Study shows Facebook can lead to lower GPA

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

With wall posts and comments, tagged pictures, “poking” wars and birthday calendars, what began as an entertaining social networking website, is becoming a threat to the grade point average of many of its college users.

A recent pilot study by Ohio State University, presented at the American Education Research Association, has demonstrated that college students who have a Facebook account spend less time studying, and consequently, have a lower grade point average than the students who do not have a profile on the popular website.

Here at Florida International University, for example, students can be seen checking their Facebook profiles on their laptops or smart phones as they sit through class lectures, instead of paying close attention to what the professors explain.

“Facebook has some positive things, but I don’t think it should be done in class. However, if students want to waste their college dollar, and if that is their priority, that’s okay. People can make their own choices,” said Psychology Professor William Berry.

Berry believes that there is an “addictive aspect” to Facebook for some students that they “just can’t seem to get away from.”

“They check it compulsively,” said Berry. “I think maybe that is one of the reasons why students have that sort of online network—whether it be Facebook, Twitter, Tumbler, or whatever—are getting lower grades. Technology is a distraction.”

The results of the conducted study revealed that students who have a Facebook account have grade point averages ranging from 3.0-3.5. On the other hand, the students that do not have a profile on Facebook have grade point averages ranging from 3.5-4.0.

“I think that Facebook is extremely time consuming. It is logical to think that because students are spending time on Facebook, instead of working on an assignment, their grades will drop,” said Frances Gray, an English professor.

The study also concluded that Facebook users study about five hours a week, while non-Facebook users study about fifteen hours per week.

“I do believe Facebook causes students to study less because instead of doing their work, they log onto Facebook and they procrastinate,” said senior, Jessica Alchosst.

FACEBOOK, page 2

FACTORY JAZZ

Giffords’ husband to space

GUAN A. LOZANO MARCIA DUNN
AP Staff

The astronaut husband of wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords said his wife would be “very comfortable” with his decision to go back into space and he expects her to be at his launch in April.

Space shuttle commander Mark Kelly wouldn’t go into details about her condition during a news conference Friday, and deflected questions about when she was shot in the head. Six people were killed and 13 were injured in the rampage; a 22-year-old suspect is on the run.

“I know her very well and she would be very comfortable with the decision that I made,” he said.

Kelly took a leave from training after Giffords was gunned down in Tucson, Ariz., on Jan. 8. NASA announced earlier Friday he would resume training for space shuttle Endeavour’s two-week mission.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheryl Malone Contributing Writer

When Krystal Elizalde first began using Accutane to treat her cystic acne more than 10 years ago, she was willing to endure the harshest of side effects to clear her stubborn blemishes.

With lips beginning to peel to raw skin, lip balm was a quick solution to one side effect that lasted a few months until treatment was complete. Elizalde’s skin would be perfectly clear for several years.

But Elizalde is an exceptional patient, having mild, temporary side effects to Accutane. Many other patients are not as lucky, with side effects including Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Cushing’s Disease, Lupus, Pancreatitis, emotional abnormalities, including depression and suicidal thoughts and birth defects while both using and after taking Accutane, according to the Food and Drug Administration’s listed side effects.

“At my age now, in the near future I do want to have children and I don’t want to have any sign of Accutane in my system,” Elizalde said.

With potentially fatal side effects and a fear for personal health by many patients, Accutane still is administered and advocated by dermatologists nationwide.

Roche Holding AG, the manufacturer of Accutane, is facing approximately 5,000 personal injury lawsuits with potential damage awards in excess of $33 million.

Isotretinoin, the key ingredient in Accutane, is normally administered to patients for a 15-20 week period.

Before a female patient can begin treatment, the patient must first complete an isotretinoin Pregnancy Prevention Program form, or “iPLEDGE,” in which the patient agrees to use two forms of birth control while on Accutane, including the completion of a pregnancy test with negative results.

The urgency for pregnancy prevention is due to possible birth defects of the newborn, including “abnormalities of the face, ears, eyes, ears, skull, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, thymus and parathyroid glands,” as listed on the Accutane iPLEDGE packet.

Elvira Velez, health administration director of Florida International University’s Health Services, refers students with severe acne to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where Accutane may be a treatment option. Due to the administration process of being prescribed Accutane and the close attention that follows its usage, a dermatologist is essential.

The patient must also undergo blood work

ACCUTANE, page 2
**FACEBOOK, page 1**

“To be honest, I do it too. I admit that Facebook is a major distraction to college students.”

Ivan Garcia, a non-FIU Facebook user, agrees that Facebook can be addictive enough to affect someone’s academic performance.

**CORRECTIONS**

In Vol. of 22, Issue 10 of The Beacon in the At Bay section, the names of the student organization who sponsored the event were misspelled in the photo caption. The organizations are the Student Programming Council and the Black Student Union. Also in the At Bay issue, the photo credit on page 3 of the Sports section was incorrect. The photographer is Megan Kelley.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

**ACCUTANE, page 1**

“Acne does not fall under any medical condition without any risk,” said Denise Glaser, 16-year-old high school student and Michael Hale, a Dr. Fred Blevens. The study was relatively small, but it has been among the first to discover a relationship between Facebook usage and lower grades.

**For some, benefits outweigh medication’s risky side effects**

Cheryl Malone, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.
Wright's late layup leads FIU past Troy

Jackson Wolek
Staff Writer

DeJuan Wright's layup with seven seconds to go in overtime brought FIU a thrilling 81-80 victory that finally ended their six-game losing streak on Feb. 3 at Troy.

In a game that brought upon all the intensity and emotion you could ask for, they almost gave it up as they are so accustomed to doing in close games this year. This time, they were able to preserve and grab their fourth win in conference play and second win on the road.

"I liked the intensity of the game and the way both teams were competing. No one was giving an inch and fortunately we were able to come out with the victory," said Coach Thomas.

The first half the Trojans jumped out to a 9-0 lead over FIU just three minutes into action. The Golden Panthers would answer right back with a run of their own, as they scored 13 unanswered points to get a 15-11 lead with 13:11 remaining in the half.

They held Troy scoreless for five straight minutes thanks to their zone and press defense that gave the Trojans fits. Also, they were able to get leading scorer Weathers out of the game for three seconds when Gary committed a foul by tripping up Frederick. Luckily, they were not hurt in the bonus at the time and did not send him to the line, where the Trojans were 14-15 on the night. They would force Troy into a bad shot off the inbound, and proceed to overtime.

In the overtime period, FIU would take control first by going on a 7-3 run to start out. At 1:27 left on the clock and Wright at the foul line with FIU up 79-75, it seemed as though they had the game won right there.

"We would miss though and Troy would come back and take the lead as they went on a run of their own. Then, with ten seconds to go and FIU down by one, they would have a chance to inbound the ball again, this time succeeding in doing so," Wright said.

Wright came of a pick set by Gary and went right down the lane as Phil Taylor gave him the ball to put it in with seven seconds on the clock.

"Coach drew up the play during the timeout so I knew I was going to be rolling back to the basket and Phil Taylor gave me a good pass and position to make the shot," explained Wright on his late game heroics.

Five Panthers scored in double figures, and Gary led the way with 21 points, due in large part to making five of seven from beyond the arc. The Trojans would then force Troy into their own. The lead as they went on a run of seven seconds to go in overtime.

With the game tied at 72-72, Wright came off a pick set by Taylor and made an easy layup to give FIU the slight 35-34 lead.

"I was just trying to take what the defense gave me," said Gary.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Cristobal announces new defensive coordinator

Igor Melo
Asst. Sports Director

After spending three weeks without a defensive coordinator, head coach Mario Cristobal has finally found a replacement for that position.

During his National Signing Day party on Feb. 2, Cristobal finally announced that Todd Orlando is FIU's new defensive coordinator.

Orlando will become the defensive coordinator, replacing Geoff Collins who only served one season as FIU's defensive coordinator.

Both Orlando and the Golden Panthers had something in common in 2010 – a conference championship.

"He's fresh off a Big East championship and looking to get some more," said Cristobal, during his National Signing Day party.

It's the first time in FIU history that the team has hired a coordinator from a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) school.

Orlando, a Pittsburgh native, spent 12 seasons at the University of Connecticut, where his defense was ranked 48th in the nation, good enough to conquer the Big East and earn a bid to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

He'll try to improve a defense that was ranked first in the Sun Belt Conference in total defense and scoring defense.

While at UConn, Orlando faced numerous amounts of teams that ran the spread offense, which according to Cristobal, is a key reason why he was hired.

Cristobal may play defense

During that press conference Cristobal entertained the idea of possibly playing wide receiver T.Y. Hilton on both sides of the field. In fact, Cristobal considered having Hilton on defense during the previous season.

"We thought about doing it with T.Y. [Hilton] this past year, but creating a package instead of having a whole package on offense and an entire package on defense," Cristobal said. "I'm comfortable as long as they can handle it."

Hilton, who already plays offense and special teams, caught five touchdowns as a receiver and ran for four touchdowns on the ground. Hilton also ran two kick returns back for a score.

"If a guy can handle it, then you're recruiting some pretty special guys," Cristobal said.

According to Cristobal, if Hilton does in fact play defense, he would be positioned at corner back. Hilton would only see the field on limited formations.

"He would play some nickel, corner stuff. Some boundary or field corner stuff
FOOTBALL, page 3

as well," Cristobal said. "Definitely somewhere where he can run stride for stride with a guy." Hilton has had some experience at cornerback.

While at Miami Springs high school, Hilton was a dual-threat player, playing offense and defense. Hilton played defensive back in his high school career. Despite standing at 5-10, 183 pounds, Cristobal claims he’s got the size to play both sides.

"T.Y. is a very strong individual. Don’t let his stature fool you. He’ll get in that weight room and put 290 pounds on the bar and power plant it in a snap," Cristobal said.

NO COMBINE INVITATIONS

Despite having two Golden Panthers participate in collegiate all-star games (Anthony Gaitor and Brad Serini), none were selected to partake in the 2011 NFL Scouting Combine. Five players from the Sun Belt were chosen to participate in the combine, but none were selected from FIU.

Rival school FAU, surprisingly, had three players selected to participate. Quarterback Jeff Van, tight end Robert Housler and wide receiver Lester Jean were among the players selected. Troy’s Jerrel Jernigan and Drek Newton out of Arkansas State were the other Sun Belt players chosen.

The scouting combine is on Feb. 24- Mar. 1 in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN.

SPRING DATES

According to Cristobal, the school has announced the spring practice schedule. Practices begin on Mar. 3, leading up to the annual spring game on April 1.

NBA ALL-STAR GAME

Chris Bosh joins Wade, LeBron as late addition to All-Star roster

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

No YouTube campaign. No lobbying for a spot.

This year, Chris Bosh let the numbers do the talking for his All-Star candidacy. And the voters listened.

Bosh is heading back to the All-Star game, named alongside Wade and LeBron James three players in the league’s annual midseason showcase for the first time.

There was some speculation about whether Bosh would merit the All-Star nod, but the Heat power forward never worried.

"Once I set my mind to something, it’s there for me," Bosh said Thursday night after the Heat beat the Orlando Magic 104-100. "Anybody else in my position, they would have been running and raving about my numbers.

Bosh will enter Friday’s game at Charlotte averaging 18.4 points and 8.1 rebounds, numbers easily worth All-Star consideration.

But his value to the Heat, who were just the third team in the league to hit the 35-win mark this season, goes far deeper than what shows up on stat sheets. To hear coach Erik Spoelstra tell it, James may be the league’s reigning MVP, but Bosh is perhaps more critical to Miami.

"He’s having a very easy 40-year-old year and he’s playing on one of the winningest teams in the league and he’s had a major impact," Spoelstra said. "You have to talk no further than when he’s been out and what happens to our team. I’ve called him our most important player and that’s for a reason. He anchors our defense and he facilitates our offense.

It’s the sixth All-Star trip for Bosh in eight seasons, his fourth as a reserve, although this nod came without the fanfare of past appearances. He filmed some now-infamous videos as a used car salesmen, the memorable spot that was posted to YouTube before the 2008 game in an effort to entice fans to vote for him as a starter.

Not this time. He simply sat back and awaited official word.

I did it one time and you’ll never be able to top that again," Bosh said. "I believe in keeping things exciting. You can’t do the same thing every year. People wanted me to do it, but I was like, ‘I can’t do that again. People are looking for that.’ The reason that was so fun was that it caught people off guard, and I’ll never catch anybody off guard with something like that again.

The reserves were selected in voting by the head coaches of the league, who had to vote for two forwards, two guards and two players regardless of position.

Rajon Rondo, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen will accompany Boston Celtics teammates Kevin Garnett, who equaled Jerry West, Shaquille O’Neal and Karl Malone by being selected for the 14th straight year.

The other East reserves along with Bosh are Atlant-a’s Joe Johnson and Al Horford.

For the West, the reserves are Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili of the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs; forwards Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas and PAN Gassol of the Los Angeles Lakers; and guards Deron Williams of Utah and Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, who joins Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers as the lone first-time selections.

The game is Feb. 20 at Los Angeles. Steve Nash will host.

"But it’s made in my head a long time ago," Bosh said. "I’m dealing with some lingering aftereffects of a high left ankle sprain sustained last month, and half-court rhythm. Even though Bosh’s ankle perhaps could use some time off, the rest of him is thrilled to be All-Star bound.

"Who feels good right now at this point of the year?" Spoelstra asked. "We have a lot of guys that are banged up… He’s good enough to play. Is he 100 percent? No, but he doesn’t want to miss any games right now."
Collections on display in warehouse

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Judging from the banal surroundings, a warehouse is among the last places you’d expect to find one of the most diverse, vintage and contemporary art collections in the South Florida area.

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse is located on NW 27th St, near Downtown Miami. It opened to the public in 1999 with Katherine Hinds as curator and holds works from Martin Z. Margulies’ ever-expanding collection. It is a place that promotes debate among visitors and fosters an appreciation of art.

The space offers a mixture of both new and old artworks, varying between sculptures, installations, videos, paintings, drawings, photographs and videos. Innovation and creativity resonate from within the warehouse.

"Using a warehouse in such a way was an interesting take on a gallery set-up. Everything paid to what it was placed next to," says Kharla Salazar, a junior and Philosophy major who recently visited the collection. "You really don’t realize how much work is put in installing artworks because it becomes part of your world. Part of what you’re walking into. To me, that’s what makes an amazing exhibit."

Between an alleyway lies a mirrored room with an Emerald City feel and twist. Constructed to take up the whole space, Mirror Alleyway features elevated walls, vivid green color and strategic mirror placement lining the walls. The goal was to impede basic human instinct to look at one’s reflection in the mirror. Even the tallest among visitors had a hard time catching a glance.

"In my case, my first instinct was to jump so I could see myself. It was a subconscious sort of thing. I didn’t really question it once I did it and that’s where the ingenuity of the piece comes in," said Salazar. "By surrounding you and making it difficult to see yourself, it propels you to become part of the work by interacting with it. Once our tour guide told us so, it all made sense. It was pretty amazing."

Currently included are the exhibitions Africa, featuring over 250 photography and video pieces by artists such as Peter Friedl, David Goldblatt and Kendall Geers, and Contemporary Paintings 1980-2010, with selections that include Vincent Desiderio, Oliver Dorf, Jonathan Meese, Tal R, Christian Eckart, John Torreano, Massimo Antonaci and Fabian Marcaccio. This will be the first time the Margulies collection will be exhibiting paintings.

"Some of which have been in storage since we acquired the works, others of which we have added to the collection recently. One of the works is a gigantic 30’ diptych from 1999 by the American painter Vincent Desiderio, which has never been seen since it was exhibited at the Denver Art Museum in 1990," said Hinds in a press release.

Also featured are Jene Highstein’s Large Stone Carvings, Brian Alfred’s Digital Animation and Michelangelo Pistoletto’s Broken Mirror Painting.

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse is free to students with a valid ID. Tours are available by appointment, and visiting hours are every Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

I loved ‘L’Hospital’ by Gilles Barbier. This piece stood out the most to me. It portrayed American superheroes in a retirement home, aged and their trade having taken a toll on their physical appearance. I have always loved comics, and it was cool to see how someone perceived these characters from an outside perspective," said Salazar.

When I first saw one of my friends wearing TOMS shoes, I thought she was hungover and accidentally put on her grandma’s slippers.

Then she told me the message behind TOMS and the idea of a shoe that gives back to the community.

"One for One" comes from American traveler Blake Mycoskie befriended children in Argentina and found they had no shoes to protect their feet. Wanting to help, he created TOMS Shoes. A year later, Mycoskie returned to Argentina with 10,000 pairs of shoes made possible by TOMS customers.

"I was totally surprised. I was proven wrong. The shoes are quite flattering to the leg."

If choosing to wear TOMS with jeans, cuff your jeans at the ankle. Most of the time jeans are a bit too long and bunch at the bottom. This look doesn’t work as well with TOMS as it would with a sandal or a ballet slipper. Cutting the jeans helps out the proportions.

The company started off with a just few basic colors: red, olive, black and navy. Once the brand’s popularity grew, it started added fun colors, patterns and styles.

After the success of the sequined wedding style shoe, TOMS came out with a pink version. It’s too much Oz for me, but I can appreciate them. My next purchase will be one of the Cordones style. By the looks of it, it is like a ked and Converse hybrid and still maintains the ease of a classic TOMS. The only TOMS style I object to is the wedge style.

"TOMS look cute with literally everything. Specific looks come into mind when I think about how to wear TOMS. The only pair that I object to is the wedge style. It’s too much Oz for me, but I can appreciate them. My next purchase will be one of the Cordones style. By the looks of it, it is like a ked and Converse hybrid and still maintains the ease of a classic TOMS. The only TOMS style I object to is the wedge style."

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### ON THE PROWL

**Make sure to do some research before a big date**

While spending last summer vacation at home with my family in New Orleans, I spent a lot of my free time exploring the city’s nightlife opportunities. My sister and I decided to go to the local college hangout we had gone to on numerous occasions before and on a particularly fun night I met Marley. He was 23 years old, enrolled at a nearby community college and very passionate about pursuing a music career.

He seemed super down-to-earth, charismatic and knew how to keep a conversation going. It wasn’t until our third date that he finally dropped the bomb: he was an ex-convicted felon that had only been out of prison for about a year. Marley told me he had just got caught up with the wrong crowd and had made bad decisions, but that he had recently found God, joined a local church and found new friends.

He told me that he got that night, I went straight to my computer and put the skills I had learned in journalism classes to work. After a few hours of digging, I had found the names of all of Marley’s family members, all his past addresses and his criminal records. Low and behold, Marley was a felon - a nine-time felon to be exact.

Besides some drug charges, there were some battery charges that scared me. While every case may not be this extreme, after this experience I got in the habit of doing a little background research for new people entering my life, especially romantic interest. After all, it is public information and I’m entitled to know who I surround myself with.

And I believe everyone should too. Here’s how to get started:

For starters, never underestimated the power of Facebook. If you’ve never experimented with the search box past making a friends list, try to really dig through your Facebook lets you search by location, education and workplace. It will sift through your friends’ posts and extends its reach out to the web if you ask it to.

The obvious way to find more information about a person would be to Google them, but there are also other search engines that are likely to pick up a variety of other sites Google might not. Try whois.com, ask.com, blog.com and allthatweb.com. Also, keep in mind that search engines only scour the “surface” of the Internet.

The Whitepages online can be really handy, but there are also many online background check websites doing to charge you for information that is already floating around the Internet for free.

Deep web searches such as ppl.com, 12people.com, perseus.com and spokeos.com all find information referring to a vast repository of underlying content, such as documents in online databases that general-purpose web crawlers can’t reach.

This is because most personal profiles, public records and other people-related documents are stored in databases and not static web pages. There is a lot of information about people is simply “invisible” to a regular search engine. The deep web is estimated to have 500 times more content than the surface web and barely anyone is aware of it.

If your date is a little more high profile and you’re interested in finding out what people are saying about them, sites like whosthatlist.com, socialmention.com, samepoint.com and icracker.com are social media tools that allows users to search for conversations about topics, or people in our case, that interest them.

Try searching for yourself to test it out, you might be pleasantly or unpleasantly surprised.

Some of these websites might ask you for information you might not know, but as long as you have at least two pieces of information, such as name, birthday, phone number, address or previous addresses, through the tools I’ve shared, you can slowly piece a puzzle together.

Now, let’s not be naive and forget to check sex offender registries, incarceration records, criminal searches, court records and property records.

After avoiding Marley for some time, he noticed I might have been a bit startled by his confession and tried hard to get me to under- stand that was his past. I believe everyone deserves a second chance and I extended one to him. I’m glad I did because while the romantic interest fizzled, he turned out to be a friend. He had indeed drastically changed his present, mostly due to his four-year-old daughter’s motivation to succeed in the music industry.

Sometimes being a little paranoid can pay off and be a healthy preventive measure to take on behalf of your own safety. Call me what you’d like, but I just like to be on the safe side when letting a new person into my life.

*On the Prowl* is a bi-weekly column on dating. Look for it every other Monday.
Egyptian uprising elicits global impact

The world economy is becoming more integrated and it is impossible to insulate ourselves from what is happening in Egypt and the rest of the world.

The economic impact of Egypt’s political turmoil should not be underestimated or ignored by investors and citizens of the world. The current revolutionary uprising taking place in Egypt should trigger serious concerns about the already unstable global economy, which is going to be further destabilized.

Volunteering against the government and the act of protesting is like the flu – highly contagious. The contagion is already spreading across the region to Yemen, Jordan, Algeria and others. All of these nations are members of the global economy and, more importantly, are in the Middle East, where the majority of the world’s oil supply is located. Unstable governments in these countries mean an unstable Middle East. That is detrimental for both the Middle East and the world economy.

Mubarak made a statement on Egyptian State television announcing that he does not intend to run in September’s presiden- tial election. No one knows who is going to be the next president, and that is precisely the concern. Although, his recently chosen vice president, Mr. Suleiman, has a shaking of the government does not fall apart altogether.

Under the Mubarak government, Egypt has been a strategic ally of the United States and other Western countries. If Mubarak is no longer in power, his replacement – except for Suleiman – can and may change the direction of Egyptian politics in a negative way. Obviously, this will have an impact on the world economy.

An indisputable impact is the rise in the price of oil. In fact, we are currently witnessing an increase in oil prices. According to The Washington Post, “The price of oil rose to $92.19 on Monday [Jan. 31, 2011], its highest level since October 2008.” This increase should come as a warning for everyone: the economy is going to further suffer from current political turmoil.

Although Egypt is not a major oil exporter, a disruption in oil delivery through the Suez Canal will cause gas prices to rise. The 120 mile canal is the key connector between Europe and Asia. According to the U.S. Energy Department, “Every day about 200 million barrels of oil — about 3.6 percent of the world’s crude produc-

tion — moves through the Suez Canal or by overland pipelines in Egypt.” So far, the canal has remained open. However, I think that every country should be concerned that the canal may be blocked, which will affect global trade.

Disruptions in shipping along the Suez Canal impact goods, too. Goods from Asia are shipped around the world via the Suez Canal. If the canal is closed to shipping, alternative, more expensive routes are going to have to be considered. Eventually, those costs will be passed on to consumers around the world. The combination of higher energy prices, plus higher prices for goods, will stifle the already depressed worldwide economy.

The world economy is becoming more integrated and it is impossible to insulate ourselves from what is happening in Egypt and the rest of the world. Citizens of the world should be concerned.

Econ with Neda is the weekly economics column. To submit story ideas, email neda.ghomeshi@fiu.com.
**Globally**

Cuba to free 4 opposition prisoners

The government has agreed to free four men convicted of trying to fly the island by hijacking boats, and will send them into exile in Spain, a Roman Catholic Church official said on Feb. 2.

**Venezuela**

Chavez: 'Battle has begun' for 2012 election

Hugo Chavez celebrated his 12th anniversary in power on Feb. 2 saying he is ready to battle for six more years in next year's election. He touted his government's programs and also apologized for his errors.

Gov't-backed candidate out of Haiti's election

Electoral officials dropped the government-backed candidate from the upcoming presidential run-off on Feb. 3, ending a standoff with the U.S. and other international powers over the results of the first-round voting.

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**A not-so-Common lecture will take place this week**

**DEBORAH SOUVERRAIN**

**Staff Writer**

“‘I met this girl, when I was 10 years old, and what I loved most, she had so much soul,’” are lyrics from Chicago-Born rapper Common's critically acclaimed single “I used to love H.E.R.”

It is an ode to hip-hop expressing his disappointment in the path that hip-hop had taken in the late 1980s and early 1990s during the fall of conscious rap, brought on by the rise of gangsta rap.

Two-time Grammy award winning hip-hop artist Common is scheduled to discuss “The Effects of Hip-Hop on American Society” on Feb. 9, 2011 on the Biscayne Bay Campus, as part of the ongoing Lecture Series coordinated by the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Government Council.

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**As empty seats still exist, so too do appointments**

**BECCA GRIESERER**

**Staff Writer**

President Christian “CCI” Battle appointed an executive assistant to the president in under five minutes in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus general meeting on Jan. 26.

Battle prefaced the senator's vote by saying she hoped they would approve Dedeé Bing because the hopeful assistant had been “stalking” Battle in order to help her.

Bing’s introduction to the senators included where she was from (China), her major (hospitality), and finally her dorm room number so that anyone who is interested is welcome to come by for her cooking.

The room was filled with laughter and applause. Bing stepped outside and was the senate approved her without any deliberation.

The constitution gives the president the right to appoint the executive cabinet, elections board, and chief justice, but at a vacancy-laden council like SGC-BBC, appointments are an ever-occurring procedure, and into the legislative branch as well. Senators can approve or deny all appointments and recommendations that the president presents to the senate body, yet many officials feel there is scant need to deny a recommendation made by the president.

“Usually the senate is confident with the executive board’s decisions because they know what it entails to have a big position on campus,” Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president said.

The difference between a recommendation and an appointment, Halpin explained, is that a recommendation is given for a person who would be a strong candidate because they are heavily involved and possess good qualities, whereas an appointment is: “You are appointed into the senate; you are officially now a member.”

Christopher Lazaga was appointed to chief justice in the first general meeting of the spring semester. Halpin said Battle went through an interview process with about seven different candidates for the position.

“CCI brought Chris before the senate so they could approve or disapprove of him, but she gets to appoint him at the end of the day, though,” Halpin said.

Even if the senate disapproved, Battle could bring her chosen candidate before the senate again, Halpin said.

Former SGC-BBC president, Sholom Neistein, said the process for the president appointing one person out of seven candidates is completely accurate.

“The constitution states the president has all the rights to decide who is fit for that position, and if [CCG] felt like that person was fit, than it’s within her right,” Neistein said.

But there is no regulation or stipulation in the constitution that says the president can’t present more than one candidate and let the senate vote with more than one option before them.

On this, Neistein expounds: “I have a question for you, on the national scale, in the whole political spectrum that you see: how do they run it? Do they get all the candidates and they all go before the senate? Or does the president pick one person and they can shoot that person down or accept that person? I’m sure CCI would have loved to put a couple people in front of the senate.”

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**Student Government Council**

**SGC-BBC**

**Lecture Series**

Hip-hop performer Common, seen here reaping the honor at Angelou’s home in May 2010, will lecture on the effects of hip-hop on American society on Feb. 9 in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms.

**Haiti**

Eratist under GBM of gangsta rap

As empty seats still exist, so too do appointments and face traffic and fuel costs.

“I just don’t understand why I have to come all the way up here for one class,” said Ustariz, a senior who's pursuing a second degree in hospitality management.

Some students believe the university has chosen to locate certain schools solely at the Biscayne Bay Campus based on geographic reasons.

“I guess it makes sense to have the hospitality school here since it’s a lot closer to hotels and tourist hotspots than the main campus,” said Rosnih Rampersaud, a University alums who graduated in 2009 with a degree in hospitality management.

This does not necessarily apply to other schools, though.

“I don’t see the point of having the journalism school here,” said Chris Lazaga, a senior journalism student. "I mean we’re no closer to news agencies that we would be at the other campus. It would make sense if it was located downtown because at least that way we’d be way closer to The New Times and The Miami Herald buildings.”

The reasoning has nothing to do with travel expenses, but seats are limited. It is encouraged that tickets be picked up prior to the event. As of Feb. 1, over 300 tickets were sold at BBC and only three tickets remained at MMC. For non-FIU members, tickets are being sold for $5 pre-sale and $10 at the door.

As one of the more popular faces of the dwindling, less mainstream, sector of hip-hop referred to as “conscious rap,” Common rose from his roots in underground hip-hop to becoming one of the most famed artists in hip-hop.