Students weigh in on healthcare debate

**JUJO MENACHE**

**Staff Writer**

As the nation wrestles with healthcare reform, students have a wide variety of opinions concerning possible solutions to the debate. “The only way to make health care cheaper, in my opinion, is to get government out of healthcare,” said junior Yonathan Amselem, who is majoring in political science. Amselem, who comes from a family of lawyers, believes that the best way to reform America’s healthcare system is by “trying to fight the trial lawyers.”

“It’s the threat of being sued that makes doctors run patients through a battery of tests you really don’t need and raise the premiums for everyone else. When a doctor can be sued for $20 million, that raises the cost of insurance for everybody,” Amselem said.

In a move to appease conservatives, President Obama said during his speech to Congress on Sept. 9 that he would be open to tort reform. “The health insurance industry does need to be reformed, but it must be done in a way that unleashes the innovation inherent in all areas of the American economy. This, along with massive tort reform, will truly lower health care costs for all Americans without sacrificing that which makes us unique,” said Nick Antillo, president of FIU College Republicans.

“I don’t believe malpractice reform is a silver bullet, but I’ve talked to enough doctors to know that defensive medicine may be contributing to unnecessary costs,” Obama said during his address on healthcare.

He plans to work on demonstration projects across the country that would look for ways to reduce defensive medicine practices. President Obama also gave Congress an outline of what should be included in the healthcare bill. He proposes to reform health insurance by preventing insurance companies from denying people with pre-existing conditions and setting a limit on out-of-pocket expenses.

In addition, Obama calls for the creation of an “one-stop” health insurance exchange, set to begin in 2013, where Americans can pick and choose low-cost private or public plans.

All Americans would be required to have health insurance. Large employers would be required to provide health insurance to full-time workers or meet a financial obligation. These requirements would be reflected in taxes.

For more information on healthcare reform and related issues, visit www.healthcare.gov.

**MEENDA RUPANI**

**Staff Writer**

The life of Hilarion Martinez has taken many turns. From an interest in math to an interest in foreign affairs that would impact him for the rest of his life and career, his years at FIU have been focused on helping students and he has spent an unprecedented three years as the diplomat in residence. Martinez teaches Diplomacy, a course that gives students an insight into how diplomacy has evolved over the years.

The objective of the Diplomacy course, he said, is to explore various aspects of diplomacy, especially as practiced by the U.S. government. Several sessions at the end of the course are dedicated to the presentation and discussion of diplomatic policy reviews prepared by students. The course makes use of guest lecturers, including many high-level foreign career diplomats who work as diplomats for their own countries.

“I’ve known Lari since he arrived and I’m delighted that he will be spending another year with us. He has distinguished himself by his sustained commitment to the University,” said José Gabi- londo, associate dean for Academic Affairs and associate professor at the College of Law. “We’re lucky to have him.”

At Duke University, Martinez majored in math but his interests began to lie elsewhere. Martinez was introduced to the world of politics because of many trips he made to Washington D.C. and back. He then applied to law school with recommendations both from the former U.S. attorney general and a member of the Supreme Court.

“When I speak with students now, I always reflect on my own life and underscore the need for students to identify opportunities and act on them,” Martinez said.

Protestors call for spy liberation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of Cuban demonstrators are calling for the liberation of five men arrested 11 years ago for spying in the U.S.

Protest leader and painter Alexis Leyva Machado wants President Barack Obama to free the men because he said “they are anti-terrorist heroes, not villains.”

The so-called “Cuban Five” were convicted in Miami, Florida, in 2001 for being unregistered foreign agents.

Cuban officials say the men were heroes trying to avert terrorist attacks on the island and maintain they didn’t receive a fair trial because of strong sentiment in Miami against former Cuban President Fidel Castro. They will be resentenced in October.
companies would also be mandated to provide their employees with insurance or help them cover the costs of obtaining insurance. However, small businesses would be exempt from the mandate. According to Obama, the plan will cost $900 billion over the next decade and will not increase the country’s looming deficit, which currently stands at $11 trillion. The Obama administration has also proposed a public option to obtain healthcare, which has been a major source of division among Democrats and Republicans. "The president and the Demo- crats in Congress need to realize that by undermining the private nature of health insurance they will destroy the greatest health-care system in the world," Anti- ello said. But Savannah Altavater, trea- surer of the FIU College Demo- crats, sees the public option as essential for meaningful reform. "That’s the most viable option right now because it creates competition for the insurance companies, leading to lower prices," Altavater said. "Especially with how the economy is right now...knowing that there is a public option out there that’s going to cover you even if you don’t get a job out of school and your parents can no longer cover you in their plan, you will have something to go to, instead of having to buy an expen- sive plan." Altavater, who is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, says she gets to enjoy both insurer states because her mother is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada. While Obama’s plan doesn’t call for a single payer system, a competing plan in Congress, called H.R. 676, looks to expand health care to all Americans to create a single payer system in the U.S. Altavater believes that the current debate on health care has been limited to insurance, neglecting the need for incentives to increase the quality of care. "The healthcare reform will address that issue, not just who is insured and who isn’t," Altavater said. While most students get health insurance from their parents or from their employer, University Health Services offers care at a very low cost, thanks to a scholarship that already included in the tuition. "If you are a registered student and have paid the health fee, your visit with the doctor won’t cost you anything, but you will have to pay a nominal fee for any proce- dure or lab test done," said Oscar Loynaz, medical doctor and head of the General Medical Clinic at Modesto Maidique Campus. According to Loynaz, the University hires an insurance broker that helps it find insurance plans that are comprehensive and low-cost. Yet even those without insur- ance can still see a doctor. "If you don’t have insurance, your visit to the doctor here is free. The visit is not going to cost you anything except for, let’s say, a test for strep throat," Loynaz said. Senior criminal justice major Franz Benardad said he was aware of the recent Cuban Americans that could probably receive at the University, even though he has been without healthcare for eight years. "I do worry about getting sick, but I am not sick," Bernardad said. "I am healthy. The only thing I need to do is go to school, get myself a better job – then I can get health insurance."
MELODY REGALADO
Contributing Writer

New York-inspired paintings created by a basic technology student have now found temporary homes in the University, where they will be showcased for the next few years. The artist is graduate student Jason Galbut, who loaned the University seven of his paintings, six of which now hang on the walls of the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus and one in the Graham Center at Modesto Maidique Campus since May.

Galbut, 31, began painting while he was on a summer away program in high school in Boston. He completed his undergraduate studies in fine arts from State College of New York in 2002. A Miami native, he is currently in his final year of his graduate studies in fine arts at FIU’s School of Art and Art History. Galbut is also an instructor at the School of Art and Art History at Miami Dade Community College, where he taught 2-D Design, but he now teaches beginning and intermediate painting.

He describes his style as both “free” and “precise,” and said he has a clear idea of the message he wants to deliver through his paintings.

“I want my paintings to reconcile all the different aspects of our lives to create a rich, meaningful world,” Galbut said.

Although completing his creations was a process that demanded a lot of patience, Galbut said they are meant to function in an intellectual dialogue and inspire thought.

Galbut feels a connection with these paintings because they reveal how he works with the world, he said. He strives to make sense of the information and images that people are faced with, and sort them out to see how he fits in with them.

Students are already appreciating Galbut’s artistic contributions.

“They bring a unique sense of style to the WUC walls, bringing new life to them,” said Jackie Schuck, a junior journalism major.

WUC houses most of the paintings because it has better spacing and breathing room with its wide and once-empty walls, according to Galbut. Galbut appreciates the way the various country flags hanging from the ceiling interact with the neighboring paintings.

“The engagement between the paintings and the flags mix with the sense of diversity and multicultural aspects of South Florida,” he said.

With the help of the University staff, Galbut was finally able to expose his art.

“They really went out of their way to make it easy and support the project,” Galbut said.

Cooper worked with Galbut on filling out the paperwork, choosing the space and getting the pieces installed at WUC.

“Not only do they add some color and life for students and guests who come through the building, but they also offer students the opportunity to appreciate art,” Cooper said.

Clinic offers inexpensive medicine, services to students

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Staff Writer

While the White House looks to pass a bill on universal health care, the majority of Americans have had to cope with the issue at hand: being uninsured or underinsured.

University Health Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus can help in both cases. The clinic offers medical services for free or reduced prices compared to those in other clinics. Services include physical examinations, health screenings, vision screenings, HIV testing, STD testing, vaccinations and a phlebotomy service.

To access the clinic’s services, students simply have to be enrolled for classes.

The BBC Wellness Center, located on the third floor of the Wolfe University Center, room 307.

For more information, call 305.919.5307.

CONTACT US

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The vicious cycle of teenage unemployment

Give student workers a chance

Denise Rodriguez
Contributing Writer

Teenagers are constantly persuaded to join the armed forces to sacrifice their lives for the freedom of others, but when it comes to our employment needs, we aren’t persuaded to be hired. This year’s teenage unemployment rate has been the highest it’s ever been at 25.5 percent, a significant increase since 1948 (10.5 percent).

Even the number of teenagers working this year reached a new low: according to The New York Times, an estimated 1.64 million people between the ages of 16-19 were unemployed. Not only is this number worrisome, it’s disheartening. From personal experience, I have faced this competitive job market, and was lucky enough at the FIU bookstore – after applying at other places and not receiving any callbacks – and I got hired.

Nevertheless, it was made known to us that we were temporary – and even expendable. One week of employment wasn’t enough to see if we were qualified employees – it’s as if we weren’t even given a chance.

With our energy and willingness to work, employers should be eager to hire us. With all that we have to offer, we are deemed rather than given the opportunity because we do not have “enough experience,” as many students would believe. Well, in order to gain experience, someone has to give us a shot. Young adults like us need to acquire necessary skills in order to become productive individuals.

As job hunting within our age group wasn’t competitive already – since we’re the last to be hired and first to be fired – we have to make it through numerous obstacles during this recession. The New York Times said, “Congress set aside $2.1 billion for jobs and training for teenagers in February’s stimulus bill.”

If the resources sufficiently supported by the stimulus, we should be aware of where that money is going and take ownership of those funds. Experts speculate different reasons for which teens aren’t hired. One of the reasons includes the increase in minimum wage from $6.55 in July 2008 to $7.25 in July 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. This may influence the high number of unemployed teenagers.

As a result of this unemployment, students have returned to the classroom in order to become more competitive in the job market. The New York Times also stated that teens “are choosing to attend college, which could help them increase their earning potential later in life.”

There may be evidence of students turning back to school, for instance; enrollment increased to 39,146 students as of fall 2008, according to FIU’s Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

This problem becomes an endless cycle with students in choosing to go to college, we are back at square one: in order to attend college, we must be able to afford it. In order to afford it, we must have a job. It iskeh back to the problem of unemployment.

We should be given the chance to break this endless cycle of wasted resumes. We should not be left behind simply because of our age. The future of our country is in the minds of these young people being turned away. We are the building blocks of this country, forming the foundation which will hold up subsequent generations. For this we need one thing – experience.

Students too dependent on loans for tuition

Margarite Chebat
Contributing Writer

As the Fall semester commences, it carries with it a myriad of new activities, familiar faces and new beginnings. Along with all these new and exciting experiences, the most difficult burden to bear at the inception of each semester is tuition.

Each year, many students struggle to find new ways to pay for their college education. Some students turn to scholarships, grants or funds from a job; however, many students look to loans for aid. Although this may not be the best form of payment, student loans are the most common form of payment for tuition. Each year, the number of students seeking aid increases; this year, the amount of money students borrowed increased to $75.1 billion, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Loans have become something of a detrimental quick fix for tuition costs. Students are becoming more accepting of the idea of taking out a student loan in order to fund their education.

Most students understand and accept that they will be in debt after graduation. According to The Wall Street Journal, “Two-thirds of college students borrowing to pay for college will have an average debt load of $23,186 by the time they graduate.”

Because student loans are easy for students to acquire, many students think taking out several loans is acceptable as long as they graduate and pay back what they owe. However, this is not such a simple concept. Many individuals searching for jobs directly out of college find themselves in difficult situations. Many companies are looking to hire experienced workers who will be able to expand the particular business side, if they are hiring at all. Unfortunately, students who are graduating into the current state of the economy are finding it nearly impossible to attain the job they had hoped for after graduation.

The problem lies in the ease in which these loans are available as well as in the absurd costs of a good education. Many students are so focused on getting a degree that they do not consider the financial consequences when pulling loans in order to fund their studies.

Although loans can be the only source of payment for some students, there are other ways to acquire money for college.

Applying for scholarships and grants can help take the burden off of having to rely on loans. It is important to act wisely when taking the steps to deciding your future, because you may end up having to pay for it later.

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www.fi usm.com

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

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OPINION/FEATURE
It’s just so puzzling how this could have happened. How, whoever did this, could have done it in the middle of the day in a busy building.

Like Daily News Editor in Chief Thomas Kaplan, on the disappearance of Anissa La, a Taco student

In order to attend college, we must be able to afford it, and in order to afford it, we must have a financial source; bringing us back to unemployment.

Students too dependent on loans for tuition

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Contributing Writer

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Applying for scholarships and grants can help take the burden off of having to rely on loans. It is important to act wisely when taking the steps to deciding your future, because you may end up having to pay for it later.
Sigmas Tau Delta gets members outside the classroom

MARUCOS ALONSO
Contributing Writer

The English department has a club that enables students to hit the ground running both socially and academically. Sigma Tau Delta is an English honors society with the purpose to provide English majors and minors the opportunity to engage with fellow students in a more social environment.

Make no mistake, it is still an honors society, and consequently, it requires members to meet a minimum of a 3.3 GPA within the department, and a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

“My goal as president is to extend our passion for literature from inside the classroom to outside the classroom,” said Gabriella Rosell, the club’s president and a senior double major in English and political science.

Rosell also expressed a desire for the club to include more activities inclined toward creative writing, which would include monthly readings, competitions and writing workshops. Senior Fabian Peraza, the club’s Council for Student Organizations representative, refers to the organization as a place where he has made life-long friends.

“People I know are like-minded and we get along on a fairly regular basis,” he said. “We are very diverse in our aspirations since some of us want to go on to graduate school, teaching or the military, but we are all highly ambitious people who have come to know each other closely.”

Socially, the club aspires to bring students together, in a place where they can feel comfortable with each other with sharing their work.

The organization strives to take active part in the community by holding morning beach clean-ups followed by a fun day at the beach. In addition, Sigma Tau Delta offers its members an invaluable opportunity to get to know their professors on a more personal level.

 Sigma Tau Delta provides students a creative and social outlet at FIU.

As fall semester continues to take off, Sigma Tau Delta provides students a creative and social outlet at FIU.

For those thinking about joining, the organization is currently accepting applications. More information is available in the English department located in DM 453. Their first event, a bake sale, was held Sept. 9 and raised funds for the organization. Upcoming events include a bowling night, meet your professors breakfast and beach cleanups.
Online physics game gets the red ball rolling

My high school physics professor taught it all figured out when he announced on the first day of class the key to understanding the universe and our humble place within it: “Physics is life, life is physics.” Andrew Guillen, the man behind Magic Pen, clearly understands.

Magic Pen is a puzzle game that challenges you to use the rules of physics to propel a little red ball through one or more flags. To do this, you use your mouse as a drawing tool to create shapes. Triangles become ramps, rectangles become bridges, circles launched from above help push your little ball forward. You can draw virtually any shape, and there is more than one way to solve each of the puzzles.

You can also attach shapes to each other with pins and hinges, all of which makes for a really great sense of satisfaction each time you solve one, but the concepts are simple enough to make the game accessible to everyone.

The crayon-inspired look adds a heavy dose of charm and the song really never gets annoying – in fact, it’s pretty catchy. Also, the actual physics is implemented really well. The shapes behave exactly the way you expect them to.

The only minor gripe is that if your mouse is unruly at times, like mine is, it can get frustrating trying to draw these shapes, especially when certain puzzles require swift action.

But, the game does a good job of guessing more or less what shape you were going for and smoothing out the edges. If you don’t have 20 minutes set aside to see the whole game through, no worries. Assuming you can pull yourself away, you can always pick up right where you left off.

Assuming you can pull yourself away, you can always pick up right where you left off. Reaching a level unlocks it in the level select at the main menu, so you don’t have to replay all the puzzles you already did. You can find Magic Pen at www.bubbleblox.com. Search for it under the puzzle tab.

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**Performers of the Week**

**Ellingson**

Greg Ellingson was catching nearly everything Paul McCall was throwing at him vs. Alabama. His five receptions for 92 yards and one touchdown put him near the top of this week’s performers.

**Hilton**

As soon as he touched the ball, he took a 96-yard return for a touchdown. T.Y. Hilton made Nick Saban’s press conference look like a prophecy instead of a rant. T.Y. said goodbye on that return.

**Frings**

The men’s soccer team lost its leading scorer entering the season, yet Sebastian Frings has filled the void by scoring five goals in five games, including three this week vs. Stetson and Howard.

**Rose**

The women’s soccer team had some trouble finding offense the last couple of weeks. Katrina Rose provided two goals this week to give the Golden Panthers their second win of the season.

**Vergun**

She missed all of last season, but Olga Vergun stepped it up during the FIU/UM Invitational, especially with the absence of Yarimar Rosa. Vergun led the team with 44 kills in three games.

**Valentin**

She’s part of the Puerto Rican tandem that’s helped propel the volleyball program the last three years. Natalia Valentin racked up a staggering 143 assists over the span of three games.

**Scoring Machine:** Sebastian Frings scored two goals vs. Howard en route to a 4-2 win. Frings has five goals in five games this season.

**Eketebi believes team can produce more points**

by Nicholas Chase

Eketebi believes the Golden Panthers can produce more points.

**Men’s Soccer, page 8**

by Nicholas Chase

“Even without Yari, I think our team has performed great so far,” Tomic said. “I think this is good for the rest of the team to learn how to play without her. Everyone needs to play better.”

**Volleyball, page 8**

even so, Tomic stressed the importance of having her back in the line-up as soon as possible. While the team has managed to play well, Rosa’s absence during games against ranked opponents Kentucky and Florida State was felt. The team’s two losses this season were against two top-25 teams.

“It’s huge,” Tomic said. “She’s a player that you go to. When you need a point, when you need something, she makes those points. She’s the leader of this team.”

**Classifieds**

**Jobs**

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker, English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion. Send CV and recent photo to: DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139
Golden Panthers pound Howard at home

ANNA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

FIU’s men’s soccer team produced more than a winning scoreboard against Howard on Sept. 13.

In its previous game, the team had rapidly last-minute changes in its lineup. Multiple players were injured, such as defender Anthony Hobbs, who sustained an injury against Stetson.

With just 12 healthy players on the roster, Coach Munga Eketebi has been developing the team’s tactics at practices to help players feel more confident and prepared for matches.

“We have been getting more organized from what I’ve seen at practice,” said defender Jahbari Willis, who’s had to play a bigger role on defense. “We have a couple of things to work on, but overall we have a nice solid group and when everyone is back and at 100 percent you are going to see we are going to have good results for FIU and be ready for those big games.”

The team’s improved communication led to a 4-2 victory over Howard at FIU Stadium.

“We are getting used to each other, more and more,” Willis said. “At the end of the game, we gave each other constructive criticism in the locker room and everyone is trying to get to learn each other’s habits so down the road, in those big games, we are geelling.”

Willis played a vital role in center back, blocking multiple shots on goal.

“I stayed in the back more because they kept counter attacking us,” Willis said. “That’s all they lived for.”

The Golden Panthers entered the game on Sept. 13 needing to win, and did so in dramatic fashion as they topped the North Florida Ospreys 2-1.

In the first half, FIU controlled the ball for the majority of the time, tallying seven shots on goal, and held North Florida to one.

However, Ospreys’ Kaitlin Swift made that one shot count as she beat Savage with a header into the upper left corner of the net.

“I felt we played well in the first half,” said Coach Thomas Chewuch. “They had one shot and it went in.”

Entering the second half, FIU came out shooting, with Rose scoring the equalizer less than five minutes after play resumed. Rose sealed the deal with yet another goal 30 minutes later, giving FIU a 2-1 victory.

“We went with a different system in the second half,” said Jackson. “It’s good to get some momentum going into conference play.”

For Rose, scoring the game-tying and game-winning goals gave her and her team some confidence.

“I was really excited,” said Rose. “Defying halftime, we had a discussion and we realized that we all needed to step it up. Now we know we can win.”

SPEEDY RECOVERY?: Senior Yarimar Rosa will see a hand specialist to evaluate her dislocated pinky finger she sustained while making a block against the University of Miami in the FIU/UM Invitational.

Rosa out 1-2 weeks with dislocated pinky

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

Everything seemed to be going according to plan.

The Golden Panthers volleyball team was up 2-1 over crosstown rival Miami and got off to a fast start in the third set, poised to send the Hurricanes home quickly on Sept. 10.

But an attempted block on a Hurricane attack midway through the set changed all of that.

The expression on Yarimar Rosa’s face when she clutched her hand after the play said it all. The festive and spirited crowd at the U.S. Century Bank Arena held their collective breath and became silent as she was helped to the locker room by a trainer.

Rosa will see a hand specialist, but it’s her non-hitting hand, which is good. It’s just a matter of how her stitches heal. She will see a hand specialist, but Tomic is optimistic that her return may be sooner than originally anticipated, possibly within the next week or two.

We think she might be ready to play next weekend, but it’s her non-hitting hand, which is good.

“We think that she might be ready to play next weekend,” Tomic said. “It depends how her stitches heal but it’s her non-hitting hand, which is good. It’s just a matter of how her body heals.”

Despite Rosa’s departure, the Golden Panthers were able to finish off the Hurricanes 3-1 on Sept. 11.

“Everything has been getting more and more,” Willis said. “At the end of the game, we gave each other constructive criticism in the locker room and everyone is trying to get to learn each other’s habits so down the road, in those big games, we are getting.”

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