The senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Stanislaus Campus brought forth a council bill during its Nov. 30 senatorial session that calls for the creation of an Elections Committee.

Sponsoring senators Vignesh Doraiswamy of the Honors College and William-Jose Veloz of Engineering and Computing stated to their colleagues that they were only presenting the bill to the senate for consideration, and did not have intentions of getting the bill passed during that session.

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The full report is available on the university’s website.

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The full report is available on the university’s website.
Committee's role generates confusion

SGC-MMC, page 1

“The committee will not serve the same purpose of the elections board,” sponsoring senator Velez clarified. “This will be only to rewrite the election code and clauses in the constitution.”

The bill, entitled “Elections Committee Act of 2009,” states that any bill pertaining to elections must come through the committee before being presented to the senate meeting in the beginning of Spring.

The senatorial Elections Committee was first brought to light in July during a University-wide Council meeting, which consists of student leadership from both Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC.

The committee was meant to address the viability of holding special elections, elections held to fill vacant seats outside of a general election. Some in student government contended at that time that special elections were not cost-effective with the amount of student turnover.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda motioned to abolish special elections in that same July UWC meeting before withdrawing his motion in favor of the Elections Committee.

The committee, however, did not gain much traction in the senate. In the September UWC meeting, the council motioned to “force” the senate to create the committees.

At the time, SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Pro-Tempore Daniela Gonzalez told Student Media that she also did not see the motion as a lambasting of the senate’s effort.

The first official move to create the committee happened in the last senate meeting on Nov. 30.

The bill’s postponement, however, does not guarantee it will be passed.

and making recommendations for election procedures in the constitution, statutes and elections codes.

In the issue dated Nov. 25, 2009, in the article titled “Masque awarded bonus,” trustee Jorge L. Amurrieta was wrongly identified as chairman of the faculty senate. Thomas Breslin is the current chairman.

Class to use Twitter to liven debates

SOCIAL MEDIA, page 1

“Many students find out about what’s going on through Facebook or social sites. But we, a mix of traditional communication avenues and online networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGlobalFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

Many students find out about what’s going on through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communication avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGlobalFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

... We are hoping to change the boundaries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation.

Georgina Paterson, librarian

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The senate of the Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus ended their last meeting of the semester by considering a full plan of legislation that included a resolution recognizing a deceased FIU student, a resolution supporting U.S. involvement in the United Nations Climate Conference and an appropriation for a T-shirt giveaway at Saturday’s football game.

The SGC-MMC senate approved an appropriation for T-shirts that will be given out during the Dec. 5 home football game.

The shirts are meant to promote the University’s green initiative and Web site, gogreen.fiu.edu.

The funds will be used for approxi- mately 72 shirts that will be tossed into the crowd. The back of the shirts features panther eyes inside a recy- cling symbol along with the Student Government Association logo.

Some in the senate said that the relatively low amount of shirts and high-price tag are not cost-effective.

Graduate Senator Loren Fruate asked if fliers were a better route to go.

The allocation, however, passed with a vote of 14 for and 10 against.

The senate also passed a resolution in support of the U.S. participat- ing in the United Nations Climate Conference. Citing former FIU Pres- ident Modesto Maidique’s pledge to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, the resolution recognizes the challenges and opportunities climate change can bring to the country.

“Global warming and climate change are some of the biggestchal- lenges faced by our generation,” states the resolution before pledging its support to the active role the U.S. and President Obama have taken by participating in the Climate Confer- ence in Copenhagen, Denmark. It passed with a vote of 22 for and four against.

The senate also sent its condo- lences to the family and friends of the late Jaclyn Elise Torrealba through a resolution. Torrealba, a first-year student at FIU, was killed by her boyfriend on Oct. 11, 2009 after a “heated verbal altercation,” according to the arrest affidavit.

The resolution praised her involvement as a “cheerleader, part of the dance team and several honor societies.”

SGC-MMC senate will have its next meeting at the beginning of Spring semester. The senate meets every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 150.

For more information on student government, visit www.fiu.edu/~sgc.

Students go to Haiti, push petition

PETITION, page 1

Balart Building, the three student attorneys and other faculty members, including clinical assistant professor Troy Elder, stressed that recent natural disasters involving multiple hurri- canes have left the poverty-stricken with destroyed infrastructure and hundreds of thousands without homes.

“In 2008, this small island country saw four devastating storms and they have yet to recover from them,” said LaShawn Thomas, a third-year law student and one of the three collaborators of the petition. “We thought that with the implementation of a new [presidential] administration, a change would finally come but that change has yet to occur.”

The students feel that under the circumstances of a natural disaster, Haiti should be granted a protected status by the U.S. government, just as countries like Nicaragua, El Salvador and most recently Honduras have obtained because of polit- ical turmoil.

A temporary protection status, known as a special brief protected status, is granted to non-criminal foreign nationals living in the U.S. whose countries of origin are unable to take in their nationals due to a declaration of political or civil unrest or natural disaster. Those who receive TPS are given work authorization.

The petition states that Haitians have been denied this status due to discrimi- nation. By denying Haitians their basic human rights, they claim that the U.S. is violating the treaty obliga-

SOOTHING WORDS: In Haiti, a group of people listen to three FIU law students’ presenta- tion on a petition that would grant temporary protection status to illegal Haitians in the U.S.

Thomas added that granting TPS to Haitians already living illegally in the U.S. will allow them to send money back to their families in Haiti.

“We feel that if we can get money sent back to that country, and help build the economy and infrastructure, then they wouldn’t have to leave,” Thomas said.

As part of their research for the petition, students traveled to different areas within Haiti, such as the city of Gonaive and Cape- Haitian, in order to study the conditions of the communities affected by hurricanes.

During the trip, they gave a presentation to more than 80 people at the Universite D’est, a univer- sity in Port-au-Prince, and announced their petition on a Haitian radio show where they answered questions from numerous callers.

“We were able to observe some of the conditions down there to make our petition more impacting … before that, we had just researched statistical numbers,” said Justin Cramer, a third-year law student and fellow peti- tioner.

“Now we were able to incorporate a little bit of the actual things we had witnessed.”

The main counter-argu- ment that the government could have against granting TPS to Haitians is the assumption that it would encourage an increase in immigration from the island to the U.S.

The petitioners argue the contrary.

“We feel that history shows that is not the case,” said third-year law student Julian Geraci, one of the student attorneys involved in the petition.

He said that in 1998, former President Clinton passed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Act, which gave legal permanent resident status to 20,000 Haitians. The act cut down illegal Haitian immigration to the U.S. by two-thirds.

Once the petition gains enough signatures, it will be sent to the Inter-Amer- ican Commission on Human Rights, which will then send it back to the students along with any recommendations and concerns before finally notifying the U.S. govern- ment of its presence.

The federal government will then give its position on the issue, giving students the opportunity to call for a hearing to address it.

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the law school is a non-profit organization that allows law students to provide immigration services such as representation and learn about human rights issues through the cases that are brought to them.
Lecture compares religious beliefs

Historian highlights early Jewish-Muslim interaction

**SABRENA JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Muslims and Jews have come to blows over the years as tensions between the two cultures have collided. But what some may not know is that they were once able to live peacefully in the same land for centuries.

A scholar on Muslim-Jewish history came to the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 25 to tell the audience about this time of peace.

The lecture titled “Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish,” was hosted by The Navon Program, a program part of the College of Arts and Sciences that provides academic training in Jewish and Oriental Jewish Studies.

The guest speaker was Henry Abramson, dean of academic affairs and student services at Touro College, a Jewish-sponsored institution of higher education in Miami. With a doctorate in history, he has done extensive research in the field of Jewish and Islamic history.

The purpose of the lecture was to discuss and compare the Jewish and Islamic cultures in earlier periods.

“Many people may not know that Judaism has more in common with Islam than Christianity,” Abramson said.

Abramson began the lecture with the history of the Muslim prophet Muhammad and how he established the Islamic faith. According to Abramson, Muhammad was born in 570 C.E. and was an orphan of a merchant family in the city of Mecca. One day during a time of prayer and meditation, he had a divine encounter with the Archangel Gabriel, who is considered to be the highest of God’s angels, and was told that the letters of the Bible the Jews and Christians were using had flaws, and God wanted to give him the correct information.

This corrected version is what’s known today as the Quran, he said.

“Part of the miracle of the faith is that Muhammad was illiterate,” Abramson said. “This is why the Muslims believe that the message was given to him by the Archangel Gabriel.”

He explained that after Muhammad’s death, his followers tried to get people to convert to Islam.

“‘It’s like I always say to my students, when in doubt about why something happened in history, think money,’” he said, referring to the Islamic taxation.

Abramson ended the lecture with words of wisdom.

“This is when family and friends get together to celebrate the season and eat a meal that gives Thanksgiving a run for its money.”

The “Noche Buena” celebration originated in Spain as a late night feast before going to midnight mass, and included a menu featuring the best of Spain - tapas, hearty soups, and roasted lamb, but with a menu featuring the best of Spain - tapas, hearty soups, and roasted lamb, but with the Islamic influence.

The “Noche Buena” spread usually consists of a rice and beans, yuca in garlic sauce - better known as mojo - and the star of the table, the roasted lechon. The word lechon is derived from the Spanish word leche, or milk, referring to a young sucking pig that is still feeding from its mother. In Miami, the traditional “Noche Buena” lechon is cooked using a caja china.

A caja china is basically a roasting box that cooks the pig by placing charcoal in a large metal pan above the marinated sucking pig. This allows the heat generated by the charcoal to cook the pig slowly from above, trapping the heat in the large metal box. This method might take a long time, anywhere from six to 10 hours, depending on the size of the pig, but produces a juicy, massive roast for the celebration.

When the lechon comes out of the caja china, it’s skin is crispy and moist with the pig’s fat, and the meat that was marinated for 24 hours prior to roasting is dripping with Caribbean flavors like garlic, limes and sour oranges.

The only issue with this holiday celebration is that unless you have $200 to $400 for a caja china, and even more money for a whole pig to roast, and the mixtas and papi’s Cuban grandmother’s and grandfather’s - to guide you through the traditional cooking methods, you will never be able to experience a true “Noche Buena.”

Unless someone passes along a student budget-friendly “Noche Buena” substitute in the way of a foodgasm. This foodgasm is basically written in a different language and is intimidating, but try this recipe.

It is full of Miami culture and sabor - flavor.

Obviously, the first way you can save money is by changing the cooking method.

“My student budget can’t afford the initial investment needed for a caja china. That is why I roast my pork the conventional way: in the oven. Next, you can save money by changing the cut of meat.

Instead of cooking a whole pig, roast a 6-pound bone-in pork shoulder, also known as pork butt, for a 12-person dinner party.

Finally, you can still get the lechon flavor by making a traditional mojo. In Cuban American households, mojo is made without measuring cups. Make sure to use your senses when making your mojo, and like I always say, use the flavors that turn you on.

I love cilantro, so I throw some into it and serve the rest on the side - your guests will love to add their own during your “Noche Buena” festivities.

Serve this “Noche Buena” main course with that in my mouth, but if you are a mint lover, feel free to substitute and let your identity show through your food.

For the mojo, start with an olive oil base of about 1 cup.

Add six heads of garlic, minced - there will be no vampires present at “Noche Buena!” Sorry, Bella. Follow this by whisking in two cups of sour orange juice. I use Badia, which runs for less than $3 for 20 ounces. Since the sour orange is store bought, add another tangy punch that is signature to mojo by including some fresh ingredients like 1 cup of fresh lime juice, a splash of white cooking wine, and herbs like cilantro.

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of bayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large yellow onions, diced. Finish your mojo by seasoning it with salt and pepper.

To marinate the pork butt, place it in a shallow roasting pan, and cut deep 1-inch slits in 3 inch intervals. Next, pour half of the mojo over it.

Get personal with your food and rub the mojo all over your pork, getting into the crevices you created. Let it sit in the refrigerator for anywhere from 12 to 24 hours. Reserve half the marinade for later use.

Now, it is time to cook your pork shoulder. Drain off any excess liquid, and place the roasting pan in a 450-degree oven for 30 minutes, then lower the heat to 300 degrees and continue cooking for another six hours. Finally, pull your pork out of the oven, and let it stand for 15 minutes. When you cut the pork and serve it, make sure to drizzle some of the reserved mojo onto it and serve the rest on the side - your guests will love to add their own during your “Noche Buena” festivities.

Serve this “Noche Buena” main course with other Latin side dishes and maybe a choice of a Cuban Libre - rum and coke with a twist of lime – or a classic Cuban Mojito.

NEED HELP WITH A RECIPE? BIANCA ROJAS/THE BEACON - rum and coke with a twist of lime – or a classic Cuban Mojito.
Scholar talks about peace in world religions

LECTURE, page 4

with a comparison of Islamic and Jewish theologies.

“Islam and Judaism are orthopraxis, which means they believe in one set of practices,” he said. “They focus more on what you do rather than a lot of different set of beliefs.”

According to him, Christianity is a religion of beliefs, and those beliefs are split between different Christian denominations. Islam, he said, is characterized by egalitarianism.

“The nation of Islam is color blind. There are no racial separations, and African Americans are highly accepted,” he said. “They treat everyone with equality.”

Abramson also said that Muslim and Jewish interactions were generally stable for centuries with minimal ideological conflict, according to him. Christianity is a religion of beliefs, and those beliefs are split between different Christian denominations. Islam, he said, is characterized by egalitarianism.

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Scholar talks about peace in world religions

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

With hopes to increase the number of graduate classes, give graduate students a voice and help them with projects required for graduation, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Graduate Student Association held its first meeting Nov. 28.

GSA-SJMC founder and President Tania Williams said there was a need to create an organization to help fulfill graduate students’ needs at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We have different needs from the students from the other campus. We want to help create a balance between administration and the students,” said Williams, a graduate student and global strategic communications major. “We put this organization together because we realized the graduate students need a voice.”

At the meeting, Williams introduced Fernando Figueredo, the organization’s advisor and chair of the Department of Advertising & Public Relations.

She also introduced GSA Vice President Judi-Ann Reid, Comtroller Jeanine Froget and Secretary Jennifer Salama, all student graduates in the Global Strategic Communication program.

“We’re trying to create more networking opportunities within the students,” Salama said at the meeting.

Williams announced the association’s first attempt to help students. She sent a request to SIMC Dean Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver to add four more sections to four existing courses: PUR 6935 Advanced Communication, ADV 6805 Creative Seminar, PUR 5406 Multicultural/International Communication, and PUR 6406, Multi-Cultural Communications.

According to Williams, there has been a lot of talk among the students about there not being enough graduate classes and the need for new sections, but since money is a factor, the additions cannot be made easily.

“When you open up new sections, you need a professor to teach, and you need the money to pay them,” she said.

Williams also announced that graduate students in their final year will also have the opportunity to work in an in-house agency hosted by the association, which will count as an elective credit.

“It will be an in-house agency and will be a full-pledge public relations and advertising agency with a touch of journalism. It will be like an integrated marketing agency,” she said.

Club hopes to increase graduate classes

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We have different needs from the students from the other campus. We want to help create a balance between administration and students.

Tania Williams, President
GSA-SJMC

Williams said she plans to implement several workshops in the upcoming year to help teach members how to use Dreamweaver, Flash and Photoshop, among other programs.

“We’re also working on a Professional Project Workshop. That is something that is sureely needed and will be implementing that in January, which will help those students graduating in April,” Williams said.

The Professional Project Workshop, according to Williams, is an in-depth program that will offer students information on how to prepare for projects required for graduation.

Other goals include creating solidarity within the graduate student community, Williams said.

“Now, you see all these people in your classes and the whole time while you are in the program, you wonder ‘who are they?’ You know their names, but you don’t really know them or who they are,” she said. “In graduate school, you are supposed to make connections because those are long-lasting ties.”

Students interested in joining the association must be part of one of the SIMC graduate programs.

Members must pay a $20 fee per year, which covers both the Spring and Summer semesters.

“As a new club here [at the University], we are funded by the SOC but not a lot, so we decided members will have to pay dues,” Williams said.

GSA membership includes a free year of membership into the Alumni Association upon graduation, which according to Williams, is a new perk.

“By being a part of the association as a paid member, you will get a lot of freebies and perks at restaurants and with educational software,” she said.

The club’s first event will be Social Communication Week, which will be open to all students, not just members. Although the time and date have not been announced, the week of events will take place in February, according Williams. The event will feature national bloggers, public relations agencies and entrepreneurs as guest speakers.

“There are people in our school that are very adept to all this school, and we should utilize them,” said Williams. “We have brilliant people in our school. We need to use them.”

For more information, e-mail sjmcsga@gmail.com.
University President Mark Rosenberg has certainly had a lot to get used to during his first semester as president. While one cannot judge a man on one semester’s worth of work, it is impossible to judge his progress so far.

Without question, Rosenberg has done an excellent job assuming the symbolic responsibilities of a University president, attending sporting events and other activities. These responsibilities should always come second to his duties as a guardian of the FIU Foundation, the University club that handles all donations and major funds for the institution.

On at least one recent occasion, this was not the case. Rather than taking a stand on former President Moseito A. Maidique’s recent bonus, Rosenberg ducked out of the meeting to attend the volleyball team’s championship game, right before the FIU Board of Trustees voted to approve an additional $50,000 for his predecessor. It is important for the president to take a stand on these issues, even when they are politically volatile.

Rosenberg has, however, clearly made his presence and ambitions known to the University community. From posters tacked up in the Graham-Kramer Student Center to a Powerpoint presentation on his Web site, the president has taken steps to increase communication between the administration and the student body.

Rosenberg has also sought to create new programs and increase the efficiency of those that already exist. This is evident through the Honors Accelerated Law Program, which allows students to earn their bachelor’s degree and juris doctorate within six years. The program gives students an opportunity to not only graduate from law school earlier, but gain experience with mock trials and legal research.

The Honors Accelerated Law Program is one of Rosenberg’s goals included creating an additional $50,000 for his predecessor. It is important for the president to take a stand on these issues, even when they are politically volatile.

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The Honors Accelerated Law Program is one of Rosenberg’s goals included creating a new department that can help this country in its time of need.

Unfortunately, our University president has inherited troublesome circumstances in regard to fundraising. Coupled with the shaky economy, the University has to face struggles that currently plague the FIU Foundation, including Maidique’s bonus, which totaled $100,000 this year. The BOT voted to delay the payment of his bonus until the University saves enough money.

Rosenberg’s campaign for his Web site, the president has taken steps to increase communication between the administration and the student body.

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The Honors Accelerated Law Program is one of Rosenberg’s goals included creating a new department that can help this country in its time of need.
LAYING DOWN THE LAW
Fraternity for future lawyers revived, has hopes of expanding

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

There are many professional fraternities at FIU that cater to all types of students and majors. However, only one is designed specifically for pre-law students: Phi Alpha Delta.

Phi Alpha Delta was founded in 1999 at FIU. It was founded by a group of pre-law students who wanted a group that would guide them through the rigorous law school process.

They decided to charter a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, a national pre-law fraternity. There was no such organization at FIU before, so membership flourished. According to their Web site, their chapter is one of the most well run in the country.

But around 2004, membership declined and the chapter lost its strength, temporarily disbanded.

The fraternity was recently re-founded at FIU. Senior Danny Benchimol was able to reestablish the chapter and now serves on the executive board by reaching out to law schools all across the state of Florida. The Spring 2009 pledge class consisted of only 10 pledges.

Additionally, members gain access to private law school tours and classes. The fraternity also hosts programs to foster a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among its members. It works to make lifetime bonds between students who share the same interests.

“Members come from a variety of majors and each has a unique origin, but we all find in each other the commonality of that ultimate goal: reaching law school,” said President Aleida Ortega.

Membership in Phi Alpha Delta is based on academic performance. Those who are interested do not have to have a certain major, GPA, or year in school.

There are no such requirements for joining. Membership in Phi Alpha Delta continues through law school, There are many prominent alumni, including former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

“It’s an honor to represent such a prestigious organization that past (U.S.) presidents have also been a part of,” said sophomore Daniela Gonzalez.

Phi Alpha Delta has continued to increase its involvement on campus.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

‘Chic’ eatery offers variety of tasty flavors

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

If there is any reason to be happy about Miami’s constant swirling heat and high humidity, it would be the motivation it produces to seek out delicious ways to cool down. One such way can be found at Chicberry.

3737 NE 123rd St, a self-service yogurt parlor that gives Dairy Queen a run for its money. The inside of Chicberry conveys a bright, futuristic aesthetic with its lemon and lime-colored walls, clear Lucite seats and white counter tops with holographic panes. The self-service station is set up with an eye for efficiency, as the cash register is the last step before heading out the door. The five yogurt dispensers churn out 10 different flavors daily, ranging from the traditional favorites – vanilla, chocolate (the two also available)

Hollywood stars shine in the decade’s top ten cinematic performances

Cate Blanchett worked with legendary director Martin Scorsese in The Aviator where she played legendary Hollywood actress Katharine Hepburn. Blanchett is simply stunning as Hepburn and steals the screen legend to a tee, so much so that she was awarded the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.

8) CHRISTOPH WALTZ AS COL. HANS LANDA - INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (2009)
In his American film debut, Christoph Waltz manages to deliver the best performance of 2009 as Nazi Col. Hans Landa. Given the name “The Jew Hunter” for his ability to locate those hiding from the gestapo during WWII, Landa is portrayed by Waltz as an evil, brutal – though at times charismatic – villain.

From Edward Scissorhands to Raoul Duke, Johnny Depp has played many different characters throughout his career. His most memorable role to date is that of Jack Sparrow. Inspired in part by the Rolling Stones’ guitarist Keith Richards, Depp plays Sparrow as an eccentric pirate who seems to get drunk and/or get in trouble most of the time. Sparrow could be considered the anti-Errol Flynn by taking the cowards’ way out whenever he approaches a dilemma. Despite several flaws in the sequels’ storylines, part of the reason that this movie and the sequels have been successful is Depp’s performance.

Before Forest Whitaker got this role, he was generally typecast as the nice guy in such movies as The Crying Game and Phone Booth. In The Last King of Scotland, Whitaker turns in an outstanding performance by playing against type as the ruthless Ugandan dictator who rose to power in the 1970s. Whitaker does not portray Amin as merely a bad guy, but as a multi-faced person who can be vicious one second and friendly the next.

5) CHRISTIAN BALE AS PATRICK BATEMAN - AMERICAN PSYCHO (2000)

PERFORM, page 8
Great actors in villainous roles dominate decade on film

PERFORM, page 7

Before he rose to A-list star status for his role as Bruce Wayne/ Batman, Christian Bale took the role of Patrick Bateman, a yuppie Wall Street broker who goes on a murdering spree. Bale embodies the character as a man bewildered by his environment and desperate wanting to fit into his surroundings. Bateman may appear normal on the outside with his fancy business card and a nice apartment but, on the inside, he has an uncontrollable urge to commit homicide and an incessant fellow human beings. Bale is an actor who was willing to accept the risk of looking ridiculous for a role that requires him to perform the most inane acts ever committed by a character on film.


Before Kate Winslet won an Oscar for her role in The Reader she made a name for herself with such memorable roles as Rose in Titanic or as a woman stuck in a loveless marriage in Little Children. In between those movies, she starred in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind opposite Jim Carrey as a free-spirited woman who is a resident of a technological procedure where she was able to erase any memory she had of her ex-boyfriend, Joel (Carrey). Winslet’s Clementine is a perfect foil to Carrey’s Joel, and her performance earned her an Oscar nomination.

3) DANIEL DAY-LEWIS AS DANIEL PAINVIEW - THERE WILL BE BLOOD (2007)

Daniel Day-Lewis’s performance as Daniel Plainview is a once-in-a-lifetime role for the actor as he portrays his character requires him to sink into the depths of darkness as Plainview’s soul is consumed and twisted by greed and money. These obsessions eventually lead room for Plainview to commit selfish and unpromised homicides and become a crazed and selfish old man in later years. He is a charismatic villain who is as slick as a businessman and has a hatred for people in general, which leads him to distrust anybody he knows.

2) JAVIER BARDEM AS ANTON CHIGURH - NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (2007)

The true standout in the amazing ensemble of No Country for Old Men is Javier Bardem’s role as Anton Chigurh, an hitman with a Prince Valiant-like haircut and an unappetizing determination to retrieve a suitcase filled with $2 million to keep for himself. He is not a talkative character, as he does most of his talking with his lethal actions. Chigurgh also has a perverse way of determining the fate of his victims with the flip of a coin.


The late Heath Ledger’s performance of the Joker surpasses all the past incarnations of the character including Cesar Romero in the original TV series or Jack Nicholson in the 1989 Tim Burton Batman film. Those roles were child’s play compared to Ledger’s incar- nation of the Joker, in which he successfully portrays the villain as an unpredictable anarchist with a macabre sense of humor. The Joker’s philosophical take on chaos, order and morality of the average human being is what makes the character fascinating.

Frozen yogurt establishment lets guests serve themselves

BERRY, page 7

able sugar-free) and strawberry — to more tropical flavors such as mango and pista- chio. They have an Original Tart option, but I found its taste to be quite bitter for one in search of a sweet treat.

My personal favorite flavor is their rendition of the decedent New York Cheesecake. Cookies and Cream comes in at a close second, especially since it is rich enough to stand on its own without the toppings.

In addition to the bevy of flavors, Chicherry prides itself on being a healthy dessert option. On their Web site, they list the health benefits that are associated with eating yogurt such as boosting immu- nity, providing a good source of calcium and other nutrients, and even encouraging healthy bone growth.

Although yogurt by itself is tasty, their toppings are difficult to resist. For a calorie-conscious spin, Chicherry offers fresh fruit toppings such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and bananas along- side exotic fruits such as kiwi, Mandarin oranges and coconut. Their granola could also add a dose of crunch.

However, the health nut route is not their only option. Chicherry also offers plenty of ice cream shop classics such as sprinkles, crushed candy bars and chocolate chips to pair with your frozen yogurt.

They also have new favorites such as marshmallows and cookie dough pieces.

One combination I recommend is topping the New York Cheesecake flavor with raspberries and white chocolate chips for a take on a common restaurant dessert menu item. Also, topping the Cookies and Cream yogurt with crushed Oreos will put the ice cream flavor that bears the same moniker to shame – with fewer calories to boot.

Pricing at Chicherry is set at 49 cents per ounce, including toppings. So, if their smallest serving size of 12 ounces is fully taken advantage of, the price will come out just over $6.

Furthermore, if students present a valid ID at checkout, they will receive a 10 percent discount off of their order; military, fire fighter and law personnel also receive the same perk. Additionally, on weekdays and through Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., customers can buy one serving of yogurt and get a second one of equal or lesser value for free.

Whether you top your yogurt with fresh fruit, rich chocolate chips and marshmallows, or a kooky concoction of gummy bears and Fruity Pebbles, Chicherry Frozen Yogurt has plenty to suit your tastes for dessert. Even with the recent drop in temper- atures, I still recommend this yogurt bar for a post-dinner (or, even a pre-dinner) treat.

“Food for Thought” is a weekly column reviewing restaurants in the FIU area. Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.
The best of the decade: The top ten movies of the 2000s

DAVID A. BARRIOS
STAFF WRITER

I guess a film critic starts tossing their ideas for “best films of the decade” about a year or two before the decade comes to a close. Truth be told, coming up with these lists isn’t easy. How the hell do you write it? What judges the greatness of a film? Influence? Cultural impact? Surely a movie can lack cultural impact but still be great. And how can you begin to measure these things? And what about our readers? Soon it becomes about politics.

The following is my top ten list of the best films of the decade. I took a chance and picked these movies by sheer instinct. The rankings are subjective and, more heart-stopping than the final car-chase throughout Moscow is Bourne’s confessions are given by the cast including George Clooney’s first outing as a film director is still his finest in this subversive black comedy about TV host Chuck Barris (Sam Rockwell), who hosts The Gong Show while also working for the CIA as a covert assassin. Clooney shows how much his tutelage from the Coen Brothers has helped out. The brilliance of Charlie Kaufman’s script is simple: for all the paranoia and intrigue, it’s about a man that likes to have sex and kill people.

5. THERE WILL BE BLOOD
This is Daniel Day Lewis’s movie, to be sure. In his role as Daniel Plainview, an oil prospector in the early 1900’s, Lewis has created a towering achievement in his career. Larger than life, raw and elemental in his fear and rage, Lewis gives what may be the finest role of the decade. Robert Elswit’s Oscar-winning cinematography is memorable; images of the quiet desert, of an oil well burning coupled with Jonny Greenwood’s oft-kilter score. Director Paul Thomas Anderson doesn’t create a movie so much as a battle of the titans between business and religion, represented by Paul Dano, playing a young reverend who challenges Plainview.

4. CHILDREN OF MEN
One of the things that struck me about this film when I saw it was not just the virtuous direction by Alfonso Cuaron. It wasn’t the extended takes and gorgeously flowing and seemingly endless shots. What struck me was that the film didn’t bother to tell the audience exactly why no children were being born into the world in this dystopic vision of the year 2092. The film follows former activist Theo Faron (Clive Owen) after being recruited by his ex-wife (Juliane Moore) to escort a young pregnant woman out of the country and to a floating colony called the “Human Project.”

3. NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
The Coen Brothers are the perfect conveyors of Cormac Macarthy’s dark humor and somber tone. It’s not just a great suspense tale, it’s a statement about the passage of time, fate versus destiny and the seeming futility of a godless universe. There are no clear protagonists; Moss is an opportunist who puts his wife in great danger while the murderous sociopath becomes more sympathetic with his rules and ideals.

2. MUNICH
Spiegle’s film grows on me with every viewing. Every now and again, he’ll come out with a stoic, big-budget blockbuster like War of the Worlds and make me question his validity as a filmmaker some three decades after he started. Then he’ll provide a masterpiece like this one. Spielberg at his finest, such as with Schindler’s List or Saving Private Ryan, saves no punches. In the film we follow the aftermath of the 1972 Munich Olympic massacre and a covert Israeli Mossad team lead by Arner (Eric Bana), leading an operation to assassinate and eliminate the key planners of the massacre. The film becomes a meditation on the nature of terrorism, the importance of the state and the issue of upholding the memory of the past.

1. THE DARK KNIGHT
Christopher Nolan’s first film in the franchise, Batman Begins, was about the beginning of a legend and his origin. The Dark Knight is about the serious tests that come to that legend, Batman, and his alter ego Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) as posed by a new villain simply known as The Joker (Heath Ledger). One of the highest grossing films of all time, it is masterfully constructed entertainment fueled by great performances by an ensemble cast. It’s also a film with deeper themes about justice, the corruption of people (as seen by the story arc of District Attorney Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart), sanity and the nature of the hero and the myth.
Football will host Big East Pittsburgh Panthers in 2014

The Golden Panthers should need Hilton’s abilities at 100 percent against an FAU team that has put up 112 points in their last two meetings.
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    - Gordon Biersch
    - Red Bar
    - Havana Dreams
    - Japengo at the Hyatt
    - Ecco Lounge
    - Finnegans River
    - Mekka (3 Stages)
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ADMISSION

*Three-day* wristbands: $50
($35 with valid Student ID)

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LEAVING WINNERS

Golden Panthers send seniors out with win at home

Joel Delgado
Staff Writer

Seniors Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Gaby James said goodbye to U.S. Century Bank Arena as the Golden Panthers defeated the Florida A&M Rattlers to end the season.

Family members, friends and fans gathered to celebrate their careers and say goodbye one last time in what proved to be a match ending in several players’ tears.

And in what might have been their final match at U.S. Century Bank Arena, they left the crowd with one final victory to remember them by.

“We finished on a great note,” Vergun said of her last game at home. “In our minds, there was no other way to do it.”

The Golden Panthers, coming off a disappointing loss to Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference championship match, handily defeated the visiting Florida A&M Rattlers in three sets as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

It was an emotional day for Coach Daniela Tomic, who has helped develop these players and watched them grow on and off the field.

“It’s tough to see them go,” Tomic said. “Every player is special; they are such a great group. You don’t find many athletes that are selfless anymore. Yari is like that, Olga is like that, Isa is like that. They make you a better coach.”

After a slow start to the match, FIU quickly regained momentum and never let go as they shot 53 percent from the field and limited the Owls to a 30 percent shooting performance.

Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic

Stephanie Gabriel
Staff Writer

During the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the Golden Panthers women’s basketball team was thankful to have enough players to complete a starting lineup.

With a lengthy list of injuries and ineligible players, the Golden Panthers proved they’re struggling without the help of some key assets as they were downed by St. Joseph’s and Florida last weekend.

Winners

The Associated Press

Pappa Oppong scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures in an 81-67 win over Florida International on Nov. 28.

Justin Stommes scored 15 points, and Josh Taylor and Spencer Perrin each had 14.

Dayvon Ellis added 10 points off the bench.

The Colonels are 5-1 for the first time since the 2006-07 season, the last time they earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Halftime lead slips away from Golden Panthers

Men’s Basketball: Eastern Kentucky 81, FIU 67

The Beacon – 12

KEVIN M. KISSEL
Sports Writer

Marlon Gary added 13 points, J.C. Otero had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Phil Gary scored 10 points.

“I thought we got very careless with the basketball and made a couple of turnovers that led to easy transition baskets,” said head coach Ernie Thomas II at fiusports.com. “That gave them confidence in their defense and then confidence in the offense because of the easy transition baskets they were able to score.”

The Panthers (2-6), led 32-31 at halftime but the Colonels shot 63.6 percent (21-for-33) from the field in the second half to pull away.

The Colonels led by as many as 16 points.

The Colonels fired 28 3-point shots and made 7 of 13 (58.1 percent) in the second half, and 42.9 percent (12-for-28) for the game.

Marvin Roberts led the Owls with 19 points.

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