A proposal submitted by the University Park Student Government Council could combine the Student Organizations Council, the Honors Council and the Student Involvement Council into a single organization. Currently, an organization must apply for approval to be a part of the Student Government Council (SGC-UP), said Maria Cedaño, president of the Student Organizations Council. Three councils were asked to give input during a meeting, according to Cedaño. After the proposal was drafted and presented to SGC-UP, the three councils were asked to give input during a meeting, according to Cedaño. However, the meeting was cancelled due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

“It concerns me that the proposal is being rushed,” Cedaño said. Ifa Divination was written in Yoruba, a language that encompasses African history, culture and philosophy. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The Book of Diagnosis in Yoruba was a long process; slaves, Afro-Cubans, and priests took the oral tradition and documented it over a long period of time. The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The Book of Diagnosis in Yoruba was a long process; slaves, Afro-Cubans, and priests took the oral tradition and documented it over a long period of time. The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The Book of Diagnosis in Yoruba was a long process; slaves, Afro-Cubans, and priests took the oral tradition and documented it over a long period of time. The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The original was revealed to the people by a Yoruba leader. "This book was a giant monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolanos said. "Ifa Divination was written in a digital society where people can access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program. The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Work Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18. This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, a syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.
**Fourth annual ski trip planned**

**AMANDA MASSA  Staff Writer**

When an infrequent cold front hits South Florida, students and faculty around the campus pull out their winter wardrobe from the back of their closets for a few days. For those who wish to have a real winter experience, Recreation Services has a solution: a ski trip. The trip is scheduled for Feb. 22-24. The registration deadline is Feb. 1 at 5 p.m.

For the fourth year in a row, RS is presenting a ski trip for students, faculty and friends. The trip offers an outdoor recreation program for 50 guests.

---

**Society**

**SPC BBC Movie- “Dan in Real Life”**

“Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before.”

“Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before.”

“Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before.”

“Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before.”

---

**Police Notes**

**Jan. 7:** An officer was dispatched to the PAC building after being told that a suspicious female- non-FIU student - was sleeping in room 150, trespassing on school property. The officer on scene recognized the female, having warned her about trespassing at the school. After giving the female another warning, she stated that she would not leave the campus because she “had to dance,” and she felt she had done nothing wrong. The female was arrested for trespassing, being armed, and was sent to the FIU station for processing. The female was done nothing wrong. The female was arrested for trespassing.

**Jan. 9:** While playing basketball at the Recreation Center on UP, a male victim was hit in the head with an elbow. The victim refused medical attention and a friend transported him to see his doctor. The victim signed a medical release form and did not report to the Campus Safety.

**Jan. 10:** Police were called after a male student reported that his 2000 Honda Civic 2-door was broken into while parked in the Gold Garage. The victim said that his radio, cash and gear shift knob were the only items taken from the car. No further information was given.

---

**SGC-UP Notes**

Call to Order: 4:10 p.m. • Adjournment: 5:40 p.m.

**President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):**

- RUCKUS music downloading software contract has been approved.
- Student Involvement Council proposition voting is on Jan. 23.
- New Gmail interface for student accounts launches on Jan. 28.

**Comptroller’s Report (Sergio Barra-Bolanos):**

- Student organizations must properly spend allocated funds. If organizations do not spend funds correctly, they could be cut.

**Old Business:**

- Resolution “In Support of the Continued Tradition of Gracie’s” passed. Restaurant location will now retain the name “Gracie’s” regardless of food vendor present.

**New Business:**

- Linda Areliano unanimously voted as new SGC-UP clerk.
- Appropriation of $1,000 passed for “Focus the Nation.”

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff

---

**CONNECTIONS**

In the Jan. 17th issue of The Beacon, the story titled “Jerry Springer to defend show at lecture series” incorrectly listed that money for the lecture was provided by the Student Government Council’s lecture series at Biscayne Bay Campus. The lecture is sponsored by the BBC Student Programming Council. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP-office at 305-919-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.

The ACLU, in conjunction with the Faculty Senate of FIU, brought a lawsuit against the state and the Board in 2006, arguing that the travel ban is unconstitutional.

In the latest chapter of the case, in January 2008, the Board filed its own lawsuit against the state declaring the lack of differentiation between state and non-state dollars in the act is unconstitutional.

“We asked the court to look at the question of [whether] the legislature overstepped its authority,” Edmonds said.

According to Brandon Hensley, director of communications for the ACLU, the travel ban manages solely to “hamper academic research” and “displace intellectual capital” from Florida universities since professors and graduate students have moved to other national universities where research travel is not restricted.

“Any travel to a terrorist country necessarily subsidizes that terrorist regime because money will be spent … in that country … that ultimately goes into the coffers of the terrorist regime,” said Rivera during his April 26, 2006 testimony in front of the Florida Legislature. “So, I don’t believe anything good could come out of [researching in] Cuba, like for example, researching agriculture in Cuba.”

Rivera’s opponents disagree and even suggest the travel ban not only threatens to decrease Florida’s academic output, but also threatens the federal government’s ability to deter terrorism, one aim of the act.

“There are serious implications in national security. We might be in a better position to diffuse the terrorist situation here if we could have better information from these states,” Hensley said.

Though the Florida Board concurs with the ACLU over the issue of using non-state funds and that “it is in the best interest of the state that academic leaders stay current in Cuban affairs,” the Board insists it has not sided completely with ACLU. Rather, the Florida Board insists that the main issue is the struggle to establish authority over the university system.

According to Edmonds, the Florida Board is trying to assert its independence through a lawsuit against the state, claiming the right to raise public university tuition without necessarily having the state’s approval.

Therefore, the Board viewed the travel ban as an opportunity to cement its argument that the state cannot control what is done with non-state money, Edmonds said.

“We did not want to ignore that argument in this [travel ban] lawsuit. We wanted to be consistent in the Board’s expression of its principles,” Edmonds said.
SOC-BBC elects new events coordinator

Ivy Siegel, Campus Life Coordinator

I was surprised that so many people applied. It’s nice to see so many showed interest.

Debbi Nilsson, a junior majoring in public relations; Keish Bazele, a junior majoring in journalism; and Carla St. Louis, a junior majoring in psychology.

“One of the applicants was a former member, and one was a former peer advisor. We had a lot of variety; this definitely was a good pool of candidates,” said Ivy Siegel, coordinator in the department of Campus Life and Orientation.

The rest of the group consisted of Dayamis, a senior majoring in advertising; graduate student Jody A. Miller and Diana Maldo- nado; and junior Angela Araya, all majoring in hospitality management.

Siegel was also pleased with the turnout.

“I was surprised that so many people applied. It’s nice to see so many showed interest,” said Siegel.

The election process consisted of each of the 41 FIU clubs casting one vote, with the winner receiving the most votes. The applicants were required to have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and each had to be enrolled full-time at the University in order to participate in the election.

“There really wasn’t a particular date that we wanted to have the position filled by, but we thought it would be important to have it filled by the next SOC meeting,” said Mintz.

Some of the responsibilities of the events coordinator include being accountable for the initiation and programming of SOC-sponsored events, and recruiting committee members for the production of special events.

The events coordinator is also responsible for carrying out any official assignments given by the president.

Estrella hopes to come up with different events that will promote student involvement through careful planning.

“There’s a lot involved in [planning]. You have to think of every possible detail through, you have to be prepared for the good that can happen, the bad. You have to be very methodical,” she said.

Africana group hosts inaugural meeting at BBC

A DIVINE PRESENTATION: Orlando Ramos (left), Ubaldo G. Porto (center) and Ernesto Pichardo (right) display the original sacred texts of the Yoruba religion to the public for the first time in history.

Ava Purkiss, a graduate student in the department of ANWS, also believes education is the best way to enlighten mainstream culture about historical African issues.

“I think it’s a first step towards legitimizing African religions and will serve as a conduit - a foundation to some of the goals like engaging the mainstream, shifting paradigms, enabling tolerance, combating fear and ignorance and incorporating these traditions into academ- ics,” Purkiss said.

The group hopes that by expanding the curriculum of classes that is taught in the ANWS program, students and professionals across all majors will be prepared to understand the diverse cultures in the world.

“I am hopeful that FIU can be the first university in the nation to have a certificate in what I think should be under Yoruba studies,” Pichardo said.

The meeting’s general consensus was that the sharing of the sacred text is not only beneficial for Yoruba, but African history as well.

“These texts are not about religion, but about knowledge and culture,” said Orlandi. “We cannot afford to not take the Africana knowledge seriously.”

In a 1993 landmark Supreme Court decision, the justices unanimously ruled that a law passed in Hialeah that banned religious animal sacrifice rituals, was as unconstitutional because it overly suppressed the Church of Lukumi Babalu-Aye’s right to religious freedom.

“We have progressed enough legally and academically at this point to bring out the texts and integrate it so that the study of the religion can be now taken to another level,” Pichardo said.

Before revealing the original texts, the meeting inaugurated the Africana Knowledge Working Group of South Florida. This group is comprised of delegates from the Smithsonian, botanica owners, priests, healers, performers and spiritualists.

“One of our church’s fundamentals is education,” Pichardo said.

“The trouble we have had over somayera is not being able to find an academic institution that we could call home to begin such important research and the [African New World Studies Depart- ment] has now embraced us and therefore our goal is finally met and this is the kick-off.”

The group’s goal is to create and foster collabora- tion for research about African history as well as spread awareness of African knowledge and religions within the ANWS Certificate program.

NEWSFLASH

Scholarship winners to be announced at Breakfast

Jose Marti Scholarship winners will be announced Jan. 28 at the BBC Wolf Center Ballroom at 8:30 a.m. over breakfast. Hosted by FIU and Miami-Dade College, the prizes will be awarded to two contestants: one for an essay in English and the other in Spanish. The event features keynote speaker Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research Institute.

For more information, call 305-919-5543.

Dancing with the Wolfe steps into Spring

Dancing with the Wolfe will offer dancing lessons Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. in WUC 155. Mondays feature Ball Room dancing, Tuesday’s Salsa, Wednesdays Belly Dancing, and Thursdays Hip Hop Dancing. Call 305-919-5280 for details.

Middle East Society to present “Beyond the Veil: The Status and Role of Women in Islam”

Aisha Musa, professor of religious studies, will lecture “Beyond the Veil: The Status and Role of Women in Islam” as presented by the department of international relations’ Middle East Society. The event will be held in Academic I, room 194 on Jan. 27. For more information, call 305-919-4839 or e-mail MES@fiu.edu.

SJMC to host Spanish-language, bilingual media review

SJMC will present Mark Fitzgerald’s presentation of “Dos Rios, Dos Puentes: The Unique Dual Transitions Facing Hispanic Media,” a review of the current state of Spanish-language and bilingual media on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Fitzgerald is Editor & Publisher magazine’s Editor-at-Large. Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information call 305-919-4411.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to present sound tour

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will present a tour of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Collection and the Judaica Sound Archives at Florida Atlantic University Libraries in Boca Raton. The event will be held Jan. 30, 3:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For members, the fee is $40 and for non-members, $50. Register at 305-919-5910 or www.caps.fiu.edu/olli.

Compiled by Susana Rodriguez and Catherine Kaiman

EDDITH SEVILLA/THE BEACON

Kendall Crocker/THE BEACON

www.fiu.edu
In an effort to save a dime, the University Park Student Government Council proposed the merger of three student organizations: the Honors Council, Graduate Student Association and Student Organization Council.

If approved on Jan. 23, at the SGC-UP meeting, the three councils, while still being technically operating as they had been throughout the end of the semester, but under the combined auspices of the Student Involvement Council.

The merger of these three councils, while regarded as illogical, serve different purposes to the students of FIU, appears to be of a purely financial motive: The combined budgets of the councils will be cut by $17,000 which would be utilized if the councils remained independent of one another.

The official motive, as relayed by Comptroller, Sergio Ibarra-Bolanos, was apparently to streamline financial accountability, and make all offices more efficient as well as simplistic.

Bolanos described the merger as tackling a “giant monster” rather than a “three-headed monster”. He continues by explaining that if the merger were to go through and one council under-spends its budget, the remainder could be allocated elsewhere where unused funds could be put to good use.

The obvious dilemma is that with a lowered budget—event lowered only by $17,000—some councils may have to reorganize, reevaluate, and essentially change financial practices of years past.

While $17,000 doesn’t account for a majority of the money that people to members: collective like the SOC could suffer dramatically from a cut that size: the SOC currently represents over 150 organizations on the University Park campus.

Another detail of this merger that could adversely affect the future activities of many of the student organizations, and with this “simplistic-”drive merger, the results may have the reverse effect on the student population: the cut funds would potentially hurt promotion initiatives for the councils, and fail to get more students involved.

A failure like that may result is a loss much bigger than the dime the proposed Student Involvement Council has its death-grip on.

Finances aside—as $17,000 is a rather small amount for a student government council—under the umbrella of the SOC, it would have a new name and fewer managerial duties to pay for. This practice is ultimately ineffective for the benefit of students and therefore would not expect the same things from a possible Student Involvement Council and council under-spends its budget, and thus would not come with a new name and fewer managerial duties to pay for.

In the larger scope of things, though this merger to the proposed the list is very limited and essentially can be summarized by the dictum, “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it.”

CAMPUS SUPPORT: Ron Paul advocates set up a booth to promote their favored Republican candidate.

Eric Feldman Staff Writer

As the Florida primaries draw nearer, Rep. Ron Paul remains one of the most enigmatic figures of the upcoming presidential race.

Paul supporters tell the success story of a humble Constitutionalist OB-GYN who has out‐funded top‐tier candidates in a “revolution” set to return the government back to its people.

Skeptics of Paul point out that his policies are not only out of touch with the mainstream but implausible in today’s world climate, and even accuse him of being a racist conspiracy theorist.

Ron Paul is not a racist. However, an objective look at his stances will show that he is a sensible politician whose policies can appeal to a majority of voters.

First off, Paul is not a racist. This allegation largely stems from newsletters attributed to Paul’s name published over a decade ago which contained negative comments about blacks. Paul has repeatedly stated that he did not write the comments, and when asked by Wolf Blitzer on CNN if he repudiates the newsletter’s remarks, he stated that he did not. In fact, the Austin president of the NAACP has decidedly supported Paul on this issue.

During the Jan. 10 GOP debates on Fox News, Paul urged that America use restraint and reason when dealing with Iran, stating that we must not let our guard down against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Meanwhile, Iowa caucuses- winner Mike Huckabee warned that if Iran ever “put their sights on an American vessel,” the next thing they will see will be the “gates of hell” in response to an isolated incident with an Iranian vessel.

Paul, on the other hand, simply pleaded for restraint and demanded that we not look for reasons to launch a new war.

Mediator Brit Hume proceeded to ignore the war mongering of Paul’s opponents and attempted to tip into his answer.

He insisted that Paul’s opponents had just advocated a passive response to Iran, when in reality, Fred Thompson had just stated that the offensive Iranians would be “introduced to the virgins they’ve been looking forward to seeing” if they had taken “one more step.”

The de‐secession of Paul’s cautionary stance comes despite the fact that pre-emptive war with Iran is an unpopular idea nationwide, especially since the release of the most recent National Intelligence Estimate, which suggests that the country’s nuclear program is halted.

Paul would have a profound effect on domestic policy. His plans center on constitutionalism and states rights, such as eliminating the federal Department of Education and nullifying federal drug laws. The U.S. would save countless amounts of money and end Washington’s inefficient control of these institutions.

Of course, many of Paul’s policies would have a difficult time passing through Congress, but it seems that the buzzword for this year’s elections is “change.”

A Ron Paul nomination would be a mandate from the people for a new course, and would symbolically do more to spur the change of conventional politics in America than the election of any office of any candidate who uses “change” as their platform.

GOP candidates support Bush, yet keep their distance

With our economy hurtling toward a recession, an unpopular war and a broken health care system, you can find few people in this country who are less popular than George W. Bush.

In a poll conducted by Gallup, 79 percent of those surveyed said that the country needed to change direction from his policies. Yet as the 2008 election approaches, it is proper for the people to remember: Bush did not single-handedly lead this country to ruin. He had a lot of help. Many of the people who did everything in their power to keep him in office are seeking to become the next president.

With Bush’s approval ratings in the tank, you can expect the Republican candidates to distance themselves from Bush. They’d insist they support his kind of Republicanism.

Yet when it mattered most, they defended and helped him.

Take the so-called maverick John McCain for instance. Senator McCain seemed to flip-flop and now says he’d be willing to keep American troops there for “one thousand years.”

Although he has differed with Bush on a few issues, he is far from a moderate. Last year, he received a glowing 90 percent grade from the John Birch society, one of the most radically right-thinking think tanks in the country.

Don’t let McCain or his surrogates convince you that his policies would be dramatically different from those of the Bush administration. As he told the Republican National Convention in 2004, he thinks “President Bush deserves not only our support, but our admiration.” Expect him to take that admiration and promises of an endless occupation of Iraq all the way the White House in 2008.

Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney have both lauded Bush. Giuliani said in 2004, “Thank God George Bush is our president.” Considering Giuliani’s foreign policy views, Bush and Cheney might be thanking God when he simply pleaded for restraint and essentially can be summarized by the dictum, “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it.”
SEND IN THE CLUBS!

FOO FIGHTERS open 21-city tour

FOO, page 9

The annual Student Organizations Council Club Fair will be taking place this Jan. 22 and 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unlike previous semesters when the fair was held in the Graham Center pit, the fair will be taking place outdoors, on the GC lawn, and will be sporting a carnival theme.

Stefano Boulos, President of the Chemistry Club, is excited about the move to the outdoors. “We are already planning many things that usually we wouldn’t be able to do indoors,” said Boulos.

“We are going to do some chemistry demonstrations that we usually wouldn’t do inside GC – it’s not that they are dangerous, but being outside will allow us to accommodate ourselves a lot better.”

The fair was initially scheduled to run for four days next week but SOC Event Coordinator Nivv Oudit explained that by condensing the fair into two days there would be more clubs on site together at the same time.

“It would be more interesting to have two days packed with intense activities instead of four less active days,” said Oudit.

“We hope that clubs will take advantage of all that’s being offered to them and do a brilliant job in representing themselves.”

To go along with the carnival theme, the fair will be decorated with circus-like inflatables and feature many outdoor activities such as rock climbing and dunking tanks.

There will also be free food provided by Shorty’s BBQ, as well as popcorn, cotton candy, and sno-cones.

However, SOC Treasurer, Robert Chung, advised that students must prove their participation in the fair in order to obtain the free food.

“Each prospective member will be given a passport. For each person to get free food they must visit five clubs and get [the passport] signed,” said Chung.

On Jan. 22, the Academic, Business, Cultural/Social, and Law/Political clubs will be representing the club.

“Clubs representing the Arts, Engineering, Health/Wellness, Religious, and Services will be exhibiting on Jan. 23. Sports clubs will not be represented on either day because these clubs are not registered under SOC.

In order to encourage clubs to participate in the Club Fair and other events and activities, SOC created the SOC Point System.

[It] ensures that the registered organizations remain active and visible on campus in order to receive funding and have access to services on campus clubs must attain a minimum of twelve points in order to be eligible for funding,” said Oudit.

Clubs that participate in the fair will receive one SOC point. The best represented table gains another point. Last semester, the Chemistry Club won. “For sure we will be part of the race again,” said Boulos.

Oudit has high expectations for the Club Fair this semester. “We at SOC are extremely excited about this year’s Club Fair and really look forward to seeing our clubs representing themselves in all their glory.”

At the risk of sounding completely pretentious, I reckon it’s going to be the best Club Fair yet,” he said.
As a gamer, I know the game I’m playing at the moment depends greatly on the sort of mood I’m in. Happy, sad, frustrated; there’s always that game that hits the spot. For those of you just looking for a laugh, I give you “Puzzleland”.

“Puzzleland” is one of those gems you rarely come across and could easily overlook. A charming, hand-drawn, point-and-click adventure that, at first, may seem like a badly drawn flash game, but there is so much more to this game than meets the eye.

Meet James Mahogany, a yellow, crudely drawn man who wears a grey suit with a red tie and walks strictly sideways. Throughout “Puzzleland’s” five unique levels, the goal is to help Mahogany defeat his arch rival Gregory. To do so, you must point and click on everything in the window to figure out what it does and, ultimately, what sequence of pointing and clicking will get Mahogany to the other side safely.

Sounds pretty standard, but this isn’t like any other point-and-click adventure. The graphics and sound alone would be enough to set it apart, but “Puzzleland’s” gameplay is so out of the box it takes a while to actually start thinking as unconventionally as you really have to in order to solve the puzzles.

Even in the very first level, you probably wouldn’t automatically assume that in order to cross the chasm, you have to find a way to wake the lumberjack to cut the tree down, which falls on him, and then release a boulder to knock the tree down over the chasm to serve as your bridge.

Every level is more complex, more ridiculous and more satisfying than the last. Even after you have defeated Gregory, you will come back again and again for more. This game is easy to get hooked on. It’s not only fun, it’s a completely free flash game which means no downloads and no waiting.

As far as point-and-click puzzle games go, “Puzzleland” is innovative in its challenges and unique in its sense of humor. You can save Mahogany online at http://www.mostplays.com. It is listed under the Puzzle section of the main page.
Sailing through a Semester at Sea

CHRISTIN ERAZO
Contributing Writer

For most students, semesters are usually spent cooped up in classrooms, listening to boring lectures or sticking their noses in books. A more creative and interactive way of learning – the Semester at Sea study abroad program – allows undergraduates to see world landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, the pyramids of Egypt, and other famous places.

The program is offered by the University of Virginia and is sponsored by the International Shipboard Education. Students are sent abroad to learn about different societies and cultures.

Undergraduate students are targeted for the program, but opportunities for high school students are available as well.

Recently, a group of FIU students embarked on the Fall 2007 voyage on the MV Explorer to tour Japan, Thailand, Croatia, and Spain. This 100 day voyage spanned three continents and gave these students an experience of a lifetime.

Lily Trelles, alumna, recalls some of her best memories. “Seeing the Taj Mahal at sunset, visiting the pyramids and my camel ride through the desert were by far some of my favorite memories,” Trelles said.

Joining Trelles, Veronica Caballero and Lissette Trelles traveled to thirteen different ports while following curriculum that required each student to take a minimum of 12 credits.

The importance of the course is that it highlights the complexity, dynamics and interdependence of world systems. Curriculum coincides with the different port cities visited throughout the semester so they are introduced to the city before docking.

The University of Virginia and its Semester at Sea program features transferable credits, allowing students to transfer credits to their home university.

The program recommends students to follow up with their university’s registrar office to assure that Semester at Sea classes count toward their degree.

STUDY ABROAD, page 9

MOVIE

Cloverfield

New York escape film – not for the faint of heart

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

When Rob walked into his party, he thought he would finally get a chance to tell his friend Beth how he felt. But when an earthquake strikes Manhattan, Rob’s night is cut short as the streets surge with people running away from the tremor’s source – a skyscraper sized monster that rises from the Hudson Bay and begins its rampage through New York City.

Sound familiar? It’s not. Director J.J. Abrams’ “Cloverfield” transforms the Japanese monster genre into a human drama when he chooses to render characters know and where they’re going.

Once life as they know it shatters at the appearance of the monster, Rob realizes he has to let Beth know how he feels or his friends designated survival rights.

Rob goes so far as to put his crew through the middle of a military firestorm against the beast in the journey to Beth’s apartment.

He takes them underground, hiking through the subway tunnels as a shortcut and nearly gets his friends turned into shish-ka-bobs by the monster’s spawn.

Overall, “Cloverfield” doesn’t want you to sympathize with its creature or point fingers at whatever organization may or may not be to blame for its apparition (the movie opens with a title card that this is U.S. military property you’re watching).

What it wants is for you to realize that life is precious and that every moment counts, so carpe diem and share your feelings with the one you love. Because a monster could just hop out of the ocean right now and steal the chance to say “I love you.”

REVIEW

MOVIE

Cloverfield

Reviewed by: Susana Rodriguez

Canoe

Indie folk-pop group going “Places”

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

For the most part, when I review music, I review albums by artists whose work I am intimately familiar with. This time, though, I’ve decided to review an album by a band that is all but unknown outside the city of Portland, Oregon.

Canoe is a five piece, folk-pop group whose independently released debut album, “Places” (available from iTunes or canoemusic.net), came out earlier this month.

Musically, they sound like Sufjan Stevens fronting The Decemberists by way of Badly Drawn Boy, if you can follow that slightly disjointed musical lineage. With his pleasant voice and affected falsetto style, it is almost impossible to not think of Stevens whenever lead vocalist Matt Holland sings.

Many of the songs on the album are James Taylor-esque, finger picked ditties, even Taylor has trouble making sound interesting. Canoe runs into that same problem. Repetitive, finger picked chords do not make for interesting esting. Canoe runs into that same problem. Repetitive, finger picked chords do not make for interesting musical sounds, unfortunately.

Fortunately, a number of the songs that do begin with the delicate finger picked style pick up. Midway through the record, the band really begins to swing, beginning with the final 40 seconds of “Drip, Drip, Drop”, culminating in an extremely impressive cover of one of the best songs of the past decade, Neutral Milk Hotel’s “Holland, 1945”.

While staying fairly faithful to the original’s melody and chord changes, Canoe’s version adds an anxiety missing from the original, moving from the falsetto and finger picked first verse, to a more rocking third verse when the normally timid Holland lets’ loose for a cracked and emotional outburst that reveals an emotional core previously unseen.

In between those two songs you have “Anxious Jenny”, the only downright danceable song on the album, and “Ugly Girls”, arguably the album’s best song.

“Ugly Girls” is what would’ve happened if Randy Newman was in a bluegrass group, and is one of the best country infused pop tunes in a long time.

Unfortunately, outside of that 5 song run, many of the album’s songs run together and are easily forgettable, suffering from a sameness in sound and philosophy, preferring to pacify the listener rather than challenge.

There isn’t a bad song amongst the 17 here, an impressive feat for a debut album to be certain, but much of the record is simply forgettable, which is made all the more apparent by sticking the best songs in the middle.

Despite these shortcomings, this is an impressive debut album for a band that has a fan base of no more than a thousand listeners in their native Portland. If they can strike a balance between the rawer, more exciting moments in the middle and the subdued pretty stuff surrounding it, they won’t stay unknown for long.
Worldwide excursions lead to knowledge

STUDY ABROAD, page 8

Caballero explains the difficulty she had in transferring her credits to FIU. “To make sure that my semester abroad would count was extremely tedious,” she said.

Veronica spent weeks before her trip filling out forms in different departments to ensure that her credits were accepted.

“Even two days before I left, I received a phone call telling me to fill out more forms,” Caballero said.

Now that her semester abroad is over, Caballero claims there are still inadequacies with the program.

“My transcript was received by FIU on Dec. 13, 2007. After calling FIU’s registrar’s office several times, they told me it’s going to take three more weeks for them to process. Now that I’m back, I still haven’t seen my grades,” she said.

“Despite her hardships with both universities registrar offices, Caballero still holds wonderful memories from her excursions and describes them as memorable and unique.

“The chance to visit all these countries back to back and compare the diverse cultures was amazing. This is what stands out the most when I think about the voyage I made.”

Unlike Trelles, Caballero would not recommend the program on an academic basis. “I don’t know if I’d recommend the program,” Caballero said. Due to the heavy course load and strict administration, Caballero believes that it “took away from the trip.”

“However, I recommend everyone to experience cultures different from our own and travel to eastern countries that we normally wouldn’t dare to visit.” Every semester, the Semester at Sea program changes their itineraries to include different cities throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

In order to be admitted into the program, students must submit an essay, be in good academic standing and pass a disciplinary clearance.

For students needing financial assistance, ISE accepts FAFSA and also provides awards for qualified students.
High school athletes angered over return of their coach

AForum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University
CLASSIFIEDS
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Play JAI-ALAI right down the street! Free lessons, cestas, balls. Open 7 days/nights. 100% safe. American Amateur Jai-Alai academy. 1935 NE 150th St. (786) 629-5428 admart.Na@aol.com
PLACE A VALENTINES GRAM! Want to impress a special somebody with a sounds "good luck" as I'm going to walk on at Florida Air Academy soccer had an idea of what to expect from than stands than playing on the pitch. Thankfully, I was given a job at The Beacon where I was able to get up close and personal with both of the school’s soccer teams. This gives me more of an idea of what to expect whenever these tryouts are scheduled — usually in late February. There has been no official announcement yet, but I’m doing everything to stay ready. Just a couple days ago, I realized I was doing too much. My body couldn’t resist going to the gym though my mind wanted to relax and I decided to play some basketball for a while. Soon enough a knee comes ramming into my lower thigh, right above my knee, and the pain came immediately. I still feel pain, but I can get back to 100 percent in the next three or four days. Luckily, I’ve never broken anything in my body, so healing fast has never been a problem. After the long weekend, I will be back on the intramural fields to practice. I’m very ready and just patiently waiting for my opportunity.

The situation dates back to 2004, when a softball player accused Hough of improper physical contact. More complaints were lodged with school officials in 2006, and with the Warrensburg school board last summer.

The school system placed Hough on administrative leave with pay in September, but reinstated him two months later after concluding the accusations lacked merit. The six players now suing — all of whom are basketball players — say that during the internal investigation they were never interviewed by school officials. They filed their lawsuit the day after Hough’s return.

Supporters cite the school system’s internal inquiry, and a more narrow investigation by the state Department of Social Services, as proof that Hough is innocent. They say the players’ real motivation is vengeance against a demanding coach, fueled by parents who were unhappy over their daughters’ lack of playing time, though four of the players started last year and two were key subs off the bench.

“It think they’re very unfair,” said Donna Warden, whose daughter is a senior for the Lady Tigers. “They say the players’ real motivation is vengeance against a demanding coach, fueled by parents who were unhappy over their daughters’ lack of playing time, though four of the players started last year and two were key subs off the bench.”

“I think they’re very unfair,” said Donna Warden, whose daughter is a senior for the Lady Tigers. “They say the players’ real motivation is vengeance against a demanding coach, fueled by parents who were unhappy over their daughters’ lack of playing time, though four of the players started last year and two were key subs off the bench.”

“He's a police officer and a lifelong resident of this town, population 17,000, a little more than an hour's drive from Kansas City. I believe it came from my weird positioning. Florida Air Academy soccer had four coaches in four years. All of them were different in their methodology, but they pretty much used me in the same fashion. My coaches usually used me as a wing back that would pick and choose his spots to join the attack. That gave us another weapon with the attack, but there were times when I became greedy and neglected my defensive duties.

In my eyes, inconsistency would have defined my high school career if I didn’t put it all together during my senior year. So from the beginning, I already felt like I had a mental hurdle to jump over. I also realized that I would be playing against these same guys that I have been watching over the past few months, and there is always a difference between the two, mainly the speed difference.

I’m going to walk on at Florida Air Academy soccer had an idea of what to expect from than stands than playing on the pitch. Thankfully, I was given a job at The Beacon where I was able to get up close and personal with both of the school’s soccer teams. This gives me more of an idea of what to expect whenever these tryouts are scheduled — usually in late February. There has been no official announcement yet, but I’m doing everything to stay ready. Just a couple days ago, I realized I was doing too much. My body couldn’t resist going to the gym though my mind wanted to relax and I decided to play some basketball for a while. Soon enough a knee comes ramming into my lower thigh, right above my knee, and the pain came immediately. I still feel pain, but I can get back to 100 percent in the next three or four days. Luckily, I’ve never broken anything in my body, so healing fast has never been a problem. After the long weekend, I will be back on the intramural fields to practice. I’m very ready and just patiently waiting for my opportunity.

When you’re sitting down, the game looks a lot slower from than stands than playing on the pitch.

When you’re sitting down, the game looks a lot slower from than stands than playing on the pitch. Thankfully, I was given a job at The Beacon where I was able to get up close and personal with both of the school’s soccer teams. This gives me more of an idea of what to expect whenever these tryouts are scheduled — usually in late February. There has been no official announcement yet, but I’m doing everything to stay ready. Just a couple days ago, I realized I was doing too much. My body couldn’t resist going to the gym though my mind wanted to relax and I decided to play some basketball for a while. Soon enough a knee comes ramming into my lower thigh, right above my knee, and the pain came immediately. I still feel pain, but I can get back to 100 percent in the next three or four days. Luckily, I’ve never broken anything in my body, so healing fast has never been a problem. After the long weekend, I will be back on the intramural fields to practice. I’m very ready and just patiently waiting for my opportunity.

When you’re sitting down, the game looks a lot slower from than stands than playing on the pitch.
Hinton uses physical talents as small forward

HINTON, page 12

“Basketball just comes a little easier for me because the physicality of football has put me in a great position to perform on the court,” he said.

Playing two different sports also means adapting to two different coaches, but Hinton sees no fundamental difference between coach Cristobal and coach Rouco.

With Hinton’s childhood dream coming true in his fourth year of college, he explains that football still has precedent over basketball.

“Really, my goal for the last half of the basketball season is to do my best to contribute to the basketball team in order to grow as much as I can as a player,” he said.

Personally, Hinton has defined his own future success as being able to utilize his sports management degree to raise a family.

“I’m just going to use what my coaches have taught me, what I learned on the field and the court, and in the classroom as I continue at FIU,” Hinton said. “I just want to always better myself.”

NEWEST ADDITION: Moses Hinton’s 265 pound frame is unusually robust among basketball players.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

SWITCHING SIDES: Former Golden Panther center Xavier Shannon is attending graduate school at UM where he will play for his father, Randy Shannon.
Making men's soccer team no simple process

All of my experiences playing soccer since I was 12 years old have been challenging yet positive. Switching to defense in high school was challenging and positive.

Playing Division I soccer? At this point I find it more challenging than anything else.

Ball drills, trying to improve my 40-yard dash time and watching a lot of soccer is just a small taste of what I’m preparing for both physically and mentally.

Why do I do this? Because for almost an entire year, I have had only one goal regarding soccer: make the men’s soccer team as a walk on.

When it came to my turn and I was asked, “Where do you take your soccer game from here?”

Well I had no reason to think that it could happen.

DOUBLE DUTY

Tight end Moses Hinton splits his time on the field and on the basketball court

Missouri divided over sexual abuse case against coach

ALAN SCHER ZAGIE
AP Writer

Like many high school athletes, the Warrensburg High Lady Tigers were admired throughout their small town. Then they accused their basketball coach of sexual misconduct.

Now the six female athletes who sued the school district and coach Russell Hough — after an internal investigation cleared him — are pariahs.

The bad feeling has gone well beyond a spirited defense of Hough, who also serves as the softball coach and insists he’s innocent.

The teens have been called liars, bullies and even white trash (three of the players who have sued the white coach also are white, three are black). They’ve been insulted to their faces and on Facebook and MySpace pages.

Their parents’ jobs have been threatened. And the involvement of their attorney, who also happens to be the wife of the University of Central Missouri’s president, has sparked a backlash that includes efforts to oust the college leader.

“They tell us we’re tearing apart the community. They’ve told us to leave town, (that) we don’t love this place,” Sergio Galindo said.

Hinton’s transition from the gridiron to the basketball court came as a shock to some of the team’s basketball players.

“It definitely surprised me. I have never heard of a football player coming onto the basketball team halfway through the season,” said junior forward Alex Galindo. “I am used to seeing him with a helmet on, but obviously he has brought us some luck with us winning his first two games with us, so that’s a plus.”

Hinton suffered an injury in 2006, but now he plays for the basketball team.

TIGHT END/FORWARD: Moses Hinton practices with the basketball team as a forward.

I would say my biggest passion is for basketball because growing up I was always too heavy to play football and basketball did not have strict weight limits.

The bad feeling has gone well beyond a spirited defense of Hough, who also serves as the softball coach.