Two cabinet members cut

FRANCISCO MARADIGA
Staff Writer

Recent changes in the executive cabinet’s communications and transparency team drew criticism of past inefficiencies and vague job descriptions from the ousted director of communications.

Moses Alabio, the former director of communications, stressed to Student Media that he held no animosity toward his former peers and spoke well of them, but did say the restructure was brought on by a lack of proper planning.

“It wasn’t that big of a deal,” Alabio said of his departure. “But you wouldn’t have to restructure something that was done right the first time.”

This semester, he and the Director of Public Relations Chelsea Franco, were fired from the cabinet. The cabinet has decided not to hire anyone in their position and has shifted responsibilities within the executive branch. Elections Commissioner and Lectures Coordinator Christina Flores had been tapped as an informal director to manage the communications team.

Newly installed Chief of Staff Nick Autiello, who replaced Drew Sanchez at the end of last semester, told Student Media that the two were let go because their busy schedule did not allow them

WHAT’S SO FUNNY?

Comedian Eric O’Shea performed his “Elmo” personas on Jan. 28 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The event was hosted by the Student Programming Council. O’Shea was voted National Comedian of the Year in 2007.

Gabriel Arrarás
Asst. News Director

University trustee Patricia Frost among six appointed to Board of Governors by Governor Charlie Crist.

Crist visited Tampa, FL on Thursday, Jan. 28 for a Governors Board meeting where he announced that he will seek $100 million additional funding for higher education.

During his time in Tampa, Crist also announced the names of the six appointees to the 17-member board that oversees Florida’s 11 public universities.

Five of the appointees, including Patricia Frost, are new to the board. According to the Orlando Sentinel, the only reappointed member is lawyer Ava Parker, the board’s vice-chairman and a former University of Central Florida trustee.

According to the FIU Board of Trustees website, Frost is a retired public school principal whose affiliation with FIU dates back to 1964. She is a member of the FIU Foundation Board and has worked closely with the FIU College of Education since 1970.

Among the other appointees are Richard A. Beard, founding chairman of the University of South Florida’s Board of Trustees; Meritera Hosseini, chairman and CEO of Invest Construction Inc. and member of the influential Council of 100 business groups; as well as John Rood, who served as a U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas from 2004 to 2007.

Each appointee is passionate about securing the best possible education for our students and ensuring Florida continues to develop the talent required to compete in an innovation-based economy,” Crist said in a statement to the Orlando Sentinel.

The new members serving terms end on Jan. 6, 2017.
Inefficent’ system has unclear job descriptions

SAQ, page 1

to commit fully to their important positions.

“They both contributed a little bit in the Fall, but not to the level that their job descriptions asked them to,” Antiello said.

Alucio agreed with Antiello on the busy schedule portion, as he is planning to apply for Law School and has other issues on his plate, however he disagreed over the allocation of not meeting a clear job description.

“I wasn’t really given a job description,” Alucio told Student Media, and says the directions he was given were “vague” and had no clear defined lines.

Ferraro felt she did perform up to the description she was given last summer in spite of being told she “didn’t do much.”

“I didn’t do anything [wrong],” Ferraro told Student Media in an e-mail. “I was present at any and all meetings required of my position and made certain I was available whenever my fellow SGA members needed help with something.”

Ferraro believes that some of her duties overlapped with other members of the communications team; a sentiment shared with the former director of communications.

“It was inefficient,” Alucio said of the last senate. “[It] had lots of positions that could have been put together.”

The establishment of concrete descriptions has been a source of contention in the senate. A bill was passed this month that tried to establish a nomination process for the executive cabinet and would ask for any new position created by the Student Government Council for the Modesto Maidique Campus president to have a written description of the basic functions of the position.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda ran from class to the SGA chambers when he received a text on the bill. He railed against it and claimed he could hire as many people as he saw fit, despite the fact that the bill would not limit his prerogative. Some in the senate saw the bill as an overstep of their authority even though sponsors sought an opinion from the judiciary branch which found the bill to be legal within the constitution.

The next time the bill was introduced had a chance to weigh in on it. Sponsors say the majority of the changes were only in language, it originally referred to an executive order as a proclamation, a description Rionda objected to. Antiello told Student Media that the cabinet approved of the bill.

“I don’t think that is too much to ask for,” said sponsoring senator Vignesh Doraiswamy to the senate when asking them to support the simple new notice. Alucio hopes the new system will have more communication.

Ryder complex serves as Relay locale

RELAY, page 1

had 74 teams and we had about 55 represented around the track, so the majority of teams do come out and fund raise at the actual event.”

Groups interested in creating a team can register online at relayforlife.org/Biscayne. There is an initial registration fee of $100, but teams can choose to defer payment and actually use the fund raising tools available to them to raise it.

“During the actual event, teams are to have a booth set up around the track according to our theme, which this year is Relay Around the World,” said Caluim McLean, team development chair. “So for example, one team is doing Las Vegas and is having a wedding chapel as the fund raiser.”

The night begins with a survivor lap in which everyone participates. The survivor lap serves as the opening ceremony and cancer survivors are invited to join this initial lap as a celebration of their success.

“The survivor lap is followed by several local entertainment acts.”

Last year we had salsa performers telling everyone how to dance, bands, DJs, the winner of our talent competition Star Search also performed,” Carboni said.

The most notable Relay event is the Luminaria Ceremony, in which participants are asked to remember those who have fallen victim to cancer by dedicating a luminaria bag to them.

The paper bags are decorated by participants who have lost a loved one or in honor of someone currently fighting the disease and placed around the track.

“During the luminaria hour, we put some soft music, turn off all the lights and then put candles in each of the luminaria bags around the track,” Perez said.

“It represents just how many people have been affected by cancer.”

This year’s Relay will be held in the Ryder Business Complex on March 5 from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. Last year there were complications with the event’s initial venue, the football stadium and the team was forced to relocate the event to the Ryder Business Complex with only a single new notice.

This year the team is getting used to the idea of the Ryder Complex being a more permanent home for Relay.

“We felt that the Ryder Complex was more conducive to a Relay environment, mainly because the stadium doesn’t have a track,” Carboni said. “So it prohibited the use of tents, the use of food and generators. So it just makes more sense.”

“Having Relay in the stadium was never our key focus,” Perez added. “We knew we had the Ryder Business Complex, it’s worked great before, so we just stuck with it.”
FOODGASM
Rummer appetizers with quick prep, gourmet flair

A Spanish wine tasting. I was asked to prepare a few small dishes to serve first. I was filled with guilt at the idea of "cheif’s anxiety." I get this because there are so many dishes I can make, and then the introspection begins - “Will this pair with the wine?” “Is this ingredient in season?” “Is this dish within the budget?”

Then I quickly went through “cooking anxiety.” I love food, I love to cook - but when I am forced to cook something that I am unin-spired about, I just end up not caring.

For the wine tasting I decided to make two very simple appetizers - Patatas con Aioli and a Warm Quick-Marinated Goat Cheese.

Patatas con Aioli roughly translates to "potatoes with garlic mayonnaise sauce." It is a dish commonly served in Spain in several variations. For simplicity’s sake, I decided to just make one style of the appetizer, and I decided to buy my potatoes from the freezer section of the grocery store. (I know, I know, I am slightly ashamed of my cheating, but at the same time I needed to save time - if I didn’t I wouldn’t have time to write Foodgasm!)

I purchased the 20oz. package of Old El Paso Riced Potatoes. These are perfect because the small bite-sized cubes are traditional to the dish and they are only seasoned with salt and pepper - flavors that will not compete with the aioli. Follow the directions on the bag for cooking the potatoes. While they are in the oven I was whisking by one room temperature egg yolk with two teaspoons of lemon juice and half a teaspoon of dijon mustard in a bowl. Once combined whisk in 1/4 cup of olive oil and three tablespoons of vegetable oil a few drops at a time until the mixture resembles a thick dressing or thin mayonnaise. At this point you can flavor your aioli with whatever you like. I decided to grate four big cloves of garlic and whisk it into the finished aioli, and finally season it with salt and pepper to make a classic garlic aioli. Serve this alongside your roasted potatoes and save the rest for a yummy sandwich spread.

The Warm Quick-Marinated Goat Cheese dish is just as simple but said to say, a little expensive - it costs about $16 to make. The trade off is that this dish can be made in under five minutes. To make this dish, in a small pot heat 1/2 a cup of olives - any kind you like - a few sprigs of fresh thyme, three over-poured tablespoons of olive oil, the juice of one lemon, and its zest, and a pinch of pepper on low heat until the point that the oil is warmed and you can smell the fragrance of the lemon and thyme emerging. Then simply pour this over your piece of goat cheese, that you have let sit at room temperature for about half an hour. Serve this with a crusty bread and crackers or you have a show stopping appetizer. The warm, melty and tangy goat cheese paired with the citrus and herbal fragrance is a quick and sophisticated meal opener fit for any occasion.

In all honesty, it took me longer to write this article than to make these two appetizers for my wine tasting, and it will probably take us longer to eat them. But regardless of how quick and easy these dishes are, they are still packed with flavor. The integrity of the food was not lost in my race to cure my “cheif’s anxiety” before plummeting into my depressing "cooking apathy." We’re students after all, we’re allowed to take short cuts to feed ourselves and our loved ones, as long as it is foodgasmic.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca Rojas is here to help! Send any questions, comments or “Foodgasm” ideas to bianca.rojas@fiu.edu

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN VALENTINE

Students use clubs to aid Haitian relief effort

NEWLY APPOINTED CLERK OF COUNCIL Mawou Francois of the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council began a fundraiser for Haitian earthquake survivors that include selling campaign buttons, pins, and free admission to Miami’s nightclub Karu and Y.

Francois says he is pushing the fundraiser at Miami’s nightclub Karu and Y because it’s one of the most talked-about clubs in Miami and it would really help the fundraising efforts to jump off with a bang.

On February 19. The pin will read “Coeur Des Survivants” (French for “Hearts of the Survivors”). Each pin costs $1.

For some time, Bello assisted marine biology and eventually obtained a master’s of 13 and went shark diving in the Bahamas with a well-known scientist Erich Ritter. He was infamously bitten in the calf by a shark.

Bello also became a certified diver in his early teenage years. The recent graduate majored in marine biology and eventually crossed over to scientific diving. For some time, Bello assisted the FIU labs and obtained some samples for the professors. He said it was around that time when he became interested in leading groups and teaching.

Teaching is nothing new to the newly certified dive instructor Anthony Zayas. He is a chemistry teacher at Bradock Senior High School. Zayas received a Bachelor’s and Masters from FIU and is pursuing a second degree in Asian Studies. According to Weisman, Zayas will soon be teaching at the University.

Thanks to the latest accomplishments of these four students, Weisman said he wants students to realize that “all these opportunities are here in Florida.”

An opportunity students like Russ Waddy, a senior finishing his last semester, can take advantage of. Waddy said he has been free diving all of his life and has a lot to look forward to this spring. He will be graduating with two major achievements: a scuba diving instructor certification and a bachelor of arts in psychology.

Since its inception in 1996, Weisman is proud the FIU Dive and Safety Program has come a long way.

“When the program first launched they only had 12 scientific qualified divers. Now they have 56,” he said. “I have students who are now in Australia, South America, the South Pacific and others working in the Caribbean and throughout the Keys.”

The program is a collaborative effort among the Environmental Health & Safety Department, University College, Marine Science Department and the College of Education.

Students interested in joining the program can visit the website http://fiudive.fiu.edu/about.html.
unlimited space, and it doesn’t cost this magical land, where there is also
another opinion’s in his favor. It’s the typical compliant stance against politicians. I beg to differ. An air of self-defense was palpable and he often boasted about his

President Obama’s State of the Union address on Wednesday, Jan. 27 intended to make the nation privy on the major plans in Washington while focusing on an newly proposed Recovery Act.

During the speech, unlike during former President Bush’s speeches, many young and old Americans found themselves lost and grabbing a dictionary from time to time. Then, there are the few who were still satisfied with a world class education and maintain a higher vernacular necessary to understand political jargon. This gap in between those who can understand language at an elite level and those who have lagged behind is unacceptable and President Obama agrees: “In this country, the success of our children cannot depend more on where they live than their potential.”

Many discuss Obama’s commitment towards health care reform, building jobs and a recovering economy. How does this help college students?

Amidst this recession, college and university costs are increasingly difficult to pay this semester. I refrained from buying two textbooks and am using old books. One of those, you like, me who are doing anything to save will benefit from the Recovery Act. It will provide relief to those serving the government will have debt forgiveness within 10 years. Our government’s reasoning is “no one should go broke because they chose to go to college.” Right on!

Does this seem too good to be true? To a certain extent, it is. According to the last United States census, there are 30.7 million college enrollees between the ages of 18-24. This means that a total of eight million tax credit beneficiaries is not large enough a number compared to the overall population. Also, there is a call to impose a government spending freeze in 2011. In his speech, federal government spending for education is not exempt from this freeze.

However, if we take into account all the slender Obama receives, there’s more than enough reason to see he has to defend himself. He was quick to point out that the recession and our nation’s massive deficit is not his fault reminding us that it had inherited from it the past eight years of fiscal mismanagement. There was not enough time to go into detail over every plan. Obama is not trying to hide things by sounding vague. We’ve become too accustomed to having news fed into our ear, all the facts are out there and are easily accessible in today’s world. The Recovery Act is not a far as some conserva-

ses would put it. Obama is not trying to hide things by sounding vague. We’ve become too accustomed to having news fed into our ear, all the facts are out there and are easily accessible in today’s world. The Recovery Act is not a far as some conserva-

A nd now, the wait begins. Have sent sealed envelopes containing recommendation letters, résumés and official transcripts to graduate schools across the country. I am doing collecting writing samples. I have finished fusing over my personal statement.

My checking account aches after overwriting materials via UPS and ordering additional GRE scores. But at last, the application process is coming to a close.

What concerns me is the fact that I’m probably in the middle of the most competitive application season grad schools have ever seen. No pressure. Thanks to the struggling economy right now, more people are opting to enter or return to graduate school in order to avoid a difficult job hunt in a hurting market. The New York Times reported that the number of applications who took the Graduate Record Examination in 2009 climbed to 670,000 – a 13 percent increase compared to last year, citing figures from the Educational Testing Service. The number of people who took the LSAT – the Law School Admission Test – also climbed to nearly 61,800 last October.

So I am not only competing against fresh blood, ready to snatch their first B.A. – I am also thrown into a pool of individuals who are trying to get ahead of the economy and wait things out through graduate studies.

The nation’s unemployment rate stood at 10 percent in December, according to the Wall Street Journal, even though few experts who are declaring that the recession is slowing down and nearing an end. I don’t blame these applicants because I’m essentially doing the same thing. Reality, I’d rather do homework than work retail any day. But what bothers me is this catch-22; we’re going back to school in order to get work later because we cannot find work now.

I cannot believe that people can become so disillusioned. What prospective students have to remember is that a) no degree, not even a doctorate, will guaran-
tee you a job and b) not working during your time in graduate school is not very likely.

I am not getting an M.A. or M.S. expecting offers of offers after forthcoming from jobs all over. Never mind the fact that I am pursuing work in the publishing field, where fears of closure are abundant.

I am getting another degree because it is in an area that I want to learn more about, which should prepare me for work in a hopefully related area. While I want to think another degree the would set me apart from other applicants, I’m now another soul crossing its fingers.

Regardless, not working during your graduate studies at an institution is necessarily impossible, unless you acquire plenty of competitive fellowships and assistant-
ships to finance your education. This is especially true for people like myself, who are pursuing degrees in the humanities.

Thomas Benton, a professor from Hope College in Michigan wrote in The Chroni-

cle of Higher Education that one was “independently wealthy” and without a need to earn a living, then pursuing a graduate degree in the humanities could be considered.

But nothing is guaranteed.

I suppose attending graduate school could be the most expensive form of escapism one could take.

In this era of technology, the printed word and tangible page has become nearly obsolete. I get all my news from online sources, so when CNN reported that the New York Times announced a plan to start charging for their online content, I fail to see why people are opposed to it. We have to pay for the printed version of the news, why not the digital version.

Many people see the Internet in this magical land, where there is unlimited space, and it doesn’t cost

Obama’s Recovery Act bailing many students

least eight million Americans paying for college. Within the plan are tax credits with a four year sum of up to 10 thousand dollars and increase in Pell Grants. Also, an additional one million students who take loans will be required to pay only 10 percent of their income on this debt. All final obligations will be forgiven after 20 years;

Our government’s reasoning is “no one should go broke because they chose to go to college”. Right on!

those students who take out loans.

New York Times right in charging for online services

JUSTIN JANS Contributing Writer

In this era of technology, the printed word and tangible page has become nearly obsolete. I get all my news from online sources, so when CNN reported that the New York Times announced a plan to start charging for their online content, I fail to see why people are opposed to it. We have to pay for the printed version of the news, why not the digital version.

Many people see the Internet in this magical land, where there is unlimited space, and it doesn’t cost to post anything. That is anything but the truth; there is the cost of the server, hosting the website, band-

width, and any number of miscellaneous’ costs’s from maintenance to tech support.

When digital news just started, the income from the printed sources was able to sustain the fee of online hosting, but when everyone switched from point to digital, that income disappears. How do people expect the paper to support itself and pay writers without any income. This plan is all coming after the first quarter report in which the New York Times Company lost $74.5 million, and the New York Observer reported that the general manager said “the forecasts for the second quarter are looking roughly the same” as the first quarter reports.

The company wants to imple-

ment a ‘metered’ paying system, which is when a certain amount of pages are free, then after that, the customer must pay a subscription fee. As a journalist myself, I say make them pay for anything they read.

If I were working there, the audience would be reading my hard work and time-consuming research. I wouldn’t want someone reading my article for free. When a printed newspaper is bought, there is no trial period, no “let me see what the news is today, and if I don’t like it, I’ll put it back.” Why change it for the digital version of the newspaper?

There is one big way to stay away from paying a fee—Advertisements. Personally, I don’t like such advertisements; I can easily compromise the integrity of a newspaper.

If one company is your main source of advertising and paper publishing a negative article about that same company, the writer can be conflicted. The writer may become caught between reporting truthfully and impartially trying to please the company that provides for his paycheck. This shouldn’t be something that is happening now, but this should have happened a while ago.

I don’t understand what people are complaining about, the news-

can be a service, and services costs. I’m glad the New York Times decided to start charging for online content, because soon, everything is going to be going digital. This is only the beginning.

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vidual perspectives of contribut-

ors, writers and/or members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a problem with parking? Want to
give kudos to faculty? Or do you just
have something to say about FIU?
Send your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER LOSER

MCWASCA: The United States Food and Drug Administration has reclassified a drug previously available only in pet form for use in people suffering from a rare illness. In this case, the drug, which is widely known by its brand name, was found to be effective in the treatment of certain types of cancer.

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

IRIS A. FEBRES

IRIS A. FEBRES

People: Radiation at the US Department of Energy’s Nevada Test Site has been discovered in a radon concentration that is over 25 times the level of radiation that was present in the environment at the time.

QUOTATION

“Maybe the Americans thought they were helping 33 kids, but now there’s going to be a much slower process and maybe even a ban on future adoptions.”

Chuck Johnson, National Council for Adoption
ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Writer

Robert Heath is acclaimed for his work as a classical music performer across the United States. On Jan. 31, he brought his talent to the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The concert organist used his charming personality and incredible talent to entertain. Unfortunately, few University students were in the audience. It was a sea of sports jackets, khaki slacks and sweater sets.

Maybe the harpsichord isn’t very appealing to college students after all.

If you’re more of a GaGa or Beyoncé fan, you still could have gotten a kick out of watching Heath play – he’s a showman. With the slightest movement he could make so much happen on an instrument and he knows you are in awe of what he is doing.

It is incredible how he works the organ like a toy, referring to the large instrument as “the monster.”

His sleek, all-black ensemble adds to his music-man persona. He was as smooth on the instruments as he was in the way he handled the audience.

Heath bounced from the harpsichord to the chamber continuo organ to the famed 74-rank Schantz pipe organ, which was donated by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim, playfully.

Each instrument had a distinct sound, though they are in the same instrument family. It was too cool to hear the differences and hear Heath’s opinion of each of the instruments.

The harpsichord resembles a piano in appearance but sounds like a guitar with a higher note range. In a weird way, the harpsichord sounds computerized, as if the notes are too high and shrill to sound like they are coming from an instrument. If you’re not into classical, the music could remind you of the soundtrack to a Super Nintendo game; picture Bach dressed up as Mario jumping from mushroom to mushroom.

On the continuo organ, Heath plays standing up and you wouldn’t expect one thing to make such a diverse arrangement of music. He played up the nuances of every song to make sure the listeners could fully appreciate the music and the instrument. The “monster” organ does

Guest organist’s diverse talents shine through playful performance

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Servio music major Christian Escobar prepares for his upcoming performance on Feb. 6 with the FIU Chamber Winds Concert at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

Spider-man to get cinematic do-over

It seems like the only constant in Hollywood is change. Sony Pictures Entertainment has announced that Marc Webb will be taking over Sam Raimi’s role as director of the next Spider-man movie. While no actors or concrete details have been given, Sony has offered vague details of what we can expect.

Similar to what was done with The Incredible Hulk, Sony is starting from scratch with the next Spider-man movie, as if the previous three movies with Tobey Maguire never happened; something I’ve been trying to do for years.

The movie series is being relaunched in 2012, with the “second volume” being based off of Marvel’s Ultimate Spider-man comic book series.

Ultimate Marvel is an imprint of comics published by Marvel featuring updated versions of their famous heroes, offering fresh stories for the new generation of comic book readers. Marvel Ultimate comics have nothing to do with Marvel’s “normal” universe, allowing for new, unthethered stories and different interpretations of characters.

It’s hard to say just how many unique properties of Brian Bendis’ Ultimate Spider-man will be translated over to the new movies, but one guarantee Sony has made is that the new movies will be focusing on Peter Parker’s life in high school.

Other possibilities include seeing the dynamic between Gwen Stacey and Mary Jane as they try to remain friends while not letting their mutual feelings for Peter Parker get in the way. We may also see the Green Goblin ditch his glider and instead be a... well, giant green goblin.

At first the relaunch decision may seem brash, but the Spider-man movies so far haven’t offered anything stellar.

The most important thing in super hero movies is the personification of the main character, which has been the biggest flaw of Raimi’s movies.

In the first movie, Peter Parker is constantly bewildered and helpless. In the second, he’s impotent and preppy. In the third, he becomes depressed, emo and irritating in a movie that has enough villains to populate a small island country. This leads to a bloated movie that all the Midol in the world couldn’t remedy. Sam Raimi bit off more than he could chew.

It’s impossible to capture all the stories of a monthly (now thrice-monthly) publication that has been going on for decades. The goal shouldn’t be to cover as many plot lines as possible, but instead to focus on Peter Parker the comedian, the human-itarian, the genius, the charmer, the detective and the witty smart alec.

Peter is always so likable for being an everyday guy. He struggles to pay the rent and balance work, school and a relationship with the love of his life, all while fighting for morality and justice.

People watch comic book movies for the characters, which was perfectly exemplified by The Dark Knight.

It had a good plot, great cinematography and glorious special effects, but the reason it was so esteemed is because it broke down every character to their raw core.

Fueled by a comic book series with a similar setting and a director who understands how to portray lovable nerds in realistic relationships, the new Spider-man movie has the perfect ingredients to go back to the roots on why Peter Parker is the blue-collar hero we can all relate to and cheer for.

Countless clichés make read tiresome

IVAN FLORES  
Staff Writer

Chuck Palahniuk, the brain behind popular novels such as Fight Club and Choke, is infamous for his books’ graphic topics, controversial characters and dark social commentary laced with tongue-in-cheek humor.

His latest book, Pygmy, is the story of a high school exchange student who happens to be a covert operative from a nameless totalitarian nation whose mission is to unleash Operation Havoc upon America. His host family, the Cedars’, is a nuclearmidwestern family.

Donald, the host father, who also happens to be a minister, works at Radiological Institute of Medicine and has access to biological weapons.

The host mother is sex starved and her sole purpose in the book is to provide a myriad of dildo jokes and dildo-related shenanigans – the
New Pumpkins tracks disheartening

On June 21, 2005 Billy Corgan, vocalist and lead guitarist of The Smashing Pumpkins, announced he was reforming the band. I knew at that moment that things would never be the same again.

The new group released Zeitgeist in 2006 and it went over about as well as one could hope for a pretentiously titled album by a band whose tyrannical songwriter lost his ability to write worthwhile music the moment he discovered the Bible — so, not too well.

Now, Billy and his hired hands are turning out a 44-track (quadruple album?) opus called Teargarden by Kaleidoscope whose release looks to revolutionize (read: ugh) the scope of Smashing Pumpkins music and take a second before he let go on the whole body to work for this and it's almost like a man versus machine showdown with the house to find batteries that the mother doesn't involve Pygmy’s broken English. To make matters worse, the entire story is littered with clichés; at times enforcing unfortunate stereotypes.

Broken English masks book’s attempted humor

family is constantly slogging around the house to find batteries that the mother hasn't used yet and, in a handful of cases, some that she has used but still have a charge.

The Cedars also have two children, “pig dog” brother and “cat” sister. Pygmy has a limited understanding of the American culture and as such is often led astray by “pig dog” brother.

In one scene inside a Wal-Mart, “pig dog” convinces Pygmy that a bottle of Listerine is aftershave, which Pygmy continues to apply to his face throughout the book.

Pygmy’s limited understanding of American culture also leads to a few other funny situations. He believes that Kentucky Fried Chicken's Colonel Sanders was in fact a war hero and that the restaurant is a monument to him.

However, the novelty of the book wears off as soon as you realize that it is written in Pygmy’s broken English for all 241 pages.

The only competent characters in the story are Pygmy and his host siblings. On top of that, the only time there is any properly formatted English is when Pygmy has a dialogue with any Americans.

Palahnuik adds insult to injury by making the majority of the dialogue happen between Pygmy and an incompetent adult — which is most of them.

The host parents spend most of their time drugged at the hands of their children, so there is actually very little dialogue that doesn’t involve Pygmy’s broken English.

Heath ends performance with improvised segment

ORGAN page 5

exactly what it’s supposed to — delivers music that makes the concert hall shake.

Before his set, Heath would take his time and examine the organ. He would feel out the pedals and keys, take a look at the music and take a second before he let go on the organ.

He had a childlike aura and you could tell he looked at playing music as fun and not just a job.

But, he's still a business man. He pimped his CD collection by using the Jedi mind trick to persuade the audience to buy Music from Italy and England, The Rooney Gray-Ey'd Morn and the collected harp-sichord sonatas of American composer Edwin McLean.

Heath is well-known for his improvisational skills on the organ and showed off a little bit of that in the end. While he had a much more serious nature when playing the classical pieces, he let loose when he performed his improvisation pieces.

Though you could not see his face, you did see his salt and peppered gray hair bobbing and swaying to the music.

He used all the pedals and pulls on the organ to really show it off. He had to put his whole body to work for this and it’s almost like a man versus machine showdown with the motivational music and all.
Newcomer discusses past, looks at future possibilities

GARY, page 8

Chris Paul leads the NBA in assists and is second in steals, a category Rondo leads the league in.

Gary ranks second in the Sun Belt Conference in steals with 42, while also leading his team in the assist category with 68.

“When the disadvantages these small guys have, it gives players like me hope to keep playing basketball past college and maybe the NBA,” Gary said.

Stumpert said that Phil is an “up and down” player, meaning he likes to run and play press defense.

Gary has been slowed by a knee injury, resulting in tendinitis earlier this season. The injury slowed down his first season at FIU, but since then he has been able to produce consistently for the Golden Panthers.

“I feel great right now,” Gary said. “But the injury is random.”

Ragin’ Cajuns up next as FIU travels to Lafayette

WOMEN’S, page 8

20 points and knocked down five shots from beyond the arc to break the FIU record for career three-pointers made.

Bosilj, who averages 11.2 points per game, was elated to break the record but was even happier about the way her team worked together.

“It feels good,” said the Croatian guard after the game. “It was great teamwork.”

For Louisiana, Mercedes Johnson hopes to take over.

The sophomore ranks first on her team in scoring and rebounding with 13.7 and 5.6 per game, respectively.

Both FIU and Louisiana have had their struggles offensively, ranking at or near the bottom in the conference in many offensive categories, including points per game.

FIU (9-13, 4-7 SBC) sits 11th with 60.4 ppg while Louisiana (8-14, 3-7 SBC) ranks 10th with 61.8 ppg.

PREVIOUS SUCCESS

Last time the teams met was Feb. 4, 2009 in Lafayette. FIU confidently downed Louisiana, 64-44.

In that game, Cherisse Buddy scored 11 of her team-high 13 points in the second half while Carey added 10 points and nine boards.

In the final minutes, FIU was able to out score Louisiana 17-2 to snap a four game losing streak.

The Golden Panthers hold an all-time advantage of 12-6 against the Ragin’ Cajuns and a win would mark three straight seasons without losing to Louisiana.

FIU places three top five performers in shot put

TRACK, page 8

Meanwhile, Brittany Smith’s throw of 43’5 was good enough for a second place finish in the women’s shot put.

Redshirt Freshman Benia Gregoire also showed potential in the women’s shot put, finishing fourth with a throw of 41’06.5.

Gregoire was also able to break the women’s team freshman weight throw record earlier in the event with a throw of 51’07.75.” The throw earned her a second place finish.

In the long jump, Florence Ukpai registered a fifth place finish with a jump of 17’11.5.”

During the track portion of the event, Pedro Biggora led the men’s side with a fourth place finish in the 400m dash, with a time of 49.75, while T’Keyah Dumoy, a freshman, led the women with a ninth place finish in the 55m dash with a time of 7.25.

For the Golden Panthers, the meet was their only indoor meet in the state of Florida.

This week, the Golden Panthers track team will be setting their sights on The New Balance Invitational in New York, after competing in New York City two weeks prior.
First year coach Isiah Thomas is one of the top 50 basketball players to ever play in the NBA. He won a national championship in college and an NBA title as well.

First year point guard Phil Gary Jr., from Chicago’s West Side, grew up in the same city as Thomas, who recruited him to help him take his winning ways to his new career as an NCAA head coach.

“Being from Chicago didn’t hurt when recruiting Phil,” Thomas said. “He’s a quick guard and his motor is always running.”

Gary played with NBA All-Star Derrick Rose in grammar school, and later played in high school with McDonald’s All-American point guard Iman Shumpert, who now plays at Georgia Tech.

“Not only were they my close friends,” Gary said. “They helped me get better as a player.”

Shumpert and Gary are best friends and used each other to adapt their styles of play.

“There was a playoff game that we should have won and I was covering an extremely quick guard who was about 5-feet tall,” Shumpert said. “Ever since after that game, Phil and I became so competitive the season after that we would nearly fight when practicing against each other.”

Out of high school, Gary decided to attend Blackhawk College for a season, followed by a transfer to Malcolm X Community College, where he then could transfer to a better Division 1 school.

CHANGE OF MIND

Coming out of Malcolm X, Gary averaged nine assists and 19 points per game. Numbers like that made the 5-foot-11 point guard a hot commodity for some major basketball programs.

“I had schools like USC and Central Michigan that recruited me,” Gary said. “But when Coach Thomas called me to visit FIU, my whole mind set changed.”

Gary chose FIU, and Thomas, over the bigger name choices he had.

For Thomas, it helped that Gary’s father grew up and played basketball alongside him, and he is one of the main contributors to Gary’s success.

“When it came to basketball, his father was very strict on Phil,” Gary’s mother, Geneva Gilliam said. “Sometimes Phil wanted a father more than a coach.”

RESEMBLING STARS

“[Chris Paul] is by far my favorite player in the NBA,” Gary said. “But everyone compares me to Rajon Rondo.”

Track & Field

Underclassmen shine in UF meet

The FIU Track and Field team traveled to Gainesville on Jan. 31 for The Jimmy Carnes Invitational at the Stephen C. O’Connell Center.

The team, largely comprised of freshman and sophomores, had seven top five finishes for the day, showing potential for the young team.

One highlight of the event was freshman Andrew Maddox’s fourth place finish in the shot put, in which he shattered the previous freshman record for the event with a throw of 45’11.75. The throw was just .06 off the all-time FIU men’s shot record held by Jeremy Herrett.

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Men’s Basketball

FIU hits the road again for SBC tilt

After picking up it’s second road win of the season just last weekend, the FIU women’s basketball team will look for success on the road once again as they face Louisiana-Lafayette at 8 PM on Feb. 3.

The Golden Panthers, 2-6 on the road this season, expressed exhaustion after their last road trip, which included losses to Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

“West was very tired. This Sun Belt schedule is exhausting,” said head coach Cindy Russo after the loss to Western Kentucky on Jan. 17. “It was a long trip but they’re tough.”

With just seven games remaining before the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the team hopes to not let the trip to Lafayette get the best of them.

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Sports

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