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The Beacon, October 6, 2010

Florida International University

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Chavez expects all militia to be armed

LAST week, five young men from various regions across the country, different backgrounds and educations, ranging from 13 to 19 years old, had one thing in common—they committed suicide as a result of harassment for being gay.

This recent chain of gay teen suicides brings the safety and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students on campuses nationwide, including FIU, into question.

According to the most recent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-Friendly Campus Climate Index, a nationally recognized assessment tool, FIU students gave the University one and a half stars out of five in regards to LGBT campus safety. The University was given a composite score of two and a half stars out of five.

There are a number of growing organizations and key individuals working to shatter these low figures and improve the overall experience of LGBT students at the University.

“For the university as a whole, there are a lot of things, which have not been done yet, but are in the process of happening. As far as creating different methods of dealing with harassment, and different methods of dealing with advocacy so that even before harassment, people are aware,” said Daniel Anzueto, Coordinator of Student Programs at the Honors College.

Anzueto believes that the University has grown considerably supportive of the LGBT community over the past five years, but understands that on a national plane, there is so much that needs to be done to ensure that bullying does not drive these students to make tragic decisions.

“There are a lot of other places that are not as friendly to the LGBT community, which causes many students to change schools, to remain closeted, and sometimes, horribly, to decide to commit suicide,” said Anzueto.

By providing more resources and outlets for LGBT students on campus, the University’s administrative advocates hope to create a sense of inclusion for these individuals on campus.

More resources would alleviate pent up frustration associated with coming out or living with heterosexual roommates.

Both at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses, Graduate Assistants, Bridgette Wynn and Camille Perkins, are working for the Multicultural Programs and Services Office to focus on LGBT initiatives.

“I want to be able to expand this office so that students not only have this office but also a safe space for them on campus. So that when they walk through the door, they can be who they are, without worrying about harassment,” said Wynn.

Wynn claims that it would be impossible to get a strong visibility of harassment.

Anzueto believes that the University’s involvement in the coalition government since 1945, led by Prime Minister David Cameron of the Conservative party. The discussion focused mainly on the coalition government, the economy and the eurozone common currency zone.

The roundtable discussion began with a presentation by Dr. Nicola C. Rae, Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science, and International Relations. Rae discussed the historical context of Britain’s involvement with the European continent and later the European Union.

McGurgan believes that international affairs and diplomacy are changing in Britain, with a greater concern toward the rest of Europe, as EU decisions affect the British public.

“For the first time British ministers are speaking other languages,” said McGurgan.

The coalition between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats was the key topic of discussion, being that it is extremely unusual in British politics.

The last of its kind in times of peace occurred in the 1930s, when it was struck by the Great Depression and Britain searched for a way to combat unemployment rates by combining the efforts of Liberals and Conservatives.

“Some countries should have left the Euro and gone back to their original currencies and devalue them, instead of having a generation of debt,” said Dr. Michael J. Greary, panelist, Fullbright Fellow at the Catholic University of America and lecturer of history at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

McGurgan also placed emphasis on the issue of global warming, expressing the United Kingdom’s support for a better environment.

“We were in favor of the reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20 percent," said McGurgan.

Emphasis was also placed on future challenges, including the EU’s constant debate on whether it should expand to include Turkey and the Balkan countries.

“Enlargement has helped to spread democracy from the Iberian Peninsula to Eastern Europe,” said McGurgan.

“(Prime Minister) Cameron is in favor of Turkish membership.”

The roundtable discussion was hosted by Dr. Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela, who said that members of the country’s civilian militia, The Bolivarian Militia, should be issued weapons to be armed and ready at all times.

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Weird News

Illiterate clown triumphs in election
Francisco Everardo Oliveira Silva, better known by his clown name Tiririca, is ahead of second-placed candidate in Brazil’s presidential and congressional elections, according to MSNBC.
Tiririca usually appears in public wearing a blond wig, a red hat and a gaudy outfit. He survived an attempt by public prosecutors to bar him from running because of evidence that he is illiterate.

St. Paul man charged with locking girlfriend in dog kennel
St. Paul authorities report that Luke Brandon Scot locked his girlfriend in a dog kennel, according to MSNBC.
According to a criminal complaint, the woman arrived at Scott’s home and told him she was breaking up with him. He became upset, locked the door, and punched her in the face. Scott forced her into a large dog kennel and kept her there for a short time.

Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Correction

In Vol. 24, Issue 18 of The Beacon, the article from the “At The Bay” section titled “Overcoming the topic for latest roundtable” incorrectly states that “Some Protect the Ego by Working on their” is the topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable on Oct. 5. It is in fact the topic of the Nov. 9 Tuesday Times Roundtable. The topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable is “Who’s Driving this Bus, Anyways??” is the topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable.

For more information, please call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-348-6994.

Alliance aims for positive change

LGBT, page 1

ment issues involving FIU students largely because the University is a commuter school and student life is not generally centered on campus.
It is the hope of both Wynn and Perkins that new programs and events can increase student faculty participation and education in LGBT initiatives, including Safe Zone training.
Safe Zone training is a nationally recognized training program for administrators, faculty and students.
The main purpose of the Safe Zone program is to visibly mark people and places that are “safe” for LGBT students through a sticker with FIU’s golden panther trademark accompanied by a rainbow triangle with the text “safe zone.”

“IT’s an opportunity to be educated on something that people may not be aware of. That’s really big [part] of making Safe Zone something that the University supports, they do it, and making the university aware of it. It’s our goal to get this to be a required training for all new hires at FIU,” said Anzueto.
“As far as our programs coming up, we want to make it more student-based. We want students to be a part of things,” stressed Wynn.
This emphasis on student involvement has come from the steadily growing organization among activists for the LGBT initiative.
Stonewall Pride Alliance, Stonewall 2 BBC, Stonewall Legal Alliance, Delta Lambda Phi, and the upcoming GLBT Advocacy group are all supportive organizations that aim to cover all aspects of student life and bettering the situation of LGBT students,” said Stonewall Pride Alliance President, Giovanni Correale.
He has been working diligently to organize the infrastructure of Stonewall Pride Alliance, and gathered executive officers that “are strong and able to move things forward.”
“We’re uniting the three bodies and, at the same time, are searching for members who are considered strong individuals in other committees to then represent their body so that we can all go together, and show the student support for positive change for LGBT issues,” said Correale.

Public funding called into question

CAMPAIGNS, page 1

Nothing amped-up the debate more than Rick Scott’s unprecedented spending spree to win the Republican nomination for governor — the multimillionaire. He spent more than $50 million of his own money to defeat Attorney General Bill McCollum, who says he had no choice but to accept public funds.
“So what happens if you don’t have that kind of money? That’s where public funding is important,” said House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands of Weston, who voted against the measure being put on the ballot.
The federal government has public financing for presidential campaigns and Florida is one of 16 states that have public funding for their campaigns.
The Sunshine State has had public financing for statewide campaigns for more than 20 years, and voters put it in the constitution in 1998.
The campaign financing program gave statewide candidates more than $11 million in taxpayer money during the 2006 elections, when Gov. Charlie Crist was elected. Crist himself got $3.3 million for his campaign.
Public financing has become a partisan issue in the Florida Legislature, with most Republicans opposing it and most Democrats supporting it. Both candidates from both parties generally take the money, with the notable exception of former Republican Gov. Jeb Bush.

As for the federal program, then-presidential candidate Barack Obama initially said he would accept public money, but then declined it on his way to shattering fundraising records. Had he accepted the money, Obama would have been limited in how much he raised and spent. Republican John McCain accepted public money and was outspent by hundreds of millions of dollars.
The proposed amendment passed the Florida House 80-34 last year on a largely party line vote. The Senate voted 29-11. At least 60 percent of voters must approve the amendment for it to pass.
“If we are making a choice between (funding) education, health care or campaigns, it’s a no-brainer,” said state Sen. Mike Haridopolos, R-Melbourne and one of the sponsors of the amendment.
Anyone running for state office will be able to find enough resources without using taxpayer money.
Although Amendment 1 was put on the ballot long before the campaign season, the Republican gubernatorial primary pushed the debate into the forefront.
Under state law, for every dollar Scott put in of his own money above $24.9 million, the state would give McCollum’s campaign an equal amount.

What makes the Army Reserve, the nation’s IRV (Individual Ready Reserve), unique? To find out, visit http://www.usar.army.mil/ AboutUs/Individual_Ready_Reserve/. To join, visit http://www.goarmy.com/ Join_Army_Reserve.aspx or call 1-800-USA-ARMY (872-2769)
Despite tough losses, Panthers poised for Sun Belt Conference finish

It’s over. The seemingly never-ending winter that was the Golden Panther non-conference schedule has finally reached its merciful conclusion as the team returns home with a disheartening defeat against Pittsburgh in which the team simply had nothing left to throw.

With every team, with the exception of this weekend’s opponent Western Kentucky, having already begun their Sun Belt Conference schedules, the Golden Panthers will have an opportunity to get back on track.

Up in the final quarter of play, the Golden Panthers had made the Pitt faithful very uncomfortable and had incited considerable emotion from Dave Wannstedt, who at times was fuming up and down the sideline with more anger and frustration than he had ever shown as head coach for the Miami Dolphins.

During the second quarter, in which FIU had successfully taken the lead and seemed to quiet the Panther attack, Bois filled the air on a couple of occasions as fans began to wonder which Panthers would be the better team, if only for several minutes.

Ray Graham scoched the defense with three touchdown runs and finished with a total of 277 yards rushing, the most ever given up by an FIU defense, to help make the final score as lopsided as it was.

Needless to say, giving up 28 points in the fourth quarter is not how you want to finish off a tough road stretch and end the conference race with a disheartening defeat against this Golden Panther team.

RAISING THE BAR

While measured optimism has grown in recent weeks as a result of the squad’s performance so far this season, the results have yet to turn positive which has caused a certain sense of unrest and impatience among desperate onlookers.

Now with a more familiar slew of opponents lined up, the Golden Panthers will be squaring off against teams of a similar caliber and there is now a reason to believe that this team that was predicted to finish sixth prior to the opening kickoff may have an outside chance of making a run for a Sun Belt title.

But first impressions are everything, and if FIU is going to make a case for itself it will have to be during the next four games before they take on conference powers Troy and Middle Tennessee, building a winning mentality and momentum before the final stretch of the season will be critical. And the first brick in that effort begins this weekend against the Hilltoppers.

It’s a game that the Golden Panthers can neither afford to overlook because if they are unable to finish in this game, they will find themselves in a considerable hole.

A hole that may prove extremely difficult to climb out of.

Marshall hands Panthers first conference loss

The 2010 Golden Panthers have made strides statistically when compared to last season, but constant counterattacks kept coming and gave Marshall its third corner of the match.

Off another set piece attack, Travis Brent headed the final goal to put the Panthers away for the night.

“We didn’t capitalize, and when you don’t capitalize, your not focused. We just weren’t focused today,” head coach Munga Ektebi said after the loss.

Michael Mühseler and Sebastian Frings led the way on shots each having two shots on goal in the contest.

They both came short to Marshall’s goalkeeper Daniel Winthrop, who made two great saves toward the end of the first half.

Early in the second half, the Golden Panthers dominated possession of the ball but constant counterattacks kept FIU’s shots at a minimal.

Although possession was favoring the Golden Panthers, they got out shot 10-6 through out the half.

Nicholas Chase and Carlo Schmid led the way in the second half as each had three shots on goal. Around the 50-minute mark, Marshall’s Sammy Boateng capitalized off a throw in on a set piece.

He notched the goal in the far left corner, breaking the scoring deadlock 1-0.

As the Golden Panthers continued to pressure Marshall, the counterattacks kept coming and gave Marshall its third corner of the match.

Off another set piece attack, Travis Brent headed the final goal to put the Panthers away for the night.

“We didn’t mark our men, although our defense and our team played well creating opportunities they didn’t finish,” Ektebi said. “This sport is all about finishing and we didn’t finish the game.”

Golden Panthers goalkeeper Shane Lopez had seven saves in the game.

Thundering Herd goalie Daniel Winthrop had just two saves in his fifth shutout of the season.

The team has now lost back-to-back games after starting their six game road trip with wins against Jacksonville and Stetson. The Golden Panthers will continue their road trip as they take on the University of Central Florida’s on Oct. 5 and FAU on Oct. 9.
The women’s soccer team went into the state of Alabama this weekend with two wins in the conference, and came out with two more.

The Golden Panthers took care of business, and just two days after the were able to beat Troy, they came through and beat South Alabama 1-0 on Oct. 3 to increase their record to 4-0 in the conference and 7-4-1 altogether.

The Golden Panthers started the game fast as freshman Chelsea Leiva put the ball in the back of the South Alabama net herself with a 35 left footer 19 minutes into the game. This was Chelsea’s sixth goal of the year, as well as her fourth game winner.

The defense in the game was yet again a great one, as South Alabama was only able to manage three shots on goal in the game. This allowed the Panthers to ultimately post their fourth shutout in a row, which is only one away from tying a school record.

More chances to score mean better chances to score. The Golden Panthers turned in 19 shots on goal for the day. Mayara de Fonseca Bordin out shot South Alabama by herself with five shots.

The Panthers were also able to limit South Alabama to only one corner kick for the game, compared to the Panthers’ seven. On top of that, both of South Alabama’s leaders in goals, Kasey Crowe and Kristyn Thacker had no shots on goal at all.

However, the Panthers were unable to get a comfortable lead to put the game away for good, but thanks to a great defense, still secured the win.

“The first 30 minutes today, outside of our finishing, was a class in attacking and ball possession,” Head coach Thomas Chestnutt said after the game.

FIU is now tied for first place in the conference with the Denver Pioneers.

The Panthers will try to continue both their shutout streak and winning streak at home on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. as they play Western Kentucky University (6-4-3) who are 3-1 in the conference, with their only loss coming from Denver.

After WKU, FIU will go head to head against Middle Tennessee on Oct. 10 at 1 p.m., a team that beat FIU last year, the only conference team to do so. Middle Tennessee currently holds a 2-1 record in the conference with a combined record of 5-7.
LIFE!

RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay ready for sixth year of fundraising for a cause

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

Relay for Life is an over-night walkathon that helps raise awareness and money for The American Cancer Society.

Relay brings to light the courage of survivors who have overcome a difficult part of their lives as well as drawing attention to the plight of those who are currently struggling with cancer.

People from all over South Florida volunteer their time and walk for the cause while organizations across campus find creative ways to raise money by selling all kinds of food, goods and games.

From Phi Mu Alpha serenading ladies with Mo-Town tunes to Lambda Chi Alpha’s own club tent, these innovative ideas to raise money not only help build a sense of unity within the University and between volunteers, but also aid in funding to find a cure.

Now in its sixth year, Relay for Life will be starting off the 2010-11 year with its annual Kick-Off Party.

Heartfelt stories, unforgettable experiences, and a night to kick start a season full of fun pre-events are in store for attendees.

Facts about the cause and the disease will also be discussed. Those interested in starting a team will be allowed to sign up for just $100.

Expect food, giveaways and a night of entertainment at the event.

Cailun McCarty, a veteran volunteer, says, “We are always trying to improve Relay and our pre-events. So you can expect them to be bigger and better.”

Last year’s “Around the World” theme brought students, faculty, and members of the community together to circle around themed laps.

Every cycle was themed by city per lap; whether it was New Orleans Mardi Gras or Scottish Kilts, students dressed in wild fashions and costumes.

The theme was also the basis of many fundraisers as clubs found ways to support the cause from selling Cuban pork and yuca to American food.

Performances throughout the night kept the overnight festivities awake with student singers and even a stroll show-case by Multi-Cultural Greek organizations.

Although the event was all in good fun, the lighted candles remained lit throughout the night to show why FIU was there: to fight against cancer.

And with last year being FIU’s best turn out yet, this year is sure to turn up the volume with a great theme to be named at the kick-off party.

The party kicks off Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 at 6pm in GC 243.

For more information follow Relay for Life on Face-book.com/FIURelay, Twitter.com/FIURelay, Youtube.com/ FIURelay, and RelayforLife.org/Florida. You can also email Relay at FIURelayFor-Life@gmail.com or visit GC 2210.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Marvel’s short-run comic gives readers touching story

With five Wednesdays in the month of September, Marvel comics tried to pull off something small, concise and with an average pay off.

What they didn’t account for was the heart-warming and relatable story they produced that garnered a large response from not only myself, but all readers in general.

Dennis Sykes is an extraordinary average man. He lives in the suburbs with his wife and adopted daughter and works as a loan approver for a generic bank in New York.

Unlike most super hero characters, Dennis’ decision to change his life comes before he is granted any special powers or capabilities.

While passing by an EMT getting mugged, Dennis all of a sudden decides that he is sick of being average in a world of flying marvels and chooses to step up and do something heroic.

Sadly, his choice ends up with the muggers dumping an entire trash bin filled with biomedical waste down his throat.

The Fantastic Four’s member, The Thing, steps in to save poor Dennis and brings him to Mr. Fantastic, the Marvel universe’s genius scientists, to make sure he doesn’t die from the incident. Mr. Fantastic discovers that not only is Dennis alive, but he has also gained amazing matter-altering powers.

One would usually assume that at the time of this discovery, Dennis would become a super hero and fight crime for the greater good.

But Mr. Fantastic then explains the second condition Dennis contracted from the fateful event: a terminal case of cancer.

From there, the reader follows Dennis through his last month of life while he tries to help his community with his new powers, reconnect and strengthen the bonds in his family, travel to the farthest side of the world in an attempt to find a cure, and even save the entire universe in deep space.

Throughout the five issues, the reader sees Dennis at his best.

Reading a character that is not preparing for death, but instead living every day to the fullest is uplifting and inspirational.

This is where the comic manages to provide more than just another stereotypical hero that fights crime, but someone who has a believable purpose to their life, no matter how short it may be.

Every issue guest stars another Marvel hero that helps Dennis in some way or the other.

This helps keep the story grounded in the rest of the Marvel continuity and every one of the cameos adds to the book without taking the spotlight off of the main character.

Just as important as the superheroes in the story are the average people, such as Dennis’ family.

In between his space-faring adventures, Dennis spends time with his daughter teaching her about a love for community and friendship.

He discusses life without his wife and how much he will miss her.

Throughout the series, the reader sees a realistic portrayal of a family dealing with a loss, and I doubt, with all the people in the world with similar conditions, that it falls on deaf ears.

The series ended this past September, yet all five issues are still sitting on stands at your local comic shop.

I would highly recommend a book like this. It is one that showcases not only some of the colorful characters in the Marvel universe, but gives them a purpose that any human can relate to.

Panel Panel is a column on comics. Look for it every other Wednesday.
ALFREDO APARICIO
Contributing Writer

FIU alum, John Hasselbach, always had a passion for filmmaking.

After establishing the first film club at FIU, providing various activities such as workshops and a place to showcase upcoming films made by students, Hasselbach transferred to UM where he received his Bachelor of Science in Communications, with a major in motion pictures and a minor in theatre.

There is just one thing that sets John Hasselbach apart from the average student: he has Attention Deficient Disorder, ADD.

His disability, however, has not prevented him from pursuing his passion for filmmaking. Hasselbach made his first film and began his journey into independent filmmaking.

What originally began as a look into the lives of those suffering from paralysis, quickly, those living with disabilities.

The documentary, titled My Story, produced and directed by Hasselbach, managed to provide an uplifting message of hope while dealing with the everyday frustrations of living with a disability.

The stories ranged from those who were born with their disability to those whose disability was caused by someone else’s split-second decision.

Jaime Montenegro was a player on the FIU basketball team as well as an excellent student.

A month away from graduation, Montenegro left the Engineering Building and was involved in a car accident. His car was hit by someone running a red light and flipped over four times before landing upside down. Montenegro spent the next four months in the hospital, missing his graduation.

His paralysis didn’t stop him though, in fact, it only gave him the strength to move forward.

His story had a happy ending: a year later in 1998, Montenegro received his Bachelor’s in electrical engineering and now teaches at FIU.

Other stories consisted of those who were born with their disabilities but strived to put their best foot forward.

One of the youngest to be interviewed was Allen D. Rubenstein who suffered from Amnesia to the point where he had to put post-it all over his room to remember certain details, record his voice to remember what he had to do or already did and always have a notepad handy.

His story is still a day by day process in the hospital, missing his graduation.

His story had a happy ending: a year later in 1998, Montenegro received his Bachelor’s in electrical engineering and now teaches at FIU.

The film shows it is how one deals with the everyday frustrations of living with a disability that can make the biggest difference. As he put it, “It’s like watching a movie and then skipping over parts without realizing it.”

Dr. Beverly Trott, whose disabilities range from ADHD, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, to being unable to distinguish her left from her right took a more comical route when speaking about her disability. “If I would ever get a GPS,” said Trott, “I’ll probably have to program it to say ‘right’ and ‘other right.’”

Another story, much like Jaime Montenegro’s, happened to Kathryn Trionfo who, at 16, was involved in a car accident that paralyzed her.

In the weeks following the accident, Trionfo “cried enough to fill an Olympic sized pool,” according to her story in the film.

Her disability, she later realized, would not stop her. She later became Assistant Director of the Division of Student Affairs at the Biscayne Bay Campus of FIU.

Her advice to those with disabilities is to see the positives of a disability and not the negatives.

In regards to what happened to her, Trionfo said, “Just when you figure out life, life happens.”

As for John Hasselbach, his credits include working as a Production Assistant for 20th Century Fox in L.A., small TV roles on shows like CSI as well as big productions such as Stick it for Fox with Matt Damon. He now works as a cameraman for Channel 17 WLRN, and has a few ideas in mind for his next project.

In regards to My Story, its message was clear: disabilities exist in all forms and are caused by a variety of reasons.

The film shows it is how one deals with struggles that demonstrates the strength of a person.

Diversions

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.

Puzzle Difficulty: Easy

Sudoku answers from 9/19/10

Keep playing every week!

CHECKMATE

YOUR SKILLS, OUR JOBS.
US PEACE CORPS

FIU SENIORS should apply now for assignments beginning in summer 2011

APPLY ONLINE and check website for events at FIU www.peacecorps.gov
FIU Campus Rep: 305.348.1066
11200 SW 8th ECS 157

Grand Master Chess player Renier Gonzalez takes on multiple opponents in the Graham Center Pit on Oct 4. This event was hosted by the Porter Davis Gameroom.

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.

Puzzle Difficulty: Easy

Sudoku answers from 9/19/10

Keep playing every week!

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6

FIU GOLDEN IDOL FINALS

Find out who the Golden Idol is at 8 p.m.
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

GO GREEN WORKSHOP
Hosted by CIOS
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 9 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

FRENCH MUSIC FESTIVAL - FIFELA
Presented by FIU Music. With Kathleen Wilson, soprano
WHERE: WUC 155
WHEN: 8 p.m.
FREE
WHERE: GC 343

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET
Local produce, smoothies, veggie and more!
WHERE: 12 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Central Fountain, along the red wall

ENGAGE Workshop
Topic: Motivating Your Organization
WHERE: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 105

THURSDAY, OCT. 7

ALUFR GOLDEN IDOL

Find out who the Golden Idol is at 9 p.m.
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

FRENCH MUSIC FESTIVAL
Presented by FIU Music. With Kathleen Wilson, soprano
WHERE: WUC 155
WHEN: 8 p.m.
FREE
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
Opening day of the festival Showing of Almati.
WHERE: GC 105
WHEN: 8 p.m.
FREE
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

FINE ARTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Learn all about the goings on in FASA art community!
WHERE: GC 105
WHEN: 8 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
FREE
WHERE: GC 343

THE GREAT CHALLENGE

Movie screening of Stuck on You.
WHERE: Graham Center Pit on Oct 4.
FREE
WHERE: GC 343

A LECTURE BY MICHEL-ANGELO SARATINO
Presented by FIU Architecture
WHERE: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: PCA 115

ENGAGE Workshop
Topic: Motivating Your Organization
WHERE: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 105

WU baths

PRESENTED BY FIU MUSIC. WITH KATHLEEN WILSON, SOPRANO
WHERE: WUC 155
WHEN: 8 P.M.
FREE
WHERE: GC 343

DAVID BARRIOS/THE BEACON

THE BEACON – Wednesday, October 6, 2010
LIFE!
Public education needs restructuring

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

With each passing day, the world is becoming more competitive. As students, our competition no longer lies within our University or even our borders; it is worldwide.

We are now facing competition from all corners of the world, which continues to grow while the public education offered in the United States remains depressingly stagnant.

A consequence of factors are affecting the country’s inability to effectively compete in this world. Primarily, the public education in other nations surpasses the public education offered in the U.S. As a nation, we are seeing the negative consequences of our current public education compared to what students in other countries experience. The level of math and science taught in our classes is inferior to what a Chinese student experiences. For example, there are only 180 school days in the U.S., compared to the 251 in China. At the age of 18, an average Chinese student will have gone through 17 years of education compared to the 12 years for an average U.S. student. No wonder Chinese students start to learn college level materials in high school.

This analysis is not limited to China and applies to European and other countries as well. This is a dramatic disadvantage and will cripple the U.S. if not addressed soon.

Another alternative is that they don't have any harmful diseases. If they don't have any harmful diseases, they should have the right to donate blood without the thought that they may be infected. But because they are making it seem like only men can have HIV or AIDS, women and homosexual men to donate blood without the thought that they may be infected is ludicrous. The center is forgetting about all the other possibilities for these deadly viruses and diseases to slip in.

If homosexual men want to perform a great deed for society and donate blood they are forced to lie in order to save their lives. Being forced to lie in order to save a life is not fair, but many do so because they want to save lives.

If gay men have evidence of HIV or AIDS infection, or any other harmful diseases they should be able to donate blood. The fact that they are being turned away because they are homosexual disgusts me.

Ignorance is not acceptable when it comes to the issue of saving lives and discriminating against others. Homosexual men should have the right to donate blood and not be turned away if they don’t have any harmful diseases.

In order for everyone to have a fair opportunity to donate and for the center to be sure if the blood they are receiving is clean, they should allow homosexual men, women and heterosexual donors to test everyone for HIV and AIDS.

If homosexuals are taking U.S. jobs, that means they have caught up and now in some cases surpass them. Obama’s statement supports the current reality that international students from China, India, Finland and other countries are taking U.S. jobs.

The Council of Scientific Society Presidents estimates that by 2011, over 90 percent of all physical scientists and engineers in the world will be Asians working in Asia. The U.S. should view this analysis as a threat.

The U.S. needs to take away days from summer and add days to its academic school days. The national school day can allow students to learn more and, with time, catch up to its global competitors.

Most nations force their students to learn subjects of math, reading and science at an early age. In the U.S., these subjects are briefly taught. This lack of focus on fundamentals leaves U.S. students unprepared for their future endeavors. The U.S. ranks 25 out of the 30 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in mathematics.

We are not just behind in math. For example, Finland has the highest rate of youth literacy in the world. Unfortunately, one in seven Americans cannot even read.

These are some of the reasons as to why the public education system in the U.S. needs to aggressively catch up with the rest of the world. There is no excusable reason as to why the U.S. is not as same as its top competitors.

Students from other countries are successfully earning a proper education that is putting them ahead of U.S. students.

During an NBC interview, President Barack Obama said, “Students in China, India and other fast-growing countries are already leaving U.S. students. They have caught up and now in some cases have surpassed us.”

Obama’s statement supports the current reality that international students from China, India, Finland and other countries are taking U.S. jobs.

The fact that they only target heterosexual men clearly shows that they are making it seem like only men can have HIV or AIDS to slip in. Allowing homosexual men leaves a blind side open for HIV and AIDS to slip in. Allowing homosexual men to donate blood without the thought that they may be infected is ludicrous. The center is forgetting about all the other possibilities for these deadly viruses and diseases to slip in.

Ignorance is not acceptable when it comes to the issue of saving lives and discriminating against others. Homosexual men should have the right to donate blood and not be turned away if they don’t have any harmful diseases.

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The Council of Scientific Society Presidents estimates that by 2011, over 90 percent of all physical scientists and engineers in the world will be Asians working in Asia. The U.S. should view this analysis as a threat.

The U.S. needs to take away days from summer and add days to its school calendar. The additional school days will help U.S. students to catch up to its global competitors.

For the sake of legal procedures such as lawsuits, taxes and inheritance to name a few, I personally believe that legally married couples, heterosexual or same-sex, living together and sharing property and name with or without children constitute as a family.

I tailor my definition mostly to the predefined and well-defined standards because while individuals living together or living with living pets feels like a family, the legal definition of family should be the only one to apply when it comes to legal situations.

With Florida finding the legislature preventing same-sex couples to legally adopt as unconstitutional, the ‘family issue’ has remained in the forefront of the public conscience. But, as cases are going to court all over the U.S. the general public becomes more apparent to me that the issue at heart isn’t the wholesome definition of a family. Rather, it’s the battle of the two sides with old traditions and the new, changing norms.

I found one of the larger focuses of the issues attempting to define family dealt with children and the influence and local definition of family has on them. While many agree that children are not necessarily to define a family, to claim that same-sex parents with children are not a family calls into question whether each case is being taken into specific consideration on the qualifications of the individuals, or if the legislature is tending the issue entirely by indirectly claiming that same-sex couples are not fit to be parents solely because they are homosexual.

Under the guise of family dynamics, there is really another non-issue people don’t want to discuss. The definition of family may vary, but more polar are the opinions and morals of the individuals tailoring the definitions to their own views. The legalization of family. Instead, it has become more a war between old traditions and the new, changing norms.

Those sympathetic to the gay cause, those who define family in its broadest sense, risk social disdain or being labeled homosexual themselves. Those opposed to it, for whatever personal reason, may define themselves being called bigots or narrow-minded.

If the bottom line were issue to be addressed once and for all, however, then maybe the ‘family issue’ can be left to the family.
Dock being revamped for student studies

BRIAN CORREA
Contributing Writer

The School of Environment and Society at Biscayne Bay Campus is in the process of revamping the boat dock along the water bank to provide students further hands on learning for their on-campus studies.

All larger universities in Florida received an undisclosed amount of funds, based on their student enroll- ment numbers and staff sizes, from the American Recovery and Reinvest- ment Act of 2009 to utilize for new building infrastructures. The University is utilizing these funds for exactly what they were originally intended: to stimulate the construction industry and build further infrastructures to enhance the learning environment for students, according to Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences and director of marine sciences.

“We have heard that [the] University of Florida did not use the funds as instructed by the Federal Government, but rather used the money to pay for salaries to help offset budget cuts in the recent years,” said Trexler. “Their goal is to compensate teachers for their services to the students which will bring more students to their campus thus generating more revenue for the school in future years.”

The University has already hired an architect, Mark Cruz, which developed the blueprints for the upcoming project and has already been awarded the necessary permit from Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Manage- ment. The next step of the project is to engage the University’s purchasing department to release an invitation to bid to external vendors to perform the work.

The goal for BBC is to build the boat ramp in order to take full advantage of all the additional resources offered to students by being located along the bay.

“Many of the renovations going on in the Marine Sciences building, boat dock and boat ramp are possible because the facilities at BBC are so conveniently located along Biscayne Bay,” Trexler said.

Once the plans for the boat yard have been finalized, the next stages, similar to the ramp renovations, will include: hiring an architect to come in to design the blue prints and then a construction company to complete the project.

Marine sciences, biology, chemistry and earth and environ- ment are the disciplines that will have full use of the boat ramp and yard to complete their learning objectives once the renovations are completed.

Another initiative, still in the discussion stages, is to build a boat yard behind the maintenance facili- ties at BBC to secure the five boats that will result in a costly destruction to the Universi- ty’s current boats used by biolog- ical science students and faculty,” Trexler said.

FOODGASM

Vietnamese soup: a picker-upper for gloomy days

GENE KRAVETS
Contributing Writer

On a stormy day, when the sun’s rays are not present to warm my soul, I default to an alternative source: soup.

One particular variety of soup has won over my loyal devotion. In fact, it has become a sort of addiction. It’s flavors are tantalizing. Consuming this soup involves an almost ceremonial procedure. And upon finish, this bowl of pleasure leaves you with a warm, fuzzy feeling and undoubtedly satisfied.

Although it’s more of a whole meal than just a soup, the magnifi- cent dish I’m talking about is pho, a Vietnamese noodle dish served in a large bowl with broth, thinly sliced meat and an assortment of herbs and vegetables.

Beef is the traditional meat used for pho, but sometimes chicken and seafood can serve as alternates.

Finding a pho restaurant is the first step. Most Vietnamese restaur- ants have pho on the menu, however certain places specialize in pho.

Little Saigon in North Miami Beach at 16725 North Miami Avenue serves pho, while Pho 78 in Holly- wood at 2430 North University Drive and in Pembroke Pines at 7449 Pinecrest Boulevard specializes in the dish, but also has other Vietnamese dishes.

The next step is ordering. Typi- cally there will be a numbered menu of pho varieties to choose from. The only difference between the varieties is the cuts of meat that are added to the soup.

If you are unfamiliar with the names of different cuts, I recommend going with the eye-round, and/or brisket or flank.

Eating pho can be a little bit intimi- dating to a first-timer, but adven- turous eaters can go for tripe and tendon in their pho.

Once you order, the steaming hot pho should be brought out in less than a few minutes with a plate of veggies to customize the flavor of your broth. Bean sprouts, herbs and jalapenos are thrown into the bowl and then are also a few types of sauces that are always on the table.

The red one is called Sriracha, which you can add if you want more spice. The thick black sauce is called hoisin, which you can add if you want more sweetness.

The not so thick liquid black one, which will smell bad, is called fish sauce, which you should add a little bit of if your pho is bland. Limes can also be squeezed into the broth.

Once you have customized the pho to your liking, it’s time to eat. The two utensils you should use are the ladle spoon and the chopsticks.

The most popular method to consume pho is by holding each utensil in a different hand while alter- nating between eating the noodles with the chopsticks and the broth with the spoon.

The savory flavor of the pho can leave you desiring something sweet to balance your palate. Vietnamese iced coffee is a delicate treat that people tend to enjoy after a bowl of pho.

The iced coffee is an interesting experience itself. When the iced coffee is brought out it is not yet ready to drink.

The coffee cup only has condensed milk in the bottom, which is like a thick sweet cream, and a device on top called a drip filter that brews the coffee right into the cup. If the cup is clear you can watch your fresh coffee drip into it.

Once the coffee is finished drip- ping you will stir it to combine the condensed milk and it will turn a lighter brown color.

Then after transferring your coffee into a glass of ice that also comes with the coffee, you can enjoy this deli- cious treat.

Pho has become a passion of mine. Out of the many people to whom I’ve introduced it to the vast majority have also come to love it.

It is filling and a great picker- upper for a gloomy day. So next time you have the blues, or just an empty stomach, why not grab a pho.

WHERE TO FIND PHO

Little Saigon
• 16725 North Miami Ave.
  North Miami Beach

Pho 78
• 2430 N. University Dr.
  Hollywood