College dropouts costing taxpayers billions of dollars

In addition, Federal aid spent on first-year students is $41,500,000. “I highly believe that there should be a penalty for those students who received funding from colleges, the state and the government, that end up dropping out of school after their first year,” said Lisette Lifschitz, an FIU accounting student.

However, the cost of college students who receive an education and choose to drop out their second year, account for between 2 and 8 percent of states total higher education appropriations. “We’re all about college completion right now, and I agree 100 percent with the college completion agenda and we need a better-educated adult population and workforce,” said Schneider.

According to Robert Lerman, an American University economics professor, it is questionable to try to get individuals to go to a four-year university. He does not think that college is for everyone. “Getting them to go a second year might waste even more money,” Lerman told The Huffington Post.

Florida Universities are ranked as one of the top states with the highest number of students who dropout before their sophomore year. According to the University’s Financial Aid Department, 86% of students receive aid. The average amount of aid for grants is $4,209 and loans $4,721.

Throughout the state of Florida, universities struggle with a high rate of dropout students. The University of Central Florida has a retention rate of 87% of students who return their second year of college, Florida State University with 89% as well as Florida International University with a low 84%.

According to Delio Morato, senior academic advisor at the University’s Department of Undergraduate Education, one of the challenges they are facing is trying to get students in the right direction. “Most students don’t return their sophomore year because of a bad GPA,” Morato said. “Others are simply undecided about their major and choose to take a break, which in most cases they do not return.”

The University Advising Center has come up with a plan to avoid students from dropping out of college.
Collier stresses increased market access for poor nations

**PLenary, page 1**

billion at the bottom are diverging from the rest of mankind, missing out on the last 40 years of unprecedented growth and prosperity."

Collier argues that the real challenge with poverty is to get that "bottom billion" to stop diverging from the rest of mankind and start converging.

"Having a billion people in 50 or 60 countries at the bottom of the world economy continuing to diverge for another half century would be truly alarming," said Collier.

Collier believes that it is of dire importance that these countries catch up, otherwise they risk falling apart, which would be a "nightmare for everyone."

"Both compassion and enlightened self-interest should tell us to do something about this because it is unthinkable that in a world of unparalleled economic opportunity a billion people should be living in societies that don't provide credible homes," said Collier. "We don't want any more Afghan-ians or Somalis!"

Collier went into examples of countries that fall into his criteria for the "bottom billion country." According to Collier, Haiti is an example of a country with a large population that needs help, which are undecided about whether to work in the construction center or not.

In layman's terms this means a lot of skilled young people in Haiti to work in the construction sector.

Another way for Haiti and other poor countries to jumpstart their economy, according to Collier, is for the rich and more developed countries to grant them market access, specifically citing Haiti's garment industry, which was granted privileged access in the United States after the earthquake.

"When the Chinese bring garments into America they have to pay tariffs and duties; Haiti does not," said Collier. "Once America passed the act, the rich and other poor countries in the world told the Haitian garment firm in Korea, "you went to Haiti, took a look and committed in the first instance to a big factory that will create 20,000 jobs.""

Once Collier finished his presentation, the stage opened to a panel of University professors, which included: Dr. Gail Hollander, associate professor of global and sociocultural studies; Dr. Jean Rahier, director of African Diaspora Studies and associate professor of global and sociocultural studies; and Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, professor of politics and international relations.

Gamorra commented on a report Collier prepared for the United Nations last year, which talks about what Haiti needs in order to get out of the bottom billion.

"In many ways, what Collier was saying about Haiti is what Foreign Policy Magazine would call a failed state," said Gamorra. "More interesting were the solutions, not the diagnosis. Most of us in the social science have a real difficulty when it comes to what we can do and I think our students are frustrated by our wonderful ability to diagnose but trouble coming to solutions."

**Impact of humans on ecosystems discussed by faculty during summit**, page 8

SUMMIT, page 8

building subsidies along the coastlines above the estimated rise in sea level.

Florida Law states that no sea walls are to be built, however, there tends to be a few exceptions. According to Babbitt, some of the main reasons for this law is that it will almost completely block the view of the ocean and will require much maintenance. In Layman's terms this means a lot of unhappy residents, money needed to invest and South Florida may not be one of the top tourism retreats any longer.

However, James Forquean, professor of biological sciences, had a different opinion.

"There will be absolutely no place for the beaches and dunes to migrate if sea walls are built," Forquean said. "I propose we create a wetland; this would initially cost more than a sea wall but requires no later maintenance."

"And you know who works in the American construction center?" Collier asked the audience. "Disproportionately, the Haitian Diaspora, so there is potential to use the skilled Haitian Diaspora to provide those skills that will enable the less skilled young people in Haiti to work in the construction sector."

Forquean feels that the negative impact on the natural ecosystems outweigh the positives in this particular case.

Laura Ogden, professor of global and sociocultural studies, states "a new kind of science is needed—one that requires proper leadership and new environmental governments."

Scott Smith, English professor, concluded that "nature is a political concept; it is a public dumping ground that needs a literary imagination."

Some of the attendees felt very passionate about the topic and demanded answers for their much sought after questions.

"How can we stop the destruction of the environment?" Victor, a sociology professor, asked. Babbitt responded, "In Florida we do have a major cities is used for landscaping," said Babbitt. "In Florida we have a story of success," Babbitt responded. "We regulated, managed, and improved logging from public lands, and national forests in this country."

Babbitt said this was the result of the Clinton administration set aside nine million acres of public land.

Rebecca Vega-Thurber, assistant professor of biology, wanted to know what people can do to conserve the environment rather than just keep fixing things as they are destroyed.

Babbitt cited an example of conservation already taking place in South Florida.

"More than half of the water in major cities is used for landscaping," said Babbitt. "In Florida we do have a governmental regulatory tool, it’s called the South Florida Water Management Industry. We are already beginning to conserve here in South Florida."

**University set on improving retention**, page 1

University set on improving retention

**DROPouts, page 1**

The program is called Bridge Advisers, which will focus primarily on guiding first year students on the right track.

"We will find out which students need help, which are undecided about their major and what their goals and questions are," said Morato.

Some of the main ideas of the program will include more involvement from the advisors with the students, school spirit and a plan for critical investments.
**FOOTBALL: DARRIAN MALLARY**

**RUNNING AWAY**

Mallary adds strength and breaks out for Golden Panthers

**JONATHAN RAMOS**

Sports Director

During a 37-yard run in the second quarter of a win against Western Kentucky on Oct. 9, Darrian Mallary seemed to have a sure touchdown after sweeping down the sideline before getting brought down by a defensive tackle from behind.

Six-foot-five Quanterus Smith caught the five-foot-eight Mallary from behind to prevent the score.

The play drew laughter from the FIU sideline. “I didn’t see it coming,” Mallary said. “I thought it was over with so I was just going to jog in the end zone. But when I looked back, I saw someone coming so I was going to get up but he already had me.”

Mallary scored on the next play, and went on to finish with a career high 97 yards. He hasn’t been getting caught much this season.

The truth is Mallary could have easily jetisoned ahead of Smith if he wanted to. The elusive running back runs a 4.38 second 40-yard dash, enough to make him among the fastest players on the team. His quickness and athleticism earned him the name “Ooh” when he was a youth player and was able to rely on his speed to lead Miami-Dade County in rushing during his senior year in high school at Gulliver Prep.

“Ohh,” however, was bottled up during his freshman season and didn’t even play in the last two games.

As a freshman at the University, speed wasn’t a problem. It was size and inexperience. Just last year, Mallary was struggling to find holes and explode like he is used to.

Mallary was held to just 103 yards on 31 carries, in large part due to a delayed adjustment to the speed of the game and a small frame. “I worked on my lower body,” he said. “I had small legs. I’m strong up top. I just had to get my legs stronger.”

Mallary bench pressed 335 pounds, but only could muster around 200 pounds in the squat as a freshman. Now Mallary squats over 400 pounds, and has gained about 16 pounds from last season, up to over 190 pounds.

The former Gulliver Prep star also had to get used to the college game in regards to timing and being more instinctive in letting his blocks develop.

Head coach Mario Cristobal noticed the difference.

“It’s just a different speed of the game,” Cristobal said. “Things close a lot quicker. Things that aren’t there upon receiving the football all of a sudden appear two steps later. He’s learned that and he’s playing fast.”

Mallary has adjusted and is averaging almost twice as many yards per carry (5.6) than he did in 2009 (3.1). Although he profiles as a shifty running back and not a typical bruiser, he takes notes from his idol, Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis. Mallary talks occasionally with Portis and watches him every chance he gets.

**FANTASY CRUZ**

Chris Cooley is biggest fantasy disappointment of season

**T**he NFL is the most professional sports league currently in America. There is only one team left with a single loss and no wins. The Jets are 5-1, while the Bills are 0-5. As to this equating to fantasy football; every team in the NFL has at least 5 or 6 players that owners can count on from week to week.

Two games on Sunday ended with a 23-20 victory and ironically were both upsets.

In the rematch of last season’s first round playoff game the Patriots squeezed season’s first round playoff ended with a 23-20 victory .

As to this a single loss and no one team left with currently in America.

In the rematch of last two games on Sunday.

**COMMENTARY**

**JOEY CRUZ**

Mike Single-tary’s style of coaching hyped people up with his in-your-face attitude and charisma. Apparently his methods have not been too successful this season.progressed.

Avoiding a terrible fate of 0-5, Alex Smith threw the football for nearly 200 yards and 2 touchdowns in the 49ers win against their state rival the Oakland Raiders. Frank Gore showed his athletic ability running for 149 yards and no touchdowns surprisingly.

The Titans and Jaguars probably hosted the most boring Monday Night Football game this season.

Both teams offer lackluster offenses that revolve solely on the production of their running backs. The only reason Chris Johnson had over 100 yards rushing was because of a late 35-yard run in between the tackles for a touchdown.

Andy Reid already recently had a QB controversy where Vick was labeled his starter due to a Kevin Kolb concussion.

How the tables have turned on Reid with the same scenario; just reverse now. Kevin Kolb has now won 2 straight, starting for an injured Michael Vick. Kolb threw for 326 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Both Dirty Bird enthusiasts Michael Jenkins and Roddy White combined for nearly 200 yards receiving also.

**THE TRASH BIN**

**Chris Cooley** (Washington Redskins)- would you think Cooley would have a breakout season now that he has a legitimate presence at QB. He just has not pulled through with a successful game yet. His best game offered a 69-yard performance with no touchdowns. It’s very strange how Cooley can go from the Redskins go-to receiving option to the least favored in Shanahan’s offense. Its not like the Redskins are not scoring.

Shonn Greene (New York Jets)- how does Greene let a washed up running back just take his starting job. Oh that’s right, it’s Ladainlian Tomlinson. Greene has been outplayed and outshined by Tomlinson all season. Other than Greene’s 117-yard game, his second highest game rushing the ball was for 57 yards. And Tomlinson is only getting better as the season goes on. Greene needs some versatility in his game. Baura.

Donald Driver (Green Bay Packers)- with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, Driver should be seeing the ball quite often. Without Ryan Grant and a steady run game it’s hard to catch defenses off guard in getting Driver the ball.

Last game against the Dolphins Driver had a measly 3 catches for 31 yards. Grant is not coming back any time soon. Trash
MALLARY, page 3

Although Mallary can’t emulate a power running style, he doesn’t mind mixing it up in the blocking game, especially with his interchangeable strength.

“That’s what I take pride in, because I’m a smaller guy but I’m not afraid to stick my nose in something,” he said. “At Gulliver, I was just running. Last year, they didn’t mind mixing it up in the blocking game, especially with his changeable strength. Mallary has produced with the rest of FIU’s running backs to give Cristobal the best backfield he has had since he arrived in 2007. The Golden Panthers are averaging 153 yards per game, good for fourth in the Sun Belt Conference.

“We are different players. [Darriet Perry] is a pounder. [Kedrick Rhodes] got speed. We play off each other,” Mallary said. “At camp time, I was thinking ‘It’s going to be crazy this year,’ but I’ve been playing football since I was four years old. There’s always competition.”

Golden Panthers should still not start off lines

**CRUZ, page 3**

**HOT PICKS**

Deion Branch (New England Patriots) - Bill Belichick’s ingenuity increases with every trade and free agent move he makes. Reunited once again with Tom Brady, Branch looks like he has not left the Patriots since he won a Super Bowl MVP and championship in 2002.

Against the unstopable defense of the Ravens, Branch had nearly 100 yards and touchdown. Brady has not lost chemistry with Branch and their performance has paired with the rest of FIU’s receivers.

“I think this weekend we’ll be crazy this year,” Branch said. “At the beginning, we can’t take care of business and make mistakes. We’ve developed so much in the short period of time. We’re of sophomores. Never theless, Tomic still feels that this team “will win when it matters.” This road trip feels that this team “will win when it matters.” This road trip should count as those moments. The road trip could be the defining point for this team, as to whether they should be considered a top tiered conference team, or a mediocre team that needs to restructure what they’ve been doing. Angeline Colon feels that this team has the talent to be at the top level and just needs to keep working on it.

“I almost feel that we’re a completely different team than when we started,” Colon said. “We’ve developed so much in the short period of time. We’re not at the point where we want to be at, we’re not satisfied yet, so I’m excited to see how we progress through the rest of the season.”

Coming off the tough loss to Western Kentucky, the players feel very confident and focused for the road trip, including Colon.

“We think this weekend we’ll take care of business and make sure we beat the teams the way we’re supposed to,” Colon said.
University student publishes novel at 20

ASHLEY MARIE LAPADULA
Contributing Writer

Greisy Padron has a lot on her hands these days. In addition to going to class and having a social life, Padron is the author, editor, and publisher of How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less, a full-length novel due for release on Dec. 25, 2010. Born in Camaguey, Cuba, she moved to Miami when she was only six years old. By the time she was eight, Padron had developed a desire to write short stories. After graduating from Ferguson High School in 2008, she pursued a degree in English Literature at the University. Padron says her primary motivation is to “write stories, more specifically about girls and people like myself who want to be entertained and will not settle for a throw away plot.” She’s taken on the role of editor for her work because she wants to control the editing and distribution portions of her work. Padron feels she needs to be the one to determine her audience, not a publishing company. She even started an organization for young writers called Andromeda Literary Group for Teen Authors. The group is a small press and publisher dedicated to young authors as they publish their work without the representation of a major publisher.

Padron’s role model is Cassandra Claire, an author who wrote many years for an online audience before moving to print. Students will likely catch Padron writing in her preferred venue, the Green Library, which she considers a quiet place to write and let her ideas flow and come together.

Padron started writing How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less when she was 19 years-old. “I did not think I was going to publish it at the time because I had written so many other things before. I decided to edit it and publish it this year in August,” Padron says. “I did not like how teenagers were being depicted in today’s life. I know teenagers come but where is everything else? I wanted to portray teenage characters in a slightly more authentic way than a commercial would show.”

How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less is set in a prestigious college. The story follows a boy whose imaginary girlfriend becomes a dangerous hallucination, and he must seduce the real life girl, Elena, who wears the imaginary girl’s face.

The cover for the book was originally drawn by Marlene Freimanis, who allowed Padron to use the art for her first book. It was chosen because the girl on the cover resembles how Padron imagines Elena, specifically the imaginary version of her. In anticipation of the book’s release this Christmas, she will post four related short stories, The Companions, from the point of view of the four main characters: Adam, Dev, Elena & Miles, will tell the story of what happens before, during and after the events of the novel.

Padron is also currently working on a trilogy that will be published after her first book is released. The trilogy follows a supernatural romance theme. According to Padron, her work is not intended for children due to the mature content of her writing. Her characters will usually curse, occasionally use/abuse drugs and almost certainly have sex. Something she isn’t afraid to talk about in her work.

Padron doesn’t see her accomplishment as something so out of the ordinary. “Read a lot, write a lot, there are no limits, no restrictions, no reason to stop doing what you love,” she advises fellow students.

How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less will be released on Dec. 25, 2010 and will be available through Barnes & Noble, the Kindle store at Amazon.com, and www.gpadron.com.

Cover art for How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less designed by Marlene Freimanis.

iPod proving itself to be more than an

When the iPod was first released I said something to the effect that it was a really feature rich, overpriced eBook reader that didn’t shift any paradigms.

In hindsight, now that the device is approaching its first year on the market, I may have been just a tad harsh.

Let’s analyze a few generalizations folks make about the iPod.

THE IPOD IS A DEVICE GEARED TOWARD CONTENT CREATION MORE THAN CONSUMPTION.

In Steve Jobs’ eyes, the iPod is a device that users can create content on. With apps like Sketchpad and Apple’s iWork suite, it seems like that is what he wants to see. The iPod is still not a device to create. Writing a paper, or a column for that matter, on the iPod is difficult and demands a lot of resources. The input method is intuitive but nowhere near as accurate as a computer.

The iPod is the ideal device to consume content. Readers such as the popular Reeder and Instapaper apps allow you to consume RSS feeds easily and efficiently.

Magazines and newspapers are also taking advantage of the platform by thinking outside the box a bit in terms of layout. Publications like Esquire Magazine and Popular Mechanics are creating some really unique ePubs that offer readers a good mix of multimedia.

The only problem is that now publishers are forced to split their profits with Apple, so there goes the whole “iPod saving journalism” thing. But that’s a whole other column.

My iPod exists to help me digest information, not to create documents, slide shows, or blog posts.

If you want to create beautiful artwork or a great multimedia presentation, get a computer.

THE IPOD CAN STAND ON ITS OWN AS A NEW COMPUTING PLATFORM.

The iPod is a new platform for computing, but it most definitely cannot stand on its own. I think the iPod is a great compliment to a steady home computer, especially for folks who appreciate a more catered, less complicated experience like my Mom, who just wants something that gets her where she needs to go on the Internet.

But just as it compliments a good computer, it also needs it desperately. Much like an iPod or an iPhone, managing an iPod requires a computer with iTunes. Particularly encouraging for a device whose price is triple that of a netbook, running a full-fledged operating system.

SO WHAT IS THE IPOD THEN?

The iPod is ultimately two, very different things: a fantastic device for consuming and sharing content and proof of concept that this way to interact with a computer simply works.

By the time you read this, Mac OS X Lion would have been revealed. Rumor is that more and more iOS will be making its way in to the full desktop experience.

I think what we are seeing here is Apple making a move to integrate this type of input method with a more robust computing experience unfettered by governance, or so we think.

If we are truly to see an OS X with more multi-touch and more iOS than I hope Apple’s iron fist stays on my iPhone and doesn’t find its way to my Macbook.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column about all things technological. For more tech news and commentary, check out FoT! online at fistfulsoftech.fiusm.com.

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Acting by numbers

ROCKY, page 1

The plot of the play centers around Janet Weiss and Brad Majors, a newly engaged couple whose car breaks down. In search of a safe haven, they stumble upon Frank-N-Furter's castle. The play is a transvestite from Transsexual, Transamen.

Robert Alter, a senior BFA performance and design major who plays the doctor, found it easy to explain his character.

“He’s an alien transvestite who is bent on controlling and harnessing human life through any means necessary. He’s a scientist who creates Frankenstein, the perfect human. He’s a man of perfection in a golden Speedo,” said Alter.

When it comes to the extreme and ridiculous plot of the movie, Alter said the film wasn’t meant to be taken seriously and that’s how the idea for “shadowing” the play came about because it gives audience members a chance to poke fun at the movie.

“The movie is ridiculous. [Shadowing] the movie gets people in the atmosphere and it’s a fun way for people to ridicule the movie,” said Alter.

The rehearsal process was a new experience for the theater students. Because the play has the actors on stage mimicking the actors on the screen in the background, the actors had to watch the movie countless times to perfect their mannerisms and lines.

“[Shadowing] allowed us to be out of our bodies, out of our heads and away from a traditional script,” said Alter.

“Watching the movie makes the process easier and harder. It’s like acting by numbers, kind of like coloring by numbers. You can do whatever you want, but you’re still bound by what they do on the screen. You are creating a genuine representation, as close as or as loose as possible, depending on what approach you want,” Alter added.

The play will be a fun, unconventional thing to do this weekend, especially for on-campus housing students, according to Hanine.

“It’s a fun thing to do if you can’t get into a club on South Beach and you’re interested in seeing a fun show that’s out of the norm,” said Hanine.

“ Gaston” or “Be Our Guest.” The latter is choreographed with the legacy of choreographer Busby Berkeley in mind featuring over head shots of dancing plates and champagne bottles rolling in the best Broadway tradition. Lumiere, the candlestick table voice by Jerry Orbach, channels 1930’s French film star Maurice Chevalier at his finest.

The beauty of what the artists at Disney Animation Studios were able to do in the 1990s, particularly with this film, lay in their ability to create a whole new legacy for the studio which for all intents and purposes had refused to change styles and sensibilities during the 1970’s and 1980’s.

There’s a famous story of a young John Lasseter being fired from the studios for proposing to make a full-length movie animated with computer graphics back in 1982. He went on to direct Toy Story and be the founder of Pixar.

Of course, the animators of this film would end up using computer effects during the film’s title musical number, a sweeping shot of the Beast and Belle gliding across a dance floor as Mrs. Potts, voiced by Angela Lansbury, sings on.

This film set up the blue print for the following decade of Disney releases: vast scales,]), images, musical numbers and romance.

The townspeople at the climax of the film are at arms, marching towards the Beast’s castle to eliminate him. We see the mob in the reflection of a puddle in the woods. Images of the Seven Dwarves play through my mind as I watch that.

The film embraces the best of Disney tradition: haunting images with a definite good and definite evil force pushing the plot along with great imagination.

The definite evil here is not Gaston, however, who’s intent on killing the Beast and stealing Belle’s heart. The evil is ignorance, the unwillingness to see beyond the exterior of people.

At the good hand here, then, is the willingness to embrace new people and ideals and dreams.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie column. Look for it every Friday.

Tale as old as time still speaks to modern audiences

There’s a scene early in Beauty and the Beast where Belle, the daughter of an inventor in a French provincial town, sings of searching for adventure in the great wide somewhere.

In the townspeople at the climax of the film are at arms, marching towards the Beast’s castle to eliminate him. We see the mob in the reflection of a puddle in the woods. Images of the Seven Dwarves play through my mind as I watch that.

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Reel to Reel is a weekly movie column. Look for it every Friday.
Wealth redistribution a punishment for success

**SHEDWIN ELLIASSI**  Contributing Writer

The United States operates as a capitalist country with a free market and limited government, which implies that those who work hard for their wealth should get to keep what they earn. “Laissez faire” economy, a French term for “let it be,” speaks towards the need for limited government interaction. It promotes the conducting of trade between the two parties involved in the transaction: the buyer and the seller. These two parties must agree on the cost and the quality of the product they are buying without corruption from government interference either promoting the system or demoting it. This makes the system fair.

When one has a grasp on at least this brief definition of how the economy works, it becomes easy to discard this notion that the poor stays poor because the rich take it all. The market allows equal opportunity for all.

Milton Friedman, one of the most influential economists, political commentators and essayist of the century once said, “The most important single fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit.” On the subject of wealth distribution, taxing the rich heavily in order to rake in more cash to assist the lower caste would in fact serve its purpose, that is move the wealth from the top to the bottom.

However, it would also hinder economic expansion because of the absence of the “profit motive,” which lies at the center of business ventures. In the long run if the system reaches equilibrium the economy cannot expand without entrepreneurs and everyone will suffer.

In a perfect world, a free market economy is able to bring complete efficiency bringing optimal distribution of a country’s resources. However, since we aren’t living in a perfect world, prices never reach equilibrium, which is necessary to bring optimal distribution of a country’s resources. They are very volatile depending upon the vagaries of the market forces.

This is most certainly not beneficial for those who are living under the poverty line or those included in low income groups who are unable to pay high prices in cases of demand shortage. However, one flaw in the system does not come without a need for an entire change of the market system.

Apart from the economic consequences of socialist policies, it raises many social concerns as well. This notion of taking from the wealthy, regardless of the fact that it is an elected body perpetrates the act “Forced Charity” is not charity, it is theft. With the general populace now depending on the government to provide their bread and butter it causes a tremendous reliance on government, a blatant contradiction to our culture that cherishes freedom. Freedom to accumulate wealth should not be exempted.

Adopting a wealth distribution policy as one that has been the subject of mass speculation and argument could hurt us towards becoming a socialist nation. I use this dramatization to show trends in history and even today. No communist nation other than the Soviets has reached the level of success that the United States and we all there to witness their fall. Even in societies where this socialist practice takes place indeed everyone is equal, equally poor that is.

We cannot really say that these countries are better off than the United States. If adopting wealth distribution made everyone equally wealthy, I’m sure no one would refuse. Nevertheless this is not the case. Why, then, should we distribute the wealth? Why should we punish the success of others?

PERSPECTIVES

**Should government make laws to prevent cyber bullying?**

"Too many people are getting hurt, too many people are committing suicide. They need to pass laws or people will keep dying for nothing. That's government's role, to make changes when things aren't right."

- Frank Shickel, Senior, Biology

"Cyber bullying has become very effective with people in their computers. They are driving other people nowadays and we need to protect them. Some people treat it as minor, but cyber bullying is becoming an effective way for bullies to get to their victim."

- Keneishi Toomer, Sophomore, Biology

"I feel that there should be some regulations on cyber-bullying, but I also feel people should keep a sense of humor. I can understand if it's something really offensive, but other things you've got to let it slide and laugh a little."

-Marcos Alejandro Valencia, Sophomore, Music

-Compiled by Jayson Elliott.

Originality killed by constant branding

**MARGARET CHEBAT**  Contributing Writer

Gone are the days when the clothes and accessories one wore expressed an individual’s character or personality. In today’s society convergence of fashion and modernity have replaced self-expression.

Not only has society altered our ways of expression, it has also hindered the ways in which people perceive what is necessary and what is not. We have adopted a new lifestyle of living, one which readily and willingly accepts most of the ideals presented to us through advertising.

We have lost our identities as a result of the constant exposure and acceptance of advertising. Facebook, for example, has done an exceptional job in regards to advertising.

Not only is it constantly gaining new members in order to expand itself, it also allows those members to promote and advertise their businesses as well. The rise of consumerism has peaked.

Regardless of where we go or what we do we are constantly bombarded with advertisements. They manipulate the minds of consumers in which society functions, influences our opinions and reinforces our beliefs. One could credit the widespread use of technology and the people’s need to feel connected to accepted society standards to the evolution or change of society overall.

Advertisers have manipulated society so well that the strategies of advertisers go unnoticed to most individuals. Advertisers have fine-tuned the ways in which they market and sell their products. Society has evolved from production-oriented to consumer-oriented. Products are marketed in a way to make the consumer feel even more obliged than before to buy the specific product or brand.

The minds of consumers have changed from purchasing only what is necessary to purchasing what they “cannot live without.” The way in which advertisers market a product allows them to plant the idea in the consumers mind that they will not be able to live without the specified product. This can be seen with the Apple products, such as the iPod touch. Every time Apple launches a new product, people stand in line for hours to simply own the product.

As a result of all that we consume, we have become walking billboards for society. Advertisers have influenced the masses so reluctantly that consumers are blinded to the unnecessary purchases they are making on a daily basis.

However, it is not solely the advertisers’ fault. If we allow ourselves to be so strongly persuaded, then we are prohibiting ourselves from making smart and informed decisions. We are allowing others to think for us.

Perhaps it is time that we open our eyes to this issue. It may be in our best interest to use our minds and think about the things that are essential to our own lifestyles.

We hope then we will be able to break free of the constraints that society inevitably places upon us.

DISCLAIMER

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BARBADOS

Monarchs, native plants call campus gardens home

VICTORIA MARICHAL
Contributing Writer

Butterfly gardens around the Biscayne Bay Campus invite butterflies all year round.

The butterfly gardens, achieved by growing host plants that nourish butterfly offspring and nectar plants that adult butterflies like to feed on, are mainly comprised of native plants. These are plants that grow naturally in the South Florida environment and because of this require less maintenance thus making the gardens easy to maintain.

In the garden there are a variety of plants such as: beach sunflowers, portulacvers, tick-seeds, black-eyed susans, penas, moss verbenas, scarlet milkweeds, coonties, blanket-flowers, twillflowers, muhlygrass, mimosas and bromeloids.

The butterfly gardens are a collaboration of ideas from Joseph West, former vice provost and current restaurant management professor; Julissa Castellanos, director of Operations; and Jennifer Grimm, environmental coordinator.

Not many students on campus know where the butterfly gardens are located, but many have seen their effects.

“Butterflies always mean a sign of life to me, much like ladybugs are to other people,” said Michelle Serrano, a junior advertising student “So it makes me happy to see the butterflies on campus.”

Students can see the result of the gardens creating habitats for Queen Monarch butterflies and their offspring at the three gardens on campus: one by the gazebo in front of the library, the other next to the flagpole in front of the Wolfe University Center, and the final one is behind Academic Two.

The gardens were funded by various organizations: the Student Government Council at BBC, the office of the Vice Provost, and grants from State Farm and the Munson Foundation. The grant amounts were not available as of press time.

“We hope to create more gardens on campus, but we need to secure more funds and locations,” Grimm said.

“Most of the gardens get worked on once a month, but occasionally we have classes that work in the gardens or have to address needs more often,” said Grimm.

Students can help beautify and maintain the gardens on Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Butterfly gardeners will meet by the gazebo located in front of the BBC library.

Bruce Babbitt discussed future of Fla. environment

MICHELLE BECKMAN
Contributing Writer

Bruce Babbitt, the former secretary of the interior in the Bill Clinton administration, was the main speaker at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ geopolitical summit and brought issues to attendees’ attention regarding the drastic rise in sea level that will occur within this century.

The summit, titled “Challenges of Poverty, Health, and Sustainability,” was a University-wide event held in tandem at BBC and Modesto Maidique Campus early in the morning of Oct. 19.

“Florida has been heavily and indirectly compromised by the BP oil spill,” said Babbitt, who served as secretary of the interior from 1993 to 2001.

“BP should be taxed by the Federal Law. This mitigation fund should then be used to pay for the necessary adjustments in infrastructure needed to save South Florida’s coastlines,” said Babbitt.

A topographical map was shown illustrating the outcome from the rise in sea level in South Florida if people choose to do nothing about it. According to Babbitt, Fisher Island and South Beach will be completely submerged and the collateral damage will be beyond any scientist’s expectations.

“The Florida Everglades will be hugely impacted as well. Babbitt states that with the help of Florida leaders and residents, land has been purchased block by block all the way up to Okeechobee; this means that the ecosystems and animals living within them will be able to retreat north and most likely adjust to this change.

Babbitt did offer comfort to all who attended the summit by informing them of the available options, such as sea walls and new building codes.

Babbitt’s example of a new building code would be Stilwell: a collection of houses built on stilts in shallow water, in Biscayne Bay.

Babbitt suggested beginning

BLEEKER MITS BISCAYNE

Enjoying the entire weeked in a New York minute

Jane Pauley said it best, “New Yorkers, by reputation, are fast-talking, assertive and easily annoyed: I fit right in.

The busier most people are the easier it is to deal with change, somewhere down the road the lesson is learned and you can stop and smell the roses, but for right now my pace is based on a New York minute.”

I was antsy all week to get out on Saturday, I dragged out my friend Brenda to the “Third Annual Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Festival.”

Located at the Samson Oceanfront Park on Collins Ave., the festival was all-day event. Food and beverage booths were present and to my surprise people of all ages were there: from the very old to the very young.

Musicians like Ed Calle, Oriente and Jesse Jones Jr. all performed. It was a mix of Latin fusion and good old Harlem Jazz.

We had a few drinks, enjoyed the music and even danced with complete strangers. My best dance partner was an 80-year-old man named Henry. We had ourselves a day and night full of Latin lust and laughs. Nothing better than an old man schooling young guys on how it’s supposed to be done!

On most weekends I work at a South Beach club, so dress up and dress little are essential but the same way my friend Henry schooled the young bucks at the jazz festival, tonight, I was about to be schooled by some very curvaceous and good looking MEN!

“Boy Bar” is a gay bar and if you are not open to anything new, do not go! The experience as a whole was much like New York. The guys were all fabulous! We talked about shopping, boys and relationships.

I think at this point with my “no-relationship” mentality, I’d rather spend my Sundays with the boys at Boy Bar and avoid all the awkward getting hit on and bad pick-up lines from “normal” bars.

In a New York minute life changes, friends become foes and lovers turn to strangers but if you stop too long and waste away on all the meaningless questions of what, if, and why, you lose out on the good memories.

Bleekr Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published on Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.