**SPORTS PAGE 7**

**RAGING HOOPS**

**Staff Writer**

“...were all coming in from different directions, wearing their different spirit gear with their school colors and they all ended up congregated in the quad...”

Thompson recalled the vibe of school spirit present at the annual Florida Residen-tial Assistants Seminar which hosted by the FIU resi-dent assistants.

The conference started Jan, 23 at 7:00 p.m. and ended the following day at midnight.

**FIU to host ‘legendary’ performer**

**Senior Staff Writer**

Hundreds of students lined up on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in front of the Graham Center Ticketmaster counter, all intent on purchasing tickets for “An Evening with John Legend.” The five-time Grammy Award-winning musician is set to appear on Feb. 11 at the University Center Bank Arena, with the event including a half-hour lecture and a 45-minute acoustic performance.

Ticket prices are set at $25 for floor seating in the arena and $20 for seating in the bleachers and can be purchased at both the Graham Center Ticketmaster and the Wolfe University Center Ticket Master at Biscayne Bay Campus. The event will take place Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“Niv Oudit, just after the Ivanka Trump lecture last semester, set out to find another big name and a relevant person to attend. We wanted to get people who were interesting,” said Ben Badger, press secretary of Student Government Council-University Park.

According to Oudit, Student Government Association speaker bureau chair and main coordina-tor the event, SGA was offered several names by many talent agencies.

Jodie Sweetin, Christian Siriano, Rachel Ray, Michael Moore, Tony Blair, Erin Siriano, Mythbusters and several names by many talent agencies.

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FRANCISCO MARADAGA-
Contributing Writer

The FIU Foundation has announced eight new members on Jan. 20.

“These new members are leaders representing a wide range of talent in our community,” said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, vice president of University and Community Relations and executive director of the FIU Foundation, in a press release.

Six of the eight new members are University alumni. They include CEOs, presidents, vice presidents and managers.

RAs flaunt their school spirit

FIU Foundation hires new talent

Students race to GC ticket counter

LEGEND, page 1

The cost of the event totaled $50,000 and, according to Badger, at least 1,500 tickets must be sold for the expenses of the event to break even.

“If we sell out, then that’ll cover all the expenses for this program,” Badger said. “This is not a for-profit venture. If there is a profit, it will be extremely low. So the money we’re giving in is the money we’re getting back.”

Oudit said the budget cuts presented some limitations to SGA and although their lecture budgets would still allow them to bring speakers like Aasif Mandvi from “The Daily Show” or Frank Warren from “Post-Secret,” SGA wanted to make a conscientious effort to bring somebody world-class for FIU.

“We are therefore charging for tickets in order to cover the cost of the event, not for profit,” Oudit said.

Furthermore, the person who bought the pair of tickets had begun several weeks before, with students leaving their information and paying for their seats, awaiting the distribution of the tickets.

Oudit said that during the first two days of early ticket sign-ups there were over 600 signatures. Badger added that the initial student reaction was better than he expected.

“Last week, in the student government office, we had at least 10 to 15 phone calls every half-hour asking to get John Legend tickets,” he said.

The tickets, however, are only open to the University community. Badger explained that since Legend will be performing in the Miami area on Jan. 29 at the Jackie Gleason Theater, it is important that the event be limited to only FIU.

“We can’t undercut a private business that depends on selling a certain amount of tickets to stay in business by using state funds to provide tickets for the same artist at $25,” he said.

“That’s why we’re leaving it open only to FIU.”

Students showed excitement over the upcoming event.

“It’s definitely worth the money to see him, especially now, when a ticket for a performer could cost over $100,” said Chris Rodriguez, a sophomore.

“The buzz at the University has been great. Everyone knows about it and everyone is excited about it,” Badger said.
**Diverse comedy show jokes about differences**

**SHERVIN BAINT Staff Writer**

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the “Stand Up for Diversity Comedy Tour” the Student Programming Council will be hosting Jan. 29, show-casing the comedic styles of Sheng Wang, Michelle Buteau and Wil Sylvicine. The comedy show will be held in the Mary-Ann Wolfe Theatre in the Wolfe University Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and those outside the University community are welcome to attend. A sign-in sheet will be available for guests and students should bring their Panther IDs.

The purpose of the show is to kick off the semester, according to Andre Dawson, special events chair for SPC, and a senior biology and psychology major. “We know the period of change going on. We just wanted to give [students] a wide variety of comedy,” he said.

The comedy show, which is free, is part of the One World Celebration, hosted by SPC during the week of January 26-30.

“One World” week events will feature themed days corresponding to different countries around the world, such as a Mexican-themed day on Jan. 29 and a European day on Jan. 30.

This comedy show is very diverse. We have an Asian comic, a female comic and a Haitian comic,” Dawson said.

According to [http://www.diversicityunbc.com](http://www.diversicityunbc.com), the Web site for the comedy show, Sheng Wang’s comedy stems from his personal experiences and he is known for his absurd style and self-deprecating humor.

Michelle Buteau recently finished a 10-city tour called “5 Funny Females.” She has also toured in Europe and performed at comedy clubs in London and Dublin, Ireland.

Wil Sylvicine has appeared on BET’s Comic View, The Apollo Comedy Hour and Russell Simmons’ Def Comedy Jam, where he received a standing ovation.

SPC has hosted several shows in the past, including last year’s variety show Sept. 25 and “LOL Comedy series,” featuring the talents of Adam Hunter and Benji Brown, among others.

Melissa Desraneaux, a junior public relations major, believes that the comedy show will help students take their minds off studying.

“You’re going to laugh,” Desraneaux said. “And laughter cures all.”

SPC also plans to have a comedy show for the Spring semester.

“Come out and support and I guarantee you’ll have fun,” said Dawson. “We expect to have a huge turnout.”

Desraneaux said that they expect between 200-250 people to show.

For more information, contact SPC at (305) 919-3280.

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**FOODGASM**

**Impressing your friends – and yourself – with a hearty stew**

Last week was our winter – and it was cold to us native Miamians.

All of a sudden, Uggs were trampling across our campus, scarves were trailing behind us in the icy wind and, no doubt, fuzzy blankets were layered on our beds to keep us warm.

We all know how to dress when the weather turns chilly, but how are we supposed to eat?

I personally enjoy cold weather foodgasmic, this is just the chef’s version of a type of smoked and cured sausage that gets its pungent smell from red peppers and Spanish paprika, and two cups of smoked ham into bite-sized pieces and add them to the pot, stirring until the chorizo imparts its fiery red color on all the other ingredients.

The next step is to make a ham broth, which involves ham hocks and lots of time. If you don’t have the time, feel free to cheat – use store-bought ham or chicken stock to get the job done.

After adding the 6-8 cups of broth, and bringing it to a simmer, take some time to wash, peel and dice about two cups of potatoes. Also, open and rinse two 15 oz. cans of Northern white beans.

When your prep is ready, add the beans and potatoes to the pot, covering and simmering the soup for one hour. This hour lets all the cultural flavors mingle, cooks the meats and potatoes to a soft stew state and allows you some time to get hungry.

My mouth is watering just thinking of the delicious dish to come.

Right before serving the caldo gallego to your freezing friends, make sure to take one and a half cups of frozen collard greens, kale or spinach and add it to the pot, heating it until warm.

This gives the soup the last touch and ties it in with winter because it is a seasonal ingredient. You can certainly use fresh greens, but allow for more cooking time. Personally, I just want to eat it.

This soup turns out to be ethnic, rich and magically warming.

It’s all you need for a winter foodgasm.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Regarding the Jan. 22 story on Greek organizations and rush week, I greatly value and appreciate the service of Trustees Frost and Puig. I believe that their comment implying that the most important quality the new President should have is “an immense understanding of the local community” is incorrect. If FIU is to become the institution the community deserves, the new president must be able to lead it as it develops its promise. While understanding the local community will be important, understanding that a research university is, how to develop a medical school and how to prioritize in a very tight financial situation will be much more important capacities.

Bruce Haupli
Professor of Philosophy
Former University Trustee
“Don’t fall, don’t fall, don’t fall,” is all I could think of before finally performing in front of students in the Pit on Jan. 15.

“What in the world did I get myself into?” were my only thoughts leading up to Dance Marathon, So You Think You Can Dance auditions.

DM is a 24-hour philanthropy event where participants stand on their feet pledging their dedication to the Children’s Miracle Network. All proceeds made during and after the event are given to the Miami Children’s Hospital.

When I agreed to cover DM for The Beacon, I was very excited and eager to cover everything and anything. Needless to say, my eagerness slowly went away when I realized that I had auditions for So You Think You Can Dance. If I flunked a dance class before, how the heck was I going to pull this one off?

I spent a good week thinking of all the possible excuses I could come up with to tell my editor I couldn’t do it. I was secretly hoping that she would eventually tell me it was OK and that she understood and would let me skip the auditions.

With my luck, those words never escaped my mouth. It was the first week of school and I was telling my friends about needing a dance routine, when one of them said, “Have you heard about the ‘Yes’ dance?”

With a puzzled look on my face she introduced me to the “Yes” dance on YouTube. “Kasey, that is so you,” mentioned one of my friends as we watched these two guys “Yes” dance. It had to be one of the silliest dances I had ever seen. It looked easy and it was funny. It had finally been decided. I was going to “Yes” my way into So You Think You Can Dance.

Meanwhile, a friend of mine, who can actually dance, was preparing for the auditions as well. We were each other’s motivation and it was a comfort to know that we would be cheering for each other.

I had made sure I texted all my friends and sorority sisters to come out and support me. Rodriguez and I were ready.

I was the first one up with my FIU shorts and shirt and hot pink socks. I was ready and crossing fingers not to fall. Knowing that I had the support was great and lessened my nerves.

When Cristina came up to dance, I made sure I was the loudest, cheering for her to do well. I didn’t make it to finals, but it was a great experience despite my hesitation at the beginning.

Cristina along with nine other students performed on Jan. 21 in the ballrooms for the final round of So You Think You Can Dance.

Financial nightmares inspire prison dream

Everyone is talking about the possibility of impounding FIU budget cuts. Well, not really everyone. Some people are talking about them— at least two.

The point is, budget cuts are impending. With the state Legislature planning on reducing funding to education once again, the University administration is going to have to start dramatically cutting costs or raising revenues.

Some people are looking at this situation and worriedly ask, “Will my major be cut?” or “Will they fire my history professor or Guillermo, the really custodian I always see in GC?”

Sadly, the answer to these questions could be yes. But it doesn’t have to be. If daring and bold action is taken, FIU may seize upon a golden opportunity to keep this school from developing into some second-rate educational institution like UM (just kidding): an opportunity like the closing of Guantanamo Bay prison.

While human rights advocates cheer the fact that the place is set to be shuttered in less than a year’s time, skeptics have expressed cautious dismay, wondering where these detainees will be housed. Less than 300 inmates need a home, and no one seems to want to take them.

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback recently decried suggestions that the federal prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas might be used to hold these potentially dangerous inmates.

With Leavenworth now seeming an unlikely destination, the U.S. government needs a place to house these people. Any facility that agrees to hold them would certainly receive plenty of federal aid and lots of valuable national attention.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we play our cards right, that facility could very well be FIU.

By opening a small, well planned correctional facility, FIU 3.0 would be able to grow and flourish despite the decrease in state education funding.

Now, some would no doubt object to this suggestion. These are over 200 allegedly dangerous murderers and criminals, they’ll point out. Yet, when one stares out across our beautiful campus, one can find plenty of space to keep that many prisoners. I’m fairly certain I’ve seen twice as many people crammed inside my Finite Math classroom. While the distances are many, the rewards could be enormous.

By converting a few simple buildings into a maximum security detention center, FIU would likely reap millions in federal money, all while providing an even richer and more valuable educational experience for its students.

Those interested in abnormal psychology could learn so much simply by questioning a few would-be suicide bombers, law students would learn more about the justice system at the new, state of the art Golden Panther Penitentiary than

Runner’s high derives health goals

I’m not a runner. Running leaves me out of breath quickly, so I prefer to jog.

However, when I was in my early 20s, I used to run/jog 14 miles per week. These days I’d be lucky if I can do two. Let me take that back. I have two legs: I can jog two miles per week or more if I want to.

In fact, since last Friday, I’ve been doing just that.

Every day I have been jogging and walking two miles. But let me tell you, taking the initiative to put on my running shoes is not easy.

Now, if you weren’t hibernating or out cold last weekend, chances are you know there were thousands of people from around the world running in our streets for the DGF Marathon and Half Marathon. As I watched these people on TV and at the Health and Fitness Expo – many were signing up for Sunday’s race on Saturday—I couldn’t help but think about my personal desire to one day run a marathon and where I stand right now in terms of running.

I have come up with every excuse you can imagine to stay home and “rest” instead of going out for a jog. And by “rest” I mean sit in front of the tube and watch episode after episode of reality TV.

When I got home from work Sunday evening, I was determined to go jogging, but when I walked into my room, I just wanted to crawl into bed.

I told myself I was very tired from going out the night before and having to wake up early for work that morning. I told myself that sleep would be beneficial to my weight loss and that my tummy was still full from my mid-afternoon snack.

Then I remembered the magic number: 202. Charlie, my boyfriend, is down to 202 pounds from 215 and I was ... well, I didn’t know where I was because I’ve been too afraid of what the scale will read.

Charlie is on his way to becoming a health freak. Every day he goes for a run/jog and is now conscious of the foods he eats, a habit I both love and hate.

After my fourth lap, I was feeling great— almost too great. What made me feel so good? Runner’s high. Running releases a special endorphins in the brain. According to a New York Times story published last year in March, researchers in Germany reported that endorphins are associated with mood changes and the more endorphins a runner’s body pumps out, the greater the effect, according to the article.

I had not felt this way in a long time. I practically felt like I could soar and at times I was actually running.

In a recent article in The Miami Herald, a sports psychologist was quoted as saying that “any aerobic exercise releases endorphins, which make you feel exhilarated.”

I’m slowly starting to like jogging again. And because I have committed myself to losing 30 pounds by the time I’m done with my cap and gown, I now feel a little more secure about registering for a 5K run and, eventually, a marathon.
TECHNOLOUST

Free photo-editing software lets you polish your pictures

With cameras coming standard on cell phones, anyone can let out their inner shutterbug and document their memories. But not every shot comes out great, here’s where a photo-editing program needs to be called in to save the day.

No, I’m not talking about Adobe Photoshop. At $699, it’s out of reach for most college students’ pockets. (Except for that one student driving the Lambo-ghini Murcélago on campus, they probably have the whole Adobe Creative Suite.)

I’m talking Picnik. Free and online at www.picnik.com, Picnik lets you edit your photos without even having to sign up for an account.

To start, go to its home page and upload a photo. From the first menu – the Edit tab – you can rotate, crop, resize and sharpen your shot, even spot-click away red eyes. Your two new favorite tools in this first menu are exposure and colors. Exposure brings out lights and shadows in a flat photo, while colors lets you play with saturation and temperature sliders to warm or cool the shot’s tones.

Once you’re done adjusting the basics, click over to the Create tab and take advantage of some of Picnik’s photo effects. Slap a sepia tone filter and make your family get-together look like it came straight out of the ’20s.

Juggle the 1960s and cross process effects to change the base tints to create unnatural colors and higher contrasts in your photos without having to learn how to process them in a lab.

Pick the Touch Up sub-menu and whiten teeth or magic away blemishes with a click. Finish your edits by choosing a frame for your photo: museum matte, rounded corners, drop-shadow or polaroïd.

Advanced photo editors will want to upgrade to a premium account to use more advanced, Photoshop-esque features like color curves and levels to fine-tune their tones. At $24.95 a year for a subscription, Picnik keeps you out of the poor house that Photoshop throws you in.

Photo shop surgeons beware though: You won’t be able to hack and reshape your features here.

It’s a good thing though – Picnik keeps you honest.

On-campus prison could provide funding, jobs

CABRAUTICS, page 5

they ever could in any classroom.

Students desperately needing jobs in this tough economy could work as prison guards or sentries and make far more money than any barista at Starbucks or waiter at T.G.I. Friday’s. Even academic dishonesty would be greatly reduced, as potential cheaters would be reluctant to risk spending three weeks in solitary confinement.

I know. I know. It all sounds too good to be true. Yet there are those that still complain, calling the opening of a world class, maximum security prison on campus a bad idea. They, however, underestimate the power of Golden Panther spirit and the importance of prestige.

Such a prison facility would be the premier on-campus prison in the U.S. and the envy of all other institutions of higher education in this great land we call America. Sure, some might call it a sacrifice of safety with shady financial motives, but this is the time to make sacrifices for the sake of preserving our University.

So as our state and school prepare to make tough decisions, remember that no matter what drastic measures they may be forced to take, be it the firing of faculty, the elimination of majors, or the conversion of higher education in this great land we call America. Sure, some might call it a sacrifice of safety with shady financial motives, but this is the time to make sacrifices for the sake of preserving our University.

So as our state and school prepare to make tough decisions, remember that no matter what drastic measures they may be forced to take, be it the firing of faculty, the elimination of majors, or the conversion of the Chemistry and Physics building into a penitentiary housing the world’s deadliest criminals; remember, FIU will undoubtedly emerge from this crisis stronger than ever before.
Welcome home swimming, diving

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

It’s been two years since the swimming and diving team had a pool they could call their own, but this ended this past weekend.

On Jan. 24, the women’s team swam against Florida Gulf Coast University at the renovated Bay Vista Aquatics Center.

“It was very exciting to finally be there. It’s really nice, they did a good job,” said coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia.

The homecoming didn’t present good results as the Golden Panthers lost in every event to the Eagles except the one-meter dive. The Eagles beat the Golden Panthers with a final score of 187-56.

FIU freshman Namiko Shiabata, who qualified for the NCAA zone diving competition earlier in the season, placed first in the one-meter diving meet with a score of 223.73.

The Golden Panthers will have one final regular season meet to prepare for the Sun Belt Conference Championships when they swim against the University of Miami at the Bay Vista Aquatic Center on Jan. 31 at 11 a.m.

“We’ve got three weeks until the conference championships and that’s our main goal right now: to prepare [for] conference,” Lung-Zaharia said.

The team will honor its five seniors, Sara Giovannoni, Lunday Juman, Chrisna Luus, Katelynn Stevens and Meredith Tise, at the meet.

MEN’S BBALL, page 8

Taylor pays for hoops with school

Taylor believes the recent return to health of Alex Galindo will have a big impact on the team and himself.

“I have academic scholarships,” said Taylor, who sports a 3.0 GPA. “It’s not all on me.”

Taylor is the beneficiary of the Florida Bright Futures scholarship, among others.

“I feel more comfortable, ready to contribute. We haven’t been winning like we feel we can. We’re getting people back. I think we’ll be alright.”

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cover a sporting event?

Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124

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MAN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Fewer turnovers leading to success; stars to return soon

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Despite what has been a very injury-plagued roster for the men's basketball team this season, over the last six games, the team has been reluctant to cough up the ball.

During the first 16 games of the season, the Golden Panthers averaged a little more than 17 turnovers per game. This led to a 5-11 record throughout that span. The last six games, they averaged just 12 turnovers per game, which resulted in a 3-3 record.

"So how have the Golden Panthers protected the ball more efficiently?" Point guard Josue Soto is one of the team's newest members hoping to take on the majority of the ball handling responsibilities. His plan to limit turnovers is very direct.

"We just need to be strong with the ball," Soto said. "I have to be a leader and be vocal with my teammates."

Guard Nick Taylor is one of the team's least turnover prone players, considering his minutes played. Soto will now be taking over the starting position, but Taylor and Soto's friendship helps them both get on the same page with the offense.

"Nick and I are friends. We know each other's roles, and we know how to get our teammates moving," Soto said.

Center Freddy Asprilla missed the last two games due to back games. The Golden Panthers dropped both games without their big man, even though he is the team's leader in turnovers.

Asprilla expects to return to action against New Orleans on Jan. 29.

"I'm 100 percent sure I will play," he said.

HICKS IS BACK

Once one big man hit the bench, 7-foot Russell Hicks returned to play on the court Jan. 24 against the University of Louisiana - Monroe. In just 17 minutes, Hicks scored 17 points and scored 11 points and bought down five rebounds.

Assistant coach Kevin Fricke says the staff is not sure if both big men will play together because Asprilla and Hicks have not played together in practice recently.

"It all depends on what we see in practice," Fricke said. "We're not going to depend on a crystal ball."