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ISRAEL

Oscar win highlights plight of in Israel

Students at the Bialik-Rogozin school in a Tel Aviv neighborhood were all smiles on Feb. 28 after learning “Strangers No More,” a documentary about their plight, had won an Academy Award.



LIBYA

Pro-Gadhafi forces close in on rebel cities

International pressure on Moammar Gadhafi to end his crack-down on opponents escalated as his loyalists fought rebels holding a city near the capital and bombed an ammunition depot.



EGYPT

Egypt seizes Mubarak family funds

Egypt’s top prosecutor seized all the funds of ousted leader Hosni Mubarak and his family and banned them from travel abroad, the latest humiliation for the once-powerful family.

MAGNUM OPUS



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

The 3rd Annual FIU Festival of the Bands took place on Feb. 26 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Southwest Senior High School performed amongst other South Floridian high schools.

Academic Affairs vice provost hired

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Adding a new face to the Office of the Provost, Irma Becerra-Fernandez has accepted the position of vice provost of Academic Affairs.

A professor of management and information systems, Becerra-Fernandez is the director and fellow of the Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center within the College of Business Administration.

Her appointment comes after the previous Vice Provost, Michele Ciccazzo, stepped down during the fall semester to become the interim dean in the College of Public Health and Social Work.

“I’m looking forward to serving the University in this new role and continuing to work to make every student’s degree more valuable,” said Becerra-Fernandez, who graduated from FIU as the first female Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering in 1994 and is the current recipient of the Engineer of the Year

award from the Association of Cuban Engineers.

Through her role as the vice provost of Academic Affairs, Becerra-Fernandez will support the Provost in setting overall academic priorities, overseeing university-wide implementation of student-centered initiatives and maintaining academic policies. These policies also include those affecting faculty and instructor appointments and developments.

An issue currently being addressed under Becerra-Fernandez’s new position is the standardization of the clicker technology used in many classrooms.

The vice provost will be creating a task force in order to address the concerns many students have about the cost of the clickers and that many cannot be reused for different classes.

“FIU has made very important gains. We’ve made great strides and achieved national and

VICE PROVOST, page 2

Professor Webb’s career shaped by childhood experiences

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

Whether it was the first man landing on the moon or the launch of Sputnik I, the 1950s and 60s were not only defining moments for mankind, but for Dr. James Webb, professor of Astronomy and Physics.

“1969 was a big year,” said Webb, recalling the significance that time had on his life. “I have to point back to that year since it was a deciding factor of what I was going to do with my life. The basic influence was watching people walk on the moon. It was incredible.”

Webb was in high school when Apollo 11 landed on the moon, and he recalls every moment he saw on TV and collecting clips from his local newspapers in Anderson, Indiana. Looking back, Webb sees the “space race” as the time that developed his passion and immersion into the sciences.

While his aspirations for a profession in astronomy began over 40 years ago, Webb is now achieving the goal of his career.

After the University recently received \$1.6 million in Public Education Capital Outlay funds along with other funds, plans for the Stocker AstroScience Center are underway.

“I’ve been preparing for this moment for 15 years, so I knew exactly what I was looking for and it was great. It’s like when a kid gets a new comic book.”

Aside from his enthusiasm, Webb has seriously been pursuing the construction and funding

of the center. The Student Body has recognized his fundraising efforts and patience for the AstroScience center.

“This is a gift from the graduate students,” he said, pointing to a handmade award upon his wall.

His graduate students presented the faculty with different awards and recognized Webb as “Most Patient Man in the Universe”.

Webb claims that his drive to pursue a better center for astronomy and physics also came from his frustration with the current facilities at the University. There were many times when Webb wanted to quit his funding for the center, but time and time again he found the drive to keep on going.

Much of his frustration, according to Webb, came from the lack of immediate action from the administration to fund the new building after the old observatory was deemed unusable.

“This should have been done as soon as our old observatory was not useable but it took this incredible amount of effort,” said Webb.

Webb expresses no greater satisfaction than knowing that the plans for construction are taking place.

“I want to thank the current administration for pushing this through because there was a big moment there where it really required their backing to get this done. And they stepped up to the plate and really did it,” said Webb.

Recipient of several Faculty Awards and even the President’s Teaching Award, Webb looks back to his introduction to the telescope on the

“I’ve been preparing for this moment for 15 years, so I knew exactly what I was looking for and it was great. It’s like when a kid gets a new comic book.”

James Webb
Professor of Astronomy and Physics

heels of this recent accomplishment. Looking out of a brand new Kmart telescope, Webb looked up at the night sky for the first time.

“I took it home and just out of luck the first thing I pointed it to was a bright star in the sky which turned out to be the planet Saturn with the rings and everything,” Webb said.

From then on, he never stopped using a telescope, which led him to gradually become an amateur astronomer.

Professor Webb graduated with a Ph.D. in Astronomy and a BA in Physics at the University of Florida and Ball State University respectively. He has given public lectures on topics ranging from String Theory to Astronomy of every type.

Throughout his career, Webb has published over 60 refereed journals in Extragalactic Astrophysics and nearly 70 conference abstracts.

Ever since his youth, Webb saw himself as a “sort of quiet, nerdy person.” However, his “nerdy” persona never stopped him from playing sports in his hometown.

“Growing up in Indiana you have to play basketball, but I was always interested in science and math and would read encyclopedias,” said

Webb. “Somehow I managed to do athletics.”

When Webb is not monitoring the progress of the AstroScience Center or lecturing, he can most likely be found at the Recreation Center in a different type of meeting—Faculty staff noon ball.

“It was something I started a long time ago,” he recalled. Webb and other faculty members can be seen on the basketball court tri-weekly.

Aside from his ventures on the court, his interest in music sprouted from an acquaintance with an acoustic guitar—something he has infused with his ventures in astronomy.

“I play at the star parties that I hold,” said Webb. “Since my hobby is playing music, I work my hobby into my job.”

In his current agenda, Webb is putting a science foundation grant to professionally record his Astronomy songs, in order to distribute them to planetariums.

“They are sort of educational songs. They get you thinking about astronomical concepts,” said Webb, who not only hopes to get students majoring in Astronomy thinking about astronomical concepts, but the general public as well.

WEIRD NEWS

Breast milk ice cream re-moved from shop

Local government officials have confiscated ice cream made with human breast milk from a London shop amid concerns the dessert is unsafe.

A spokeswoman from Westminster City Council said it was responding to two complaints from the public over whether a shop should be selling edibles made from other people’s bodily fluids and awaiting guidance from Britain’s Food Standards Agency.

The official said the ice cream, marketed as “Baby Gaga” and launched last week, is being tested with the full cooperation of The Icecreamists, the parlor marketing the dessert. Viruses, including hepatitis, can be passed on through breast milk.

Mom heading to accidentally shot husband accidentally shot

A small child accidentally shot his mother Saturday night after finding the gun by the side of his injured father — who had just accidentally shot himself.

When questioned by authorities, Allen Jones stated he had taken his Glock .40 handgun, and he tripped and fell. The gun discharged, and he was hit in the leg just above the knee, he told police.

Jones yelled to his wife for help. When she arrived on the screened porch, she tried to secure the gun but her young son beat her to it.

As she attempted to take the gun from the child, a round fired. Aleisha Jones was hit in the left side of her neck.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

New VP looks to build off successes

VICE PROVOST, page 1

international rankings in specific areas,” said Becerra-Fernandez. “I think that it’s a good time for the Provost’s office to start looking at how we can create opportunities for more cross college collaboration and building on each other’s successes. It’s important for this university to go to the next level.”

Born in Cuba and raised in Puerto Rico, Becerra-Fernandez received her bachelors and masters degrees at the University of Miami and soon after, worked for Florida Power and Light for six years.

Upon accepting her doctorate, she joined the Southern Technology Application Center at the University of Florida, which commercialized technology developed by NASA—a career path she feels has been rarely taken by women.

“Electrical Engineering is just one of those areas that is very male dominated and for some reason the career doesn’t

attract as many women as we would like,” said Becerra-Fernandez.

“I’ve recently been involved with Venture Capital and it’s also very male dominated, so there are still a few fields that we women need to break through.”

Through her relationship with NASA, and federal agencies like the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Research Lab, Becerra-Fernandez managed to secure approximately \$2 million in federal grants as a principal investigator under the guidance of the FIU Knowledge Management Laboratory, which she founded.

“With her appointment in the College of Business and her Ph.D. in engineering, she covers a breadth of areas in the academy that someone in that position needs to cover,” said University Provost Douglas Wartzok, adding that her academic background and numerous publications helped in his hiring decision.

According to the provost’s memo-

randum to the University, Becerra-Fernandez has published three books, 24 refereed journal articles, 47 conference papers, seven book chapters and edited one research monograph.

Last November through the Pino Global Entrepreneurial Center, she launched the FIU America’s Venture Capital Conference, which provided opportunities for around 350 Latin American and U.S. entrepreneurs to network with financiers, service providers and many others involved in Latin American business.

“FIU really reflects our diverse community,” said Becerra-Fernandez, who considers herself bicultural. “Miami itself is a microcosm of cultures and you really get to experience that here at this University.”

Melissa Caceres works as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate for The Beacon.

Reasons also include council’s unfulfilled promises, appointments

RESIGNATIONS, page 8

After Garcia was aksed by Student Media for comment on his claims, however, she was taken aback and said many of his statements were inaccurate, including that though she communicated she would be applying for the full time job, she hasn’t been hired yet.

Garcia also said she wasn’t aware of how upset Ivanov was about the homecoming issue, but he would know it was discussed at length between both councils if he had attended the hearings, but didn’t attend due to prior engagements and other commitments.

“The point is, you can

either bark, or you can get something done,” Garcia said. “He barked.”

Furthermore, Garcia felt betrayed because though she knew there was tension in their speaker and speaker pro-temp relationship, she thought it had been worked out.

“We had a deep meeting not too long ago where we hashed out all the drama. I mean, we shook hands, we hugged, I thought we connected,” Garcia said. “And I hear this and it’s like a slap to my face.”

In the meeting, she said they decided to communicate through her preferred method, documented email, whereas Ivanov likes to speak

on the phone or face-to-face.

“Now, if we’ve established a certain way of how we are going to conduct a relation as speaker and pro and for him to turn around and resign the way he resigned and kind of just throw in the white flag, I feel like he decided it that same day,” Garcia said. “A week prior, we were thinking about great things and great goals to work on together.”

Ivanov saw many other issues: unfulfilled promises initially made in a retreat, the continuous appointment of inexperienced senators, and a chief justice that doesn’t fully know the constitution and is overextended as a peer advisor at MMC. But there

was one thing he couldn’t ignore.

“My biggest problem is Anaisabel because a lot of things that we could have done have been postponed or not done at all because of her not having time, because of her dedicating more time to her fulltime job than to senate,” he said. “Even though she’s trying, she can’t accomplish everything she set us up for. And that’s why I believe she should have stepped down and let me enact a lot of the things.”

Becca Griesemer as a Beat Writer, covering the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus for The Beacon.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 19 of The Beacon, Patrick O’Keefe is both Finance Committee Chairman and Lower Division Senator. Ranshan Gomez resigned as Lower Division Senator, and his seat has been filled by Sebastian Larrazabal. Also, in Vol. 22, Issue 20 of The Beacon, the photograph credited to Alex Garcia was taken by Kristi Camara.

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



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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

- HEDY EPSTEIN**
A Holocaust survivor.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RBD1100
- CLAS “WHAT’S THE MAIN IDEA?”**
WHEN: 2-3 p.m.
WHERE: BBC AC - 1 160
- TEACH KIDS PEACE AND FREE FALAFEL**
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Breezeway
- 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
- BEGINNER’S SUNSET YOGA**
WHEN: 5-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden
- MIAMI IMPROV NIGHT**
Must be 18 years of age or older to attend.
WHEN: 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Miami IMPROV Comedy Club-Shoppes of Mayfair
- 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.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum
- THE ECOLOGY OF THE MIGHTY AMAZON**
WHEN: 1:45-3:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC PG5 134
- MOVIE NIGHT “PULP FICTION”**

WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GL261

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011

- SOA LECTURE SERIES:MICHELLE ADDINGTON**
WHEN: 5-6:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC PCA 135
- UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE**

WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654
- SPC MOVIE SERIES: SCOTT PILGRIM**

WHEN: 3 & 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater
- INTERMEDIATE MOONLIGHT YOGA**
WHEN: 6:30-7:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN: “PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST”**
Come learn about the peace process and the current situation in the middle east.
WHEN: 2-3:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 305
- MUHAMMED MALIK AND ABDY JAVADZADEH**
Lecture on boycott, divestment and sanctions.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RBD1100
- If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

BASEBALL

Bermudez scores five times in Golden Panther win

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

Pablo Bermudez had a career night in a weekday win against Rhode Island on Feb. 28, reaching base each of the five times he went up to the plate, walking three times and picking up two singles. He scored each time, helping propel the FIU offense in a 13-5 victory.

He also stole four bases on the night, keeping the URI pitching staff constantly on watch and helping open up opportunities for the Golden Panthers throughout the game.

“We got a lot of good hits out there,” coach Turtle Thomas said. “Pablo [Bermudez] played well and Garrett [Wittels] backed him up just as well. The thing is that if you don’t open up your pitching early on it really leaves you in bust and Dodds and Velazquez did well.”

Bermudez added: “We have a lot of guys that can run fast and if they give us the space we’ll steal bases.”

With the game tied at 2-2 heading into the bottom of the fourth, a match that started as a pitching duel turned into an offensive struggle.

Yoandy Barroso would drive a ball deep into center field over the centerfielder’s head and ran all the way to third for a leadoff triple that sparked a five-run inning to give the Golden Panthers a 7-2 lead going into the fifth inning.

URI would attempt to rally back in the top of the fifth, however,



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Garrett Wittels [above] drives in six runs in FIU’s victory over visiting Rhode Island on Feb. 28.

responding with three runs to close the gap and cut the FIU lead down to two runs.

With the Rolling Rams still threatening, FIU called on reliever Jose Velazquez to take over for FIU starter Logan Dodds to help stop the bleeding and did just that, shutting down the URI offense for good.

“I’m here to help my team in whatever way I can,” Velazquez said after the game. “I was in the zone tonight.”

Velazquez would have five strikeouts and allowed no hits on the night in three innings pitched

and earned the win for the Golden Panthers.

At the plate, Bermudez reached base each of the five times he went up to the plate, walking three times and picking up two singles. He scored each time, helping propel the offense throughout the game.

With a three-run lead going into the bottom of the eighth, the Golden Panthers added another five runs to help cushion their lead and secure t

FIU 15, MVSU 3

With their bats in full gear going

into the final game of a four-game series with Mississippi Valley State on Feb. 27, capitalizing with another big performance at the plate.

The Golden Panthers completed the four-game sweep with a 15-3 victory over MVSU. The team outscored the Delta Devils 46-12 during the four game stretch.

After opening up the bottom of the first inning with a run, the Golden Panthers dropped six runs in the third inning.

In the bottom of the third inning, Jeremy Patton got on base after

a walk to start things off. After a pair of steals and a Garrett Wittels single, Patton reached home to extend the lead.

Things continued for FIU when Mike Martinez stepped up to the plate and hit his second homerun of the season, a two-run shot to make the score 4-0.

“[Turtle] Thomas focuses on low and away hits. That’s all we practice in batting practice,” Martinez said after the game. “These games can make a difference especially late in the season when you’re trying to win the conference and make a regional bid. These games really help our team mesh.”

FIU would keep piling on their lead in the fifth inning. Yoandy Barroso would hit a line drive single into center field, scoring Jabari Henty to give the Golden Panthers a commanding 14-0 advantage.

MVSU managed to grind out a few runs in the seventh inning, but it was too little, too late.

Jabari Henry hit his first homerun of the season in the bottom of the eighth, a solo shot, to give the Golden Panthers a 15-3 lead.

“Last week we didn’t swing good so I’m glad we got in rolling now,” Henry said.

Danny DeSimone pitched seven quality innings, giving up three runs, to earn his first win of the season.

“When you pitch well you give your offense more of a chance to find their rhythm,” coach Turtle Thomas said. “We had good pitchers and even better hits.

TENNIS

Golden Panthers sweep Eastern Michigan at home

BRANDON WISE
Contributing Writer

Coming off an impressive performance against Sun Belt foe Louisiana Lafayette, the Golden Panthers continued their winning ways with a 7-0 sweep of the Eastern Michigan Eagles on Feb. 28. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au is happy with the direction the team is heading.

“I feel we’re moving in the right direction now,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “We have set high standards as a team this year. It is more important to meet your own standards than to meet an expectation in my opinion.”

The victory was the fourth of the season for the Golden Panthers, improving their record to 4-5 on the season. This was also the third victory in a row for the team. Senior Liset Brito felt very good about how the team played today.

“There was a lot of wind and heat to deal with,” Brito said. “I had to put more spin on the ball, but I felt very comfortable out there. Our team came out very strong and put forth a great effort.”

The heat and wind conditions played a factor in the match this afternoon, as this was one of the first

matches that Eastern Michigan has played outdoors.

The Eagles are accustomed to playing in a controlled environment, with their home matches being played indoors in Ypsilanti, Mich.

Brito and her doubles partner, Maria Spenceley, rolled in their match 8-3 over Miriam Westerink and Nino Mebuke. The teams of Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak (8-1) as well as Giulietta Boha and Christine Seredni (8-3) also picked up wins for the Golden Panthers.

Brito, who is ranked number 88 nationally, started off the singles matches for the Golden Panthers. Brito picked up a strong victory over Miriam Westerink (6-2, 6-1) in straight sets. Lisa Johnson then followed her by defeating Nino Mebuke (6-0, 6-2), also in straight sets. Giulietta Boha then clinched the match for the Golden Panthers, with her victory over Georg de’Lisle-Tarr (6-4, 6-1). Matches were also won by Chrissie Seredni (6-2, 6-2), Maria Spenceley (7-6(3), 6-4), and Rita Maisak (6-4, 6-4).

The team is now looking forward to their road trip to Fresno, Calif. where they will play University of Nevada Las Vegas on Saturday,

March 5 followed by Fresno State on March 6.

The Fresno State Bulldogs are ranked 60th in the nation, led by junior Laura Pola.

The UNLV Lady Rebels are ranked 45th in the nation, led by Aleksandra Josifoska, who was named player of the week in the Mountain West Conference.

“I expect us to put it all out there on the courts,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “It will be a real test to see how the girls perform when they are out of their comfort zone.”

“I’m really excited for the trip. I love it out there,” said Spenceley, a senior on the team. “I feel we are similar to them and will compete well.”

WOMEN’S TENNIS

vs. UNLV

- Time: 1:00 p.m.
- When: 03/05/11
- Where: Fresno, California



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Giulietta Boha [above] helped clinch the victory over Eastern Michigan.



(1) Debra Kuhn, a hospitality student (far right), serves food in one of two Hospitality tents. The festival is a collaboration between the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and The Food Network. (2) Miranda Parvis (center), acts as an information guru for guests at the festival. (3) Paul Murphy, a senior hospitality major, mans the grill. (4) Sonny Anderson from "Cooking for Real," Chef Emeril Lagasse and Robert Irvine, host of "Dinner: Impossible" introduce Guy Fieri. (5) Guy Fieri pours vodka into his cauldron as part of his onstage presentation.



ALL PHOTOS BY
ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA



SOFTBALL

Late rally propels FIU in comeback road win

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers participated in the Carolina Classic on Feb. 27 and came away winning two games against Big Ten and Atlantic Coast Conference foes.

The Golden Panthers (7-8) began Sunday with an extra-innings victory over Penn State, as junior pitcher Ashley McClain led the Golden Panthers to a 1-0 win over the Nittany Lions. McClain pitched a one-hitter to keep the Nittany Lions off of the scoreboard.

PSU lead-off the top of the fourth with an apparent home run, however the score was called back after the runner did not touch home plate. In the bottom of the eighth, a sac bunt by freshman Rachel Slowik moved her to third and freshman Erika Arcuri reached first base on a fielder’s choice with one out on the board, allowing Arcuri to steal second base. With two outs, Alfonso would post an infield single to score Arcuri and give the Golden Panthers a 1-0 win.

In the second matchup of the day, the Golden Panthers squared-off with North Carolina State and won in dramatic fashion,

giving the Golden Panthers a come-from-behind 5-4 victory. Jenn Gniadek allowed four runs on seven hits in 4.2 innings pitched.

N.C. State hit for a single to right field to put runners on the corners for the Wolfpack. The runner at first stole second base and a Golden Panther error on the play allowed a run to score, giving NCSU a 1-0 lead. NCSU took advantage of another Golden Panther error to put a runner on first with one out on the board. A two-out single up the middle increased the Wolfpack’s lead to 2-0.

In the top of the fifth, NCSU led off with a double to right field and back-to-back two-out RBI-singles to push N.C. State’s lead to 4-0. Junior Ashley McClain replaced Gniadek on the mound and recorded the final fly-out to center-field to end the half-inning.

The Golden Panthers put a runner on base with a two-out walk in the bottom of the fifth and a double by Burri then put runners on second and third for the Golden Panthers. McClain drove in two runs with an infield single to put the Golden Panthers on the scoreboard at 4-2 before sophomore Brie Rojas connected for her first home run of the season with a two-run shot over the center-



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Golden Panthers were able to end weekend road trip on a strong note with comeback win over N.C. State on Feb. 27.

field wall to tie the game at four.

With one out on the board, in the bottom of the seventh, Burri hit her first home run of the season with a solo shot over the left field wall to give the Golden Panthers a 5-

4 victory.

The Golden Panthers will travel next weekend to Clearwater, Fla., for the University of South Florida Under Armour Invitational on March 4 to 6.

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MIAMI HEAT

Heat acknowledge tough road ahead

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Dwyane Wade cannot remember the last time the Miami Heat faced a stretch like this.

Starting Thursday, it’ll be five games in eight days, with the opponents all almost certainly playoff-bound having a combined winning percentage of .682.

If that wasn’t enough, the season’s most critical stretch to date is coming while the Heat are struggling.

Sunday’s 91-86 home loss to New York left Miami with more questions than answers, and it was the third straight game where the Heat seemed far from playoff-ready.

They lost in Chicago last Thursday, struggled at home with lowly Washington before winning a night later, then blew a 15-point lead and sputtered throughout the second half in the loss to the Knicks.

Miami is still holding second place in the Eastern Conference, just behind Boston.

But for a team that talks of wanting to ramp up for the postseason, there’s some troubling signs.

“We’ve got to figure it out,” Wade said. “That’s why we continue to play these games. We continue to build habits. Hopefully, eventually we’ll turn the corner.”

With 22 games remaining, that corner is coming up quickly.

And nothing will get easier anytime soon for Miami not with the slate of opponents who are coming up starting Thursday, when the Heat next take the court.

Orlando, San Antonio, Chicago, Portland and the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers are Miami’s next five foes.

The top spot in the East won’t be either clinched or out of reach when

that stretch ends, but given how shaky stretches of the Washington and New York games especially were, it may well be a make-or-break time for Miami’s hopes of getting that coveted No. 1 seed.

“We’re getting better and that’s the frustrating thing,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “From inside, we can see that we’re getting better with the details of it, but we’re not there yet. And we need to understand that. So the next few weeks will be about continuing to grind away. We’ll have plenty more opportunities. We’ll be there again.”

They’ve already been there plenty, and with limited success.

The Heat are 5-11 in games decided by five points or less, and 13-14 against teams with a record of .500 or better compared to 29-2 when facing teams with losing records.

Considering that the next 10 games are all against teams currently with winning marks, that may be a serious source of concern.

“It depends on who you ask,” Heat forward Chris Bosh said Sunday night. “I guess I’m optimistic, if you will. It doesn’t make it tougher. We wanted to win the game. We didn’t win the game. There’s nothing we can do about it now. We’ll look at where we made our mistakes and move on. We have too many games and it’s getting too close to the end of the regular season to worry about stuff.”

It may have been a welcome respite.

The Heat still own a comfortable lead in the Southeast Division, are almost assured of a top-three spot in the East and have two of the league’s top four scorers in LeBron James (26.2 points per game, second-best in the league) and Wade (25.5 per game).

Universities must embrace technology to get ahead

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

As of late, education has received a heavy dose of modernization. Gone are the days of simple pen-and-paper assignments, actual course sign-up sheets and the limited avenues of communication between students and professors.

The classroom of the 21st century, for the most part, is highly efficient, especially at the University. Each student has access to the campus-wide wi-fi network, increasing the convenience and, in some cases, the necessity of notebook computers. This cyber-integration of the University and other college campuses has led to the rise of online mediators between professors and students, the most recent of which being Moodle. These systems are designed to allow professors to make the content of the course they are teaching accessible at any point for students.

Despite this advancement, there is a lack of development in the area of content variety. Though this campus has constant access to the Internet, it is still a less common occurrence for professors to actually pull things from the web and apply it in the classroom. This is especially true in lower-division

classes.

Some professors rarely use any other useful information other than the textbook to teach the class, while other professors chose to rise above this norm and incorporate other resources that not only supplement the base course material, but also make it relevant to students. In an Environmental Science class I took last semester, our professor used Moodle to link students to various types of media that linked the basic concepts to the issues facing the world today, such as global warming and overpopulation.

Making content relevant to students is important because technology has narrowed the typical student's attention span. Today's students have been conditioned to processing copious amounts of information on a regular basis. Facebook posts, Twitter feeds and homework assignments are mentally juggled with varying degrees of difficulty, and many have simply lost the ability to prioritize what is truly important.

This makes it even more necessary to have students actually cognize what they learn rather than simple memorization. Monotony has become even more of a threat to a fruitful learning experience as the exchange of information becomes even more dynamic.

“Though nothing can replace the traditional academic experience provided by a university, there is a necessity for innovation.

In a recent article by the *New York Times*, results of a study by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development reiterated a fact that has become common knowledge lately: the United States is falling behind in global education standards. The article also points out that students in America are “over-entertained and distracted.” In a society that pervades useless content rather than global news, an alternative method for engaging students is more of a necessity than ever before.

It is not just pop culture that draws students away from academics, it is the methods employed by the mass media outlets that hook them. Media development seeks to integrate itself into the most intimate aspects of a person's life. Nearly every major business, public figure or product has ways of reaching its target audience, whether it be through social networking, smart phone applications

but most importantly, sympathizing with the priorities of the younger generation in order to appeal to them.

Though nothing can replace the traditional academic experience provided by a university, there is a necessity for innovation. In an article by the *Associated Press*, graduation rates have dropped close to the 50 percent margin. To keep students in school, colleges must fully utilize the Internet as a tool in order to bring their teachings to the same levels as the student and make them realize how important what they are learning is to the real world.

The U.S. had the best education once upon a time for a reason, and that was because it was a revolutionary system at the time utilizing the best tools available at the time. It is time again for such another revolution, one that could determine the fate of the future of education.

Lions a necessity for ecosystem, ecotourism

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

The lion population in Africa has declined from about 450,000, to less than 20,000 over the past 50 years according to a recent TED.com talk. This is a massive plunge in their numbers, and these big cats are more to Africa than just any other endangered species.

Lions are having trouble keeping their populations up while humans interfere not only with their habitats, but with the lions themselves. The loss of this species would disturb the balance of Africa's entire ecosystem and have lasting effects on its economy as well.

Humans are the single biggest threat to the declining population of lions. When just one lion is hunted for sport or killed by a farmer protecting his cattle, it sends a reverberating effect to the nearby population. When a male is removed from his pride, another male steps in to take his place and usually kills all of the cubs fathered by the previous male. The new male may go as far as killing some adult females as well as they interfere, which can lead to upwards of 25 lions being killed, according to researchers Beverly and Dereck Joubert. Although this scenario happens naturally, humans are speeding up the process by removing males from their prides and allowing new males to take over with no resistance.

We may see the last few lions on Earth caged in zoos in as little as 15 years if nothing is done to remedy their declining population. When an apex

predator like the lion is removed from the ecosystem, populations of their prey increase and overgraze the land. This, in turn, hurts all animals in the ecosystem, in addition to harming the water systems. If these human – predator conflicts are the deciding factor in whether entire ecosystems fall, then Africans who have contact with lions have a responsibility to form a less violent relationship with them.

Africa's safari and ecotourism business brings the nation about \$80 billion a year, according to www.defenders.org. Although lions are not the only animal people come to see, they can be considered a main event. Without lions, Africa's ecotourism is expected to drop off dramatically, depriving the nation of much-needed business. Not only do the lions play a huge part in their ecosystems, but play a role in serving the very people that are killing them off.

Without lions to promote ecotourism, many parts of Africa will be much worse off economically and will require more aid from other countries. It is apparent how the loss of these creatures can have effects all around the world.

It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure the survival of all endangered species. Although it seems people grow apart from nature as time goes on, we are still a part of nature and must do what we can to support it, especially when we are the ones destroying it in the first place. Our carelessness will surely catch up with us should we let these animals disappear.

THE POLITICK

Gov't shutdown not the answer

The American government is shutting down!

COLUMNIST



IVAN FLORES

Well, at least that is what the House Republicans are hoping will happen. Our current budget is set to expire on March 4, 2011, and if the GOP has it their way, March 4 will be the day the American government shuts down until the liberal Democrats in the Senate come around to the Republican terms. This tug-of-war being played puts the economy, the legal system and, most importantly, the jobs of federal workers on the line.

Threatening to shut down the government is actually a boon for the Republican party, who run and thrive on a campaign of fear, discrimination, and paranoia. Stephen Colbert's 2010 political rally, “Keep Fear Alive,” is clearly a banner that the Republican Party is currently flying under. By stirring up fear, it is easy for House Republicans to finally have their way and cut pointless social services like

Healthcare, heating subsidies for the poor and Planned Parenthood.

By threatening to shut the government down unless their demands are met, Republicans are able to play the card of fiscal responsibility and paint Democrats as wasteful bureaucrats who do not want to prevent the government from shutting down because they refuse compromise, with good reason I might add.

Before the house Republicans thought that shutting down the government was a good idea, the House was attempting to pass into law H.R. 1, the 2011 Fiscal Year Appropriation Bill, which would set the budget for the remainder of the year.

Proposed cuts to Planned Parenthood, healthcare, and subsidies for heating all target the poor. The Low Energy Assistance Program, which would have provided \$50 million in subsidies to the poor, were rejected by a huge margin because if it is anyone who do not need subsidies from the government for healthcare and heating, it is the disenfranchised.

As the government races towards a shutdown, it is obvious that our culture of

partisan politics has gotten in the way of our democratic system.

The last time there was a government shutdown was in 1995 under the Clinton Administration. The budget was not resolved in time and the Republican Party, which controlled Congress at the time, wanted cuts to Medicare and other social programs. I hope this is starting to sound familiar.

As House Republicans continue to whine and make demands like babies Senate Democrats continue to be the dutiful babysitter: patient, understanding, but unwilling to compromise to the demands of a bratty child.

Cutting the budget is not just a financial matter, it is also a moral matter. Both sides need to compromise on programs that do not affect poor and disenfranchised. As Democrat and Republican opinions crash about the role that the American government should have, it is clear that the role any government should hold is to function, regardless of petty differences and political infighting.

The Politick is a political op-ed column. Look for it every other Wednesday.

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ARGENTINA

Dictators go on trial for baby thefts

A long-awaited trial began on Feb. 28 for Jorge Videla and Reynaldo Bigone, two former dictators who allegedly oversaw a systematic plan to steal babies born to political prisoners three decades ago.



BRAZIL

Car runs down bicycling demonstrators

A motorist sped his car through a pack of more than 100 cycling activists in southern Brazil, sending bikes and screaming riders flying through the air and landing hard on the asphalt.



PUERTO RICO

Lawmaker resigns over failed drug test

Rolando Crespo, a member of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, resigned his seat on Feb. 27, two days after officials disclosed that a drug test showed he had used cocaine.

FOODGASM : SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL EDITION

Festival's benefits worth the weekend of working

I tend to be skeptical of hype, and they sure do a good job of building it for the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Since I had never taken part in the festival, I wasn't one of the particularly enthusiastic of the group. The events that I took part in, from Feb. 24 through the weekend have completely changed that. In fact, I'm already looking forward to next year's festival.

It is hard to convey the magnitude of the festival. A picture of the entrance next to the Ritz Carlton on Feb. 24 around 7 p.m. would have shown a crowd of people lined up from the beach all the way to Collins Ave. Out of the approximately 35 separate events, which comprise the festival, the five largest hosted an estimated 16,000 guests. The largest event, Bubble-Q, a barbeque extravaganza which Bobby Flay and friends hosted accommodated around 4,000 guests. Tickets ran for \$350 and \$450 for general admission and VIP reception respectively.

Working at the festival was a lot of fun, an excellent opportunity, and everything in between. I greatly enjoyed the environment, which was filled with masses of friendly people, some famous, as well as extraordinary food and decorations.

My position at an event called Burger

Bash, which Racel Ray hosted, allowed me the pleasure of seeing 3,000 people squeezed into a gigantic tent on the sands of South Beach. Once all of the guests were inside the tent I was allowed to check it out for myself. The countless hours of preparation that went into this production really paid off. The tent was grandly adorned, and the burgers were delicious, but the shining moment for me was seeing the celebrated chef Morimoto at his booth. Through my eyes, the Iron Chef had the aura of a god.

The benefits of the festival for hospitality students are abundant. I got to meet and interact with a lot of people including vendors, people in the industry, and fellow students that I probably would not have met otherwise.

One example is a gentlemen I met during set up for Guy's Big Beach Bar and Grill closing party. He owns a restaurant consultation company. It was nice to hear his insight on the business, as it is something I am interested in.

The festival proceeds also generate scholarship money for students and money for the hospitality program. The experience of festival was renewing for me. I have been seeing much of the hard work side of my chosen field lately, and anticipate seeing more in the future, but occasions like this remind me there is also a fun aspect.

COLUMNIST



GENE KRAVETS



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

Top: Jen Miller (second from right), master's student at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and TA to Barry Gump, serves beer to attendants of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. Students of Gump's Intro to Brewing class made the beer.



Bottom: Debra Kuhn, a non-degree seeking hospitality student, serving grilled chicken sandwiches. Hospitality students made every part of the sandwiches, including the bread.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

'Background politics' involved in senator's resignation

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

Three senators resigned from the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus last week, and another resigned on Feb. 28 in what Speaker of the Senate Anaisabel Garcia described as a "GPA sweep."

The three lower division senators, Michael Hue, Camilo Hernandez, and Ricky Jean Louis, were either forced to resign or did so in fear of dropping below the constitutionally-required grade point average of no less than a 2.5 cumulative undergraduate GPA and a 2.0 term GPA.

In an email to *Student Media*, SGC-BBC President Christin 'CiCi' Battle commented on the resignations.

"It is unfortunate however, scholarship is priority," Battle said.

Though Deyan Ivanov, former speaker pro tempore and senator, announced in the senate meeting on Feb. 21 he was resigning for academic purposes, his reason was multifaceted.

"When it comes to student government, I feel it's a tool that's not even that useful," said Ivanov, who was appointed by Battle last year.

Before he resigned, Ivanov said he tried bringing up the issues he

saw, and after about 10-15 emails, a meeting was arranged.

Ivanov said: "I was sat down by my speaker of senate [Garcia] and my president of the senate [Denise Halpin] and they told me basically, 'You're the one who is wrong because you're perceiving things in the wrong manner. That's not exactly what we're trying to do.' But it's more than clear than it is and I have seen a bunch of things that haven't been going the rightway."

One aspect of the council Ivanov said he didn't agree with is that the council's leader, Battle, affects how votes are made on issues because of her attitude toward the council.

"A lot of times when she talks to us, and I believe that a lot of people on council feel like this as well as people that have resigned because of that..." Ivanov paused. "I feel less than a human being when she talks to me, you know what I mean? And I'm trying to use the right words here, that's why I'm thinking about it."

He said members may vote the way the executive board wants them to so they won't be confronted with questions about why they voted differently afterward.

"There was a certain point where I'd rather not say anything because I know if I do, it'd just be a waste of breath," Ivanov said.

While another of the resigned senators, Hernandez, agrees with Ivanov that right now the executive board has a lot of power, he doesn't feel that they are abusing it.

"It's not so much that they don't want to help us, it's just that they are pushing for other things too that are helping the school out," Hernandez said. "But we have to bring the senate together and then go to the executive branch. We can't expect them to do everything for us."

But Ivanov said his thoughts on where the homecoming step show should be hosted, which was to be decided on in the budget deliberations, were ignored. Ivanov told the executive board he would vote for it to be at MMC whereas they didn't want it to be there because it's a BBC-organized event.

"I believe that when they found out that this is how I'm going to vote on the issue, this was one of the reasons why I didn't become speaker-of-the-senate," Ivanov said, a position he hoped to obtain.

Ivanov said in January, Garcia said she got a full time job for the City of Doral and would have to resign, and said that she has since missed three hearings and three senate meetings.

"But the thing is, she lingered just for the voting because if she stepped down and senate voted me into her

place, they knew I was going to vote on that issue in a specific way," Ivanov said.

"There's a lot of background politics."

The next undemocratic move, Ivanov said, came when tasks were allocated in terms of budget hearings and who will ask questions on what, and the step show was given to Battle and Halpin.

"This has been a big part of why I don't want to be associated with student government, because in a way I feel like my hands are being tied," Ivanov said.

When Garcia originally commented on Ivanov's resignation, she was positive and understanding.

"Deyan has chosen to resign to focus more on his studies and prioritize his life and better prepare for his career," Garcia said in an email to *Student Media*. "It's very unfortunate to see him go as we had just started brainstorming ways to improve as speaker and speaker pro and we both wanted to work closer to create better initiatives for our senate and student body."

RESIGNATIONS, page 2

SGC-BBC ELECTION CANDIDATES

President & Vice President

- Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer

Senatorial Candidates

- Pablo Haspel - Honors College
- Odimayo Oluwatamilore - Senator-at-Large
- Xin Zheng - Hospitality Management
- Yiran Song - Hospitality Management
- Daniel Usma - Arts & Sciences
- Farah Yamini - Arts & Sciences