**BELARUS**

Belarus says Germany, Poland tried coup

Sovetskaya Belarus, the official organ of President Alexander Lukashenko’s administration, accused Poland, Germany of trying to overthrow the leader. Both countries denied the claim.

**SPAIN**

Spain wants to put Demjanjuk on trial

A Spanish judge has indicted John Demjanjuk, a 90-year-old former Ohio autoworker, on charges of being an accessory to genocide while serving as Nazi concentration camp guard.

**ITALY**

Italy’s Berlusconi in prostitution probe

Prosecutors are investigating whether Premier Silvio Berlusconi had sex with an underage prostitute and then abused his power in trying to cover up the encounters with the girl.

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**Students bridge technological divide**

**OMAR GUZMAN**

Staff Writer

Choosing classes, managing financial aid, contacting professors and even homework assignments would be close to impossible without access to technology.

Along with the other adjustments that the transition to college life can bring, a new study published by the University of Oregon shows those without technological experience lack the preparation needed for success.

The study written by Joanna Goode, professor of education, and featured in the journal New Media and Society, finds that one’s educational performance would, if not suffer, become inferior to that of students who have had technology at their disposal.

The research looked at computer technology knowledge of 500 undergraduate students and how skills they brought from high school impacted their early college coursework.

“Computer technology and Internet access are keys to success in college, but students often leave high school with very little skill,” said Goode in an interview with University of Oregon news.

“Once you walk onto campus, you can’t enroll in classes, you can’t get financial aid, you can’t get onto Blackboard, you can’t answer e-mails. If you have no technology knowledge, you will not even survive the first week at most university campuses.”

The study found that the average high school education revolves around the instruction and discretion of the teacher.

Meaning that this type of environment is not conducive to extensive outside research.

Anais Alexandre, a senior and psychology major, did not find much need for technology in high school.

Her interaction with computers came only to type assignments in comparison to what she uses now.

“...I can say that technology in college, is integral to my academic performance,” said Alexandre.

The study suggests that the transition between the high school and college lifestyle has reportedly distinguished a “digital divide” between students who have and understand technology and those that do not.

Edgardo McGorry, a freshman and geology major, had a rough transition into the demands of technologically enhanced courses, especially after being accustomed to physically writing all of his coursework in high school.

“I [Internet access] is literally crucial, especially in my honors courses. A good third of the class is entirely online … and I myself was set back tragically because I did not know that.”

Now, he realizes the ability to send, receive, and update important documents on his personal computer or those available on campus, to be much more convenient than his high school notebooks.

Patricia Morales, a theater management major, believes that technology has had a positive impact on her academic performance.

“My laptop is my everything. I think a lot of us can agree we would be nothing without our computers in college,” said Morales.

Good said the problems identified in the study likely have gotten worse and need to be addressed.

At FIU, there are several opportunities provided by University Technology Services to bridge the digital divide.

Through eTraining, UTS offers faculty, staff, and students online narrated QuickTime screen movie training and tutorials on more than 120 software applications.

Training for Moodle and even Blackboard orientation is offered for any students who are unfamiliar with these websites.

The divide is not as clearly defined at FIU, given extensive measures to provide students with technology.

Not only can students use computers on campus to conduct research and print assignments, they have the option of renting laptops, cameras, DVDs, and other equipment.

The services also benefit students who have devices of their own by offering free copies of otherwise costly programs such as

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**Roundtable series returns, past sessions now**

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**

News Director

The Tuesday Times Roundtable will be returning to the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses with the Spring 2011 series and for the first time ever past TTR sessions now will be available for free download on Apple’s iTunesU.


The roundtables are held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. and are moderated by faculty members who encourage those in attendance to engage in discussions on a variety of topics that deal with global issues, events and trends. A free lunch is also provided to those who attend.

Some topics of the TTR MMC spring 2011 series include: U.S. immigration policies, international adoptions after natural disasters, the state of the economy and the repeal of “Don’t ask, Don’t tell.”

At BBC, students and faculty attending the TTR will have the opportunity to discuss topics which include: WikiLeaks and the value of information in a global world, the benefits of higher education and literacy in the 21st century.

With the roundtables now available on iTunesU, the perspectives and opinions of University faculty and students will be broadcasted for the entire world to listen.

They are available free of charge at Florida International University’s iTunesU page.

The MMC TTR will take place every Tuesday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Ziff Education Building, room 150. The BBC TTR series occurs during the same time in the Wolfe University Center, room 159.

A free lunch is provided at both campuses and students who attend are eligible to receive CSO points.

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**TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE AT MMC**

**Jan. 18 - Sarah Clegg-Crawford: Can Civility Survive the Age of Technology?**

**Jan. 25 - Sadiq Abdullahi: Rethinking Global Education in the 21st Century**

**Feb. 8 - Rev. Paul Masingill: Is Pure Altruism Possible?**

**Feb. 15 - Mariam Willis: Repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell**

**Feb. 22 - Abuzar Kabir: The Complex Immigration Policies of the U.S.**

**ZEB 150 at 12:30 p.m.**
Outfoxed! Prey manages to shoot hunter

A wounded fox shot its would-be killer in Belarus by pulling the trigger on the hunter’s gun as the pair scuffled after the man tried to finish the animal off with the butt of the rifle.

The unnamed hunter, who had approached the fox after wounding it from a distance, was in hospital with a leg wound, while the fox, said to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center.
Coley, Rodgers lead Golden Panthers to road win

**FOOTBALL**

**Collins departure sparks search for new coordinator**

**IGOR MELLO**
Asst. Sports Director

The man who turned the Golden Panthers defense from practically the worst in the Football Bowl Subdivision to the best in the Sun Belt in the span of one year has left the University.

Geoff Collins is one-and-done.

The defensive coordinator has signed an agreement to become the co-defensive coordinator at Mississippi State University along-side with Chris Wilson, who was promoted after the departure of Manny Diaz. Collins will also take over as the linebackers coach for the Bulldogs.

“Geoff has shown the type of immediate impact he can bring to a defense by what he did at Florida International last season,” said Bulldog head coach Dan Mullen, according a press release by MSU.

“He’s a smart young coach that has great experience, and he’ll bring the same kind of aggressive attitude and philosophy that we expect from our defense at Mississippi State.”

The Panthers will miss Collins’ defense. Last season Collins led a defense that became the best in the Sun Belt in total defense, scoring defense, pass efficiency defense, and turnover margin. This all came after the Panthers ranked 190th nationally in total defense the year prior to his arrival.

Head coach Mario Cristobal was unavailable for comment, but Geoff Collins [center] helped turn the Golden Panthers into the top defensive unit in the Sun Belt.

According to the report, Cristobal may be looking at candidates within the program, but also expects to interview many external candidates as well. The Sun Belt Coach of the Year expects to find a replacement quickly.

The school has not yet released the list of candidates. There may only be two possible candidates if Cristobal, in fact, does select a coordinator within the program.

**JEFF POPOVICH, ASSISTANT COACH-SECONDARY**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Golden Panthers drop OT contest in Denver**

**JACKSON WOLEK**
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers got some bad news before their game against the Denver Pioneers even started, as second leading scorer and rebounder DeJuan Wright was deemed unable to play in the game due to a high fever. Wright would have been a huge key to the outcome of the game, not only for his scoring and defense.

In the end, free throws were in the key to the game as FIU shot just 55 percent from the line in a thrilling 79-70 overtime loss to the Pioneers on Jan. 15.

“That’s our energy guy, we know when he’s out there he’s hustling and giving energy and that’s something you can’t teach, so we definitely missed him tonight,” Phil Gary said.

He more than made up for Wright’s absence, scoring a team-high 22 points on the night. The first half of play featured both teams exchanging baskets back and forth the whole time.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Coley, Rodgers lead Golden Panthers to road win**

**RICO ALBARRACIN**
Asst. Sports Director

After suffering a loss to North Texas, FIU had to fight back and overcome an offensively talented Denver Pioneers team to pull off a minor upset.

FIU (7-12, 2-3 SBC) overcame 18 lead changes to beat Denver (11-7, 3-2 SBC) on Saturday night 71-63. Junior Rakia Rodgers and senior Michelle Gonzalez each had a season-high-tying 18 points, as they went 12-for-14 from the free throw line to finish the game by going 5-for-6 from the free throw line to finish the game.

Reed for a key victory in conference play. The Trojans also have an outside threat with Janette Merriex, who is averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game.

The Golden Panthers are currently riding an eight game winning streak, including an undefeated record in conference play. The Panthers will have their hands full with Chastity Reed, the 6’1” forward who is currently averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game.

The Lady Trojans are currently leading the Sun Belt in total defense, scoring defense, pass efficiency defense, and turnover margin. This all came after the Panthers ranked 190th nationally in total defense the year prior to his arrival.

Head coach Mario Cristobal was unavailable for comment, but

Geoff Collins [center] helped turn the Golden Panthers into the top defensive unit in the Sun Belt.

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Poor free throw shooting hurts FIU down the stretch

through. After a quick 5-0 start for the Pioneers, FIU answered back and tied it back up at 5-5, and it would remain close the rest of the way through.

The biggest lead was grabbed by Denver with 5:43 left in the opening half when they jumped out to a 28-20 lead. The Golden Panthers (8-8, 3-2 SBC) mounted a small comeback again and at one time came within a point of tying it back up before the half ended. Both teams went into the locker room with the score 36-31 in favor of Denver (9-9, 5-0 SBC).

The second half went just as the first did, with both teams going back in forth in scoring and always staying within a few points of each other. What almost was a huge turning point in the game was when Denver’s second leading scorer on the night, Chris Udofia, got his fourth foul with around seven minutes left. FIU was unable to draw another foul to have him exit the game early, which would have been a big advantage.

Finally, with 4:03 remaining in regulation, the Golden Panthers took their first and only lead of the game when Gary put a layup in to make the score 59-58. The lead could have been bigger, and could have come much quicker and often if the Golden Panthers had a little more accuracy from the charity stripe.

With 32 seconds left and FIU down by three, Gary blew by his defender to put it in the layup. After a quick foul where Denver converted just one free throw, Gary yet again made a huge play. The senior point guard drove right down the lane, drawing Eric Fredericks defender toward him so that he could dish the ball off to Fredericks for the easy layup to knot the game up at 65-65 with only six seconds in the game to go.

“Once we got it out of our hands we needed to come up with a steal or come up with a stop and we were able to do that,” stated Coach Isiah Thomas. “Coming down on the other end we were able to convert our field goals and foul shots.”

In their first overtime game of the year, the Golden Panthers did not fare well at the FIU Invitational. The Golden Panthers finished fifth, but there were a lot of good things to take away. ”The competition was huge, and could have been bigger, and could have been up being a huge difference in the game.”

“With the loss, FIU dropped to 1-7 on the road and will be glad to come back to the comforts of home as they play three of their next four games at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.”

Replacement may come from within coaching staff

COLLINS, page 3

Jeff Popovich has led the Panthers for four seasons as the secondary coach. Despite not having an edge as a defensive coordinator, Popovich worked at the University of Miami, prior to his current job at FIU, where he served as a defensive graduate assistant.

Last season, Popovich’s secondary was ranked first in the Sun Belt. Opponents struggled to throw the ball against his secondary. Opposing quarterbacks had a 54.5 completion percentage while throwing 15 interceptions, also tops in the Sun Belt.

CEDRIC CALHOUN, ASSISTANT COACH - DEFENSIVE LINE

Cedric Calhoun is currently the defensive line coach at FIU, which is Calhoun’s first division-I gig. Prior to that, Calhoun served four seasons at Dartmouth College as the line backers coach.

In his first season at FIU, Calhoun’s defensive line recorded 33 sacks, which ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference.

His line also ranked fourth in the conference for rushing defense, allowing only an average of 168.7 yards rushing.

Last summer Calhoun also served as an intern for the Philadelphia Eagles.

MEN’S, page 3

MALCOM SHIELDS
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned to action at the Bay Vista Aquatics Complex on Jan. 15 against the University of Miami and Central Connecticut State University in a dual meet.

The week prior, the Golden Panthers finished second at the FIU Invitational.

In the 100-yard freestyle, sophomore Kayla Rojas swam a strong third leg to keep the Golden Panthers close but the relay team would end up finishing fourth with a time of 4:02.14.

In the 200-yard freestyle, sophomore Kaya Derr continued to build on an solid season as she swam one of her best times of the season as she finished second overall in the event with a time of 1:55.62, just four hundredths of a second off of her season best of 1:55.13, which was set at the FIU Invitational.

Junior Vicnan Torres also had a good result in the 200 free, finishing fourth with a time of 1:57.75, just 54 hundredths of a second off of her best time this season of 1:57.01, which was set against Tulane on Nov. 13.

In the 200-yard butterfly, freshman Melissa Moreno swam a great race at the start but came up just short as she finished second to Central Connecticut State’s Katie Lang.

Moreno’s time of 2:08.80 was just 59 hundredths of a second behind Lang.

In the 100-yard freestyle, junior Mariangela Macchiavelli and Derr swam to third and fourth place finishes, respectively.

After the meet, Coach Horner praised the importance of finishing events strongly to his team.

“It’s something we need to work on,” Horner said. “That’s something that’s inside the athlete; the ability to finish close races but there were a lot of good times today… We have something to build on.”

NEW SEASON BEST TIMES

In the 200-yard IM, junior Elly James set a season best time of 2:17.35, topping her season best of 2:17.36 set against the University of North Florida on Oct. 16.

Erin Pavlick also improved her individual time in the 200-yard breaststroke. She finished fourth in the event with a time of 2:27.25, a season best new time by .04 hundredths of a second.

“More on this story go to FUSM.com

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THE BEACON – Wednesday, January 19, 2011
www.fi usm.com

Sports

The Golden Panthers finished second against UM, Central Connecticut

PHIL GARY (above) tallied a team-high 22 points in loss.
IN STITCHES

Fashion a form of expression for art student

Ashley Gardner, a visual arts student, may be the only girl at the university with a fox fur stole. Posture and poise come naturally to the former ballerina whose fashion philosophy is a mix of everything.

“I always get the term unique, which I think is funny because it’s a nice way of saying ‘you dress weird’,” Gardner said of others’ comments on her own personal style. She describes her own style as eclectic and draws inspiration from vintage to modern.

Gardner began to develop a taste for fashion when she started attending public school in the ninth grade. Before then, she wore traditional school uniforms. Fashion became her way of expressing herself after a long stint practicing ballet. Her favorite designers include Gareth Pugh, the late Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood, John Galliano and Giles Deacon showing a flair for the extravagant.

“I really like the street style of it. Vivienne Westwood came up with the designs for the Sex Pistols. She takes the classic English tartans and punks it up a bit,” Gardner said.

Taking cues from books and magazines, Gardner dresses in a mix of vintage with more modern trends. She paired a classic collared blouse with velvet detailing with black leggings that had cut outs. On her feet she wore heeled black boots.

GARDNER, page 6

African & African Diaspora Studies
School of International and Public Affairs

FIU Study Abroad Program in Senegal & The Gambia
Traditions, Globalization, and Tourism in West Africa

Summer A 2011: May 16-June 19

New Application Deadline: January 21st, 2011

Scholarships available

Reduced Cost!

Information Session: January 20th, 3:15PM-4:30PM in LC 309

This is a five-week program (one week in Miami, at Florida International University FIU, two weeks in Senegal and two weeks in The Gambia). This program has been designed to provide students with an introduction to West African cultures and traditions along with an exploration of the growing centrality of tourism—and particularly of “cultural and heritage tourism”—as the largest sector of the global economy. In the classroom, students will learn about West Africa’s most important ethnic groups (the Wolof, Mandinka, Fulani, etc.) and will explore questions related to the politics and aesthetics of constructing difference in globalized tourism formations in West Africa, the role of corporations, nation-states, non-governmental agencies, and social movements in shaping cultural and heritage tourism, and what anthropologists have called “sites of memory.”

Contact Information: Phone: 305-348-6860, email: jmusoba@fiu.edu, Website: Africana.fiu.edu, click on Study Abroad
The special events that coincide with the Dance Marathon include Golden Idol, which took place in the fall with Gaby Yidi crowned the winner. As well as the Mr. and Miss DM, a pageant held with a male and female winner who were judged based on their performance. The pageant took place Jan. 18 in the Graham Center pit.

The last and final pre-event leading up to Dance Marathon takes a cue from a popular dance competition show and brings it to campus. So You Think You Can Dance is a dance contest with two stages of competition.

One is at the high school level and the other is exclusively for university students. In this event, students and members from the community will compete against each other to hold the title of FIU’s favorite dancer.

The So You Think You Can Dance competition includes the recruitment of potential competitors around campus and an extensive audition process all while collecting donations for the cause. A donation can will be passed around the audience at the time of the performance. Audience members have the option of donating to the cause on behalf of their favorite performer. Everyone will also have the option of donating at the door.

The finale will take place in the GC ballrooms and will feature the top 10 dancers selected from the audition process. Part of the event includes the “Viewer’s Choice,” which is where the audience can choose and vote for their favorite dancer. Through this, one person will be named winner. FIU students receive free entry while others will have to pay a $10 admission fee. However, everyone is welcome.

Every year the competition grows, not only in numbers, but also in interest. Although Greek Life hosts the event, it is not only the Greek community but a mixture of people,” said Campuzano.

A winner is chosen annually. This includes last year’s champion, Jen Sada.

“FIU’s So You Think You Can Dance was a great experience that gave me the opportunity to share my true passion of dance with the FIU community. I was proud to be a part of it, and being able to raise money for charity,” said Sada.

Not only is it a good cause, but the participants also are truly excited to dance and perform.

Campuzano referred to the So You Think You Can Dance event as “the most significant one out of the entire Dance Marathon.”

So You Think You Can Dance will take place on Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. Make sure to come out to support or make a donation.

**THE KING’S SPEECH**

**THE SOCIAL NETWORK**

**GHOST TOUR: VOICES CAPTURED IN AUGUST**

**DIVERSIONS**

**MLK: Worlds Ahead event at the Frost Art Museum on Wednesday Jan 12.**

**Check your answers on FIUSM.com**
Negligent gun laws a factor in shooting

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

The complexities of the Tucson, Ariz. massacre committed by Jared Loughner in an attempt to assassinate Rep. Gabrielle Gifford has created a plethora of debates. The discussion about the role of venomous political rhetoric and the poignant discussions about the challenges of mental illnesses as well as the often inaccessible care that is directly necessary are, indeed, important points.

However, the factual point that transcends speculation and intellectual debate is that it is not a mere tragic coincidence that a massacre that left six people dead and 13 others wounded was in a state that has careless and negligent gun laws.

A brief look into Loughner’s behavioral history shows a spiral into what appears to be insanity. Former teachers and friends have described Loughner as mentally disturbed and deranged. Paranoid thoughts, the seemingly total inability to differentiate reality and fantasy and instances of disruptive behavior paint the picture of a mentally ill young man who is incapable of taking responsibility for his vile actions.

I think it is important not to be so blind-sided by the rage and sadness we feel collectively, that we ignore the fact that incompetent, reckless gun laws largely contributed to this tragedy.

It would be shortsighted not to examine factors that could contribute to something like this happening again. According to ABC News, Loughner purchased the gun after passing an instant background check at Sportman’s Warehouse. The fact that there are instantaneous background checks for poten-tial purchasers of guns would be laughable if it wasn’t so terrifying. Whether a more thorough look into Loughner’s past would have prevented this tragedy is relevant, as is served as an example of the limitations of these back-ground checks.

Furthermore, the lack of specificity of who is barred from buying guns holds potentially harmful ramifications. According to the New Republic, “Federal law prohibits the sale or transfer of guns to several categories of people, including felons, illegal immigrants, and drug abusers.” These categories are simply too vague and unenforcing.

According to The Wall Street Journal, it is federally illegal to sell guns to any person “declared mentally unfit.” To be deemed mentally unfit seems to be quite an ordeal that includes a court’s decision. The New Republic artfully states a critical view, “Gun lobbyists are certain when they note that the vast majority of gun owners do not kill likewise. Mental health professionals are correct when they note that the vast majority of unstable people do not kill either. The combination of these two types of people, however, can be lethal.”

Expounding on the definition of “mentally ill” in regard to gun ownership is a pivotal part of the process to make citizens safer from gun violence. Arizona’s gun laws are not just liberal; they create an environment that is a downright free for all potential gun violence.

I came across the headline by The Guardian that read, “Jared Lee Loughner: What drove him to kill?”. After a brief look into his behavioral history, the question should not be what made Loughner commit murder. The question should be: What wildly inappropriate laws allowed a mentally disturbed man to legally purchase a gun that led to this tragic massacre?

The creation of images depicting emotions, is it all that surprising when a small percentage turns to violence? If not outright responsible for the creation of images depicting President Obama as Hitler poli-ticians offer an implied endorse-ment or an obviously forced and hollow renunciation.

Recently, the demeanor of Congressmen is only further fueling hostility. Jumping up and calling Obama a liar as did Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, or asking Jesus to tell Obama to “go to hell” as did our President as did a member of the Birther Movement, reinforces the battle lines and maintains an air of hostility.

These actions are moving us further away from any chance of civility and any hope of actu-ally discussing the issues. These actions perpetuate a political envi-ronment that is less about solutions and more about creating targets to hit. While my examples certainly focus on Republicans, both parties are to blame.

It is well past time that we recognize the need for civility and be satis-fied with nothing less.

When politicians use the politics of fear, which tends to arouse hostile emotions, is it all that surprising when a small percentage turns to violence? If not outright responsible for the creation of images depicting President Obama as Hitler poli-ticians offer an implied endorse-ment or an obviously forced and hollow renunciation.

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It is well past time that we recognize the need for civility and be satis-fied with nothing less.
President unhappily receives election report

B. Preval officially received the report of an international team trying to solve an electoral deadlock, but he was unhappy with their recommendation that his preferred candidate be cut from the presidential runoff vote.


NANCY CORTES/The Beacon


Hypnosis is not a hoax. Skeptical?

So was an initial crowd of about 90 in attendance for Sailesh’s, self-proclaimed Hypnotist Extraordinaire, performance at the Wolfe University Center Theater on Jan. 13. The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted it as part of its “Week of Welcome” events held across both University campuses last week.

Some were skeptics. Some were believers. Some came to laugh at what they thought would be cheap park routines, while others were just curious as to what entertainment the University had to offer.

“It is daunting to explore the university more and find out what type of entertainment the University had to offer,” said Raj Naidu, a civil engineering graduate student. “I am on a budget too, so I am looking for all forms of alternative entertainment in Miami.”


Hypnotist Sailesh (standing) appears to be handling a venomous snake in the presence of his hypnotized volunteers during a show which the Student Programming Council presented on Jan. 13 in the Wolfe University Center Theater.

Eva Pentifere, a junior biology major, was amongst the skeptics in attendance.

“I want to see if this really works. I’ve never seen this done in person, but I’ve seen it on TV,” said Pentifere. As the show kicked off, Sailesh had his randomly chosen volunteers on stage. He delivered a five-minute guide towards achieving a meditative state, allowing him access to the volunteers’ subconscious as they fell into a deep sleep. And with the final command of “sleep,” they were under the suggestive power of Sailesh for the remainder of the evening.

Volunteers were put through a series of situations in which they were under the impression that they were in extreme cold, swissed genders, were on a mission to Mars, relieved their penis dance, but while embracing another volunteer of the same sex, and even sat on stage with the imposition that they were watching X-rated movies starring themselves.

Janiel Varges, a senior Political Science major, although skeptical, was one of the quick ones to fall.

“‘I was scared the whole time [of Sailesh making] me do something that I would regret and couldn’t hold back,’ said Remedios. ‘Being an openly gay person, there were points in the show where I was afraid that if what the other straight would do, or what his reaction would be and whether or not it would be hostile.”

From the minute Sailesh stepped onto the stage until he released the volunteers from their hypnotic trance, the audience was on the edge of their seats in disbelief.

“I walked into this as a complete skeptic and now there is no denying the truth behind it,” said Remedios. Biscayne Social is a weekly column run on Wednesday covering events at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Reviews are up to the columnist’s discretion.