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Intern retreat rife with allegations of underage drinking

GABRIEL ARAARÁS
News Director

Underage members of the Student Government Council from the Modesto Maidique Campus brought alcoholic beverages for underage interns at this year’s intern retreat held at the Embassy Suites hotel in Boca Raton.

Among the key officials implicated in the incident were SGC-MMC Vice-President Nick Autiello and former SGC-MMC Intern Coordinator Laura Farinas.

Sara Conklin, the former SGC-MMC Director of Governmental Relations, arrived at her room in the Embassy Suites which she was sharing with Farinas and two other female council members. There she found several SGC-MMC senators and council members drinking alcohol with interns, many of who are underage.

By this time, Assistant Director of Campus Life Jose Toscano had left the premises of the hotel. "Toscano simply told us during our first ‘fact finding’ meeting that the punishments could range from dock of pay, request to resign, 'fact finding' meeting that the punishments could range from dock of pay, request to resign, removal for those in the cabinet, vote censure or being referred to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office, which could lead to academic misconduct that would permanently taint our personal academic record," said Mujica.

While Conklin, Mujica, Velez and others did not participate in the drinking, they were instead being punished for leaving the hotel—did resign on Nov. 18, however the details of her resignation have not been made public. Ramirez refused to comment on the resignation.

Autiello told Student Media that this allegation is false. Student Media reached out to Farinas but she would not respond to emails despite several attempts.

According to Velez and Conklin, several meetings took place after Ramirez found out to discuss possible consequences.

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News Director

The Golden Panthers will have to do it in front of Alison Comeaux and possibly Paul Valteau, members of the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl executive committee.

According Valteau, a former bowl chairman, attendance will play a factor in to what Sun Belt school will be selected to play in New Orleans.

“We’re looking for an exciting team that can draw people, and once they are there can put on a good show,” said Valteau on Nov. 20 during FIU’s impressive 38-17 victory on the road against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Although FIU Stadium can hold 20,000 spectators, they have not been able to sell out a game yet this season. According to attendance records, FIU has an attendance average of 16,524 in their first four games.

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On Oct. 12, the Agroecology club welcomed visitors from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to the FIU organic garden. The Vice-Chancellor, along with two Deans from TANU, arrived to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with our University. Dean Douglas Wartzok, the University provost, attended the event to sign the document.

Following the signing ceremony, the group took a guided tour of the garden. The visitors were impressed by the variety of plants and the sustainable practices implemented at the garden. The tour concluded with a discussion on the potential for collaboration between the two institutions, focusing on areas such as agricultural education and research.

In conclusion, the visit was a valuable opportunity for both institutions to strengthen their relationships and explore new avenues for collaboration in the field of agriculture.
Protestors gather to defend preserve

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Students from various campus organizations demonstrated their affection for the University’s Ecosystem Preserve by marching from the Farmer’s Market outside the Green Library to Primera Casa.

The fifth floor of PC was the target of the march, as it houses the offices of University President Mark Rosenberg and Provost Doug Watson.

The march was sparked by rumors that the preserve might be torn down to add more space for the University expansion. According to Ryan Vogel, Manager of the nature preserve, an environmental conservator was sent to inspect the preserve and perform a preliminary audit with the purpose of figuring out what part would be the best to tear down.

Student Media reached out to President Rosenberg’s office but, as of press time, he was not available for comment.

In order to get awareness out, Vogel spoke to the presidents of various University organizations and informed them of the news in order to start a movement to protect the preserve.

Organizations present at the march included Students for Environmental Action, the Yoga Club, the Garden Club, the Meditation Club and the Conscious Eaters’ Club.

“More than a thousand students utilize the preserve for their studies, more than twenty-five classes need the preserve for the successful completion of their course, and many science professors do important work in it,” added Vogel.

Aside from organization members, students that were not affiliated with a club were welcomed to part in the protest when they discovered its purpose.

“I was so shocked when I found out what FIU is trying to do. I never thought FIU was capable of doing something like that,” said freshman Shirley Silva.

Supporters of the march made their way to the presidential offices at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 and were greatly disappointed when members of the University’s Public Safety stopped them and asked them to leave. However, some refused and went on to the offices on the fifth floor of PC, only to find that the President and Provost were not there.

Although the protesters were not able to meet with any of them, they are not giving up and are planning on taking action in the near future.

“FIU has been planning this out for about a month, but we are going to do everything we can to prevent it,” said Market Secretary and SEA Representative, Sean McMahon.

Some of these plans include passing out petitions throughout the University for students to sign, getting the Student Government Association involved and trying to contact local political representatives.

“FIU will be laughed at if the preserve is actually demolished and will not be ‘worlds ahead’ without its outdoor natural preserve,” said Vogel.

Tragedies plague family

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

While most of the University is looking forward to the end of the semester, students are working to prevent one student’s break from being tragically different than the rest.

Freshman Andy Oquendo was driving a 2008 white Scion on Nov. 19 with his younger brother, Joey, 13, and an unknown passenger, when he suddenly lost control of the car. Traveling at a high speed on Sunset Drive and 148 Avenue, the car hit a tree and spun into a Cadillac.

Oquendo was ejected upon impact from the vehicle, which caught fire and exploded. The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue later found Joey, and an unknown passenger dead inside the car. Since being airlifted to Ryder Trauma Center, Andy has remained in critical condition.

Two weeks have passed since the accident and news of Oquendo’s condition and tragic family history has just begun to circulate the University’s hallways.

Shortly before losing her husband to cancer in January, Oquendo’s mother, Nilsa Oquendo, lost her daughter in a 2007 car accident.

Despite what might be expected, friends of the family say that Oquendo’s mother remains faithful that her son can persevere through his condition.

“She feels that he has three people up there looking down on him and making sure that he’ll pull through,” said Angie LaPiana, sophomore and political science major.

LaPiana, along with other University students, are aiming to gather support and donations from the local and University community for Nilsa, who is currently on a leave from her job.

“We want to present a united front to show support for his mother, and show that the University loves and cares about Andy,” said Dilia Olivo, sophomore and biomedical engineering major.

As a graduate of John A. Ferguson Sr. High, friends and teachers still recognize Oquendo as an active and charismatic member of TV production at school.

“Andy’s been my right hand for everything technical, I could always count on him, even after he graduated. What student graduates high school and still volunteers his hours to help a teacher?” said Nancy Ozon, TV production teacher at Ferguson.

Both LaPiana and Olivo met Oquendo in high school, where Olivo says, “He wasn’t just any person, he was everybody’s friend.”

His popularity at Ferguson, along with the story of his family’s loss, propelled Sophomore Kristen Hidalgo to create a webpage to take direct donations for the family’s hospital bills and funeral costs, along with the support of local businesses like Smoothie King and the University’s Greek societies.

In an effort to promote student support, LaPiana has announced on the “Fundraiser for Andy and Joe Oquendo” Facebook page, that the FIJI House will host a benefit on Dec. 3 where guests can expect music, food, raffles, and giveaways.

In this time of giving, Olivo encourages any donation to the family, “anything you can give could help save his life.”

To donate, visit helpoquendofamily.blogspot.com

Cyber Monday Sales Surpass $1B

Online sales on Cyber Monday—the Monday following Thanksgiving—surpassed $1 billion for the first time, and nearly half these sales came from work computers. The overall figure is up 16 percent from last year and goes nicely with record online sales on Black Friday, as well.

The day also marked the heaviest online spending day in history. Though it is growing quickly, online spending makes up only 8 to 10 percent of total holiday spending.

Even after a report showed that America’s confidence in the economy is the highest in five months, shoppers are still holding out for bargains.

Jobless Benefits Cutoff Begins for 2 Million Americans

Nearly 2 million Americans start to lose their extended unemployment benefits today, leaving people without jobs struggling to hold on to their housing and feed their families while facing a somber holiday season.

During the high-profile Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting Tuesday night in Manhattan, about 40-out-of-work New Yorkers marched in protest, according to MSNBC.

Congress failed to extend the jobless benefits Tuesday night, and unless lawmakers decide otherwise, December will see about 2 million people cut off by Christmas, according to the AP. Out-of-work Americans have come to rely on the benefits, which had been extended up to 99 weeks for some, for basic needs.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

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FIU's offense on the verge of shattering record books

The Golden Panthers (6-5, 6-1 SBC) are on the verge of having the best season offensively in school's history, which may be a contributing reason for their sudden success this season.

Cristobal's defense will have to stop the preseasson Sun Belt player of the year in quarterback Dwight Dasher.

Despite missing his first four games because of a suspension, Dasher has not produced numbers similar to his 2009 season. Dasher has thrown for 1,144 yards, only reaching the end zone five times, throwing 13 interceptions. Dasher, however, has shown signs of brilliance this season. On the ground, he has rushed for 396 yards and scored seven rushing touchdowns.

According to Wilson, it will take a team effort from the defense to contain a player with the caliber of Dasher.

"I don't think one person can stop a player like that. I think it takes a whole team. A concept that we approach is ‘Un Cerebro’, that’s the whole team, one brain, one function. It’s going to take everybody to swarm in to the ball. I think I’ve always thought that we’ll be alright," Wilson said.

The Blue Raiders kept their season alive with a 38-14 victory over Florida Atlantic.

Cristobal and his offensive unit are aware of what Davis can do to his offense.

"Not only does he understand the running game, but he does a nice job in terms of his own drop and his coverage responsibilities. He’s a great student of the game and he was taught a way to get near the football and when he got his hand on it he took it back and took another. He’s very responsible for the end zone. I changed the game for them," Cristobal said.

The Blue Raiders defense is ranked fourth overall in the SBC.
In the midst of productive careers, players earn steady roles on contending teams

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In the midst of productive careers, players earn steady roles on contending teams

Carlos Arroyo

Carlos Arroyo on Raja Bell

"It's great. Obviously you're playing against somebody that you've known a long time, been to school with him and everything... I truly value our friendship and what we've done since back in the day's in school and now in the league."

-Carlos Arroyo on Raja Bell

run in the 2004 Olympic Basketball Tournament, including a victory over the United States, a career highlight that will be hard to top.

"It's part of the game," Arroyo said of his career excursions. "It's part of how my career has been. You're lucky in this league if you stay with one team for so many years, it's unheard of. There are a lot of guys coming in and out every year. You have to truly have at an understanding of how privileged you are to play in this league."

Even more privileged is Arroyo, however, for playing in the same city where he played the game in college.

"It's a blessing. It's truly a blessing," he said. "It's something that I can't explain. I think it's something that every NBA player wishes they could have."

On this particular night, Arroyo was joined on the court by his former FIU teammate and the only other Golden Panther to play the game at the highest level, Raja Bell. Ironically, Bell has also shared some of the best moments of his career with the Jazz, who he's playing with for the second time in his career.

"It was good. Always good to see my man," Bell said. "We just wrapped a bit, his wife's pregnant and I think they're expecting, so we just talked about that. Just said it was good to see him and stuff."

Arroyo added: "It's great," he said. "Obviously you're playing against somebody that you've known a long time, been to school with him and everything. Family's great friends and we have a great friendship on and off the court. I truly value our friendship and what we've done since back in the day's in school and now in the league."

The two occasionally get together for a golf game or some chatter in between their busy schedules, but it's a rare occurrence during the season. Like Arroyo, Bell has found himself at a comfortable place in his career. He is a starter on one of the better teams in the world with a chance to compete for a championship. He has a safe spot in Jerry Sloan's rotation, he's earned that much.

This night didn't exactly highlight Bell or Arroyo. On a night where Wade, James and Bosh electrified the American Airlines Arena, falling in overtime to a Jazz team that features All World point guard Deron Williams and a legendary coach like Sloan, there was no shortage of room for the daily spotlight Miami is.

But there they were, two of the most accomplished athletes in FIU's history, sharing the court together 20 minutes up the highway from where they paired up at FIU, still the only Panthers to ever play in that league.

The game didn't get much attention for that. But anytime Bell and Arroyo meet on the NBA hardwood, it is a reminder of an important milestone for the University.
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Art Basel brings culture and exhibits to city

**KATHY PAZ** Staff Writer

During the first week of December, Miami is the place to be in the art world.

Whether you’re a connoisseur, a jack of all trades or purely an enthusiast, Art Basel Week is your ultimate getaway.

To put it simply, Art Basel Miami Beach is one of the largest and most well known art fairs in the United States.

The festival, a sister to the prestigious Switzerland show of the same name, has been held annually since 2002 and has substantially grown in size each year.

While the main event takes place in the Miami Beach Convention Center, various exhibitions, shows and experiences are hosted all week long throughout the city in areas like Wynwood and the Design District.

Art Basel Miami Beach provides a program that features selections from the top galleries in the world, events that incorporate music, film and architecture along with various parties.

According to the Art Basel website, this year will include presentations by over 250 of the leading art galleries in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa with works by over 2000 artists of the 20th and 21st century. Specific areas of the Convention Center, located on 1901 Convention Center Drive, have been reserved for performance art, public art projects and video art. Doors open daily at noon, and one-day student tickets run for $22 while evening tickets (only valid after 4 p.m.) are $20.

In addition to the programming at the Convention Center, Oceanfront at Collins Park, located between 21st and 22nd Street, will be hosting free events nightly that are open to the public.

Open from 6:00 p.m. until midnight, this diverse and interactive environment will be paying homage to the artistic experiments of Detroit, Mexico City, Berlin and Glasgow. Furthermore, the area will be stocked with a bar and various food trucks each night.

Friday spotlights Berlin and includes a lecture titled “Concrete Society” by Isa Melsheimer and Arno Brandlhuber on ideologic clashes, architectural destruction and beautiful objects.

There will also be a performance called “Mixed Reality: AIDS-3D” and a live DJ set with Broken Hearts Club. Saturday repeats these efforts with the focus shifted to Glasgow.

There will be film screenings of Corin Sworn’s “After School Special” and Torsten Laushman’s “Skipping over Damaged Areas.”

There will also be various performances that night including Stephen Sutcliffe, Sue Tompkin’s “Hallo Welcome to Keith Street,” Rob Churm’s “Improvising Around Songs on a Customized Guitar” and Cara Tolmie’s “The End in a Tumultuous Noise.”

Other free events happening this week include Ricardo Zulutara’s exhibition “Domesticated Homas Enjoying in Traditional Costume Circa 21st Century.”

On display until December 15th at the University of Miami’s Wynwood Project Space, the exhibition contains photographs of unlikely magazine personas in their underwear.

A jab at mainstream advertising, Zulutara stated he “picked all different types of people from all walks of life, big, small, tall, all races, and basically dressed them up in some form of fashion accessory that excludes and marginalizes certain people.”

I’m kind of mocking consumerism and the whole luxury industry that’s advertising these products as a way of achieving success.”

On December 5th, the Frost Art Museum will be closing out the week with the sponsored “Breakfast in the Park,” an event that has become tradition. In addition to a complimentary breakfast and a guided tour of “The Sculpture Park,” and exhibitions upstairs, guests will also be treated to a guest lecture.

This year’s presenter is Enrique Martinez Celaya. An artist of many mediums, his portfolio contains paintings, photography, sculptures and poetry, Celaya has created projects for Germany’s Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig, the Miami Art Museum and the Berliner Philharmonie.

As well as being featured in many permanent collections within prestigious institutions, he was also recently added to the Frost. In his works, Celaya aims to find the connection between science and the subconscious.

**FISTFULS OF TECH!**

Motion-sensing Kinect technology boasts potential

**W**ith Microsoft Kinect flying off store shelves, I am beginning to think of the possibilities that this technology can serve outside the living room.

The Kinect gaming system, released by Microsoft earlier this quarter, uses a full range of optical sensors shooting a dizzying array of infra-red light to track your movements in a slew of video games, eliminating the need for a controller.

Aside from the quality of the games, which place you in practical situations like piloting a white water raft or petting a fake tiger, which I named “Peter Frumpet,” the technology itself outweighs any silly game it release for it.

Kinect is very accurate in tracking movements to the point where it is actually frightening. It can even recognize faces with a large amount of accuracy for a consumer minded product. The application of this technology is endless.

Think of the Kinectified PC. This type of technology serves as proof of concept for a whole new type of input method. In this case the tired example of the computers in Steven Spielberg’s Minority Report have the chance of becoming real.

Just as users interact with the Xbox menu using hand and body gestures, so can the user interact with their computers.

But aside from input methods for PCs and mobile devices, Microsoft has a pretty interesting piece of technology that can be applied to almost anything.

The military can strap Kinect modules on hummers, F-16s or even a sort of large robot in order to not only make them self aware and able to see but also completely badass.

I guess the only problem with that is Kinect needs between 6 to 8 feet of empty space in front of it in order to function properly. So it would have to be careful if a terrorist jumped on its back and threw a thick blanket over its face. Also, jets with Kinect eyes looking at you, watching you eat, sleep and even make love? Walking inside your home, you’d be prompted with a personalized greeting due to its robust ability to recognize facial features. Perhaps you can even have your home voiced by a celebrity like Jude Law or Renee Zellweger?

This could even come in handy if burglars tried to break in to your home. However, hope that no more than two burglars come inside, otherwise your self-aware Kinect home will be too frazzled to tell what’s going on and won’t be able to contact the police.

Microsoft’s Kinect is a pretty interesting piece of technology that really has pushed video gaming forward. It proves that console innovation isn’t the only thing that can change the way we play games.

However, the Kinect is still young. With a few software updates though, I am sure it’ll start trickling down to other products soon.
Movie doesn’t hold up under multiple viewings

The more I watch Christopher Nolan’s Inception, the more I’m convinced that Leonardo DiCaprio is basically channeling his role as Teddy Daniels in Martin Scorsese’s Shutter Island, a far more satisfying and thought provoking film that still clings to me a year after watching it.

There’s no foul in DiCaprio doing this. Bogart spent half a decade playing variations of his role as Sam Spade in such movies as Casablanca and The Big Sleep, but note several parallels between both films. It’s the same scream.

In the case of their newest target, Robert Fischer Jr. (Cillian Murphy), the subconscious will manifest itself as highly armed gunmen.

From chess, gunfight, whole cities folding onto themselves like they were set on a door hinge, gravity defying action sequences and all the cool stuff we were exposed to during the advertising campaign.

Has much been made of the film’s complex narrative including the last hour of the film as the cast falls deeper and deeper into the dreams of Fischer and the dreams hosted by members of the group. It’s a finely tuned puzzle, unnecessarily complex yet an original concept, as we try to track who’s dream we’re in. Each dream is set up for a new set piece: an urban car chase, a hotel gunfight in zero gravity and an assault on a base that’s straight out of On Her Majesty’s Secret Service (Nolan’s favorite Bond movie.)

This is not Akira Kurosawa’s Dreams. It’s just a slightly retooled way to present a heist film.

Dom wants to go home to his kids. He’s been in forced exile for years. Saito explains that if he takes the job, he can find a way to let Dom go home. Of course Dom wants in.

Each member of the team has a specialty. Eames (Hardy) is the “forger” a specialist in taking information and creating characters in dreams. He bickers with Arthur (Gordon-Levitt) for half of the film. Typical heist movie behavior.

It’s fun. When it premiered last summer, it was also quite unpredict- able. Watching it again for the upcoming blu- ray release, I’m left a little disappointed. Still, it beats watching Going The Distance.

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on movies. Look for it every Friday.
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United Nations refuses to accept responsibility

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

There is substantial evidence that the Nepalese peacekeepers brought cholera with them to Haiti, a nation that remains completely untouched by the disease until now. Yet, the United Nations evades questions about the source and outright denies any faults in their public health protocol in regards to their sewage management.

Should the U.N. continue to ignore the evidence brought forth, the already shaky foundations of the strained relationship between citizens and peacekeepers will continue to be rocky and volatile at best, and completely destructive and useless at worst.

On Nov. 1, the United States Center for Disease Control documented that the cholera stain was synonymous with the cholera strains found in South Asia. It isn’t presumptuous to think the Nepalese peacekeepers brought it with them.

The hypothesis is quite logical and agrees with John Mekalanos, an expert on cholera and chairman of Harvard University’s microbiology department. He states, “The organism that is causing the disease is very uncharacteristic of (Haiti and the Caribbean), and is quite characteristic of the region from where the soldiers in the base came. I don’t see there is any way to avoid the conclusion that an unfortunate and presumably accidental introduction of the organism occurred.”

MSNBC reports that, “The Nepalese troops were not tested for cholera before their deployment. They did not present symptoms. But health officials say 75 percent of people infected with cholera bacteria do not show symptoms and can still pass on the disease for weeks.”

Furthermore, there was documented sanitization problems at the base where the Nepalese troops lived beside the Artibonite River, where the cholera epidemic first appeared. According to the Associated Press, “When the AP visited on Oct. 27, a tank was clearly overflowing. The back of the base smelled like a toilet had exploded. Reeking, dark liquid flowed out of a broken pipe, toward the river.”

Despite the obvious link of strains, the lack of testing and the seemingly obvious transgressions against public health protocol, there seems to be a lack of urgency to release an explicit statement from the U.N. detailing its own shortcomings and failures.

Pressure to the acknowledge and prove a link, the Associated Press quoted The World Health Organization, stating that the source of cholera was “not a priority.” This type of dismissive response is unacceptable. Part of the public health response must encompass accountability despite potential public embarrassment and global ridicule. Perhaps the W.H.O. is correct in that determining the source will not ease the sorrow of this tragedy but it certainly should still be top priority. This isn’t a slight faux pas, this is a U.N. egregious breach of public health protocol and it is disrespectful to the deceased to not acknowledge that the island may not have been ravaged by this epidemic had the U.N. tested its soldiers prior to deployment.

It is absolutely necessary to encourage Haitians to act peacefully and cooperate with medical efforts seeking to combat this deadly epidemic. But the global community cannot expect a collective comfort and peace among the Haitian masses when outside organizations may have brought in the very disease they are attempting to fight.

It is understood that all citizens have a communal protective and defensive behavior toward heavily armed outsiders. However in the precarious state Haiti is in, the island teeters on utter disgust and resentment towards these outsiders and total dependence for any hope of reconstruction and stability.

The U.N. will be paramount in stabilizing this country, but without taking responsibility for an epidemic that is killing masses of people, the organization’s credibility is ruined.

Republicans, big business inseparable

CHRIS CABRAL
Staff Writer

After a nearly century-long love affair, the Republican Party and big business were finally married in the fall of 2010. The G.O.P. occasionally strayed with moderation, and had a fling with Teddy Roosevelt-style progressivism, but decided it was time to settle down.

For its part, went on for plenty of dates with the Democrats, even going so far as to convince an equally amorous Democratic President to repeal restrictive banking regulations in the late 1990s. In the end, it was Republicans’ undying love of business that ultimately brought them together.

As the Republican Party stands in control of the United States House of Representative and many state governments, the American people can be confident that the G.O.P. will stand by their man.

In recent years, the Republican Party hasn’t shied away from blaming its devotion in public. In 2009-10, when the new health care reform laws pushed by Democrats put limits on big business, requiring insurance companies to cover those with pre-existing conditions and spend 80 cents of every dollar on medical expenses rather than administrative costs, the G.O.P. leaped to their lover’s defense. They aggressively attacked the legislation, railing against “socialism,” that most ubiquitous of evils they seem to see everywhere.

When B.P. was forced by President Barack Obama’s administration to pay out $20 billion in compensation for damage caused by the Gulf Oil spill, Republican Congressman Joe Barton publicly apologized to B.P. He chastised Democrats for what he saw as a “shakedown” of a poor, down-on-its-luck corporation.

When the financial services industry was engaged in a series of risky practices that helped cause a recession, thanks in part to the repeal of banking regulations banning such behavior, the G.O.P. continued to remain loyal, calling for even less regulation. The G.O.P. insisted that the fault couldn’t possibly have been with the banking industry because, as a business, it could do no wrong.

Whether cold-heartedly denying coverage to the sick or carelessly spilling oil into the Gulf of Mexico, big business has had its share of public failures. Yet, with each catastrophe caused by a lack of oversight, Republicans trust in business seems to only grow stronger. Now, more than ever, the G.O.P. insists that regulations must be repealed and that corporations and businesses should be trusted to operate without restraint.

This may seem irrational, but Republicans assert they really believe this. Perhaps love is affecting their judgment-or maybe its something else.

Business interests spent mightily to get Republicans elected in the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme court decision. Corporate spending easily dwarfed that of labor unions, who have been going steady with the Democrats since the 1930s. Perhaps it is money, and not simple romantic naiveté, that helps Republicans stand that they say the alcohol drinking, with the caffeine mixed in creates a problem, but if you’re an adult, then you should have the choice.

Molly Weeks, Freshman

“Why not simply use bans to impact businesses that may be selling things that are not good for you? Why not make it a choice? It’s up to the consumer to decide if they want to be served or not. Why can’t we educate on the dangers and benefits of alcohol instead of just cutting it off.”

-Molly Weeks, Freshman

MELODY ALEMAN/THE BEACON
Minakawa’s children support his continued quest for education

MINAKAWA, page 12

Germany to FIU, Minakawa said here is “more rigid, not so liberal.”

Germany, he said, students are not told when to take exams; instead, they take them when they feel they are ready. Minakawa’s three children support him in continuing his education. His son Gerard, 36, is "extremely happy" about it.

“My father is studying and continuing to nourish his mind with new ideas and the energy of youth,” Gerard said.

Leticia Minakawa has audited classes such as Art History alongside her husband, but she decided recently to take a break. Gerard described both of his parents as curious people who ask a lot of questions.

Even though he admires that they audit classes, he might take a different approach when he grows older. “I will definitely keep studying whenever I can, though perhaps my idea of school has more to do with grasping life by the horns,” Gerard said.

Bazos has gotten to know several of the auditors over the years she has been in charge of the program. She noticed that women would use auditing to pick up men in the past, but more often than not the reason that senior citizens audit is deeper.

“They don’t want to stay home at the condo,” Bazos said. “They want to keep their minds going.”

This story is a class project from Professor Fred Blevens’ Advanced News Writing course, JOU 3300.

Cagni Park in North Miami good for family fun

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(gossiped), while the younger kids ran around and got dirty, and the rest of us stuck somewhere in the middle, did a little of both. Cagni Park has the typical basketball courts and playgrounds you find at most South Florida parks but it also has an ice skating rink! I remember at one point in my life, I was a pro at skating.

Every weekend at Playland Ice Skating Rink in Rye, NY, with my cousins and friends, that was the “cool” place to be.

I love being a kid again and as much as my family can annoy me they can also bring me right back to where I need to be. The semester is almost over as is 2010, so enjoy what’s left of it with no regrets!

BLEEKER Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published on Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.
Post-election violence in Haitian town

JONATHAN M. KAZ
Associated Press

Protesters demanding cancellation of Haiti’s weekend presidential election clashed with U.N. peacekeepers Tuesday, the United Nations mission and Haitian radio reported.

Radio Kiskeya said at least 15 people had been injured in two days of demonstrations north of the capital.

U.N. police sent reinforcements Tuesday but had no reports of injuries, police spokesman Jean-Francois Veizina said.

Rampant disorganization and allegations of fraud hang over Sunday’s critical vote for president, a third of the Senate and all of the lower house.

The winner of the presidential race will have to deal with Haiti’s crushing poverty, a cholera epidemic that has killed more than 1,700 people and post-earthquake reconstruction — including overseeing billions of promised aid dollars from the United States and other nations.

Violent protests that caused several deaths occurred across northern Haiti before the election, fed by suspicions shared by public health experts that the cholera epidemic was caused by a contingent of U.N. peacekeepers.

While votes were still being cast Sunday, nearly all the major presidential candidates alleged government-backed hopeful Jude Celestin was benefiting from fraud and called for the election to be canceled. On Monday, however, leading contenders Mirlande Manigat and Michel Martelly backtracked and said the vote should stand.

Radio Kiskeya said that most of the people protesting Tuesday in St. Marc were supporters of Manigat.

A powerful senator also led pro-Manigat protests farther north in Gonaives.

Martelly told supporters in a Tuesday address: “We will win this battle. Stay mobilized.”

Haiti’s provisional electoral council said problems were limited and called the election a success.

Organization of American States observers acknowledged many voters had been disenfranchised by disorganization, intimidation and violence but called the vote valid.

But a delegation of U.S. Congress members led by Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina voiced “serious concerns” about the election.

“We urge the U.S. government, the OAS and the UN to give full consideration to the charges of fraud and abuse and to await the result of any investigation before passing judgment on the conduct of Haiti’s elections,” the legislators said in a statement Tuesday.

BEELEYER MEETS DISCANYE

Advice for the upcoming holidays: enjoy the indoors

I love long holiday weekends, but most of all I enjoy the back-to-back holiday season that starts with Thanksgiving and ends with the start of a new year.

With the hustle and bustle of people coming and going, I think this is the main reason why I associate the holidays so much with home.

The fast paced movement, the chaos, loud conversations, music blasting, the massive amounts of family and friends that stay at your house and of course… the cool holiday air.

Well minus the cold air in Miami, everything else still applies.

Finals are coming up, which by the way, good luck everyone! And shortly after we’ll be done for the 2010 calendar year.

With that in mind, I fell into the holiday spirit and started to think of the people and things I was most grateful to have in my life.

Since money is tight, one night the girls and a few unexpected guy friends, decided to have a night in, “Game Night.”

It turned out to be a typical Latin house party.

Seven girls, four guys, a wifi, taboo, an ipod and some good old Dominican drinks to rule the night, I, if not all of us were sucked into a Bronx kind of night.

Growing up in New York was always interesting and when you’re a pre-teen or teenager, the parties you attend aren’t high class, upper west side events.

No, our parties consisted of an old fashioned stereo system, small living rooms, moms cooking and everyone from the neighborhood cramming in your house.

To this day, nothing compares. What started off as a mildly quite night turned out to be the most fun I’ve had in a very long time.

This is my theory: if you’re in good company with no awkward or strange attachments to anyone, and you have good music, the night is bound to be memorable.

And it was. The majority of freshmen and sophomore college students are underage anyways, so the Miami club scene isn’t much of a place you can go.

My suggestion: stay in!

But if you are of legal drinking age and want to add to the party, Flannigan’s on 13205 Biscayne Blvd, open until about 1 a.m., you can split the money between all of your friends and buy a bottle for the night.

Save on gas, entrance, parking and stay local while probably having a better night than you would in South Beach.

A few days after, the family and I took a trip to Captiva Park, on 13498 NE 8th Ave in North Miami, for some BBQ and unexpected indoor fun.

The old people sat around and chismosiaron

BLEEKER MEETS DISCANYE

COLUMNIST

SANDY ZAPPAT

The old people sat around and chismosiaron