. The two previous SGC-MMC elections saw former SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda and current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez go unchallenged.

A total of three candidates are running for the position of president, including: former SGC-MMC Senate Speaker William-Jose Velez, current Finance Committee Chair Patrick O'Keefe and current Vice President Alina Gonzalez.

As part of the executive branch ticket, these candidates will each run for office paired up with a vice presidential candidate. Gonzalez is running with current SGC-MMC Comptroller Kevin Gonzalez, who previously served as

senator for the College of Business Administration before being elected as comptroller.

Velez is running alongside current SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Cristina Loreto and O'Keefe will be campaigning with current SGC-MMC Attorney General Sanjeev Udhmani as his vice presidential candidate.

The elections deadline for application submissions passed on Feb. 18, raising concerns about the amount of advertisement done by SGC-MMC.

"As far as I know two people have emailed me with concerns," said SGC-MMC Elections Commissioner Andrea Alhadari. "We've had an overwhelming amount of applicants this year and I feel that we definitely advertised adequately."

Alhadari went on to explain that the application deadline was advertised in several places around campus, including the TVs in the Graham Center and through various emails.

When asked whether applications will be opened once again, Alhadari explained that after meeting with the elections board and administrators, the decision was made that the application process would not be reopened.

However, Alhadari did mention that this decision was being appealed, leaving a possibility of applications becoming reopened.

Also released were the candidates for the SGC-MMC Legislative Branch, which has several seats hotly contested. The senator of the College of Arts and Sciences position has the most applicants, with nine. Housing came in second with seven applicants, while the College of Business has six.

"This year we have positions that in previous years would have one to two applicants that now have six to seven applicants each," said Alhadari.

According to Alhadari, the only two senate seats going uncontested for SGC-MMC positions include seats for the College of Arts and Architecture and the College of Public Health.

The list of candidates is final, assuming that all candidates attend a mandatory candidate information session. Candidates who do not attend will be disqualified and cannot participate in SGC-MMC elections.

Vincent Fernandez works as a Beat Writer, covering the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

2011-2012 SGC-MMC EXECUTIVE BRANCH ELECTION CANDIDATES

President

- Alina Gonzalez
- William-Jose Velez
- Patrick O'Keefe

Vice-President

- Kevin Gonzalez
- Cristina Loreto
- Sanjeev Udhmani

For the SGC-MMC Legislative Election Candidates, turn to Page 2.

NEWS FLASH

Report: Ex-minister says Gadhafi ordered Lockerbie

Libya’s ex-justice minister on Wednesday was quoted as telling a Swedish newspaper that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi personally ordered the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in 1988.

“I have proof that Gadhafi gave the order about Lockerbie,” Mustafa Abdel-Jalil was quoted as saying in an interview with Expressen, a Stockholm-based tabloid.

Abdel-Jalil, who stepped down as justice minister to protest the clampdown on anti-government demonstrations, didn’t describe the proof.

New Zealand continues search for survivors after earthquake

Emergency teams from around the world are working in Christchurch, New Zealand, in a race to find people buried beneath the rubble after a 6.3-magnitude quake hit the city Tuesday afternoon. Some 75 people have been declared dead and another 200 people are still missing.

A New Zealand newspaper reports that 80 percent of the city was still without water and about 40 percent of the city had no power. Prime Minister John Key said there was still hope that people would be found alive but there were no positive signs coming from major buildings where people were believed to be trapped.

Obama admin will not defend federal marriage act in court

In a major reversal, the Obama administration has notified Congress that it will no longer defend the federal law that says marriage can exist only between a man and a woman.

Attorney General Eric Holder says he and the president agreed that the law unconstitutionally discriminates against same-sex couples who are legally married but whose status is not recognized by the federal government.

The administration has concluded that classifications based on sexual orientation must be subject to a higher constitutional standard than ordinary laws. And the federal Defense of Marriage Act does not.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Senate fills all remaining vacancies for the first time since fall of 2009

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

For the first time since the fall 2009, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate is operating at full capacity.

During the latest special elections session at a senate meeting held on Feb. 21, the SGC-MMC senate filled their last three vacancies. These included the College of Engineering and Computing, Lower Division and Housing seats.

All positions that needed to be filled had been left open either because of resignations or promotions. With the resignation of former Senate Speaker

William-Jose Velez, one of two College of Engineering and Computing seats was left open. Andrea Fajardo was elected to this seat, after being unanimously voted in by the senate.

Next to be filled was the Lower Division seat, which was left open after Senator Patrick O’Keefe was elected to become SGC-MMC Finance Committee chair.

Two candidates were brought forth for the empty Lower Division seat. With a vote of fourteen to nine, Sebastian Larrazabal was selected over current SGC-MMC Intern Rudy Leal-McCormack.

For the empty Housing seat three candidates were presented, including:

Giovanni Correale, Tiffany Reid and Dean Williams.

Williams, who previously served as SGC-MMC press secretary and currently serves as executive assistant to SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez, was elected as the new housing senator with 18 votes.

While the SGC-MMC senate only has a few of months left in session, the confirmations of Fajardo, Larrazabal and Williams will have the senate tackling the remainder of their work at full capacity.

Vincent Fernandez works as a Beat Writer, covering the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

2011-2012 SGC-MMC LEGISLATIVE ELECTION CANDIDATES

| Arts & Architecture | Business | Honors | Public Health |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Daniel Diaz | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cesar Chuquizuta | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jose Garcia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Janis Verwey |
| Arts & Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adam RedolfiRobert IbarraGabriel FreitasDaniel RamirezBryan Wiggins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fabio Pineda | Empty Seats |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cristina BosmenierJesus BorreroDonovan DawsonGiovanni CorrealeJuanita LouisSebastian LarrazabalJose NavarroNairi OtaloraJorge Fernandez | Engineering | Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">EducationNursing |
| At Large | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Janet ReyesAndrea FajardoFernando PinheiroKhalid ChaarEkaete Ekwere | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thayron LathamTiffany ReidDean Gabriel WilliamsLauren SmithGraciela AgueroLarry BrownJaniel Vargas | Uncontested |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kristen RobillardAlessa TorresLeonardo EvoraCarlos RodriguezSamir Patel | Graduate | Lower | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public HealthArchitecture & Arts |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rachel EmasDharam PersaudSai PenagamuriAdeel Jamal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liane SippinMizael PonceRudy Leal-McCormackNicole BuchelyCarlos ChuecaKevin Hernandez | Important dates |
| | | | Voting: April 5-6 To vote visit: my.fiu.edu or a campus voting site |
| | | | Announcement: April 7 at 12 p.m. in the Graham Center |



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Water sensors and light motion detectors help save

SAVINGS, page 1

On the supply side, the University adjusted its air conditioning temperature from 72 to 75 degrees.

Another major contribution to FIU’s top ranking is the independent metering and monitoring of every building so that specific amount and type of consumption is tracked at the Modesto Maidique Campus. The implementation of water sensors and light motion detectors throughout campus aided the University’s conservation efforts.

Both Cal and DiCiacco note that though it was a facilities driven accomplishment with the aid of outside vendors campus, campus constituents also played an essential role.

Last month’s Kill-a-Watt

energy saving competition between all housing buildings on campus, hosted by Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions, saved the University over \$21,000.

“It doesn’t match up the three million but it gets everyone culturally conscious of what we are trying to do and all those little things help. If it weren’t for their active participation it would have been tougher to achieve these results,” said Cal.

Even when there are no energy competitions being held, campus constituents, particularly those living in the residence halls, strive to maintain eco-friendly lifestyles.

“Whenever I leave my room I always makes sure to switch the lights off and try to use my lamp, which has

a low watt bulb, more often than the actual room light,” said Amanda Munroe, mass communications major and resident of Panther Hall.

In order to hold the University’s position in the ranks, Facilities Management plans on automating the utility plants. It is their hope to obtain real time data instead of having to wait for the end of the month report.

In the design and planning stage of future constructed buildings on campus, the University will continue to model the energy use so that it can implement the most efficient systems.

This was started by the completion of the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design certified SIPA and the College of Nursing and Health Science building.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU looks for regular season sweep

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The last game of the regular season for the Golden Panthers will be a home match against Troy on Feb. 26 before they go into the Sun Belt conference tournament. This is the one team that they managed to beat in between a six- and five-game losing streak that has defined their season.

The team has not typically been good all season long in end of the game scenarios. A game against Troy earlier in the season was the exception when Phil Taylor found DeJuan Wright going down the middle of the lane for the easy layup to win the game in overtime.

If FIU wants to come out with another win against Troy, which would be their only sweep of a conference opponent this year, they must do well in some of the areas they excelled in last time, while improving on others.

The Golden panthers will have to make the best out of their shots because it will be tough to get any second chance opportunities on their possessions. The Trojans rank first in the conference in defensive rebounds with

26 per contest.

"I told my team that I am going to do a better job at rebounding, because sometimes I catch myself watching instead of going after the ball," Eric Frederick said.

Frederick has gone through a lot this year. He was suspended for being late for a game and he also got escorted off the court in their last meeting against Troy after getting involved in a mini skirmish. While on the bench, he got up and got involved in an in-game altercation, which resulted in him being ejected from the game.

For a team that averages 72 points, most of Troy's scoring comes from beyond the arc as they put in eight three-pointers per game.

FIU does well on defending the three, but Troy still had ten against them last time out. Both Vernon Taylor and Will Weathers of the Trojans have 15 points per game. Taylor hurt the Golden Panthers last time by scoring 23.

FIU found offense against Troy from Phil Gary, who went 5-7 for the three and shot the Trojans right out of their zone.

The idea all year has been to



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Treymane Russell [right] is one of six seniors playing their last home game.

take what the defense gives you, so if the Trojans give them the three, no matter who is open, they need to be ready to shoot.

"They were in a zone so I was just trying to take what the defense gave me," said Gary who ended the night with 21 points in all.

The game will be senior night

for FIU, which has six graduating players on its roster including Phil Gary, Marvin Roberts, Anthony Anderson, Treymane Russell, Antoine Watson and Stephon Weaver.

They will start the conference tournament on March 5th, the time and opponent is yet to be determined.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Isiah needs to be clear about his future

As the season draws to an end, we see the FIU men's basketball team limping to the finish. There are many reasons as to why this team has a losing record: from struggling at the free throw line, to not being able to finish off opponents. Perhaps one major reason is that head coach Isiah Thomas is living a dream.

COMMENTARY



RICO ALBARRACIN

Thomas is trying to navigate two ships at the same time, one of them in an unofficial role. There is a choice to be made: either you fully commit to FIU, or leave. There are no "if's," "and's" or "but's" about it. Make a decision soon and be firm with the decision.

Reports of Thomas secretly

ISIAH, page 4

BASEBALL

Dodds earns win in first start as a Golden Panther



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Logan Dodds [above] makes his first start and picked up the win in FIU's shutout victory against St. Thomas University at home.

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

After a long baseball weekend the Golden Panthers bounced back against St. Thomas University at home.

Redshirt junior Logan Dodds made his first start of the season as a Golden Panther on Feb. 23. For Dodds, a transfer, it was an opportunity to showcase his arm and bring a pitching comeback for the Golden Panthers after a poor day on the mound Sunday against Southeastern Louisiana.

Dodds pitched five shutout innings as he led the Golden Panthers to an 8-0 win over their cross-town NAIA foe.

"Early on the fast ball wasn't working for me, but by the fourth inning I got it going, the infield played great behind," Dodds said after the game. "It was good to get out there, show them what I'm capable of. I'm here to help the team."

After three scoreless innings, the Golden Panthers began capitalizing on offensive opportunities in the fourth inning. Third baseman Jeremy Patton knocked a base hit to get things started for FIU.

"We are going for the long stretch here, it gives us momentum with the hits we got today," Patton said. "We just got to keep swinging at it."

With runners on first and second,

Mike Martinez came to the plate and hit a ground ball up the middle past the diving shortstop, bringing Jeremy Patton home for the first run of the game and giving the Golden Panthers the lead.

"Coach [Turtle] Thomas keeps us up to par with our swings, we were focused on the outside pitches and that gave us a couple extra base hits," Martinez said.

FIU would not look back from that point forward.

With runners on the corners, the Golden Panthers were poised to build their lead. Second baseman T.J. Shantz came into the batter's box and hit a sacrifice fly to bring Wittels home to give the Golden Panthers a 2-0 lead.

SLIDING FINISH

Right fielder Yoandy Barroso came to the plate to get an early hit. Immediately after STU starter Corey Estrada plunked center fielder Joel Capote bringing him to first base. Off a costly error, Barroso ran home and took a slide that knocked the wind out of the STU catcher.

The umpire made the call, giving the Golden Panthers the 3-0 lead over the Bobcats. The very next play Jeremy Patton hit fly ball out right field bringing Capote home and taking him all the way to second.

With runs coming in easy, FIU forced STU to make a pitching

change, bringing on Elio Rey to close out the inning.

Pitching changes took place for the Golden Panthers as well. After five innings, Dodds was replaced Mason McVay a lefty.

BRINGING IN THE RUNS

With early inning hits by Martinez and Flores, Shantz came into the box hoping to make a play for Golden Panthers.

Shantz went with a bunt and STU catcher Ruy Rodriguez misfired toward third, allowing Martinez and Flores to score and give FIU a 6-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth.

Martinez hit a driving ball down a gap in left field brining Wittels home for his first score of the season giving the Golden Panthers a 7-0 lead in the bottom of the seventh.

Martinez would score later in the inning, bringing the score to 8-0 for the Golden Panthers.

Bryam Garcia came on the mound to close the game for the Golden Panthers.

"We got off to a slow start," coach Turtle Thomas said. "We got some hits and got on a roll, but what was good was that we kept adding to our lead."

With a four game weekend ahead of them, Thomas says the team "needs to improve on execution."

Thomas needs to decide where his loyalties lie

ISIAH, page 3

orchestrating the trade talks for Carmelo Anthony to go to the New York Knicks, and no true denial of involvement, have risen and it makes Thomas and Knicks owner James Dolan look foolish. This has been an ongoing courting of Thomas, as the first instance of this came near the beginning of the NBA season when Thomas was offered a consulting job with the Knicks. Thomas was not allowed to become a consultant because of the possible tampering issues that would arise.

There are plenty of bad things that can come from this current alleged involvement by Thomas. The biggest issue is that Thomas is dreaming of the 'Big Apple' while a group of young men put their confidence in him.

Thomas has recruited young, talented men who in turn have put their trust in him. The talent is there for this team to succeed. Young men like Dominique Ferguson and Phil Taylor, who are playing tough and showing their talents on the hardwood, all while their coach is flirting with the idea of leading the Knicks once again.

Then again, maybe there was always a thought in the players' minds that this would happen. Thomas has brought a spotlight with him since his arrival to FIU. Whether that spotlight was good for the University is for people to decide.

With the national eye on the school for a bad situation already in Garrett Wittels's sexual assault charges, having Thomas allegedly being the puppet-master for the organization he once

left in shambles does not help get that negative focus off of the university.

Now Thomas has put himself in a situation to deny any such rumors. Whether Thomas was behind the 15-player mega deal that the Knicks pulled off to get their man, we'll truly never know. There are rumblings among league executives that Thomas is indeed there.

CBS Sports.com senior writer Ken Berger wrote that Thomas is just extremely eager to be involved. Berger writes, "Thomas still has Dolan's ear, is as power-hungry as ever and would love nothing more than being able to paint himself as the savior in New York."

Thomas has always been able to have a smile on his face through any situation. Yet, if these rumors are true, how can Thomas look anyone in the eye with that smile and tell them he is not involved? The situation could become a nightmare for FIU, who is already trying to clean up one mess. Dragging out a decision would not be fair.

It's not fair to the Knicks organization. Not necessarily Dolan, who continues to listen to Thomas and undermine general manager Donnie Walsh. But to Walsh and others who helped rebuild the Knicks after it was left in shambles.

It is also not fair to FIU, a school that gave Thomas a second opportunity after leaving New York on bad terms. Also a school that has stuck their neck out for their students and faculty, while risking their already bruised image.

Ultimately, it is not fair to the basketball players who play in a Golden Panther uniform:



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Isiah Thomas [above] has been reportedly been involved in Carmelo Anthony trade talks.

young men who believed in Thomas when he recruited them, men who were probably awestruck when a NBA legend came to them and wanted them to play under his reign.

At this point, everyone is second guessing Thomas and questions continue to pop up everywhere. Would the Knicks really want Thomas back? What happens to FIU if Thomas leaves?

FIU needs a backup plan in place for when, yes when, Thomas leaves Miami for the city that never sleeps. A coach that knows the game well, and that is worried more about the X's and

O's of the game than the spotlight that comes with it. And someone who is disciplined and is ready to put FIU on the map for their play, and for nothing else.

The season will most likely end in a couple of weeks unless this FIU team can make a run in the Sun Belt conference tournament. Once the season is over I hope, for the sake of everyone involved, Thomas makes his decision.

Nothing is worse than waiting for the inevitable, like Anthony's trade to New York. The last thing we need to see is this being dragged out.

FLORIDA MARLINS

Johnson ready for new season after offseason training

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Josh Johnson's offseason workout routine seems more suited to hitters than pitchers.

The ace of the Florida Marlins' staff now makes his winter home in Las Vegas, where his training plan was similar to ones used by mixed martial arts fighters and world's-strongest-man competitors. In short, the weakest spots in Johnson's core were identified, he worked on those areas and then moved into more of a full-body plan.

The results: He's slimmer and stronger, and believes the back and shoulder problems that cut his 2010 season short are long gone.

"It was all geared toward being a pitcher," Johnson said. "It was awesome. A really good experience."

So he arrived at spring training with a new look — noticeably sleeker in the upper body, along with the more obvious decision to get rid of his shaggy locks and sport more of a closely cropped haircut.

The Marlins approve on all counts.

"That's JJ. He's the consummate professional," Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said. "He always has high standards and he keeps them not only for his team, but for himself. He's everybody's idea of

what you want in a real, professional guy."

If the workouts over the winter keep him on the mound longer this summer, the Marlins will be thrilled.

Johnson was in the Cy Young Award conversation for much of last season, when he wound up 11-6 with a 2.30 ERA. But there was clearly a point in 2010 where the 6-foot-7 man who can throw 98 mph started slowing down a bit.

In his first 20 starts, Johnson was 10-3 with a 1.61 ERA, 141 strikeouts, 29 walks and opponents were hitting .207 off him.

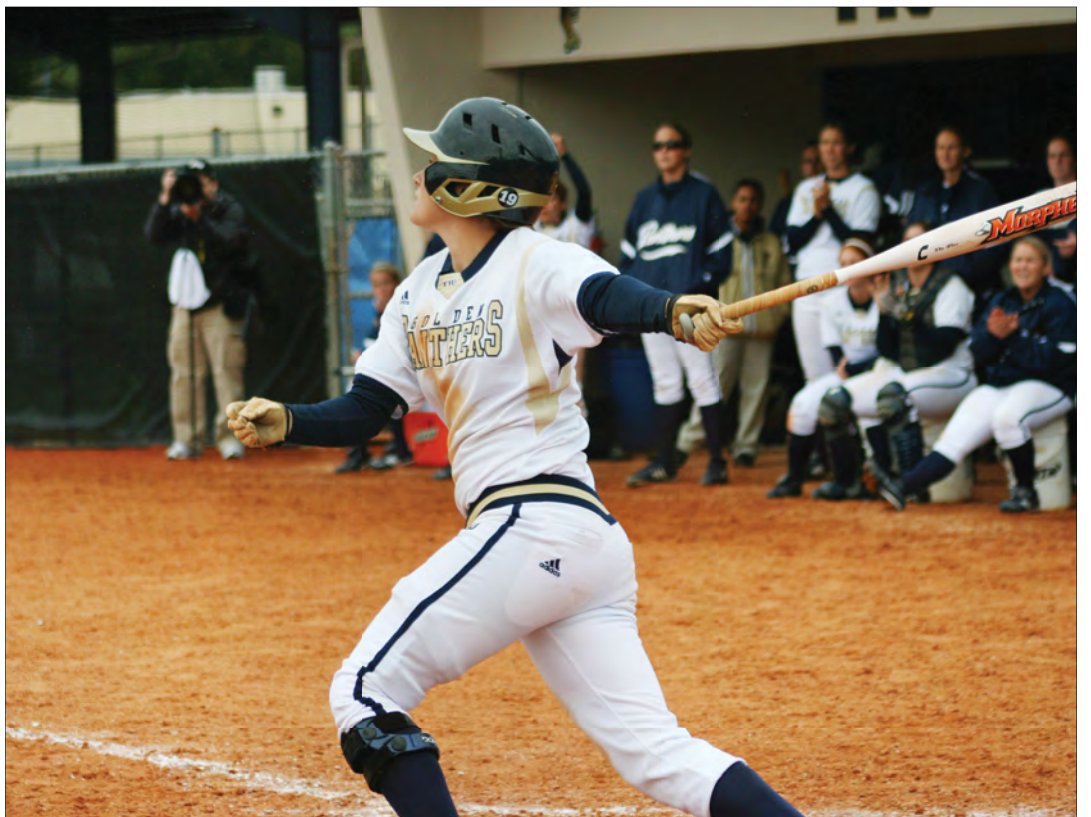
From July 27 on, he was only 1-3, the ERA jumped to 4.20, the strikeout-to-walk ratio dropped in half and he was getting hit at a .283 clip. His last outing was Sept. 4, before the Marlins decided that the smartest move was not to force any more from their top starter.

"We had to be very careful," Marlins manager Edwin Rodriguez said. "If he was not going to be 100 percent, then we knew what the decision we would have to make was."

This year, Johnson hopes the Marlins need not worry.

Predictably, when he got into the private gym in Las Vegas — he was approached by a friend of Jason Giambi at last year's All-Star game, who turned him on to the facility called Philippi Sports

SWING AWAY



Shortstop Kayla Burri [above] takes a swing during last weekend's Blue and Gold Felsburg Memorial. The Golden Panthers will go on their first road stretch this weekend in the Carolina Classic in Chapel Hill, N.C. from Feb. 26-27. FIU will face Penn State, North Carolina and N.C. State.

Institute — Johnson learned that his strength was out of balance. Years of concentrating on the right side of his body left him vulnerable in other areas, and that may be why his back muscles strained last season.

A few weeks working in Mark Philippi's gym changed all that. Philippi won the Drug Free Powerlifting Championship in 1996, America's Strongest Man in 1997, and has worked with a slew of football, basketball, baseball and track stars over the years.

"They find your weak spot and attack," Johnson said. "There's

little things they do that's different. I hadn't done a dumbbell bench press in I don't know how long. He had me doing them almost every single day. It helps everything, shoulders, back, all that stuff. So five days a week, we got after it."

Johnson has already seen one major breakthrough in his game, or rather, one of his games. He broke par for the first time this winter.

"I think it'll help my pitching as well," Johnson said.

Since returning from reconstructive elbow surgery in July 2008, Johnson has been one of baseball's absolute elite starters. Over

that span, only one pitcher with at least 20 wins — the Yankees' CC Sabathia, at 51-17 — has a better winning percentage than Johnson's mark of 33-12.

The Marlins gave him a \$39 million, four-year contract last year. He's due to make \$7.75 million in 2011, then \$13.75 million in 2012 (when Florida is scheduled to move into its new downtown Miami ballpark) and again in 2013. They say he's earning the money.

"I don't set any number goals," Johnson said. "The only thing I say to myself is that I want to improve on every part of my game."

Recycling initiative brought to Food and Wine Festival

JUAN LOPEZ
Staff Writer

When the University and the Food Network team up to present the South Beach Food and Wine Festival, it is sure to be one of the biggest events of the year. It is also one of the messiest.

The festival benefits the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Teaching Restaurant, and has raised over \$12 million for the school, but it is not pulling its weight environmentally. That is where Russian international student Maria Leonova comes in.

Last year Leonova, a hospitality major, started forming a “Dream Team” to help her achieve what looks like an impossible goal. Leonova is the leader of Students for Social Responsibility and her team is working with the festival to expand several goals begun at last year’s festival.

The team is working on a recycling campaign for the festival to encourage patrons to be socially responsible.

They will also be collecting the unused food and dry materials left by different sponsors and restaurants to donate to the Feeding South Florida Food Bank. Finally, Leonova’s team will be collecting leftovers from the festival and sending them to a local Miami garden to compost.

Participating in the South Beach Food and Wine Festival was actually what motivated Leonova

to study at the University.

“I have an interest in hospitality, and I knew I wanted to work the South Beach Food and Wine Festival because it is one of the biggest of its kind. It’s one of the main reasons I came to study at FIU,” said Leonova.

The festival is sponsored by the University and Southern Wine and Spirits of Florida. Last year it attracted over 50,000 guests and extensive media coverage.

This year will be Leonova’s second time at the festival. Last year she worked an event called BubbleQ as a student assistant to New York chef Elizabeth Carmel.

Carmel is the executive chef at Hill County Chicken and has been featured on CBS’s The Early Show. Together Carmel and Leonova made briskets with cucumber salad and served up tequila milkshakes.

Leonova’s responsibility this year is so big she will not be in the kitchen.

Leonova knows that everyone on her team strongly believes in their cause which motivates them in spite of the very hard work in front of them; the festival produces a lot of waste and it all has to be collected.

Leonova has full trust in her team. Those that work with Leonova have trust in her, too.

“Maria is very detail-oriented and dedicated. She’s reliable and picks up on things fast,” said John Buschman, a doctoral student who works with Leonova.

COLORING BETWEEN THE LINES



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Senior Kristen Tuazon, a social work major, is drawing organic forms in her beginning drawing class with Professor Jane Kunin.

“It is a huge team effort. It makes me feel like I am a part of something bigger than I am,” Leonova said. However despite being fully prepared, Leonova realizes after last year that not everything goes according to plan. She knows there will be mistakes.

“At first you believe the planning is the hardest part,” said Leonova. “But as the event is happening things come up and you have to adjust to situations. You have to be flexible to be successful.”

Leonova realizes that the experience she is getting is

invaluable.

“The South Beach Food and Wine Festival gathers the best talent in hospitality from around the country. You see these talented people doing their craft and you learn so much just from watching them and talking to them,” said Leonova.

Sorority brings back pageant

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

The second annual Sigma Kappa Sorority’s King of Hearts pageant is fast approaching.

Veronique Nýdam, the Panhellenic Delegate for Sigma Kappa, is sure this year will be better than last.

“[The pageant] is something we’ve always done,” said

Nýdam, “It’s a Sigma Kappa tradition.”

The Pageant promises to be fun as well as helpful. All of the money from the ticket sales and the raffle goes to the Sigma Kappa Foundation, which distributes it to charities such as the Alzheimer’s Association and Inherit the Earth.

Tickets for the King of Hearts pageant will be on sale until

Feb. 25 at the Sigma Kappa table in the Graham Center. Pre-sale tickets are \$5 while tickets purchased at the door will be \$7.

According to Nýdam, this year there are 12 contestants, “so we’re hoping to have a really big turnout.”

The King of Hearts pageant will take place on Feb. 28 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms.

FISTFULS OF TECH

Apple’s new business model alienates publishers and users

Apple’s new App Store subscription model is looking to change print media like iTunes changed the music industry. But instead of creating a new business model for a hurting industry, it is alienating content companies from a thriving ecosystem.

Earlier this month, Apple announced that it would implement a way for users to subscribe to content through the in-app purchases API, the code that creates a section in an app that allows the user to buy added content from directly inside the app, eliminating the need to exit it to buy added features.

Users encounter this API often, such as in the popular game Angry Birds. If you can’t get through a level simply head over to the

main menu and purchase the Mighty Eagle for 99 cents and charge through it.

On the surface this seems great, particularly for iPad publications that will allow users to subscribe to their content straight from the app, but there is a catch. Actually, a few catches.

First, if you bill through the store’s in-app purchase API, the transaction is handled through Apple’s billing system. Publishers would have to forfeit a 30 percent stake in each subscriber on top of a 2.5 percent transaction fee.

So a \$40 yearly subscription to Rupert Murdoch’s The Daily would net Apple \$13. On top of that, publishers can’t access the customer records for their AppStore subscribers, meaning that important demographic information that publishers use to sell ad space would be inaccessible.

App store publications like The Daily and

Wired magazine are not the only ones subject to these policies. Apple looks to be extending this policy to all content providing apps in the AppStore, including popular streaming services like Netflix and Rhapsody.

“An Apple-imposed arrangement that requires us to pay 30 percent of our revenue to Apple, in addition to content fees that we pay to the music labels, publishers and artists, is economically untenable,” said Rhapsody in a written statement to Engadget.

Second, this new policy requires all apps in the store to switch to the in-app purchasing model or be exiled. According to the App Store guidelines, “apps utilizing a system other than the In App Purchase API to purchase content, functionality, or services in an app will be rejected.”

So will Apple reject apps like Amazon’s Kindle app because it kicks users over to the web browser to buy books directly from the

company’s website?

Apple has the right to implement this policy, and I do believe that whatever the percentage share that publishers have to pay is the price to play for accessing an app ecosystem where users are willing to pay for quality apps.

But this particular policy should only apply to print publications that deliver content on the App Store and should be specifically tailored to fit their needs rather than be broadly applied to all content providers.

As it stands, this policy being applied to apps like Rhapsody and Netflix only stands to alienate these companies from being represented on the platform. The iPad is great hardware but what brings in the users is what it can do.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.



COLUMNIST

JORGE VALENS

REEL TO REEL

THE OSCARS

2010, despite a few shining moments, was a remarkably forgettable year in cinema history.

Blue Valentine was, in my opinion, the best film I saw last year, a transfixing tale of a derailing marriage.

Carlos, a five hour long epic on the life of Carlos the Jackal, is as personal and intelligent an epic as I've seen come out in the past decade.

Shutter Island is among Martin Scorsese's long list of triumphs.

None of these films were nominated for the 83rd Annual Academy Awards. Of course, this certainly isn't the first time I've disagreed with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Still, despite my personal misgivings and opinions on snubbed films, this is not a terrible year for the academy. The best thing I can say about this year's nominees is that none are exceedingly terrible and some are rather good.

I won't have to suffer through another repeat of the 2006 Oscars ceremony when *Crash*, i.e. the idiot's guide to racism in America, was undeservedly awarded for wallowing in its mediocrity.

I dislike awards shows and I dislike the politics that surround them. Studios begin promoting possible Oscar contenders as early as

September in trade papers and from that point on the press junkets, interviews and pimping of their work doesn't stop.



DAVID BARRIOS

Then again, I like to focus on film as an art form or entertainment, not as mere business. But the Oscars ceremony is the big show in town.

John Huston said in *Chinatown*, "Of course I'm respectable. I'm old. Politicians, ugly buildings, and whores all get respectable if they last long enough."

Still, I can't ignore the ceremony and so I thought I'd toss out my predictions for the winners in major categories at Sunday night's celebration.

BEST PICTURE

The King's Speech: At the end of the day, the best picture race is a competition between an inspirational post-Victorian era historical drama and the little nerd with the Gap hoodie who could.

Out of the films nominated, *The Social Network* is my personal favorite, but word of mouth within the industry is that *The King's Speech* has made a tremendous impact among academy voters and is the front-runner coming into Sunday night.

It's not a bad film, but just light with good work from its cast.

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Colin Firth – *The King's Speech*: His performance is at the heart of the film.

Firth is an expert at playing sad sacks effectively and should have been awarded for his efforts in 2009's *A Single Man*.

The academy selected Jeff Bridges for his work in *Crazy Heart* after he was snubbed several times as the academy is apt to do on occasion. This will be a conciliatory award then.

It is altogether ironic that Bridges, whose work in *Crazy Heart* was less than that of Firth's, gave a memorable turn in *True Grit*.

He is also nominated but will not win.

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Natalie Portman – *Black Swan*: It's the

most unsettling role of all the nominees.

Personally, the naturalism of Michelle Williams' performance in *Blue Valentine* is preferred but Portman's dark journey into self-awareness gives enough range to impress the academy.

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Christian Bale – *The Fighter*: Bale's work is intense and engrossing, his best work since *The Machinist* and once again shows his dedication to the school of Method Acting. His performance is the best of the other nominees. Geoffrey Rush is an academy favorite and could very well take the award. This is certainly going to be a tight race.

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Hailee Steinfeld – *True Grit*: She should have been nominated in the lead actress category; she is the lead character in the film after all.

Keisha Castle Hughes was 12 when she was nominated for her work in *Whale Rider*. Regardless, the academy tends to award supporting role Oscars to up and comers. It helps that her role trumps the work of the other nominees easily.

Amy Adams and Melissa Leo are both nominated for their work in *The Fighter* but will probably split academy voters.

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE

Toy Story 3: It's a critical and popular darling. The weakest of the three films but a hell of a tear-jerker at the end.

It's a fitting if underwhelming close for the franchise. The academy loves Pixar. *Up*, *Ratatouille*, *The Incredibles*, etc.

And this is after all, only the third animated feature to be nominated for Best Picture. It's a lock. *The Illusionist* is a masterpiece, by the way.

Just in case you didn't know, it's a bitter-sweet tribute to magic and the films of French master Jacques Tati.

BEST DOCUMENTARY

Inside Job: A film about Wall Street, financial fraud and economic melt-downs. The liberal Hollywood base will love it. *Restrepo*

is a much more affecting piece about the mundane and pressures that soldiers feel while on a tour of duty in Afghanistan. This film could be the dark horse.

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

Biutiful: Javier Bardem's nomination for Best Actor in the leading role was somewhat unexpected for this Alejandro González Iñárritu film which garnered mixed reviews among critics.

Bardem won't win, but his nomination seems to confirm that this film will.

WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY)

Aaron Sorkin – *The Social Network*:

This is the only major nomination that this film seems to have locked.

Sorkin's razor wit and fiery dialogue and understanding of the ongoing phenomena that is Facebook make this into a tragedy of Grecian proportions.

WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)

David Seidler - *The King's Speech*: The idea here is that if a film is picked for best picture, it's bound to get picked in most other categories down the ballot.

You know, kind of how most people vote every four years.

Inception could win for its convoluted plot that the academy mistakes for sheer originality. That would be a conciliatory award for the box office hit.

DIRECTING

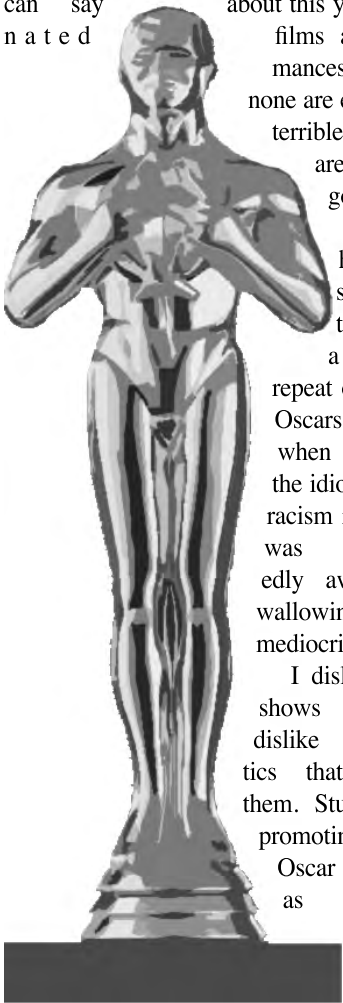
David Fincher – *The Social Network*: Yes, Tom Hooper won the Director's Guild of America Award which is quite effective at predicting who'll win for direction at the Oscars.

But Fincher has been around for almost two decades and has been nominated before.

The idea among voters that, "it's his time," should apply here.

It would also serve to award the film without giving it best picture, much like Steven Spielberg's win for *Saving Private Ryan* in 1998.

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on films. Look for it every Friday.



THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

SPC MOVIE: TANGLED



WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC DM 100

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



They will be collecting items to take on our 2011 spring medical mission trip to Haiti.
WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

LUST FOR LIFE

Enjoy a movie and a short discussion related to eating disorders and body image.
WHEN: 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 305

2011 ENGINEERING EXPO

WHEN: 8 a.m.- p.m.
WHERE: FIU Engineering Center

CARNIVAL

Hosted by the Black Student Union
WHEN: 7 p.m.-12 a.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

AFRO LATINO CONFERENCE

Hosted by the African and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Student Association.
WHEN: All day
WHERE: GC Ballroom

ARTWORKS! THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE

Students are given the opportunity to explore their fears, wishes, and emotions by placing them in a personal box which represents safety.
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: "WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN"



Th performs under the direction of Catherine Rand.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students, \$10 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$15 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

FIU BASKETBALL PLAY PINK

-FIU WOMEN BASKETBALL VS. TROY
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
-FIU MEN BASKETBALL VS. TROY
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: U.S Century Bank Arena

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

CHARLIE'S ANGELS CASTING CALL



WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Doubletree Grand Hotel: 1717 N. Bayshore Dr; Miami FL

ARTWORKS! THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE

WHERE: Frost Art Museum

BASEBALL

VS. Mississippi valley state
WHEN: 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
WHERE: FIU Baseball Stadium

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

OSCAR NIGHT AMERICA



WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$125, \$110 for members
WHERE: Miami Beach Cinematheque

SIGMA STUDY SESSIONS

A place for students to come and complete their work or study for any upcoming tests, quizzes, etc.
WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Graham Center, in front of Bustelo and Burger King

AUTISM SPEAKS WALK

WHEN: 8-10 a.m.
WHERE: JC Bermudez Park

HEAT VERSUS KNICKS



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets start at \$80
WHERE: American Airlines Arena

ARTWORKS! THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE

WHERE: Frost Art Museum

MARIONETAS DE LA ESQUINA: THE CIRCUS

WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
WHERE: Carnival Studio Theater

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

Consumers must question celebrity moral character

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

As a University community, we are regularly preached to about the evils of alcohol abuse, domestic violence and criminal activity, and we nod our heads in agreement. In spite of a seemingly united front in the face of such behavior, a large portion of the community passively endorses it by buying the products of or supporting many prominent figures in the media today. By supporting them despite their illicit activities, we are condoning their behavior.

One of detrimental messages promoted by today's artists are the notions of superficiality and materialism. At the epicenter of this message are so-called "artists" such as Lil' Wayne. His latest hit, "6 Foot 7 Foot," amidst rampant cursing and ill-conceived beats, describes himself as being "married to the money" and names his number one activity to be "chasing that paper". It has also peaked at number 9 on the Billboard Top 100.

According to CelebrityNetWorth.com, Lil' Wayne's net worth is estimated to be about \$75 million, making him arguably one of the most successful artists of all time. Lil' Wayne's

following is very visible on Facebook. From personal experience, I have seen several statuses using a few of his lyrics by my friends, mostly pertaining to drugs, alcohol and money. A quick search of fan pages related to him approach astronomical numbers, with one "Free Lil' Wayne" group closing in at 100,000 numbers.

Also, consider Michael Vick, quarterback of the Philadelphia Eagles who was recently presented with the key to Dallas by Mayor Dwaine Caraway. For those unaware, Vick pleaded guilty to running an illegal interstate dog fighting ring in 2007. He served 21 months in prison, an insignificant sentence for such a serious crime. In 2009, barely two years after he was released, Vick was signed to the Philadelphia Eagles for a one-year \$1.6 million deal.

The disturbing part about the popularity of celebrities such as Lil' Wayne and Vick, especially at the University, is not that they appeal to a small population of like-minded individuals, but to the majority of people both in the University and all across the country. In a recent classroom discussion, students were quick to defend Chris Brown, who is known for assaulting his previous girlfriend Rihanna, claiming that his products are separate from who he is as a person.

If the students in that classroom discussion are representative of both the University's student population and the public as a whole, then there is a serious problem.

In the same discussion, the show "Jersey Shore" was also defended, despite its arguably deplorable content. I asked how many people in the classroom listened to Lil' Wayne, and unbelievably more than half of the students raised their hand.

If the students in that classroom discussion are representative of both the University's student population and the public as a whole, then there is a serious problem. If it is so difficult to distinguish between what is acceptable and what is not in pop culture, then it becomes even more difficult to determine in actual society. American culture, especially within the younger generation, has become heavily dependent on the media for both knowledge and

entertainment. However, the two have become so heavily integrated that there really are no concrete distinctions between right and wrong. When the public is factored into this amalgamation, it only serves to disorient society's moral compass.

College students must be encouraged to think critically when it comes to observing the world, especially with regards to entertainment. With the immense amount of content that the average student is exposed to, it becomes difficult to form opinions that are morally justified. To put it simply, a person must think twice when choosing to watch a football game or listen to a song and consider whether or not it is worth it to endorse such a person.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SGA elections poorly publicized

It has come to my attention that the FIU Student Government Council of Modesto Maidique Campus has an unfair representation of students. I was approached by a student on Wednesday Feb. 16, 2011 around 3 p.m. about the lack of awareness on the election applications.

I acknowledged the students concerns and went to the Vice President of Student Affairs office right away. I was turned away, given a business card, and told to send an email to her. I did just that. I wrote an email expressing my deep concern on the matter. I even had a brief message to the students I asked to be sent out to the entire student body.

Unfortunately, I was informed by the SGA advisor, Jose Toscano, that Rosa Jones, Vice president of Student Affairs, would not send out the email I wrote. I was informed that she wouldn't inform the students of the election applications. So, Campus Life was sending email blasts to all the students who attend the Campus Life events, like SPC movie nights. I was glad that at least a select group of FIU students were informed, but what about the rest? Are they expected to know of an SGA elections application deadline when we

can't even inform them?

To my surprise, I saw in my inbox the next day an email from the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. It was not my email; nonetheless, it contained the SGA election applications and the deadline, which was the next day, Friday Feb. 18, 2011 at 5 p.m. I had mixed feelings when I saw this email. I felt that I was misled by one of my mentors, but I was happy to know that the students will have a fair shot at becoming student leaders.

Days later, after the deadline had passed, I had lunch with one of my fellow students. I was asked by that student if it was too late to run for a senate seat. I was at a loss for words, I informed him of the deadline and the email that Rosa Jones had sent out. He was upset, and I became upset as well with the lack of awareness. I thought things over and began to plan out a course of action.

I wrote up an email to as many student leaders as I could contact. I informed them of our two Student Government Councils with different deadlines. I asked them to express to the elections board how they felt. I want to get the student voice heard. I am one student, and I am able to represent the entire student popu-

lation at FIU. I am proud of that fact. But I want the students to take this cause into their own hands and show our administration themselves.

It is at the discretion of the SGA Elections Board to open the election applications again. As of right now, most of the seats are contested. My question to the students is how diverse is the applicant pool for each of those seats? How many of you may have wanted to run for an SGA position if you had been given more than 29 hours and 42 minutes' notice?

Please visit the SGA office in GC 211, Campus Life in GC 2240, or Student Affairs in GC 219. You may also email me at Samir.Patel@fiu.edu and I will forward your email to the corresponding contact. Feel free to call the SGA office at 305-348-2121.

I know that writing this letter will damage my relationship with some of the Administration of FIU, but I would be going against my morals by not writing it. At the end of the day, I am a part of SGA to help the students. I am an advocate of the students no matter what the cost.

-Samir Patel,
College of Education senator,
Student Government Association

Film portrays casual sex in distorted light

SANAH FAROKE
Contributing Writer

The film *No Strings Attached* portrays an uncommitted relationship as being glamorous and attractive. Such a relationship, if you can even classify it as such, only makes those involved believe that love can sprout from a twisted and incomplete lifestyle. In reality, one can never be satisfied with this "in-between" phase. As humans, we never are.

Conventional dating is usually how people find their way into a relationship. Within this time frame, getting to know, understand and grow on one another is nowhere remotely close to a dysfunctional and no truly passionate one night stand. The term "making love" has been reduced to "having sex," considering that the lack of commitment and creativity in the air, leaves no room for actual love to develop.

Additionally, there is always the chance of having an unwanted pregnancy with a person who obviously does not want to be in a committed relationship. This has become an overlooked factor, especially the complications of payments for medical bills and child support, not to mention getting together "for the sake of the child," abortion or adoption planning for a relationship that had no plan from the beginning of

the affair.

There is also the probability of getting a sexually transmitted disease. This also may occur in a serious, committed relationship, but with the nonchalant routine an uncommitted relationship begets, there are more chances of catching an STD, especially if one of the casual partners is unaware of their condition.

Furthermore, heartbreak and obscurity are big factors in such a scenario, where it is hard to make the distinction between love or relative attraction. Clarity becomes foreign, your mind becomes fogged with confusion and you begin to lose sight of your actual desires.

No Strings Attached is one of those films that make audiences believe that a casual affair is okay and normal, but it is not. A 'friends with benefits' relationship cannot and will not work. To have a real relationship, you have to work at it and it might have the downfall of getting emotionally distraught and hurt, but it is worth trying, rather than having one night stands and be guaranteed heartache.

A 'no strings attached' relationship is an excuse to not have a real one, one that will last and grow into something that someone who settles for one-night-stands cannot comprehend.

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.

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 (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (550 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



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CUBA

US: Mother of Cuba hunger striker harassed

The U.S. is denouncing what it says is a campaign of intimidation against the mother of a Cuban political prisoner who died after a hunger strike last year. It is calling on the government to release all dissidents.



MEXICO

Marines find cases of explosives

Mexican marines found 72 sticks of commercial synthetic explosives at a heavily armed camp in the southern state of Guerrero, the navy said on Feb. 22.



NICARAGUA

President calls Gaddafi to expresses support

Nicaragua's leftist President Daniel Ortega says he has telephoned Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to express his solidarity, and to defend the unity of this nation.

SOUTH BEACH WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL 2011

Long time attendant but a first time guest

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

Laura Torres, running from event to event, got a taste of an array of positions in the University as a freshman and sophomore. Now a senior, the activity she will miss participating in the most is the South Beach Wine & Food Festival. However, this year will be the first time Torres will attend one as a guest.

Torres will attend the Amstel Light Burger Bash as a guest with Bianca Serrano, a freelance writer from Woodlands Hills, California diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Torres will assist Serrano throughout the event.

Serrano calls herself "Bianca The Foodie" on her blog and describes herself as a traveler, freelance writer, and videographer. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, her goal is to make the most out of her life.

According to Torres, Serrano contacted Shena Corrado, student associate program manager, for assistance while at the festival.

Corrado asked students from her Social Responsibility in the Hospitality Industry class if they would like to volunteer to assist Serrano. Torres along with a couple other students volunteered. Serrano needs

a person to help her with maneuvering, as the event will be held on the beach, and she will help her get a taste of the foods.

"Since I am going with Bianca [to this event], I'll be a guest and that's something I never experienced since I am usually working the events from the other side," Torres said.

The Allen Brothers will present the Burger Bash, which takes place on Feb. 24, and Rachel Ray will host it. This event will include Chefs on the Beach and guests will get to experience different flavors from the chefs, according to Torres.

Torres will also help with "Perrier-Jouet Bubble Q" on Feb. 25, which the Allen Brothers will present and Bobby Flay and Friends will host. The next day, Feb. 26, she will help with the event "Italian in Paradise" which Giada De Laurentiis will host. It will include a large diversity of handmade pastas, roasts, and rich desserts.

There will be three series of wine spectator wine seminars. Torres will participate in Wine Spectator Wine Seminar series C, which will take place on Sunday, Feb. 27.

"You get the chance to meet important people in the industry and obtain the experience within a working environment. It eventually leads to better opportunities that you wouldn't normally gain," Torres

FUN AND GAMES



JESSICA PEREZ/THE BEACON

Students playing games and receiving educational material at the Sex Carnival in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 10.

said.

Torres began her involvement on campus as an SGA intern in the 2007-2008 academic school year and the year after became a lower-division senator. Torres was a peer advisor and a peer mentor in 2008.

Torres is the web master for her sorority, Sigma Kappa. Her position requires her to manage their website and the social media concerning the sorority.

Torres was also the treasurer for Stonewall Pride Alliance, a club dedicated to catering to the needs

of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender students.

She was a recipient of the University's "Outstanding Leadership Award" from Student Life as a freshman in 2008.

At the moment, Torres is the reservation specialist at the Savoy hotel in South Beach where she deals with customers, answers calls, deals with their room reservations and assists guests. Torres is hoping to obtain a manager position in the hotel business.

Torres has been part of the

Honors College since her junior year. In three years, she hopes to go to graduate school for Marketing.

The Food Network's SOBEWFF began as a one-day event at the Biscayne Bay Campus titled "Florida Extravaganza." As the years went by, the event grew into a four-day event celebrating its 10th anniversary this year starting Feb. 24.

"The main thing I like about the festival is you get to experience things that you wouldn't be able to unless you have the money for it," Torres said.

FOODGASM

Beer can chicken combines three enjoyable pastimes

My experiment-driven attitude as well as my love for beer, grilling, and chicken made me jump for culinary joy when I heard about beer can chicken. I am always excited by new ways to prepare food, but this time I was particularly thrilled.

Different methods of cooking have health, flavor, moisture, or other benefits. This method includes all of those benefits. The most enjoyable way to cook food for me has always been the grill. Chicken is a staple for grilling, but never a whole chicken, until now.

Beer can chicken is a phenomenon. First an open can of beer (or many other liquids) is inserted inside a whole chicken. The chicken is cooked on top of the can, over a grill. The contents from the can infuse the chicken with flavor and keep it moist in the process.

The vertical position of the chicken allows the fat to drip off as it cooks. This system is like a stationary upright rotisserie. The finished product is succulent and tasty.

Preparing a beer can chicken is extremely simple and requires very little ingredients.

Besides the necessities, which are a chicken, a can, and a grill, I also recommend a spice rub for additional flavor.

However there are some specific details you should know. The chicken has to be large enough for a can to fit inside it. A chicken around 4 pounds will work.

As for the beer it can be any variety of your choice, or can be something other than beer too. A

can of pineapple juice, for example, will also work well. A charcoal or gas grill are both fine; however it is important the chicken, standing up on the can, fits under the lid.

The spice rub is also up to you. The spices I use are paprika, chile, garlic, and cayenne (tiny bit) all in powder form.

These spices give the chicken a slight spicy and smoky flavor. An easier variant would be using an already prepared spice mixture, such as Old Bay.

Foodgasm is a bi-weekly cooking column run on Fridays. Kravets is a hospitality major. Recipe and instruction available on fiusm.com

COLUMNIST



GENE KRAVETS

RECIPE FOR BEER CAN CHICKEN

- First, preheat your grill. If using a gas grill turn it to medium-high heat.
- Next, clean the insides out of your whole chicken, leaving a large empty cavity for the can. Season the chicken inside and out with salt, as well as the spice mix if you wish.
- Open the can with a can opener so that the top is completely removed. Do this the same way as if you were opening a canned good. Remove half of the liquid from the can.
- While holding the chicken cavity open with your hands, mount the chicken onto the can, pushing the can completely in. Move the mounted chicken to the grill and stand the can on the grates using the chicken legs to keep it balanced. Close the lid of the grill.
- Check and rotate the chicken every 20 to 30 minutes so it cooks evenly and doesn't burn. The cooking process should take about an hour and a half depending on the size of the chicken and the temperature of the grill. After about an hour and 15 minutes, insert a cooking thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh. The chicken is done once the thermometer reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit. You can tell if it's done without a thermometer when the juices run clear, and the leg easily twists.
- Remove the can from the finished chicken. If the can doesn't slide right out, use tongs to pull it out.
- Enjoy your beautiful delicious beer can chicken.