Rionda sends bill back for revision
FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate at Student Government Council in Modesto Maidique Campus decided to send the resolution opposing mandatory health insurance back to the authors because some senators said that it was misinformed.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda had vetoed the resolution last week and told the senate this week that he believed the resolution needed more time to be researched and debated. He sent the legislative branch an e-mail with his reasoning.

Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez read the e-mail to senators during the Nov. 2 senate meeting. The message was sent almost 20 minutes after the start of the meeting.

“I believe both require more review, information, discussion and debate,” stated Rionda’s e-mail. “The two are complex issues which deserve more discussion and review.”

Rionda was referring to both the mandatory health care resolution and another resolution he vetoed which called for the restructuring of the University’s student government.

Rionda urged the senate to use the allowed time and structure afforded to the legislative body by the campus bylaws to fully investigate such issues and not pass resolutions on first reading.

According to the campus bylaws, anything brought to the senate, such as bills or resolutions, must be read aloud in full order for anyone to make a motion. The way the Senate reads those resolutions on first reading.

According to Cristobal, 13 different senators have made significant time or have been knocked out of the season with injury. The Golden Panthers have had a revolving door at an array of positions. Key cogs like Ash Parker, Toronto Smith, Junior Merttie and Eric Kirchenburg have suffered potential season ending procedures. In addition, wide receiver T.Y. Hilton has been limited for weeks with a recurring knee issue, and cornerback Anthony Gaint had to leave the game vs. University of Louisiana on Nov. 4 with a bad shoulder.

“Part of it is you have no choice, and the second part of it is something that we have drove home from the beginning of training camp,” Cristobal said of the injury issues.

Injuries not stopping Panthers
JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When describing the state of the Golden Panthers, head coach Mario Cristobal mentioned a recent book on the NFL’s Baltimore Ravens named Near Man Jaf. The way the 2009 season is unfolding, FIU might be a good idea for part two of the book.

According to Cristobal, 13 different starters have made significant time or have been knocked out of the season with injury. The Golden Panthers have had a revolving door at an array of positions. Key cogs like Ash Parker, Toronto Smith, Junior Merttie and Eric Kirchenburg have suffered potential season ending procedures. In addition, wide receiver T.Y. Hilton has been limited for weeks with a recurring knee issue, and cornerback Anthony Gaint had to leave the game vs. University of Louisiana on Nov. 4 with a bad shoulder.

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Regalado wins mayoral elections
LISA ORION EMMANUEL
AP Writer

In Miami, a Havana-born commissioner and former television reporter was elected mayor with a wide margin Tuesday, while St. Petersburg picked a lawyer who had the support of the city business and political establishment.

In Miami, with all of the precincts reporting, unofficial results showed Tomas Regalado had nearly 72 percent and Joe Sanchez had just over 28 percent.

“We’re going to recover our city and the confidence of our residents,” Regalado said, according to The Miami Herald. “And we will do it by not wasting money.”

Sanchez said he called Regalado to concede, but spoke with his chief of staff.

“The voters in the city of Miami have exercised their democratic process ... I certainly respect that we live in great country and I wish him the best,” Sanchez said. “There comes a time in everybody’s life when the sun rises and sets. It set for me tonight, but it’s not the end of my political career.”

In St. Petersburg, with all precincts reporting, unofficial results showed Bill Foster with more than 52 percent of the votes and Kathleen Ford with just over 47 percent. Foster and Ford are both lawyers and former city commissioners. They were vying to replace popular Mayor Rick Baker, who was also limited to two four-year terms.

“Steady progress wins the day,” Foster said, according to the St. Petersburg Times. “Radical change is something we’ve never been receptive to.”

Ford said she called 46-year-old Foster about 8 p.m. to concede the
States sue Expedia and Orbitz for backed taxes

The state of Florida has sued discount travel Web sites Expedia and Orbitz for backed taxes.

According to The Miami Herald, the lawsuit, filed by State Attorney General Bill McCollum, alleges that the companies have kept millions of dollars in Florida sales taxes.

The article added that according to industry experts, both Expedia and Orbitz say that they do not purchase blocks of hotel rooms hence there are no sales tax funds involved.

McCollum has received praises from both sides of the aisle as a result.

Tainted ground beef kills 2, sickens dozens

Two have died and 28 have fallen ill as a result of a mass shipment of tainted ground beef.

According to CNN, meat tainted with E. Coli was delivered to a plant in Westland, Michigan. The beef was purchased for use in ground beef products.

The USDA suggests that consumers ask retailers if the ground beef products they're considering have been received from the plant in Michigan.

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St. Petersburg mayor Ford becomes St. Petersburg mayor

The first-year defensive back from North Miami Beach High played roughly 90 plays last week between safety and special teams.

“He was a guy that since the day he’s gotten here has completely committed himself to being a great football player,” Cristobal said. “We’re excited about what he’s brought to the defense, and we need him to continue to develop.”

The Golden Panthers still have a slim chance for a lot of great things to happen this season.

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Ford becomes St. Petersburg mayor

The Golden Panthers still have a slim chance for a lot of great things to happen this season.

The state bill, CS/CS/HB 885, entitled the “Student Health Insurance Protection Act,” would have given state universities the power to mandate health insurance as a requirement for registration.

“Just because it died doesn’t mean it can’t be brought back,” said engineering senator and sponsor of the resolution, William-Jose Velez.

The intent of the resolution was to not destroy education for those who could not afford health insurance, said senator from the Honors College, Vignesh Doraiswamy, another sponsor of the resolution.

One of the more controversial lines in the resolution contends that the State Legislature would not make mandatory health insurance without any financial assistance.

Student Media could not find any references in the “Student Health Insurance Protection Act” that would add any additional finance to students in need.

Instead, the resolution focused on the logistics of getting university health centers to become in-network provider status for the major health insurance providers in the state, and of collecting fees for services rendered from the providers.

The senate also passed a council bill that would change all references in the bylaws from University Park Campus to Modesto Maidique Campus.

Rionda also criticized the senate for passing that bill on first read without looking into the consequences.

“It is not necessary to pass this in one read.”

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School competes for first prize in beard brisket cook-off

MELODY REGALADO Staff Writer

After winning first prize last year, students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and the Gourmet Wine and Food Club will go up against four culinary schools this year in a barbecue beard brisket cook-off challenge.

The competition, called the Flamingo Family Food Festival, will be hosted by the South Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food, and will take place Nov. 7 from 3 p.m to 6 p.m., at Flamingo Gardens, which is located at 3750 S. Flamingo Rd. in Davie, Fla.

AIWF is an organization founded by Julia Child and other chefs. It helps its members develop their passion for food and wine through educational programs, scholarships and social activities.

The school competed in last year’s cook-off and won first place with a menu of papaya-glazed ribs with jicama mint salsa, and a frozen mojito shooter with coconut rim. Their prize: a ceramic pig.

“It would be great to show we are not known as a cooking school,” said Poole. “It would be great to show off some of the talent this school has to offer.”

Study abroad programs give students culture experience

PHILIPPE BUTEAU Staff Writer

David Funesco, a senior political science major, has been studying in Tianjin, China, since Aug. 23. The study abroad program is scheduled to end in December, but he doesn’t know when he’s coming back home. He loves the experience too much to come back.

“It could be four months or eight months,” said Funesco. “I can login and check it out on the Beacon via Skype. “It’s a great experience maturity wise. You get to be more independent. You get to be away from home. There’s a whole new level of freedom.”

The schools of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Journalism and Mass Communication offer study abroad programs in China, Europe and South America.

HTM has a program in Tianjin, China every semester for both undergraduate and graduate students. The trip costs $4,900 and includes airfare, accommodations, travel and health insurance, as well as tuition, books, food, a tour of the city and personal expenses for one semester. Pell grants and need-based scholarships are available for study abroad students.

The deadline for the Spring semester trip has already passed, and the specifics of the Summer trip have yet to be determined, according to Dawn Fagan, enrollment manager of HTM’s study abroad program. Those specifics include when the deadline will be and what classes will be offered.

Fagan said the deadline could be March 15, and although the classes have yet to be determined, the classes offered in the past were Event Management, Wine Tasting, Organizational Behavior and Research Methods, among others.

To be able to study abroad in HTM’s program, students must be at least juniors and have a 2.5 undergraduate GPA or a 3.0 graduate GPA. They should have taken at least one semester at the University. They don’t have to be part of HTM. All majors are welcomed, Fagan said.

During the study abroad program, students must take at least one course each, offered one each three credits. They can take up to three under graduate courses and two graduate courses.

Fagan said one of the benefits of studying abroad in China is being able to experience the country and what it has to offer.

“Students will be taking courses that they need to graduate anyway, but they get to experience them in this international destination,” Fagan said.

Senior HTM major Sebastian Garcia, who also studied in Tianjin, said he learned to be sensitive to other cultures during his trip.

“Because it had such a big impact on my life, I want to be able to open that up to other people,” Garcia said.

SIMC study abroad programs are also open to all majors, students can sign up for trips to Seville, Spain; Berlin, Germany, and the Galapagos. SIMC is also creating a new program to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, according to Fernando Figueredo, associate professor and chair of the department of advertising & public relations.

The Berlin and Seville trips are 20- and 30-day programs that cost $2,890 and $2,050, respectively. These are two separate trips that take place during Summer A.

The Galapagos trip also takes place during Summer A from May 27 to June 10. The deadline and price of the summer 2010 trip has not been set yet, but they will be by Nov. 17, the day of the Study Abroad Fair at the Modesto Maidique Campus’ Graham Center, according to Laura Marks, intern at the Office of Education Abroad.

Marks said the deadline is usually February or March, and the price of last summer’s trip was $2,026.10. This included in-country airfare, accommodations, most meals, local transportation, activities and guided tours. It did not include the University’s instructional fee and the $175 non-refundable mandatory study abroad fee.

Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro are one program. Students will spend 10 days in Buenos Aires and 11 in Rio de Janeiro during Summer B. The trip to South America will be a pilot program during Summer 2010 and full-fledged by the following Summer.

Airfare is not included in the cost of the trips because students have decided to figure out their own ways to study abroad destinations in the past, Figueredo said.

He also said financial aid covers all trips. The deadline, which is when the first down payment is due, is June 15.

Stephanie Castro, senior HTM major, went to China, where she visited seven cities in two weeks. She said students should be prepared to encounter different cultures.

“Students won’t come back the same persons,” she said. “I didn’t come back the same person. I opened my eyes.”
A New Chapter

STEERING THE SHIP: Golden Panthers men’s basketball coach Isiah Thomas instructs his players during a practice before the start of the season. This is his first season as a college coach.

Isiah Thomas believes he’s a blessed man. For over 25 years, the NBA Hall of Famer has been involved in some form or another with the game he’s loved all his life.

Even during his tumultuous tenure as coach and president of Basketball Operations for the New York Knicks, he never once wanted to skip a day at the gym. “Every morning I wake up excited to go to the gym,” Thomas said. “I never looked at basketball as a job and I hope that never happens.”

Thomas gets to continue his trips to the gym as FIU’s head basketball coach. Although he’s served as head coach for two NBA teams, this will be his first job at the collegiate level.

The game is still the same, Thomas said. The most difficult part about college basketball is learning the NCAA rules.

“I’m just trying to absorb and understand it all, but once you get on the court it’s still basketball,” he said.

With so much to learn in a short amount of time, Thomas has reached out to several NCAA coaches for advice, like his former coach at Indiana, Bob Knight, and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

“The best advice I’ve received so far was from Chuck K.” Thomas said. “He just reminded me that he’s from the West Side of Chicago and I’m from the West Side of Chicago and I just go back to being myself.”

With all the advice he may receive, he knows it will never substitute learning from making mistakes and he values that.

“This is a game that no one ever masters. It’s always evolving and you’re always learning, always listening and trying to get better,” Thomas said.

The head coach believes his failure will be an asset to his team.

“J.C. has something called ‘tenacity that I hadn’t seen before’ at FIU. It’s a verbalized thing, but it’s a feeling,” Thomas said. “If you try to talk to him, he’s very tough as a ballplayer and has great basketball instincts.”

LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES

During his basketball career, Thomas has had great success: two NBA titles, 12 All-Star appearances, an NBA Finals MVP, an NCAA Championship, and had his number retired by the Detroit Pistons.

But he has also seen his share of failures.

“Most of them, by definition, are your failures,” the former Pistons guard said.

New York State of Mind: While serving as coach of the New York Knicks, Thomas’ team finished at the bottom of the standings with a team that had one of the highest payrolls in the NBA.

In the 2009–10 season, New York was unsuccessful.

And at FIU, Thomas is building on the foundation of former Golden Panthers head coach Sergio Rouco’s failures.

Thomas believes in FIU basketball and has a vision for it.

“I was with the president the other day and he told me vision is the art of seeing the invisible. Then he pulled out a picture of FIU in 1973. And all there was at the time were two buildings and an airport tower. And he said, ‘Now somewhere everything’s there, right here right now,’ and I see what this basketball program can be if we connect the dots.”

Courageous people are people who take the hard jobs and fail. But we need those people even if they fail. They lay the foundation for others to follow.

Isiah Thomas’ journey to FIU filled with peaks and valleys

STEERING THE SHIP: Golden Panthers men’s basketball coach Isiah Thomas instructs his players during a practice before the start of the season. This is his first season as a college coach.

CHARLIE GRAU

Walt Williams

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What people are saying about FIU Basketball:

**PRESEASON SUN BELT COACHES POLL**

East Division
1. WKU **77** (12)
2. Troy **62** (1)
3. Middle Tennessee **53**
4. South Alabama **40**
5. Florida Atlantic **21**
6. FIU **20**

West Division
1. North Texas **85** (9)
2. Denver **73** (1)
3. Louisiana-Lafayette **56** (1)
4. UALR **53** (1)
5. Louisiana-Monroe **45** (1)
6. Arkansas State **36**
7. New Orleans **17**

**STAFF PREDICTIONS**

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**PRESEASON ALL SUN BELT TEAMS**

**FIRST TEAM**

- Nata Rahimer, Denver
- Deondre Parks, Middle Tennessee
- Eric Tramell, North Texas
- Brandon Hazzard, Troy
- A.J. Slaughter, WKU

**SECOND TEAM**

- Chris Gradinjao, Louisiana-Lafayette
- Josh White, North Texas
- Richard Dale, Troy
- Sergio Kerusch, WKU
- Stiffy Patterson, WKU

**THIRD TEAM**

- Donald Bouldin, Arkansas State
- Tony Hooper, Louisiana-Monroe
- Malcolm Thomas, Louisiana-Monroe
- Michael Viger, Troy
- Jeremy Evans, WKU

**SOUNDBITES**

- On part ownership of a popcorn company, Dale & Thomas: “I love everything about popcorn. Growing up it was the one food that we could afford. My mom would make a big bowl on Thursday nights and we would watch Batman and the Green Hornet.”
- On getting lost in Miami: “A lot of people don’t get lost anymore because they’ve got Neverlost and GPS. I wanted to get a feel for the city and its people.”
- “What stood out to me about Miami is that most cities I’ve lived in preached diversity. I see diversity here culturally. That’s the coolest thing. It’s not about integrating races but cultures.”
- “Critics aren’t always wrong. There are some good things you can draw from criticism.”
- “Well, they’ve got us picked last (in the coaches poll). Man, I’ve been picked last all my life.”
- “I never go into a job thinking I’m going to leave a legacy. I look at it as another chance to go to the gym.”

**ABOUT THE COACH**

Isiah Thomas, a first ballot NBA Hall Of Famer as a player, was a two-time NBA Champion with the Detroit Pistons as a player and won an NBA Finals MVP award in 1990. At the collegiate level, Thomas won an NCAA Tournament Championship in 1981 and was the Tourney’s Most Outstanding Player. Had a .456 winning percentage as a head coach of the Indiana Pacers and New York Knicks over five seasons in the NBA.

**ROSTER**

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**2009 SCHEDULE**

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<td>West Long Branch, N.J.</td>
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* Denotes conference game

**SECTIONS STAFF**

Published by The Beacon, 2009 Miami, FL
Editor: Sergio Bonilla
Designers: Charlie Grau, Chris Towers
Executive Production: Chris Necuze
All Photos by Victoria Lynch

**WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT FIU BASKETBALL:**

On part ownership of a popcorn company, Dale & Thomas: “I love everything about popcorn. Growing up it was the one food that we could afford. My mom would make a big bowl on Thursday nights and we would watch Batman and the Green Hornet.”

On getting lost in Miami: “A lot of people don’t get lost anymore because they’ve got Neverlost and GPS. I wanted to get a feel for the city and its people.”

“What stood out to me about Miami is that most cities I’ve lived in preached diversity. I see diversity here culturally. That’s the coolest thing. It’s not about integrating races but cultures.”

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“Well, they’ve got us picked last (in the coaches poll). Man, I’ve been picked last all my life.”

“I never go into a job thinking I’m going to leave a legacy. I look at it as another chance to go to the gym.”

**ROSTER**

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**SOUNDBITES**

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Playing the Terrorist

Video game’s violent scene adds depth to experience

Jorge Valens
Assist. News Director

Politicians and uptight parents tend to blanket every type of video game violence as unnecessary. In most cases, people see violence in a video game superficially, and don’t see it in context.

A recently leaked scene from Infinity Ward’s highly anticipated first-person shooter, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, depicts a violent scenario in which the player must kill various civilians while undercover with a terrorist cell.

The scene takes place in an international airport terminal on Russian soil. Emerging from an elevator into a crowded transit hub, the player is commanded by the leader of the group to immediately gun down a large circle. The scene is designed to evoke the atrocities of terrorism,” Activision said in a written statement to Joystiq, a popular video games blog run by AOL.

Activision added that the game would feature a “mandatory checkpoint” that will allow the player to choose whether or not to play that part. Also, the game has been clearly rated “M” for Mature by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board.

Apparently, Hollywood’s idea of a “terrorist” is a concept that is tired and repetitive. The terrorist strikes, the good guy hunts the terrorist down, the terrorist and the good guy square off and the good guy wins.

I have played or watched countless video games, movies and TV shows that follow this same formula and more often than not they are monotonous and leave no lasting impact.

The terrorist is rarely a character who can be explored and the viewer – or player in this case – can never really understand why or how this man is evil. However, I think this scene in MW2 seeks to address this problem, and really helps put into perspective the threat the player faces in the story.

Infinity Ward wants players to understand why he is hunting down the game’s villain, Vladimir Makarov.

I don’t think any video game can be so violent that it can trigger violent tendencies. That’s easy to say and easier to do if you don’t know why this dude is gassing down civilians; they have just been told they should.

That’s the enemy in the previous Modern Warfare game was clear, and the shocking events that transpired in the game, such as the detonation of a nuclear device during a U.S. occupation seen through the eyes of a U.S. soldier on the ground – are ingrained in my mind almost two years after its release.

That is exactly the goal that Infinity Ward has in mind when creating the story for this game.

The airport scene in MW2 is not merely violent, or some attempt to create controversy to generate hype, Infinity Ward doesn’t need to do that.

This scene exists not only to provide perspective but also ignite emotions, making the single player experience a memorable and lasting one.

But the real question is: Can they do this by igniting a global obsession, Makarov is “dedicated to bringing down the terrorist down, the terrorist and the good guy square off and the good guy wins.”

Yes, videos games are too violent and graphic, but all video games have a rating. It’s all up to parents to do their job in order to protect their kids.

“Call of Duty is just a game. It’s too violent for the age group it’s meant for. I don’t think any video game can be so violent that it can trigger violent tendencies.”

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Junior, English

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Junior, English

“Video games definitely are too violent nowadays. Because of the times, the more realistic things are, the more fun it is. They do have ratings, and it’s up to parents to take care of their kids.”

Matthew Colon
Junior, English

“Video games are violent but playing them is different than going to watch a violent movie; it’s only escapism.”

Stephanie Rodriguez
Junior, English

Obama’s Dems should dust off their dancing shoes

President Obama certainly give a good speech, but the real question is: Can he do more?

Health care reform has become the defining issue of his presidency. Yet, with his approval ratings far from his stenographic heights, and Joe Lieberman rearranging his ugly head, Obama and the Democrats need to do something drastic to regain the attention of the American people and give reform the push it needs.

Let’s face it. Most people don’t find the day-to-day intricacies of the health care process very interesting.

A recent Gallup poll found that only 36 percent of Americans closely follow national politics. That’s why, after months of trying to get conservatives on health care, it’s time Obama lined up the debate and settled this health care battle once and for all.

Obama should abandon the conventional law making process and pass health care reform through more entertaining means. Like a dance-off, or an arm wrestling competition. Sure, it isn’t constitutional, but if this president taught anything, it’s that a good leader doesn’t let the constitution stand in the way of getting things done.

First, he could challenge the Republicans to a dance-off to decide the fate of health care reform. This approach has many advantages. For one thing, a dance contest would draw huge ratings, more so than any meeting of the Ways and Means committee.

Failing these exciting new approaches, Obama could just stick with the current boring process. Yet if Obama is bold enough, he can not only pass health care reform, but go down in history as the president who brought change to America and settled this health care crisis.

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First, he could challenge the Republicans to a dance-off to decide the fate of health care reform. This approach has many advantages. For one thing, a dance contest would draw huge ratings, more so than any meeting of the Ways and Means committee. Fos choose to broadcast an episode of “So You Think You Can Dance?” over the president’s speech in September for a good reason.

Another little known advantage is the fact that the Democrats in Congress are far better dancers. Nancy Pelosi has been known to do a mean robot, and Harry Reid’s slick moves at his eighth-grade level are still the stuff of legend.

A dance contest hasn’t decided the fate of a bill or its passage, but it may be time for Democrats to finally break down the wall.

If Reid or Pelosi balk at unleashing their stunning moves, Obama and the Democrats could challenge the Republican leadership to an arm wrestling competition. By all accounts, the president is in good shape, while John Boehner just barely beat Eric Cantor in arm wrestling for minority leader.

Failing these exciting new approaches, Obama could just stick with the current boring process. Yet if Obama is bold enough, he can not only pass health care reform, but go down in history as the president who brought change to America and settled this health care crisis.
SPIRIT to be revived by FIU theatre department

It’s really exciting and really frightening at the same time,” Yawney hinted. “I don’t want to give anything away, but at the climax of the play we have very unhappy ghosts who take out their anger on the house. Making that happen in a university involves calling on everyone’s imagination to figure it out... Can we make a cushion fly from the couch into someone’s face?”

On Broadway, Spirit was re-opened with Rupert Everett and Angela Lansbury. According to the NY Daily News, Lansbury is “playing an eccentric psychic medium who stirs up ghostly trouble in Blithe Spirit, Angela Lansbury may be figdgy and frazzled at times, but she’s the spark in the new production of Noel Coward’s 1941 comedy.”

Unfortunately, the play’s revival on Broadway opened to mixed and unsatisfied reviews. FIU’s production, however, promises a completely different experience.

Yawney speaks affectionately of his cast. “It’s weird really, the rehearsals have actually been really enjoyable. We’ve been in really close contact, working in a lot of detail. They’re really one of the hardest working group of people I’ve ever been around,” he said.

Carolina Pozo also chimed in with nothing but a positive attitude toward her experience. “I’ve been having a blast. It’s a really fun show to do. My (fellow) cast members are a trip.”

Bliteh Spirit Show times
Nov. 5-7 and 12-14 at 8 p.m.
Nov. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.
For more info contact the FIU Theatre Department at (305) 348-0496

Man steals airplane and crosses borders to see film

A Turkish-Canadian man was sentenced Tuesday to two years in federal prison for stealing a plane in Canada and flying over three states before landing along a dark road in South Carolina.

Adam Dylan Leon might have received only 12 to 18 months. But U.S. District Judge Charles Shaw went beyond federal sentencing guidelines in deciding punishment.

Shaw said the 31-year-old’s actions posed risks to himself and others, cost the government $230,000 to keep fighter jets in the air for seven hours tracking him, and caused the Madison, Wis., capital to evacuate.

He also had some advice for Leon who said he had hoped to be shot down. His attorney, Lucille Liggott, had asked for leniency, saying her client suffered from severe depression from the death of his parents in 2002 in Turkey.

Shaw told Leon it would be worth his while to see It's a Wonderful Life, the classic Frank Capra film starring James Stewart, about a despairing man who comes to know what life would have been like if he never had lived. Leon said he hadn’t seen it.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sauer said the sentence was fitting for a “dangerous and harmful course of conduct,” and hopes it will deter others from such behavior.

“Law enforcement response was excellent, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sauer said the sentence was fitting for a “dangerous and harmful course of conduct,” and hopes it will deter others from such behavior. “Law enforcement response was excellent, competent and swift,” Sauer said. “It never ended up being a serious imminent threat to anyone’s security.”

Brady Randus, a friend from Confederation College Flight School in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where the plane was stolen, wrote in a letter to the judge that he knew Leon was “honest, trustworthy and dependable” and an intelligent student who was at the top of his class and well liked by others in the program.

He wrote that Leon’s actions were “shocking” and “totally out of his character.” The friend’s father, Karl Randus, agreed, saying in his letter that Leon’s actions came on the anniversary of his parents’ death. “We can’t imagine what he was thinking, but we care about Adam, he is a good person, and we hope there will be a chance for leniency for him.”

Leon, who was born Yavuz Berke in Turkey before moving to Canada, changed his name, and becoming a naturalized citizen, admitted that on April 6, he stole a four-seat Cessna 172 from his flight school and crossed the U.S. border. Leon landed the plane more than seven hours later on a road off Highway 60 near Ellsinore, Mo.

U.S. Department of Defense aircraft intercepted the plane after it entered American airspace and tried unsuccessfully to contact him. Authorities said the plane was nearly out of fuel when Leon landed it near Ellsinore.

The Highway Patrol said Leon got a ride from a passer-by to a store, where he bought a Gaularde and sat at a booth until authorities arrived.

Leon pleaded guilty in August to interstate transportation of a stolen aircraft, importation of a stolen aircraft and illegal entry.

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the Beacon – Friday, November 6, 2009
www.fiusm.com

This week's issue

Join our staff

We are always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy!

Step by one of our offices located at GC 210 & WUC 124

The Beacon – Friday, November 6, 2009
**NEON NIGHTS**

**Ms. Gaga not the only diva set to rock Miami in ’09**

I am always impressed by beautiful women who can perform in stillets. They can end a show with their hair and makeup a sweaty mess but their legs will always look great upon those painful looking things. Although I am sadly going to have to accept the fact that I may not get to see Lady Gaga this year, there are still other dance divas coming to South Florida that are well worth seeing. I know some might be rolling their eyes at this confession, but anyone who can sing and play the piano while wearing a gryoscope will win my vote.

Afrobeta, an electro-funk duo, will be playing on Commodore Street at the Grove Block Party on Nov. 7. Cuci Amador is their sultry, 80s loving front woman providing the vocals and vamp while keyboardist Tony Smurifo brings the space-age beats and beeps. I saw them once at Jazzia where they perform on Tuesday nights and again at an event for the Science Museum. Both shows were satisfyingly disco and high-energy. Cuci takes a drink from her water bottle and kneels at the edge of the stage as if she’s about to share a juicy secret with us: “This next song is about how there is always that one friend who you are more than just friendly with” she says with a great big Cheshire cat grin on her face. The crowd responds.

“I know you guys know what I’m talking about,” she observes before standing back up and striking poses to the programmed drumbeat kicking in from Smurifo’s keyboard. It’s the playful, enthusiastic and puppy sensibilities that Afrobeta shows in their live performances that will surely make them a favorite at the free Grove Block Party this Saturday. The song “Nighttime” is a popular single of theirs, and it proves that this duo has real potential to come into the mainstream.

Also on the list of divas to see is Peaches, of “F**k The Pain Away” fame. Peaches is touring for her new album I Feel Cream at Revolution Live on 200 West Broward Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Peaches is known for her outrageous live shows as much as she is for her lowbrow and crude music. In the past, Peaches’ shows have featured beards, leotards, capes, hologram projectors and inflatable genitals. The album is loaded with songs produced with a European dance sound from names like Soulwax, Simian Mobile Disco and Digitalism.

The title track is a homage to Donna Summer’s disc of the same name and features a one-of-Peaches’ signature raps tacked in for good measure. In both the title song and “Love You,” Peaches does something she isn’t usually known for: actually singing. One tickets are still available for under $20, and judging from her past shows, this tour is certain to be the kind of freak show that we love down here in South Florida. Although Lady Gaga may be conquering Miami for only two nights when she comes at the end of this year, South Florida will never be lacking beautiful women who love to dance on stage. I’ll get my fix of femme fatale one way or another.

“Neo Night” is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in The Beacon and on FIUSM.com.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**Food Web turns the heat up on the tasty competition**

Although the Network and its competing Web site will always have a special place in my heart, another site is producing some stiff competition.

Chow.com is a Web site that offers a wide variety of food-related coverage. In addition to more traditional cooking subject matter, such as holiday entertaining guides and begin-ner with one of Peaches’ signature raps tacked in for good measure. In both the title song and “Love You,” Peaches does something she isn’t usually known for: actually singing. One tickets are still available for under $20, and judging from her past shows, this tour is certain to be the kind of freak show that we love down here in South Florida. Although Lady Gaga may be conquering Miami for only two nights when she comes at the end of this year, South Florida will never be lacking beautiful women who love to dance on stage. I’ll get my fix of femme fatale one way or another.

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Chow.com is a Web site that offers a wide variety of food-related coverage. In addition to more traditional cooking subject matter, such as holiday entertaining guides and begin-ners with one of Peaches’ signature raps tacked in for good measure. In both the title song and “Love You,” Peaches does something she isn’t usually known for: actually singing. One tickets are still available for under $20, and judging from her past shows, this tour is certain to be the kind of freak show that we love down here in South Florida. Although Lady Gaga may be conquering Miami for only two nights when she comes at the end of this year, South Florida will never be lacking beautiful women who love to dance on stage. I’ll get my fix of femme fatale one way or another.

“Neo Night” is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in The Beacon and on FIUSM.com.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

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WIFE OF THE LIVING DEAD

Spirit of ex-wife wreaks havoc in new theater production

NATAIE LEVY
Staff Writer

Blithe Spirit is the story of a man who gets himself into big trouble with the two women in his life: his wife and his dead wife. Since its London debut in 1941, Noel Coward's creation has had two films adapted from its original script, has been seen on Broadway, and is currently in revival both on Broadway and at FIU.

"Even though it was written in 1941 and even though the characters are supernatural, I guarantee you that anyone who's ever had a boyfriend or a girlfriend or a husband or a wife can really relate to it... or anyone who's ever had an ex may be more accurate," said Professor Michael Yawney, the director of the production.

The story focuses on Charles, an English man who has since remarried after the death of his first wife, Elvira.

"He's reasonably happily married until the ghost of his first wife shows up and moves in with him and his second wife. As it goes on we start to see the problems as he goes through the trouble of living in a house with two wives," Yawney said.

The cast of characters include a married couple, a maid, a strange and mysterious medium, and a ghost.

Carolina Pozzo, who will be portraying Elvira in the FIU production of Spirit, explained: "She's been called back and she doesn't know why. She causes a lot of chaos between her former husband and his new wife. There's a lot of flirting with the husband to make the new wife angry."

The play has been widely lauded as a truly masterful comedy ever since its introduc-

LIFE!

Friday, November 6, 2009
www.fiuom.com

‘Potter’ film worth seeing despite very boring protagonist

IS IT WORTH IT?

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

A good friend of mine once looked at me with regret and said, "If I'd had known that a movie about a boy wizard with a scar on his head would make billions of dollars, I would have written it."

Sadly, neither of us wrote the book. J.K. Rowling did, scribbling it down on cocktail napkins as the famous story is told. Hence, the birth of Harry Potter, a multimedia phenomenon that still manages to connect to so many people around the world.

Many know the story of the boy wizard, orphaned after his parents fought off the dark lord, Voldemort. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince picks up during Harry's sixth year at Hogwarts with Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) doing the typical teenage thing: trying to figure out women, balancing school with play, and deciding whether he really is the chosen figure to fight Voldemort.

The sixth film is a much more brooding piece than the earlier films. In a film like Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone or even into Prisoner of Azkaban, there was a sense of child-like youth and a refreshing sense of discovery.

The plot revolves around an aging Harry being sent by his mentor, Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), to visit retired Professor Horace Slughorn (Jim Broadbent) and retrieve Slughorn's memories of an old student: Tom Riddle, the boy who would become Voldemort.

The whole purpose is to try and find a weakness to what is the logical conclusion of the series. The film unfolds in several parts with memories of Tom Riddle surfacing, and out as Dumbledore privately tutors Harry and prepares him for what looms. And then there's the Quidditch, the girls, and more slender character development between Harry and his friends Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint).

As the series has continued, Harry has had to enter darker and darker realms as death and peril grow to be stronger presences in his life. This is a transi-

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