The Beacon, September 17, 2010

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/739

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Exhibit celebrates anniversary of Italian futurism

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

On Sept. 17, 2010, the Wolfsonian-FIU, in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), will debut an exhibition that celebrates the 100th anniversary of Italian Futurism.

Founded by writer Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, the movement began as a literary one calling for the awakening of the countrymen and began to incorporate and implement new technologies into everyday life. “Speed Limits,” the brainchild of curator and distinguished professor, Jeffrey T. Schnapp, includes over 200 pieces and examines the role of speed in today’s society.

Schnapp is a CCA senior Mellon fellow and has instructed at both Stanford and Harvard University. Drawing from the manifesto of 1909, which says that, “the world’s magnificence has been enriched by a new beauty: the beauty of speed,” he attempts to transform the abstract into something objective by focusing on five areas of life: circulation and transit, construction and the built environment, efficiency, the measurement and representation of rapid motion, and the mind/body relationship.

Marianne Lamonaca, associate director for curatorial affairs and education, describes “Speed Limits” as a “meditation on idea speed in everyday life.” The Wolfsonian worked with Schnapp and local architect, Rene Gonzalez, to conceptualize and design the show around the avant-garde idea from 1909. The displays are as much physical as they are visual and explore the different aspects of speed and time.

“It’s an immersive experience: the way you view objects, watch videos, experience things,” Gonzalez said. “Speed Limits” is displayed on two floors of the museum in galleries that host temporary exhibitions.

FRESH GOODS

University alumna Rachael Middleton of Three Sisters Farm and Yuhfen Lin of the University’s Organic Garden club arrange a raffle basket at the Farmer’s Market, which occurs every Wednesday outside of GL.

U.S. ambassador to Haiti discusses rebuilding efforts

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Kenneth H. Merten, U.S. ambassador to Haiti, visited the University on Sept. 13 to present a lecture that focused on the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12, 2010. The event, sponsored by Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, the Latin American and Caribbean Center and the U.S. Department of State, provided students, faculty and the Haitian community a unique chance to listen to the ambassador’s experience in the Caribbean nation.

The lecture, “Mission to Haiti: The U.S. Role in Reconstruction,” gave insight into the reconstruction efforts and the United States’ role in helping to build a stable country, eight months after the disaster. Merten also recalled his experience living in Haiti and his diplomatic career.

“We cannot afford to not invest in Haiti. There are thousands of threads and historic ties that bind us to this nation. We need it to become prosperous and democratic,” said Merten.

Merten also discussed the U.S. efforts in collaborating with Haiti in a number of issues, such as decentralizing the capital

Crucet gets honored by volunteer of the year award

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

The director of the Legal Studies Institute at the University, Ana Crucet, has been awarded Volunteer Of the Year for Miami-Dade County by the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Crucet, who has served as a Guardian ad Litem for over 18 years, was chosen out of 400 volunteers in Miami-Dade County. According to the program’s website, a GAL is a volunteer who is appointed by the court to advocate for children who come into the court system primarily as a result of alleged abuse or neglect.

“The Dade County program oversees 4,000 children, and Crucet, who has overseen over 100 of them, attributes her award to them, “I went in because I wanted to help children.”

The goal of the program and its volun-
CORRECTIONS
In Vol. 24 Issue 9 of The Beacon, the name of the writer of the article titled “Next up: ‘Gay, Whatever’” was misspelled as Mahlia Ahmad. The correct spelling is Mahlia Ahmad.

The Beacon Administration: 3,500 unused Gulf wells must be plugged

Oil and gas companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico will have to permanently plug nearly 3,500 temporarily abandoned wells and dismantle about 650 production platforms that are no longer used, the Obama administration announced Wednesday. The move comes as the energy industry voices complaints that it is being overburdened in the aftermath of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf reported by WSJ.

The industry is concerned about “the ability of companies to get the permits necessary to undertake decommissioning activities,” Carroll added.

— Compiled by Alexandria Camejo

NEWS

$501 million budget supported by Miami commissioners

Miami commissioners managed to hike fees and fines just enough to tentatively settle the city’s toughest budget battle in years after the 14-hour marathon budget sessions. The Miami Herald reported two weeks ago that the commission ended a bruising brawl with its unions by slashing $72 million in salaries and pensions, and increasing healthcare costs.

At 3:27 a.m. Wednesday, after facing off again with many of the same opponents, commissioners believe they found the missing $26 million pieces to the larger budget puzzle. The final vote is Sept. 27.

The Beacon — Friday, September 17, 2010

www.fiu.edu

CORRECTIONS
In Vol. 24 Issue 9 of The Beacon, the name of the writer of the article titled “Next up: ‘Gay, Whatever’” was misspelled as Mahlia Ahmad. The correct spelling is Mahlia Ahmad. Also in the same issue on page 4, photographer Malïha Ahmad’s name was misspelled as Mahlia Ahmad. The Correct spelling is Malïha Ahmad.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

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.

Merits of volunteerism stressed

We want to help Haiti build their own vision. We will work with the Haitian people and government in what they want to do in terms of reconstruction.

Kenneth H. Merten
U.S. Ambassador to Haiti

GAL page 1

The job is rewarding because you are making a difference in the life of the kids and the community,” said Cruet. As a Guardian, Cruet’s goal is to reunite the children with their families. She makes recommendations to the court as part of her role in the program and attempts to see closed and children put in a safe place.

“I am voting to have a case resolved. The job is rewarding because you are making a difference in the life of the kids and the community,” said Cruet.

In addition to being a Guardian, Cruet is a mentor to other younger Guardians and serves as chair on the Volunteer Advisory Committee. Despite her work with other programs, such as the Florida Bar Grievance Committee, it is her position in the GAL that is closest to her heart.

“I volunteer with others but this is my most important job,” Cruet said. As she mentioned, she has no plans of slowing down, “I will be a Guardian for as long as I can.” She regularly attends summit meetings and meetings pertaining to GAL, she recently attended the 2010 Dependency Summit for Child Protection Communities. Her work with the Volunteer Advisory Committee involves monthly phone conferences with other GAL counties where they compile research and talk about recent changes in the Law.

Cruet also attended the 2009 Forgotten Children Campaign. These events help her better understand her role as a Guardian and her job to protect children. Cruet is always expressing a need for more Guardians and encourages people to apply. According to the program and Cruet, anyone can apply for a Guardian position because they are in short supply.

Cruet has recruited several students from the Legal Studies Institute to become part of the program. To be a Guardian, one must complete 30 hours of training, and visit the appointed children at least once a month.

“Training is a little bit of everything and you always have the help of supervisors,” said Cruet.

Work in the Guardian ad Litem program offers possible internship and career opportunities in the fields of government and law. Those seeking more information about the Guardian Ad Litem Program can call their Automated Guardian ad Litem Service at 305-638-6681 or visit Voices4.org.

Program helps to reunite families

The Guardian ad Litem Program helps to reunite families with their families. The Guardian Ad Litem Program can call their Automated Guardian ad Litem Service at 305-638-6681 or visit Voices4.org.

In his lecture, Ambassador Merten recalled his experience of the earthquake while he was at the embassy. Several of his colleagues were killed and one-third of embassy employees lost their homes.

Immediately after the quake, 16,000 people were evacuated back to the United States. According to the ambassador, all the displaced families have been reached and the U.S. will continue its efforts to provide temporary housing.

Volunteers gathered at the embassy to provide water and medical attention to horror-struck crowds gathered outside the premises of the embassy.

Merten recalled that “there were more people than desks to sleep under,” when a slate of volunteers arrived at the embassy.

During the question and answer portion of the lecture, concerns were raised over the presence of non-governmental organizations throughout the Republic of Haiti. The ambassador’s response indicated those problems are undergoing reorganization.

“Yes! Clinton will make sure that donors that have made promises to the Haitian people will follow up on their word,” Merten said.

While he described the impact the earthquake had on the country, the ambassador also spoke of the way it changed his entire view of the country.

“Opened my eyes to a world I did not know before,” Merten said. His experience in Haiti during and after the earthquake shaped his view of his career’s field, believing that while his career may not seem like a lucrative one, it can provide priceless rewards for the people it directly affects.

It is his hope that the work he and his colleagues do inspire students to consider pursuing the fields of diplomacy and international affairs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Moody Madison Campus, GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:10 PM
(305) 348-2709
name@fiu.edu

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-4722
BiscayneBayCampus
(305) 348-2712
Fax

ECU 425, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
jorge.saldana@fiu.edu
Advertising
(305) 348-4994
advertising@fiu.edu

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall semesters and once a week during Spring and Summer semesters. It is a free newspaper.

Only students, faculty and staff at FIU may purchase a subscription.

The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads.

The Beacon is not responsible for rude behavior or negative behavior. The Beacon reserves the right to post articles that are reasonable and to delete student and server services that are inappropriate by student government.
First week filled with surprises and disappointments

A fter a controversial week one in Fantasy Football, the whirlwind begins as many team owners are trading productive players and picking up upstart free agents.

Let me start by getting something off my chest.

The most over-hyped and worst pick up in fantasy football in Santana Moss. He did have over 900 yards last season, but only had three touchdowns overall and had only two games last season where he obtained over 100 yards in a game. This season he has a proven quarterback in Donovan McNabb and still only had 77 yards and no touchdowns.

Whoever has Houston running back Arian Foster is in fantasy zen this early in the season. This animal ran for 231 yards and three touchdowns, showing impressive athleticism with a long stride and strength in breaking tackles for a guy who was ranked 46th, according to Yahoo Fantasy Sports.

Week one provided a questionable start by the best fantasy quarterback last season, Aaron Rodgers. The guy only threw for 188 yards and two touchdowns. This would not be a bad performance considering he threw two interceptions, which hurt his points drastically.

Other quarterbacks did not have the same struggles. Tom Brady had a great week, throwing for 258 yards and three touchdowns after getting into a car accident before the game and signing a mega contract worth 72 million dollars.

There were a few disturbing performances for running backs this week. Ray Rice, Adrian Peterson and Shonn Greene are three of the top projected running backs in fantasy football this week.

A disturbing start for all three shocked many team owners.

While Rice and Greene both combined for 60 yards rushing and no touchdowns when playing each other’s defenses, Peterson did have a mediocre 87-yard performance with no touchdowns himself.

Michael Vick [above] could prove to be valuable for fantasy owners this season.
Forte, Vick will end up paying dividends for fantasy owners

**FANTASY, page 3**

**THE TRASH BIN**

These are players team owners should really consider dropping and definitely not playing this week:

**REGGIE BUSH**

Not only is Reggie Bush in very big trouble with the New Orleans Saints, he has not been the kind of coach who backs away from a challenge.

On the contrary, she goes out of her way to schedule tough road matches against some of the country’s top programs in unfamiliar environments to prepare her team for anything that anyone may throw their way and to gear up for the Sun Belt.

In a short time, Tomic turned the program into one the best FIU had to offer, constantly in competition for a conference title and earning two NCAA tournament berths in two years thanks in no small part to the spectacular play of four-time All-American Yasmine Rosa.

But Rosa and the rest of the talented graduating class of last year are gone and left behind was a young and inexperienced team to pick up the mantle.

While Tomic matches into this season, this team has been tested with rough road trips and matches against ranked opponents like Iowa State and Florida but has come up measurably short. They have yet to win a set against a ranked opponent and have been pushed to the limit by other opponents this season.

If there is one thing that is necessary when it comes to measuring successful this season will be patience. And the Golden Panthers will need quite a bit of it when considering the obstacles that stand in the way of rebuilding a squad that lost its most potent offensive producer and leader.

It is clear that this team is not the same team that made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament last season. The offense is not quite what it was and they have struggled when it comes to being consistent on serving and receiving and other areas.

But facing challenging opposition away from home is helping this talented young group grow accustomed to the rigors of a collegiate schedule sooner rather than later and speed up the development process.

Plus, by the time conference play comes along later this month they may be ready to be competitive against the top dogs in the conference.

While the team’s record may suffer now during the early part of the season, down the road all the struggles and being pushed to the limit by some of the elite programs in the country will pay the kind of dividends that it did for the program in the very recent past.

With a freshmen class that has the talent to fill the void left behind, two of them, Jessica Gehrk and Usti Tikulja, have already actively contributed in prominent roles. It is critical for the team to gain the kind of experience necessary to become winners at this level.

There is little doubt that the future success of this program relies on the ability of these underclassmen to find ways to win and provide the Golden Panthers with viable offensive threats that open up options on the floor.

And with the way Tomic is pushing her team, it might not take very long for this team to be a national contender once again.

Patience, in this particular case, more than just a virtue; it is an essential part of the process.
Confessions of a Dangerous Mind is a film that is as fractured as the psyche of its main subject. The contrast between the lights and glamour of Hollywood and the winter exteriors of Helsinki in the midst of the Cold War look as if they would be better served in two different movies.

Yet this is a film about a man with two different lives: Chuck Barris, game show television producer and genius behind The Gong Show, and Chuck Barris, former clan-destine operative with the Central Intellig-ence Agency who claims to have killed 33 men during his career.

When Barris (Sam Rockwell) confesses to his wife, Penny (Drew Barrymore) about the extent of his sins and the lives he’s taken, she laughs at him and thinks he’s created an elaborate tale.

It all hinges on Barris, with a perfect cover story, taking time from his travelogues involving torture, killing East German spies and sleeping with Julia Roberts, another assassin with equal talent and as great a sexual appetite.

Chuck, whether in need of just the money, or validation of his existence, takes the job. He’s good at what he does after all; killing people in a clean and impersonal manner.

Of course, this is paralleled by Barris’ other great talent (i.e. sin); being the creator of The Gong Show and the Dating Game, the latter becoming iconic of 1970’s television and which would be hosted by himself.

The sets are true to life, the gags of the shows still as painful now as they were thirty years ago; the awkward questions from contestants, poor saps looking for fame or love or attention.

The film is not so much a bio-pic as it is a circus of life, death and sex. During training from CIA operatives for hand-to-hand combat, Barris’ instructor demonstrates how to break a person’s windpipe only to kill the volunteer at hand.

It is fair that the comedy in this film is as dark and pervasive as seen in American film since Dr. Strangelove. Clooney, in his directorial debut, handles the pitch black humor with great confidence but also succeeds in balancing it with increasing paranoia that consumes Chuck.

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind is a film that is as fractured as the psyche of its main subject. The contrast between the lights and glamour of Hollywood and the winter exteriors of Helsinki in the midst of the Cold War look as if they would be better served in two different movies.

Yet this is a film about a man with two different lives: Chuck Barris, game show television producer and genius behind The Gong Show, and Chuck Barris, former clan-destine operative with the Central Intellig-ence Agency who claims to have killed 33 men during his career.

When Barris (Sam Rockwell) confesses to his wife, Penny (Drew Barrymore) about the extent of his sins and the lives he’s taken, she laughs at him and thinks he’s created an elaborate tale.

It all hinges on Barris, with a perfect cover story, taking time from his travelogues involving torture, killing East German spies and sleeping with Julia Roberts, another assassin with equal talent and as great a sexual appetite.

Chuck, whether in need of just the money, or validation of his existence, takes the job. He’s good at what he does after all; killing people in a clean and impersonal manner.

Of course, this is paralleled by Barris’ other great talent (i.e. sin); being the creator of The Gong Show and the Dating Game, the latter becoming iconic of 1970’s television and which would be hosted by himself.

The sets are true to life, the gags of the shows still as painful now as they were thirty years ago; the awkward questions from contestants, poor saps looking for fame or love or attention.

The film is not so much a bio-pic as it is a circus of life, death and sex. During training from CIA operatives for hand-to-hand combat, Barris’ instructor demonstrates how to break a person’s windpipe only to kill the volunteer at hand.

It is fair that the comedy in this film is as dark and pervasive as seen in American film since Dr. Strangelove. Clooney, in his directorial debut, handles the pitch black humor with great confidence but also succeeds in balancing it with increasing paranoia that consumes Chuck.

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind is a film that is as fractured as the psyche of its main subject. The contrast between the lights and glamour of Hollywood and the winter exteriors of Helsinki in the midst of the Cold War look as if they would be better served in two different movies.

Yet this is a film about a man with two different lives: Chuck Barris, game show television producer and genius behind The Gong Show, and Chuck Barris, former clan-destine operative with the Central Intellig-ence Agency who claims to have killed 33 men during his career.

When Barris (Sam Rockwell) confesses to his wife, Penny (Drew Barrymore) about the extent of his sins and the lives he’s taken, she laughs at him and thinks he’s created an elaborate tale.

It all hinges on Barris, with a perfect cover story, taking time from his travelogues involving torture, killing East German spies and sleeping with Julia Roberts, another assassin with equal talent and as great a sexual appetite.

Chuck, whether in need of just the money, or validation of his existence, takes the job. He’s good at what he does after all; killing people in a clean and impersonal manner.

Of course, this is paralleled by Barris’ other great talent (i.e. sin); being the creator of The Gong Show and the Dating Game, the latter becoming iconic of 1970’s television and which would be hosted by himself.

The sets are true to life, the gags of the shows still as painful now as they were thirty years ago; the awkward questions from contestants, poor saps looking for fame or love or attention.

The film is not so much a bio-pic as it is a circus of life, death and sex. During training from CIA operatives for hand-to-hand combat, Barris’ instructor demonstrates how to break a person’s windpipe only to kill the volunteer at hand.

It is fair that the comedy in this film is as dark and pervasive as seen in American film since Dr. Strangelove. Clooney, in his directorial debut, handles the pitch black humor with great confidence but also succeeds in balancing it with increasing paranoia that consumes Chuck.

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind is a film that is as fractured as the psyche of its main subject. The contrast between the lights and glamour of Hollywood and the winter exteriors of Helsinki in the midst of the Cold War look as if they would be better served in two different movies.

Yet this is a film about a man with two different lives: Chuck Barris, game show television producer and genius behind The Gong Show, and Chuck Barris, former clan-destine operative with the Central Intellig-ence Agency who claims to have killed 33 men during his career.

When Barris (Sam Rockwell) confesses to his wife, Penny (Drew Barrymore) about the extent of his sins and the lives he’s taken, she laughs at him and thinks he’s created an elaborate tale.

It all hinges on Barris, with a perfect cover story, taking time from his travelogues involving torture, killing East German spies and sleeping with Julia Roberts, another assassin with equal talent and as great a sexual appetite. The film is not so much a bio-pic as it is a circus of life, death and sex. During training from CIA operatives for hand-to-hand combat, Barris’ instructor demonstrates how to break a person’s windpipe only to kill the volunteer at hand.

It is fair that the comedy in this film is as dark and pervasive as seen in American film since Dr. Strangelove. Clooney, in his directorial debut, handles the pitch black humor with great confidence but also succeeds in balancing it with increasing paranoia that consumes Chuck.

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind is a film that is as fractured as the psyche of its main subject. The contrast between the lights and glamour of Hollywood and the winter exteriors of Helsinki in the midst of the Cold War look as if they would be better served in two different movies.

Yet this is a film about a man with two different lives: Chuck Barris, game show television producer and genius behind The Gong Show, and Chuck Barris, former clan-destine operative with the Central Intellig-ence Agency who claims to have killed 33 men during his career.

When Barris (Sam Rockwell) confesses to his wife, Penny (Drew Barrymore) about the extent of his sins and the lives he’s taken, she laughs at him and thinks he’s created an elaborate tale.

It all hinges on Barris, with a perfect cover story, taking time from his travelogues involving torture, killing East German spies and sleeping with Julia Roberts, another assassin with equal talent and as great a sexual appetite.

Chuck, whether in need of just the money, or validation of his existence, takes the job. He’s good at what he does after all; killing people in a clean and impersonal manner.

Of course, this is paralleled by Barris’ other great talent (i.e. sin); being the creator of The Gong Show and the Dating Game, the latter becoming iconic of 1970’s television and which would be hosted by himself.

The sets are true to life, the gags of the shows still as painful now as they were thirty years ago; the awkward questions from contestants, poor saps looking for fame or love or attention.

The film is not so much a bio-pic as it is a circus of life, death and sex. During training from CIA operatives for hand-to-hand combat, Barris’ instructor demonstrates how to break a person’s windpipe only to kill the volunteer at hand.

It is fair that the comedy in this film is as dark and pervasive as seen in American film since Dr. Strangelove. Clooney, in his directorial debut, handles the pitch black humor with great confidence but also succeeds in balancing it with increasing paranoia that consumes Chuck.
Google's Android operating system boasts an open source code above everything else as one of its most important features.

However, as carriers begin to mold and distort the Android experience, perhaps the platform's openness might be its biggest weakness.

Google's market share is skyrocketing for devices loaded with Android; the company activates nearly 200,000 handsets per day according to Google.

But, like that really nice friend who will always spot you a couple of bucks, mobile operators are really nice friends to Google.

Google needs to double down on Android if it's going to fight back. Google needs to be more heavy handed in how it distributes and supports its coveted mobile operating system, for the sake of its vision and its users.

BUSTISLICIOUS
FISTFULS OF TECH
JORGE VALENS
COLUMNIST

Google should exert more control over source code

After helping a colleague set his up, I was surprised at how much needless software, or "crapware" as we call it in the biz, came preloaded on the device.

Sprint loaded various apps like a NASCAR portal, a Sprint video streaming app that asks users to subscribe, paying even more for subpar video features like "behind the scenes of 24." Other carriers do this too, like Verizon adding VCast to all their phones and AT&T restricting certain features so that Android phones won't pose a threat to the iPhone.

But the worst thing of all is that the average consumer, often requiring some serious know-how to hack these devices and wipe them clean, simply cannot remove these applications. What good is an open platform if you can't do whatever you want with it?

Another ridiculous example is on the Samsung Fascinate, Verizon's version of the multi-platform Galaxy S phone and big contender in the Android space.

Verizon not only has added loads of crapware but has also changed the default search provider on the device to Microsoft Bing, their official search partner, which further takes choice away from the user.

Come on, even Apple lets people choose what their default search engine is, and they don't give a good goddamn about their users.

Devices like Google's Nexus One and the new T-Mobile G2 provide the best Android experience on the market right now. Both of these phones have solid hardware specifications and come preloaded with the standard, unaltered Android experience.

This is how Google originally intended it and how they feel the software should be. Anything else just complicates things; if it ain't broke don't fix it.

Google needs to double down on Android and start staking its claim a bit when it comes to who it endorses and who it doesn't.

Michael Gartenberg, a columnist on Engadget.com, puts it best in a recent post about this very subject, Google needs to fight back.

"Google must take a stand for the end user and insist that parts of Android must be included on every device in order to bear the Google name – and that all carrier installed apps and services are easily and freely removed by users at their discretion," he said.

In the end, it comes down to giving the user a choice. If I am rocking a Motorola Droid X or an EVO 4G, I want to be able to remove those skins and "added features" and be able to enjoy the stock Android experience. No scary looking Droid skins or annoying applications I will never use.

Perhaps, as I have mentioned before, Google needs to be more heavy handed in how it distributes and supports its coveted mobile operating system, for the sake of its vision and its users.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Asst. Opinion Editor

Don’t even bother bringing a lighter to campus when the new semester begins. Starting Jan. 11, smokers will have to leave their cigarettes at home due to a University-wide tobacco ban, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 24.

According to the “FIU Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free Campus Policy Proposal: Questions & Answers,” the ban is due to the University’s “renewed commitment to changing social norms that promote healthier campus environments.”

However, in their haste to catch up with their competition, the University has failed to adopt a truly democratic process in proposing and implementing the smoking ban. In turn, this will have negative effects on its success.

When the University of Florida adopted its smoking ban in July 2010, this was the climax of years of phasing out, which began in 2007. Furthermore, students and staff input was encouraged and received through a host of open forums.

Our university, however, did no such thing. Although the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Steering Committee has also been around since 2007, they have chosen to not develop a plan to phase out smoking.

As of now, the 20 foot distance still stands, although very few smokers observe this Florida law and do so without consequence. Furthermore, student and staff input was limited to only two open forums open forum as the remaining forums were either cancelled or converted into educational forums in which no one could offer their opinion on the matter.

Even with the final approval, the steering committee has yet to create a plan for implementation, nor have they verbalized any penalties in place for those who repeatedly disregard the new regulation.

Additionally, the pending ban has not been advertised as fully as possible, by way of fliers, posters and the televisions in the Graham Center, which is heavily used for University announcements.

While compiling a feature on the smoking ban, I found that many students were still unaware of the campus-wide smoking ban, and I wouldn’t doubt that is the case.

If the University had used their time wisely, the steering committee would have also adopted a similar phasing out process to make the ban more gradual to smokers. Instead, they sat back until UF adopted their ban and engaged in a game of catch-up.

Since this ban seems to be coming out of the clear blue sky to most, campus smokers will be less likely to follow it, especially with a plan of social enforcement that lacks detailed consequences.

In theory, both universities accomplished the same goal of establishing a smoke-free campus within a similar time frame. However, poor planning on the University’s part will likely result in reluctance and outright opposition.

Blame misplaced on game developers

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

Sex is prevalent in all facets of society. Even the best of advertisements feature some sort of sexual innuendo.

Now this controversial topic is coming to the forefront of the video game scene.

In the game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, the developers had planned on including a sex mini-game as the reward for a mission called “Hot Coffee.” They decided to remove the content, but discovered what it would be too complicated to remove the code. Instead, they made it inaccessible.

A hacker was able to break the code and re-enable it, then made the modification accessible to the general public.

When people found out that this code was left in the game, parents of children started complaining about what their kids were playing.

What angers me is that the people who complained about this mod were parents of little kids who had the game.

First of all, the game is rated “M” for mature, which means those kids should not even have those games. The parents bought it for them, then complained when they discovered it’s not suited for children.

People need to let the game developers work with their own creativity and the parents need to be parents. If we start censoring the video game developers, they may become afraid to break boundaries and innovate, and the quality of this art form will decline.

I am a self-proclaimed hard-core gamer, so I tend to protect games and see them as a form of art. While I think that some content is not suitable for everyone, the developers should not be restricted from putting content into games. The ratings in place are to protect those who shouldn’t be allowed to see it.

I understand that the mini-game was tasteless and added no meaning to the story what so ever, but it takes place in a game where you can go kill hookers and take the money from them, so I’m not really expecting anything thought-out and tasteful.

When you buy a game most of the times you can tell what type of game your buying just by reading the back of the box. If you can’t understand what it’s saying on the box, then you can always ask the attendants at the store, and they will be happy to explain to you.

I have friends that work at game stores, and I’ve heard the stories of parents coming in with their kids, looking for a game. They’ll pick up a game, go to the counter, and ask the clerk what the game is about. The clerk will tell them that it’s a game not appropriate for children and describe the content in the game.

Then the kid will complain about wanting the game, and the parent buys the game just to please the child. Then they get mad when it turns out to be a horribly violent game.

It’s just not fair to the companies to take the blame for parents’ laziness. People need to be aware of what they buy, and if parents want to buy these games to placate their children, they have no right to complain about the content.

WEB DESIGN:
Fusion Web
www.fusionweb.com

Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete

WEIRD SCIENCE

Christine O’Donnell:
“American scientific companies are cross-breeding humans and animals and coming up with fully functioning human brains.”

MELODY ALEMAN/THE BEACON

PERSPECTIVES

Is our University a healthy campus?

“Is our University a healthy campus? It’s just not fair to the companies to take the blame for parents’ laziness. People need to be aware of what they buy, and if parents want to buy these games to placate their children, they have no right to complain about the content.”

“Tobacco ban a final attempt to compete”

“Blame misplaced on game developers”

Friday, October 1, 2010
www.fiusm.com
The Beacon – 7
The Team Ropes Adventure Challenge consists of a series of challenging activities designed to enhance teamwork, leadership and communication skills. Managed by a professionally trained staff, these activities offer physical and mental challenges that are ground based, geared towards building confidence and focusing on the performance of individuals, teams, corporate groups and organizations.

TRAC has facilitated the growth of several local organizations, including the FIU swim teams. First Year Experience students, soccer teams and more, according to their website. TRAC includes activities such as open climbs, platforms, navigating across a balance beam, with a safety rope attached on a 25 ft above the ground, and kayaking.

“This isn’t boot camp – it is fun. It is strictly challenged by choice, if you stay in your comfort zone, you never realize your potential,” said Greg Aflleck, program manager of TRAC. “Once students, who are organized into 12-person teams, leap into midair, grab a rope, balance themselves on a wire, and reach the top of a platform. Creating an instant bond and a family feel.”

All of the rules and activities are make-believe scenarios, designed to help students think creatively, harness intelligence, create trust and improve communication skills. Athletic ability is not a prerequisite.

The course provides a low elements course, which includes problem-solving exercises that challenge groups to think creatively and cooperatively, like climbing on short ropes and getting to the top of platforms with your team members.

The high elements course promotes positive risk taking and self-esteem through physical challenge by balancing on wires that vary from 10 to 12 feet high, while maintaining safety.

Plantation Eagles’ soccer team participated at TRAC’s program, all under the age of 14. Coach Mike Williams heard about the program from a previous coach and decided to bring his soccer team.

“It helps them be more supportive of each other, they try to come to a consensus, instead of one person knocking out everyone’s suggestion,” Williams said.

The University’s women’s swimming and diving head coach, Randy Horner, also took his team to participate.

“The FIU ropes course was amazing! They facilitated challenges to the team that made them think not only, but perform physical tasks they never thought they could do before,” said Horner.

Valerie Morgan, assistant dean of undergraduate education, encourages freshmen students to enroll in a FIG course, which requires enrollment in TRAC’s program.

For many visitors, it’s the mental tests that prove more daunting than the physical ones. But Morgan describes it to be a one-of-a-kind experience and sort of an icebreaker for freshmen students at the University.

“When I was a freshman and I experienced TRAC’s program, it’s a wonderful program. The response from my students are great, and the experience is invaluable,” Morgan said.

For details on upcoming open-climbs, visit their website at trac.fiu.edu or contact them at (305)-919-5712.