Political clubs make campus comeback

KELLY POVEROMO Contributing Writer

Students looking for a chance to immerse themselves in the world of politics have the opportunity to expose their art in the museum’s walls, showing their artistic talents to other students and faculty members.

The 2007 Annual Student Art Show will take place Feb. 9 at 8 p.m., and will be presented by special guests such as Rosalyn Sugranz, a long time member of FIU’s Board of Trustees, who will be presenting some of the awards to the best art pieces in 20 different categories.

Another guest at the event will be Alfonso “Alfie” Leon, Student Government Association president, who will be the Master of Ceremony.

The art competition was open to all students, and works could be submitted in any medium, such as photography, ceramics, wood paint, graphite, audio/visual, acrylic and oil.

For the first time, the “Best in the Show” award will be given this year.

Barbel Cidro, the museum’s curator, is part of the jury who will be selecting the winning art pieces.

“Only 70 or so art works were chosen for the Annual Student Show from hundreds of submitted works, and only about 20 of them will actually receive awards,” Cidro said.

Different issues and themes inspired students’ artworks.

Mariela Rossell and Kacey Westall, both juniors majoring in fine arts, collaborated in a piece called Serial, Cereal that is going to be exposed at the museum during the show. The medium for their work was digital media.

“The inspiration for my piece was the serial killer Ed Geins,” Rossell said.

Cristina Molina, also a junior majoring in fine arts, used video as her medium for her work titled Foot Cooling and Gorgeous Legs.

“In the video I interview seven women. My inspiration was to see how issues of beauty and aging affect women at all ages,” Molina said.

She plans to continue working on the piece after the exhibition and interview more women to enhance her work. Molina is also planning on submitting her work to other art contests.

At the opening ceremony, the exhibition of the student works will remain open until March 11, when the art pieces will be taken off and all works will be returned to the students who created them.

This year’s show has many sponsors including Border’s Framing; Artmex; Inc; Nu Press, Books & Books, Inc.; Ray Stormont; David Blumenthal; and President Modesto A. Maidique, who also made the donation for the awards ceremony.

The show will take place at The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

Entrance is free and open to everyone.
BIBLE BELIEVERS

PREACH: The Christian group Bible Believers demonstrate at University Park Feb. 5 as part of a campaign to preach in universities across Florida. Their fiery message brought loud complaints from students in attendance.

Complaints over events continue

She also said that, though representatives from organizations such as the BSU and the Caribbean Students Association, among others, attended some of their meetings, she didn’t hear of complaints until close to the end of January.

“There’s red tape to go through in anything at FIU. We’re students, we can’t do whatever we want. I tried to listen to everyone and try to work it out, even asking the group whether serving BBQ as a food would be offensive and they voted no.”

Barbel’s collective committee consisted of a group of 10 to 15 students and faculty, all of different backgrounds and ethnicities. She mentioned that, when she found out about events such as the pageant, she would update the calendar and find out how feasible they were.

“BSU came to me telling me they wanted to put on a play for Pan-African Week except they needed some funding. They presented me with the outline of costs and some things made sense and some didn’t. I let them know that if they held it in the GC Pit they would save money on expenses such as microphones,” Barbel said.

“I even went with them to the offices to fill out the necessary forms, but there wasn’t anything we could do when it was cancelled by the Graham Center.

Similar to the play were issues that arose with reservation conflicts with the GC ballrooms for the pageant, according to Barbel.

“Some of them came to me the week after asking if they could, but by then it was too late,” Barbel said.

She insists she did the best she could to get back in touch with those who couldn’t attend all meetings and even developed a Yahoo group to communicate with those who didn’t come. According to Barbel, the problem was that those who attended the meetings didn’t make their opinions known.

However, Bellot argues that more should and could have been done.

“When they give excuses, it’s because they didn’t look into it,” Bellot said.

She also said she and other members were present at the meetings and did give their input, specifically regarding the coffee house and the pageant, but they could only do so much.

SPC interim president, Micaela Ancewicz, said there are resolutions on the horizon.

“It’s now being discussed by Campus Life and they just don’t want it to be an issue in the future. But we are working on a solution,” Ancewicz said.

“[Barbel] works day and night on this for many, many months, and what does she get as feedback? Complaints.”

Charlie Andrews, director of Campus Life, didn’t see anything wrong with the student’s protests.

“This is just based on people’s perceptions of how things were planned. I have no problem with people protesting. They are welcome to express how they feel,” Andrews said.

 Clubs look to recruit

They’ve been striving to gain and keep members during years between elections.

“Right now, I’m hoping to keep the club alive,” said Mark Romero, chairman.

“Students at FIU... even political science majors have little interest [in] politics. A lot of people do not have enough interest to remain in the club.”

Romero hopes to promote CD by hosting events such as voter registration, charities and also debates with republicans on campus.

“Hopefully the debates will foster interest,” Romero said.

Romero believes that both clubs must remain together. "If one [club] falls, the other one does as well.”

Another tactic for CD to gain popularity is by inviting future democrat presidential candidate, Barack Obama, to speak at FIU.

By following necessary procedures, Romero claims it is quite easy to get politicians to speak at universities.

“All you have to do is fill out paper work and send it into the senator’s office. The senator will reply back to you within three weeks,” Romero said.

This process is especially easy because it is free. Requesting politicians to speak benefits both the speaker who is campaigning and the audience learning about the speaker.

Romero is also trying to lead the democrats into participating in a charity involved in helping the victims of the Darfur genocide.

CD meets every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 140.

Any students interested in joining the CD may contact Romero by email at Mrom014@fiu.edu.

Any students wishing to find more information on the CR can contact Peraza at Leonel.Peraza@fiu.edu.
Catholic concert celebrates religious, racial diversity

CARLA ST. LOUIS
Contributing Writer

Known as a day of praise and worship, the third annual Faith Fest Concert’s goal is to demonstrate that a person’s fellowship with God is not just limited to their house of worship.

“The Faith Fest Concert is an opportunity to experience faith in different ways outside of the confinement of church. This event symbolizes a way to come commemorate God all while enjoying themselves with young people the knowledge of faith and celebrating your universal fellowship with God—all religious faiths are welcomed,” Bourgault said.

The concert will consist of performances by spiritual artists and guest speakers. These special guests were selected to represent the theme, “Go Make a Difference.”

The concert’s headliner is Steve Angrisano, a recording artist. Angrisano will also give a keynote speech about making a difference through simple actions.

Other performers include Tocando a tu Puerta, a Latino Christian band, and Biju, an Indian musician. Felipe Estevez, bishop of The Archdiocese of Miami, will give a trilingual mass in Creole, English and Spanish.

Senior Elizabeth Schwartz believes the Faith Fest Concert will make a positive impact on students and the South Florida community at large.

“This event is beneficial for FIU students because students are re-establish and reinforce beliefs and morals,” Schwartz said.

This year, it is being held at St. Thomas University from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Feb. 10. Tickets are $5 per person.

“It is beneficial since this event allows campuses to unite; like-minded individuals get to meet each other,” said senior Edison Lozada. Despite the event being sponsored by a Catholic organization, it welcomes students and individuals from all faiths and cultures.

“The Faith Fest Concert is about celebrating your universal fellowship with God—all religious faiths are welcomed,” Bourgault said.

The event is sponsored by the IMPACT Movement and SPC and is part of Student Programming Council’s Pan-African Celebration. This event is free for FIU students.

Living heroes awarded for uplifting human values

The Art of Living Celebration will honor and celebrate human values, as well as honor four South Floridians whose activities uplift and serve humanity. Each will receive a Sri Ravi Shankar Award for uplifting Human Values. The celebration will take place Feb. 13 at the WUC Ballroom from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are $10 for non-students and $5 for students.

For additional questions and assistance, please contact Carlos Aspillaga, senior project manager, at 305-919-4049.

-- Compiled by Ana Davis, Beacon Staff
EYES ON THE PRIZE: Al Gore was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for making the global warming awareness documentary An Inconvenient Truth. The movie grossed over $23 million.

Gore shouldn't get Nobel Prize

By C. Joel Marino - Opinion Editor

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. won for his effort to bring racial harmony to American society. In 1999, John Hume and David Trimble won for their efforts to find a solution that would bring peace to Northern Ireland; Kim Dae Jung won the Prize in 2000 for working toward peace and reconciliation between North and South Korea. These three past recipients, out of over one hundred, have done great things to try to bring peace to our world.

Al Gore has done nothing but make the world aware of an environmental issue. The United States Environmental Protection Agency gives out an Environmental Award each year and Al Gore would be a perfectly qualified candidate for it, not for the Nobel Peace Prize.

However, the Nobel Prize committee should consider any of its other 190 nominees who have made more of an impact on our world through peace and restoration.

Other nominees such as Bono and Bob Geldof have made significant efforts to diminish poverty in developing nations and have dedicated much into doing so. They are much more qualified for the award and should be recognized.

The Washington Post, Fox News and numerous other periodicals and cable news stations claim that Al Gore has made a significant difference, and they could not be more wrong. Boerge Brende, a Conservative member of Norway’s Parliament, told Reuters, “I think that climate change is this century’s most important and most threatening environmental issue, and I think Al Gore has made a difference in putting climate changes on the global agenda.”

What Brende does not realize is that we cannot change the weather. Humans do not necessarily cause global warming, and the Earth has undergone great changes in temperature before. However, there are many other things that we can advocate to improve the condition of the world.

Some undoubtedly obvious examples would be trying to help the unstable situation in the Middle East, or making the world more aware of each other’s differences and increasing communication between our powerful leaders, and helping underdeveloped countries come out of poverty. These are all valid efforts that would be rightful qualifications for the Nobel Prize.

Al Gore has been nominated for an award that is supposed to recognize the effort to bring peace to our globe, and he has not accomplished that endeavor.

The Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded on Dec. 10 2007 in Oslo, Norway, and hopefully the person receiving it will be deserving of its prestige, honor and acknowledgment.
PROFESSOR PERFORMS RECOVERED HOLOCAUST PIECE

SARAH RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

The story begins with three families affected by the Holocaust: the families of Polish conductor-composer Paul Kletzki; American Symphony Orchestra Music Director Leon Botstein, whose grandfather was Kletzki’s personal friend; and FIU professor and artist in residence Robert Davidovici, whose mother was in Auschwitz concentration camp.

The American Symphony Orchestra will play Kletzki’s “Violin Concerto, Op. 19” on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in New York’s Lincoln Center. This is the first time the concerto will be performed after the piece was almost obliterated during World War II.

Conducting it will be Leon Botstein and performing its solo will be none other than Davidovici.

Kletzki was born in 1900 and composed his concerto in 1928. The Nazis placed a ban on Polish orchestras and compositions affected by the Holocaust: the families of Kletzki’s achievement as a composer.

Bozst in said that Kletzki’s unspeakable losses caused him not only to never unlock the trunks but also to lay down his pen, turning from composing to only conducting.

Davidovici also wrote that Kletzki’s renditions can find his CD on Amazon.

“I had the privilege of meeting him,” Botstein said on the American Symphony’s website. “I recall even then an aspect of resignation, if not bitterness, which the history of his career makes all too understandable.”

Botstein wrote. “It is my hope that this performance of his Violin Concerto will assist the overdue reexamination of Kletzki’s achievement as a composer.”

The events of Feb. 9, then, will represent the crossing paths of three men with rich histories. As historically and personally significant as this evening will be, Davidovici holds the firm conviction that he must play each and every piece throughout his career with as much passion as he will play Kletzki’s.

The piece I’m playing at that moment has to be my favorite so that what I’m imparting to the people will be something that they take home,” he said.

Such a comment reveals part of Davidovici’s philosophy of music, one that certainly had an early commencement, as he picked up his first violin at age six in his native Romania. He later attended and became a teaching assistant at The Juilliard School in New York. He has since performed with musicians such as Isaac Stern and Yo-Yo Ma, as well as received first prizes at the and the Carnegie Hall International American Music Violin competitions as well as in the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation Violin competition.

Davidovici hopes to instill his love of music in his students.

“They received an enthusiastic response,” Melocarro said, “since Dr. Botstein had been searching for a work to perform that was truly representative of Kletzki’s greatness.”

Botstein was so eager to pay tribute to Kletzki’s name and talent partly because he himself had observed the toll the war had taken on Kletzki’s persona.

“Once we get together, it actually becomes easier to do it. We recorded ‘Warriors’ in one night.”

Though few Hispanic rap artists are dominating the charts, Strong Hearts saw 305-native Pitbull’s success and believed they could create their own path to stardom. Strong Hearts said they want their music to cater to everyone who loves hip-hop music.

“We represent for every f—culture there is,” Lyriq said.

Strength will be performing live Feb. 9, midnight, at Club 609. To purchase their album or hear some of their songs, check them out at myspace.com/stronghearts4e.
### Weekend Events

#### THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 8

**WHAT:** Shh… Series “Hip Hop is Dead… The Emergence and Triumph of the Bling Culture

**WHERE:** GC 140 (FIU-UP)

**WHEN:** 12 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** SPC Comedy Connection presents “Comic View at FIU”

**WHERE:** GC Ballrooms (FIU-UP)

**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

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#### FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 9

**WHAT:** Relay for Life

**WHERE:** FIU Football Stadium (FIU-UP)

**WHEN:** 6 p.m. – 6 p.m. (to 02/10)

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** New World School Theatre presents “Angels in America”

**WHERE:** Colony Theatre (1040 Lincoln RD, Miami Beach, FL  33139)

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $12 (Student $5)

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#### SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 10

**WHAT:** El Mundial De La Salsa 2007

**WHERE:** 401 E 65th Street, Hialeah, FL  33013

**WHEN:** 1 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $15

**WHAT:** Valentine’s Concert

**WHERE:** Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (FIU-BBC)

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

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#### SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 11

**WHAT:** Miami Heat vs. San Antonio Spurs

**WHERE:** American Airlines Arena (601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL  33132)

**WHEN:** 1 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Go to ticketmaster.com for details

**WHAT:** Comedian Adam Ferrara

**WHERE:** The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182, Miami, FL 33133 USA)

**WHEN:** 8:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $12.84

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Dear Readers,

Has Life! lost all meaning?

Help us, help you.

Find “The Meaning of Life” and “How to” get it every Monday
Season’s success will depend on young arms

OUTFIELD
Like their infield, the outfield will be just as solid with senior Preseason All-Sun Belt center fielder Deonna Murray.

Last season, Murray wowed fans and opponents with her ball-hawking defense. Murray will also be the catalyst of the offense, leading off the batting order. She also stole 24 bases while batting .286 last season.

Next to Murray will be senior Ashley Falk in left field and Kim Rodriguez in right field.

Complimenting Murray’s super woman defense is the perfectionist defense of Rodriguez, who had a perfect fielding percentage of 1.000 last season.

Along with her stellar defense, Rodriguez drove in 21 runs last season while batting .263.

Falk only started in 23 of the 41 games she appeared in last season.

In her limited playing time, she batted .200 while driving in nine runs.

“Talent wise, we can go as far as we want to go,” Murray said.

“It’s up to us how successful we are going to be this year. On any given day we can beat anybody.”

OUTLOOK
Although the FIU was chosen to finish third in the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Softball Preseason Coaches Poll, the Golden Panthers have a shot to win their conference as long as their pitching improves throughout the season.

They have the ability to manufacture runs at any point and outscore an opponent if needed.

With a strong infield and outfield, expect some spectacular plays throughout the season.

“It’s going to be a tremendously solid team,” Gwydir said.

“We’ve got a deep team hitting. It’s got everything from speed at the top, to consistent hitters, to kids who can hit the long ball. We’ve got the best outfield in the conference – easily.”

DEFENSIVE: Sophomore shortstop Monique White will be one of the new faces looking to anchor the Golden Panthers’ infield.
Team taking aim at top of conference

CHARRIE GRAU
Sports Editor

After the University of Louisiana-Lafayette was predicted in a preseason poll by coaches to win the 2007 Sun Belt Conference title, the women’s softball team is looking to prove all the doubters wrong. Last season, the women’s softball team got off to a tough start, but ended up finishing second in Sun Belt conference play. The Golden Panthers are looking for a different finish this season – on top.

PITCHERS

Pitching will most likely be the Achilles heel of Golden Panthers. Last year’s ace Sarah Belanger, who tossed 181.2 innings and recorded a 2.16 ERA, will be missed. Toeing the rubber for the Golden Panthers will be juniors Morgan Huling and Kerri Houck and sophomores Penny Eastman and Sandy Acevedo. Houck, who threw 85 innings last season with a 4.36 ERA, will be filling in the shoes Belanger as the team’s ace. Eastman, who threw 117.1 innings with a 4.18 ERA last year, will follow Houck in the rotation.

“We’ve just got inexperience pitching and the only way that gets better is with experience,” coach Kim Gwydir said. “The pitching will get better day in and day out, going out there.”

Since conference play doesn’t start until March 10, Gwydir will use a tough non-conference schedule to help develop Huling and Acevedo. Pitching the younger arms early will also give Houck and Eastman a break from tiring out their arms.

“I don’t want to run them into the ground early. We’re going to be using the bullpen early on,” Gwydir said. “It’ll keep them strong where were not over pitching them early in the early in the year. By spring, when we get to conference, they’ll still have a lot of...