Scott calls attention to Fla. faculty salaries

MARIELLA ROQUE Contributing Writer

Although Florida public university professors’ salaries have always been public record, Gov. Rick Scott made it a prerogative recently to display them on an Excel sheet on a website called “Florida Has a Right to Know.”

The sheet organizes the professor’s salary by university, name of professor, title, state program, the amount they earn and the full-time equivalent.

A separate Excel file on the website also provides the salaries of executive branch agencies, the lottery, the justice administrative commission and the state courts system.

Many professors have been asking themselves why this initiative was taken, one of these being Kathleen Wilson, professor at the School of Music and president of the United Faculty of Florida chapter at FIU.

“My guess is that it’s part of a plan to privatize higher education,” Wilson said.

She noted this was one of various short-term goals, including doing away with unions and collective bargaining.

On Nov. 8 Ohio voters overturned Senate Bill 5 that passed on March 31, a proposal limiting collective bargaining for public employee unions.

The United Faculty of Florida chapter at FIU held a teach-in on Nov. 10 to discuss Gov. Scott’s proposed bill, which echoes the Seven “Breakthrough Solutions,” also known as the Texas plan. It outlines seven points that lead to a successful university environment.

Among these points is the most controversial: a merit-based bonus given to the top 25 percent of professors based on student evaluations of those professors as well as on other factors.

“We are opposed to the false presentation of merit pay,” said Thomas Axster, president of the UFF at the University of Florida during the teach-in. “It’s a cost of living adjustment for some, not others. It’s not merit pay.”

“(Gov. Scott) is trying to turn universities into corporations,” said Amy Paul-Ward, professor of occupational therapy at FIU. “If we’re a corporation, then the consumer is always right and it doesn’t work that in schools.

Guest speakers present at the teach-in were Auxter, Mark Richard, president of the UFF chapter at Miami-Dade College Kendall campus and Ana Surezco, an online part-time professor at MDC.

Higher education funding has decreased more rapidly than any other agency in Florida,” said Auxter.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Florida’s 11 public universities raised tuition by 15 percent for the 2010-11 academic year. This tuition hike, combined with a similar increase in 2009-10, results in a total two-year increase of 32 percent.”

“If I were a provost at a university outside Florida, this information would be for me to recruit the best faculty away from Florida universities because I would know exactly what I would need to offer to entice them to come to my state,” said University Provost Douglas Wartock in an email to Student Media. “This is clearly an unintended, but very real, consequence.”

The current rate of faculty leaving Florida public universities, according to Auxter, is at its highest: 14 percent.

Publishing professors’ salary data in an easy to obtain format made the job of luring away professors from Florida’s public universities much easier for other universities, said Thomas Breslin, chairman of the Faculty Senate.

The highest paid professor at the University is College of Medicine Dean John Rock, making $808,437 a year. The second highest paid professor at UF, Professor William Friedman, who makes $552,750 a year, compared to the highest paid professor at UNF $408,434.

“(Gov. Scott’s) motive is to make universities look wasteful,” said College of Education Professor Benjamin Baer, “I don’t believe the rhetoric.”

Proffessors usually get paid different wages based on several factors, according to Baer. A university will pay professors higher salaries if they have national recognition, are

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Students target sweatshops

EDUARDO ALMAGUER Staff Writer

Students walk onto campus wearing brand new Nike sneakers. Some of them have a JustSport back pack slung around their right shoulders. Others are wearing an Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt.

Unbeknownst to them, however, as they make their way through campus there is a floating sign over their head that reads “I WEAR STUFF MADE IN SWEATSHOPS.”

All of these brands, along with countless others such as Converse, DKNY and Victoria’s Secret have production costs according to the International Textile Garment and Leather Workers’ Federation.

Sweatshops and workers’ rights and wages, or lack thereof, have long been an issue that has plagued the giant apparel corporations.

At some point in their lives, students have been exposed to the criminal treatment of the poverty-ridden employees that work in these sweatshops across the globe. They have heard the tales of the excruciatingly painful 90-hour weeks that grind the workers’ hands to the bone. They have seen the videos of former sweatshop employees looking pale and brittle speak about how they were beaten and verbally harassed.

But these same students go on about their daily lives, never thinking about those that suffered so they can wear the cloth on their back.

“These issues [sweatshops and workers’ rights] are never going through my head when I buy clothes or when I’m going about my everyday life,” said Bernie Monnaya, 20, an electrical engineering major.

Julie Ghazi, an accounting major, has an idea of why her peers are so oblivious.

“I don’t think students are rushing to fix this issue because the reality of actual sweatshops and their conditions are known more to the countries where they exist. Consumers in America are so detached from those in sweatshops, there are exceptions in the student population.

Begoña Saiz, a graduate student with a degree in social work, has spent the last few months being a student advocate for a Dominican Republic-based clothing company called Alta Gracia. The clothing label, named for the city it resides in, Villa Altagracia, is one of the few factories that is unionized across the globe, said Saiz.

On their website, Alta Gracia states its factory pays its workers a living wage, which is three times the standard industry wage. It also gives the workers the right to form a union.

Its parent company, Knights Apparel, according to Collegiate Licensing, is the leading supplier of college-logo apparel to American universities.

Saiz has spent the majority of her time raising awareness of Alta Gracia, trying to build support for the progressive-thinking brand by contacting numerous organizations at the University.

“You want to support Alta Gracia above any other brands because it’s an example to everybody else of what is possible,” said Saiz. “Building enough support for Alta Gracia puts pressure on companies like Nike and Adidas to pay their workers.”

Alta Gracia apparel, which boasts t-shirts and

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Kristi Camara/BEACON

President Mark Rosenberg places a medal around the neck of Darenza Pena, an honorary FIU Vet eran and grad student, during halftime of the FAU vs FIU football game on Nov. 12.

### Students target sweatshops

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News Flash

Local

Seeking Floridians’ support, Cain holds rallies

Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain touted his “mueve-mueve” tax plan during a campaign stop Wednesday in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood but refused to take questions from reporters.

Few local political leaders attended the event outside the go-to presidential campaign stop Versailles restaurant in the heart of the historic Cuban exile community. Cain was introduced instead by his Florida communications director Ignacio Ortiz-Petit and sampled the local Cuban coffee and fried cheese sticks known as croquetas.

Cain tailored his standard speech approach to the audience of about 50 mostly older Cuban exiles gathered, using “mueve” instead of nine and working in a few other Spanish words.

National

Elderly woman hit by spray at protest: I’m ‘tough’

An 84-year-old woman in Seattle has quickly become a focus of the national Occupy Wall Street movement after she was hit with pepper spray during a march.

A Tuesday night photo of Deeti Rainey with the chemical irritant dripping from her chin went viral soon afterward, becoming one of the most striking images from the protests that have taken place in cities across the globe.

“It’s a gruesome picture, I’m really not that bad looking,” Rainey said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

While not allowed to give a detailed report of the protests that have taken place in cities across the globe.

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working in areas that the university wants to “focus on” and if they have tenure.

The student body has also shown interest in supporting the professors.

SWEATSHOP, page 1

sweaters that don the “FIU” logo, is currently sold in the Barnes & Nobles bookstores at Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses with prices differing only in the cents range when compared to the big-name companies.

Saiz said the only way for Alta Gracia to grow and become more successful is through the University is to have the bookstores order more volume of the brand.

Dan Salzverg, assistant general manager of the Barnes and Nobles at MMC, said the bookstore is on its way to being a featured store for the label, which complies with Saiz’ wish and raises volume.

Salzverg believes that Alta Gracia apparel is “something that people really want to have.”

While not allowed to give specific sales figures, he said Alta Gracia “is performing consistently as the rest of the brands” and “better than public brands.”

Saiz has taken many steps already in her journey for Alta Gracia, and the first one for the University is to get students aware of the brand.

“FIU needs to have a consolidated display of Alta Gracia gear that is well stocked for everyone to see in a visible area,” she said.

Saiz states that the road to becoming a university that is completely against sweatshops is long and tedious. She mentions that not only do the students have to take the appropriate measures of committing to buying Alta Gracia, but the University itself has to associate itself with the Workers Rights Consortium, an independent labor rights monitoring organization that conducts investigations of working conditions.

General disclosure of salaries stirs controversy

“If the Texas plan were to be implemented, it would be a huge discouragement for students,” said Andrea Nunez, international relations major and one of the organizers of the Occupy FIU movement, a spin-off of the wide-spread Occupy Wall Street.

“Don’t think the students know they’re being cheated!” Axtor said.

“It’s gotten so bad that if you cut any more, you cut the universities themselves.”

Bookstores sell Alta Gracia clothes

The manufacturers must, therefore, disclose all of the factories from which they are sourcing university goods to universities.

“It’s a complicated process with complex negotiations,” said Saiz.

Disclosure of salaries stirs controversy

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SWEATSHOP, page 1

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FIU upsets George Mason, loses to Virginia Tech

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were able to secure one of the more impressive wins in the three-year tenure of coach Ishia Thomas. FIU was able to fend off a major comeback bid by mid-major power George Mason on Nov. 14 for a 79-76 win in overtime.

FIU was unable to advance to the semifinals of the NIT Season Tipoff with a 78-63 loss to Virginia Tech on Nov.15.

FIU 79, GEORGE MASON 76 (OT)

The Golden Panthers stayed aggressive on the offensive end in the extra frame.

Cameron Bell’s drive to the basket and subsequent three point play gave FIU a 69-66 lead early in overtime. He was followed up by consecutive three pointers by Phil Taylor and Jeremy Allen, which staked the Golden Panthers to a 75-68 lead with under two minutes remaining in overtime.

The Patriots made a late push, but a hook shot in the lane by freshman Gilles Dierickx iced the game, giving the Golden Panthers a one point lead and missed the free throw. In the final 10 seconds, FIU iced the game with a basket and subsequent foul, giving the Golden Panthers a one point lead and missed the free throw. In the final 10 seconds, FIU controlled the pace for overtime with four fouls. George Mason took advantage and went on a 14-3 run to take a 64-62 lead on a Sherron Wright three pointer with 3:29 remaining in the half.

Dierickx played most of the second half and overtime with four fouls. George Mason took advantage and went on a 14-3 run to take a 64-62 lead on a Sherron Wright three pointer with 3:29 remaining in the half. FIU controlled the pace for overtime with four fouls. George Mason took advantage and went on a 14-3 run to take a 64-62 lead on a Sherron Wright three pointer with 3:29 remaining in the half.

With FIU down by two points, Wright scored on a layup and was fouled with 19 seconds to tie the game at 66-66. Wright had a chance to give the Golden Panthers a one point lead but missed the free throw. In the final 10 seconds of regulation, George Mason (1-1) tried to get a decent look at the basket, but the shot by the Patriots’ Ryan Pearson was off line, which sent the game into overtime. The Golden Panthers (1-4) were efficient in the first half as they held a 36-32 lead. The backcourt combination of Wright and Allen accounted for 25 of the Golden Panthers’ 36 points in the half.

Dejuan Wright led the Panthers with 30 points in a win against George Mason before falling short to Virginia Tech.

VIrgINIA TECH 78, FIU 63

The Golden Panthers (1-1) were unable to replicate the same level of play from the night before against George Mason as Virginia Tech jumped out early and led most of the way.

“Our guys got a little bit fatigued. With the overtime game [the night before], their legs were not as bouncy,” Thomas said. “I thought they fought hard. I thought they came out with a great effort and we will try to keep getting better.”

The second half began as the same as the first as FIU continued to struggle to score from the field. At one point, the Golden Panthers trailed by 19 points late in the game.

Panthers hope to overcome staunch ULM run defense

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

Following the team’s largest margin of victory of the season against rivals FAU, the Panthers now travel to Louisiana at Monroe to take on the Warhawks. Despite being out of contention for a bowl bid this year, the Warhawks have not shown signs of giving up after beating Middle Tennessee 42-14 last week.

Since head coach Mario Cristobal brought redshirt freshman Jake Medlock out for his first start over senior Wesley Carroll in the Shula bowl, there was a question of whether he would remain the starter at ULM. On Monday, Cristobal said that going into the week Medlock was the starter, and on Wednesday it became conclusive.

“As of right now, yeah,” said Cristobal on Medlock being the starter. “There’s really no controversy or games to it, he played a real solid game last week and he’s continuing to get better, as is Wes, and we’re just going along with the process.”

ULM is ranked No. 1 in defense against the run, allowing 101 yards per game. However, FIU still has the second leading rusher in the conference after ten games. Redick Rhodes, who runs for 93 yards per game. Rhodes had his own theory on how FIU can counter the ULM’s run defense.

“They stack the box a little bit, run a little 4-3 with an extra man hanging over, but this game I don’t think that extra man is going to hang over because we start to get a threat going deep with T.Y Hilton down the side,” said Rhodes. “He will probably be hanging over him and it will probably open up the box a little bit more, so as a running back we should have a good game.”

The two biggest threats for ULM on defense is defensive end Troy Evans, who is fourth in the conference with six sacks, and Darius Preslow, who leads the team in interceptions with four. The pressure that Evans and the rest of the defensive line provide helped ULM force quarterback turnovers into 11 interceptions.

“A lot of the success they’ve had in turnovers is related to the way they pressure quarterbacks and not always with blitz and bringing an extra guy but what they do up front,” Cristobal said. “Their explosive, their quick and do a heck of a job. Troy Evans has been one of the better players in the conference three years in a row, so it’s no surprise that he’s doing the same this year.”

ULM’s biggest strength has been their first quarter play, where they have outscored opponents 56-14. The Panthers’ biggest deficit in the first quarter this year has been down 7-0 to Troy, which they won in overtime.

Offensively, the Warhawks have run the ball 382 times, and the second leading rusher behind main running back Jyruss Edwards is quarterback Kolton Browning. When FIU faced quarterback Ryan Aplin of Arkansas State, he ran for 164 yards and two touchdowns.

“When it comes to the run game, the defensive line and the linebackers have real discipline because we have to treat their quarterbacks as an option as well, not just the running backs,” said linebacker Winston Fraser. “That’s our main focus, stopping the run first. If we don’t stop the run, that’s all their going to continue doing all game.”

Kris Taylor

Kris Taylor

Kris Taylor

Kris Taylor
Injuries on Schaub, Moreno force owners to look elsewhere

The Packers’ defense is like a maze that no NFL defense can figure out. The Packers are scoring against the rest of the NFL as if they are a flag football team. Aaron Rodgers threw for 280 yards and four touchdowns before the fourth quarter had even started on Monday night. Jordy Nelson surpassed Wes Welker in touchdowns for the season Monday night, catching the ball for 63 yards and two touchdowns.

Mike Munchak woke up to “Every Coach’s Dream” on Sunday. Chris Johnson tore it up, running for 130 yards and a touchdown, finally solidifying his pace this season. Cam Newton, finally showed that he is human, throwing for a mediocre 212 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

More than half of all NFL fans think Tony Romo is a choke artist and can’t live up to the hype surrounding him. He did not show this against the Bills last week. Romo went 25/26, throwing for 270 yards and three touchdowns.

DeMarco Murray has completely outplayed Felix Jones and snatched the starting job from him, rushing for 135 yards and a touchdown against the Bills.

Ryan Fitzpatrick graduated from Harvard, but he had a serious brain fart last week, throwing for 146 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Maybe he has hung over from that $60 million contract he just signed.

THE TRASH BIN
Matt Schaub (Houston Texans) - He’s out for the season due to injury. Does Matt Leinart have what it takes to not lose every game the rest of the season? It’s a shame Schaub got injured. Andre Johnson was on his way back and the team was on an enormous tear. Trash him.

Kevin Kolb (Philadelphia Eagles) - With a resurgent Willis McGahee at Denver’s arsenal and Moreno with a sprained knee, do not look for Moreno to get much production when he bounces back from injury. McGahee is a big back and will take and will accept the load this late in his career. He wants it. Trash him.

UNDER THE CRUZAR
John Skelton (Arizona Cardinals) - With Kevin Kolb out, Skelton was loving Larry Fitzgerald on Sunday, throwing two of his three touchdowns to him to go along with 315 yards. Ken Wisnabut is a throwing coach, and Skelton’s production proved it. Zona Boy.

Vincent Brown (San Diego Chargers) - With Malcolm Floyd out with an injury, Phillip Rivers needs a target to go to. Brown will be a solid number two, especially with a dynamic Rivers throwing to him. He will have production in the next upcoming weeks.

Ed Dickson (Baltimore Ravens) - When Joe Flacco shows signs that he’s an NFL quarterback, his help produces. Dickson caught the ball for 79 yards and two touchdowns. Hopefully, Flacco can come to his senses and use his tight end like he should. Baltimore Baller.

CHAISING CHAD
I don’t know if it’s the system, or Brady just doesn’t like him. No, it’s just that he sticks. Chad only had two receptions for 65 yards against the Jets. Please drop him if you have him on your roster.

I should’ve been on this guy since the beginning of the season. Send him to Oakland or something. Maybe he’ll get more touches there.
Not many people find their passion while trying to find girls. Julian Acosta, a graduate of the Theatre Department, has made a name for himself in New York and Los Angeles. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Acosta moved to Texas at the age of 15. He attended junior college in Houston and it was there that he began to develop an interest in acting.

“I had just moved to Houston, and when I first got there, I was just working. I had all kinds of crazy jobs. I decided to start going to school and I signed up at North Harris College. One day I was walking to my car and by the theater they had a thing for auditions. I figured, you know, there would be girls there and I would show up and audition. Oddly enough, only enough boys auditioned for the parts that they had for this particular play, so I got a part, not because I was any good or anything, but [because] only enough boys auditioned, so they had to cut me in,” he recalled.

With his newly found interest, Acosta eventually made his way to Miami.

“At the time, my parents were — and still are — living in Miami, and they lived pretty close to FIU. I had just left junior college and actually didn’t know where I wanted to go. I knew by then that I wanted to be an actor, but I had no idea what that meant or how you go about it,” he explained.

Luckily, Acosta’s mother knew a girl who happened to be a theater major at the University. That introduction was what led to his enrollment in the program.

“That’s basically how I landed up there. Because she knew this girl, she told her. She told me a little bit about it, I went and I signed up,” said Acosta.

At the University, Acosta was able to explore all aspects of theater. The program requires students to learn how to do a little bit of everything — something Acosta is now very grateful for.

“That was part of their mission — to get people and to show them every side of it, from lighting class to scene design class to costume class. I didn’t necessarily take them all, but you’re an actor and you want to act. But in retrospect, I’m glad that’s the way it is,” he said.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree in theater, Acosta went on to attend graduate school at Rutgers University and to live in New York. As a member of the Lab The- rith Theater Company, the Off- Broadway Theater Company in residence at the Cherry Pit Theater in New York City, he appeared in the internationally acclaimed production of “Othello,” with fellow company members Robert Sean Leonard, John Ortiz and Liza Colon-Zayas.

“‘When you’re trying to produce theater and you’re a small company, everybody does everything. Everybody’s going to be building the set when we load in and every- body’s going to be painting. You are involved in all of those things.’

Acosta has done a lot of work in film and television. He has had recurring, starring roles on Lifetime’s “Strong Medicine,” “FX’s,” “Dirt” and CBS’ “The Defenders.” Acosta has guest-starred on shows like “Entourage,” “Law & Order,” “The Mentalist” and “Covert Affairs.” Some of his film credits include “Bound By Lies,” with Stephen Baldwin and Kristin Swanson, and “True Love,” directed by Henry Barriol. Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize nominee.

Though he’s done a little bit of everything, Acosta finds it difficult to pick only one area that he prefers doing.

“They’re all so very, very different.”

However, he does admit that he will always have a soft spot for theater.

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Women of “Spirits” carry the show

MARCY DIAZ
Staff Writer

Do not be deceived by those innocent looking eyes and ruby red lips that seductively decorated posters and cards advertising “The House of Spirits.” A truly chilling tale of various counts of rape, spousal abuse, and a woman’s desperation to keep her family together, the show made no attempt to water down any of the story’s controversial material.

Anything less would have taken away much of the play’s appeal.

“The House of Spirits” brought many actors of varying talents onto stage, bringing the story to life through leading ladies like Dana Chavez, who took the role of young protagonist Alba Trueba.

A truly chilling tale of various counts of rape, spousal abuse, and a woman’s desperation to keep her family together.

“House of Spirits” rose to life on the University’s Wertheim stage on Nov.11. For two hours there was no “pretty” and definitely no “serene.”

Many might feel prepared because they have read the famous book by Isabel Allende, but it will only do so much good.

The play sends you into the same mound of family chaos, twists and turns, all leaving you at the edge of your seat.

Director Michael Yawney

The play takes place in Chile during the 1970s and centers around Alba’s narration of the women in her family.

The clock turns back to the 1920s, when Trueba discovers her grandmother’s journal. Alba’s abusive and sex-crazed grandfa- ther Esteban Trueba, played by Jair Bulla, creeps to the stage. A man broken by the death of his first love turns to power and greed for comfort; he becomes the embodiment of turmoil.

Esteban eventually overcomes his grief and after raping various peasant women finds himself married to Clara del Valle, the sister of his long dead fiancé.

Clara is seen throughout the rest of the play as the true voice of reason and maternal figure that holds the Trueba house together.

Rebellious daughter Blanca Trueba is the first child of the newlyweds and builds a further wedge between the already breaking marriage of her liberal mother and overly conservative father.

Sweet and happy moments are fleeting, yet leave the greatest impressions.

Clara caresses her stomach with happy thoughts of a baby girl on the way or when the two lovers Blanca Trueba and Pedro Tercero talk sweetly in secret about plans of a forbidden life together; these are the moments that the audience is prone to cling to.

It’s easy to expect the night to end as it started, in complete tragedy, especially with more than half of the characters dead.

However, picture this: the lights dim to a silhouette of a young woman sitting alone at a table.

With a pen and paper in her hand, she looks forward to writing a happier ending in her own story.
**Latin Restaurant a top choice for late night bites**

**Jasmyn Elliott**

Latin Restaurant remains one of the most popular late-night dining spots on campus. Many students look to grab a meal after midnight. To start, I highly recommend their *mariquita de plantano*, thinly sliced fried plantain strips with garlic sauce. They always make them fresh along with their *tostadas*, which are perfect for munching on before your meal arrives.

My standard order is the grilled fish filet with white rice and sweet plantains. With a squeeze of lime and a very generous portion, it’s a fresh, filling meal that always hits the spot. However, with their weekly Thursday fish special, there have been times when I couldn’t order my go-to dish. In these cases, though, trying something new from the menu was just fine. On one of these days, I had their *arròs con pollo*, made with savory yellow rice and a whole chicken breast. It turned out to be more than enough for sharing, and absolutely delicious. The fluffy, vegetable-laced rice paired perfectly with the juicy chicken and did justice to the Latin American classic.

Latin Restaurant also makes fantastic sandwiches. My favorite is their special, with thick slices of turkey, roast pork and ham with Swiss cheese. After a round on the plancha, it comes out to perfection with the slices of Cuban bread just toasted enough and the cheese reduced to melted goodness.

I would normally complain that it's too much to eat in one sitting, but with a sandwich this amazing, I gladly save the other half for the next day’s lunch.

Aside from the amazing food, Latin Restaurant gets major brownie points for great service. Even when the restaurant is full, the staff is very quick; I never wait more than five minutes for a waiter to approach me for my order or refill my water glass. Furthermore, they are very welcoming and friendly; if you become a regular — and I really hope you do — be ready for lots of hospitality.

As for prices, naturally, their food is very affordable with most entrées barely passing the $10 mark. In all, Latin Restaurant is a fantastic stop for late-night munchies. If you really want to spice it up, try visiting them during daylight hours too.

**Food for Thought is a bi-weekly food review column. Look for it every other Friday this fall.**

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"Melancholia" shows the moments other disaster films ignore

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Even though "Melancholia" is probably Lars von Trier’s tamest film to date, lacking the violence and rape that many others do, it does not mean that it is a light-hearted movie. It is a 2011 sci-fi film directed by Lars von Trier, starring Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and Alexander Skarsgård. It explores the theme of depression and the emotional stability of two sisters and the deep melancholy that affects them.

The performances are all around impressive - every actor delivers their best and breaks through any negative, preconceived notions of their acting skills. Kirsten Dunst, who nabbed the Best Actress award at Cannes, does a great job in her lead role, creating an almost too realistic portrayal of a mentally overwhelmed woman. Her off-beat performance and slow progression through depression makes her one of the many polarizing films of the year and stands far apart from any and all disaster films that have come before it.

Lars von Trier’s exploration of depression will leave audiences engrossed in this film’s beauty and compel all to think about it long after the credits begin to roll. Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Look for it every Friday this fall.
Gov. Scott's stance on STEM met with opposition

Even if Scott's assessment was reasonable, it was made at the wrong time with a smug rhetoric that certainly won't win supporters.

This is a letter in response to an opinion piece written by Brooklyn Middleton for Borderless with Brooklyn.

In a her piece posted on Sept. 25 regarding the upcoming vote to recognize Palestine as a state in the United Nations, Brooklyn states that “Israel must show evidence of living for the human population, alone enrich our understanding of the several phenomenon of our planet. It is this knowledge that has a rightful place in our public schools, and the fact that there is a significant number of Americans who would do away with it is disappointing. America has already fallen behind significantly in global standards of education, and this is a direct result of the confusion caused by the needless banter between the religious and political factions of our government with regards to public education.

I am under the impression that Israel’s stance is more so out of fear than out of wanting to prevent a Palestinian state. Polls show that the majority of Israeli voters want a two state solution, but they do not want to live in fear and do not want to sacrifice their sovereignty in exchange for a state. It is naïve to believe that a unilateral move to create a Palestinian state will simply lead to peace. Israel will not be unhappy and many issues between the two states will be left unresolved. Unilateral recognition will simply raise the stakes in a conflict that will continue to exist.

In my opinion this move by the Palestinian leadership is a significant and naïve approach to such an issue. Several problems arise with United Nations recognition. Firstly what would be the point of the boards of newly recognized state and where would the capital be located? Would Palestinian unilaterally claim half or all of Jerusalem? Would states now be allowed to sell arms to Palestine and would Palestine be allowed to create an army?

The proposition of a Palestinian army on the borders of Israel terrifies the country of Israel. The recognized leader of the Palestinians, Mahmoud Abbas has spoken of never recognizing Israel as a Jewish state. When Abbas speaks of the “Zionists” occupying Palestine he is not simply referring to Gaza, the West Bank, and other occupied territories he is referring to all of Israel. If he does not view Israel as a country and is allowed to create an army, what is preventing Abbas from marching his army into Israel and starting a war?

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Organization takes over philanthropy

BLANCA MORALES Contributing Writer

The idea was spur of the moment. When Zahra Arhabi Aski, president of the Student Alumni Association, planned events for the 2011-2012 year, SAA Traditions Chair Katharine Vega was suddenly inspired with the idea to create Councils for a Cause. The idea was to have all student organizations on campus work as a philanthropy.

It was a light bulb moment for her. “I have an international relations and psychology senior, had participated in charitable events such as Relay for Life with her sorority Delta Phi Epsilon, but she noted most events either took place at the Modesto Maidique Campus or were hosted by MMC-based organizations.

“It was about time we brought a big philanthropic event to the Biscayne Bay Campus,” Vega said. Consisting of a roundtable of student leaders from various clubs and organizations, it was determined a Cause has no president or officers; it is only moderated by the two founders. The committee, which is open to students majoring in any discipline, also has no-University team members as well.

“A thought [Councils for a Cause] would be a good idea to do, to have a community service event with everyone involved,” said Vega, who is also president of the Student Programming Council at BBC. Councils for a Cause is using Facebook, Oracsyn and other marketing tools for promotion. Emails and phone calls were made to faculty, staff and campus organization for cooperation and sponsorship. Team members want to see all of the University community supporting the cause.

The goal of the All Nighter for the Poor for the first time was held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 19, 2010 but saw a lackluster turnout, which was a point that Rafael Zapata, advisor to the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus brought up during the University Wide Activity and Service Fee allocation meeting on July 30. Councils for a Cause will pick the event up in an effort to reestablish it.

Zapata admitted last year’s event “did not have good attendance numbers,” and the responsibilities fell completely onto the community and receive invitations to a series of events on BBC by the Office of the Vice Provost. New members contribute anywhere between 100-500 dollars. This money is mostly used for scholarships.

According to Moll, 85 percent of this money goes to campaigns and one that has to stay local to the state of Florida. He wants students to participate in activities that benefit the community, to create the citizens from where the money is derived from and to do as much “local good” as possible.

The progress of the construction of the School of Hospitality Industry building has, at the moment, reached a pause, according to Moll, as they are attempting to work with the City of North Miami to get a secondary road opened. The building would be a subdivision of the College of Arts and Sciences, of which SEAS falls under.

Moll claimed that President Rosenberg has made it clear that until the second road is opened, growth on campus will be hindered. Three choices for a location of a secondary road are 135 street, 143 street, through Olena Park, or improve what already exists on 151 street.

The building hopes to contain more interdisciplinary studies and have a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

Additions of native trees and shrubs and a butterfly garden will help beautify the campus and also support environmental awareness. According to Jonathan Szydlo, Environmental Coordinator, butterfly gardens have been planted by the flag poles near Ted Hendrix Center, by the gazebo near Glenn Hubert Library, and behind AC II.

There is 20 or 30 different floral species designed to attract butterfly species. FIU is also the first university in the state to receive Tree Campus USA designation. The Tree Campus USA program recognizes universities that maintain their trees and shrubs, and work to engage the community beyond the campus to grow healthy, urban forests.

According to Grimm, FIU has made a commitment to grow native trees and have already begun planting them around campus.

“Every day is exciting. Any day where we can act to help students get a better education is a good day,” Moll said. “If it means more classes, more scholarships, more cultural events, or more activities then that’s what we do.”

Roundtable discusses marriage

HAYTHAM AL-RAABE Contributing Writer

As the semester comes to an end, “The Changing Values of Relationships and Marriage” was the last topic discussed during Biscayne Bay Campus’ final Tuesday Times Roundtable meeting for fall 2011.

The session began with a brainstorm-storming exercise, meant to bring ideas and discussion points to the table. Topics ranged from modern-day gender roles in relationships to hot topics such as online dating, to the relevant economics of modern-day two-income homes.

Every other Tuesday at BBC, the University’s Global Learning for Global Citizenship office hosts a roundtable discussion, where moderators meet with students, staff and anyone else willing to join, to 100-500 dollars. This money is derived from and to benefit the communities and raise necessary funds. The members are from the community and receive invitations to a series of events on BBC by the Office of the Vice Provost. New members contribute anywhere between 100-500 dollars. This money is mostly used for scholarships.

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