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University testing out move to Moodle

MICHAEL JEFFERY
Contributing Writer

As the University’s contract with its Learning Management System Blackboard CE6 ends this year, a plan to switch to Moodle by summer 2011 is underway.

This past summer, University Technology Services and Educational Technology Services launched Moodle for 34 web-assisted courses under eCampus.

The feedback from the pilot was very positive and helped ETS plan for all 354 web-assisted to use Moodle as their Learning Management System by summer 2011. Moodle, which is an acronym for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, is used in over 200 countries, making it the most widely used open-source LMS.

The advantage of using open-source software is that “there is a dynamic worldwide user and developer community that is actively developing new features, add-ons, and plugins that are made freely available to everyone using the open-source program” explained Dr. Mary Haley, assistant director of ETS. For the past four years the University has been using the commercial LMS Blackboard CE6 for web-
**WEIRD NEWS**

**Charlie the Smoking Chimp Dies**

Charlie the smoking chimp has taken his last puff. The cigarette-loving simian, who gained worldwide fame years ago after videos of him puffing away were widely circulated, has died at the relatively advanced age of 52 at a South African zoo.

Only about seven percent of captive chimps make it past age 40, according to a 2007 Harvard study cited by the New York Daily News. Charlie apparently learned to smoke while working as a circus performer in the U.S. Though Charlie is dead, officials are thinking of having him stuffed.

**Thousands of condoms clog Games village drains**

Thousands of flushed condoms threaten to clog the Commonwealth Village’s drainage system, Reuters said, in the latest problem to hit the venue from hidden snakes to outbreaks of AIDS.

Games organizers are now battling to clear clogged drains after thousands of non-biodegradable contraceptives were flushed down toilets in the first week of the event.

Games organizers had provided 8,000 free condoms in the village, and the provision appears to be in high demand. Over 4,000 had already been snapped up by eager athletes in a tradition that has occurred since the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

**Women had 77 cats living in 2 cars**

Two women, 54-year-old Regina Millard and 61-year-old Bertie Ryan, both of Tynny, N.Y. have been cited for animal cruelty in Vermont after police found 77 cats living in two cars.

The Bennington Banner reports that Police say one of the cats was found dead in the trunk of one of the cars. Plates of food were inside and some of the cats had fecal matter matted to their fur.

Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette says the women owned two of the cats and were apparently looking for homes for the rest.

— Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

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**Law schools judged on bar passage rate and average debt of students**

**VALUE, page 1**

sity, followed by Brigham Young University and the University of Louisville. The schools selected were to have a bar pass rate higher than the state average.

The 2009 FIU rate for first-time takers was 81 percent.

Another factor taken into account for the list was the average debt of law graduates, in which FIU was close to the ranking’s limit of $100,000.

The National Jurist obtained the average debt information from the U.S. News & World Report.

To be included in the selection, the employment rate nine months after graduation had to be at least 85 percent of the class.

FIU’s statistics for the Class of 2009 reached 91 percent.

In-state tuition was also an important factor for the University’s high rank, which in 2009 was at $14,203.20 annually for the day division and $9,942.24 for night students.

“Money was a major reason for me to come to attend a state school in Florida,” said Law school student Derrick Feinman.

The University’s College of Law has attracted many students because of the comparatively low cost of tuition, as well as improve- ments in the curriculum.

“The tuition, professors and location were all factors of why I chose to go to FIU for law school,” said Gretel Salazar, law student.

The study by The National Jurist also found that most of the students that go to law school find jobs in the same area.

Thus, they recommend future lawyers consider whether the school they attend is in an area where they would want to spend at least a few years.

“I take pride in the fact that I can go to a great law school, take advantage of all that FIU has to offer in terms of quality professors and curriculum and do so at a relatively good price,” said Feinman.

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**Investigative report on regulations for political parties draws questions**

**SGA, page 1**

committee, according to Aluicio.

“This is a bill that will not be voted on, and there is no oversight on the money,” Aluicio said. “How can we base it on the elec- tion and $9,942.24 for night students.”

It’s a bill that needs to be heard,” O’Keefe said.

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“I take pride in the fact that I can go to a great law school, take advantage of all that FIU has to offer in terms of quality professors and curriculum and do so at a relatively good price,” said Feinman.
The women’s soccer team suffered their first loss in the Sun Belt Conference against Middle Tennessee on Oct. 10, losing 3-1.

The Golden Panthers (8-5, 1-5 SBC) committed a total of 12 fouls for the entire game, something the team is not accustomed to doing.

“This was only the fourth time FIU hit double digits in fouls for a game, and also the third most this year. “I’d put that in terms of Middle Tennessee a rough opponent, so if they hit us we would just be scrapping and then we would get the foul,” said Nicole DiPerna about the physical play on both sides of the ball.

Middle Tennessee (7-8, 4-2 SBC) ended up with just six fouls on the day.

In the first half, MTSU didn’t waste any time getting the lead, as Vanessa Mueggler, the Blue Raiders leading scorer and with now ten goals, put the ball in the net on a corner coming from Whitney Jorgenson.

The goal came with just under 14 minutes into the game, setting the Golden Panthers back early.

Not only was Mueggler the leading goal getter for MTSU, coming into the game, but she was also second in the SBC as well.

Up to this point in the season, the Panthers have done a very good job on containing the top player of their opponents, especially in the SBC.

In this game however, Mueggler was able to get the most shots on goal for either team with three total.

“We didn’t have the strongest attack as we usually do today, and I think that’s what we feel short,” Golden Panthers midfielder April Perry said. “Our attack wasn’t strong because we weren’t very composed up top, so it hurt us a lot.”

The Panthers were able to strike back shortly after to make it a 1-1 match, when freshman Crystal McNamara shot the ball inside the box at the 29 minute mark for her first goal on the year.

This gave the Golden Panthers plenty of time and chances to be able to take control of the game, and the lead.

At the end of the first 45 minutes of action, the game remained tied at one a piece.

The second half started with a bang, as MTSU was able to strike early again, this time in only four minutes, as Mueggler got the ball in the outside box and stuck it into the left corner, making the lead 2-1 in favor of the Blue Raiders.

It was time for FIU to comeback yet again, except this time it was not to be, as Muegglers second goal proved to be the game winner.

MTSU also put in an insurance goal six minutes later, with Jessika Osseguerra scoring off a free kick from 30 yards out, to increase the lead to 3-1 with about 36 minutes left to play for FIU to mount a comeback, or at the very least send it into overtime and maybe pull out a tie.

In the end the outcome remained at 3-1 Middle Tennessee over FIU, and the first loss of SBC play drops FIU to now second in the conference standings, with Denver remaining undefeated.

“It’s not easy, especially coming off a five game winning streak,” Perry said. “We’re very disappointed that we had the let up today, but I think that it’s just going to make us more aggressive the next game, so it make sure we get another streak going.”

MEN’S SOCCER: FIU 2, FAU 0

Nicolas Rodriguez had one assist and the game-tying goal for the Panthers (5-5-0, 0-2-0 Conference-USA) as they played the Florida Atlantic Owls (2-6-2) on Oct. 9 and came away with a 2-0 win.

Rodriguez buried an easy give away from FAU goalkeeper Shane Lopez had his second clean sheet of the season.

Coming up big for the Panthers was the freshman six foot-five defender Jonathan DevAlldivieso with six tackles in just nine minutes of play. But leading the way for FIU was star freshman Nicolas Rodriguez, who finished with one goal, one assist, three tackles as a forward and playing 64 minutes starting in the mid portion of the first half.

Panthers’ goalkeeper Shane Lopez had his second clean sheet of the season. He finished with only one save, however.

The Golden Panthers come back home to play conference rival Memphis on Oct. 3 at 7 pm.
Henne improves despite setbacks

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

The Miami Dolphins’ complex is flanked by several small-college campuses, and quarterback Chad Henne could pass for a graduate student. He arrives early, studies late and often lugs a notebook under his arm.

Occasionally he flunks a test. Henne’s many fans include former Dolphins coaches Don Shula and Jimmy Johnson, who say the franchise finally has a good at last year.”

“Definitely. There’s no question,” he said. “There are some really positive things he’s capable of leading the Dolphins to the playoffs.”

“Absolutely. I would definitely come to you if you’re one-on-one with a linebacker. Wouldn’t you guys come to me first?” He looks at me and said, “Yeah, absolutely. I would definitely come to you if you’re one-on-one with a linebacker.”

“I felt like the two goals they scored in the second half came against the run of play, and that we were sitting better than they were. However, we just did our thing today, we were better against the run.”

“Panther defense was key,” Henne said. “The defense was key for us to win the game. They played well and kept the offense out of the end zone.”

“Initially, Chad was really good in his consistency with his reads, and aside from Monday, he was pretty good intensity,” coach Tony Sparano said. “Where you’re behind like that, you don’t mind me,” Marshall said. “Nine times out of 10, I probably wasn’t, and he said, ‘Yeah, absolutely, I would definitely come to you if you’re one-on-one with a linebacker.’”

“Then he says, ‘Were you open?’ and I said, ‘No.’” Marshall laughed and said Henne knows better than to take him too seriously.

“It’s one of those things where wide receivers always think they’re open, so don’t mind me,” Marshall said. “Nine times out of 10, I probably wasn’t, and he did exactly what he was supposed to do.”

“It’s that 10th time that gets Henne in trouble. He sometimes forces throws against soft defenses, and that was the case against the Patriots, who often dropped seven or eight players into coverage.”

“Next time to fall into place for Chad is continually being patient,” Pennington said. “The Patriots’ philosophy was to see if this young quarterback can be patient. It was a good learning experience for him.”

“He has a guy who bounces back with a pretty good intensity,” coach Tony Sparano said. “He doesn’t really get rattled a whole lot.”

“I see progress in a lot of areas,” Henne said. “There’s no question.”

“This is the sixth year in a row that the Golden Panthers has lost to the Blue Raiders and was not able to avenge their only loss in the conference from last season.”

“All the credit to Mueggler, he’s doing a great job with his players and keeping the defense on track.”

“Every time Chad goes off in his rampages, I have to remind him that he’s not the only one in the locker room,” Pennington said. “We always have to have a backup plan if something goes wrong.”

“Mueggler’s the head coach and he’s got a lot of experience in the NFL,” Henne said. “He knows how to get the most out of his players.”

“I felt like the two goals they scored in the second half came against the run of play, and that we were sitting better than they were. However, we just did our thing today, we were not good on the ball. At the end of the day, we couldn’t get ourselves out of it.”

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LIFE!

ISN’T HE LOVELY?

Senior Robby Valls walked away with the first Mr. FIU title. Valls and fellow contestants were judged by a panel of judges including Rosalie Rosenberg. Mr. FIU was hosted by the Miss FIU Committee.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Japanese restaurant offers big flavors, reasonable cost

There’s nothing like sushi and sake bombs to bring friends together.

A good friend of mind decided that it was high time that we - all 16 of us - went out on a date.

After a brief discussion, we all came to the conclusion that sushi was the name of the game.

Shibui, 7101 SW 102 Street, is a small dive with a highly extensive menu featuring a host of Japanese specialties.

For those who aren’t ready to venture into the world of sushi or simply want a hot meal, entrées such as teriyaki and tempura are available for your enjoyment.

While a good part of the crew enjoyed sake, I decided that a green iced tea was more my speed.

When it arrived, I was somewhat concerned with its deep green hue. But the light, refreshing taste dispelled my fears.

For an appetizer, my friend (and our lovely Life! Editor Adriana) and I shared the Combo, Combo, a sampler featuring a dish of kai-kakiage (fried conch fritters), tatsuta-age (marinated chicken wings), shigi-yake (fried eggplant with miso sauce) and beef gyoza (a savory dumpling).

Although we enjoyed the entire dish, a favorite of mine was the eggplant. The smoky sweetness of the miso sauce and its melt-in-your-mouth texture was heavenly.

Shibui’s menu contains 45 different sushi roll varieties. If it were up to me, I would try each one. Alas, I was confined to sampling only a few.

I stepped outside of tradition for a bit and tried the Louisiana Roll, a combination of cooked crawfish, asparagus, masago and lettuce.

With this being my first time trying crawfish, and in such a unique preparation, I must say I was impressed overall.

The light sweetness of the crawfish and the refreshing astringent of asparagus complemented each other quite well, especially with a tiny dollop of wasabi.

I was also able to try a bit of the Combination Nori-Maki dinner, which includes a tuna roll, a cucumber roll, half a Shibui roll and two additional rolls with your choice of filling.

In this case, the two additional rolls were both of salmon.

I could tell that Shibui used fresh fish in this roll; no unpleasant aftertaste followed and I didn’t even need wasabi or soy sauce to enhance the flavor.

For dessert, a few of us decided to split an order of tempura ice cream and tempura cheesecake.

The tempura ice cream was a hit: the outer crust was light enough not to interfere with the vanilla.

Also, the warmth of the cheesecake was a pleasant surprise and a fantastic compliment to the ice cream.

Although the food was on point, I must discourage you from going to Shibui with a large crowd.

Since the establishment is so small, we were quite cramped for space.

Target Wednesday After Hours

Target Wednesday After Hours. The Museum will feature the opening reception for Embracing Modernity: Venezuelan Geometric Abstraction; Florida Artist Series; Selections from Anomie 1492-2006 by Arnold Mesches; Xavier Cortada’s Staqemantle and La Habana Moderna in the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at The Frost Art Museum.

This evening will also include a speed networking event, “How to Work a Room” open to all FIU Students with valid FIU ID. The presentation will begin at 5pm.

Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum’s exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and performance art.

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events, please visit http://thefrost.fiu.edu
Cancer fighting super foods add flavor and power to meals

In light of National Breast Cancer awareness month, here are six cancer fighting foods that are delicious and easy to incorporate into your diet.

1. FLAXSEED

Flaxseed has been shown to fight cancers of the colon, breast, and intestines in animals. Flaxseed does this by providing omega-3 fatty acids, which are anti-infl ammatory, and by being a good source of lignans. Lignans have a weak estrogen effect and skin cancer cells and also disrupt the trannins are able to stop the growth of breast cancer.

Also try the juice by brands such as POM and mix with water, grapefruit juice or club soda if the flavor is too strong.

3. TURMERIC

Turmeric is a yellow spice with anti-oxidant and anti-cancer properties, turmeric can easily become a part of your diet.

To get the most out of tomatoes, cook them with oil or consume highly processed versions such as tomato sauce and paste. Doing this makes their lycopene more available to your body.

Try whole wheat pasta with tomato sauce or green beans cooked in a tomato sauce for dinner this week.

Other than their anti-cancer properties, tomatoes are delicious, low calorie and high in vitamins A and C.

5. GREEN TEA

All teas have phytochemicals called polyphenols. Green tea has the highest concentration of the polyphenol catechin which is an antioxidant twenty-five to one-hundred times more powerful than Vitamin C or E. These compounds have been shown to protect against skin, lung, prostate, breast and liver cancer.

Always opt to make fresh green tea over instant tea, and add fresh mint leaves for enhanced flavor.

Also, you can make tea and sweeten it with honey while warm, then cool it down overnight in the refrigerator and take as a refreshing drink to school.

6. BROCCOLI

Broccoli contains indole-3-carbinol, a compound that may help fight many different kinds of cancers.

Adding to its list of credentials, broccoli is high in vitamin C, carotenoids, folic acid and low in calories.

Steam or boil frozen broccoli, which is easy and cheap to acquire and keep in stock. As a snack, dip a chip in a cheese sauce made by making a roux from one tablespoon flour and one tablespoon light butter/margarine. Then add low-fat milk and stir until thickened. To finish off, add 2/3 milk shredded cheese such as Monterey Jack or Italian blend.

Also, try adding broccoli to dinner by lightly sauteeing it with olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper.

Voilà! A gourmet side dish is served.

Healthy bits is a bi-weekly health column. Look for it every other Wednesday. Hamo is currently doing her dietetics internship at the recreation center of the Biscayne Bay Campus. There, she offers free nutritional counseling sessions to students.

Eatery not good for groups

In the midst of our meal, one of our friends had to cancel our waitress that he didn’t receive his food, which he ended up getting just in time for dessert.

Another tip: try to stick to the plated dinners that range in cost of $10-$20 on average, as ordering individual rolls from $1-$3 can quickly become pricey.

Food for Thought is a food enthusiast, recipe and restaurant review column. Beacon writers do not receive free food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.

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Bishop Eddie Long, a prominent preacher and figurehead in the African American community, had better start praying rather than preying. On Sep. 23, three young men came forward with accusations of sexual coercion against the pastor. The next day, a fourth man joined in. All four have since filed a civil suit against Long.

Disappointingly, many Black media outlets have been dismissive of these claims, assuming that these men are simply trying to extort Long for his money and defame his reputation. I, however, believe that their claims, along with other claims of sexual abuse, should be dismissed. For now, though, let’s take a look at their situation.

The popular claim regarding Long’s case is that the four of them were soliciting money from him since they have championed him for so long. Although these four men were allegedly victimized, they were also perhaps ironically, been heavily vocal in their support of Long’s rich and powerful reputation. I, however, believe that their claims, along with other claims of sexual assault, should be taken seriously. For now, these four alleged victims should not be dismissed and Long should also undergo an investigation into the legitimacy of these claims.

Long has openly, and perhaps ironically, been heavily vocal in denouncing homosexuality as a sin, going as far as organizing an anti-gay rally that included a march to the grave site of Martin Luther King, Jr. Although these four men were allegedly victimized, they were also parishioners of his church and may have hesitated coming forward due to their beliefs. I, however, believe that the real reason for the silence of these victims is that Long has effectively silenced his critics.

According to an investigation, Long operated a “charity” to stay silent, along with a positive figure in Black America. This is a serious issue that could help to start the discussion on a crime that thrives on secrecy.

I would also like to point out that the Black media will inherently be biased in favor of Long. For many years, various Black media outlets have touted Long as one to look up to, a positive figure in Black America. With this scandal coming to light, Black media in general has been much kinder to Long, coming up with a variety of excuses or citing the “innocent until proven guilty” clause.

However, these were the same ones ready to convict and condemn the Catholic priests that were accused of molestation, the majority of which being White. While I can understand the sense of embarrassment on the Black media’s part for potentially supporting a man guilty of sexual assault, or the need to defend him since they have championed him for so long, I see no reason why they should ease up on their criticisms of these crimes, as these four men may have suffered serious trauma.

True, we don’t know if Long is guilty or not yet. However, the alleged victims should not be dismissed and Long should also undergo the same amount of scrutiny. If nothing else happens, these four men have brought to light this serious issue that could help to start the discussion on a crime that thrives on secrecy.

Media cynicism demeans serious topic

Media cynicism demeans serious topic

Media cynicism demeans serious topic

Editorial page does not represent the views of The Beacon. These views are separate from editorial, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Bea-

Globally, our dependence on cell phones is ubiquitous. It is frustrating when my friends are using their cell phone during dinner,” said Aamr Devletian, junior, economics. “I can’t even remember the last time I had a simple dinner with no cell phone interruptions.”

In addition to making phone calls, we use our cell phones for emails, news updates, bank statements, music, YouTube, pictures and videos. The variety that a mobile device can accomplish is incredible. Cell phones are practically attached to our hands. My phone can help but glance at their phone at least every hour. Usually, there’s nothing important going on, but most still feel compelled to check. This constant desire to check your phone is a bad habit and takes away time from your day.

These days, thinking is secondary. For example, most cell phone users compute the amount they should tip at a restaurant using their calculator application. This is general math. There is no need for a calculator, but because cell phones are accessible at all times, the thought of computing the math is one’s head is outrageous. An individual’s intelligence is diminishing because of the mobile applications available to them.

I do not understand the constant need to be on a cell phone. Honestly, a detachment from it is not going to harm anyone. The information that our cell phone provides will still be there during the hour. There is no need to constantly check for social updates.

A very popular mobile application is Facebook. According to Facebook’s Press Room, “There are more than 150 million users currently accessing Facebook through their mobile device. People that use Facebook on their mobile devices are twice as active on Facebook as those who access it only from a computer.”

These statements are pathetic and shameful. Facebook should allocate their time spent on the site towards reading the news and keeping themselves informed of current affairs.

Facebook also released information in regard to the average time spent on its pages by a user. They said, “People spend over 700 billion minutes per month on Facebook.”

Users do not need to spend anywhere near that number of minutes on the site. The activities that are being conducted on Facebook are a waste of time.

Nothing substantial is being learned. People are just learning tedious things about other people’s lives.

Cell phones are essential in our lives. They are too easy to use and their convenience is phenomenal. Our dependence on cell phones is diminishing because of the mobile applications we use. Our dependence on cell phones is a bad habit and takes away time from your day.

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Nothing is being learned. People are just learning tedious things about other people’s lives.
Every time I see a tall, long-haired, blonde, surfer girl I think of Monica, my girl crush. I met her in class my freshmen year and we hit it off immediately.

By the second week of class, I found myself being walked half-way to my dorm room by Monica and enjoying myself along the way. It became our routine on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

I had no idea she was a lesbian until one day she mentioned her ex-girlfriend in passing.

Soon after, I inevitably started to wonder whether she found me attractive. Then I started questioning myself. If I’m attracted to a lesbian, does that make me bisexual or even a lesbian?

Having a girl crush is more like having a deep admiration for another woman. You think a she’s pretty, has a great personality and appreciate your “first-timer” sentiments. Some people have different views as to staying in the closet and for how long. Others would choose to come out at all. Others would have the guts to go after her.

It’s just a non-sexual, emotional crush. Heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual all have the word “sexual” in them, so as a girl, if you don’t want to get sexual with any other girls, then you’re straight.

However, if you’re not involved in a relationship right now and have a strong sexual attraction towards another woman, just go for it and see where it leads. It may open you up to a whole other realm of experiences you never knew were possible. You might discover a part of your identity that you never knew existed.

If you ask her to hang out, spend an evening bonding with a her and you’re suddenly slapped with the realization that, more than anything, you just want to lean over and kiss her, this should be a red flag.

Hopefully she’ll be able to understand and appreciate your “first-timer” sentiments. Some people have different views as to staying in the closet and for how long.

Some would rather let people come out at their own pace, if they so choose to come out at all. Others would sooner have you scream at the top of your lungs.

If you’re not overcome with these sexual feelings for her, then that’s okay, too. You’ve just gained a new friend of a different variety. Just be upfront about it because she may be more invested into the bonding night than you were.

I didn’t ever have Monica in any other class, I was her friend on MySpace but lost her in the Facebook transition.

We had no other friends in common and I forgot her last name so I was never able to befrend her outside of class.

The last time I saw Monica was sometime last year. I think I shared an elevator with her, but I didn’t realize it was her until she was about to step out into her floor. I just didn’t have the guts to go after her.

Monica, if you’re reading this, my email is at the bottom of this column.

But in full disclosure, I’m not a lesbian and I have no interest in being with a girl. I just want to chat and reminisce.

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ON THE PROWL

Girl crushes do not make you a lesbian

Creative Writing Program brings back reading series

ALEKSANDRA HOBROWICZ
Contributing Writer

Every year the Creative Writing Program invites authors from all over the country to participate in the Writers On The Bay Reading Series, during which they will read excerpts from their published work.

The series was founded by Les Standiford, novelist and director of creative writing, in 1985 with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This series is held annually in conjunction with: Barnes & Noble, the Florida State Arts Council, HCI Publishers and BV Vines and have all continued to present writers from all walks of life.

The main purpose of the series is to help writers meet other writers in the South Florida community. Also, meeting other locals with a similar passion helps further expand their creative writing expertise.

The Writers on the Bay Reading Series sessions mostly take place at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 8 p.m. During readings, authors aren’t limited to only reading from their published works. They may explain their inspirations, writing process or whatever else they feel the need to share with the audience such as their approach to style or usage of voice. Each reading is concluded with a question and answer session followed by a book signing.

A. Manette Ansay, author of six novels, master of fine arts, and professor at the University of Miami, will make an appearance on Oct. 28 at 8 p.m.

She will be reading from her published works, including “Limbo,” which is a memoir of a woman living with a mysterious muscular disorder.

The story was an inspiration because of the age of 23 she was confined to her a motorized wheelchair.

She revisits the abrupt changes she had to face while questioning writing as an escape from her reality.

Past invitees Robert Olmstead and Tom Healy have helped aspiring writers open their minds to more genres and new ideas.

Poet Tom Healy exposed amateurs to the ambivalence of social relationships, Healy expresses himself with an emphatic voice and a wry style of writing, causing his readers to delve into the inner workings of the human psyche.

Generally, readings occur once every two to three months. The next two readings will be on Dec. 2 and Feb. 24.

ST. MARTENE

CUBA

St. Maarten celebrate increased autonomy

Several thousand revelers gathered in the capitals of tiny St. Maarten and Curacao on Oct. 10 to celebrate greater autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom as a result of the breakup of the Netherlands Antilles.

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On COMING OUT DAY

One of the events that happen every year is the Coming Out Day, for days that we have to come out, but this time we are going to celebrate.

Kiva M. Wolken went to the University of Miami and continued to write about the importance of this event.

LEAH MAHAR

SANABRIA

Chavez backs China over Nobel for dissident

President Hugo Chavez expressed solidarity with China’s government on Oct. 10 over the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to a jailed Chinese dissident.

In retrospect, my attraction to Monica is at the bottom of this column.

for dissident