Berkman appointed permanent provost

C. JOEL MARINO AND
ANGELINA TROFF
Beacon Staff

He’s held the title of interim provost for more than a year, but it took less than a week for a University search committee to recommend Ronald Berkman as the official provost, a decision ratified by President Modesto A. Maidique last week.

Although the 16-member committee had been meeting since May of last year to find a replacement for former provost Max Lowenberg – who left FIU to become chancellor of the Florida Board of Governors – committee head Joyce Elam said Berkman became “the overwhelming choice” after other candidates had been interviewed.

Berkman had been serving as interim provost since November 2005. “Maidique came and gave us the charge to find the best provost, and we found that in Berkman,” said committee member Mike Wilkins.

Berkman had already been involved in many major initiatives as interim provost, including the decision to move to a three-day class schedule starting next Fall semester.

As the official executive vice president, provost and chief operating officer, Berkman is now the University’s second-in-command.

With his position finally guaranteed, Berkman plans to focus on issues such as the College of Medicine. “Great progress has been made with the College of Medicine and I have high standards of progress,” Berkman said in an interview with The Beacon.

The provost said that the immediate objectives for the college include finalizing a curriculum and preparing for provisional accreditation. Talks are also underway to establish partnerships with major local hospitals, such as Jackson and Baptist.

Berkman also confirmed that there is currently no replacement donor for the college’s naming rights.

Dr. Herbert Wertheim, the college’s former donor, retracted a $20 million gift last semester and requested that the college not carry his name as had originally been planned following a highly-publicized squabble with Maidique.

Also of concern were the results of a report publicized Jan. 18 that said Florida’s university system could go bankrupt if it did not properly plan for an expected surge in statewide college attendance.

The report was discussed Jan. 24 and 25 by the BOG. The Beacon reported that a key recommendation mentioned was that Florida organize its universities in a tiered system, similar to a system currently being used in California. This would mean that only two or three universities would be labeled as research institutions while a large number of smaller universities would focus exclusively on undergraduate study.

“Some of the suggestions [from that report] are good, some are not so good, and some are downright loony,” Berkman said. “We are a research university and have made a significant effort to increase gradu-
Inauguration features building tour

**LAW, page 1**

“...being discussed] coming in,” Muñoz said. Starting at 2 p.m. in the College of Law Auditorium, the first day of the symposium will explore the context of America's constitutionally based civil rights and the international human rights movement during the Geneva Convention.

Speakers for the first day of the symposium include Harold Koh, the Dean of the Yale Law School; Erwin Chemerinsky, a professor of the Yale Law School; Christopher Edley Jr., the Dean of the School of Law at Boalt Hall Berkeley; and Aya Gruber, a professor at FIU's College of Law.

During the symposium, speakers will discuss the United States is losing its role of leadership in human rights worldwide.

The symposium will kick back up at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 9 in the College of Law Auditorium. At that time, speakers will focus on the debate over the U.S. courts using foreign laws sources to help inform its definitions on due process, equal protection and other concepts from the U.S. constitution. Speakers for Feb. 9 include Drew Days III, a professor of the Yale Law School; Anthony D'Amato, a professor at the Northwestern University Law School; Francisco Valdes, a professor of the University of Miami Law School; and Elizabeth Foley, a professor at FIU's College of Law.

Seating is free for the symposium but limited. Registration is required. To register, go to http://law.fiu.edu. All of the events are free and open to everyone.

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**SGC-UP Notes**

**Jan. 31 Call to Order:** 3:35 p.m.; Adjournment: 4:36 p.m.

**President's Report (Alfonso “Allee” Leon):** 
- MyFIU is launching weekend of Feb. 3 and 4.
- Live testing to take place until Feb. 5 and final launch decision will be made that day. It was supposed to launch November of last year.
- BOT meeting next week. Last BOT meeting until March.

**New Business (aye-nay-abstain):** 
- Council Bill B07-02 to institute a GPA requirement to serve on the SGC-UP Cabinet passed 7-0.
- Chief of Cabinet Larissa Lockett: requested that the amendment will take effect immediately, but at the end of the Spring semester. It will be in effect to those who have met the other guidelines but now would be removed from this position because they do not meet the [new] requirements.
- Perez: "If your GPA suffers so much, that it would not meet this requirement, then something has to go and it should not be grades.”
- Friendly amendment accepted: Changes will take place May 1.

**Abstences:** 
- Representative-at-Large Jennifer Ruiz, Architecture Representative Mikana Maeda

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**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY • FEBRUARY 5**

- SPC Pan African Events - Opening Ceremonies: 12 p.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
- IVCF Bible Study: 5 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)
- Dancing with the Wolfes Series – Belly Dancing: 6 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)
- Pan-African Celebration Opening Festivities: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- Panther Rage Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140 (UP)

**TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 6**

- Student Affairs – Panther Placement Exchange: 11 a.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
- IVCU "Know Why You Believe” Group Discussion: 12:30 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)
- SPC Pan African Movie Series: 8 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
- SPC Coffee House: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- Legal Luncheon with Shakoor Manjra: 12:30 p.m., RDB 1099 (UP)
- SGC General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
- SOC General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
- SPC Motown Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)

**WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 7**

- 2007 Volunteer Fair: 11 a.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
- Panther Power Meetings: 1 p.m., WUC 157 (BBC)
- CCC Impact Movement Weekly Lunches: 2 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)
- SGC General Meetings: 3:30 p.m, WUC 155 (BBC)
- Pan African Events – Play and Discussion: 7 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
- SPC, INDAMI, School of Music and Dept. of Theatre presents Jazz and Tap Extravagonza: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
- SGC General Meetings: 2:30 p.m., GC 150 (UP)
- SPC "Pan African Movie Series - Dinner and a Movie.” 8 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)
- Athletic Fee Increase Forum: 1 p.m., GC 140 (UP)

**THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 8**

- Student Government Association Representative Days: 11 a.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
- African American History Lunch: 11 a.m. WUC Panther Square (BBC)
- SGC General Meetings – Social Mass and Fellowship: 5 p.m., WUC 157 (BBC)
- SPC Pan African Movie Series: 8 p.m., WUC 100 (BBC)
- Shh... Series “Hip Hop is Dead... The Emergence and Triumph of the Bling Culture.” 12 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
- SPC Comedy Connection presents “Comic View at FIU”: 8 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)

**FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 9**

- Filmatoka Film Festival Series: 7 p.m., WUC Ballrooms B (BBC)
- Relay for Life: 6 p.m. – 12 a.m., FIU Football Stadium (UP)
- SPC Film – “Akeela and the Bee” : 7 p.m, GC 140 (UP)

**SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 10**

- CCC Impact Coaching Core Success: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., WUC 124 (BBC)
- Delta Sigma Theta Chapter Meeting: 2 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)
- Valentines Concert: 7 p.m, Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
- Relay for Life: 12 a.m. – 6 p.m., FIU Football Stadium (UP)
- Open House of Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall: 8:30 a.m., College of Law Grand Atrium (UP)
- Building Dedication Ceremony: 10:30 a.m., FIU Pharmed Arena (UP)
- SPC Film – “Borat” Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan”: 7pm & 10pm, GC 140 (UP)

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**ALUMNUS creates religious club**

LAUREN AGOSTO

Contributing Writer

Muslims, Christians, Jews. John Nar done, founding president of the Faith at Work Alumni Chapter, prides himself in making a “faith-friendly” organization that welcomes all different religious backgrounds.

“You cannot be two different people, one at home and another at work. Your faith is a part of you; it makes you whole,” Nar done said.

Nar done, a FIU alumnus, felt that a faith-based networking group was needed in the University community.

Although the program hasn’t been officially implemented yet, Faith at Work is not closed off to any religions. It is open to anyone who wishes to have the opportunity to network with others who share the same morals and values.

To open the chapter, Nardone went to different alumni events and spoke with alumni who also showed interest in creating the chapter. Outside the work place, the Alumni Chapter at FIU will be doing their part in helping the community.

To open the chapter, Nardone went to different alumni events and spoke with alumni who also showed interest in creating the chapter. Outside the work place, the Alumni Chapter at FIU will be doing their part in helping the community. They will plan to mentor middle and high school students in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, as well as mentor foster children in order to encourage them to purse their own careers.

In the future, they plan to extend the program outside FIU, begin a faith-based outreach program through community, and organize mission trips different countries.

Nardone said Faith at Work would like to use the organization to promote a sense of unity at FIU, but for now, they’re just working within the students from the College of Law who areLaw. Nardone said Faith at Work will be spearheading the group.

So far, there are about 100 members in the group, according to Nardone.

Leonard P. Strickman, dean of the College of Law, is proud of the work the group is trying to achieve.

“Their speakers are respected professionals,” Strickman said. He was looking forward to hearing from the speakers who will be attending the group’s first meeting. “It’s a wonderful event,” he continued, “which should be commended by both the Miami-Dade Police Department and Everglades Correctional Center. He will discuss morals and ethical integrity as they pertain to the workplace.

The Porros feel that Faith at Work is going to be a beneficial organization for FIU students and graduates.

“We would like FIU graduates to be armed with the benefit of the career experience that we have lived, now lecture extensively on, and know who will cross every graduate’s path,” Alfred said. “The need to have the awareness of the role of moral conscience and faith in business, law and a full life is essential — especially in this era.”

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**For more information contact friesa@ trinity.org.**
Miami museums offer month long free access

Interested in participating in research? We are looking for subjects to participate in a research study for an investigational birth control pill. The study involves approximately monthly visits to the research center and lasts about 8 months. Subjects may be currently using another method of birth control. If you are a woman, age 18 to 45, you may be eligible to participate. Participants will receive study medication, study-related exams and compensation (up to $450) for time and travel.

Call for more information 305-596-9901

Janet Gersten, M.D. New Age Medical Research Corp. 8900 SW 117th Avenue Suite 207-B Miami, FL 33186

BUSINESS AS USUAL: Marketing and international business junior Richard Lopez (left) talks with Marisol Astiazaran, from Marketing Werks (right) at the career fair Jan. 29 in the Graham Center’s Ballroom.

The museum's local efforts have also garnered national attention. In 2005, it received a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a “Landmarks in American History and Culture” workshop series that was attended by 93 educators from across the country.

Yet as the museum continues to have successes at the county, state and national level, it is looking for greater support from the FIU student community.

Regina Bailey, assistant director of planning, explained that in 2007 the Wolfsonian hopes to develop its relationship with FIU students.

“We’d like more students to be engaged,” Bailey said. “Recently a student at Lakeview [Residence Hall] organized a group on their own and brought them to the museum, which was great. The Wolfsonian is a wonderful research opportunity for faculty and students, but can also be a rest stop between beach-going.”

In the month of February alone, the Wolfsonian is featuring four exhibitions, a book club series, four film screenings, public talks, workshops and guided tours, in addition to M4 benefits. Museum officials hope to see an increase in local visitors, especially from the FIU community.

“We see [M4] as a real opportunity to motivate people to come out.” Smolinski said.

Though Bailey acknowledges that the museum may be far from some students, she thinks a visit to “the Museum of Thinkism” is worth the trip.

“Often we hear from students that they would visit if only there was a bus [from FIU]. We understand, and we have negotiated discounted parking nearby for students,” Bailey said. “We want students to feel like this is their place on South Beach.”

Miami museums offer month long free access

WOLFSONIAN, page 1

bring new groups to the Wolfsonian.

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Berkman takes on more duties, goals

BERKMAN, page 1

Berkman agreed that not all institutions should try to achieve prominence. However, the provost still feels “the report is painted with a broad brush stroke.”

Because FIU is located in an urban setting, there are students who come here who need professional degrees for career advancement and master’s degrees for their licenses. Focusing solely on undergraduate education would be detrimental, according to Berkman.

“His track record at FIU speaks for itself,” Maidique wrote in an e-mail to The Beacon.

Berkman has over 15 years of academic administrative experience, 12 of which were held at FIU.

He began his FIU career in 1997 as dean of the College of Public Affairs and was one of the leaders in spearheading both the law school and medical school initiatives.

As provost, Berkman oversees all academic programs and deans. He is also responsible for student affairs, graduate programs, contracts, grants, research and admissions recruitment.

“[H]e will be most active in fundraising for the academic areas,” Maidique wrote.

As chief operating officer, he is involved with FIU’s legislative agenda and resource allocations.

There were 26 candidates for the position, according to a University-wide e-mail sent by Maidique Jan. 30.

Berkman and three other candidates were selected for final interviews, according to Elam.

“The important thing is we’re all optimistic about the future of FIU under [Berkman’s] leadership,” Wilkins said.
**V.P. position filled with familiar face**

**ANA DAVIS**
Staff Writer

With a poised yet calm demeanor, Brent Maximin, former director of student lobbying, accepted the position of vice president of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus for a second time.

The appointment was confirmed at the council’s weekly meeting Jan. 31.

Immediately after the announcement was made, Maximin took the vacant seat beside SGC-BBC president Camilo Silva officially assuming his role as second-in-command.

In a strange case of poetic justice, Maximin, who was chosen to fill the student lobbying position after the next year ran and won BBC, assumed his role as second-in-command.

Still, the decision was not what we wanted to offer students, according to Siedah-Michelle Bodie, a BBC website.

"We felt that the current BBC-website wasn’t serving the purpose of a campus body. They did not include the student grading, which we want to be accessible," Bodie said.

According to Gabriel Labrador, representative-at-large, one of the main reasons Maximin was considered again was due to his previous experience.

"Having experienced members in the University-wide Council will give the SGC-BBC better opportunities to negotiate with their counterparts in [University Park]," Labrador said.

Zach Trautenberg, comptroller and finance chair, also nominated Maximin for the job and strongly supported him.

Though some members said they believe Maximin had his chance at vice presidency and lost, Trautenberg disagrees.

"[Maximin] lost the vice president position by seven votes. The students want him," he said.

"It’s also good to have a psychology major in the council.

He also stressed the importance of electing a vice president who has experience with the University-wide Council budget meetings to represent the interest of BBC students.

The budget meetings determine the amount of money allocated to each part of SGA.

According to SGA’s constitution, when a vacancy occurs in the vice president position, elections must be scheduled to fill it.

The elections and the announcement took place the same day and during the same meeting; however, they did not include the student body.

Members were also allowed to nominate themselves for the position if they felt they were capable of representing the council.

Nonetheless, the only students eligible to vote were representatives that made up the legislative branch of SGC-BBC.

"You have to know what you are getting into. This is one of the most important positions of SGA," Silva said.

Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life, encouraged Silva to read the credentials necessary to take on the job of vice president to stress the importance vice presidency.

"In case Camilo were to resign or leave, this person will have to take over for him," Zapata said.

Maximin ran against Wes Wells, technology advancement director, and Katiana Saintable, representative-at-large, who were also nominated.

Both Wells and Saintable warmly congratulated Maximin after hearing the results as the rest of the council clapped, expressing their approval.

"This position is difficult to come into one month into the semester. I already have experience. It will be my priority to work with [Silva] to continue what he and Pamela started," Maximin said.

Maximin will serve in the position until the elections that will take place this semester.

"I’m excited to be back in the position and to receive the confidence of the council," he said.

"This is less about me as an individual, it is about what is best for the council," Maximin said.

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**New website on its way to BBC**

**CARLA ST. LOUIS**
Staff Writer

When Damina Fernandez was appointed the new vice provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus last year, he made it known that renovating the campus’ website would be part of a new initiative campaign to refresh BBC.

According to the official website’s page, “A new and improved BBC website is currently under construction.”

However, the decision of the committee is not binding. Silva hopes to change this.

"We felt that the current BBC-website wasn’t serving the purpose of a campus body," Spiegel said. "That’s why we established a contract with Studio of Digital Arts in order to renovate the site.

These were also a great concern to Fernandez.

"It wasn’t user-friendly, and we wanted it to be accessible," Fernandez said.

Spiegel and Studio of Digital Arts performed a field test in which students were asked to reveal their expectations from the site.

The Studio of Digital Arts used the responses in order to create a simulated webpage. The mock site can be viewed at www.bbc.fiu.edu.

"Students can expect the newly renovated BBC webpage to be user-friendly and attractive," Spiegel said.

The website isn’t only the BBC-centered site. Another website, www.wuc.fiu.edu, also caters to BBC.

"Our webpage was initially launched for the main purpose of communicating with students and the rest of the world," said Camilo A. Silva, president of the Student Government Council at BBC.

"Our webpage was created a long time ago, although it was never updated—just until now," Silva said.

BBC’s webpage, www.wuc.fiu.edu, provides a stark contrast to the original. Current announcements and hourly scheduling of BBC events ranging from lectures, recreational activities and health awareness can be viewed at this site.

Upcoming BBC events are also listed, along with such links to a message board and student-campus-based websites.

When the issue of two websites servicing BBC students was declared, mixed responses followed.

"The fact that there are two different websites that cater to BBC is confusing," said junior Etania Simmons.

Junior Kimberly Flakes suggested a merge between the University websites.

"As opposed to making the websites separate, they should merge and provide BBC students with as much resources as [University Park’s] website," Flakes said.

Based on the website’s lack of resources, many students argue that the renovations will not change the contrast of BBC’s website, compared to FIU’s main webpage.

"I doubt that the website will improve, or even be on the same standard as UP’s [website],” said Kameelah Rahaman, a senior and Bay Vista Housing Resident Assistant.

However, committee that is working towards the webpage’s advancement disagrees.

"Since BBC is entering a new era," Spiegel said, "we wanted the main website to reflect a fresher look.

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**SGC-BBC Notes**

Jan. 31, Call to order: 3:37 p.m. President’s Report (Camilo Silva)

- Currently working with Vice Provost Johnson to change some policies and procedures regarding grading appeals process. Silva is in the committee which recommends to professors that grades be changed, if a student appeals them. However, the decision of the committee is not binding. Silva hopes to change this.

- Comptroller’s Report (Zach Trautenberg)

- Told SGC-BBC in general to give him feedback regarding their budget, in order to prepare next year. Trautenberg: “This year [we had] the highest budget of all time,” regarding SGC-BBC’s existence. He encouraged the council to say if they had too much money since some positions such as the Director of Student Lobbying, do not receive budgets.

- Speaker of the House (Gabriel Labrador)

- Commented on details regarding the Computer Lab upgrade (WUC 200). Labrador: “This will be the most advanced technological center in both campuses. UP will be jealous.”

- Cabinet Report

- Brent Maximin, Director of Student Lobbying

- Attended the US Students Association conference.

New Business

- Brent Maximin was elected as the new vice president. The other nominees were Katiana Saintable and Wes Wells. The representatives voted 4-1-1 respectively.

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**Compiled by Ana Davis**
NEOCONS TO IRAN: YOU’RE NEXT

Invading Iran: a bad idea

CHRIS CABRAL
Opinion Editor

“The way the United States goes about invading was not by simply, but could come sooner than you think.”

Bill Kristol, respected editor of the Weekly Standard and a fan of Iraq — simultaneously. That doesn’t happen, but that certainly won’t stop them from saying the same thing about Iran.

They imply that the U.S. military can somehow occupy Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran — a country over 3 times the size of Iraq, in just as little time. That seems impossible, but once again, these people will not allow historical precedent or the facts to affect their opinions.

Kristol and other neoconservatives claim that an attack on Iran would cause the people to rise up and overthrow their government. They imply that the U.S. would only accelerate its nuclear ambitions if they felt threatened. During the cold war, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were the fiercest of enemies. While they did arm and support opposing factions in different wars for and against communism around the globe, they never engaged in direct conflict. Why? Because they both had nuclear weapons, and neither country wanted to get “nuked.”

Consequently, if Iran had nuclear weapons, the U.S. would be unable to invade them. If we were to engage Iran’s leaders in diplomatic talks — a strange concept to some — and negotiate with them, they would feel less threatened by the U.S. and less likely to feel they need such weapons. After all, our president has called them part of the “axis of evil.” Our army is occupying a neighboring country, and countless pundits are now saying the U.S. could attack them “sooner than you think.”

They have every reason to fear us. After all, they’re going to want nuclear weapons to defend themselves.

Thankfully, it appears that most Americans just aren’t going along with the neconservatives on this one. A recent CNN poll placed public support for a war with Iran at a chilly 28 percent. And the results of the past election seem to indicate a shift in opinion against the more militant members of the political elite. Rather than support a move to invade a third country, most seem to think we have our hands full with Iraq and Afghanistan. After all, we can’t just attack everyone we disagree with.

“Kill ‘em all” is not a security strategy, it’s a Metallica song.

Social networking sites pose a danger to America’s youth

CELINE PELOFI
Contributing Writer

Do you have a MySpace? Is your face on Facebook? Because the seemingly innocent social networking sites on the web that you know and love can be used against you in frightening ways and, quite possibly, in a court of law.

While many consider their MySpace or Facebook use nothing more than an entertaining hobby and an easy way to communicate with their friends, there is a dark side to these “spaces” that many overlook.

Just recently, sixth grade girls in Chattanooga, Tenn., were charged with homicide conspiracies and were taken to a juvenile facility, because of a list posted on all six of the girls’ MySpace pages. The list, which police say included the word “kill” in the title, included about 300 names.

The potential victims included student athletes, classmates, Oprah Winfrey, Tom Cruise and the Energizer Bunny.

It all might sound amusing to you, but there were many students that stayed home from school because their names were on the list. Now the girls may have to face serious penalties if convicted.

It could have simply been an innocuous joke played by a group of 14 and 15-year-old girls, but the truth of the matter is that it wasn’t really comical at all. That is not the only problem that has arisen from use of the website. There have been numerous accounts of predators creating profiles and using them to connect with teens.

In New York, one sex offender was caught because police found the online evidence of conversations he had with teens and children he had written to them. Furthermore, MySpace and the many websites of its ilk have been the cause of many misunderstandings.

The University of Dayton recently performed a study that found that 42 percent of employers surveyed would factor in an applicant’s online profile when deciding whether or not to hire them. A growing number of people may find themselves turned down for a job because they decided to make their private life public by posting the most intimate details about their life on the Internet.

People who enjoy chatting on MySpace, Facebook and websites like it should use them with exceeding caution.

Know whom you are accepting as a friend, because you can never be 100 percent assured that the person is who they say they are and you don’t want to regret it later.

Also, know your limits. Be vigilant, aware of what you write on your profile or anyone else’s, because anything you post can become embarrassing, incriminating and potentially endanger your reputation and quite possibly your life.

Who can really say how many stalkers have used the resources on these sites to feed their obsessions and learn the most personal details about the objects of their fixations?

A website is not worth the risk of losing a friend or possibly being stalked. MySpace and Facebook ultimately cause more problems and headaches than they do good.

Children and teens are becoming addicted to this form of communication that can make them more vulnerable, and adults have found that problems can arise for them as well. Life can be far less complicated and to a large extent safer without using these sites. Your “space” could be invaded and your life ruined. Consider yourself warned.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to thebeacononline@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.

JON ROBERTS/THE BEACON
Spring calls for attempt at Godliness

I’m an accidental pack rat. Over the course of moving to bigger locations and having more space to fill, I’ve established an archive of my life: sheet music, old newspapers and a still fully-decorated plastic Christmas tree – from 2004. I call it “hermit crab syndrome.” There’s no reason for this chaos, just that, like many other college kids, the only time you have in your room is to change clothes, eat, put down today’s crap and pick up some for tomorrow.

While spring doesn’t officially start until March, the Spring season has, which means it’s the perfect time to embark on the truly self-affirming experience that is spring cleaning. Some say cleanliness is next to Godliness. This guide will focus on getting friendly with the bathtub-wearing, bearded dude upstairs. Let’s get ready to Roomba.

MEMORY DELETED

Hindsight is a great way to discern what stays and what goes. Is the napkin from your high school’s 2003 homecoming really useful? As I remember, you were holding back your friend’s hair as she worshipped the porcelain throne after she lost her first fight with Jose Cuervo. Honestly, I think that’s a memory worth deleting.

Anything that’s from a past relationship, especially if it ended badly, is also fair game to get rid of. You don’t have to deny that the giant purple alligator he won for you at the fair is cute, but it doesn’t make up for the fact that you paid his way in, plus the $30 of baseballs it took him to dunk that you paid his way in, plus the $30 worth of baseballs it took him to dunk that loud mouth clown.

The other day I found 12 blue ribbons for winning various elementary school sports “championships.” As I recall, I was the first person out and the last person picked to play dodgeball. I got rid of them just so as a crazy old lady I wouldn’t spread legends of our family’s propensity toward sports. It would be a hard fall from that pedestal. I can still recall the precise sound of an inflated rubber ball hitting a 9-year-old’s thigh.

PAPER WORK

Sometimes in the process of cleaning, you’ll find things to which you didn’t know you worshipped. Apparently I’m in a devout reader of literature from the FIU Department of Traffic and Parking. I also am a big fan of the prolific works of the Washington Mutual overdraft.
Lack of student, cashier knowledge affects program

JAM REWARDS, page 6

It sounds simple enough, but if you’ve tried using the Jam card this semester, you may have noticed some kinks.

“We’ve had some problems with the system,” Cordero said. “It’s in the beginning stages, but it’s going to pick up next semester.”

Chief among the problems with Jam Rewards is the lack of student knowledge about the rewards system. Cordero attributes this to the fact that Panther Dining has not yet started its complete advertising campaign for the rewards.

In addition to students not knowing about Jam, many cashiers are also unaware of its usage.

“They came in and explained to us how to use [the Jam Reward system],” said Veronica Sanchez, a cashier at Gracie’s Grill. “But I don’t use it.”

“We were waiting to do another complete training session after all of our venues were completed,” Cordero said.

On Feb. 2 there was a training session for Aramark cashiers on how to use the Jam system.

Despite the setbacks, the Jam Rewards system looks like it could really catch on, based on student reactions to hearing about it for the first time.

“I had no idea it existed,” said sophomore Elyse Coleman. “But I’m going to check it out.”

Though for Coleman, who lives on campus, activating her Jam account is a little more difficult than it may be for those who do not have an existing meal plan. This is because those who signed up for meal plans are automatically signed up for the Jam Rewards Program.

According to Cordero, there are currently 1,400 people enrolled in the Jam Rewards Program.

Getting rid of clutter beneficial to moving toward the future

SPRING CLEANING, page 6

agency and Cingular’s final notices. Who says I don’t read for pleasure?

Seriously though, as a fan of keeping trees around, an easy and socially inevitable way to alleviate the mess is online banking and bill paying.

I’m trying to get my mom on board, but she’s still not comfortable with the idea of an ATM card. (This is actually true).

Old textbooks (the ones you couldn’t sell back) and high-school required reading are a huge bulk you could either get rid of or donate. Reference sections are for the library, not your makeshift-stack-of-crates-bookshelf.

I know you spent $120 on a chemistry book, but if your major is creative writing, I think you’re safe to get rid of it.

A WORD ON CLOTHES

You’re not going to fit into those pants again. Deal with it.

SWEET FREEDOM

Some say an absence of clutter allows the mind to clear. Not to mention, you feel more relaxed and at home in your surroundings.

No one says there’s no room for nostalgia. Keep things like old notes, journals, birthday cards, etc. Just don’t overdo it. Holding on to old crap both physically and mentally holds you back from getting new … crap. And nobody wants that. Good luck.

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FOOD

Little Saigon – 16752 North Miami Avenue

LAINDA DE LA FUENTE  Staff Writer

Vietnamese food in Miami exists in two forms: expensive fancy restaurants and tiny little joints. Either way, one can experience good Vietnamese fare. However, few offer good fare with an enjoyable authenticity such as Little Saigon in North Miami Beach.

Little Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant lies unimpressively to the side of a gas station off Miami Beach Boulevard and isn’t much of a restaurant to brag about – the décor is practically nonexistent while the wait staff is few and far between.

No matter, because Little Saigon stands as an exception to other small restaurants, competing for patron’s dollars. The one waitress moves quickly enough while the menu is extensive and the food is satisfying.

Little Saigon offers a wide array of food. For those who are adventurous, pig’s feet and ears can be enjoyed. For the more timid eater, there are just as many more sound culinary choices.

The sizzling crepe is an appetizer favorite. Reminiscent of the French influence that Vietnamese culture has, this dish is an omelet-like crepe stuffed with pork, shrimp and bean sprouts.

Summer rolls are always an appetizing choice: stuffed with pork, shrimp or both and a range of fresh vegetables. Edamame, or boiled soybeans, is an appetizer that is surprisingly both tasty and good for you. It has been found by the Food and Drug Administration to help fight heart disease and cancer.

Although all Vietnamese restaurants have basics like fried rice and stir-frys, the classic dishes to try are their huge noodle soups. You can choose from rice or egg noodles and any type of meat ranging from beef to seafood.

A large dish of vegetables from fresh mint to bean sprouts and fresh jalapenos is brought to your table as additions to your soup. There are also several sauces that range from sweet to spicy. Each soup can essentially be perfectly catered to your taste buds.

These soups are large so if you don’t like large portions, one of these soups can be shared; the restaurant will be happy to bring you two smaller bowls.

Asian restaurants have a wonderful way of having dishes that double as desserts and pick-me-ups. Vietnamese coffee can either be served hot or cold. Usually made with a French roast, this coffee is sweetened with condensed milk. Carefully brewed, the coffee is made stronger while the condensed milk gives it a dessert-like sweetness that sugar alone could never do.

“Carefully brewed, the coffee is made stronger while the condensed milk gives it a dessert-like sweetness that sugar alone could never do.”

You The Destroyer?

REINIER HERNANDEZ  Staff Writer

Georgia-based band Of Montreal emerged in the late ’90s as a typical lo-fi indie group with a strong sense for pop sensibilities. Over the years, the band has evolved their sound significantly, with the inclusion of psychedelic, music hall and even vaudevillian instrumentation appearing on their albums. Their recent releases have taken them in a decidedly electronic direction, appearing on their albums. Their front-man and primary songwriter Kevin Barnes has varied both the instrumentation and his approach to lyrics throughout Of Montreal’s career. He began writing conventional pop songs about relationships and love before moving to more narrative lyrics, usually using a separate character to tell the story. However, with Hissing Fauna, Barnes’ lyrics have become wholly personal and particularly dark.

Barnes secluded himself in Norway while writing the album as he describes, “on the verge of a breakdown,” and on the song “Cato as a Pun” he sings about isolating himself from society: “I guess you just want to shave your head! Have a drink and be left alone” before the music completely stops and he whispers wearily, “Is that too much to ask?” Barnes also tackles the issue of his own fame and dissatisfaction with it on the song “Gronlandic Edit,” where he sings “All the party people dancing for the indie star! But he’s the worst faker by far.”

However – and this is key to Of Montreal’s appeal – Barnes is able to combine generally depressing lyrics with upbeat, almost bubbly music. One of the most surreal moments I had while listening to the album was bobbing my head and singing along loudly with a huge smile on my face to the song “Heimdalsgate like a Promethean Curse.”

The premise of the song deals with chemical dependence, a very real and dangerous problem, and the lyrics reflect this. But the chorus consists of Barnes singing “c'mon chemicals!” over and over and, while I recognized that this must have been a painful experience for Barnes, the music it’s set to is so happy, you can’t help but sing along.

The rest of the album is no less dichotomous and adventurous for the band known for their catchy hooks and melodies. Along with the usual pop offerings, we get an experimental, electronic epic with “The Past is a Gotesque Animal,” clocking in at almost 12 minutes and the wonderfully funky “Fabetes Falls for Shuggie” is another gem uncharacteristic of the band.

While this album definitely a departure for the group, there’s so much musical diversity here while still maintaining the characteristics that made the band great in the first place that both old fans and new listeners can find something to love.
French film star gives cannibal role humanity

ULLIEL, page 6

She is very pretty you know, and when you meet her you can see that she is very funny and cheerful and easy going.

As an actor she is very generous, she gives a lot. She has a very Asian way of working, very precise and focused and that helps.

Q: What was it like making the transition to an English-language film?

It was not very easy and it was a bit anxious about it. I had one accent coach and he worked with me. Obviously when you are working in another language it means additional work on the set every day. You have to try to make the dialogue sound natural. You’re really迫使 yourself as when you work in your own language. Like in English there are certain intonations that are different in English than in French.

Q: Where do you go from here, do you want to be in more English and American films, and if so, which directors would you like to work with?

This is a job where you don’t really know what’s going to happen tomorrow. So I won’t say, ‘I hope this gets me more offers’. I would like to work in American films.

There are a lot of very talented people. But I love French cinema, too.

Q: Thomas Harris received criticism for writing the book and the screenplay for this film simultaneously and some say that making a prequel takes away some of the character’s mystery. How do you respond to that?

I think some people are complaining about making a prequel because they feel it takes away the mystery but, you know, it’s up to Thomas Harris [the author of Silence of the Lambs, Hannibal and Red Dragon]. He is like Hannibal’s father and he can do what he wants with him.

I thought the script was very interesting and if you have three books already about him it might be good to explain the past of the character.

Q: How does this compare to your other films?

Working in English was very different and way more tiring in a way.

This was the first time I worked 12 hours a day. In France we are a little bit lazy and we work only 8 hours a day. It was also way more daunting and challenging working on such an iconic role. I’m nearly in every scene and there’s a lot more pressure playing such an iconic role. This is the first time I’ve been very anxious and frightened about the opening of a film.

Q: How was it working with Peter Weber?

It was great. The producers met me first and then they presented me to Peter in Paris. We met and I could see that he was very welcoming, cool and nice.

He really wanted to do the film and had an idea about what to do with it and that was very reassuring. After that I saw Girl with a Pearl Earring and I was seduced by this small film.

In our second meeting we had auditions and I liked the way he worked with me. He gives his actors a lot of freedom and he lets us suggest things and he was always available for his actors.

Q: Do you sympathize more with Hannibal now that you’ve made this film?

In this film we can see how everything started and [that] he is not as evil as you might think. He’s just a kid who drifted away from reality. It always [seemed] strange to me why the audience [was] always seduced by him, even when he was a real serial killer. I think it’s because he is a mixture of all the worst and best aspects of a human being.

He is a killer, who is a little perverted, a little bit insane. But he is also talented and witty and smart and really very charming.

Q: How many weeks did it take you to shoot this film?

It was shot in Prague. It was freezing cold most of the time and it took a long time; three months and a half, six days a week and I was there most days.

Q: Are you a horror fan? How does this film compare to the others?

I’m not a big horror fan, but it’s a nice thing to be frightened in the cinema.

We are sensation-seeking creatures.

This film is different. It’s in a different country, in a different period, more of a human aspect to Hannibal. It’s less of a psychological thriller. It’s more gory, has more action scenes, I guess.

SGC-BBC forum provides answers to student questions

CHRISTINA LEMUS
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus held their “Got Questions?” forum in Panther Square where they had answered frequently asked questions.

The event took place Jan. 30 and 31 with lots of free food, music, prize give-aways and any information a student might need to get involved.

Christian Jeannot SGC-BBC’s chief of staff, specified that the raising of the athletic fee will be addressed on Feb. 7 at the council’s next weekly meeting, where they will discuss the impact that the increase will have on students.

Along with the “Got Questions?” forum, Panther Square was the site for the BBC Club Fair. Different clubs, along with SGC-BBC, had information booths set up to inform students of the different clubs on campus and how to get involved.

Clubs for drama, science and the FIU Student Alumni Association were just some of the organizations looking for new members.

A more recent club, The Speakeasies underground literary magazine, was looking for creative minds to help jump-start the only underground literary magazine at FIU.

SGC-BBC also offered information on a new event called “In the Zone Tournament” which kicked off on the second day of the forum with a ping-pong tournament. Future events will include other BBC sports such as tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer and swimming.

Both events appealed to students such as Adaugo Nnadi as many walked by on their way to class, partaking in free pizza and information.

“found it very informative, especially being a new student on campus. I think it’s very important to get involved,” said Nnadi, a senior and transfer student to the campus.

Nnadi was particularly interested in the “Got Questions?” forum, which made people aware of opening positions on the council staff.

Such positions include graduate representative, student union board, parliamentarian and Campus Life chair.

Requirements to get involve in SGC-BBC include a 3.0 GPA, 50% of classes must be taken on Biscayne Bay campus and must attend the Wednesday meetings.

Nnadi is hoping to attend the next SGC-BBC meeting.

“The students need to know we are here for them. We want students to be active [on campus] and come to us with their concerns. SGC-BBC is simply students working for students,” said Daniela Ottati, sophomore and special events director for the council.

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The men’s pre-season basketball intramural championship game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange Marriage game was a re-enactment of The Strange
Want it more than others.”

Just a year removed from FIU, Turnbull has already shared the field with some of the NFL’s elite players like Brian Urlacher, Devon Hester, Warrick Dunn and Michael Vick. Once the star shock wore off, Turnbull realized he was built for the NFL.

“I thought the speed was going to be faster,” Turnbull said. “I thought everyone was going to be stronger. You actually surprise yourself. You see these guys running on TV and when you run next to them, you’re like, ‘Hey I can run with them, too.’ But before you do it, you’re unsure you can.”

Although he was keeping up with Atlanta Falcons receivers step for step in practice, he wasn’t excused from the rookie hazing that most rookies around the league receive.

“Often times, he would have to carry veterans’ pads and equipment off the field or buy all the defensive backs drinks when they would go out.

“A couple times, I had to leave for D’Angelo Hall to get him Sonics,” he said. “I had to leave the facility to go get him some fast food.”

Turnbull’s days as D’Angelo Hall’s servant would be short lived as the Falcons would release him, only to have the Chicago Bears claim him off waivers two days later.

“I didn’t know the Bears picked me up because the NFL computers crashed,” Turnbull said. “The Bears called me and said, ‘Hey you’re talking to your new boss.’”

On Dec. 12, Turnbull exchanged the fair Atlanta weather for the Windy City of Chicago. When he first arrived to his new city, he was greeted with snow, snow and more snow.

“I lived in Miami my whole life. I’m in Atlanta [and] I thought 45 degrees is freezing,” Turnbull said. “I get off the plane. I’m wearing shorts and a t-shirt. It’s like 15 degrees and there’s snow everywhere, and I’m like, damn.”

The weather proved to be the most difficult change for Turnbull to adjust to. On-the-field adjustments, on the other hand, proved to be easy.

As a member of the Bears special teams unit, Turnbull didn’t understand why the Bears have been tagged as underdogs the whole season.

Even though his team went up against one of the best defenses in the NFL, Turnbull still believed that the Bears would pull out a victory.

“Turnbull said he was just happy to be part of the Super Bowl and he understands what a great defense his team has.

Heading into training camp next season, Turnbull will be looking to expand his role on the Bears defense.

“The Bears have one of the best defenses in the NFL, so there’s no reason to fix what’s not broke,” he said. Being from South Florida, teammates have constantly been asking him directions and asking him to take them out to South Beach.

Although he didn’t expect to play a huge role against the Indianapolis Colts, Turnbull believes he’ll be able to have a more prominent role on the team next year.

“I always just thought of going to the NFL,” he said. “I never really thought about playing in the Super Bowl.”
This year’s women’s pre-season intramural basketball tournament was a close match between the Hoopstarz and the Ballin’.

Both teams kept the score close, until a strong offensive performance in overtime by the Hoopstarz gave them the victory.

The 33-29 win, in addition to the previous game’s 27-20 win, made the Hoopstarz this year’s pre-season champions.

The best-of-three tournament was held in the University Park Recreation Center Jan. 30. Recreation Center staff said this game may be a preview of things to come.

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**XAVIER E. MARTINEZ**
Contributing Writer

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**CHARLIE GRAU**
Sports Editor

Chicago Bears backup safety Nick Turnbull used to ride his bike past Joe Robbie Stadium as a child and tell his mother how he would be playing in that stadium one day. However, he never thought he’d be playing in Joe Robbie – now Dolphin Stadium – in a Super Bowl.

The former Golden Panthers safety’s road to the Super Bowl XLI has been full of twists and turns.

Coming out of high school, Turnbull wasn’t even eligible to play due to his grades and SAT scores.

Although he was taking night classes and studying to retake his SAT’s, it reached a point in which he started working at Publix as a produce assistant. The former All-Broward safety drew interest from schools, such as Georgia, until they found out about his academics.

Although Georgia and other major universities stopped pursuing him, former FIU head football coach Don Stock continued to show interest in Turnbull.

After becoming eligible, he decided to remain loyal to Stock and play for the Golden Panthers. Through it all, Turnbull remained positive and up beat, praying for a shot to play.

"Whenever it’s going to get dark, it’s going to get brighter eventually," Turnbull said. “A lot of people’s abilities are the same. Some people just

**SUPER DREAMS**

Hoopstarz edge out Ballin’ late for pre-season intramural title honors

XAVIER E. MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

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“The will most likely be the two teams in the regular season championships,” said Matt O’Conner, intramural and club sports coordinator.

Team Ballin’ took an early lead in game two and held the score at 7-5 for the first 15 minutes. A 3-point shot by Hoopstarz’s Porscha Butler pulled her team ahead 8-7 with 5:43 left in the half.

Ballin’ quickly responded with a jump shot by Dana Smith, making the score 9-8.

Trailing 11-8 with 2:10 left, Butler slammed another 3-pointer, tying the score. Two more 3-pointers by both sides left the score tied at 14-14 by the end of the first half.

The score in the second half quickly climbed to 18-14 after two shots from Ballin’s Alessandra Rosa and Katia Moles.

With nine minutes left, Hoopstarz’s Dana Smith hit two jump shots, keeping her team at 22-19.

A successful 3-point shot by Ballin’s Melissa Andrews caused the Hoopstarz to call a timeout with the score at 25-24 in Ballin’s favor.

Hoopstarz’ Stephanie Pita came out from the timeout with a crucial 3-point shot, which gave her team a 27-25 lead.

The lead was lost just as quickly when Ballin’ once again tied the score at 27-27 with two minutes left.

Hoopstarz fans went wild as Ballin’s Alessandra Rosa’s last second jump shot rimmed out.

Jessica Lee began Hoopstarz’s 6-2 overtime run with a baseline lay up.

Butler locked in the win by dominating the offensive boards and making four of the last six points for her team.

“I was struggling with the girl’s ball, but I adjusted,” Butler said, who also runs for the track and field team.

Rosa barely missed a shot that could’ve led Ballin’ to victory. She is sure this was not the last meeting between these two teams.

“We need to organize our

**WOMEN’S, page 10**

OVERTIME: Jessica Lee began the Hoopstarz’s 6-2 run during overtime to capture the women’s pre-season intramural championship.