GOP hopeful speaks on campus

JONATHAN SZYDLO
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An eye of Newt, a touch of Rivera, and a bit of Burton were the key ingredients to the political brew that was Gingrich’s campaign stop on Jan. 25 at the University.

The FIU College Democrats sponsored a visit by Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich to the University’s Wertheim Performing Arts Center to gather the support of South Florida’s Hispanic voters. He focused his discussion on Latin American policies which will be a key demographic in Florida’s Jan. 31 GOP Primary election.

Present at the event were members of the community at large, a few students and a battalion of media crews gathered to see what Gingrich had to say.

Florida Representative David Rivera delivered opening remarks in both English and Spanish that had supporters delivering opening remarks in both English and Spanish that had supporters in both English and Spanish that had supporters in both English and Spanish that had supporters in both English and Spanish that had supporters.

“I feel that our President really understands the problem with the raise in tuition around the nation,” said international relations and economics major Leonardo Curiel, who is the president of the FIU College Democrats. “He knows that it is to every state to decide where their money is going to be spent. He asked states to reduce Florida’s contribution to public colleges and universities to increase their funds from Bright Futures scholarships.

The “Pay As You Earn” proposal of the Obama Administration will reduce monthly payments for more than one and a half million current college students and borrowers.

It will also allow about 1.6 million students the ability to cap their loan payments at 10 percent starting next year and permit an estimated 6 million students and recent college graduates to consolidate their loans.

“Pay As You Earn,” is set to reduce students’ loan interest rates and forgive the balance of their debt after 20 years of payments.

The president took aim at community colleges and universities, and pledged that if they can stop or fix the rising cost of tuition, “the funding you get from taxpayers will go down.”

“I feel that our President really understands the problem with the raise in tuition around the nation,” said international relations and economics major Leonardo Curiel, who is the president of the FIU College Democrats. “He knows that it is every state to decide where their money is going to be spent. He asked states to make higher education a priority when they decide on each state’s budget.”

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The proposal would also reduce Florida’s contribution to higher education by approximately 6 percent, and lighten the requirements for Bright Futures scholarships.

It would decrease the time that students have to start using funds from Bright Futures after high school graduation from three years to two.

Obama concluded his message of college tuition by saying “higher education can’t be a luxury, it’s an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford.”

State of the Union address targets college tuition

AARON PABON
Contributing Writer
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President Barack Obama outlined an economic plan during his State of the Union Address on Jan. 24, which included a strategy that would affect tuition for University students.

“At a time when Americans owe more in tuition debt than credit card debt, this Congress needs to stop the interest rates on student loans from doubling in July,” said Obama during his televised speech.

The president took aim at colleges and universities, and pledged that if they can stop or fix the rising cost of tuition, “the funding you get from taxpayers will go down.”

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COMING UP | Sports

Check out Monday’s issue a profile on Cindy Russo, head coach of the FIU women’s basketball team.

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“The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9
Academic journals, the basis for many student papers and reports, are being threatened by an increasing price tag. The University library system is struggling with a 3-5% increase per year, which was occurring over the last ten years.

In 2011, the University spent $2.2 million in journal packages, a price tag that is bound to increase in the coming fiscal year.

“This is a problem that affects the publishing industry at large, especially publishers of academic content, and the library/education community,” said Laura Probst, dean of libraries at the University. “The reasons for the problem are complex. But there are two primary drivers, consolidation of the University. "The reasons for the library/education community," seeking additional funding. University students and faculty have access to over 10,000 journals, some of which are used several thousand times a month. Additionally, the University is working with publishers, re-working contracts for lower pricing and to develop alternative models that reduce costs while also maximizing access to the most critical journals.

“Information is more important than sports,” said Bolton, who studied library and information science at Syracuse University, “more important than brand new facilities, more important than nearly any initiative that requires significant budgetary

Candidate addresses concerns of hispanic community

GINGRICH, PAGE 1

claims of Gingrich having been, or being a lobbyist and misused the crowd that Gingrich has always been and will continue to be a conservative.

After claiming that President Barack Obama is taking the country down the paths to socialism, he gave the stage to Gingrich, who took the podium and addressed the auditorium.

Gingrich opened up by immediately shooting down remarks made by Obama during the State of the Union Address, claiming that if the

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

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 56 of The Beacon in The Life section, the article “Transition from teen to adult style,” guest columnist Juan Satizabal’s name was misspelled.

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

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urthermore political science and international relations major, was pleased with the fact that Gingrich came to the University. “The fact that we have a candidate that is running for president that came to FIU is great, as opposed to Bush and Obama who went to Miami-Dade College instead,” said Maneiro.

But some students, like Jose Villasmiel, a freshman criminal justice student, were disappointed with the lacklustre turn out of students to the event. “I feel that more people should have come out. He’s a good candidate and he knows what he’s talking about,” said Villasmiel.
Panthers are hoping to avenge early loss at WKU

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Coming off one of the most disappointing losses of the season at home versus FAU, the Panthers are hoping to bounce back at home against Western Kentucky on Jan. 28 at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Head Coach Cindy Russo wants to emphasize the need of a presence down low, especially the last time that they faced Western Kentucky earlier in the season.

"It was a no show up game. We have to rebound," Russo said. "We’re not going to win too many more games unless we rebound. The frustration level of us not being able to score is breaking them down."

Those frustrations were abundant when the team struggled to be able to crash the boards against FAU. In their previous meeting with the Hilltoppers, the Panthers were also out rebounded 37-31. Junior guard Fanni Hutlassa credit the loss to being an early game in the year.

"That was our first conference game, since then we’ve gotten a lot better," Hutlassa said. "We played zone against them last time. We are going to have to pressure them a lot more this time."

In their first meeting, the Panthers were just 4-22 in the first half, shooting a mere 18.2 percent.

"We need to run our offense our way," Hutlassa said. "Which we didn’t do before."

The Panthers only scored 11 points in the first half of the game before a sweep in the Coastal Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week awards, given to freshman Cayla Collins and junior Maegen Butler, respectively.

"Which we didn’t do before," Russo said. "We’ve tried to get more girls in the game and they’ve missed that job either," Russo said.

She also observed the emergence of another guard to add to the rotation she already utilizes in the games. [Sasha Melnikova] single handily won that South Alabama game, but she’s just got to use to things. She’s only played in four games so far."

Melnikova has seen her minutes increase ever since the first saw playing time against Louisiana Monroe.

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Panthers use week of rest to prepare for Hilltoppers

MALCOLM SHIELDS  Staff Writer malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

After waiting a week to reflect and learn from a gut-wrenching two-point loss to Florida Atlantic, the Panthers will return to the hardwood on Jan. 28 to face-off against East Divisional rival Western Kentucky at home.

Western Kentucky (6-14, 2-5 SBC) has struggled throughout the entire season. The lowest point for the Hilltoppers came in a 72-70 overtime loss to Louisiana on Jan. 5. In the final seconds, the Ragin’ Cajuns played the final 21 seconds of overtime with six players on the court.

The result ended in a loss for Hilltoppers and its coach, Ken McDonald, who got fired following the game. Interim coach Ray Harper has not faired any better leading the Hilltoppers.

Kentucky at home.

The lowest point for the Hilltoppers and its coach, Ken McDonald, who got fired the day after the loss. Interim coach Ray Harper has not faired any better leading the Hilltoppers.

Derrick Gordon continues to be the constant for the Hilltoppers. The guard leads the team with 12 points per game. In the first meeting against FIU in December, Gordon led WKU with 11 points. Jamal Cook is a combo guard who can play both positions in the backcourt alongside Gordon.

Although FIU (5-14, 2-5 SBC) currently has a losing record in conference play, they currently are in a four-way tie for third place in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division along with South Alabama, Troy and Western Kentucky. The schedule does not get any easier for FIU after playing the Hilltoppers.

Three of FIU’s next four games are against teams with winning records in conference play: Florida Atlantic, Northern Texas and Denver. Consecutive wins against Western Kentucky and Troy would put the Panthers one game under .500 before facing the Owls, MTSU and Pioneers.

The Panthers will be without its point guard Kevin Kaspar, who is out for the season after injuring his knee against UALR.

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WRIGHT ON ABSENCE

Western Kentucky will be DeJuan Wright’s third game back in the starting lineup since he got out of the lineup on his right knee. In his two games back in uniform, he is averaging 16 points per game.

The last time the Panthers faced the Hilltoppers, FIU exploded with 54 second half points and registered two 20-plus point performances by Jeremy Allen (22) and Phil Taylor (20) in an 81-63 win.

The game was the only win the Panthers earned while Wright was out of the lineup.

The major advantage that the Panthers had was its multiple trips to the foul line in the second half.

The Panthers shot 25-of-29 from the charity stripe in the second half alone. Defensively, the Panthers held the Hilltoppers to 34.5 percent shooting for the game.

Moore and Laffere out, Ellingson signs with VooDoo

JACKSON WOLEK  Staff Writer jackson.wolek@fiusm.com

Not only will Mario Cristobal have to find a new offensive coordinator after Scott Satterfield left to go back to his Alma Mater Appalachian State, but he is also on the search for a few assistant coaches as well.

Greg Laffere, who was the assistant coach and worked with tight ends, is no longer with FIU. He helped in working on the offensive line, and in 2008 he helped improve the offense by almost 50 yards more per game in total offense.

FIU will look for a new Director of Strength and Conditioning, coach since Rodenick Moore, who was in charge of conditioning both the men’s basketball team and football team, is no longer in the position.

Moore is still listed on the FIU website, and his twitter account still claims he is with FIU.

HILTON OUT FOR SENIOR BOWL

T.Y. Hilton should be preparing with the rest of the top seniors in the nation for the annual Senior Bowl on Jan. 28 in Mobile, Ala.

He would be the first Panther ever to play in the game. Instead, he will not be in attendance to nurse his still injured quad. This could also affect his NFL combined performance, which he will be held from Feb. 22-28.

FORMER PANTHER SIGNS WITH ARENA TEAM

Another former Panther, wide receiver Greg Ellingson, has signed with the Arena Foot-

The New Orleans VooDoo. Ellingson has signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted free agent last year before getting waived after the preseason.

The New Orleans VooDoo starts play on Mar. 18 at the Philadelphia Soul. Ellingson says that mentally he will be ready for that game, and physically he has been training ever since he got released.

“The arena league is predominantly passing, which is really good for my situation to try and get some exposure and get people to know me out on the football field,” said Ellingson. “It’s 95 percent passing. Receivers, quarterbacks and it’s a much smaller field with the walls on the side.”

Ellingson will be joining forces with former FIU offensive lineman Joe Alajajian, who according to Ellingson, helped make him a VooDoo.

“I’m happy really, just to be playing football. They gave me the opportunity and I get to go out there again and do what I love. I’m really grateful for it.”

Ellingson had 2,018 yards receiving in his four years with the Panthers, hauling in 14 touchdowns.

Ellingson hopes to shine in New Orleans in order to draw attention from other professional leagues, perhaps even in another country.

“It would help to do really well and it will get people to recognize me. And hopefully after the AFL season, more people will recognize me. Maybe in the CFL or NFL and I’ll get a chance to do that again.”

Former Panther Greg Ellingson has signed a deal to play in Arena Football.
**ARTS BEAT**

**MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT FILMS**

**BROOKE WERTMAN**

**Staff Writer**

brooke.wertman@fiu.edu

With award season upon us, Miami joins the celebration of cinema, as Miami Dade College hosts the 29th Miami International Film Festival. With more than 100 films slated to screen, and over 75,000 guests expected, the festival is considered the pinnacle of film culture in Miami, encouraging creativity and fostering an artist community within the city.

MIFF showcases Ibero-American and international films, including films from Cuba, Spain, Israel, Argentina, Brazil, United Kingdom, China and many other countries. There are nine categories artists can enter their films into, most of which are noncompetitive. Florida Focus is a category devoted to films made partially or entirely in Florida by filmmakers (directors or producers) who are residents of the state. MIFF is not only an opportunity for international filmmakers to make their mark, as the festival also provides young, local talent a chance to make a name for themselves in the industry.

The Festival offers a variety of jobs and internships to students in areas like event planning, marketing and outreach.

Over the years a number of our students have been hired permanently by the Festival, and all of the students make excellent contacts.

Barbara Weitz, Professor

English, Film

programming and working in a film industry office.

“The years, a number of our students have been hired permanently by the festival, and all of the students make excellent contacts while interning there,” said Barbara Weitz, a professor of English and film at the University.

“The film students spend a lot of their time viewing films and writing papers, but being involved with [actual] film people is a totally different experience. It’s very hands on; it’s a great opportunity.”

Additionally, last year, the Festival began CinemaSlam, a short film competition for student filmmakers. Cine-

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First Game Jam hosted by Game Developers Guild

HOLLY MCCOACH
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Playing video games isn’t the solitary activity it once was. Within just the past decade, players across the globe have united thanks to the rapidly growing field of technology. As gamers collaborate to produce a work in a few short days, each station in the world will be provided with live streaming to show their progress to the rest of the Jam sites. There is no competition here; each Jam site’s goal is to generate entertainment for onlookers and the developers beyond the screens. Free of charge, anyone and everyone are welcome to attend this event held at the University.

“We don’t want money. We don’t want [people] to feel like we are getting money out of this,” says Hernandez.

To spread the word and get support, Hernandez contacted the School of Music, the School of Computing and Information Network and Xbox. Hernandez hopes to gather game enthusiasts. “As gamers collaborate to produce a work in a few short days, each station in the world will be provided with live streaming to show their progress to the rest of the Jam sites. There is no competition here; each Jam site’s goal is to generate entertainment for onlookers and the developers beyond the screens. Free of charge, anyone and everyone are welcome to attend this event held at the University. “We don’t want money. We don’t want [people] to feel like we are getting money out of this,” says Hernandez.

The Global Game Jam is not the only event gamer enthusiasts can look forward to this year. The Guild is planning to develop a local game jam that should be hosted sometime between Summer A and Summer B at the University. By the end of the summer, the collaboration of the Guild, the Miami Global Game Jam, and the local game jam would have been developed within a span of less than a year, any gamer’s or tech aficionado’s fantasy. “It’s a dream, but you sometimes cannot be afraid to dream,” says Hernandez, who hopes to have the Guild grow bigger at the university, even after he graduates next year.

Where to see the Best Picture noms

AWARDS, PAGE 5

family’s fortune, and who has just found out that his comatose wife was cheating on him. While these issues weigh heavily on him, he must take responsibility for himself and for his two children when he has never had to confront anything in his life. Despite Clooney’s impressive performance, Alexander Payne’s story is just plain weak. The writing is completely off-focus, and the subject matter is tackled without any tact. His attempts at adding comedy into the technical work, especially during war sequences, echoes Spielberg’s past works, and just listening to William’s [Jonas Armstrong] grandiose score gets you right in the mood for another one. While the film is relatively lengthy, clocking in just under two-and-a-half hours, at no point does it drag. The wide cast of characters, all of whom perform well enough to entertain but not stand out, add to the appeal and intrigue of the film.

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Its impressive technical work and gorgeous cinematography should draw anyone in, and those who dismiss Spielberg’s “War Horse” as just another horse movie will be missing out on much more than that. “[War Horse] is currently in theaters and showing at Regal Kendall Village Stadium 16, Paragon Grove 13, Cinepark, Paradise 24, Regal Southland Mall Stadium 16, Flagship Cinemas Homestead, AMC Aventura 24, and Regal Oldwood Stadium 18.”

Due to its recent release and a lack of time (and interest), I have been unable to watch and review the ninth nominee for Best Picture, “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.”

It is currently in theaters and showing at Palace 19 Cinema, Regal Kendall Village Stadium 16, AMC Sunset Place 24, Cobb Theatres Dolphin 19, Dolphin Mall’s CineBistro, Movies at the Fills 12, AMC Mall of the Americas 14, and Paragon Grove 13.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.

Foreign films also to screen

FILM, PAGE 5

The spread of consumerism.

“The Student,” an Argentinian film from the Lexus Ibero-American Opera Prima Competition, examines the murky world of university politics, using it as a microcosm for the world at large, exposing the backroom dealings and negotiations of student government. This past Tuesday, MIFF announced the full list of the films to be screened. They included films like “Juan of the Dead,” a horror-comedy from Cuba about a man who begins a zombie-killing business; “Darling Companion,” a story about a woman (Diane Keaton) who loves her dog more than she loves her husband (Kevin Kline); and “Jeff Who Lives at Home,” in which Jason Segel plays a 30-year-old who still lives at home with his mother, played by Susan Sarandon.

The films will be shown from Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 11 from 2:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. and until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 and Friday, March 9. Tickets are on sale to the general public from Friday, Feb. 10 to Sunday, March 11.

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

27 FRIDAY

NEW YEAR GET FIT EVENT
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Rec.

SPC MOVIE: LION KING IN COLLABORATION WITH DANCE MARATHON
WHEN: 5:8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 243

28 SATURDAY

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. WKU
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

12TH ANNUAL JOSE MARTI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
WHEN: 11 a.m. -1 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

29 SUNDAY

IN THE NEXT ROOM (THE VIBRATOR PLAY)
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General Admission $15.00, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

RECYCLEMANIA TRIAL WEEK 2
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: FIU

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM
Gingrich’s non-motivational speech lacked details, support

NEDA GHOMESHI
Opinion Editor
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On Jan. 25, Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich visited our University to speak with students, alumni and the Miami community. After a 45 minute wait, he spoke for 25 minutes. During his campaign speech, he focused on President Barack Obama’s lack of attention on Latin American politics and the overload of attention on the Arab Spring.

He also reiterated his perspective on Obama’s poor performance over the past four years, but failed to present specific examples. His short presence and lofty comments left a bad impression on me.

Congressman Dan Burton introduced Newt Gingrich to the audience. Burton stated that “Gingrich is a great fighter for a free Cuba,” without providing specifics.

All throughout his speech, Gingrich was reassuring his Cuban fan base that as President, he would dedicate his time and energy to assuring that the Cuban dictatorship is out.

He said, “There will not be a succession to Castro. We will not allow a new future of dictators for Cuba.” Even though execution plans of removing Castro were not mentioned, the primarily Cuban audience ecstatically applauded.

According to Gingrich, President Obama has allocated too much of his time and available resources to the Arab Spring.

He said, “We spend more energy on Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan than we do in Latin America.” Gingrich disregarded the fact that the Arab Spring is a threat to American foreign policy and cannot be neglected.

Gingrich was trying to convince his audience that Obama’s foreign strategies are flawed, yet his reasons were insufficient and lacked details. A president’s role in managing foreign crisis is more to ensure that they are handled carefully and efficiently, and are not ignored or mishandled.

Providing a lofty list of to-dos without articulating how they will be done is characteristic of a campaign and insufficient to attract my vote. I expected more details from Gingrich who is very articulate than just a list of lofty ideas tailored to solicit short-lived applause.

Gingrich claimed that Obama is a socialist, however, he was unable to provide specific examples to support this claim. Regardless, the audience, which is filled with voters against socialism, were pleased and comforted to hear Gingrich’s opposition to socialism.

Gingrich’s non-motivational speech was discouraging. His foreign policy suggestions were ambitious, but unrealistic and flawed. Lacking in detail, his speech was more to create applause than to instill confidence. Some of his ideals were naive, although, they seemed calculated. His overall presentation reassured me that I will not be voting for him.

SEG JMC COMMENTARY

Black Student Union considered for budget increase

The Black Student Union was granted a budget of $50,000 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, of which they have so far spent $8,264.49, according to an audit report presented by Senator Carlos Rodriguez at the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus’ Jan. 23 meeting.

ALEX SORONDO

For the Spring 2012 semester alone, their programming budget stood at $49,048.93. According to Senator Rodriguez, this isn’t enough.

“I think they should be given an extra $2,000 to $5,000 as sort of a cushion,” Rodriguez said after the meeting, hanging over and reviewing an audit summary he defined as a “bare-bones generality,” promising a more comprehensive and up-to-date summary in the days to come.

He also pointed out that his report was filed in November, and that the numbers have since changed.

Upon seeing at first glance that the BSU is awarded what appears to be, in comparison to the funds of other student organizations, a substantial budget, and that only a fraction of that money was spent in the first semester, a budget cut seemed in order, if not inevitable. Consequently, I was baffled by Rodriguez’s request.

Senator Rodriguez assured us after the meeting that BSU has plans for spring programming that will not, without question, spend the remainder of their budget and probably more. This isn’t exactly the case.

According to BSU President Jarron Johnson, the spring semester is indeed ambitious, although, they have begun planning many of their events, few have been so meticulously mapped as to reveal their exact dollar amount. So, if they keep their expenses, as planned, under their $15,000 budget, BSU will still have $30,000 for March and April.

This, of course, can easily be spent with three or four big events, and one of the reasons for BSU’s considerable budget is the consistency with which they draw in large crowds, generating not only excitement but a good deal of ever-aversive school spirit.

The thing is, if BSU could provide well-received activities with large turnouts throughout September, October, and November for less than $10,000, the same should be expected of them for March and April.

This prompts the question of whether an organization’s knack for prodigious frugality should warrant a lowering of their budget and subsequent reallocation of excess funds toward groups that need it.

Sometimes, yes, and if the figures I have been given by Senator Rodriguez and President Johnson are accurate, then BSU could survive with maybe a five percent budget cut.

At the same time, however, they do good work, generate school spirit and positive attention for the University, and therefore must follow university guidelines, including prior approval, for events to occur simultaneously.

As a university dedicated to education and free speech, we have established guidelines that allow both of these essential activities to occur simultaneously.

Individuals and groups wishing to demonstrate on our campuses may do so in areas designated for this purpose and must follow university guidelines, including prior approval, when required. Please click here to review our guidelines on demonstrations.

On Thursday morning, we learned that an unscheduled art and music festival was indeed taking place that afternoon near the DM building on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

As the group began to assemble at 1:15 pm, Student Affairs staff and police advised them of the area identified for such activities and the fact that amplified sound could not be used in an area that would disrupt classes.

Seven times over the span of three hours, police advised the group of their options, which included moving the event to a nearby area, where classes and other university activities would not be disrupted.

The group refused to move the event and they insisted on using amplifying equipment, despite repeated requests by police to disconnect the equipment given its proximity to classrooms where 39 classes with 1,325 enrolled students would be meeting that afternoon and evening (between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm).

When it became clear that the group was intent on continuing activities that would disrupt classes, the police notified the group that if they didn’t leave in five minutes they would be arrested.

After waiting for fifteen minutes, the police arrested seven individuals.

We move forward to working with our students and our community to continue to provide an environment where both free speech and high quality education exist and are respected.

- Mark K. Rosenberg
President

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Explanation for Jan. 12 arrests from President Rosenberg

Dear students, faculty and staff:

I know that many of you have heard that two students and five individuals who are not students were arrested on Thursday, January 12 for disrupting school functions. One of the most fundamental characteristics of the academy is the free and open expression and discussion of all points of view and FIU has a history of allowing and supporting individuals and groups to express their beliefs and opinions without hindrance.

Some of the individuals who participated in Thursday’s event have taken part in several other on-campus demonstrations throughout the fall semester without incident.

A group demonstrated on the Graham Center lawn during the two days in mid-September when we hosted the Board of Governors meeting. All the previous demonstrations were without incident because the participants held their events in locations identified for such activities and followed operational requests of the University.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thought (50 word maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 213 or WOIC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding an issue to its editors, send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com
Water meter forces cafeteria to temporarily close

STEPHANIE FELDMAN
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As lunch time approaches, hungry students at the cafeteria in Biscayne Bay Campus will have to rearrange their schedules today. The cafeteria will be closing at 2:30 p.m. instead of the usual 4:30 p.m. due to the replacement of the water meter. The water meter is a fundamental instrument in water management, used primarily to accurately calculate the utility costs of the campus.

Small and usually located underground, the nondescript piece of equipment is not only important in billing purposes, but also for the purposes of conserving this important natural resource. Water meters resemble the odometer of a car, and are composed of three parts: the sweep hand, flow indicator, and most importantly the register, which reveals, in cubic feet, how much water is being consumed.

According to Nicholas DiCiccio, Senior Director of Facilities at BBC, water meters can last up to 25 years, but must be replaced immediately when they become defective or stop working.

He believes that the last water meter was installed at FIU 15 years ago, and that the replacement is necessary as the meter has not been functioning for the past two weeks. The replacement is not only vital in terms of correctly monitoring water use, but the register on the meter can reveal a leak or other problem, which could result in many gallons of wasted and unaccounted for water.

DiCiccio estimates that BBC’s monthly water consumption is, on average, 1,351,000 gallons of water, which costs them $3,500 per month.

The replacement of the defective meter will be done by officials from the City of North Miami, and DiCiccio assures hungry students and faculty that the job will be done as fast as possible and take around 40 minutes to replace the meter.

The water however, will have to be shut off for an hour, which is why the cafeteria will need to close.

While FIU has experienced issues with water and other utilities, particularly in MMC, the difficulty in closing the cafeteria and scheduling an appointment is what caused the replacement of the meter to be postponed for the past two weeks.

Assistant Food Service Director Lorvin Ramirez, reveals that although cafeteria employees will have two hours taken off their salary, he understands the necessity of the replacement.

“Fridays are slow anyway. They wanted to do it during the week, but because of the high volume of customers we were able to push it to Friday,” Ramirez said.

Matthew Mielke, the Coordinator for Operations and Maintenance Services, stated that “Friday after 2:30 p.m. is the time we worked out with the representatives from the City of North Miami for their meter swap. The water shut off for an hour should last less than an hour.”

He understands the inconvenience and promises that the job will be done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

“[The purpose of the event] is to have minimal disruption to food service in the Cafeteria and to other activities in Wolfe University Center,” Mielke said.