Four regular season games to be nationally televised

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers will start their 2011 campaign the same way they finished their previous season – on an ESPN network.

For the first time since August of 2006, and the first time in the Mario Cristobal era, his team will play a game on a day outside of the traditional Saturday. In fact during the 2011 slate, FIU will play four out of their 12 regular season mid-week games, including two in the first couple of weeks.

The 2011 FIU football schedule also includes three nationally televised games. It’ll be the first time in school history that any regular season football game will be televised on one of the major ESPN networks.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, the Sun Belt Conference champions will open their season in hopes to defend their title against North Texas at home, televised on ESPNDN. Last season FIU defeated the Mean Green 34-10 in Denton, Texas.

After their home opener, the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl champions will travel to Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium to face Louisville, winners of the Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Bowl.

Unlike last season where FIU had a bye week in the opening week of the season then in week eight, the Golden Panthers will have a bye in weeks seven and four. It’ll be the first time FIU’s young, Division-I football history, that they ‘ll host six

FOOTBALL, page 3

Protests in Tunisia, Egypt reverberate through region

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

The uprising in Tunisia spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa, as millions took to the streets in signs of protest against their current regimes.

The fall of Tunisian and Egyptian Presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak, have inspired an uprising in Libya and major protests in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan and Djibouti.

High unemployment, corruption and political repression led the youth of Tunisia to successfully oust Ben Ali from the presidency on Jan. 14, after 28 days of protests. Tunisians inspired Egyptians to rise against Mubarak, who resigned the presidency after 30 years on Feb. 11. After the resignation of Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi an interim government was installed, while in Egypt, the military is currently in control.

“If the interim governments intend to be responsive to their citizens, they must begin the difficult process of organizing free, fair and transparent elections,” said John Clark, professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations. “The first step would be the institution of a new constitution, or revision of the existing constitutions that allow free political competition.”

Islamic fundamentalism has become a major concern for both the Middle East and the West in the post-dictatorship days of Tunisia and Egypt.

“[Tunisians] witnessed the Algerian civil war and of course the danger of Islamism, they are ready to deal with Islamism within a democratic structure,” said Maya Bouaghrou, modern languages professor and Algerian citizen.

Bouaghrou highlighted the importance of high access to education, which for Tunisians, accounts for 97.7 percent of the population between age six and 11. Also, 37 percent of the Tunisian population between the ages of 18 and 25 has access to higher education.

“I will not feel that confident about Egypt, which did not really offer education for all. [Their] human development index is not as good as in Tunisia,” added Bouaghrou.

The eyes of the media have shifted to Libya, as its citizens demand the resignation of President Mounmar Gaddaфи.
Julian Assange Claims ‘Jew- ish’ Conspiracy Against Him

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange complained about a Jewish smear campaign against WikiLeaks emanating from journalists in Britain.

In a call related by Ian Hislop, editor of the satiric magazine Private Eye, Assange reportedly bemoaned about a Jewish smear campaign against WikiLeaks.

When President Barack Obama and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush stand side by side at a Miami high school, it will be an opportunity for the Democrat to show a bipartisan approach to education reform while allowing the Republican to push his own nationwide message on the issue.

Obama and Bush have common ground on education. Both support increasing the number of charter schools, tying teacher evaluations to student performance on standardized tests and setting high standards and accountability.

They also believe education is key to invigorating U.S. competitiveness.

The joint appearance comes as Obama aims to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act — signed into law by the governor’s brother, former President George W. Bush, no less.

One of Jeb Bush’s legacies during his eight years as governor, which ended in January 2007, was an overhaul of Florida’s school system.

Public schools are now graded on a scale of A to F and are rewarded or penalized based on their grades.

Bush continues to push Florida-style education changes around the country through the Foundation for Excellence in Education. A number of states are in the process of adopting similar changes.

“Like with everything in poli- tics, it’s mutual convenience,” said Jack Jennings, president of the Center for Education Policy and former general counsel of the House Committee on Education and Labor, said of the joint Obama-Bush appearance.

On Friday, they will be at Miami Central Senior High School, one of hundreds of low-performing schools across the nation that have received money from the U.S. Department of Education through Race to the Top, a four-turnaround models.

Jeb Bush selected the school as an example of a school that has made gains through reform.

“Because of high expectations for students, hard-edge policies that focus schools on learning and an array of choices for families, the Sunshine State is leading the nation in rising student achievement,” Bush said in a statement.

He said he looked forward to sharing the state’s “model for student success” with the Sunshine State’s new Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Obama has pushed Florida-type reforms through the $4.35 billion Race to the Top program, which rewards schools for taking on ambitious reforms to close achievement gaps and improve student performance.

The initiative has prompted states to adopt Common Core standards, and led to an increase in the number of charter schools and changes in the way teachers are evaluated.

“Both of them have pushed the envelope,” said former West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Educa- tion. “Both of them have been willing to go out on issues that are controversial.”

Statehouse officials say the joint meeting shows the president believes education is not a Republic- can or Democratic issue.

Duncan will attend the event.

Central High received $784,700 in Title I School Improvement Grant funds in 2009. It has 1,826 students, of whom 92% come from low-income families.

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**FOOTBALL, page 1**

**JACKSON WOLEK  
Staff Writer**

The most important game of the year will be played this Saturday, Mar. 5 when FIU takes on Denver in the first round on the Sun Belt Conference tournament at 9:45 p.m. in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It will be a rematch of a first round game last year where the Pioneers bounced the Golden Panthers out of the tournament.

In some circles, it can be looked at as a revenge game, especially considering that they also suffered a tough overtime loss to Denver earlier this year. "In the back of my mind, Denver knocked us out last year and they beat us this year so you will never forget things like that," Phil Gary said.

Others like Coach Isaiah Thomas are taking a different approach to Saturday’s matchup. "I don’t look at it that way, I just try to get the team to play the game that’s at hand," Thomas said. "I thought that last year we had an excellent shot at winning the game, and we came up short, I’m hoping that we don’t come up short this time."

It has been a year since that game, and many thing have changed, except their place in the standings, which have still remained the same.

Even though Isaiah has totally revamped his team, the outcome at the end of the year has not improved. The one benefit that they do have is the amount of talent compared to last season. Players like Phil Taylor, Eric Frederick, Dominique Ferguson and DeShawn Wright all have made them still a team to be reckoned with, despite what their 5-11 conference record indicates.

Earlier this year, they took Denver to overtime on the road and eventually lost 79-70, without both Wright and Taylor. That combined with their poor 20-36 shooting from the free throw line caused them to lose the game.

A lot can be taken from the loss, including how the Pioneers like to play against FIU.

“They’re a very patient team, they run the shot clock down and you have to be ready to play for 30 to 35 seconds on every possession,” said Thomas. He also added that “they like to use the back cut a lot and their good shooters.”

For the Golden Panthers this season, any player can be the leading scorer on any given night, and they do not so much rely on player specifically. Denver is a team that likes to play a matchup man and switch off of screens, so many times a smaller player will be guarding a big man and vice-versa.

Phil Gary took advantage of having a big man on him last game where he scored a team high 22 points, but any player can do so depending on the opportunities that Denver gives them.

The confidence of the team going into the tournament this year had not been on the rise, at least up until they finally ended their 5 game losing streak on senior night against Troy. That win should give them motivation and confidence against Denver.

If they win, they will have the privilege of playing Middle Tennessee on Sunday at 9 p.m., but for now they are just taking it one by one.

**New schedule features four nationally televised games**

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Coley makes big impact in first year

RICO ALBARRACIN  
Asst. Sports Director

As the season draws to a close, and the FIU woman’s basketball is waiting for their first match-up in the Sun Belt Belt Conference tournament, freshman Jerica Coley is contributing to a team that is playing well.

Coley is currently leading the team in scoring with 15.7 points per game, enough to place her fourth in the SBC leaderboard. The St. Petersburg Times “Player of the Year” while in high school, Coley has garnered awards throughout her freshman season, including SBC Player of the Week twice this season. While at St. Petersburg Catholic High School, Coley led her team to the regional semifinals while averaging 23 points per game.

The scoring is only part of what Coley brings to the Golden Panthers. The St. Petersburg native has provided an offensive threat that rivals many SBC teams, while also contributing to what the better defensive back-courts in the conference.

**COLEY, page 4**

**SUN BELT TOURNAMENT**

FIU vs. Denver

- Time: 9:45 p.m.
- When: 03/05/11
- Where: Hot Springs, AR

**BETTER MEDIA COVERAGE**

**2011 FIU TV SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>FIU Stadium</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Oct. 25</td>
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*Selected conference games will also be carried on the Sun Belt Network*
Freshman guard helps bolster FIU defense

Along with senior Michelle Gonzalez, Coley is averaging 2.3 steals per game, with Gonzalez averaging the same, giving FIU the third and fourth ranked averages in the SBC respectively.

Coley reads the passing lanes with such precision, the crowd can sense when she will intercept a pass. Her focus puts pressure on opposing guards and forces awkward shots. Along with forcing bad shots, Coley rebounds at a high rate, enough to lead the team with 6.3 rebounds per game.

Stats only tell part of the story. Watching Coley in person gives people a different perspective of what Coley does on the court.

She has a calming intensity to her. She makes her presence felt without any shouting, exaggerated body movements, or aggression. Coley’s style of play is very “business as usual” but at a high level of play. When the ball is in her hands, the opposing team puts their focus on her. Coley has teammates that can generate offense, such as Gonzalez, or junior Rakia Rodgers. That added threat of not knowing where Coley will go with the ball makes her even more effective.

Whether she is driving to the basket or pulling up for a three-pointer, Coley can effect the game in many ways. Her control of the offense shows the confidence head coach Cindy Russo has put in Coley.

“When coach has told, when the ball is in my hands, is to make the best decision,” Coley said. “When you have players who can score like Rakia [Rodgers] and Michelle [Gonzalez], it makes it easier on offense.”

Coley got her start in basketball while she was in middle school, having her aunt, Tamika Michelle [Gonzalez], it makes it easier on offense.

“Coach, well she’s not my coach but I call her that, has guided me since I was in middle school,” Coley said. “She helped me a lot.”

Coach Cindy Russo has seen many players come through in her 34 years at FIU, and she enjoys when a player just plays with great decision-making skills.

“Jerica [Coley] is a coaches dream,” Russo said. “She is just really great.”

Coley will be the first to tell you that she is a laid-back person. She won’t yell. She won’t raise her voice. A soft spoken person, Coley still draws respect from her teammates.

“She’s a great player,” Gonzalez said. “She is very active and plays hard. It’s great to have her.”

When Coley is not playing basketball, she enjoys her free time playing tennis. Coley was a tennis player in high school, and played in seven others, but logged more effective.

Stats only tell part of the story.

LeBron James spoke with Mike Bibby after a game last week, and the NBA’s two-time reigning MVP is keeping the exact details of that chat private.

This much is known: It was a recruiting pitch.

“I gave him the eye,” James said. “And I guess the eye worked.”

Wednesday night, James and the Heat will be able to say that with certainty.

The Heat cleared a roster spot Tuesday by parting ways with Carlos Arroyo, and although the team made no formal pronouncements because of NBA rules, several players — James, Dwyane Wade and Mario Chalmers among them — said they will have Bibby aboard soon.

Bibby is expected to be in South Florida on Wednesday, will likely participate in Thursday morning’s shootaround practice on Wednesday, will likely participate in several players — James, Dwyane Wade will be able to say that with certainty.

This was a very difficult decision to make because Carlos has done a great job for this team and this organization,” Heat President Pat Riley said. “He is truly a first class individual and professional. We wish him nothing but the best.”

If Murphy picked Miami, the Heat would have likely waived little-used big man Jamaal Magloire to create another roster spot.

Magloire was relieved to be in practice Tuesday.

“I would have been disappointed otherwise,” Maglove said. “SPOELSTRA said, ‘Which do we do.’

Since Bibby wasn’t a Heat player until Wednesday, Spoelstra could not speak about him specifically.

James could.

“He’s going to help us out tremendously,” James said.

The Heat had conversations with other players who hit the market through buyouts, including Troy Murphy, who is expected to sign Wednesday with Boston. If Murphy picked Miami, the Heat would have likely waived little-used big man Jamaal Magloire to create another roster spot.

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Play Pride and Prejudice to teach audiences life lessons

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Pride and prejudice are two words that have remained as prevalent today as they were when Jane Austen penned her novel Pride and Prejudice in the 1800’s.

The stage version of Pride and Prejudice will be the second production of the spring semester. Starring performance major students Fadoua Hanine and Jair Bula as protagonists Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy respectively, the performance is directed by Professor Phillip Church.

Adapted for the stage by Jon Jory, the play, like the book, unfolds a classic story that revolves around themes of love, morality, manners and upbringings.

“The show is about a young girl who sees the posturing and the pretensions that go on around her, in her own family and in those above her station,” said Church.

“She is one of literature’s central archetypal rebels, and college students, male and female, will identify with that impulsive and rebellious spirit.”

The story takes place in the 19th century. Because of its setting, upbringing and social status carry a lot of significance, not only for the analysis and understanding of the play, but also in terms of the writing. This era, the Georgian period, is of particular importance to the students training in performance. The roots of Jane Austen’s comedy lie in the Restoration era’s Comedy of Manners,” said Church.

Traces of this style are still very much in evidence even though, as a writer, she was bringing her readers into a world of everyday realism. There is so much discipline involved with this style - physical, vocal AND spiritual. The essence, or the spirit of the times, is essential to the success of playing Austen’s characters. I think these young actors are capturing this essence remarkably well.”

The cast and crew of Pride and Prejudice followed a strict schedule to prepare for the production’s opening. Rehearsals were held each night from Monday through Friday and lasted almost three hours. Yet, things still felt rushed.

“It’s frustrating, but a reality which we have to live with,” said Church. “A great job was done by the choreographer, Mical Nevitt, and the dance captain, Yerelis Chavez. Austen’s world really explodes into life. They have contributed a lot toward that success.”

The play is scheduled to open this week. Performances will run from Mar. 3 - 6 and from Mar. 10 - 13. The show will take place at 8:00 p.m. except for Sunday’s presentation, which will be at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are $10 for all FIU students.

Prevention.

Professor Church hopes the community will walk away with some life lessons from the play. “I want audiences to stop and think and consider and listen before responding with knee-jerk reactions,” said Church.

“Both Darcy and Elizabeth learn the essential lesson of listening to learn. It is only when we listen to each other that we really begin to consider the other person’s needs - the other person’s perspective. Most of the time we are so preoccupied with listening to ourselves that we fail to listen to another. A lot of relationships self destruct because of this.”

Students get involved in Relay for a good cause

O’Neal, whose grandfather had been diagnosed with colon cancer twice, describes her experience at Relay for Life as a mix of emotions and a bittersweet experience.

“You’re there for the cause and the personal stakes just make it more emotional,” said O’Neal. “Every year we rise to the challenge and raise the money.”

Janelle Lago, 18, a freshman whose best friend has gone through cancer twice and her mother four times, welcomes the experiences she has had from being part of Relay for Life. “As a freshman, I feel like I’ve done a lot and it’s exposed me to many different people who you sometimes pass by and you don’t know their stories.”

Lago hopes to surprise her mother by bringing her to Miami for Relay this year.

“Sometimes it hurts to be so far away from her but I know I’m here [in Miami] for a reason and I know that I’m making her proud,” said Lago.

And while some relay for those who are fighting, others fight for those who have fallen.

Ben F. Badger, 25, a senior and online chair, relays for his grand- father who succumbed to cancer at the age of 70.

“I learned about Relay by accident. When I was a freshman I joined the Russian Club and one day the president of the club came to me for help in tabling at Relay. I had never heard of it but I came back every year after that and would help with the cause,” said Badger. “I saw it as a big carnival.”

Badger, who became involved in Relay for Life as part of the planning committee this past fall, describes the experience as rewarding.

“Everything I’m doing is for a great cause. All we raise literally goes to helping someone in the present. In a way, everything I’ve been through has prepared me for the relay,” he said.

Badger’s position has opened up other mediums of advertising for Relay for Life. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts have all been opened to advertise and spread the word about Relay for Life.

“This year I did everything from scratch. I made flyers and managed the website to make sure everything is in order and that the word is out about what we’re doing,” said Badger.
Fairy tale classic gets a science fiction twist

TIZON, page 8

I’m sure she’ll never regret her decision to do so,” public relations major Amy Faulkner said. Faulkner, a Phi Sigma Sigma sister, has been friends with Tizon since sixth grade.

The Oceola High School Chorus has won a mass amount of national championships, including the 2009 Cruise Festival Overall Grand Championship Award in the Bahamas on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line’s “Monarch of the Seas.”

Tizon and her choruses were also invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York as a part of the 2008 National Carnegie Hall Choir. Had the opportunity to sing backup for Kenny Rogers in 2009, and won the national “Music in the Parks” award in Los Angeles in 2010.

Tizon began writing love songs at age seven. Her father, Victor Tizon, was a freestyle DJ for Stevie B., best known for his 1990 hit “Because I Garten she wanted to join in the performance of this opera and decided to do so,” public relations major, said Dundas.

Decision to do so,” public relations major, said Dundas.

“Just a little bit of her in all of us.”

In the end, Dundas gives credit to his students for such a massive undertaking. “The students should take the credit. They are very ambitious. I have no regrets in choosing this project.”

Cinderella premieres Friday, Mar. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and is performed again on Saturday, Mar. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Both performances will be at the WPAC Concert Hall. Tickets will be $5 for students, $15 non-students, $25 for faculty and staff and $25 general admission.

By John Jory

PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

Tizon has performed with artists like Kurtis the Kid. Love You (The Postman Song).” When Destinee was in kindergarten, she wanted to join in the elementary school choir, but had to be in at least first grade to join and she begged them to let her join and eventually they let her when they heard her sing,” Victor said.

Last summer, Tizon recorded and performed songs for Miami artists Kurtiz the Kid and J. Nics, who has opened up for Currents. With Khalifa and Big Sean, the students have the opportunity to

and had a meeting with producers Cool and Dre.

On March 6, the 2011 Miami Kidney Walk will take place at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne starting at 8:30 a.m. She’ll walk alongside her sorority sister, whose philanthropy is the National Kidney Foundation, and her father.

About one out of 750 people are born with a single kidney, more commonly males and the left kidney is usually absent more often, according to the National Kidney Foundation.

Like Tizon says in her “You be Killin’ Em” remix, “you girls really need to step it up, nails done, hair done- I do that on the regular.” At 18, she’s already due to be a junior in fall 2011.

“My ultimate goal is to get signed, but at the same time, music is something I love to do,” Tizon said.
The sun shines on the bright orange warning sign and I stop to read it on my way to the Graham Center from the Blue Garage. “Warning,” it says in all capital letters on a disturbing imagery ahead.” Next to this sign is another one with an 800 phone number and the words, “Confidential Post-Abortion Help Line.”

The anti-abortion truck was back. While the truck sparked a lot of discussion and complaints from the people gathered around it, I thought it provided an essential source of discussion in a dialogue that is too often represented solely by its polarizing sides. Full of representatives from the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, the giant truck emblazoned with graphic post-abortion images was on campus Feb. 21 and 22. This year, the protest was accompanied by a fence around the Pro-Life supporters and a “Free Speech Board” outfitted with dangling Sharpies for all and sundry to make their opinions known.

Abortion is something that tends to drive a wedge between those who are “pro-life” and those who are “pro-choice” with no room for a nebulous opinion or even one that is not quite as extreme. While these trucks are obviously “pro-life,” the inclusion of the “Free Speech Board” allowed those with dissenting opinions to argue their position in a relatively safe space.

Even the pro-lifers who walked around asking if you would be interested in discussing your opinion were polite and low-key. As I moved around the rest of the campus that day, most of the conversations I overheard seemed to be along the lines of people complaining. I heard someone say that “those crazy Conserva- tives” had struck again and someone else said the truck was showing “unnecessary pictures.”

But the truck, the pictures and the fenced-in pro-lifers were all doing some- thing most people are not willing to do by honestly and un-agnostically expressing their opinion. They were also more than willing to calmly explain their opinion if anyone wanted to discuss.

The truck and its supporters were sparking debate in something that does not really get debated outside of the political stonking ground. The usual complaints offered by both sides revolve around the rights of women and the rights of the unborn. However, these are such touchy subjects, and there does not seem to be an un-territorial way of even having these discussions.

Regardless of the graphic nature of their display, the group was calmly expressing their opinion and asking others to do the same. It is difficult to complain about a group expressing their right to free speech.

If it takes pictures of dead babies to get a discussion on abortion rolling at the col- lege level, then the Center and its display have done their job, even if the conversa- tion sparked is a two paragraph rant against those expressing their opinion. They were also expressing their opinion and asking others to discuss those opinions and at least come to an understanding of the opposite point of view. However, I am not for showing graphic imagery in an inappropriate manner under false pretenses.

When it comes to graphic medical imagery, I am not squeamish. Both of my parents have worked in the medical field and, as a result, I have been exposed to such imagery at a young age and have even taken a personal interest in women’s health. However, other students may not be so lucky and could have easily been distracted, if not nauseated, by the explicit imagery that the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform used in their installation.

Also, in addition to the photographs of aborted fetuses, images from the Holo- caust and other genocides depicting heaps of dead victims were also included, adding to the alarming nature of their display. On top of that, at one point a woman in associa- tion with the center got hold of a micro- phone and began shouting into the crowd, drawing even more attention to it.

True, they did have signs warning people of the disturbing imagery ahead—and I give them credit for it—but the images were blown up to such a large size that they were easily seen from a distance. I hate to use the cliché, but the images were like watching open-heart surgery: disgusting, but very difficult to look away from.

Also, for those that received the email, I must say that the title “Genocide Aware- ness Project” is very misleading. When one mentions the word “genocide,” I would say that the majority of us would think of the Holocaust, the ethnic cleansing in Rwanda in 1994 or Darfur during the new millen- nium. By definition, genocide “is the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, reli- gious, or national group,” according to the Oxford English dictionary and the Geneva Convention.

While people have varying opinions on when “life” begins, I think it is safe to say that “Fetus” is neither an ethnic group nor a religion. Abortion is a social issue that always produces deep, spirited discussion, but there is a time and a place for it. One of those places would be a college campus, but the method the Center used, while attention- grabbing and definitely likely to produce a strong response, was inappropriate. I do not mind if they return, but with a method that does not rely on deception and shock value to engage students in the discussion of a serious issue.

The personal rights of women have become the stage for the political theatrics of politicians who lack insight on how to deal with issues that affect public health. The strategy is conscious and intentional. While the bill will not stand, it creates the opportunity for a challenge of the constitu- tionality of Roe V. Wade, which in turn threatens the provisions and laws the landmark Supreme Court case encompasses. This strategy is often referred to as a “chipping away” of abortion rights, and it has been a success.

While this bill, similar to the outrageous bill proposed in South Dakota which sought to potentially make the murders or attempted murders of abort- ion providers a form of “justifi- ably homicidial,” will indeed not pass, the mere notion that these bills could be copied, amended or reworked to be implemented is equally worrisome.

Abortion display done in poor taste, misleading
**BRAZIL**

**Driver accused of hitting Brazil cyclists jailed**

Ricardo Jose Neia, the motorist accused of running down dozens of bike-riding activists in southern Brazil injuring at least 40 people, was arrested in Porto Alegre after a judge ordered his preventive detention.

**CUBA**

**Jesse Jackson makes appeal to Cuba**

Jackson appealed to Cuba to release an American contractor facing a possible 20-year sentence on charges of trying to undermine the government, saying granting him freedom could lead to better relations.

**MEXICO**

**Fiction evident as Mexican president visits US**

The human and financial costs of Mexico's drug war, diplomatic cable leaks, the influx of U.S. arms and a wave of anti-immigration initiatives in the U.S. are all taking a toll on improved Mexico-U.S. relations.

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**Students enjoy hangouts, but want more options**

Whether it’s listening to music on a bench under sunny skies, reading a book in a quiet corner or taking a nap on couch, students have taken advantage of the hangout spots available and have also thrown in a few suggestions for further improvements.

Since opening its doors for students in 1977, the Biscayne Bay Campus has built very relaxed atmosphere where students can study and hang out in the gratifying weather. South Florida offers practically year round. With benches and tables set up on balconies floors and comfy couches in every main hallway of the Wolfe University Center that look incredibly inviting for a tired student, the BBC offers various locations for students to study and play.

Every so often on the south side of WUC, students are catching up on sleep on the set of couches on the first floor by the piano, probably after pulling an all-nighter.

However, some students picked a corner to study or choose the benches outside while enjoying the beautiful weather at the bay as much as sitting at the table across from Hughes sat Charles Galan, who is pursuing a certificate in restaurant management.

Galan said BBC needs more outdoor restaurants for students to grab a bite and hang out after class. However, he gave in on the view and scenery. “The area is real nice and tranquil, that’s why I like to come out here and work,” Galan said.

In a quieter sector, this time inside WUC rather than the outdoor spots, lies couches that stretch in a circular shape, possibly to imply a short smokesh break or social gatherings. On one side lay a girl who was probably on cloud nine with books still in hand. On the other sat undergraduate Francis Arce, a communications major with his feet rested on the steps.

“I don’t seem like many people come here, so I like to enjoy some alone time and get some work done,” said Arce.

Near the stairs in the same premises, sat a group of giddy girls, whispering and paper-shuffling. This group added a little more detail on the add-on list for BBC to heighten their student hangouts.

Aduna Traxler, public relations major, elaborated on Traxler’s proposal by insisting on seating areas in general in the Marine Science building in particular.

Although BBC has the right hang out spots for students, according to students, scarcity of spots is the problem.

For students who go to BBC more than three times a week, making the campus cozy and homely is what students are looking for. Seating that is closer together and hangout spots that are perfect for outdoor weather but without ants are what students want to see more.

Until then, students will continue to choose comfy couches and study in the nooks outside while enjoying the beautiful weather at the bay as much as possible.

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**Freshman singer born with rare condition**

**UJANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA**

**Staff Writer**

All those laps Desiree Tizon had to run before choir practice at Orlando’s Osceola High School Chorale could have ended her singing career. While physically strenuous activities can be challenging for healthy people, for Tizon the risks are significantly increased.

The freshman was born with one kidney and two uteri, a condition that requires her to avoid strenuous activities altogether.

But Tizon joined one of Florida’s best choirs anyway, and her condition didn’t keep her from a fruitful recording career: three singles, all original compositions, posted on her website, www.desireetizon.com.

Although hip-hop is a male dominated business, Tizon wants to change that. The self-proclaimed “hip-hop head, sole collector and biggest J.Cole fan” is an aspiring public relations major who started at the University during Summer B in 2010.

In Fall 2010, Tizon met English major and senior Christina Perez while rushing Phi Sigma Sigma and the annual Phi Sigma Sigma Fashion Show. Thanks to Phi Sigma Sigma, she has been able to perform around campus.

“She will be famous because she wants no lack of an answer; she makes sure she finds her ‘yes,’” said Perez. “She may not be the next Whitney Houston but she doesn’t want to be ‘because’ she will be ‘Desi’ no matter what situation she’s in.”

Tizon is from the same city where musical talents such as DMX, Lady Gaga, Steven Tyler, Styles P, Jadakiss and Mary J. Blige – one of Desiree’s biggest influences – have emerged from, Yonkers, NY.

Tizon aspires to become another successful female soul artist compa-

niere of the likes of her inspiration, Alicia Keys.

“I started playing piano because of Keys. She can sit and play the piano the whole time, and everyone would love her. Everybody respects her. That’s what I want,” Tizon said.

After Sept. 11, at a time when many were fleeing New York, Desiree’s family moved to Orlando, with a Disney career in her sights.

She enrolled in The Lisa Maioli Acting and Modeling School, where acting students were instructed to memorize and record commercials for dissection later. Singing, she realized, was her true calling.

“I liked acting but it just didn’t feel like it was for me. I did help me because I learned how to take constructive criticism,” Tizon said.

When the time came to choose a high school, Desiree passed up the local performing arts school for public school.

“Desi made the right decision by attending Osceola; their choir program was amazing and it opened many doors and opportunities for her.”

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