Climate change worries officials

CHRISTOPHER NEUCEZ
Editor in Chief

A study conducted by University researchers has found a strong sense of concern among environmental and political officials in the Florida Keys regarding the adverse affects of global climate change to the region.

While officials agreed overwhelmingly that the Keys should begin preparing for the most likely climate change scenario, 81 percent reported that their agency or organization does not have a plan they know of for confronting the changes and opinions varied on how best to prepare for them.

"Florida is at the very forefront of climate change, sea level rise and global warming. The rest of the U.S. is debating these issues, but Florida is different because it is the front line," Mozumder said. "We need to act on these issues more aggressively than other parts of the country."

The Florida Keys are on average less than 1.5 meters above sea level, yet are home to more than 80,000 residents. They are adjacent to the third-largest barrier reef in the world, an ecosystem containing more marine species than any other in the U.S.

Their natural wonders make the Keys the fifth most popular tourist destination in the world according to Mozumder.

"A major gap exists today in understanding the science of climate change and how to prepare to avoid the future," he said.

Coca-Cola loses Pepsi challenge

MELUSSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Florida International University has signed a new contract with the Pepsi Bottling Company to become the school’s official beverage provider.

Replacing the expired Coca-Cola company contract, which served the University for about 7 years, Pepsi products will now be sold on both the Modesto Maidique campus and Biscayne Bay campus via vending machines as well as food vendors.

The deal, which was signed Dec. 23, is to bring in an estimated eight million dollars to the University.

"I know sometimes the thought is 'oh it’s about the money' but it’s really not. If anything I would say it’s about the service," said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president for business services.

"It was a technical issue with ordering the product. The product was not available and once they understood how it worked, they worked with us to fix the problem," Mozumder said.

H1N1 vaccine accessible on campus

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

An on-campus solution exists for students worried about the threat of the H1N1 flu.

University Health Services has been administering vaccines for H1N1, also known as the “swine flu,” since last year. Vaccines are still available and UHS is still administering them to students who want to be vaccinated.

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 23, which was the last official day the University was open before the Holiday break, 702 vaccines were administered according to Dr. Oscar Loyoaz, interim director of UHS at Modesto Maidique Campus. Vaccines weren’t administered during the break as the University was not open.

The number includes both UHS facilities at MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus as well as the College of Medicine’s Faculty Practice Plan.

The Faculty Practice Plan is a medical clinic that sees the University’s faculty and staff. However, Loyoaz said that if a student comes to the practice plan specifically for the vaccine they will be seen.

According to Elvira Velez, director of health administration at MMC, there have been 53 cases of influenza-like illnesses and 11 confirmed cases of H1N1 at MMC.

There have been 58 confirmed cases at MMC. The 69 cases in total are as of April 2009.

The University received 1500 vaccines from the Miami-Dade County Health Department that were paid for by the federal government. They were a combination of nasal and injectable doses.

The nasal vaccine uses the live virus in minute quantities, according to Velez. The injectable has a modified version of the virus. To receive the nasal vaccine the recipients must be less than 50 years of age and have no history of chronic illness.

Loyoaz said in the beginning there was a technical issue with ordering single dose vials. But because those were unavailable the University wasn’t getting their order completed. However, multi-dose vials were available and once they understood how the ordering process was done there wasn’t a problem.

The vaccines arrived at MMC on Jan. 6 in the GC Ballrooms. Mike also levitated a student and performed voodoo as part of his performance. The event hosted by SPC as part of Week of Welcome.
SEA LEVEL, page 1

losses in the statement, the Flu$. Flugman said, in a statement issued by the University.

In the summer of 2008, Mozurder and Flugman surveyed more than 850 officials serving the Florida Keys, including environmental professionals, non-governmental officials and policy makers from the local, state and federal levels.

“Climate change and global warming, from the science and policy perspectives, are very complex issues,” Mozurder said. “And when you ask people what we should do about it if it’s real, people get confused because they don’t have enough information to respond to those questions. But we still need this type of information from a societal perspective, because if the risk is significant, we need to act on it.”

The largest group of survey respondents was environmental specialists from such organizations as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others.

Seventy-five percent of those surveyed said they were highly concerned about the effects of climate change in the Florida Keys. More than 70 percent of respondents also considered sea level rise a significant economic threat to the Keys and agreed that the massive loss of coral reefs, the loss of natural habitats and the extinction of species was highly likely.

“Our average, the people we surveyed have around 15 years experience in their job and 13 in the Florida Keys,” Mozurder said. “I don’t think there is a better group of individuals than can get us that information.”

While world leaders grapple with how to curb the established causes of climate change, specifically the emission of greenhouse gases, it is still widely accepted that these strategies cannot prevent a significant sea level rise this century.

According to the report, South Florida has traditionally experienced a sea level rise of about 3.8 centimeters per century. Yet tide-gage data from the Keys has found that between 1932 and 2000, the sea level has risen 22 centimeters, eight times faster than the average rate over the past 2,500 years.

The team also surveyed what Keys officials consider to be the best ways of adapting the community to the coming changes. More than 75 percent of survey respondents supported the creation of a “Community Adaptation Fund” to pool resources in an effort to minimize negative impacts of the climate changes.

Most respondents supported a tax increase on tourism related industries, essentially putting the added burden on travelers. Roughly 70 percent support adding a surcharge to motels and hotels, as well as adding a toll to the Overseas Highway, which carries U.S. 1 through the Keys.

Support was less ardent for those options which taxed more local ventures, such as a fee on recreational boating and diving activities. Only 50 percent of respondents supported adding a surcharge to commercial fishing and other industries heavily reliant on natural resources.

Both campuses distribute vaccine

H1N1, page 1

and were distributed to other University locations according to how many vaccines they needed. There was never a shortage problem, according to Loynaz. He also said the university would be ordering more vaccines.

UHS staff on both campuses administer the vaccines. Students can either make appointments or walk in to receive a vaccine.

ElizabethMoreno, senior registered nurse at MMC’s UHS, said she adminis-
tered 40-50 vaccines a day that were a combination of both nasal and injectable doses. Moreno said that how students answered a consent decision whether they received a nasal or injectable vaccine.

No side effects were reported at the University according to Loynaz, however he does not rule out the possibility of side effects all together.

“If someone got their vaccine here, went to Connecticut for the holidays, got some sort of side effect and got treated there then we won’t know about it” said Loynaz.

Velez said that the possible side effects of the vaccine are nothing serious.

“It’s only a problem if people are allergic to eggs,” Velez said as chicken eggs are used in the making of the vaccine.

According to Loynaz the University will continue to provide vaccines until health officials say they are no longer necessary.

Velez said that because H1N1 is not following the pattern of the regular seasonal flu, health officials are not yet sure when the vaccine will no longer be needed.

“As long as vaccines are available and people are interested, we’ll continue to give them,” Loynaz said.

UHS promoted the vaccines in several different ways. They sent out a survey via e-mail to students on their mailing list that had a part asking them if they were interested in an H1N1 vaccine and if they were interested in being contacted when the vaccine arrived; 800 were replied and were the first to be contacted about the arrival of the vaccine on campus.

Velez said that the concept of herd immunity is used when it comes to H1N1 and its vaccine.

“If everyone is vaccinated, if someone gets sick, the virus is less likely to get sick,” Velez said.
Pepsi supports FIU green effort

PEPSI, page 1

“The components that we [the committee] were evaluating were: how do they service the machines, how frequently do they service them, will they react quickly when a maintenance issue occurs and making sure they take coins, bills and Panther Cards,” Krablin said.

As the University’s official beverage provider, Pepsi will now sponsor FIU athletics by selling their drinks at all University sports programs, advertising at athletic facilities, and setting up banners around campus with their logo.

They plan on personalizing their products to feature the annual FIU football schedule on the sides of each bottle; while also selling the FIU branded drinks off campus stores located in the community surrounding the University.

Each vending machine on campus, which is supposed to support the University’s green initiatives by using less energy, will now include alternative beverages like Aquafina, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, and Starbucks frecappuccino. After the elimination of the Coke machines during the Winter Break, the number of Pepsi machines increased to serve more locations.

Once the company finalizes their technology, the future plans include running advanced software on the vending machines that can monitor the temperature level and how often students buy a specific product. This will enable the machines to remember their traffic patterns, giving them the ability to cool down at times when purchases are usually low and then power up again during busy hours.

In addition, the company has also agreed to fund a university student as the on-campus liaison between Pepsi and FIU, who will be responsible for the marketing of the products as well as monitoring the needs of the students and faculty.

“I think as a school we’re starting to notice the change more and more with the banners and machines,” said Roberto Guzman, a sophomore majoring in international business. “Coke was a lot more popular, but people forget really quickly so it won’t be that much of an issue.”

While other colleges such as University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University already have contracts with Pepsi, FIU has caused other institutions like University of Central Florida to be considering a move toward the very same company.

“Other universities want vendors that provide service and Pepsi has decided that they’re going to be just that,” said Krablin. “And they are going to win some more business because they are more service oriented than Coke seems to want to be.”

Times Talks get name change

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Last semester over 300 students, faculty and staff members attended the five Tuesday Times Roundtable events.

“The discussions were free-ranging, honest and open; people are hungry for this sort of thing at FIU,” said Stephanie Doscher, the associate director of the office of Global Learning Initiatives.

These roundtable discussions are the by-product of a partnership between the Student Government Association, The New York Times and Global Learning for Global Citizenship, FIU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Originally known as the Tuesday Times Talks, the name was changed due to overlapping with another New York Times program, which was also known as “The New York Times Talks.”

According to Doscher, The New York Times then asked all colleges and universities using this name to change it.

The Tuesday Times Roundtable series is part of The New York Times Readership Program at Modesto Maidique Campus. As part of the SGA-funded readership program, New York Times newspapers are made available to students daily, free of charge, at locations across both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus campus.

The first roundtable discussion scheduled for this semester is entitled, “Alternative Energy: Who Could Object?”

Moderated by Mary Pfeiffer of the Honors College, the discussion will explore issues raised in the Jan. 4, 2010 issue of The New York Times, “For Cape Cod Wind Farm, New Hurdle Is Spiritual.”

According to a press release from the Global Learning Initiatives office, the GLI and SGA will be providing a free lunch at every discussion as well as a full menu of topics to discuss.

“Everything from alternative energy to slut lists,” Doscher said.

‘Slut Lists’ will be the topic of a Tuesday Times Roundtable on February 16th, based off a subject covered in a September 24th, 2009 New York Times article called “When the Cool Get Hazed.”

“The topics come from New York Times articles, but you don’t have to have read the articles first to attend,” added Doscher.

All FIU students, faculty and staff are invited to the Tuesday Times Roundtable, which takes place every Tuesday from 12-1 p.m. in the Graham Center, Rm. 150, beginning Jan. 12.
Council revises handbook, enlists new members

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Finance Committee are making changes, including a tighter agenda, creating a new senate handbook and enlisting new members.

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin “Cici” Battle is the brainchild behind the new senate handbook, created to work as a simple learning tool for newcomers to the senate.

“I wanted to do a project for a semester for people who become senators to learn about the constitution and statutes and how to make a resolution or a bill on student issues,” Battle said.

The new handbook will serve as a “breakdown” of guidelines for the senate and will be no more than two to three pages long, according to Battle.

Available positions in SGC-BBC include a hospitality and housing manager, the education senator, who will write statements or resolutions voicing issues concerning students, and press secretary, a position that entails serving as a communicator between the press and SGA.

The position, however, “hasn’t really reached its full potential because it has just been created and takes time to work,” said SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein.

“Joe Battle said. “I hope to strictly implementing the committee’s new rules.

“I am asking that all students who will be turning in proposals come to us at least four weeks prior to their event because we have a goal of $25,000," Aski said. "We have a goal of $25,000, the money will be a reception with entertainment, help raise money by sponsoring a FGMG dinner on Feb. 5.

“SGA is going to be reaching out to local community and University leaders to help raise money. There will be a reception with entertainment and we will also show-case students who have previously received this scholarship. We have a goal of $25,000,” Zohar said.

Students interested in applying only need to fill out the Free Federal Student Aid form and, based on the information provided, eligible students will be granted the aid.

I want to make sure if there is a stipulation put on the proposal, the group that is requesting has enough time to fulfill what is asked by the committee," Aski said.

According to Aski, students last semester turned in proposals a week before their event and, “since there were stipulations put on by the committee and they did not have enough time to fulfill what the committee asked, their events did not happen.”

“My main goal is to make sure we fund events,” Aski said. "That’s why we are doing surveys this semester to find out what type of events our students would like to see funded.”

With about 40 members, Neistein said this semester marks the largest number of SGC-BBC members to date.

According to Flores, studies show that families whose parents have not attended college are more likely to have low incomes and paying for college becomes a large obstacle.

“They all have the same responsibilities,” according to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser and assistant director of Campus Life, the executive assistant will work very closely with Neistein and Battle.

“The executive assistant will work hand-in-hand with the president and is his ‘right-hand person’ by helping with his agenda and getting things done,” Zapata said.

Tanya Williams, who couldn’t be reached for comment, is the new speaker of the senate and represents all elected members of SGC-BBC. Her position requires her to make sure all proposals get passed on to the president for signature, according to Zapata.


“It tried to learn as much as I could last semester from Tonia and I gained a lot of experience from reviewing the different proposals and events the committee allocated money to,” Aski said. "I hope to continue Tonia’s path, but with a couple of new changes.

These changes include moving meeting dates to every Monday at 2:30 p.m. instead of every Wednesday at 2 p.m. Aski is also strictly implementing the committee’s new rules.

“I am asking that all students who will be turning in proposals come to us at least four weeks prior to their event because I thought it would be valuable to bring another perspective, through literature, on how these people relate to each other.

“We are interested in everything we are engaged in an inevitable struggle,” said Ranen Omer-Sherman, professor of English and Jewish studies at the University of Miami.

Omer-Sherman’s work explores Jewish identity and representations of Arabs through literature and film, and although his books are not the focus of the lecture, he is the author of three books – Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish American Literature, Israel in Exile: Jewish Writing and the Desert, and The Jewish Graphic Novel: Critical Approaches – that Zohar felt made him “an expert in modern Jewish and Israeli literature.”

“He is a very dynamic speaker,” Zohar said. “Those who listen to him can enjoy him both intellectually and as a person and will benefit from hearing him speak.”

Attendees at this lecture will look at literary examples of how Jewish and Palestinian-Israeli writers examine ways in which categories often seen as polarized are often interlaced.

Jews and Israelis write about expe-
Lecture gives insight on Jewish-Arab conflict

Lecture, page 4

Paradoxes of Identity: Jewish/Muslim Otherness and Nearness in 21st Century Israeli Literature

Lecture by Dr. Ranen Omer-Sheman
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
8:00 PM
WUC Theatre, Biscayne Bay Campus

Because the Muslim world and the West are inevitably in hostile opposition, taking a look at Europe who, dominated by other empires, is enriched, can shed light on the value of understanding differences, according to Omer-Sherman.

"Civilizations are enriched when they become porous and allow for non-fundamentalist ways and are confident enough in their own identity to reach out to others," Omer-Sherman said.

The goal of the lecture is for students to be aware of the impact of identities and understand the similarities and differences among people of different cultures and experiences through the works of literature being discussed.

"When you struggle or fight the ‘other,’ using the pen is much more effective than using the weapon," said Zohar. "It is much more effective to maintain humanity and hopefully achieving middle ground."

Zahra Arbabi Aski, sophomore psychology major, makes adjustments to her tie-dye design on Jan. 8 at the Campus Life Fun Day event.

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Tuesday, January 12th
"Alternative Energy: Who Could Object?" Moderated by Mary Pfeiffer, Honors College
(global view of energy)

For more information visit: goglobal.ifi.edu

Counts for CSO Points
Weekly discussions of New York Times articles on global issues, events and trends

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MODERATE A TALK CONTACT: Maria Cedeno • 305.346.2220 • mcenedo@fiu.edu

12:00pm - 1:00pm Graham Center, Rooms 160 FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, LUNCH PROVIDED

FIT TO BE DYED

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus started the new year with magicians, jugglers and a brand new office.

SGC-BBC's open house was held in Panther Square, where it carried over into the association's new office located in Room 301 of the Wolfe University Center.

The one-day event took place on Jan. 6 and included musicians, jugglers, face-painting, balloon animals and a popcorn machine.

"This open house says to students ‘We’re here to serve them’...It’s to have a deeper understanding of SGA," Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president.

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"This open house says to students: ‘We’re here to serve them’...It’s to have a deeper understanding of SGA." Sholom Neistein, President SGC-BBC

would like to learn and get involved with SGC-BBC.

The new office includes a conference room, where magician, ventriloquist and fire eater Richard Adler, known as “The Amazing Mr. A”, quickly became a hit among students and staff members.

"The magician was really cool. It’s awesome when you can entertain adults. He tried to teach us how to do some of his tricks, but we couldn’t do it,” said Davon Johnson, a sophomore journalism major.

Battle said she or Neistein are open to answer any questions a student may have about SGC-BBC, but if they are ever too busy, SGC-BBC’s staff clerk, Larissa Adames, is the next best solution.

"We moved to this office three months ago and the open house is not a recruiting event, but we do have some positions open," Adames said.

Opening SGC-BBC gives students the opportunity to “make a stamp” on the FIU community just by being involved, according to Battle.

"SGC-BBC teaches networking and leadership skills. Education is great, but real-life experience is really important," Battle said.

Zahra Arbabi Aski, sophomore psychology major, makes adjustments to her tie-dye design on Jan. 8 at the Campus Life Fun Day event.

Because the Muslim world and the West are inevitably in hostile opposition, taking a look at Europe who, dominated by other empires, is enriched, can shed light on the value of understanding differences, according to Omer-Sherman.

"Civilizations are enriched when they become porous and allow for non-fundamentalist ways and are confident enough in their own identity to reach out to others," Omer-Sherman said.

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Zahra Arbabi Aski, sophomore psychology major, makes adjustments to her tie-dye design on Jan. 8 at the Campus Life Fun Day event.
CSO’s new policy to keep non‐FIU students out of clubs filled with flaws.

What is a FIU student? According to the student code handbook, a student is “any person who participates in any course or program of the University, either full-time or part-time, who seeks degree-seeking or non-degree seeking.”

The Beacon editorial board certainly thinks that this definition makes sense.

Further on in the handbook, however, the description becomes warped. The code allows for the term “student” to be applied to people who are not enrolled at the University for a particular term but who have a “continuing relationship with the University.” or “persons who are living in the residence halls but are not enrolled at the University.”

Because of these blatant contradictions and misunderstanding as to what a FIU student actually is, persons who do not pay Activities & Service fees have been able to flock to student clubs and organizations.

The Beacon reported last semester that Campus Life officials had been informed that the “Anything Goes Anime” club had non‐FIU students participating in events. Campus Life and the Council of Student Organizations turned to a local Web site, Orgsync.com, to resolve the issue. The Web site is a filtering method and only allows potential members of clubs to join if they have a valid PantherID.

Orgsync is a step in the right direction for Campus Life and CSO. If run properly, it’s restrictions will fix a major hole in the club system.

Currently, full‐time FIU students are allowed over $14.50 per credit hour for Activities & Service fees when they pay their tuition. These fees are essentially paying for organizations to operate, clubs among them.

It is only fair that persons who do not pay these fees should not be able to partake in activities paid for by current students. There is a solution to this, however.

If non‐FIU students wish to join a student organization, these potential members should be forced to pay the respective A&S fee that all active students pay. This means that non‐FIU students participating in events will be charged Activities & Service fees.

CSO should allow these non‐FIU students to deal with when paying for tuition. CSO could certainly not want to see membership numbers within clubs fall because of the vague definitions within the handbook. In fact, there is a great opportunity to be made if CSO allows for these restrictions to be lifted.

This follows the example the recreation center sets at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Local community members are allowed to use their facilities for a fee. CSO should allow these non‐FIU students to pay this fee in order to take liberty with what our clubs have to offer.

CSO should not draw up laws to restrict the participation of these non‐active students. For instance, under no circumstances should a non‐active student be able to run for club legislature or have any role to the changing of the club laws.

While The Beacon believes that by employing Orgsync, CSO is taking a step in the right direction, steps in clearly defining who “students” are, need to be taken.

ERIK FELDMAN
Special to the Beacon

Around 2 a.m., the lights in the Gold Garage turn off leaving it pitch black. This presents a major safety hazard for any students who are on campus late at night studying, participating in meetings, hanging out or any other special events.

The parking garages do close after a certain hour, however this does not mean that students who parked there when it was open do not have to get to their car if they are leaving school late. If you walk through Gold Garage when the lights are off there are usually at least 5-10 cars on each floor, each car representing one student who will have to go their car in the pitch black darkness.

There are many legitimate reasons to be on campus late this time of year. Greek chapter meetings can often last until past the time that the lights go off during times as recruitment and ritual review. Members of certain councils such as Student Programming and Homecoming undoubtedly have late nights when improper attire is as UP Rocks and Panther Prowl are near, and this is not even mentioning that students could just be hanging out after visiting a friend in housing or going out to eat or a concert or sporting event in a friend’s car and then having to go back to theirs in the pitch black garage.

I created a group on Facebook with an online petition to “Keep the Lights on in Gold Garage” which quickly garnered over 300 members all posting comments about the fact that they have experienced this issue and were made very uncomfortable by the situation.

I contacted the Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster about this via e-mail the week of finals and he replied stating that he would ensure that the lights would remain on for the rest of exam week.

While Foster’s immediate action was noted and appreciated, I then pointed out that exam week is not the only time students are on campus late, as evidenced by the 300 students who joined the group. Students also stay on campus studying late not just for finals, but all exams, which are not all on the same week like finals.

I speak to many potential and new students about FIU and tell them that this is a very safe campus. While I generally believe that statement, this oversight is simply to egregious to overlook and is a major hazard, whether someone ends up injuring themselves because they can’t see where they are going or worse, victimized through assault, robbery or rape.

This cause has been noticed by Student Government. I have been contacted by the president and vice president of the council at Modesto Maidique Campus expressing interesting in helping, but they will not be able to make our case to the administration unless we have strength in numbers. This is not a lost cause, we can make a difference.

Please take action on this issue by contacting the following University officials who have some power in the matter and also joining the Facebook group.

ERIC FELDMAN
Special to the Beacon

Gold Garage lights need to stay on

Obama’s foreign policy challenge

BRIAN ALONZO
Staff Writer

On Christmas day Nigerian Umara Foodük Abdul Mutallab, set himself on fire in an attempt to ignite an explosive strapped to his leg and paid on a flight going to Detroit. He is currently being detained and the branch of Al-Qaeda in Yemen has taken responsibility for the incident. Concerns have centered on how exactly Mutallab was allowed to board a U.S. bound plane with explosives and to what course of action should be taken to further strengthen airline security.

According to one Los Angeles Times story concerning the intelligence gap that lead to the incident, it was found that the CIA had received a classified wire in November from the U.S. embassy in Nigeria where the suspect’s father had warned that his son had been radicalized. The information was never turned into an official report but rather the name was added to a large database.

This draws the blame to the inter-agency lapses that have supposedly been improved since 9/11 and the creation of Homeland Security. Some argue if the CIA had turned the information into a report, then Mutallab would have had to endure more screenings which could have prevented him from boarding the flight.

While intelligence dissemination remains an issue, it is not the main contributor to this situation. There just wasn’t enough evidence to warrant Mutallab a serious threat. Although some would argue that a stricter approach to dealing with suspects is needed, it could potentially place civil rights in jeopardy as well as strain intelligence resources.

Sea of Troubles

The major concern policy makers now face is responding to the Al-Qaeda threat in Yemen. Joseph Lieberman has already stated that Yemen could become the next engagement in the Middle East if preemptive action is not taken. The country is becoming a haven for fleeing jihadist, and according to National Counterterrorism Center, it could become a “regional base of operations for Al-Qaeda.”

Our military resources are spread thin and if action is to be taken it must be a course that would contain and isolate threats rather than potentially expand the conflict.

President Obama should apply an international approach to the situation and see if the.cartels can persuade the governments of Yemen and its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, to increase pressure on these militias as any more unilateral military force is simply out of the question.

Obama now faces a threefold challenge. He must first decide what the best course of action is in addressing continuing intelligence failures as well as how to best balance airport security procedures and personal privacy.

He must then take a responsible approach to what experts deem a growing threat abroad in Yemen while domestically attempting to end the partisan politicization of this issue in time to resolve the healthcare debate and focus on repairing the economy and winning in Afghanistan.

SEAN BUI/ The Beacon

Tobii has come back to the forefront of home theater with the eye-tracking remote control 3D TV. It is the first legitimate home theater oriented with 3D capability. Now you can watch “Avatar,” at home and focus on the movie—whether it’s lack of story or idea.

WINNER
LOSER

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding our response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fi usm.com.

QUOTATION

"I’m less interested in passing out blame than I am in learning from and correcting these mistakes to make us safer. For ultimately, the buck stops with me.”

President Barack Obama on his feelings after failed terrorist attack in Times Square.
Club fair helps students meet new people, explore new interests

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

Student organizations strive to offer a more complete college experience through hundreds of extracurricular activities.

To help students become better acquainted with the many clubs that exist at the University, the Council for Student Organizations will be hosting the Spring 2010 Club Fair on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

More than 100 organizations participate in the club fair every semester, offering a wide variety of activities for every student’s interest.

“The club fair is a chance for students to meet people that have the same interests as them. In class, you focus on learning but not making friends. The club fair is about joining an organization that you can relate to and the great thing is that most clubs are free,” said Cristina Loreto, vice president of the Italian Club and secretary of CSO.
New tracks from Usher show his ‘Freak’ side

A couple of days ago, a track from Usher’s upcoming record, Raymond vs. Raymond, was leaked on the Internet. The album already has two singles, “Papers” and “Hey Daddy.” “Papers” is about his recent divorce, which is a pretty serious, exhausting ordeal, but the song submits to silly keyboard strokes that are annoying and makes Usher sound like he’s doing R&B circa 10 years ago. “Hey Daddy” is absolutely promising at first, until Plies opens his mouth and gives this song some real crappy Becky. Seriously, Plies, stop making music and keep updating your Twitter.

But Raymond vs. Raymond has something of an epic ring to it, though. From the title, it sounds like Usher could have finally done off the deep R&B end and produced a double-concept album of metal-like proportions. It can picture it now, too.

The first disc exhibits his smooth side, containing collaborative slow jams with Ne-Yo and Drake, and the second disc embodies his deep, angry, repressed side, in the form of club-bangers that may or may not have Gucci Mane on it. (See R. Kelly and Nelly.)

Sort of right about the Ne-Yo prediction, and I’m afraid Usher and Gucci Mane have been acquainted with each other on the underrated The State vs. Radric Davis.

But I can easily say that “Little Freak,” the unofficial third single/leaked track, will be one of the catchiest songs of 2010, for the beat has been playing in my head for two days already and the song’s replay factor is anything but finite. “Little Freak” has Usher channeling his best T-Pain homage alongside Nicki Minaj. With the production help of Polow da Don, who’s also related to Ludacris, Usher has made a song about picking up promiscuous girls and how picking up said promiscuous girls could possibly turn itself into some kind of a three-way … and he does it all with just a bit of autotune, some Nicki Minaj silliness and ridiculously catchy beat-making. It’s also pretty convenient that Minaj guest stars, because how else will Usher make menga-trois puns without sounding creepy?

Minaj poses as Usher’s wingman, though I hardly believe Usher needs any help picking up women.

She exhibits her signature Lil’ Wayne-inspired incoherence that never really fails to entertain. She somehow even lists all of Santa’s reindeer for some reason — in a song about little freaks. Huh?

Never mind Minaj. It’s Polow da Don and Usher who really shine here creating a song that’s loud, rowdy and borderline gaudy. “Little Freak” is a song that’s loud, rowdy and borderline gaudy.

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music. Look for it every Monday.

Talk considers futuristic impact on art

Modern British prints discussed

ASHLEY CAPO
Staff Writer

The anticipated first week of the semester has come and gone. As the lines at the bookstore finally shorten and students are no longer awkwardly looking for their classes, it seems like the perfect time to take in some art history and culture.

On Jan. 12, the Wolfsonian-FLU will be presenting “Lines of Force: The Futurist Influence on Modern British Art.” The talk will be led by Emily Braun, distinguished professor of art history at the Graduate Center of Hunter College, and curator for The Leonard A. Lauder Collection.

Braun will discuss the works of British Vorticists that can be viewed in the museum’s exhibit called “Rhythms of Modern Life: British Prints 1914-1939,” a collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The term “Vorticism” is the name of an art movement founded in the beginning of World War I and the outbreak of World War II. During this time, advancements in technology and the modern age inspired artists to challenge the changes in the world around them through WOLFSONIAN, page 9

Deconstruction and Healing

Visitors at the Frost Art Museum witness the deconstruction of the museum’s mandala, Jan. 5 during Target Wednesday After Hours. The ceremony included a ritual and prayer blessing the sand. Monks of the Deprung Loseling Monastery created the mandala over a three-day period this past November. The sand was passed out to visitors and dispersed into the museum’s pond, to disseminate the mandala’s healing properties.
GC Ballrooms serve as new location for club fair

CSO, page 6

Omicon Delta Kappa.

“Tuesday’s fair will host clubs for students interested in academics, engineering, graduate studies, honor societies, law and politics. Wednesday will focus on art, business, culture, health and wellness, religion and service clubs.

“College is not only about the education you receive at a university, but also your growth as an individual,” said Trang Van, president of CSO.

Unlike previous years where the club fair was held in the GC Pit or outside on the lawn, CSO has chosen the ballrooms for this year’s venue. The tables will be lined up inside the room so that students can easily walk around the room and visit the different organizations without such large spaces between booths.

The fair is meant to attract students and allow them involved clubs to also be beneficial for those already in clubs to attend and support their organizations.

“The club fair is great for meeting new people and showcasing what the club is about. It is about making students understand you are passionate about your club,” Lorenzo said.

CSO will be hosting a banner contest for participating organizations so they can showcase their artistic and creative skills while promoting themselves.

As students exit, they will see the CSO table with free food, drinks and giveaways.

In order to get any of the giveaways, CSO will ask that students visit at least five tables. There will be plenty to choose from considering the amount of clubs that will be present.

They will also be giving away CSO T-shirts for the first time as well as flash drives, water bottles, thermal mugs, caps, duffel bags and more.

The CSO table will be more than just fun and games though.

They will also be providing information on the different organizations and how to join them.

“We have so many organizations and they all do something so amazing,” said Van.

Club fair at a glance

• Tuesday, Jan. 12
  11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
• Wednesday, Jan. 13
  11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
• Both days in GC Ballrooms

“We have clubs that travel internationally to participate in community service events, others that provide opportunities to network and meet professionals within their academic and/or professional discipline, some who bring renowned speakers to FIU to speak to students, and much more.”

The club fair is an opportunity to speak with members and leaders of various organizations in a relaxed environment and to hear about their experiences first hand.

“There is so much to learn and gain by being a part of an organization, and each of the CSO organizations can definitely bring something to the table to offer FIU students a great, unique experience to enhance their education here at FIU,” Van said.

Former president of The Invitational Scholars Club and the Catholic Students Association at BBC, senior Miguel Alvarado said his college experience had a lot to do with the organizations he was a member of.

“I became a leader for these organizations and their individual goals and requirements helped to catapult my personality and abilities past places that I didn’t know I could go,” Alvarado said. “These particular organizations, along with all extracurricular involvement groups on campus, can give students the opportunities they need to realize their administrative and social potential.”

There are many reasons to join a CSO organization and the club fair is the one time during the semester that students will have the opportunity to meet with them all at the same time.

Futurist’s influence on British art part of lecture

WOLFSONIAN, page 8

The Wolfsonian has a great collection of Futurist art,” Martinez said. “The Futurists focused their work on the advancements of machines and mechanics. I think that is something that everyone can relate to, especially today.”

The talk will also focus on the influence Italian Futurists had on the pieces displayed in the exhibition, one of the many areas of expertise that Braun has based her career researching, teaching and writing about.

Braun’s presence at the museum is highly anticipated among art enthusiasts, as well as staff.

She is not only lecturing at the museum, but also working on a future exhibition for the Wolfsonian, the Wolfsonian’s sister museum on the Italian Riviera near Genoa, and will examine Italian art and design.

In addition to her work on modern Italian art and fascist culture, Braun has published on Renaissance architecture, late 19th-century European paintings, women’s studies, Jewish history and contemporary painting and sculpture. She has received several awards for her previous works on Jewish history.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Wolfsonian located at 1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. The talk is free for students and members of the museum; $10 all others.

For more information, visit www.wolfsonian.org.
Thomas believes incoming class could be FIU’s best

CHRIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

With names like Chipper Jones, Alex Rodriguez, and Charles Johnson on his recruiting resume, FIU Baseball coach Turtl Thomas is in stranger to highly touted high school talent in his two decades in the college baseball world.

FIU baseball, however, may have never seen a recruiting class as talented as the one Thomas has inked to National Letters of Intent for the 2011 baseball season.

The class includes 3 players who played for respective national teams in the past season and the top position player in both Canada and the United States, according to Baseball America.

“It’s a good class, with maybe a couple more guys on the way,” said Thomas. “I’m very happy.”

Miami Brito High shortstop Manny Machado is the top rated player in the class, rated as the top position player in America by Baseball America.

When asked about Machado, Thomas didn’t hesitate to compare him to one Major League Hall of Fame shortstop and another future Hall of Famer he had a hand in recruiting while with the University of Miami.

“He has outstanding power for a shortstop and at 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4, he’s very similar to Cal Ripken,” Thomas said. “He has a cannon for an arm. He’s extremely similar to Alex Rodriguez.”

Machado is a good bet to be drafted by a major league team, with various online mock draft websites having him going as high as the 12 pick.

Along with Machado, the draft is very infield heavy as offensive players go, with just one natural outfielder, Joel Capote from Miami Dade College, among them.

One of the other big additions to the class is the top rated position player in Canada, Kellin Deglan, a 6-foot-3 catcher from R.E. Mountain Secondary School in British Columbia.

Deglan is a power hitting left handed catcher who is still developing his skills behind the plate.

“One of our assistant coaches went to Orlando to watch Deglan with the Canadian junior team in a series of instructional games against big league teams,” said Thomas. “With a wooden bat, he hit 7 balls in a row in game that would have been out in our stadium.”

Deglan will be joined behind the dish by Isomel Leon, a defensive specialist who looks to limit extra bases with a quick release and strong arm behind the plate.

Mike Ellis, Deglan’s teammate on that Canadian Junior National Team joins him in the class as one of the top pitchers in the class.

Ellis currently flashes a plus breaking ball that can be used as an out pitch, but he doesn’t overpower with his fastball.

“The sky is the limit for Ellis,” Thomas said. “He projects to add velocity and play in the rotation right away.”

Andres Perez-Lobo from Columbus High School and Ricky Perez from Miami Dade College join the class as natural pitchers, while Perez-Lobo’s teammate at Columbus, Jesse Pintado will look to split his time between the infield and the mound as a relief pitcher.

Brothers Wendell and Wes Soto project to play the middle infield, with the elder Soto, Wes of Polk Community College, a 2nd baseman and Wendell a talented defensive shortstop out of Sarasota River-view High.

“One is just a winner. Some guys have it, and some guys don’t,” said Thomas. “He has it.”

Rounding out the class is the player Thomas calls the top JUCO hitter in the state of Florida, “bare none”, David Vidal.

Right now, Vidal appears to be a man without a position, but Thomas feels his bat is good enough to play anywhere on the field.

With a number of highly touted players, the class may look somewhat different by the time the players make it to campus in the Fall of 2010 with the MLB Rule IV amateur draft looming in June.

Thomas projects as many as 5 players from the class could be taken in the June Draft, though even if they are taken, the player can still elect to come to FIU.

Machado projects to be a first round pick.

Deglan with his rare mix of size and power from the left side as a catcher could be a first day pick.

The draft will definitely have a big impact on the outlook of the class, and if the class remains mostly intact this could prove to be Thomas’ best of three so far at FIU.

“If they play, it will definitely be our best class,” said Thomas.

TOUGH ROAD

During the daunting road trip, four of the Golden Panthers’ six losses were of the double-digit variety. The lowlight of the journey was a 30-point blowout loss to Sam Houston state to cap off the trip on Dec. 22.

It was a gauntlet that Thomas hopes his team won’t have to handle in the future, but it also proves that expectations should be guarded in the short term.

Last Spring, Thomas inherited a team late against Troy and will look to rebound as they hit the road for their next game against Middle Tennessee on Jan. 13.

“I really felt frustrated and I wanted to beat that team because that is a team we should beat all of the time,” Gonzalez said.

“They can’t match with our post players. We played good defense and we played hard but in some parts of the game we fell too far back.”

Machado has outstanding power for a short-stop, and at 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4, he’s very similar to Cal Ripken.
South Florida coach fired following investigation

FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

South Florida fired football coach Jim Leavitt after a school investigation concluded he grabbed one of his players by the throat, slapped him in the face and then lied about it.

A letter hand delivered to the coach and released along with a report on the three-week probe said the university’s findings were based on “independently corroborated statements of persons found to be in the best position to observe your conduct.”

“Coach Leavitt committed a serious violation of our standards of conduct regarding treatment of students,” university president Judy Genshaft said Friday, adding a nationwide search for a replacement will begin immediately.

Reached by telephone, the only coach in the program’s 13-year history told The Associated Press he was “disappointed” and the allegation was “absolutely false.”

Leavitt told investigators he has never struck a player and that he was trying to lift the spirits of a player who was “down” when he grabbed the player’s shoulder pads during halftime of a game against Louisville on Nov. 21.

But the letter athletic director Doug Woolard presented to Leavitt during a meeting with Genshaft stated informed the coach “your description of your conduct toward the student athlete in question was consistently uncorroborated by credible witnesses.”

The school also concluded Leavitt interfered with the investigation by having “direct contact with material witnesses … at a time you knew or should have known was critical to the review process.”

Leavitt, who was 95-57, just completed the second season of a seven-year, $12.6 million contract.

“I truly wish there had been another outcome to this situation,” Woolard said during a news conference.

Investigators talked to several players, who were not identified by name and who either witnessed the alleged incident or were told of it by a player referred to in the report as “Student A.”

The report said during an initial interview with investigators that “Student A” tried to play down the incident, saying the coach grabbed his shoulder pads and “didn’t touch me in any malicious way.”

The investigation concluded differently.

In his letter to Leavitt, Woolard said the athlete’s statements after the probe began “are unpersuasive because they were contradicted by the same student athlete in his conversations with credible witnesses made close in time to when that conduct occurred.”

Leavitt was hired in December 1995 and launched USF’s program from scratch, operating out of trailers on campus in the early years while guiding the Bulls’ swift progression from Division I-AA to BCS conference member.

USF joined the Big East in 2005 and has played in a bowl game every year since joining the league. The Bulls were ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation in 2007 before a mid-season conference slide dropped them out of the Top 25.

Similar collapses in conference play followed 5-0 starts each of the past two years. The Bulls finished 8-5 this season.

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**ROBERTS’ BIG NIGHT NOT ENOUGH AS FIU FALLS**

JOEY CRUZ Staff Writer

Facing a barrage of three-pointers, FIU (5-14, 2-4 Sun-Belt) was unable to respond in kind, shooting just 22 percent from behind the line in an 84-68 loss to Troy on Jan. 9 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“We shot the ball terribly,” FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers played a horrid offensive game, making no first half three-point shots along with a mere 40 percent shooting percentage from the field on the night.

“At one point in the game we became really hesitant,” Thomas said. “During the game Troy defenders would be standing at the foul line and we would be scared to shoot.”

**TOO LITTLE TOO LATE**

Forward Marvin Roberts contributed a game-high 27 points, but by the time he poured in 19 in the second half, the Golden Panthers couldn’t mount a comeback.

“We are constantly trying to dig ourselves out of a hole during games,” Roberts said. “We have to start setting the tempo and making teams start to dig.”

Roberts ended the first half with eight points before his 19 point outburst in the second.

“When we’re losing I try to rally my team back as good as I can,” Roberts said. “I get passionate when I score and that’s what I’m trying to tell my team.”

**TROUBLE ON BOTH ENDS**

The Trojans (9-7, 4-1) were nearly perfect offensively, shooting an excellent 57 percent from both the three-point line as well as the field.

“I think we went too big too early in the lineup,” Coach Thomas said. “I thought we would be able to compensate in rebounds.”

The Golden Panthers had three steals and no blocks compared to Troy’s nine steals and four blocks on the night.

“It seems like when we’re playing good offensively, we play good defense,” Coach Thomas said.

There was no answer for Troy’s starting shooting guard Brandon Hazzard.

Hazzard leads the Sun Belt Conference with 18 points per game and certainly put on a clinic against the Golden Panthers on the road.

Troy’s star went 11-17 from the floor, also shooting a near perfect 8-10 from the arc.

**Golden Panthers rally late, fall short against Trojans**

STEPHANIE GABRIEL Asst. Sports Director

As the temperature outside dropped into the 40s, the FIU women’s basketball team looked for shelter from the cold inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Saturday night.

FIU (7-10, 2-4 Sun-Belt) found no relief though, as they fell 61-59 to the Troy Trojans." thanks to an icy shooting percentage from the field.

The Golden Panthers shot just 28 percent in the first half and 33.9 percent for the entire game while the Trojans knocked down 45.7 percent of their shots, including a 53.8 percent effort in the second half.

Tenia Manuel went 3-for-4 from downtown and totaled 18 points along with four rebounds to lead Troy (9-5, 2-3). Senior Monika Bosilj led the way for FIU with a game-high 19 points along with two blocked shots while point guard Michelle Gonzalez contributed 18 points and three steals.

After finishing the first half with both teams converting just seven field goals each, the Trojans held a one-point lead at the start of the second half, 19-18.

That one-point lead, however, turned into a 15-point lead for Troy after an 11-4 run that was capped off with a Manuel three-pointer with 7:21 remaining in the game.

Gonzalez was able to convert a three-pointer after a Trojan turnover to cut the lead to 10 points at the 6:43 mark. Less than a minute later, teammate Fanni Harlassa knocked down a three, assisted by senior Marquita Adley, to bring FIU within seven points of tying the game.

From there, Adley went to work and brought FIU to the cusp of a comeback with a series of big plays late.

With just under four minutes to play, Gonzalez missed a layup but Adley was there for the offensive rebound. Adley then attempted to go back up for the put-in but she missed and grabbed another rebound which allowed Bosilj to knock down a three that cut the Trojan lead to four points.

“I expected Marquita to play that well,” Gonzalez said. “She’s the best player we have right now. She gets rebounds and plays great defense. She brings great...