**PLAY FOR LIFE**

Event aims to raise $85,000 for American Cancer Society

ALFREDO APARICIO  
Staff Writer

Six years ago on the front lawn of the Graham Center, students banded together and held the first official Relay for Life for the University. In the following years, Relay for Life has only gained momentum with this year’s goal set at $85,000.

This year’s theme, “Play for Life,” will incorporate childhood games and promises to bring a night full of fun. The event will bring together caregivers, survivors and the families and friends of those who have succumbed.

Alan Meca, 22, who lost his father to two brain tumors in 2009, describes learning of his father’s cancer as “being in a glass box, I was protected, but when my dad was diagnosed, it was like the glass shattered and everything came crashing down.”

In the subsequent years, Meca was no longer just a participant in the Relay, he was one of the many who are touched, directly or indirectly, by cancer. During last year’s Luminaria ceremony Meca couldn’t help but breakdown.

“I was there, I couldn’t help but fall to my knees and cry because it brought back all the memories,” said Meca.

Meca is now enrolled in the development-sciences doctoral program and attributes his father every year for pushing him to succeed. “He was like my guardian angel,” said Meca. “He was never really there with me because he had to work but he always kept on pushing me, do not give up and always do better especially in school.”

“I can’t think of just one story,” said Angela Baker, a senior and the executive director of Relay for Life. “So many have touched me.”

Baker, whose grandmother has been a survivor for 40 years, has been involved with the American Cancer Society since she was eight years old. “When you’re small you don’t really understand,” said Baker. “It is when you get older that you begin to understand.”

When she came to FIU, Baker engaged herself in the event, becoming advocacy chair her sophomore year, marketing chair her senior year and executive director last fall. “It’s something that I have been involved with for so many years and have seen grow,” said Baker.

Shamira O’Neal, 21, a junior, has been involved since her high school years. She began her freshman year as a participant and then became a Luminaria chair her sophomore year. Her senior year she became a team captain for the debate club, for which she was the president.

FOOTBALL, page 3

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 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 ESPN3. 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

RELAY, page 5

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 Bouchtough, modern languages professor and Algerian citizen.

Bouchtough 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 24 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 Bouchtough.

The eyes of the media have shifted toward Libya, as its citizens demand the resignation of President Muammar Gaddafi,

PROTESTS, page 2
The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a grieving father’s pain over mocking protests at his Marine son’s funeral must yield to First Amendment protections for free speech. All but one justice sided with a fundamentalist church that has stirred outrage with raucous demonstrations contending God is punishing the military for the nation’s tolerance of homosexuality.

The 8-1 decision in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., was the latest in a line of court rulings that, as Chief Justice John Roberts said in his opinion for the court, protects “even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate.”

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 Sunday Telegraph, Assange denied the claims, saying, “Hislop has no idea what he’s talking about. Mallen has been told by the government of Israel that we are being targeted by a band of right-wing Israelis, and he has also been told by the government of Israel that we are being targeted by a group of right-wing Israelis.”

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Pres. Obama visits Florida schools

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
CHRISTINE ARMARcio
AP Staff

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 much 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 punished 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.

“The Sun has been in power since 1969,” “Gaddafi is guiding his country to civil war. He does not want to leave, when I hear him over the radio or TV screaming and encouraging his people to enter the civil war he sounds as if he lost his mind,” said Boutaghou.

Protests have also appeared in some of the richer Gulf states, where it is being handled in a different manner.

According to Reuters, in response to demonstrations, the monarchy of Bahrain attempted to appease their citizens by offering each family the equivalent of $2,650. "But the monetary payments are only part of the reason why protests are not likely to succeed in these countries," said Clark.

"I think it is quite likely that these countries can contain the protests going on within their borders, particularly Saudi Arabia. But the monetary payments are only part of the reason why protests are not likely to succeed in these countries," said Clark.

Duncan has pushed Florida-type reforms through the $4.35 billion Race to the Top program, which awards 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 Education. "Both of them have been willing to go out on issues that are controversial."
men's basketball

FIU opens tourney against Denver

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," Phl 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 things 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 DeShaun 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 season 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., and for now they are just taking it as any other team is...one game at a time.

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 the better defensive back-courts in the conference.

New schedule features four nationally televised games

FOOTBALL, page 1

home games.

"We are excited that our fans will be treated to six home games this season, giving them and our team the opportunity to take advantage of the college football game day experience here at FIU," Athletic Director Fite Garcia said.

Four of their first five games will be at home to start the season, including a week three showdown at home against cross-town foe Central Florida on Sept. 17. Central Florida won the Conference USA last season and is the only opponent FIU will face that finished in the top 25 BCS rankings last season.

The Knights were ranked 25th by the end of the season after upsetting Georgia 10-6 in the Auto Zone Liberty Bowl.

After their home stretch, FIU will have to play five out of their final seven games on the road to finish off the 2011 season, including the last two regular season games on the road.

Other out-of-conference opponents include Duke, at home, Oct. 1, and at Akron on Oct. 8. The other nationally televised games for FIU will be a pair of consecutive Tuesday night games. On Oct. 18, FIU will play at Arkansas State, on ESPn2. Another game is scheduled to be shown on ESPN3.com.

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 season.

FOOTBALL, page 4

COLEY, page 4
Freshman guard helps bolster FIU defense

COLEY, page 3

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 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 calm 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.

“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 Coley, guiding her throughout the playing days.

“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.

“Jeric [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 is a tennis player in high, and led her tennis program to the Class 2A state tournament in 2009, advancing and eventually falling in the No. 2 doubles final. Along with tennis, Coley watches movies in her spare time.

“I don’t really like going out,” Coley said.

Coley, and the rest of the Golden Panthers now have their sights set on the SBC tournament. FIU is the number two seed in the East division and has a first round bye. The Golden Panthers will play the winner of Troy vs. Louisiana-Monroe.

“We played Troy just recently and ULM a while back,” Coley said. “Right now we’re focusing on ourselves on what we need to do get better. I think we can win the tournament.”

MIAMI HEAT

Former FIU star Arroyo cut after Bibby signing

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

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

This much is known: It was a recruiting chat, James could.

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

By 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 and should be in uniform when the Heat play the Orlando Magic that night.

“I think it’s a big thing for us,” said Heat guard Eddie House, Bibby’s brother-in-law. “He’s going to do a lot of things that can help Lebron, Dwyane and everyone else around here.”

Miami announced the Arroyo move in the form of the veteran guard to sign with another team and be eligible for its post-season roster.

“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.”

Bibby was traded by Atlanta to Washington last week. He was in Miami on Friday for his first — and ultimately, next-to-last — game with the Wizards, saying he was aware of buyout rumors but did not know what the future held.

“I can’t control it,” Bibby said.

The Wizards and Bibby reached a buyout agreement on Monday, and he didn’t take long to pick his next destination. It means the Heat, at a crucial time of the season, will be giving a new point guard on-the-fly training about how they play the game.

“It’s easier with veteran players with high IQs and if you have a defensive system and philosophy,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

“Which we do.”

Since Bibby won’t be 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 Jamal Magloire to create another roster spot.

Magloire was relieved to be in practice Tuesday.

“I would have been disappointed otherwise,” Magloire said.

Spoelstra said he cannot wait for the speculating about what’ll happen with Miami’s roster to end.

“Once you get past this date, you can focus on absolutes — who you have and who you don’t have,” Spoelstra said. “And we’re close. … I feel that our team is good enough.”

Miami (43-17) entered play Tuesday one game ahead of Chicago (41-17) in the race for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Bibby averaged 9.4 points and 3.6 assists as a starter with Atlanta this season, his 13th in the league.

The Heat would become his fifth NBA team, a list also including Vancouver, Sacramento, the Hawks and the Wizards, with whom he shot 1 for 9 in two games after the trade that he said caught him by surprise last week.

He’s also appeared and started in 80 postseason games, which is more than any other current Heat player. James and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have been in 71 playoff games, all during their time in Cleveland together.

“Certain moves are surprising and unexpected,” Wade said. “The Mike Bibby (trade) was probably the most surprising, unexpected move. A lot of people think it was the Kendrick Perkins move (from Boston to Oklahoma City), but I think it was Mike Bibby. No one expected that.

He became available and when opportunities present themselves you’ve got to jump on them.”

Arroyo was not at practice and did not immediately respond to a text message.

He started 42 games for Miami in the season and played in seven others, but logged only 27 minutes of court time since Jan. 30 — more than half of that coming in a Feb. 16 game at Toronto.

“It’s never easy,” Wade said. “It’s always bittersweet, especially in this situation for Carlos.

You look at it, he was doing a great job starting, really didn’t do anything wrong. It’s very unfortunate. The one thing we can do is hope that he ends up in a good situation.”

CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMER JOBS

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 by 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 learning to listen. 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.”

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 transition.

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 FLU students.

Students get involved in Relay for a good cause

RELAY, page 1

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.”

Janet Newborn, 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-
Cinderella is a timeless fairytale and the childhood classic will be getting a face lift from the School of Music with their production of Jules Massenet’s Cendrillon.

Cinderella, Prince Charming and the rest will be transferred to the world of steampunk where the supernatural aspect of the story will conflict with steampunk’s science-fiction setting. The combination is rarely seen in the classical world of opera.

Professor Robert B. Dandas, the director, chose Cendrillon. He was careful in his choice, as he wanted to pick something that would highlight the talent of his current crop of students, said Dandas.

Tizon began writing love songs at age seven. Her father, Victor Tizon, was a freelance DJ for Stevie B., best known for his 1990 hit “Because I 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, Tiron recorded her latest single, a re-interpretation of Fabolous’ “You Be Killin’ Em,” and with 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 freelance DJ for Stevie B., best known for his 1990 hit “Because I 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.

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Abortion display done in poor taste, misleading

JASMYN ELLIOTT Opinion Editor

When I received an email regarding the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform’s so-called “Genocide Awareness Project” making an appearance on campus, I thought the name said it all — a genocide awareness project.

I did not expect to see multiple three-square-foot photographs of aborted fetuses. I am all for free speech and expressing one’s opinion on important social issues, especially one that affects women all over the globe. I am also in support of those on opposing sides of an issue coming together 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 women’s health interest. 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 Holocaust 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 association with the center held up a microphone 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 Awareness 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 millennium. By definition, genocide “is the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group,” according to the Oxford English dictionary and the Geneva Convention.

While people have varying opinions on what “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 these 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.

Miscarriage bill an attempt to rescind rights

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

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. “Disturbing Images Ahead.” For 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 distress 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 displayed graphic post-abortion images 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 Conservatives” had struck again and someone else said the truck was showcasing “unnecessary pictures.”

But the truck, the pictures and the fenced-in pro- lifers were all doing something more immediately dangerous than anything else. They were more than willing to calmly explain their opinion if anyone wanted to listen.

The truck and its supporters were sparking debate in something that does not really get debated outside of the political stumping ground. The unusual complaints offered by both sides revolve around the right to free speech.

If I take pictures of dead babies to get a discussion on abortion rolling at the collegiate level, then the Center and its display have done their job, even if the conversations sparked is a two-paragraph rant against pro-choice or an un-vitriolic 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.

The personal lives of women, and specifically the uterus, have become a 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 successful.

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

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Students enjoy hangouts, but want more options

**NICOLE COSSIO**
Contributing Writer

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 a very relaxed atmosphere where students can study and hang out in the gratifying weather. South Florida offers practically year-round weather students can enjoy outside to have a drink or two while enjoying the beautiful weather at the bay as much as they are comfortable to be in the shade when it gets hot,” said Hughes added.

NCELA CROSSNO
Contributing Writer

Nicole Tizon, a freshman public relations major who was born with one kidney and one spleen, caught up with a degree in poetry, expressed how to take constructive criticism,” Tizon said.

“I started playing piano because of Keys. I didn’t keep her from a fruitful recording career: three singles, all original compositions, posted on her website, www.desireetizon.com. Tizone has been able to perform around campus.

“The time came to choose a high school,” Tizone said. “I liked acting but it just didn’t feel like it. She enrolled in The Lisa Maille 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. It did help me become. I learned how to take constructive criticism,” Tizone said.

Freshman singer born with rare condition

Although hip-hop is a male-dominated business, Tizone 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, Tizone met English major and senior Christina Perez while rushing Phi Sigma Sigma, a sorority who’s philanthropic efforts have included participation in on-campus events such as Golden Idol and the annual Phi Sigma Sigma Fashion Show. Thanks to Phi Sigma Sigma, she has been able to perform around campus.

“Tizone aspires to become another successful female soul artists comparable to 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.” Tizone 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 Maille 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. It did help me become. I learned how to take constructive criticism,” Tizone 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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**JUANAMAR 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 Tizone 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 Tizone 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, Tizone 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.

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“Will be famous because she won’t take ‘no’ for 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 ‘Dez’ no matter what situation she’s in.”

Tizone 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, N.Y.

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BRAZIL

Driver accused of hitting Brazil cyclists jailed

Recarito Jose Nei, 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.

Ricardo Jose Neis, 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.