Political Scientist Finkelstein discusses Gaza blockade

MARIELA ROQUE Staff Writer

Students for Justice in Palestine, a student group advocating Palestinian freedom, held an event on Wednesday Sept. 22 featuring Dr. Norman Finkelstein who spoke on the so-called “Gaza Blockade” in the Middle East and other Israeli-Palestinian related topics.

“What happened in Gaza gives good reason to be concerned,” Finkelstein said, “things are now taking a dangerous turn.”

The Israel-Gaza conflict involves a number of battles in Gaza following the Israeli retaliation to a series of missiles fired at Israel by Palestinians in 2007.

The struggle between the two countries continues after the break of a six-month truce in 2008.

“I’ve been a fan of [Finkelstein] for a long time so it was great to see him in person,” said political science major Hunter Altschul.

Finkelstein spoke in favor of the Palestinian government, quoting sources such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to support his opinion that Israel “did not have the right to place a blockade [on Gaza].” He felt that Israel’s actions were “illegal under international law” and that “Israel used insane amounts of firepower in Gaza.”

“[Finkelstein’s] talk was a great opposition to the mainstream media,” said junior Sociology major Victor Agosto.

Finkelstein is a political scientist and activist with his main focus being the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and politics of the Holocaust.

He is a graduate of Binghamton University in New York and Princeton and has served as a professor in several universities around the United States such as Brooklyn College, Rutgers University and New York University.

“If more people would share [Finkelstein’s] perspective then we could get a two-state solution going,” Altschul said.
SMOKING, page 1

Smoking consequences to be addressed

Nicole Petival was selected one candidate nominated for all the positions, with only one seat was the least contested. Almost 70% of the special voting was second to be confirmed. Major Odette Barrientos, who was a senator. The SGA College of Nursing and Health Sciences SGA senate was the least contested of all the positions, with only one candidate nominated for the position. Nursing major Nicole Petival was selected for the position.

“Based on their platforms, presentations and answers – I see them proactively beginning to work on their college issues, with specific proposals to address problems like fingerprinting in the College of Education or communication in the College of Business Administration,” said Velez. Carlos Rodriguez, SGA Housing Senator, is very excited to work with the new senators in the coming year. “Although they are entering in the middle of the fall term, I am sure that they are qualified to head first to head work,” Rodriguez said.

Aside from the senate confirmations, a new ad hoc committee to establish political parties’ regulations was established with a 20-0-0 vote. According to the Memorandum released on Sept. 22, the committee “will not establish political parties at FIU.” The purpose of this committee in accordance with section two of SR 1045 “shall be to analyze the current Election Codes and determine the appropriate regulations for political parties within the Student Government Council at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, given the fact that there are currently no regulations regarding groups or parties and their effect in the SGA Elections, based on the Mejico vs. Student Election Board Case of 2010.”

Essentially, the committee is being formed to investigate certain regulations that, if it ever were to occur, would constitutionally keep the parties at bay. According to the memorandum, SR 1045 will accomplish is to make recommendations to the Senate as to how political parties should be regulated, should they emerge during elections in the spring 2010 semester. Senate Speaker William Jose Velez and Vice-President Nick Autiello, who will be a non-voting member of the committee, will head this committee.

The final members of this committee will be confirmed on next Monday’s senate meeting. “I have already received notices of interest from senators who wish to partake in the committee, and help conduct research. I see the mandate in the bill as a first step towards ensuring a fair elections process,” said Velez.

SR 1045 passes, new committee formed

According to their mission statement, JVP is “a diverse and communicative community of activists inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, and human rights.”

“If you want to fight for a just and long lasting peace then we have to work together,” Finkelstein said. Finkelstein also went into the details of the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, specifically Israel’s attack on a flotilla heading to Gaza, the uncease between Israel and Lebanon and Israel’s settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, stating that he didn’t “particularly like Israel on a good day or bad day.”

“We got a very diverse amount of students to come and that’s what we were hoping for,” said Mun Abuhabab, president of SJP. “I think it went very well.”

The SJP Chapter at FIU was established in Spring 2010 and has gained over 100 members. SJP plans to begin meeting on Fridays at 3:30 PM. Their next event is still in process and remains undisclosed. For more information, email sjp@fiu.edu.

“I think Finkelstein’s lecture might be the greatest talk I’ve ever heard,” Agosto said.

**SMOKING, page 1**

focus groups and forums. The motion was shot down with three in support and five in opposition. Alvarez, chief executive officer of the law firm Greenberg Traurig, abstained. Enforcement through peer to peer interaction will be the primary technique for enforcement for the first six to eight months, according to Jones. This would give those individuals a “chance to understand the regulation.”

The idea of serious consequences for smokers who continue their habit on University property is a topic that the steering committee will be addressing at their future meetings once it becomes a pressing issue. For the moment being, they are hoping to continue with positive reinforcement, through offering their UHS resources to those who want to quit the habit. “In the long run this isn’t going to be easy, but it’s going to be the best thing for the University,” said Mariela Gabaroni, assistant director of UHS and chair of the Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Steering Committee. "We’re conducting other institutions that have gone smoke-free so that we can learn from them and have the best implementation possible.

With the final approval by the BOT, the steering committee plans to focus on their marketing strategies that will make the regulation more public to the University community as well as inviting more students to come and that’s what we were working in on coming up, we had a very open campus. It’s very hard to enforce that policy once the campus was built up and when you try to get 20 feet from one building, you’re already near another,” said Albert Dodson, chairman of the BOT in an interview with Student Media. “It was necessary to revisit that issue. But it is also necessary that we have an educational program prior to an enforcement program so that you get a buy-in from all of our constituents from the FIU community.”

The University-wide smoking ban will take effect on Jan. 1, 2011.
Panthers’ costly mistakes prevent potential road upset

JOEL DELGADO 
Asst. Sports Director

Just as the first two games of the season have gone for the Golden Panthers, they started off on a high note as they made their presence known early.

But just like the first two games of the season, the team was unable to maintain their strong early performance and surrendered a number of big plays as they fell 42-28 to the Maryland Terrapins on Sept. 25 at College Park.

The Golden Panthers struck first with the help of several clutch third down conversions and a questionable penalty deep in Terrapin territory that helped put FIU in the red zone. Jeremiah Harden capped off the 64-yard scoring drive with a two-yard run into the endzone with a few ticks over four minutes left in the first quarter, giving the Panthers the early advantage.

Maryland then managed to open up the passing game as quarterback Danny O’Brien connected on a short pass to Torrey Smith, who then ran on for a 32-yard gain after cornerback Emmanuel Sorhair went for the interception and missed giving the Terrapins receiver plenty of open field. A facemask penalty as Smith was brought down put Maryland deep in territory that helped put FIU in the second quarter.

With the momentum beginning to swing in Maryland’s direction, the Golden Panthers were forced to punt once again and Tony Logan was set deep to receive for the Terrapins.

After eluding a couple of defenders, Logan was off to the races and dashed 85 yards for a touchdown run to put Maryland ahead.

Despite the Golden Panthers ability to shut down the Terps on the ground, they still had problems containing O’Brien, who continued to effectively move the chains through the air in the second quarter.

But the defense was able to cut a missed field goal, which set up a drive that ended with Carroll rifling a pass to Greg Ellington, who broke coverage and raced easily into the endzone to tie the game with 5:33 remaining in the second half.

It did not take long for the Terrapins to reclaim the lead as the Golden Panther rush defense, which managed to keep the Maryland Terrapins game dormant with negative yardage, fell apart on one play as Da’Rel Scott broke free and ran 36 yards for a touchdown.

The Golden Panthers regained a spark in the second half when Carroll helped engineer a drive in which he connected with Ellington on passes for 39 yards to help set up short touchdown pass to Jonathan Funches to tie the game. The back-and-forth scoring match continued as Maryland fired back with a 68-yard pass from O’Brien to Smith just after the Golden Panthers committed a costly pass interference call on a third down and long situation.

Things went from bad to worse when a pass intended for Justice Merritt near the sideline bounced off his chest and into the air, where it was intercepted by linebacker Adrian Moten and set up another scoring drive for Maryland.

The defense kept the Golden Panthers in the game late and a touchdown run by Darriett Perry with just over four minutes left cut the deficit down to a touchdown. But on the first play of the following drive by Maryland, Davin Meggett took it to the house for a 76-yard run to put the game out of reach.

For full game coverage, including players and coach reactions, visit FIUSM.com.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: ELISA CAREY AND MICHELLE GONZALEZ

Pair of seniors share contrasting leadership methods

RICIO ALBARRACIN Contributing Writer

On a September afternoon, with the heat blazing down, Elisa Carey walked into U.S. Century Bank Arena.

With sweat beading down her jersey and crutches in hand, she takes a breathe and sits down.

She is not alone, as Michelle Gonzalez walks in to the arena, takes a breathe and sits down.

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Both players have smiles on their faces, as if they know something good is coming.

Carey is a senior this year, along with Gonzalez, both of whom are facing a lot of expectations from a leadership standpoint.

While Gonzalez is the vocal leader, Carey has always been the soft-spoken leader on the floor. She hopes to change that this year, starting with the season opener against Baylor on Nov. 12.

“I feel that I’m not the vocal leader, but if you will show by example, and the challenge for me this season is to be the vocal leader,” Carey said. “To show by example, and also to be the voice that’s heard in practice.”

She seems to be ready for an even bigger role this season. When asked about head coach Cindy Russo’s expectations, Carey chuckled.

“She’s expecting a lot from me this season. And I’m gonna give it to her,” Carey said. “She’s expecting basically what I did last year plus more.”

Gonzalez leads a senior-laden Panthers in scoring and rebounding last season, posting 13.6 points per game and 9.8 rebounds, all while being named to the Sun Belt Conference All Team second team.

Michelle Gonzalez, left, has been the vocal leader for the Golden Panthers since she became a starter in 2008.

While those may be career highs for Carey since she joined FIU in 2006, she expected to push for more in the team aspect.

She won’t be alone.

Michelle Gonzalez, a senior guard, drive short and score, leads the Golden Panthers in scoring and rebounding last season, posting 13.6 points per game and 9.8 rebounds, all while being named to the Sun Belt Conference All Team second team.

Russo, an institution in the program, has had success in the past. Carey and Gonzalez hope to bring some success back to the program, both of whom respect Russo and have enjoyed playing for her in their time at FIU.

“She’s a great person and she will definitely support you. She’s been really supportive of me. She let me know how she really feels. How much she thinks of me and I really respect that,” Carey said.

Gonzalez went on to add, “Shes always there for me, and for my teammates. They all want to work hard, to win, to help you as a person, to help you in basketball. I’ve been really happy to play for her. We understand each other. Of course there are things that we’re not on the same page on but we just talk about it and it’s great.”

The Golden Panthers struggled to a 14-16 record in 2010, but that was an improvement over a 6-24 year in 2009.

“Yes I feel that last year we could have done better. Of course everyone feels that, but I believe this year we have more players and more variety,” Carey said.

“I believe we can really do things this year.”

BLOWN OPPORTUNITY

Panthers’ costly mistakes prevent potential road upset

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

Friday, September 27, 2010

Asst. Sports Director

SPORTS

FOOTBALL: MARYLAND 42, FIU 28

Da’Rel Scott runs for a 56-yard touchdown in the second quarter of the game to put the Terrapins up 21-14. FIU went on to lose 42-28.

On Sept. 25 at College Park.

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FIU spent its first 12 games in of season on the road, losing to three ranked teams but surviving with a 6-6 record.

The Golden Panthers let out any frustration left over from the road trip by defeating Denver for the third consecutive year with a 3-0 (29-27, 25-16, 25-19) win on Sept. 25 at the U.S Century Bank Arena.

FIU (7-6, 1-0 SBC) welcomed a home stand in which they were to play five of their next seven games at home by battling off a resilient Denver team (6-10, 0-2 SBC) in the first and third sets and jumping on the Pioneers in the second to preserve a win in it’s Sun Belt Conference opener.

The Golden Panthers had 40 assists on the game high 18 kills to pace FIU’s attack.

The game titled in FIU’s favor when they got through a contested first set.

The long first set had no more than four points separate the team’s throughout, but the Golden Panthers would then take a 20-19 lead on a Pioneer error before Trkulja put FIU up for good. This time the benefit side was Denver as they allowed only two shots the whole first half, compared to FIU’s eleven. Just as it looked as if FIU might be in for a close one until the very end, freshmen Nicole DiPerna was able to find the net and get FIU a semi-comfortable lead with 18:48 to go in the game, striking the ball from 25-30 yards out, and getting the assist from both Mayara Bordin and Kelsey René.

DiPerna must like the feel of cotton, because nine-teen seconds later, she was able to get a cross into the box and score her second goal of the evening to put FIU up for good. This time getting credit for the assist was sophomore Carlan Jones.

“The first goal I just had a lot of space and time and I looked up and found where I wanted to hit the ball, and the second goal went by a lot quicker. I just took my space and found Carley wide and then she got her head up and put a good ball in and I just finished it,” Diperna said.

In the end, FIU was able to get 17 shots in the game, with UALR only being able to muster up seven on the night. Their defense helped Raimo secure her third shutout of the year, but more importantly help FIU to start the conference season off on the right foot.

FIU will now move on to face Arkansas State at home on Sunday at 1pm.

NEW RECORD, STREAK BROKEN
With Nicole DiPer- na’s two goals in just a matter of nineteen seconds, she shattered the previous record of 54 seconds held by Sasja Odenyo in 2009.

A new streak started for the team as well, as they had not won a conference opener since 2002.
Possible reunion in sight for band after seven year hiatus

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Older students at the University might remember Andrew McMahon from when his band, Jack’s Mannequin, played the Uproar concert a few years ago.

Others might have heard of him through associations in the music scene or of his battle with and triumph over acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2005 following a stem cell transplant donation from his sister.

Some may never have heard of him or his original band.

Aug. 16 marked the only Florida stop of Something Corporate’s 10 Year Anniversary Reunion Tour. The band had been on hiatus since late 2004 following rising tensions and exhaustion of constant time spent on the road touring.

In fact, after a brief reunion in 2006 where they performed three songs at the Bamboozle Left Festival in Anaheim, Calif., by February, two other concerts in May 2010, Bamboozle Chicago and the annual Bamboozle Festival in New Jersey, had added Something Corporate to their lineup.

On May 15, following the release of “Played in Space: The Best of Something Corporate” album, which had brought the band back to the studio to re-record two rare, unreleased tracks, they announced a summer Reunion Tour. The concert, like many others, was completely sold out. The audience was diverse, and the band’s impact on the scene was clearly visible from the significant range of fans present.

From the second the lights dimmed, the crowd exploded into cheering and clapping. The band came to the stage, smiling and waving at fans, as Peaches and Herb’s “Reunited” played in the background.

The lineup featured original members McMahon (piano and vocals), Josh Partington (guitar), Kevin “Chitch” Page (bass guitar) and Brian Ireland (drums), as well as Bobby “Raw” Anderson (guitar) who had replaced William Tell in 2004.

The show kicked off with a high energy that continued to climb throughout the entire concert. It was truly Something Corporate back in their element. The show lasted almost three hours and featured a 17-song set and a three song encore.

“Orlando may be one of the first places we ever visited,” McMahon said regarding the band starting out in 2002. “In that way, I guess it [Orlando] has been like a second home to the band for a long time.”

When someone shouted, “Jacksonville!” during the show, the band alternated naming cities in Florida to see the reaction. Cheers were heard for every place named including West Palm Beach, Miami, Sarasota and Pensacola, highlighting the extent fans were willing to travel in order to attend this show.

“It’s been seven years since the release of “North,” the band’s last full length album. Both the band members and fans have grown up.

What does the future hold for Something Corporate? There has been no indication whether the reunion is permanent or a one-time thing Corporate? There has been no indication whether the tour as being “a crash course down memory lane” and how he was glad they had decided to do it.

However, the tour has not brushed off the idea of putting out a new album in the future. Just don’t expect it to be the half-assed effort that follows the whole “we-got-back-together-we-have-to-make-a-record-right-away” trend.

They plan on taking their time with it and producing something substantial for their fans.

The direction of the hypothetical CD takes will be crucial in determining its success. Because Something Corporate shows extreme loyalty to those who have followed them throughout the years, we can only hope for a more mature album.

The band has never been one to succumb to the pressure of appealing to the teenybopper generation for record sales. McMahon’s willingness to play “Konstantine” at every show or as he refers to it, “the song that has haunted my daily existence,” is an indication of the level of appreciation the band has for their fans and its desire to give them just what they want.
Military fashion is just a fad, don’t invest in pricey pieces

A tention: military is in.

It isn’t camouflage print or combat boots that are causing a stir in the fashion world—it’s the versatile purse-in-pants cargo pants and utilitarian jackets that are causing all the ruckus.

Instead of looking like an Army brat with logo tees and camo-print shorts, let’s try and test the skinny cargo pants.

Last December, I picked up a variation of the skinny cargo at Anthropologie. To me, they were just a pair of really cute chino pants for $59 that I couldn’t say goodbye to even though they didn’t have my size. The chinos fit me more like skinners than the loose-fitting, comfortable boyfriend style they were intended to be, but the price tag and my compulsive shopping problem forced me to buy them.

Little did I know, I was just ahead of the fashion game. Big denim designers like J Brand and 7 For All Mankind started coming out with jeggings, a cross between jeans and leggings—a weird combination that makes your knee caps look huge and fat. They later did a cargo version of the jegging. You still get the fat knees and I understand the look they’re going for but it just doesn’t work.

The point of the military look is to combine something structured and masculine with feminine choices like silk tops and platform heels. It’s too complicated and has to be perfectly calculated to work.

Taking into consideration proportions and trying to still look like a girl when you’re wearing such masculine pieces is too difficult for me to wrap my bubble brain around in the morning when I’m getting dressed for the day. It’s kind of like my dilemma with rompers. I appreciate how they look on others when done correctly, but I’m too much of an over-thinker and a key person to figure out how to wear the trend.

I’m also not in favor of the military jacket. It reminds me too much of being in a marching band. It’s great for the band, but not for me.

What does look great are army-inspired boots. What I’ve been seeing lately isn’t combat boots, but styles that are taking inspiration from the rugged boot and giving it a softer appeal.

Now that it’s going to be cooler than 95 degrees outside, it is awesome that they are in style because it won’t be a brutal situation for your feet. Shoes are the easiest ways to spice up jeans and a tee and the boots do just that, so why not?

For modern games, this included making the game entertaining enough for multiple playthroughs. Experiences like this are still common on portable systems like the Nintendo DS line of handhelds and Sony’s PlayStation Portable, but the long-game effect is slowly beginning to enter this realm too.

Only one platform has embraced the “micro-game” experience fully. Apple’s iPhone is an excellent embodiment of games; its portability has been a fine home for multiple games; its portability is a fine platform for pick-up-and-play titles such as Plants Vs. Zombies or Angry Birds. When waiting for a friend or riding the bus, players can just jump in and play for small bits of time and stop just as quickly.

No need to hunt for a save spot at all. Nintendo, Microsoft and Sony have similar models with their online services, though they aren’t as well developed, even with the portability of Nintendo’s DS line and Sony’s PSP.

Games should be treated similarly to a good book: utilizable in spurts and contain an experience that enamors players enough that the world in it can be revisited again.

Unless you like reading through all of “War and Peace” quite often.

Press Start is a weekly column on video games.

Shooter games more valuable than long adventures

P repare for an epic adventure with 70 hours worth of content to fill this world.

That’s a popular tagline among developers to throw around when trying to convince players and consumers that their $60 won’t be wasted on a shallow game.

However, when I hear that lovely tagline, two things always come to my mind: “Oh boy, padded length,” and “How the heck will I have the time to even beat that?”

Recently I’ve been on a bit of a nostalgia trip, so I’ve been revisiting older games like Sonic The Hedgehog 3 on the Sega Genesis and Chrono Trigger on the Super Nintendo.

Both of these titles showed me one thing: short games are quite nice. Developers should shy away from creating long games and focus on titles that are shorter but include solid gameplay and remain as entertaining on replays. For modern games packing a $60 price tag, the cause falls on developers to justify the price with content in their games, even if it means artificially inflating game play to force the player to “play” for longer periods of time.

Square Enix is a master of this practice, pitching titles like Final Fantasy XIII as “having over 100+ hours of game play,” but leaving out the fine print that a large chunk of that is doing the repetitive task of killing monsters to make the characters stronger or have better equipment, a practice known as “grinding.”

When you’re a college student who also has a job (maybe even two) and a social life to keep up with, this only serves to drag out the game to unbearable lengths, making it less likely the player will ever see the credits roll.

Older games, despite often carrying a price point of $50 to $70 back in their day, were rather short and often beatable in an hour or two, or 30 hours at the absolute most.

While smaller memory size and the use of expensive cartridges are key factors for the high price, these limitations forced developers to really make a game shine in order for it to compete in the market.

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Unless you like reading through all of “War and Peace” quite often.
Students want to change the culture of the campus. The University offers students several opportunities, such as joining Future Veteran Leaders of America (FVLA). The FVLA aims to create a generation of motivated individuals who wish to make a difference in the world through leadership, patriotism, and service.}


FVLA was only created this semester, so now is the perfect time to get involved. This is an opportunity to become one of the founding members of an organization with national-wide potential, to have your voice help shape FVLA's future. We will be hosting our first formal meeting on October 6th, at 3:15pm in GC 280 for all of those who are interested. Our path is far from set in stone, and neither are our leadership positions.

We welcome and encourage ideas and motivated individuals who want to make a difference, but in order to make all of this work we need your support! Mark your calendars and spread the word! I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting.

Zachary Ruiz, is the president of FVLA. To contact FVLA, go to their website at http://fvacampuslife.org/.
Banned Books Read-out returns

JOANNA SANCHEZ  Contributing Writer

One week during the fall is dedicated to reading banned books aloud. In honor of this week, Sept. 25 to Oct. 2, the University will have its 10th annual Banned Books Read-out event on Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in Panther Square.

Administration, staff, faculty and a student government representatives will read from banned or challenged books and discuss the impact censorship has on civil liberties during the read out.

President Mark Rosenberg, Dean of Libraries Laura Probst, Librarian George Pearson, Marian Demos associate professor of classical languages and humanities and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Christin “Cici” Battle will be reading excerpts.

They will be reading a passage from various banned books and say why each one was banned. There will be a question and answer session from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in which students will be able to ask questions regarding banned books. Students are encouraged to grab a banned book from the selection and read aloud a passage and then state the reason it was banned.

“It's a great opportunity to participate in our first amendment,” said Lauren Christos, associate librarian. “We take it for granted that we can do these things. For example, being able to physically get a big group together and do this.”

Christos has been hosting the Banned Book Read Out since 2000.

To classify a book as a “banned book”, it must be: a library material that has been challenged in an oral or written complaint, attacked publicly and recommended for further action and removed from the library collection. Books get banned for a variety of reasons ranging from: sex, politics, language, to witchcraft or supernatural topics.

“I want to give the campus community an opportunity to see our first amendment in action,” said Christos. “I want to inform people that book banning is a never ending challenge that has been going on for centuries, and it still goes on today.”

The Banned Books event is a way to express the meaning of Article 3 in the Library Bill of Rights. Which states, “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

“This isn’t just something in the past, it’s something we have to be concerned with today because suppression of free speech and free expression through books is still an ongoing problem in many places around the world,” Pearson said.

According to the American Library Association, censorship in the United States is currently moving toward the Internet, video games and social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter. Parents are also depending more on rating systems for their child’s safety.

Besides participating in the Banned Book event, students can get involved in many ways by: supporting school and public libraries by serving on the board and voting, joining the Freedom to Read Foundation or joining the Office of Intellectual Freedom on Facebook and YouTube.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower, To Kill a Mocking Bird, The Twilight series and Harry Potter all have one thing in common: they are all banned books.

The top three reasons cited for challenging materials as reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom are the material was considered to be sexually explicit, contained offensive language was unsuited to any age group.

To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee was banned for racism, offensive language, and being unsuited for age group. The Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer was banned for its religious viewpoint and being sexually explicit.

“The [readout] is an opportunity to highlight [the] importance of this right to read and not have someone tell us what could and could not be read,” said Probst. “This event helps raise awareness of censorship.”

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Teens found guilty of killing 7 cab drivers

Five teenagers have been found guilty of killing seven taxi drivers and seriously injuring two others by forcing most of them to drink drain cleaner. The teenagers were sentenced to three to five years in prison.

PUERTO RICO

Extension for voiding birth certificates

Puerto Rico is giving Islanders one more month to use their original birth certificates before they are no longer recognized, as offices struggle to handle a flood of applications for new, more secure documents.

T&Cs & CAICOS

T&C party abandons reform talks

Doug Pawell, chief of the People’s Democratic Movement, said the country discontinued talks with British officials until a guaranteed date is set for an election restoring self rule.