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GEOPOLITICAL SUMMIT

New York Times writer speaks to University students



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Thomas Friedman, New York Times foreign affairs columnist, spoke at the Modesto Maidique Campus on US political issues.

NICOLAS SARAVIA
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The University hosted Thomas Friedman, a New York Times foreign affairs columnist, to speak on Feb. 13 about America's challenges and his latest book "That Used to be Us."

The lecture was part of the Geopolitical Summit "Rediscovering America," which was held in the Graham Center Ballrooms to discuss issues that currently face the nation and the world.

"We cannot fix our problems if we don't ask what world we are living in. That is not how we start our day politically," said Friedman, to a large audience of students, faculty and community members.

Friedman, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, has worked at The New York Times since 1981, where he has covered events such as the First Palestinian Intifada and the 1982 Lebanon War.

He is also the writer of the best-selling non fiction books "The World is Flat" and "Hot, Flat, and Crowded."

Friedman focused his lecture on two of the country's challenges described in

his latest book: Our view of the world and our response to globalization.

He explained that that progress is halted in America because of the "broken" political system.

However, he believes that despite differences between the two main political parties, the country is "nowhere as near as divided as we watch it on

international relations junior.

Despite its internal issues, the author believes that America still plays a major role in world politics.

"We believe the US has done a lot of dumb things, but it is still the tent pole of the world," said Friedman. "If we weren't talking about post-911, we would be talking about how we are in the middle of an [information technology] revolution that takes the world from connected to hyper-connected."

The author recalled that when he wrote "The World is Flat," the world's biggest cities were well connected to each other, but small towns were still out of the grid.

However, he said that this has changed, as people in places like Daraa, a Syrian town of 97,000 people near the Jordan border, can record situations of the recent uprising and post them online for the world to see.

"In the next five years, we will live in a planet where everyone has a cell-phone," he said.

Friedman commented on social media, advising young enthusiasts that even though their "lives may be

We cannot fix our problems if we don't ask what world we are living in.

Thomas Friedman,
Columnist
New York Times

cable."

"I think he's right. The system is unwilling to compromise. There is no sense of unity in the political system," said Carolina Mendoza, an

SEE SUMMIT, PAGE 2

BIOLOGY

Lecture makes science simple

MARIELLA ROQUE
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The loaded jargon of science has often driven people away from trying to understand its content. The Science Café lecture series that started last Saturday is seeking to make this a situation of the past.

A year-long course by FIU's Quantifying Biology in the Classroom program, The Science Café held its first of four open lectures on Feb. 11 at the Coral Gables Museum.

It featured the topic of stem-cell research and disease therapy.

Each session, according to QBIC Secretary Sophie Bhaijee, is geared to "help students learn to talk about science in terms that will make the general public understand."

The three students planning the event were Areej Bukhari, Alana Van Dervort and Myrlyn Verdelus.

"The aim [of Science Café] is to put science back in culture and culture back in science," said Bukhari, a biology student in the course.

When choosing the discussion topics, the class distributed surveys to communities around the University. The survey consisted of a section where one could rate, on a scale of one to five, the interest one has in a certain science-related theme.

A total of 210 people were interviewed.

The top four topics were alternative energy,

cancer, nutrition and stem-cell research.

"Science cafes are not [usually] held by students and here [the students are] doing this on their own," said Anya Goldina, professor of Science Café. "We actually brought the concept of Science Café into a class."

The Science Café was an idea derived from the Café Scientifique, a grassroots movement started in 1998 in the United Kingdom. The idea was to create an informal setting that would bring together experts in science and technology and the general public.

The aim [of Science Café] is to put science back in culture and culture back in science

Areej Bukhari,
Biology Student

The program has spread all over the world and was adopted in 2007 by FIU's QBIC, a four-year program providing "a more in-depth approach to the biological studies."

At the lecture, a scientist delivers a brief speech

SEE CAFE, PAGE 2

TOWN HALL MEETING

Rosenberg to speak to BBC community

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University President Mark Rosenberg is holding a town hall meeting at the Biscayne Bay Campus today to address the concerns of the University community.

Taking place from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., the meeting will be held in the Wolfe University Center room 221.

In the past, town hall meetings have centered on the growth of the University and the requirements necessary to continue expanding.

The meeting will cover no specific topic, and instead will provide a forum for students to voice their questions, concerns and opinions. Any campus related ideas that students may have will be considered at the meeting.

This time around the meeting is sponsored by the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

In the meetings, students are allowed to pose questions to Rosenberg with a number of University issues.

In a previous meeting on April 6, 2011, Rosenberg said, "My expectations were exceeded here because we got excellent questions, the students stuck with it for the full two and half hours, and they dug in."

"The president not only answered our questions, but there was a great turn out of student and faculty questions towards the president and other administration," Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC president said then.

Shortly thereafter, Rosenberg unveiled the University's Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.

In an email to the University regarding the town hall meeting on April 14 where the plan was presented, Rosenberg said, "I

SEE MEETING, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Friday's issue for the 2012 Baseball Preview on everything about the Panthers' upcoming season.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

US government responds to Buju Banton’s appeal

The U.S. government says plenty of evidence supports a federal jury’s conviction of Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton on cocaine conspiracy and trafficking charges.

Banton is appealing the February 2011 conviction. Defense attorney David O. Markus says his client was relentlessly pursued by a government informant, resulting in improper entrapment.

Federal prosecutors filed their response Friday in Atlanta’s 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The prosecutors say Banton’s words and actions, in tape-recorded conversations and a videotaped meeting in a Sarasota warehouse where Banton tasted some cocaine, revealed that the singer “eagerly brokered” a drug deal between a friend and undercover government agents.

NATIONAL

Ga. man claims he was insane in preschool shooting

The victim was a Harvard-educated businessman who was shot to death minutes after he dropped his son off at a suburban Atlanta day care center. The alleged killer was a successful engineer and father of three who lived in an affluent subdivision.

Hemy Neuman faces life in prison if he’s convicted of the November 2010 shooting death of Russell Sneiderman. His trial begins Monday. Defense attorneys argue Neuman, who pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, was incapable of telling the difference between right and wrong when he pulled the trigger.

WORLD

Italian court convicts 2 in asbestos-linked deaths

An Italian court Monday convicted two men of negligence in some 2,000 asbestos-related deaths blamed on contamination from a construction company, sentencing each of them to 16 years in prison and ordering them to pay millions in what officials called a historic case.

Italian Health Minister Renato Balduzzi hailed the verdict by the three-judge Turin court as “without exaggeration, truly historic,” noting that it came after a long battle for justice.

“It’s a great day, but that doesn’t mean the battle against asbestos is over,” he told Sky TG24 TV, stressing that it is a worldwide problem.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

Thomas Friedman addresses the challenges America faces today

SUMMIT, PAGE 1

digital, politics is still analog.”

He also talked about the youth’s new challenges in the changing job market, and what the new employers look for.

“It is not enough to be a radiologist. You have to bring something extra as a non-routine worker,” he said. “I had to find a job. You have to invent one.”

Another aspect of the job market tackled by the lecture is the increase in competition. Friedman explained that this also affects his profession, because of an increase in writers.

Despite America’s challenges, the writer is optimist.

For Friedman, part of that optimism relies on the persistence of America’s people.

“I think he’s right. The system is unwilling to compromise. There is no sense of unity in the political system.”

Carolina Mendoza,
Junior
International Relations major

“The country is full of people that didn’t get the word. Enormous energy from the ground up, this country is full of people who are just too dumb to quit.”

Following the lecture, a teach-in was held to discuss Friedman’s latest

book, with University faculty such as John Stack, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Shlomi Dinar, professor of international relations; Jose Gabilondo, professor of law; and Alan Gummerson, professor of economics.

Students choose to hear about stem cell research for first Science Cafe

CAFE, PAGE 1

on a modern or widely discussed issue and the attendants would be open to an extensive conversation.

This session’s speaker was Mathew William Lensch, an instructor of pediatrics from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

“[Lensch] is thoughtful, impassioned and wholly devoted to the pursuit of scientific inquiry,” Van Dervort said. “He’s known among his Harvard colleagues as a tireless mentor.”

A number of members of the Miami community, both young and elderly, attended the event, including other

FIU students.

“We were going to be discussing stem cells in my bio-medical class,” said biology major Victoria Campdesuner. “My professor suggested in coming.”

At the event, Lensch used a PowerPoint presentation and several charts and graphs to explain what a stem cell was and the implications of using it in the scientific field.

He also discussed the history of stem-cell research and named a myriad of scientists who have made advancements in the field.

“For a very long time, we, as people, have had this notion of fixing our parts...

“For a very long time, we, as people, have had this notion of fixing our parts...when they are diseased.”

Mathew William Lensch,
Faculty Director of Education
Harvard Stem Cell Institute

when they are diseased,” Lensch said.

Following his presentation, the audience raised questions regarding stem cells, varying from stem-cell regeneration to the diseases

that could be treated through stem-cell research.

“Dr. Lensch was a great speaker,” Goldina said. “We’re very lucky.”

When questioned about what the “next major breakthrough” would be in treatment using stem cells, Lensch named diseases “where one type of cell is missing” like Parkinson’s rather than those “that are more complex, where there are a lot of different things going on.”

“A lot of people from the community came out,” Van Dervort said. “I’m really happy with how it went.”

The time and location for the last three Science Cafés have not yet been decided.



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Engagement encouraged

MEETING, PAGE 1

would like to thank so many of you who have worked hard on our 5-year Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.”

“For those of you who have been less involved in its development,” he said, “this town hall meeting is an opportunity to start thinking about how each and every one of us can contribute to the success of this plan and bring forward your comments and questions.”

Other town hall meetings have focused on budgeting issues.

The meeting held on May 19, 2011 focused on this very topic and sought to explain the correlation between budgeting and improving the quality of the education and experience

students are taking away from the University.

At this meeting, Rosenberg explained to the audience that he was seeking to improve University-wide student services.

In an interview following the meeting, President Rosenberg told Student Media, “We want to provide more of the classes students need – that’s critical. We’re interested in having a much better advising system.”

“There will be additional police on both campuses. We’re in the process of hiring 10 new police,” he said. “We’re trying to provide a higher level of services. [As for a timetable] we want these done right now. I’m impatient. For this year we’ve hired 80 new faculty spread out throughout the University. You won’t find that in many universities in the country.”



studentmedia
at florida international university

SOFTBALL

MIXED SIGNALS

Panthers split matchup against Illinois and UAB

ANTHONY GUIVAS

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On the final day of the COMBAT Classic, the Panthers were looking for their first win of the year and they found it as they beat Illinois with a lofty 8-0 score.

Mariah Dawson, who pitched just the day before, started again on Sunday. But unlike her first start of the year, she didn't have her best stuff. Dawson battled through and kept Illinois off the board the entire day.

While the score may show a dominant offensive showing, that was not the case in the start of the game. FIU was not able to record a hit for the first three innings.

That all changed in the fourth inning.

With two outs in the fourth, Jessie Alfonso reached base on a fielder's choice and it was then followed up with an Erika Arcuri single and an Ashley McClain walk. With the bases loaded and centerfielder Beth Peller at the plate, Illinois pitcher Jackie Guy walked Peller, giving FIU an initial 1-0 lead.

The bases were still loaded when second baseman Brie Rojas cashed in with a bases-clearing double, enhancing FIU's lead to



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Megan Horne (left) takes a swing during FIU's doubleheader against Louisville and UMass on Feb. 11.

4-0.

Illinois threatened in the sixth, but it was due more to Dawson's command on the mound than with their bats.

In that sixth inning, Dawson got two quick outs but then she

walked two batters, following that up by accidentally hitting Jami Schkade with a pitch. With two out and the bases juiced, Dawson was able to regain her composure and have Stephanie Cuevas ground out to end the

inning.

Finally, in the bottom of the sixth inning, FIU struck the decisive blow when Arcuri singled and was driven in by a McClain double. That double was then followed by a Peller single and

fittingly concluded with a Brie Rojas three-run homer, giving FIU an 8-0 lead and exercising the mercy rule.

Dawson completed her second career shutout, allowing four hits in six innings pitched to get the win.

UAB 6, FIU 4

FIU had another game 15 minutes later against UAB in which they lost 6-4, dropping their record to 1-4 on year and concluding the COMBAT Classic. Jenn Gniadek (0-2) only pitched one and a third inning allowing two hits and four walks and four runs (two unearned) in the loss.

COMBAT CARDS

Louisville, who defeated FIU 4-2 on Feb. 11, went home as winners of the COMBAT Classic. The Cardinals, who are now ranked 24th in the nation, went undefeated in the tournament, winning all five games.

UP NEXT

The Panthers will now look toward this upcoming Friday when they take on the University of Illinois at Chicago (2-3) at 5 p.m. and then a nightcap against Providence (0-0) at a 7 p.m. start time.

ROUNDUP

Tennis team swept; basketball hits road for UALR

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The weekend didn't go quite as well as coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au and her team would have liked it. At the Lady Raider Shootout in Lubbock, Texas, the Panthers fell to 1-9 on the season after getting swept 0-3 in the three day tournament.

On Friday, FIU fell behind early to New Mexico State after losing in doubles 2-0. Karyn Guttormsen and Giulietta Boha lost their set 8-4 to Manon Sylvain and Denise Van Der Ben of NMSU, and Lisa Johnson and Magali Holt lost 8-3 to Ginet Pinero and Ros-Polly Nguyen.

In singles, the Panthers didn't fare much better, as Rita Maisak was the lone one to win a match, defeating Denise Van Der

Ben 6-4, 6-2. Her win came after FIU had fallen down 2-0 early. New Mexico State went on and took the following two singles matches to secure the victory 4-1.

The next day the competition didn't get any easier, as the Panthers faced off against the Rice Owls, who were ranked number 69 in the nation coming into the match.

Once again, they started out slow, losing two consecutive double matches as the team of Sarah McLean and Rita Maisak lost 8-4, and Giulietta Boha and Magali Holt fell 8-2.

However, Maisak was able to tie the match at 1-1, securing her fourth win in a row in singles competition defeating Dominique Harmath 6-1, 7-5. The momentum of Maisaks win could not help carry FIU though, as McLean,

Guttormsen and Johnson all lost, giving the Owl's a 4-1 victory.

In the final day of competition, the Panthers took on Santa Clara (#73 in the nation) and lost 4-3.

To make matters worse, after the match, the team was stranded in Dallas, Texas due to inclement weather and couldn't fly back until Monday afternoon.

-JACKSON WOLEK

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Panthers have had their ups and downs this season, but if there is a light shining through it is that they could be peaking at the right time. After picking up two solid victories in their past two matchups over North Texas

SEE ROUNDUP, PAGE 4



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Sophomore Giulietta Boha lost to Natalia Salum of New Mexico State on Feb. 10 (6-4, 6-1).

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UPCOMING GAMES

▶



FEB. 16
UALR
7:00 p.m.
THURS.



FEB. 18
ASU
8:05 p.m.
SAT.



FEB. 23
TROY
7:30 p.m.
THURS.



FEB. 25
USA
7:30 p.m.
SAT.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Late rally falls short at home against Denver



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Jeremy Allen scored 27 of his career-high 29 points in the second half against the Panthers on Feb. 11.

MALCOLM SHIELDS
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The frustration for the Panthers' head coach Isiah Thomas was evident in the first half against Denver on Feb. 11. With 5:58 remaining in the first half, FIU trailed 25-9. Thomas benched all five of his starters.

Turnovers and poor shooting by FIU, coupled by the efficient shooting by the Pioneers, paced Denver to a 38-14 lead at the break. Fueled by the scoring of seniors Jeremy Allen and DeJuan Wright, the Panthers made a push to cut the deficit to three late in the second half. In the final five minutes, Denver's 7-0 run ended the Panthers comeback, as the Pioneers held on for a 77-63 victory at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Allen finished with a career-high 29 points and four steals. Wright followed with 15 points and nine rebounds.

"We dug ourselves in a hole in the first half," Thomas said. "Our starters put us in a deep hole."

Denver's (18-8, 8-5 SBC) ball movement in half-court sets led to open shots. The benefactors were Brian Stafford and Chase Hallam. Each led the Pioneers with nine points at the break. Combined, both shot five-of-eight from behind the arch.

Offensively, FIU (7-17, 4-8 SBC) continued to turn the ball over and settle for poor shots in half-court sets. The Panthers finished shooting 33.3 percent from the field at the break. Denver finished shooting 50 percent from the field at halftime.

The Panthers began the second half using the full court press. Combined with a 16-7 run, the Panthers trimmed the deficit to 45-30. Allen and Wright began to attack the rim to get the Panthers back into the game. An Allen three-pointer trimmed the Pioneers lead to 50-38 with 10:42 remaining in the second half.

The Pioneers struggled to knock down shots from the field in the second half. A three-pointer by Wright cut the deficit to eight with eight minutes remaining.

With less than seven minutes remaining, another Allen three cut the deficit to 58-52. The closest FIU got to tying the game was at 58-55 with 5:26 remaining. But Brett Olson's 19 points and Chris Udofia's 17 points sparked the Pioneers with a late charge to close out the game.

"They were the better team," Allen said. Allen also eclipsed the 1,000 career-point mark on a layup in the second half.

Off the bench, Cameron Bell provided a spark for the Panthers off the bench. "I'm just trying to get out there and make a difference," Bell said. He finished with 12 points and eight rebounds.

For the entire second half, Phil Taylor and Dominique Ferguson sat on the bench. "They have to play better," Thomas said "Some nights they look good, some times they don't."

Thomas stated that it could be a possibility that Deric Hill may start in place of Taylor for the Panthers' next game against UALR on Feb. 16.

Panthers hope to grab second seed in division

ROUNDUP, PAGE 3

and Denver, who are both in the top three in the Western Division, the Panthers will now look to keep their winning ways against the Division leader, University of Arkansas Little Rock.

UALR comes into this matchup winning three of their last five games, most recently losing to Middle Tennessee on Feb. 12, 59-51. But now the Trojans will be heading back home after a two game road trip to take on the Panthers.

The Trojans have one of the best shooting guards in the Sun Belt, Taylor Gault. The young freshman from Conway, Arkansas

is sixth in points per game in the conference at 15.8.

Gault and her teammates will have to find a way to slow down FIU's sensational sophomore, Jerica Coley.

Coley comes into this matchup averaging 24.1 points per game, still second in the nation. Although her numbers have dipped in recent weeks, it is not because of lack of trying. It is simply because the Panthers are finding other ways to get the ball in the net.

This past week saw three Panthers reach double figures in scoring, something they hadn't done in their previous seven games. Coupled with

the emergence of Diamond Ashmore to provide Finda Mansare with rest during games will only strengthen the Panthers as they move toward the Sun Belt Tournament in March.

With a win over the Trojans, the Panthers could vault over South Alabama for third in the Eastern Division because they defeated the Cougars earlier on in the year.

The Panthers will need help though if they hope to reach second place in the East because they are currently two games back of rival Florida Atlantic with just four games left in the season.

-BRANDON WISE



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Sasha Melnikova drives to the basket during FIU's matchup with North Texas on Feb. 9.

ARTS BEAT

Chinese art comes to Frost



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The Frost Art museum displays Tianjin sculptures and paintings capturing China's tradition in this exhibit.

MARCY DIAZ
Staff Writer
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For more than a year, 30 Chinese artists have been striving to perfect their creations in time for the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum's Tianjin Arts in Miami event.

This year, the event will be open on February 10 to the 16, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. From two-foot sculptures to wall-sized manuscripts, all of the art pieces were presented to solidify and celebrate the University's Tianjin Center in the People's Republic of China.

The Tianjin Center was established in 2003 by the partnership between the University and the Tianjin University of Commerce. Since then, the two universities have worked together to guide students through the field of global hospitality and tourism through degree and study abroad programs. Chinese culture is a major theme that inspired everything, from the artwork to the catered treats.

Nonetheless, the subject of collaboration was more prominent.

"Cooperation between China and

the United States has been going on for some time," said President Liu Shuhan of the Tianjin University of Commerce. "We only hope that time allows us to further promote trust and further strengthen our already sturdy bonds."

The degree program does not stop once students receive their diplomas. "This program will create new job opportunities here and in Tianjin. By working together, we will succeed in achieving mutual success," said President Mark Rosenberg.

Both art directors presented each other with pieces from their own art collections.

A colorful piece by Pip Brant, associate professor, was presented to President Shuhan and a portrait of two eagles by Liu Chunshui, vice director of the Tianjin Art Institute, was given to President Rosenberg.

Although these two works were exchanged gifts at the event, there were many beautiful works mounted on the museum walls that caught equal amounts of attention.

Traditional Chinese calligraphy and ink art were the dominant styles of the collection.

Professor Gretchen Scharnagl of the drawing department said, "The craft of calligraphy in itself is very difficult to master because of the mediums that the artist needs to use. They have to start from scratch and if they make the slightest mistake, it makes every stroke on that painting even more important and meaningful."

However, watercolor paintings and abstract art did make the occasional colorful and bright statement.

Surprisingly, photo-realistic oil paintings, like Xu Congyi's painting, "Flowery Age: Maiden," created a stir among professors and art-goers. The painting displays a young Chinese girl dressed in traditional clothing and standing in front of an intricate wooden window panel.

No matter the art medium, professors from Tianjin University showed their mastery within the art community.

Each piece had an objective of not only showing an artist's own individual style but the Chinese community as a whole.

This event expresses not only the importance of Chinese culture and arts, but universal communication.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT

'Not a leap, but a step nonetheless'

ALFREDO APARICIO
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We have all heard that "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," is mentioned in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, but for same-sex couples, the pursuit of happiness has been a difficult one. Now, there is a ray of hope.

On Feb. 7, for the ninth circuit, the United States Court of Appeals ruled Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriages in California as unconstitutional by saying it serves no purpose other than to "lessen the status and human dignity of gays."

Not a leap, but a step nonetheless. "It was such a great feeling to know it wasn't approved, but I don't think the fight is over. It's a huge step but

there's still a lot left to do," shared Gabriella Lopez, a junior English and drama double major. "We are getting there and it's helpful for everyone that's against it."

Lopez, who first learned about Proposition 8 through the NOH8 celebrity campaign, thought it was great to see that something was being done to not get it passed. "I thought it was ridiculous," said Lopez.

For Noel Rodriguez, a junior English major, the passing of Proposition 8 put a damper on election night back in 2008.

"It was a bittersweet moment for me because, while it was a positive experience seeing Obama elected, the fact that the rights of people were being taken away in our country was

SEE GAY RIGHTS, PAGE 6



JEFF CHIU/AP IMAGES

California residents fighting for rights rejoice due to results of Prop. 8.

TOP 5: MUSIC EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

1



Radiohead: The group of praised experimental rock gurus will be kicking off their world tour here in Miami at the AAA, late February. The show is already sold out.

2

Bruce Springsteen: Classic rock and roll lives on. Springsteen's tour makes a stop at Tampa Florida, so for his aficionados here at FIU, a little road trip is in order this year.

3



Coldplay: British Indie rock group led by front man Chris Martin come to the states this June. The band is promoting their new album Mylo Xyloto.

4

Red Hot Chili Peppers: Originally meant to play back at the end of January, but postponed to early April, fans are anxiously awaiting to see the gutsy funk rock group perform at this April. A Red Hot Chili Peppers concert is anything but predictable, the band has even been seen playing completely nude on stage.

5



Ultra Music Festival: you can leave your guitars at home, this fest consist of pure mind-numbing electronic music. The three-day event is in the heart of South Beach.

Here are five of the most anticipated musical events of the spring and summer season. Vote for next week's Top 5 on www.facebook.com/fiusmlife

COMPILED BY: VANESSA PAREDES

RADIATE REVIEWS

Rolling in the sweep, Adele gets the gold

“Whitney, we will honor you the best way we know how: with song.”

Host LL Cool J said those words solemnly as the Grammys now stood as part of a makeshift dedication platform for singer Whitney Houston.

With the unexpected passing of Whitney Houston, shock waves were dispersed throughout the music industry on the eve of the 2012 Grammys. You would be hard-pressed to imagine that the award gala would not interject segments dedicated to the prestigious and eventually maligned career of Whitney Houston. LL Cool J went for a heartfelt approach and opened with a prayer in her memory. Other artists, such as Stevie Wonder and Bruno Mars, made mention to the late Whitney Houston. As her death made its indelible mark throughout the show, we were reminded what the Grammys were all about— watching three hours’ worth of elitist praise from rich artists to fellow rich artists.

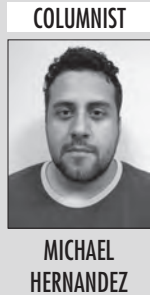
Last year’s unprecedented win by Arcade Fire for Album of the Year caused a certain shift in how future Grammys could possibly play out. This year’s version of Arcade Fire with Bon Iver, who received four nominations and won the title of Best Alternative Album and Best New Artist, is not as climactic as last year’s Best Alternative Album win, but it still earns points for the hipster underground—if by underground you mean being on countless top ten album lists and every other music magazine cover. A flustered but prepared Justin Vernon thanked his hometown, his parents and remarked on how hard it was to accept his award: “When I started to make songs, I did it for the inherent reward of making songs, so I’m a little bit uncomfortable up here.” It was also hard because he unabashedly railed against the Grammys before his nomination and receiving this award must have felt cathartic and humbling. That humbling attitude finally hit Adele when she won her sixth Grammy of the night for Album of The Year—she was choking up when she was given a moment to share a few words. Other winners included Kanye West and Jay-Z for Best Rap Performance, the controversial Chris Brown for Best R&B Performance and Foo Fighters for Rock Song and Rock Album.

Dave Grohl expressed himself genuinely: “To me, this award means a lot because it shows that the human element of making music is what’s most important. Singing into a microphone, learning to play an instrument and learning to do your craft—that’s the most important thing for people to do.” For the most part, the Grammys run the gamut of headliners.

The evening consisted of Rihanna gyrating on stage, a mediocre Coldplay performance, a reunion of The Beach Boys— pioneers of those indie-rock melodies and harmonies we hear today—Maroon 5, Foster the People, Bruce Springsteen and E Street Band. For every pound of superfluous spectacle, including Nicki Minaj who was desperately drawing the ire of the Catholic church, their performance was ounces of simple musicianship and tact on stage. Adele performed for the first time since last October, Jennifer Hudson performed with a special dedication for Whitney Houston and Sir Paul McCartney closed the night with the Abbey Road Medley.

Despite their overproduced numbers and manufactured artists, the Grammys showed glimmers of poignancy. In the end, even if it’s but a glimmer, there is still richness in music—past and present.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this Spring.



COLUMNIST

MICHAEL HERNANDEZ

Proposition 8 a step toward gay rights

GAY RIGHTS, PAGE 5

discouraging.”

However, the small victory in California has given him hope, even if the road to the Supreme Court is still spotty at best.

“It’s set a precedent for other cases that will go before the court. If that one was ruled unconstitutional then it’s easier for similar cases to be ruled the same way as well. Yet, the current Supreme Court is very conservative, so their decision worries me.

I would like it to apply to the entire nation because our state [Florida] is nowhere near as close to others, nor do we have a good democratic stance to push it forward.”

Anthony Vasall, a junior, chemistry major, recognizes the decision as a positive one but admits the danger isn’t over. “It’s encouraging to see that we are making progress, and it’s a slow process, but it’s happening and it feels good to see. At the same time, there are groups working to refute that decision and it’s a crucial moment for progress.”

Vasall also commented that the decision recognizes the separation of church and state that the U.S. was built upon. “I think it’s unconstitutional. I think it is ridiculous because we are normal people. We go to the bank and go grocery shopping and we have families. It is a great stride to making everyone equal.”

Rodriguez said, “There’s a huge

component of religion in Proposition 8 that should be separate and the lawyers against it broke down every single argument that was said.”

“It’s encouraging to see that we are making progress, and it’s a slow process, but it’s happening...”

Anthony Vasall
Junior, chemistry major

“I couldn’t have been more shocked at California’s decision to pass Proposition 8, especially after having read articles stating that westerners were more liberal.

It was disappointing to see the side of the U.S. that’s supposed to bring equality and social liberation was passing this,” said Adriana Caverio, a senior, education major.

Caverio sees the decision as a generational shift between the present generation and the past ones. “I have always called this generation ‘Generation Cool.’ From what I have seen here on campus, people are re-evaluating what they’re being spoon

feed and becoming more active.”

“Our generation is obviously more open to it, but I think that in the past 15 years, Americans have become more open to gay marriage,” shared Gianni Cruz, a freshman, international relations major. “I am pro civil rights and everyone should be able to marry no matter what.”

Rodriguez is also aware of the positive attitudes forming around the subject of gay marriage and gay rights in general.

“I think a lot of campaigns like ‘It Gets Better’ have opened more eyes, but I think the immediate effect is acceptance, not so much productivity. Once you accept and know what’s wrong in the community, it will push you to be active in the community,” said Rodriguez. “There’s a lot more grass-roots effort for politicians to put their words into action than before.”

Like Rodriguez, Vasall wants his political representation to be more respectful and accepting than it has been thus far.

“I read afterward that Rick Santorum had said ‘The rights of Americans have been stripped’ and it’s definitely a personal hurdle to get through. You can see it’s his personal bias.

For the most part, I don’t really feel that much for the republican candidates; it’s hard to support someone who doesn’t respect you.”

“I wish the support was more massive, but I am grateful for what we have. People are starting to realize that it’s okay and it can happen,” said Lopez.

A few local bands steal the spotlight

MAYDAY, PAGE 8

throughout the 35 minute long set, regardless of what their musical preferences might have been.

Mayday took The Stage next. Having evolved into a six piece rap alt-rock fusion band from an original two MCs, their stage presence radiated onto the crowd, who couldn’t help but throw their hoods up and ignore the ‘no smoking indoors’ policy of The Stage.

Let me put this out there, as a 25 year old who only got the tail end of Biggie and Tupac’s careers, it’s pretty impressive seeing a crowd mixed with 40 year olds in business suits, 30 year olds in Timberlands and dreads, and twenty-something year olds watching in amazement as the aforementioned aged groups flawlessly spit out Biggie verses.

After the bottle of Jack that was being passed around by Mayday was drained, and after being on stage for over an hour, the

band dropped the mic and stepped out of the spotlight as the crowd made their way to the food truck that was on site for Mac and Cheese Hamburgers, and reluctantly headed home, myself included.

All in all, Bardot was a bust, although Abdecalf has some unrealized potential, if he just realizes that venues such as Badouché aren’t appropriate if you’re trying to attract a crowd that has an interest in music, while The Stage redeemed the night with Parable vs. Mac Soto and Mayday killing it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

15

WEDNESDAY

TIME MANAGEMENT AND STUDY SKILLS FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

WHEN: 10-11:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to students
WHERE: MMC GC 305

DREAM MACHINE ROLL-OUT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Librar Breezeway

CAREER FAIR SPRING 2012

WHEN: 11a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

SEEDS OF SUCCESS SPEAKER CAMPUS LIFE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SERIES

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AND AMERICAN COMPOSITIONS” CHEN-HUI JEN AND JACOB DAVID SUDOL

WHEN: 8-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: CARTA Miami Beach Urban Studios

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THURSDAY

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR: YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE (PART 1)

WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GL 141E

KEYBOARD ARTS SERIES: RATMIR MARTINOVIC

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

FEDERALIST SOCIETY DEBATE: UNITED STATES ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RBD 100

JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL: CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

CLASS DISMISSED

Retroactive tuition payment offers fix

In California, a group of students have found a way to make student loans obsolete.

According to a Huffington Post article written by Tyler Kingkade, students at the University of California Riverside have devised a method in which paying tuition will take care of itself. Specifically, these students proposed that five percent of every paycheck from the university's graduates will go toward paying off their tuition for 20 years, with adjustments made if the student is from out of the state or if the graduate works for the public sector.

They reason that such a system would eliminate the need to pay upfront for an education and for student loans.

The idea of paying for a college education retroactively may seem radical to some, but to me, it is exactly the solution we may be looking for.

Instead of paying out-of-pocket, students could pay their tuition costs in the same way that they pay their contribution to Social Security: without a second thought.

If nothing else, this solution could "make sure that the middle class continues to have access to higher education," as said by UC President

Mark Yudof, who was presented with this idea on Feb. 9.

Such a system could indeed be great for FIU, especially with our tuition on the rise.

As of now, the estimated annual tuition for an in-state student is \$5,678.02 and \$18,077.02, for an out-of-state student, according to the FIU's admissions website, which would make an average four-year college career at FIU cost anywhere from \$22,712.08 to \$72,308.08.

The idea of paying for a college education retroactively is exactly the solution we may be looking for.

In the article, several naysayers argued that an income-adjusted repayment system is unfair to students with a degree that could help them acquire a higher-paying job, who may pay "too much" should this become a real policy.

Furthermore, there is the argument that post-graduate employment isn't guaranteed.

Although the latter concern is valid, I have to disagree with the

notion that such a system is inherently unfair. For those students who acquire higher-paying jobs, I would argue that they, of all graduates, could afford this percentage much more easily than their lower-earning counterparts.

For example, a college graduate with a salary of \$50,000 would feel a \$5,000 annual payment much more than their fellow graduate who earns a salary of \$100,000. However, a college grad earning \$50,000 only paying \$2,500 per year would be much more manageable.

The only thing I would change is the time period in which this five percent cut is taken.

Instead of having a set repayment period of 20 years for every student, it should cease as soon as their tuition is paid off.

In this case, graduates with higher paying jobs may be at an advantage in that their tuition would be paid off faster since they would indeed be paying more, given that their tuition is relatively low.

Tuition costs will not be on the decline any time soon, and we must come up with innovative solutions that will help ease the strain. Otherwise, more and more qualified students will either major in debt or not go to college at all.

"Class Dismissed" is a weekly column critiquing education in America.

Email jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Friedman: average is officially over

On Feb. 13, FIU's Geopolitical Summit hosted Thomas Friedman and his own self-proclaimed, "frustrated optimism," about America's domestic climate.

Friedman's lecture touched upon core issues of the present and near future and the much-needed impetus to, in the most simplest of terms, "be better."

The Beacon agrees with this notion and notes that as an international university, his assertions that we are a hyper-connected, increasingly globalized society is not just a theory but each students' reality.

Friedman gave a four-pronged approach to how Americans must act in order to match the intense global competition.

The Beacon thinks the advice is timeless and also completely aligned with FIU's commitment to cultivating students who are global competitive players.

Friedman said that Americans must think like an immigrant, an artisan, amazon.com, and lastly like a waitress from Perkins Pancake House in Minneapolis.

In regard to thinking like an immigrant, Friedman argued that we are all truly immigrants to the new hyper-connected society in which we live. Implying the crowd to realize there is "no legacy spot," after graduation, he urged his audience to always "be hungry."

Secondly, to think like an artisan, Friedman stated you must be so proud of your work that you always want to carve your initials into your product at the end of each day.

His third piece of advice, to think like amazon.com, is to consistently reinvent yourself and to constantly, "be in beta." This advice is spot on; students and graduates should never become complacent in their identity or their career paths.

His final note, to think like "a waitress at Perkins Pancakes House" stems from a personal anecdote of a time where when a waitress brought his friend his side of fruit, she said simply, "I gave you more fruit." He followed this story with an immediate exclamation, "be entrepreneurial."

Students and recent graduates should emulate Friedman's approach.

Furthermore, *The Beacon* completely agrees that as Friedman states, "average" is "officially over."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student has right to oppose school's religious innuendo

I am writing in response to the Feb. 10 opinion article entitled "Student's religious intolerance fueled by selfishness, scorn," written by Alex Sorondo.

I was appalled to see the disdain he applied to Jessica Ahlquist's efforts at removing an illegal prayer banner from her public school.

Mr. Sorondo seems to suggest that Jessica was simply jumping on the bandwagon of "an increasingly fervent trend with secular youth of reflexively attacking religious gestures."

You are right that secularism and atheism is a growing trend: according to the American Religious Identification Survey (2008)

performed by Trinity College, those individuals stating that they had no religious preference have increased from 8.2 percent of the population in 1990, to 14.1 percent in 2001, to 15.0 percent in 2008.

However, you are certainly mistaken in indicating that Ms. Ahlquist's efforts (or those of her secular brethren) were the efforts of an immature, young teen who was "sheltered from the toils and demands of adult responsibilities... yet to realize the benefits of moderation, respect, and patience."

I fail to see how you can adequately make that assessment from reading a single article in *The New York Times*.

In fact, Jessica has shown tremendous strength, bravery, and maturity throughout the situation.

She has been attacked by her State Representative, Peter Palumbo, who called her "an evil little thing."

She has received so many death threats that she has to be escorted to school by police.

High school bullying is awful enough without actively making yourself stand out. Only a person with great maturity, strength, and patience could weather this storm of negativity while still maintaining her right to remain religion-free.

I find your assertion that "the well-spoken young contrarian will rarely wag their finger so aggressively

at any other conservative orthodoxies (than Christianity), religious or not," rather perplexing.

Christianity accounts for a hefty 77.8 percent of the U.S. population, so it only makes sense that most of the religious controversies which secularists fight against are produced by the group composed of the most numbers. I can't help but wonder if critics of the Ahlquist lawsuit would change their opinions if the prayer had begun with invocation of, "Great Allah," "Wonderful Montezuma," or "Powerful Chthulu."

If you are worried that the majority of vocal secularists are picking on Christianity, then I encourage you to pick up a copy of

famous atheist Christopher Hitchens's book, "God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything," where he sets forth his own arguments against the major monotheistic religions as well as Eastern religions such as Confucianism (I will warn, however, that assuming his opinions speak for all secularists or atheists is a great fallacy; opinions within the secularist movement vary so greatly that organizing the movement is often described as "herding cats").

-Melissa Zwilling, Chemistry Graduate student

To read this "Letter to the Editor" in its full text, visit FIUSM.com.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

BEAT STREET

Don't waste time at Bardot, and head over to The Stage

When going out to watch music, there's nothing worse than arriving at a show and the hosting venue being the worst aspect of the production.

On the other hand, nothing makes up better for this than crossing the street and finding



JONATHAN SZYDLO

a gem of a show that negates the sleaziness of the previous spot.

On Feb. 11 Abdecalf, Steve Vaynshtok, a junior public relations student's stage name, opened up a show for Com Truise at Bardot, a pseudo-swank bar in the Miami-Midtown area which caters to Brickell's finest, or Manhattan's dredges.

After having to deal with Bardot's gatekeeper for 20 minutes, in which he kindly informed us of the venue's "No Camera Policy," he was kind enough to rhetorically ask that "If we didn't let cameras in when Moby came, what makes you think we'll let you in with one to this show?" After having to negotiate the cover charge, we managed to walk in for Abdecalf's set...which lasted just as long as the gatekeeper episode.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

After an otherwise uneventful 20 minutes at Bardot, the night took a fortunate turn with an adventure over to Miami-Midtown's The Stage on Feb. 11 where Parable vs. Max Soto opened up for Mayday to a full house.

For it being Abdecalf's first live performance with his complete set up—keyboard, laptop, and drum pad which experience some slight technical difficulties—it was a pretty all

around solid set, but lacked from any memorable moments.

The only thing that kept me at this show, for at the very least the duration of Abdecalf's set, was the fact that Vaynshtok is a

member of the University.

As soon as he unplugged his things, and we finished up our two drinks that cost well over \$50, we were kindly informed that the seats we were occupying

are reserved for bottle popping customers who will be arriving at 1 a.m.

It was 10:50 p.m...We left.

Being that the night was still young, we went on a limb and seized the day by crossing over to The Stage, for a surprisingly refreshing hip-hop show with Parable vs. Mac Soto opening for Mayday, both local Miami troupes.

With the sultry sounds of Max Soto being the first notes hitting the crowd with a John Legendesque feel that had both guys and girls reaching out for the better halves, I've got to admit, I felt slightly out of place being there with only my photo editor, Andres Bedoya.

In terms of full disclosure, Andres was a little preoccupied at the moment fending off a voluptuous cougar who with out saying a word began twirling Andres' Salvador Dali-like mustache.

With the duo's juxtaposed styles, with Mac Soto's soulful hooks and the hip-hop stylings of Parable comprising of the verses, they were able to keep the crowd of 20 to 40 year olds tapping their toes

SEE MAYDAY, PAGE 6

LITERATURE

'Happy forward moves' to be showcased in "Queen of America"

JOANNA NOEL
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Pulitzer Prize finalist Luis Alberto Urrea will read from his latest book "Queen of America" at the Barnes and Noble Writers On the Bay reading series on Feb. 16.

Urrea, a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, is a novelist, poet and essayist known for his lyrical and sometimes brutal reflections on life along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"He is an entertainer and that's why he's been invited," said Debra Dean, coordinator of the Writers on the Bay series.

According to Dean, it is one of those experiences where you just have to see, or in this case, hear for yourself. In fact, Dean is responsible for getting Urrea to come and read from his latest novel. Knowing him personally has become one of the factors that allowed Dean to ask him as a favor to make an appearance, Dean said.

"He is known all over the world, and we are lucky to get him," Dean said.

This will be his first time

visiting FIU, but he's been in Miami before for the annual Book Fair. He will also be visiting a few other schools on his tour including Calvin College and Lehigh University. He is also a distinguished professor of Creative Writing at the University of

Urrea, sometimes known as the Saint of Cabora and the Mexican Joan of Arc. After the bloody Tomochic rebellion, Teresita flees with her father to Arizona. Their plans are derailed when she once again is claimed as the spiritual leader of the Mexican Revolution. He

"He is an entertainer and that's why he's been invited."

Debra Dean
Coordinator, Writers on the Bay series

Illinois-Chicago.

His previous book, "The Hummingbirds Daughter," a historical novel, is the prequel to "Queen of America," despite different writing elements.

"It's a personal favorite because I feel I made some happy forward moves in my writing. It is, by nature of the milieu, different from its predecessor. Yet it still trods the pathways of the former book," Urrea wrote in the "About the Book" section of his website.

It tells the story of Teresa

has written books in multiple different genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and anthology. Multiple critics have given good views about the book including Publishers Weekly.

The Publishers Weekly statement said, "Each scene in 'Queen of America' unfurls gracefully, like delicate wisps of smoke. It will spark fire in readers' hearts."

Luis Alberto Urrea will speak at 8 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus bookstore.

JOURNALISM

Whether or not the media is full of 'bull' to be discussed

TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Renewed attention to bias has given media studies new urgency, an issue that writer and media sociologist John McManus will address when he visits the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre on Feb. 15.

His latest book "Detecting the Bull," an online book derived from ethical standards set by The Society of Professional Journalists, promotes accessibility to students used to getting their news online. Full video and audio follow the text in this derivative work that can teach journalism students "how to identify bias & junk journalism in print... in an era of buyer beware journalism," McManus said.

The work provides a set of rules for accuracy based on empiricism: the logical assembly of reliable evidence. McManus likes to call it "bias detector," a skill that can help readers detect omission in news content.

"The event is an interactive lecture which will force people to question their news providers," said Pablo Haspel, speaker of the Senate of Student Government Council at BBC. "We will be showing different techniques which

can be applied to any format of information to detect the bias and more importantly find what the bias is aimed for."

McManus' new book has received critical acclaim from journalist Judy Muller, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, University of Southern California, and former ABC correspondent and NPR commentator.

Muller says, "Detecting Bull is an outstanding piece of work — cogently organized, user-friendly in its presentation and full of great material. Real life examples are especially helpful and provocative (always great for classroom discussions)."

"Detecting the Bull" is co-sponsored by The Honors College and SGA. The event starts at 6:30 p.m.

DETECTING THE BULL

- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- When: Feb. 15
- Where: Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre