GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

POLITICS:

President Modesto A. Masvidal (right) introduced the first speaker, Dr. Francis Fukuyama, of the "Geopolitical Summit" that took place in the Graham Center Ballrooms on Feb. 24.

Nations' successes, failures assessed

David Barrios, Julio Menache, Brian Alonzo

Beacon Staff

The global economic crisis, America's future as a superpower and the realignment of the developing world were among the topics discussed at the America and the Rising Powers conference.

The speakers, each considered among the foremost experts in their fields, included Dr. Francis Fukuyama, Dr. Robert Kagan, Parag Khanna and Dr. Fareed Zakaria. Hundreds of students packed into the Graham Center Ballrooms to attend the event, advertised as a "Geopolitical Summit," on Feb. 24.

The four plenaries consisted of speeches by the keynote speaker followed by comments from a panel consisting of FIU faculty members and a question and answer session.

Each of the speakers offered their own perspectives on America's current and future role on the international stage.

Fukuyama, a Bernard Schwartz professor of International Political Economy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University was the first speaker.

He claimed that capitalism practiced in the United States only appeals to the middle class while lower classes become attracted to other economic and political ideas.

"If you look at where people vote for Hammas in Gaza or Mr. Ahmadinejad in Iran or in this hemisphere, why Evo Morales or Hugo Chavez, it is because all of these leaders provide a social agenda and programs that appeal directly to poor people," Fukuyama said.

He also said that if America doesn't listen to the urges and needs of other nations and continues to lecture nations on what their needs are, it would face problems achieving strategic goals.

Continuing the conversation on power politics, Kagan, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, discussed the position of the United States after the 2008 election.

SUMMIT, page 2

LAW

Law school nationally recognized

Diana Jordan

Staff Writer

The University's College of Law was formally accepted into the Association of American Law Schools last month at the association's annual meeting.

The young law school, which opened its doors August of 2002, was awarded membership after instructing for five years and graduating at least three classes – the AALS's shortest possible time frame for admittance. In comparison, the University of Florida Levin College of Law and the University of Miami's Law School were admitted in 11 and 18 years respectively.

"We are very pleased with the AALS vote for our law school, which though less than seven years old, has in recent years received recognition nationally for the quality of its students, faculty and programs," said College of Law Dean Leonard Strickman in a published statement.

The AALS, founded in 1900, is a non-profit association of law schools in the United States. The association seeks to improve the legal profession through legal education and has come to be recognized as one of the highest distinctions a law school can attain.

AALS membership is the culmination of a long application process that concentrates on integral aspects of a law school's operation.

The aspects range from the school's curriculum, the quality of its faculty, scholarships it offers, its students and the diversity of the students and faculty members.

The Executive Committee of the AALS included the FIU College of Law into the association after learning about the school's plans of emphasizing an innovative transnational curriculum and also the school's commitment to helping students with scholarships and its new facilities.

"I have always been interested in going to law school. Now that FIU's College of Law has been admitted into the AALS, I will definitely consider it as one of my top choices," said junior and international relations major Jenny Martinez.

The college was also bestowed an honor when it received full accreditation from the American Bar Association.
The Women’s Center will hold its third annual Women Who Lead Conference in March, a day-long conference designed to expand the leadership skills of women in society.

“He is a chance for our students to get to meet women from around the state and counties who are leaders,” said Suzanne Onorato, director of the Women’s Center on the University Park campus. “This will allow our students to start thinking about their own decisions and their own careers.

There will be three breakout sessions at UP’s conference. During the first session, student panelists will have sponsored panels where women from that career field will be discussing academic.

At the conference, students will be able to have lunch with these women and take part in several interactive sessions during the day. Some of the sessions at the conference are “The Evolution of A Woman’s ‘Work World:’” “The Intersection of Work and Family” and “Building Career Networks.”

Even though the conference is targeted for the females students are also welcome to come in and learn,” Onorato said.

At the end of the conference, there will be networking opportunities for students who can network with agencies and corporate partners.

Zoeann Finzi-Smith, a graduate assistant working at the Women’s Center, believed that this conference is great for networking.

“It gives the FIU female students a chance to meet with people from their academic schools and women who work in that career field,” Finzi-Smith said.

The keynote speaker for UP’s Lindsay Hyde, executive director and founder of Soreno-Strong Women, Strong Girls, a non-profit organization in Massachusetts, which helps at-risk, third, fourth and fifth grade develop positive self-esteem.

“When we were first starting Strong Women, Strong Girls in South Florida, I believed it would be a great partnership to work with FIU,” Hyde said. “Getting involved with this conference was even better.”

The keynote speaker for Boston University is a two-time NBA award-winning Coach Michelle Bernstein.

“This conference is a great thing for women,” Onorato said. “If you bring women leaders who have broken through that glass ceiling, and inspire them to see that they can do it too.”

The Women Who Lead Conference is scheduled to take place on March 6 and at BC on March 27. It is free and open to all students. However, the Women’s Center is requiring that all who want to participate register first through the Web site at www.fiu.edu/~careers.

Broward considers cutting a day from school

The Broward County School Board is considering a four-day weekly schedule. Board members say that cutting the school week by one day could slash at least $75 million from next year’s budget.

To make up for the lost day, however, the school board says that having a 50-minute, seven-period schedule was one solution they have been looking at.

Karen Rhew, supervisory assistant U.S. attorney, said that searching warrants served at the university’s Innovative Nuclear Space Power and Propulsion Institute.

UF spokesman Steve Orlando said the FBI was in the offi  ce of professor Samim Anghaie, the Iranian-born director of the institute.

No arrest warrants were made and no further comments on the investigation were made.

Chronicle on the brink of sale or closure

Owners of the San Francisco Chronicle said on Feb. 24 that the famed newspaper could be facing a sale or close its doors forever.

The Hearst Corporation said he paper is showing “staggering losses” due to the current recession that has plagued many other papers nationwide.

“The San Francisco Chronicle is last year and needs to make deep cuts in order to survive,” a source familiar how often Cubans living in the U.S. can visit Cuba.

Anti-globalists gather outside summit

Summit, page 1

“U.S. has a fresh start,” he said when discussing President Obama’s popularity and how it aids the country diplomatically in the midst of the global economic situation.

He said that America continues to enjoy the standing it has held in the past among other nations, but members of the panel challenged his argument that the world had returned to a state of normality with a return to great power competition.

“U.S. unilaterism has precipitated a shift of moving back into power poli- ties,” claimed Dr. Elisabeth Pragl, asso- ciate professor in politics and international relations.

Khanna, director of the Global Gover- nance Initiative, then asked “What is the ‘World’ theory? – an analysis of rising powers with the qualities of both first and second world nations that trade with the first world powers of China, the European Union and the U.S.

Much like Kagan, Khanna took heavy criticism from the panel.

Professor Mark Rosenberg, former chancellor of the Florida Board of Gover- nors, brought up concerns including the growing attention to the state of global poverty and the possibility of the military in America staging a coup due to destabiliza- tion as the second world emerges.

The fourth and final panel included Zakaria, columnist and television host.

He began by speaking about where the world today, politically and economically, is as it deals with what Zakaria calls a, “genuine, synchronized global recession.”

“My thinking about the world changed in the last few months,” Zakaria said.

He argued that the current challenges are brought about by America’s successes rather than its failures.

What has led to this “post-American world” in the 21st century, he said, has been the rise of other forms of media such as the internet, the collapse of the Soviet economic model and an era of global political stability.

“All these forces are pushing in the same direction: a single global economy, where every country has adopted a similar economic model— you could be capitalist like Sweden, or you could be capitalist like the United States,” Zakaria said.

This new global financial system has produced an economic system never seen before in the world and one the U.S. does not know how to deal with, according to him.

“The key challenge is whether we become scared of this new world by trying to deny it or we embrace this new system and become a key player,” Zakaria said.

The other panelists did not argue against Zakaria’s views though a student raised the concern over America pulling through in the current recession.

“My gut is that what gets us out of this problems is our ingenuity,” he replied.

Some anti-globalist protestors demon- strated at the summit and raised questions concerning the perceived erosion of Amer- ican sovereignty and speakers’ links to think-tanks.

“We’ve been gathering on information on these individuals for the last three weeks and posting it on our Web site,” said Chris- tin Andrade, president of the Biscay- on the event.

For the students that were here it should be a master class in Geopolitics,” he said.

And it should help them digest the various information on their concerns toward the government.

“Having received full accreditation on that base of our American legal system, the AALS, I would not consider it a program or law schools and disrupted on alleged government links to Sept. 11.

“We’re asking them questions about the and just dismiss it quickly as a conspiracy theory or tin foil hat-wearing lunacy,” Perish said.

President Mondesta A. Madique was present at the summit and gave his views on the event.

“For the students that were here it should be an education in Geopolitics,” he said.

And it should help them digest the various courses and materials they are taking at the University from our faculty. I think this is a very stimulating and educational session.

“I think there are a lot of lessons as to what the roots of the crisis was. There is a lesson also as to what may happen to the other end of the crisis. There is confidence that the United States will sum this and any other crisis that comes along and I think that hopefully can have some idea to the other end of the crisis. There is confidence that the United States will sum this and any other crisis that comes along and I think that hopefully can have some idea to the other end of the crisis.

The summit was also a celebration of the New School of International and Public Affairs, inaugurated Jan. 5.
Bill to grant retirees investment control

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

With the possibility of nuclear weapons in Iran and genocide in Darfur, U.S. citizens can help prevent devastation by familiarizing themselves with state legislation and by following their money.

“Using economic power now to stand up to Iran and using economic power today to try to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur are absolutely consistent with your political beliefs, whatever they are,” said Florida State Senator Ted Deutch. “The legislation we’re working on will give people who have some individual say over where their retirement dollars go the option to invest their retirement dollars in funds that don’t invest in Sudan or Iran.”

Deutch spoke about this proposed legislation – as well as the Protecting Florida’s Investments Act, passed in June 8, 2007 – at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 24 in the Wolfe University Center’s conference room. The lecture was sponsored by the Middle East Society, part of the Department of International Relations and Geograpy at BBC, whose mission is “to foster a long-term partnership with the local community through lively debate and discussion about matters concerning the Middle East.”

The co-sponsors for this lecture were the Judeic Studies Program and the Florida Security Council, LLC, a state-based organization comprised of Floridians that help the general public prepare and respond to these “clear and present dangers,” according to their Web site.

“The goal is to help FIU become a center of debate and learning, especially at BBC, on topics of the Middle East,” said Shlomi Dinar, Middle East Society director.

Deutch, chosen for his active role in encouraging the Middle East to divest from Iran, sponsored the PFIA, “making Florida the first state to divest its pension funds from any company doing business with the government of Sudan or the energy sector of Iran,” according to a press release on the Florida Senate Web site.

“What we realized is that there were about $140 billion in the Florida retirement system,” said Deutch. “Included in those investments was a pretty significant investment in companies who were helping the Iranian government as they developed nuclear weapons.”

Informing citizens and enabling the support of unions was the first step in passing the legislation, according to Deutch.

“Those who were invested in our retirement system had probably a large percentage of their sons and daughters fighting in Iraq,” said Deutch. “When it occurred to them that Iran, even as they pursued nuclear weapons, was also creating the weapons that were being used on our troops in Iraq, they were appalled.”

The Florida Legislature passed the Florida State Board of Administration run through the retirement system, learning that the state of Florida invested more than $1 billion of direct holdings in companies that were making it easier to continue the genocide in Darfur, as well as helping Iranians develop nuclear weapons.

“The Florida State Board of Administration) sent letters to all of these companies telling them that their decision to invest in Iran, helping this genocide in Darfur ‘is not in our interest, we don’t support it .. unless you stop your activities, we’re going to sell our shares,’” Deutch said.

As of now, there are more than 15 other states that have acted in the same manner.

“I think some of the points that he presented were definitely something we should take under consideration. I never really thought about Iran in a bad perspective, but now it’s kind of like broadening my perspective,” said Sherman Rhodes, senior international relations major. “I agree with the plan, but I think it needs to be scrutinized as far as eventually trickling down and hurting the people and the citizens of Iraq. I think that’s my biggest issue, other than that I’m gang ho for it.”

Lowery sees love, education as catalyst for race relations

PARADISE AFSHAR
BBC Life! Editor

Civil rights leader Rev. Joseph Lowery, who gave the benediction at President Obama’s inauguration, transformed the Mary-Arn Wolfe Center into a Sunday morning church service when he lectured about the “black experience.”

“I have to say is ‘hallelujah!’” Lowery said. “I’m a preacher everywhere I go,” said Lowery, a reverend in the United Methodist Church. “I always thought of my work in civil rights as a part of my ministry.”

The lecture took place Feb. 25 in front of more than 100 students and community members, including Kevin Burns, mayor of North Miami and Joseph Kelley, mayor of Opa Locka.

Lowery, a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, had the audience mesmerized throughout his speech with a Christian Leadership Conference, had the audience mesmerized throughout his speech with a

...continued

“Lowery’s vision for the future of the country is one where “brown can stick around, when the red man can get ahead man and when white will embrace what is right.”

“Lowery sees love, education, and not our color,” Paul said. “I have to say is ‘hallelujah!’”

“Lowery’s vision for the future of the country is one where “brown can stick around, when the red man can get ahead man and when white will embrace what is right.”

“One day, we will be judged by our character and not our color,” Paul said.

“Lowery’s vision for the future of the country is one where “brown can stick around, when the red man can get ahead man and when white will embrace what is right.”
THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

STATEHOOD: In San Juan, a crowd demonstrated support for statehood for Puerto Rico on March 23, 1996, during deliberations on legislation sponsored by Sen. Dan Young, which dealt with Puerto Rico's status.

University would benefit from a needed veterans center

TED RANDALL Special to The Beacon

Veterans are under siege, and sadly enough, it has become a national trend to deny them the needs and treatment they deserve. Forty years ago, from the pestilent battlefields of Vietnam, U.S. service members returned to their home country to become third-rate citizens. The record is full of astonishingly abhorrent stories about the standard treatment of our veterans: filthy, rat-infested veteran medical centers, substandard health care, non-existent transitional assistance and the absolute ignorance about and denial of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sadly, with wars on two fronts, we face the same staggering deficits in veteran care and treatment today. Suicide among veterans and it would bring guaranteed health care for veterans and it would bring guaranteed health care for those who have served our country.

Efforts are underway to secure grants and funding to create a comprehensive Veterans’ Assistance Center at FIU. The goals of the center would mirror those at the University of Minnesota and would complement those efforts being made at the state and federal level.

Much like the FIU Disability Services Office, the Veterans’ Assistance Center could be part of the Division of Student Affairs, have its own office space and assist student-veterans with a myriad of student related services. A veteran fee could be assessed to provide some self-funding for the center, though these fees would be paid by the GI Bill.

Unfortunately, the idea of a Veterans’ Assistance Center at FIU is being met with resistance. Yes, the budget crises is a horrible reality but not compared to the horrors our service members have witnessed or the sacrifices they have made. Grants and assistance money for such a project are available.

The Veterans’ Assistance Center is a win-win for FIU. It would put us on the map as a community who cares about our veterans and it would bring guaranteed tuition dollars.

The center would act as a recruiting tool for student-veterans and attract mature, confident and talented new students. Debate about U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue for your years to come, much like it does over the war in Vietnam.

But let’s not make these wars another war in which young Americans were called to express their will only by the [people] it produces but also by the [people] it honors...

William Sewell Fernandez is sophomore international relations major and member of the Latin America and Caribbean Certificate Studies Program at Florida Interna-
tional University.

Statehood for Puerto Rico more complicated than it seems

WILLIAM SEWELL FERNÁNDEZ Special to the Beacon

In response to the Feb. 20 column “U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico eagerly demand statehood,” as a fellow Puerto Rican I feel it is my obligation to clarify certain aspects regarding its absurdly optimistic tone. The article erroneously claims that statehood is a realistic possibility for the island and that the majority of Puerto Ricans have conclusively decided to support it.

The people of Puerto Rico have no effective self-determination procedure. The island’s territorial status rests solely on the powers of Congress. One of the key reasons for the United States not to incorporate Puerto Rico are economic reasons. Puerto Rico is currently poorer than the poorest state, Mississippi, yet receives less federal funds. If Puerto Rico were incorporated into the Union, this would mean it would be entitled to much larger sums of federal funds, essentially increasing federal spending and straining the public purse.

At this time of economic uncertainty, where the looming specter of depression eyes the U.S. economy and denial of post-traumatic stress disorder.

We should be embarrassed. Right or wrong, our elected officials, acting on our behalf recruited our young men and women and sent them to harm’s way. Funding for veterans’ needs has been secondary to waging war and cutting taxes.

Huge efforts need to be made at the federal, service and state level to improve and expand services and assistance to veterans, many of whom have served multiple combat tours in either Iraq or Afghanistan. A new post-9/11 GI Bill was approved. Service branches have instituted significant transitional programs. But more needs to be done.

FIU can support this effort and honor and recognize our veterans by creating a Veterans’ Assistance Center. This type of program is becoming popular nationwide. At the University of Minnesota, student organizations and student-veterans lobbied to get funding and space to open up a veterans’ center on the campus. In 2005, the administration granted funding and remodeled space to provide appropriate accommodations for the center to include office space, couches, TV’s and computers.

According to the center’s Web site, “[The] transition center aims to offer a safe-haven and help curb the disturbingly high drop-out rate of veterans who return to school.”

Minnesota administrators realized that universities could expect a huge influx of veterans returning to school much like that felt after World War II and with the post-9/11 GI Bill, in which tuition is paid directly to the university, this could mean thousands of dollars in guaranteed tuition.

Efforts are underway to secure grants and funding to create a comprehensive Veterans’ Assistance Center at FIU. The goals of the center would mirror those at the University of Minnesota and would complement those efforts being made at the state and federal level.

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FIU, UM collaborating in John Milton symposium

We’re using the story of Samson Agonistes as a springboard to address larger issues that are very pertinent today," Strycharski said. "I don’t think it’s ever not been relevant."

Some of the panel members include Stanley Fish, professor of law at FIU; Faisal Mohamed, assistant professor of English at University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign; John Rutmich, professor of English at the University of Texas in Austin; Regina Schwartz, professor of literature, religion and law at Northwestern University and Susanne Woods, a visiting scholar at the University of Texas in Austin; Regina Schwartz, professor of literature, religion and law at Northwestern University and Susanne Woods, a visiting scholar at the University of Miami.

In addition to the panels there will be a rare stage production of Milton’s work. Strycharski said, "I think that’s one of the things that really drives people to him, "I don’t think it’s ever not been relevant."

The symposium is based on Milton’s drama, Samson Agonistes, which spins the biblical stories of Samson and the book of Judges to deal with issues of violence, faith, religion and politics. It will consist of panels of Milton scholars from across the country as well as graduate students from both FIU and UM who will be discussing dramatic poems in reference to issues of religion and violence.

“I think [Milton] is pertinent in all different levels of our lives; as individuals, societies and even broader social contexts. As a body, I think his stuff has always been extremely relevant and I think that’s one of the things that really drives people to him," Strycharski said. "I don’t think it’s ever not been relevant."

Some of the panel members include Stanley Fish, professor of law at FIU; Faisal Mohamed, assistant professor of English at University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign; John Rutmich, professor of English at the University of Texas in Austin; Regina Schwartz, professor of literature, religion and law at Northwestern University and Susanne Woods, a visiting scholar at the University of Miami.

In addition to the panels there will be a rare stage production of Samson Agonistes from 3 to 5 p.m. on campus at DM 150 on Feb. 27. This particular production is being put on by FIU theatre students and was directed by Phillip Church of the Theatre Department.

"When you look at something like Samson Agonistes it is beautiful, it is sexy, especially this production. It is moving and entertaining all at the same time," Strycharski said. "It’s really an enjoyable play and it’s going to be a really great production."

One of the interesting aspects about this celebration of Milton’s work is FIU’s partnership with UM.

"Working collaboratively it’s something that’s long overdue between the University of Miami and Florida International University. We hope this is the first of many operations," Shoulson said.

Given that both Miami-based schools share a rich and diverse city and each has its own broad and unique assets to bring to the table, a collaboration like the symposium had never been done before.

"We think that it’s important that whenever possible the two universities in Miami work together to share resources and to collaborate," Shoulson said. "We quickly thought that the topics we’re covering in the symposium are timely and pressing and of interest to people beyond the narrow field of the study of Milton’s writing."

Milton, a man who lived and died hundreds of years ago, managed to strike hard with his writing at the core of issues involving women, violence and religion—issues that still plague society today.

"I think that we are representing Miami in a particularly powerful way by focusing on these sorts of issues, and at the same time I think it’s appropriate for this kind of orientation to be happening in Miami," Strycharski said. "This is a kind of international crossroads and it is a global city. We’re addressing issues that really are global in scope.

The symposium is not just for English majors; symposium goers can be interested in women’s studies, religious works, politics and law and still find something that will grab their attention.

"If you care about the world we live in, you care about the issues this symposium raises," Strycharski said. "I don’t think there’s a heck of a lot of work that needs to be done to get students to care because from my experience at FIU, students already do care about these things."

All of the Milton Symposium events are free and open to the public.

For more information on these events, visit www.milton400.fiu.edu.

Information

9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Interdisciplinary Panel: Religion and Violence CBC 254

Fred Frohock (UM Political Science), Erik Larson (FIU Religious Studies), Richard S. Olson (FIU Political Science), Irene Oh (UM Religious Studies), Rob Rosen (UM Law School)

3 - 5 p.m.
Reader’s Theater Production of Samson Agonistes DM 150

GAMES GALORE

Karma comes back for ‘shoto-noob’

Back in high school, I played Counter-Strike, an online first-person shooter, in the Cyberathlete Amateur League, an online videogame league.

I remember how my teammates and I would sometimes play against lesser-skilled players and make fun of them, calling them “noobs,” or “newbies,” and tease them by killing them with unconventional game weaponry.

When Halo 2 became part of the Cyberathlete Amateur League, I was guilty of committing similar gamer crimes. I’d taunt my similarly unskilled opponents and laugh when they’d pick up guns that weren’t among the approved “skill” weapons.

But I grew up. I realized how pompous and arrogant I was and, although I still consider myself a competitive gamer, I’m more respectful toward my opponents — whether they’re lesser skilled or greater.

But karma is unforgiving, and it came around to bite me in the bottom last week when I bought Street Fighter IV for my PlayStation 3.

I’ve never been very interested in fighting games, but I remember loving Street Fighter II: Turbo on my Sega Genesis back in the day, so I thought I’d give the new iteration a shot — for old times’ sake.

I jumped online for some unraked matches to get some practice. Ken was my character of choice.

I now have boles in my body in places I should not have them.

I went online and did some research. Apparently, a “shoto” is a character in Street Fighter who shoots fireballs and/or throws dragon punches. Shotos are normally used by newbie players because they are easier to learn and are among the more recognizable characters, according to some Street Fighter forums I visited.

So yes, I am now a newbie, unskilled, shoto-using Street Fighter player. I feel just as low as I probably made some of my Counter-Strike and Halo opponents feel.

So I’m publicly apologizing.

If you’ve ever played Counter-Strike or Halo online or at a LAN center in the Miami area, I’m sorry if you ever came in touch with a player named “batte1” who made you want to drown yourself in a bottle of water.

I’m sorry if my Master Chief avatar teabagged your dead body, I’m sorry I told you you sucked or told you to find a new hobby.

That being said, does anybody out there want to offer me some Street Fighter lessons?
Summer blockbusters spring into action

The ides of March are approaching as we roll into the third month of the year with glimpses of summer blockbusters in the spring. Films that will be highlighted include movies about outlawed superheroes, aliens on the run and spies working together. This should be an interesting month.

MARCH 6 WATCHMEN

The first big movie of the year has finally arrived with Zack Snyder’s (300) adaptation of one of Time magazine’s 100 best novels ever, Watchmen. In an alternate universe, it is 1985 and superheroes have been outlawed for a decade. When a former superhero (Jeffery Dean Morgan) who worked for the government is murdered, a masked vigilante (Jackie Earle Hayley) investigates his former colleagues’ death. As he tries to reconnect with his former crime-fighting legion, he starts to uncover a plot to kill his parents and discredit all superheroes and the possibility of nuclear disaster.

MARCH 13 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN

Dwayne Johnson (The Game Plan) and director Andy Fickman (She’s The Man) reunite once again for the remake of the 1975 Disney film, Escape from Witch Mountain. In Race to Witch Mountain, a Las Vegas cab driver (Johnson) is thrust into an unexpected adventure when two teens with extraordinary powers get into his cab. They discover that in order to save the world, they must go to Witch Mountain, which is the equivalent of Area 51. With the group on their way to Witch Mountain, they find themselves being chased by mobsters, government officials and aliens.

MARCH 20 DUPlicitY

Closer co-stars, Oscar-nominee Clive Owen and Oscar-winner Julia Roberts, reunite again with the second film from Oscar-nominated director Tony Gilroy (Michael Clayton), Duplicity. A CIA officer (Roberts) and an MI6 agent (Owen), who had a love affair years ago, left the world of government intelligence to work for two multinational corporations. Both of their missions consist on securing the formula that will bring a fortune to the company that patents it first. The rival heads of the two companies (Oscar-nominees Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti) use every dirty trick in their books to retrieve the formula. As the two former spies team up to pull the ultimate con job on their bosses, they start to fall in love with each other all over again.

MARCH 27 ADVENTURELAND

Director Greg Mottola’s (Superbad) third film is based on the director’s experience working at an amusement park in Long Island, New York called Adventureland. In the film, it is the summer of 1987 and a college graduate (Jesse Eisenberg) has to work at the amusement park when his parents cannot pay for his trip to Europe. What would seem like his worst summer ever turns pleasant when he discovers love with a co-worker (Kristen Stewart) and learns how to prepare for the real world.

The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.
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many little things that there's adjust to college baseball and how teaching underclassmen how to said. They got all the votes,” Thomas said. "When we voted for team captains, they know the endurance contest and experience. Stropp may feel like senior citi- been around longer than them,” Stropp said. "But they don’t because you’ve got a lot of confidence heading into this year,” Derick said. But he wasn’t always that way. "He’s always been the quiet brother out of the two. That’s what my parents said. He was the shy one,” Derick said. Stropp also credited his family for teaching him how to lead, but coming from a family of six siblings, he’s had plenty of oppor- tunities to learn from his older siblings and teach his younger ones. "Having three younger siblings, I think it just trans- lates over to the [baseball field]. It comes easily and if you need help I’m more than willing to help you,” Stropp said. One time, Stropp taught his younger brother Joey how to catch a baseball in their backyard in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. “I would just get up there and throw the ball as hard as I could at him. Eventually he picked it up because you either get hit with it or you learn to catch the ball,” Stropp said. They’re both hoping the team will be able to pick up their lessons as well.

"I think every coach in America mixes up his starters showing underclassmen the ropes Co-captains showing underclassmen the ropes the peppy kid around. He’s got a lot of love to hit but my job is to catch. If you have a bad catcher, you have a bad team,” Stropp said. "All my focus is going to be put on catching the ball and making our pitchers look as good as possible. If I get some hits, good for me.” Like Stropp, Mollica has been putting in extra time with the infielders to help improve the team’s .957 fielding percentage and 1.7 errors per game from last season. Coming from Central Florida Community College, Mollica didn’t get much mentoring and is going to make sure underclassmen are given the guidance he never received. "There wasn’t much teaching and showing of the ropes,” Mollica said. "I’m just showing these guys how to work hard and technique.” LEARNING TO LEAD Growing up, Mollica always looked up to his brother Derick who was two years older. The two brothers turned plenty of double plays together, playing two years of high school baseball at Wellington High School where Derick served as team captain. Mollica credits his older brother for giving him advice and teaching him how to lead. "I just told him he’s got to be tough ... if he wants the team to follow him, he’s got to lead by example,” Derick said. Last season, Mollica quietly led the team in batting average (.413), on-base percentage (.483) and doubles (23). But this season, he will be expected to repeat his offensive output along with setting an example for the younger infielders -- and his brother has noticed the difference. "You can just tell. From last year and his days of JUCO ball and high school ball, he was never the peppy kid around. He’s got a different swagger about him. His attitude is a lot different and he’s got a lot of confidence heading into this year,” Derick said. "But he wasn’t always that way. "He’s always been the quiet brother out of the two. That’s what my parents said. He was the shy one,” Derick said. Stropp also credited his family for teaching him how to lead, but coming from a family of six siblings, he’s had plenty of oppor- tunities to learn from his older siblings and teach his younger ones. "Having three younger siblings, I think it just trans- lates over to the [baseball field]. It comes easily and if you need help I’m more than willing to help you,” Stropp said. One time, Stropp taught his younger brother Joey how to catch a baseball in their backyard in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. “I would just get up there and throw the ball as hard as I could at him. Eventually he picked it up because you either get hit with it or you learn to catch the ball,” Stropp said. They’re both hoping the team will be able to pick up their lessons as well.

"I think every coach in America mixes up his offensives production has been dismal, as they are hitting .255 as a team while posting a .367 on-base percentage.