Heat partners with University

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With the pro basketball season in full swing, students at FIU will be turning up the heat sooner and closer to campus than they think.

In support of the first FIU Take-Over Night with the Miami Heat, the FIU Foundation is hosting a pep rally at both the Modesto Maidique Campus on Feb. 17 and Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 24, from 12-2 p.m. on both days.

Students will be able to purchase discounted tickets for the game March 14 against the Philadelphia 76ers.

“We’re just trying to get the students to go out there and see that this is a great opportunity to get together, to show just how dedicated you are to the school,” said development assistant of University Advancement, Marla Baldomero.

Through the purchase of each ticket, a portion of the funds will be used to support the First Generation Scholarship Fund. They will also receive free give-aways at the Graham Center Pit while getting a chance to meet the Heat Dancers and their mascot, Burnie.

“This event [Take-Over Night] is about the students being able to participate in a unique opportunity for those well-told story line.

Panel Panel:
A new series, Sweet Panel, part of FIU’s Take-Over of the Miami Heat.

Miami Heat Invasion Pep Rally, Feb. 17, 2010, at the weekly farmers market held by the Organic Farmers Market, Feb. 17, 12-2 p.m.

Seven lectures, part of the ESCP, will educate students on the struggle and journey.

For a unique opportunity for those personally attached to the exile community to learn about the lives of other immigrants but particularly to learn more about their own journey.

At least this is the hope of Asher Milbauer, director of the ESCP and main proponent of the lectures.

Having immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union, Milbauer was fascinated by the idea of living in a city and working at a university built and run by exiles.

His fascination propelled him to recently head start the ESCP.

“As a new component of FIU’s global learning initiative, this four-part series focuses on a global experience — transplantation, or relocation to a new culture, a new world.

These lectures can provide a unique opportunity for those home and identity, this interdisciplinary program is the starting point for what is hoped to be a nationally recognized center of exile study.

“There really is no other program focused on the issue,” said James Sutton, the chair of the FIU English department.

“Miami is a community of exiles and it makes sense for an institution of higher learning to develop a program that centers around this,” said his support, along with that of University President Mark Rosenberg, has allowed Milbauer to create a groundbreaking program that focuses on events that have affected the majority of students at
Elections committee aims to bring 3,100 to the polls

SGA, page 1

Committee had “planned on different solutions for different [possible] occasions,” but she did not go into detail.

Rodriguez was confirmed through an attendance vote made up of 20 yay and five nay votes and Torres was confirmed unanimously through acclamation.

The SGC-MMC senate also deliberated on and passed a reform on SGC-MMC elections code, named the “Student Democracy Act of 2010.”

The bill was passed by attendance vote, 23 yay and two nay votes.

According to the newly changed elections code, a vice-commissioner will fill a possible vacancy in the elections commissioner position until one can be elected and confirmed by the senate.

The senate’s deliberations regarding the bill for the revised elections code also included the power of the judiciary to review the elections board.

According to the bill, no later than two months previous to the day of elections, the judiciary must review the elections committee “to ensure that he or she is living up to the responsibilities.”

Rionda interjected during deliberations, saying that this measure was “for posterity’s sake” as the deadline for judicial review of this year’s elections committee has passed by approximately two weeks.

The senate also discussed a clause in the elections code, which would prevent someone who was previously impeached from a student government office to run.

“Five people shouldn’t determine who can run,” said Senator at Large Yuniel Gomez.

Someone who was previously impeached from a student government office to run.

The bill would also add two new members to the elections committee, raising the number of members from three to five.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda told the senate later in the meeting that he would work with Flores to nominate two additional elections committee members for senate approval by Feb. 17.

According to the newly changed elections code, a vice-commissioner will fill a vice-commissioner position until one can be elected and confirmed by the senate.
Law students win civil trial against Liberian commander

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Two University law students were selected to represent five victims in a civil law action against Chuckie Taylor, the former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor.

Following the 2008 criminal court case, the College of Law Carlos A. Corzine Immigration and Human Rights Clinic sought monetary compensation for the victims he had tortured in Liberia.

Taylor’s father is currently being prosecuted in The Hague, Netherlands. In 1997, Chuckie Taylor was appointed by his father to the position of commander of an elite special forces group known as the Liberian Anti-Terrorism Unit, according to the press release.

The civil trial seeking monetary damages for the victims lasted five days in total, beginning Dec. 15. The student lawyers in charge of this civil trial were Michelle Gonzalez and Elia Covino.

In the criminal case against him, he was found guilty of severe human rights abuses against innocent individuals and was sentenced to 97 years in prison, Gonzalez stated.

“When we learned that what had happened to them, our hope was that we could help them achieve not only a reasonable amount of closure but also faith in humanity that justice does exist. This victory is important not only for the victims of Chuckie Taylor but also to other victims of human rights abuses,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez explained that she and Covino were not fearful of this man, they were only seeking justice for their clients. “It is not about fear of Chuckie Taylor. Our clients, who have been permanently tainted by their plight, are brave individuals who took their fear and used it to show the world what they went through and to bring Chuckie Taylor to justice,” Gonzalez said.

Covino also shared a similar sentiment for their clients. “I never have once been fearful for my safety throughout my involvement in the case. Not to say that the situation was not potentially dangerous, however, I think when you are involved in such a cause, your desire to seek justice outweighs any of your own fear,” Covino said.

Gonzalez and Covino explained how they came to be selected as the student lawyers for this case.

For Covino, the Taylor case was one that he had been familiar with since 2008. “I had taken a human rights law class through American University’s Washington College of Law in the summer of 2008 during which my professor had alerted me to the fact that the case was being tried not only for the victims of October of that year,” Covino said.

Eight students had applied to participate in this specific civil trial case concerning Taylor. Covino and Gonzalez were picked based on their strong interest and familiarity with the case. In the end, Covino and Gonzalez were able to defeat Taylor in this civil case and win $22 million in damages for their clients.

Assistant Clinical Professor Troy Elder explained how proud he was of his students at the conclusion of the case. “The victims have finally had their day in court in this case. It also is amazing that our student lawyers were able to defeat in civil court someone who was once so feared,” Elder said.

Gonzalez and Covino explained how important it was to them to give their clients what they deserved. “We really think that no amount of money or time could completely repair the lives of neither these five victims nor any of the other victims of torture – what they went through was too great. “However, I do think the damages they were awarded will be instrumental in helping them get the medical treatment they have been denied all these years,” Covino said.

Students get a chance to meet Miami Heat dancers at pep rally

HEAT, page 1

is to show appreciation for the University community in all aspects, the students, our faculty and staff, our volunteer leaders and also our trustees and advisory board,” said Aliza Fernandez, the assistant secretary and assistant director of board relations. “It’s to give an opportunity for everyone to come together on one day to support FIU.”

Sponsored by the FIU Foundation, this is the first year of its kind for the University as well as the Miami Heat.

Among the special perks, like discounted tickets that will come with the event, students have the opportunity to gain early entrance to watch the players warm up, give a postgame free throw, be spotlighted using the Jumbotron and receive a Miami Heat T-shirt.

University President Mark Rosenberg will also give a post-half-time recognition. “Since this is the first time that the Foundation has really played an active role in doing something like this, it’s really great that everyone is excited about it,” Fernandez said. “They really have been able to accomplish what they wanted, which is that the students, faculty and administration are really getting involved.”

Established in 1969, the FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation with 40 members, currently serving as Under Executive Director Robert Conrad, that is responsible for receiving and administering private gifts to the University for its scientific, educational and charitable advancement.

Through their oversight of the funds, the Foundation allocates a number of the donations toward scholarships for incoming students.

Many foundation members serve on the advisory boards of the colleges that they graduated from, since many of them are FIU alumni.

The connection between the Foundation and the schools allows the colleges to be recognized by the administration and the members to stay in touch with new programs that would need attention.

On top of everything, they have roles as University ambassadors; sharing the University’s needs as well as hearing the needs of the community.

“The students really don’t have any interaction with the Foundation, unless they’ve been the recipient of a scholarship,” said Fernandez. “But it’s really important for the donor that’s given them that scholarship, the Foundation is the keeper of that.”

Since the beginning of their advertising campaign two weeks ago, the Foundation has already been able to have most of their ticket sales goal accomplished even before the pep rally has occurred.

According to Baldomero, the majority of the calls received by Adam Ramos, the Heat representative aiding in the event, have come not from alumni but from current students at FIU.

“We figured there would be more alumni and donors but this shows that everyone is excited about it and hopefully this can turn into something that we can do every year,” he said. To purchase tickets visit http://groups.beatexperi- ence.com/factosaver and use the Promo Code: GO PANTHERS.

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WEB DEVELOPMENT
MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

During a Valentine’s Day-themed celebration, a new Mr. and Ms. Bay Vista were crowned on Feb. 12 in the Bay Vista Housing lounge at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Bay Vista Hall residents submitted their nominees for the title. However, the pageant had been rescheduled from Feb. 9 to Feb. 12 due to the Bay Vista Housing Forum held on the original date.

As a result, some of the candidates were nominated dropped out because they were no longer available to compete.

Angelique Pino, a junior in hospitality management, and Christian Poole, a junior in criminal justice major, were named the winners by default.

“I’m honored that so many people think so highly of me,” said Pino of winning. “I would like to represent all the history geeks and this campus in a higher manner.”

This annual event is sponsored by the Residence Hall Association, which allows selected student residents to play an active role in the activities and issues that affect their particular halls. The pageant highlights students that best represent not only their residence halls, but also the campus as a whole.

“This event was helpful in getting people closer together in community and gain a sense of pride,” said Rosa Salas, a senior in criminal justice major and organizer of the Mr. and Ms. Bay Vista Pageant.

Bay Vista Housing, with about 300 residents, is the only complex that hosts a Mr. and Ms. Housing Pageant at their respective housing units, in which male and female residents from each hall compete for the title within their halls.

Contestants are required to have a minimum 2.5 GPA and cannot be members of the Council Executive Board or serve as resident assistants.

The pageants typically include each contestant introducing themselves, showing a talent, answering questions, and modeling their casual and formal wear.

Students from housing on both campuses will go on to compete against each other for the title of Mr. and Ms. Housing on Feb. 18.

Posse, however, is unable to compete in the upcoming because of previous engagements. Antonio Hopkins, a freshman environmental engineering major, will serve as his backup and could not be reached for comment.

“It’s a good opportunity for students to interact with each other and get both campuses closer together,” Salas said.

Angelique Pino struts her stuff as she happily accepts the title of Ms. Bay Vista on Feb. 12.

MELODY REGALADO/BEACON

Proxy voting prohibited by constitution, state

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

After reviewing the procedures as outlined in the Student Government Association constitution, the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government senate was denied the ability to anonymously vote during their Feb. 15 meeting.

Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC senator and speaker of the senate, announced the need for anonymous voting during the Feb. 8 senate meeting.

“In my consumer behavior class I watched a video about the Asch effect. I think we may have encountered that problem here a couple of times,” he said.

The Asch effect was demonstrated in a 1951 experiment conducted by Solomon Asch in which those being observed felt the need to agree with a group on the size of a line, even though they knew the majority was incorrect.

According to Chikishev people feel pressured into voting a specific way on any given issue despite their personal stance and conform to the majority vote about 30 percent of the time, even if the data is completely wrong.

SGC-BBC Arts and Science Senator Gregory Jean-Baptiste agrees and feels that the senate has encountered this problem while deliberating on heavy issues.

In one occasion Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator recalls a member of the council changing their vote at last minute.

“I don’t want to give any names but I remember seeing one person who in the beginning of a decision would passionately say ‘no’ and then when everybody voted, their hands were raised for the ‘yes’ vote. It’s weird because the person was the one voting ‘no’ and made a big fuss about it,” he said.

However, Zahra Arhabhi Aki, SGC-BBC lower division senator, believes senators should stand strongly by their votes.

“I agree, but we are senators, which means we are the voice of students so we should be able to speak our voice strongly and stand for what we believe,” she said.

Chikishev himself admits to feeling pressured at times, but suggests anonymous or proxy voting could be helpful during important deliberations.

“On important and controversial voting I think we should use anonymous voting. Meaning we can discuss it and give your opinion but at the end give an anonymous vote. Only the chairperson will see it,” he said.

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor, this kind of voting is not allowed and would conflict with the Florida Sunshine Law, found in the Florida Statutes.

“It is stated in the sunshine state law that we need to be transparent,” he said.

Chikishev, however, argues that anonymous voting would only eliminate pressure from other council members, but that final votes would still be announced.

“With this voting system the members won’t be affected by the group or the person next to them,” Chikishev said.

However, the senate will not be able to continue with the procedure since it violates the SGA constitution, according to Tanha Dil, SGC-BBC justice.

In Article IV, Legislative Branch, Section 9 it states that voting in secret ballot is prohibited, unless stated otherwise in the statutes.

“As of right now it can’t be done,” Dil said.

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

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
You always have to deal with losing players. It is a reality of the college game, as much as four hour long practices and exams on game day. It’s just something you have to deal with.

But rarely does a team lose as much as FIU did from one year to the next. Looking at the numbers, the team lost:

- 56% of the team’s home runs.
- 32% of their runs scored.
- 42% of their runs batted in.
- 77 innings of a 3.74 ERA.

And not to mention maybe the single best hitter in the history of the program and one of the top hitters in all of college baseball last season.

The common thread when anyone has discussed the 2010 FIU baseball team has been how do you make up for the losses of Tyler Townsend, Ryan Mollica, Steven Stropp, one third of your starters in the field, plus super utility outfielder Greg Waddell, who led the team in hitting, and Tom Ebert, arguably the team’s top starter last year.

It is natural to look to their replacements on the field to make up the deficit. Guys like Raiko Alfonso, taking over everyday duties at second in Mollica’s absence, are going to be looked to for production, and they’ll be expected to produce right away.

But when you look at this team, it isn’t one or two players who will be able to replace the production of guys like Mollica and Townsend.

For this team to be successful, production will have to come from the aggregate.

The entire lineup will have to take a step forward if they are going to be able to fulfill the expectations placed on them following last season’s 4th place finish in the conference.

Head coach Turtle Thomas has proven himself to be maybe the best hiring of Athletic Director Pete Garcia’s tenure, and it is because he has taken a once proud program that had fallen on hard times, and pushed it to the brink of returning to it’s former glory. His strength as a recruiter is his biggest weapon, and the depth of this team is a testament to his ability to construct a roster.

While last season’s team had just two seniors on the roster, this year’s team has six, led by second year JUCO transfers Scott Rembisz and Tim Jobe.

Rembisz, last season’s number one starter, is expected to be one of the top pitchers in the conference all year, after he faded a bit down the stretch last year. Jobe, a first team preseason all conference choice at first base, is expected to pick up some of the slack from Townsend’s departure. His .562 slugging percentage was second only to Townsend on last year’s club amongst hitters with at least 100 ABs, and as a senior he is expected to produce at an even higher level.

However, the Golden Panthers will need to see an improvement across the board in order to live up to and surpass the high expectations for this year.

Thomas has built a deep, strong team that, while maybe lacking some of the big productions guys from last season, should be more balanced than last year’s, a flaw which caught up to the team in the conference tournament when they were let down by a lack of timely hits and a pitching staff that hit the wall.

For this season to be a success, the Golden Panthers will need that deep, experienced roster to make a true run in the conference tournament that puts them on the cusp of surpassing perennial powerhouse Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee.

If they can do that, they won’t miss anyone from last year’s team.
Team looks to build on success from turnaround season despite key losses

HOLEs IN THE OFFENSE

(One of the players that will look to fill in these gaps is catcher Tim Jobe, who bashed 16 home runs and hit .364 last season along with 48 runs batted in and 15 doubles. But Thomas says that it is going to take a collective effort by the team, rather than improved play by any one individual player, to continue the improve- ment he wants to deliver this season. “I don’t know if anybody can replace a Tyler Townsend,” said Thomas. “I think the whole team has to step up and improve, put a few more offensive statistics across the board, and everybody takes a little bit of the loss of those players. The whole team has to do it.”)

PROJECTED LINE UP

1. Junior Arrojo, SS  
2. Pablo Bermudez, LF  
3. Mike Martinez, RF  
4. Tim Jobe, DH  
5. Rudy Flores, 1B  
6. Riko Alloran, 2B  
7. Jeremy Patton, 3B  
8. Sean Raleigh, C  
9. Lammar Guy, CF

PROJECTED ROTATION

1. Scott Rambouix, RHP  
2. R.J. Fondon, LHP  
3. Corey Polizano, UHP

Another player who is expected to be a leader on this year’s team is second baseman Ryan Molfetta and catcher Steven Stropp, the Golden Panthers have a lot of cracks to fill.

But the squad is confident that they have the right pieces in place to field a competitive team through the spring. Coaches outside the conference believe FIU is a team to watch out for. Despite the offensive losses, the Panthers were voted to finish third in the SBC Preseason Coaches’ Poll.

“We’re trying to get better each year that go by,” said Thomas, who enters his third season as FIU head coach. “I’m not going to sit there and say we need to finish first in the conference at this point.”

When fans come out on Feb. 19 for the season opener they will notice a few big pieces from last season’s breakout season missing.

But the adjustments Coach Turtle Thomas has had to make this past offseason have been substantial, and when fans come out on Feb. 19 for the season opener they will notice a few key pieces from last season’s breakout season missing.

With a number of key contributors from the 2009 roster not returning to the field this spring, FIU has had toyled both outside and inside its ranks to try and fill the substantial gaps left behind.

With offensive power hitter Tyler Townsend bypassing his senior season to go to the majors along with starting pitcher Tom Ebert, part-nered with the graduation of second baseman Ryan Molfetta and catcher Steven Stropp, the Golden Panthers have a lot of cracks to fill.

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Shortstop Arrojo leads the Golden Panthers his way

Entering his senior season, FIU shortstop Junior Arrojo doesn’t have to do much to earn the respect of his fans, coaches and peers. That is especially true with the senior’s teammates.

“There is no doubt. When our players voted for team captains, Junior Arrojo and Cory Polizzano, it was a unanimous pick,” FIU coach Turtle Thomas said. “That shows the respect that’s there.”

Along with Polizzano, a fellow senior, Arrojo will be a centerpiece of the Golden Panthers puzzle in 2010.

It wasn’t long ago, however, that Arrojo was a struggling underclassman who seemed overwhelmed at the Division I level. Arrojo, who assumed a role as a starter since his freshman season, had a batting average that hovered below .250 in his first two seasons. Arrojo hit zero home runs during the stretch, and made 39 errors en route to a sub par fielding percentage.

But when Arrojo found his footing as a leadoff hitter last season, the Golden Panthers offense took off.

Arrojo enjoyed career highs in almost every category last season while infusing athleticism into an FIU team that went 34-23, a 14-game improvement.

For the former Miami Southridge standout, it wasn’t a matter of drastically improving his skills. It was about a mental makeover.

“My first two years I put too much pressure on myself,” he said. “I tell the young guys, ‘Don’t put too much pressure on yourself. Just have fun.’”

Arrojo’s mindset began to change one afternoon during a practice in 2008 when Arrojo, mired in a slump, had an extensive talk with Thomas.

“All in My Head”

“He talked to me in the cage,” Arrojo said. “He told me it was all in my head and that I had it in me to be a great player.”

Thomas might want to have these talks with Arrojo more often.

Arrojo hit .316 with a .427 on base percentage in 2009. The budding infielder beamed with confidence as his team improved.

“The thing that held him back from being that guy was the mental confidence,” Thomas said. “He might have not even known that he fit in at this level. I tried to explain to him that he has the tools to be a great shortstop at this level.”

Thomas also helped Arrojo’s development by turning him loose on the basepaths.

Along a solid season in which Arrojo displayed his ability to run, Thomas gave him the green light to steal bases. The result was a career best 23 steals, good for second in the Sun Belt Conference.

SWAG SLIDE

Coming into this season, Arrojo is looking to pass on his confidence to his teammates.

“People get tense, so me and Lammar [Guy] do the ‘swag slide’ to make sure everybody’s relaxed,” Arrojo said. “As veterans on the team, we want to keep people loose and have fun. That’s when you ball out.”

Embraced as a captain, Arrojo is more than comfortable with his role.

“If I’m not a guy who will get on you, I mostly get along with people,” he said. “I was a captain in high school too. It comes natural.”

Even with this success, the Golden Panthers are looking to see if they can lock down the closer’s role, and junior Bryam Garcia will be the first man in line to shut the door in save situations.

“Bryam’s one of those guys that is used to that role and is not scared or tentative,” said Thomas. “He’s a guy who will attack hitters and be aggressive.”

Garcia’s demeanor on the mound is perhaps what suits him best to the closer’s role, which requires pitching in those higher leverage situations with the game on the line.

“He’s pretty much an animal out there,” said Berkowitz.

Garcia agrees with this characterization, describing himself as an aggressive, fearless pitcher.

“I don’t mind throwing my fastball to anyone, I’ll throw it to Albert Pujols,” he said. “I’m aggressive and I’m not scared to challenge any hitter.”

Thomas also expects junior Jorge Marban to reprise his role here, where he closed six games over the previous two seasons.

When Garcia is not available.

“Me and Jorge played together this summer,” said Garcia. “He’d go out and I’d go in after him and we really did well with that in the Valley League.”

KEYS TO SUCCESS

In order to be competitive out of the bullpen, where a pitcher might not know when he’ll pitch, or he might go a few days without pitching, being mentally focused and prepared are key.

“Pitching coach Sean Allen really emphasized visualizing each pitch before you throw,” said Garcia.

For Thomas, however, hard work and preparation aren’t enough if the results aren’t up to par.

One thing in particular that Thomas emphasized is not giving up hits when the pitcher is up 0-2 in the count.

“I worked on not giving up up 0-2 hits,” said Berkowitz. “Turtle’s not a fan of that.”

For a team on the cusp of success, being picked to finish third in the conference, simply competing isn’t enough, even if miscellaneous wins are.

“Every pitcher sometimes throws it over the plate on 0-2, and doesn’t mean to,” he said. “It happens. But as I sometimes tell them, I can go out and get some driving a bus out there to try.”

Thomas believes his pitchers should be able to execute at this point.

“They are college baseball players on a Division I level, they should be able to locate their stuff and get the job done,” said Thomas. “Because everybody’s trying.”

FIU BASEBALL SCHEDULE

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*Denotes home games

Thornton's left-handedness provides the team with surprising heat in the middle innings.

Staff Writer

JONATHAN RAMOS

Sports Director

Jorge Marban to reprise his role

en route to a sub par fielding percentage.
Students, faculty and staff can now get the information they need in order to stay healthy right here at the bay.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Health and Wellness Center now offers a Fitness Assessment Program open to students, faculty and staff.

“The goal of the program is to offer the FIU community a method of measuring their fitness levels in order to develop a personal fitness plan that will improve overall health and wellness,” said Dona Walcott, assistant director of University Health Services.

“We are hoping to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles,” said Wellness Assistant Andreas Bermeo.

According to Walcott, the assessment is done by a body-scanning machine called Trifit by Polar.

“It is used to assess an individual’s fitness level by measuring weight, height, body mass index, body composition, flexibility, bicep strength and cardiovascular strength,” she said.

According to Walcott, the program returns to BBC Campus Health and Wellness Center now offers Fitness assessment program returns to BBC

Florida program aims to decrease juvenile inmates

Nigel Thomas was what authorities call a “status offender” as a teen, the oldest of five children in a Tampa family struggling to make ends meet.

He hadn’t committed a crime, but he was showing signs he might be headed that way. He’d skip school, hang out with the wrong crowd and disobey his parents. He hadn’t, though, run away from home or been tossed out of it — other typical status offenses.

Thomas, now 20, said his attitude began turning around after only three or four days in a program that made Florida a national leader in early intervention.

“It was a pretty good wake up call,” said Thomas, now a college student and YMCA staffer. “I’ve never been arrested, never had a ticket.”

The Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services, or CINS/FINS, program has drawn national accolades. By including counseling, parental involvement and, when necessary, shelter, it’s designed to keep families together and prevent troubled children from becoming criminals, saving taxpayers millions.

About 85 percent of those who spend time at a CINS/FINS shelter — typically two weeks — do not commit a crime within six months of being released, according to the state.

Other features are that Florida’s program is statewide, provides a cooling off period at the shelters and offers immediate crisis response.

“In some states it can take weeks for status offenders to get attention and by then a family crisis can escalate”, said Annie Salsich, youth justice director for the Vera Institute of Justice.

Harrison’s 17-year-old son.

“When he was participating in the program, according to Walcott, the program is meant to be an ongoing process.

“Follow-up is provided to help individuals gauge their progress and learn to maintain healthy habits in the areas of nutrition and exercise,” she said.

Bermeo has seen this concept put into action firsthand.

“Students are coming in all the time, asking questions about how they can improve (their health).”

The ultimate goal of the program, according to Walcott, is the overall improvement of health among the University.

“It is hoped that FIU students, faculty and staff, as a community, will be encouraged to adopt proper health maintenance habits,” she said.

To schedule an appointment, call The BBC Wellness Center at (305) 919-5620, ext. 4.

JASMYN ELLIOTT

Florida program aims to decrease juvenile inmates

According to Walcott, the program has “gained overwhelming attendance” since it started in October 2009. Bermeo, who performs the assessments, agrees.

“It’s catching on big time,” Bermeo said.

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Marijuana restrictions getting lots of laughs

CHRISTOPHER ROMAGUERA Contributing Writer

In late January, New Jersey became the 14th state to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. The decision by the New Jersey legislature catapulted the seemingly endless debate back into the public spotlight. The polarizing views remain the same between right and left; conservatives screaming at the top of their lungs, while liberals are telling them to chill out.

Background checks still prohibit citizens from individually growing or dispensing. That’s an honor left to big corporations.

Restrictions on the amounts of the drug that can be prescribed over a month are also in place. New Jersey plans to keep marijuana in check, and maybe more importantly, quell the fears of conservatives.

Yet still, the upsurge of conservatives can be heard at an upshot of a progressive movement, and medicinal marijuana is no different.

Assembly member John Rooney, goes on saying, “There are other drugs. There are many ways to relieve pain.” This logical fallacy is hilarious. We all know that Xanax and all those lovely drugs have no side effects and come from rainbows; you know, besides increasing dependency and raising suicide rates of those who use them.

In 2002, the U.S. Government Accountability Office listed just a few diseases that can be treated with marijuana: Alzheimer’s, Crohn’s disease and glaucoma.

Marijuana can relieve headaches and arthritic pains without the adverse effects of most prescription drugs. So, why are we still debating this issue?

It seems to be a state’s right to choose a decision on whether it’s in sure conservative groups would agree to this as well. The Fraternal Order of Police claimed that the clinics can distribute drugs that may become targets of robberies by those who wish to use the drug. By reasoning this, we should close down banks because there may be crazy people who will try to rob them, and we would rather not deal with that idea.

I think these arguments are mostly posturing, and if they are real, they are too funny. The real issue is that these conservatives are afraid that with each state that passes a law allowing medicinal marijuana, use that we as a nation are getting closer to decriminalizing, or completely legalizing marijuana.

Let me give a little word of wisdom, Dr. Marifeli Perez-Stable, well-respected medical student, said, “If we can enjoy a nice toke at sunset for its people. Paying a little prohibition of alcohol.

Marijuana compares favorably to any anti-depressant that’s being given away like candy on Halloween, or the legalized depressant, alcohol. While I may not agree with the spike in fast food sales, that’s all about the worst thing marijuana is going to cause.

This is a plant that isn’t being utilized properly, medically, industrially, and taxing marijuana may not be a bad source of income, considering the not so small amounts of people who are said to smoke despite being very, very bad for you. In the end, during the Great Depression, one of the few laws repealed was the prohibition of alcohol.

Well times are rough once again, for the government and for its people. Paying a little more to our government so I can enjoy a nice toke at sunset on the beach sounds like a good compromise to me.

SGA has right to debate K-12 reform in Florida

DEAN WILLIAMS Staff Writer

No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 is a clear display of how federal laws can reform and improve the educational system. At the core of the law is the theory that standards-based educational reform would result in student achievement.

Increasing accountability, gauging student achievement through standardized testing and the establishment of Academic Yearly Progress, NCLB are often viewed by many as shifting the responsibility of achievement from students to teachers and institutions themselves.

In southern Florida in particular, many students adopt English as a second language and often come from educational systems that are comparatively different from that of the American model. This undoubtedly has relevance to the State University System. Much research has been conducted and proves that the key in achieving success at the University level rests in how well a student is prepared throughout K-12 education. Increased elementary and secondary school preparation make the transition to higher education seamless.

A referendum on improving K-12 education came before the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate twice. In the first instance, the language of the referendum was questioned as it seemed to place all the responsibility of educating students on teachers.

In the second presentation of the referendum, the wording was changed so that one factor in a child’s educational achievement was the quality of his teachers.

During the debate, the student senators also discussed and agreed that parent involvement and student participation weighed heavily on a student’s academic success.

Some may see SGA’s involvement in this as futile. Why should the student government interject in an issue where they may not be able to heavily influence the outcome?

To the contrary, student involvement in this process is necessary. Laws like NCLB directly affect students; how we are taught and how our success is gauged.

Student involvement in the process is integral because of the perceived benefits of an education while the shortcomings of the educational system provide lawmakers with a practical look at the system, balancing the theoretical aspects of how the system should work.

More importantly, students will be held to these standards. Regardless of whether teachers or institutions provide the resources to students to achieve academic success, the student bears final responsibility and has much to gain from academic achievement.

Some of the student senators voiced concerns over the seemingly increased emphasis placed on educational professionals to ensure a student’s academic success, and this a valid argument.

As previously mentioned, teachers, institutions and the student each bear an equal responsibility in ensuring the student’s success.

Managing a student’s education is by no means a task that one law or referendum will solve. It will take a collective effort in order to achieve this end.

Knowing this, it is therefore imperative that student government comes to a conclusion on this referendum that will give state lawmakers a practical viewpoint to implement and reform K-12 education.

DISCLAIMER
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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a job with greatness! Want to gain kicks to fascinate or do you just want to say something about your life? Tell your thoughts to the opinion@fi usm.com or drop by our offices at either GC24 or WSC 234. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, and year.

WINNER

Joe Brolin for playing the villain, Baldr and in last Sunday’s Oscar episode that his predecessor Richard Dysart was transformed as “Ironman” amidst debate about Obama’s military policy. Chris said prior to the show being utilized improperly in disqualification.

A handout from Southwest Airlines Women’s International Film Festival Smith from the audience said after it was found that Smith could not properly fit in the role, the case was after the event. The actor praised Smith as the “Will of God.” The airline eventually apologized for longevity.

QUOTATION

“Wanna tell me I’m too wide for the sky? Totally cool. But fair warning, folks: if you look like me you may be ejected from @southwestair.”

Kevin Smith, film director on getting ejected from the plane for being too big

War is not a solution despite recent lecturer’s beliefs

NEDA GHOMESHI Staff Writer

During a recent Tuesday Times Roundtable, Dr. Marifeli Perez-Stable lectured in an attempt to define the justice behind our two current wars. Key word: attempted.

During the debate, the student senators voiced that was well received by everyone. He was told of wisdom from an open-minded college student, “They’re right. The world will carry on.”

Marijuana, as recently declared by Dr. Marifeli Perez-Stable, became the 14th state to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. He was told of wisdom from an open-minded college student, “They’re right. The world will carry on.”

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The minute a nation engages in a war, it compromises its principles of humanity and civility.

Within the lecture, Dr. Perez-Stable stated, “We compromise ourselves when we don’t live up to our ideals.”

I fully agree. Engaging in a war is a compromise. A nation is compromising civic values, money and importantly lives when engaging in a war. The question she posed was: “How can we conduct this [war] without compromising our [United States] principles?”

The answer is straightforward and simple: we can’t. The minute a nation engages in a war, it compromises its principles of humanity and civility. Within his novel, As We Go Marching, John T. Flynn explains that the “virtues of humility, love, charity, personal freedom, the strong prohibitions against violence, murder, stealing, lying, cruelty— all these are washed away by war.”

I consider war to be brutal and ugly; it is a violent reaction to disagreements.

Alexander Berkman, the author of What Is Communist Anarchism? said, “War means blind obedience, unthinking stupidity, brutish callousness, wanton destruction, and irresponsible murder.”

Christina Rosenfield trolled lecherous president hecho and a film student at the University of Florida.
**THE BEACON REVIEWS: THE WHITE RIBBON**

**Film juxtaposes innocence, violence**

**STEVE MESE**

Staff Writer

Winner of the Palm d’Or at last year’s Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, *The White Ribbon* is Austrian writer-director Michael Haneke’s (*Cache, Funny Games*) latest film in which a number of unexplained “accidents” befall a pre-World War I German village; accidents that are actually malevolent acts of violence.

The film is set in a German village where half of the inhabitants work for a baron (Ulrich Tukur) and the local Protestant pastor (Burghart Klaussner) maintains a strong influence.

Whenever the local doctor (Rainer Bock) is severely injured, it sparks a chain reaction of random acts of violence and accidents including the kidnapping and punishment bestowed on the children of the baron and a local midwife (Susanne Lothter).

As everyone in the village is questioning who is causing this kind of mayhem, the local schoolteacher (Christin Friedel) begins to suspect that his pupils might have something to do with what has been happening in the village.

The punishment that the pastor bestows on his children for their disobedience is signified by making them wear a white ribbon—a symbol of pure innocence.

The pastor goes so far as to tie his son’s hands to the bedpost because of the boy’s tendency to pleasure himself.

Michael Haneke manages to create an array of unforgettable characters that sometimes come across as borderline evil, creating a menacing and dark tone throughout the film.

The actions of characters such as the pastor and the doctor become catalysts to strange and bizarre events that occur in the German village.

For example, one girl acts out violently against a mentally challenged boy because of her father’s harsh punishments on her. Another child is sexually abused by a relative. Meanwhile, the children are taught to believe that God is watching at all times and is watching them, too.

Haneke’s presentation of the baron’s 17-year-old nanny, Eva (Leonie Besensch), the romance that blossoms between the schoolteacher, Gus (Tobias Moretti), and his adoptive father, the doctor, and the attraction of this series is the dynamic interaction between the characters as much as individual performances.

The attraction of this series is the dynamic relationship between them. Jeppert raunches Gus’ edges, teaching him that he can’t be so naive in a world that is ready to consume him.

Meanwhile, Gus shows Jeppert that there’s still a place for decency and morality in a world that is lost in chaos.

The art is perfect for this series. Jeff Lemire’s control over both the writing and drawing delivers a product that is only rivaled by the best writer/artist teams in the industry.

While the art is relatively simple, it is also cinematic and focused on developing moods and settings. Several panels are dedicated to simple things, like the rain drops of a thunderstorm falling on a lake becoming more numerous and torrential.

While this type of approach certainly decreases the time it takes to read through an issue, it adds a great deal to the sensory experience of the reader. Despite being a quicker read, this series still offers some of the best “bang for your buck” of any comic book on the racks today.

This series proves that there are no cliché types of stories, just tired ways of telling them. *Sweet Tooth* excels in how it tells its story, even if the individual parts that make it up seem lackluster.

**Good food abounds at arts festival**

**GROVE, page 10**

from the sale go to the school’s funding and the National Arts Honor Society with the other half going straight into the student’s pocket.

Paintings ranged from classic landscapes to modern art, each one unique.

Sarang Byrne is a standout. Her most popular pieces were clean, white canvases with bright watercolor designs.

Another fun part about the festival was watching people interact with the artists. Some artists were more about business but, for the most part, they all cared about their work and really wanted the prospective buyer to appreciate everything that was put into it.

Finally, the greatest part of the festival was the food. Of course it had nothing to do with art, but there was so much foodie goodness going on, it was hard to keep your cool.

The festival offered the standard festival food like arepas, hot dogs and frozen lemonade; but those were juxtaposed by gourmet crepes, sweet potato chips and bratwurst sausage.

Now, in its 47th year, the Grove Arts Festival uses Coconut Grove’s picturesque bay-view to its full advantage.

The festival provided a pleasant afternoon but it did take a deep bite into the wallet. The cheapest parking was $15 and that was a good six blocks away from the venue. Admission was another $10 for non-Coconut Grove residents and the food, although delicious, was pricey.

With all the expenses it took in getting there, there simply wasn’t much room for art investments.

**Diversions**

**STUDYING IS A SPORT**

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers in Friday’s issue.

Difficulty: Medium

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  7 5 8 2
  8 1 6 4
  9 2 5 7
  5 6 4 9

3 1 2 7
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Puzzle by websudoku.com
Festival offers something for the multifaceted visitor

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Writer

Art fans would be hard-pressed to not find something to love at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. The Festival, which takes place every year over President’s Day weekend, showcases artists from all over the world, each one bringing something different to the mix. Sculptures, paintings, photography, glass work and jewelry were all on display. All of it was for sale at the festival with some art being relatively affordable – others not so much.

The main entrance on McFarlane Road is right across CocoWalk. This is where the bulk of the action was.

Street artists were plucked off the sidewalks from around the country to show off their skills.

Rod Tryon used chalk to create 3-D illusions on the asphalt. It was cool to watch a kid would do if he brought his Etch-A-Sketch to Cirque du Soleil. Frames of distorted sketched animals and people lined the booth. There was an interesting use of colors, mixing darks and brights.

Amid all the professional art work at the festival, art lovers could walk away with some fine art work from newcomers nurturing their crafts at New World School of the Arts. This is the No. 1 spot to visit at the festival. Students are given a small and large canvas and the freedom to do whatever they want with it at the beginning of the year. The product of that freedom is sold at the festival. Half of the proceeds

Every month brings a new, short-lived comic series centered around a post-apocalyptic setting, involving either zombies, vampires, robots, were-wolves or some other generic creatures.

Amid a caspoeul of mediocrity, Vertigo’s Sweet Tooth shames and offers a different take on a predictable setting. The world has been plagued by a disease that has killed almost the entire population, leaving a small group of snuggles left in an ungoverned and anarchistic world. There is no known cure for the plague, but there is a mysterious new breed of children that has sprung up since the disease’s introduction that are immune. Of course, their immunity can’t exist without gimmicks: these children are part animal.

Gus is a mutant with dear onlers who’s just lost both of his parents to the plague. With no one left to take care of him, he leaves his country-side cabin and embarks on a journey to explore the world for the first time.

As he quickly discovers, Gus is a valuable creature. There are hunters lurking everywhere in hopes of capturing and selling him. Jepperd runs into Gus and offers to take him to the preserve, a safe haven for people like Gus, where he can live without being kidnapped by people looking to make a profit off of his immunity to the plague. Although his offer seems genuine, Jepperd’s legitimacy and true motives are a mystery.

At first glance, it’s easy to dismiss the premise of this series and ignore it altogether; I did. After reading a few issues, however, it’s even easier to fall in love with it. Sweet Tooth is a slow, personal read. That’s not to say it doesn’t have a fair share of excitement and action in every issue, but it’s a series that is built upon the development of its characters.

Jeff Lemire, who does both the writing and art, gives his characters an incredible amount of depth and realism. While other comics keep you coming back for lavish art and intricate plot lines, this series hooks readers with two characters that are impossible not to adore.