

WRITING ON THE BAY
Bookstore hosts alumni series

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Candidate policies only affect so much

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'The Cook' showcases Cuban history

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Men's soccer still winless despite OT

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New international curriculum in the works

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

In preparation for FIU's bid for reaccreditation in early 2010, the University is planning to implement a more internationally focused curriculum for all undergraduate students.

The reaccreditation process, overseen by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is held once every ten years, and determines whether a university and its degree programs will be officially accredited.

One of the major factors in determining the accreditation of the

University will be the ability to establish and develop a "Quality Enhancement Plan" – a new portion of the accreditation process that is essentially an outline of the University's curriculum in the immediate future.

"[The QEP] is the University's carefully designed strategy for implementing a well-defined, focused program to enhance student learning," according to a Quality Enhancement Plan fact sheet.

Several different proposals were made by different faculty members during Summer 2007.

The "Internationalizing the International University" propos-

al was selected for submission to SACS in January of 2010, before the on-site assessment of the University in March 2010. The on-site assessment involves SACS evaluating FIU's library size, classrooms and other academic facilities.

"It was the product of a faculty working group that I helped put together," said Douglas Kincaid, vice provost of the Office of International Studies. "It was one of three proposals that were essentially in competition with each other to be selected for the overall theme of the QEP."

Details regarding the changes to the undergraduate curriculum have yet to be fully disclosed. However,

every major will include an international component.

"For lower division students, it's just a matter of agreeing on a common framework that everyone can get behind with the uniform of a course or several courses for everyone," Kincaid said. "At the upper lever division, that's where it gets interesting. If you were an international relations major, you may take it for granted, but if you were a physics major or a math major, this may mean nothing at all," he said. "The idea is that every unit will have a course that is international in its conceptualization."

The faculty wanted FIU under-

graduate students to receive exposure to more internationally oriented classes in the lower division level.

Once the curriculum changes, international classes will also be integrated into upper division classes, making FIU's majors multidimensional.

"What we decided to do was to go back to the first charter of the University, which was to emphasize the international mission of the University and to provide a common experience to undergraduates – particularly to lower division undergraduates – by requiring a course

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PUMPING BLOOD



JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

GRAHAM CENTER: Freshman Gabriel Eniamio donates blood at FIU Monday Sept. 22.

Injured USF player recovering

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU football home opener against the University of South Florida on Sept. 20 featured the opening of the long anticipated FIU stadium, which was expected to boast a traditional college football atmosphere for the first time.

In between all the excitement, noise and cheering by the 16,717 fans reported in attendance, there was more than 15 minutes of near silence, but not because the Golden Panthers were losing.

USF player Bruce Mompremier was involved in a collision with a teammate in the third quarter of the contest that forced him out of the game after a brief delay with what was feared to be a spine injury.

On Sunday, however, everyone involved was able to take a breath of relief.

The linebacker, a Miami native, was cleared to return home Sunday after spending the previous night at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

According to the Associated Press, Mompremier had movement of his limbs but was kept at the hospital overnight for further evaluation.

Mompremier and teammate Carlton Williams collided in the Bulls 17-9 win. Williams' side appeared to hit Mompremier's head during the hit, and the 6'1" defender wasn't able to get back up without assistance.

Both teams met in midfield for a moment of silence as the ambulance approached to pick up Mompremier, several FIU fans mocked USF from the stands, which led to national criticism.

Mompremier will miss at least two games while he fully recovers from the awkward collision.

Chancellor heads back to the classroom

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Board of Governors Chancellor Mark B. Rosenberg announced on Monday that he will step down from his post in Feb. 2009.

Rosenberg will return to FIU as faculty after serving three years in Tallahassee.

"I am thrilled to be going back. I have a passion for FIU," Rosenberg said. "I missed working with my students and I'm ready to get back in the classroom."

He will continue working on BOG projects after his resignation, including developing a state University Plan

for educating returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and establishing a new international education initiative, stated the release.

Rosenberg has seen the University grow since 1976 when he began teaching political science as an assistant professor and hopes to head back to the department in Feb.

More than a spectator, Rosenberg has been an active participant in the University's growth establishing the Latin American and Caribbean Center and assuming the role of founding dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

As provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, he encouraged and became a key player in creating FIU's law and medical schools as well as the School of Hospitality Management's offshoot campus in China, according to the BOG release.

"Mark has made great contributions to FIU as a professor and an administrator over the past three decades. Our FIU students will benefit tremendously from Mark's return," President Modesto A. Maidique said on hearing of Rosenberg's decision.

Rosenberg moved to the BOG in November 2005, initially for a two-year run.

Chair of the Board of Governors Sheila M. McDevitt and Florida Senator Steve Oelrich, among others, applauded Rosenberg's vision and leadership during the state's major budget crisis.

"Mark has guided us through some troubling times and has helped us manage budget cuts and other issues with confidence and assurance," McDevitt said in the press release.

Rosenberg said it was an honor working in Tallahassee during the state's economic crisis.

"I was honored to fight like a warrior for public higher education," he said.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

FIU holds forum for prospective medical students and their families

In a joint project from Student Government, the Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising and the College of Medicine, FIU will hold an informational medical forum on Sept. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Presenters will include current FIU students as well as alumni who are current medical students or practicing physicians.

The forum will also include advice on which courses students should take in high school in order to prepare for college and what students should do once in college to be considered for medical school.

The event will be at the Graham Center Ballrooms and is free and open to the public.

NATIONAL

McCain's slight edge in Florida may hinge on economy

According to a new *Miami Herald* poll, Republican Presidential candidate John McCain is nursing a narrow lead over Barack Obama in Florida even while voters say the Democratic candidate is more trusted to handle their most important issue: the economy.

The poll, taken Sept. 14-17, when the Wall Street turmoil dominated world and national news, gives McCain a narrow lead over Obama – 47 percent to 45 – with 7 percent undecided. The poll's margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

The survey of 800 likely voters echoed the economic jitters of the nation, as 43 percent of voters said the economy should be the next president's top concern.

That's a three-to-one margin over the next two top issues: managing the war in Iraq, at 14 percent, and terrorism protection, at 12 percent.

WORLD

Suicide bomber kills dozens, wounds 200 in Pakistan

A suicide truck bombing destroyed the packed Marriott Hotel, near the Parliament building and the prime minister's home, in the city of Islamabad, Pakistan, on Saturday night.

The attack killed at least 40 people and wounded another 200, police said.

People were still trapped in the hotel, which burst into flames after the explosion caused a natural gas pipe leak, officials said.

The fire was still burning at 2 a.m., six hours after the blast, according to The Associated Press.

While investigators are still combing through the evidence, no terrorist organization has taken any responsibility to the attack.

– Compiled by Paul O' Swath

INJURED BULL



RICK MARTINEZ / THE BEACON

BIG SCORE: USF linebacker Brouce Mompremier was carted off by an ambulance during the third quarter of the FIU USF game.

Program meant to enhance majors

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with an international focus as part of requirements for years one and two and then to encourage the different majors to incorporate within themselves coursework with an international dimension," said Thomas A. Breslin, professor for the International Relations Department, and an architect of the proposal.

Director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives Hilary Landorf oversees the proposal's implementation.

"The curriculum, assessment strategies and assessment instruments are being planned by the QEP Development Team, composed of one faculty representative from each of the colleges and schools at FIU, plus representatives from adminis-

tration, the Core Curriculum, SGA, external relations, etc.," Landorf said.

Kincaid said the new QEP will yield positive results for every major offered at FIU.

"The reality of the world, however, is that every field of study has an international dimension to it. All majors can benefit from this focus," Kincaid said.

Students can expect to see

a change in classes as early as this upcoming Spring semester, but the plan will not be completely implemented until 2010.

"The implementation of the QEP will begin in full force in the fall 2010; pilot courses will begin in lower division courses this Spring semester; a QEP Web site is also about to be launched," Landorf said.

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FIU hosts Cuban hip-hop, rap film

ELSIE PUIG

Contributing Writer

The award-winning documentary titled "East of Havana," which chronicles the life of the Cuban hip-hop group El Cartel during and after Hurricane Charley in 2004, was shown on Sept. 20 at University of Miami's Bill Cosford Cinema.

It is the first in a series of films hosted by FIU's Cuban Research Institute and UM's Latin American Studies Program.

The documentary follows the lives of El Cartel. Mikki Flow, Soandry and

Magyori are documented on the eve and the aftermath of Hurricane Charley in 2004, which led the government to cancel the much anticipated Annual Rap Festival in Alamar, Cuba - an event that brings together rap artists from around the world.

The film was followed by a panel discussion on rap, race and youth culture in contemporary Cuba.

The panel was composed of Jauretsi Saizarbitoria, who co-directed the documentary; Alejandro de la Fuente, associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Ariel Fernandez Diaz, a radio personality.

"We hope to address the issues, like rap, race and youth that are often sidelined by the mainstream issues surrounding Cuba," said Fuente, whose academic work focuses on topics like Latin American and Caribbean history and race relations.

"The hip-hop movement in Cuba was very much a child of the [Cuban] Revolution, or what was left of the Cuban Revolution," he said.

According to Fuente, the hip-hop movement began in the early 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed.

With the end of Russian

economic aid came a social and economic climate that became known as the Special Period.

This led many Afro-Cuban youth on the island to use rap as a means to express concerns, frustrations and aspirations.

"Cuba has an extensive history of poetry, and essentially rap is poetry to beat, so most of these young Cubans thought

'Hey, this is something I can do,'" said Saizarbitoria, who spent more than a month on the island chronicling and lending his voice to the Cuban hip-hop underground.

"This festival, apart

from bringing media coverage to these artists which have no other way of getting recognition, also, permitted some income," Saizarbitoria said. "Some of these artists earned around \$200 by burning CDs and selling them at the festival, so they were frustrated to hear it was canceled."

Most of the lyrics from the underground echoed the discontent with the political situation, such as in these lyrics by rapper Mikki Flow, referring indirectly to Fidel Castro: "For you to live, is to die like a historical figure/taking Cuba and its people to the grave."

During the discussion, Fernandez mentions the formation of the Cuba Rap Agency, and the conflict it created when it tried to commercialize the grassroots movement by sponsoring eight of the 200 rap groups on the island. This led the movement to cease being largely underground.

"Most of the die-hard rappers converted to reggaeton," said Saizarbitoria, "Because they were being subsidized by the government."

Even though the economic situation has led some to turn to commercial music like reggaeton, Saizarbitoria adds, the rap underground in Cuba is still very much alive.

The hip-hop movement in Cuba was very much a child of the [Cuban] Revolution, or what was left of the Cuban Revolution.

Alejandro de la Fuente,
Associate Professor
University of Pittsburgh

TELENOVELA



EDDIE ZENG/THE BEACON

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Actress Xiemena Duque prepares to film a scene soap opera "El Rostro de Analia."

FACULTY CONVOCATION

Professors acknowledged for achievements

PAULO O'SWATH
Asst. News Director

Darden Asbury Pyron, a senior faculty member from the Department of History and senior professor in the Honors College, was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award at the annual Faculty Convocation on Sept. 19 by FIU's President's Council.

Along with the honor bestowed upon him, Pyron also received a \$12,500 monetary award.

Pyron has been teaching at FIU since 1972 and was a founding chair of the University's history department, setting its course while

the University was still in primary stages.

Next to his academic achievements, Pyron has also written many books on American cultural history and the American south. Some of his books have been translated into many languages.

His book "Southern Daughter: The Life of Margaret Mitchell" won a Book of the Month selection.

Pyron was among three finalists up for the award.

The other two finalists were Arvind Agara and Kinzy Jones.

Arvind Agara, an associate professor and graduate program director in the Department of Mechanical

and Materials Engineering, has published six journal articles a year and received the prestigious National Science Foundation Career Award in 2006.

Kinzy Jones, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, founded and serves as the director of the Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute. Jones also has collected a total of \$8.3 million in external research support and \$1.2 million in the last academic year.

Both finalists received \$2,000 each from the council.

"Our 2008 honorees con-

tinue a strong FIU tradition of teaching, research and service while at the same time blazing their own trails in these areas," said Morris I. Hollander, chairman of the President's Council. "The task of picking just one recipient among the many talented professors at FIU is a difficult but worthy one and one that we look forward to each year."

The President's Council, a group of business and community leaders who serve as ambassadors and advisers to the University, created the award in 2000 to acknowledge and support continued excellence among FIU's faculty.

Faculty Awards for Excellence

Teaching

Alma Abdel-Moty (Dept. of Occupational Therapy)
Faisal Kaleem (Dept. of Decision Sciences & Information Systems)
Laird Kramer (Dept. of Physics)

Research

Arvind Agarwal (Dept. of Mechanical & Material Engineering)
Kannan Raghunandan (Dept. of Accounting)
Judith Stiehm (Dept. of Political Science)

Service

Leslie Frazier (Dept. of Psychology)
Nestor Portocarrero (Dept. of Hospitality Management)

Librarianship

Scott Kass (Library)

Advising

William Maguire (Dept. of Art & Art History)

Graduate Mentorship

Maureen Donnelly (Dept. of Biological Sciences)
Daniel Wakefield (Dept. of English)

Adjunct Faculty Award for Teaching

Gretchen Scharnagl (Dept. of Arts & Art History)
Jayne Klein (Dept. of Religious Studies)
Anastasios Moysidis (Dept. of Finance)

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Get a dose of literacy from alumni during reading series

BARBARA QUIJANO
Contributing writer

Each semester, the FIU creative writing program hosts The Writers on the Bay, a reading series offering students and literary enthusiasts a chance to escape the drab confines of academia and explore a realm of imagination.

Independent bookstore Books and Books will host the event Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. The event showcases the published works of master of fine arts alumni of the BBC English department's creative writing program.

The reading series is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. A meet-and-greet with the authors will also take place after their presentations.

Marta Lee, senior secretary for the English department and creative writing program, said the audience usually numbers about 50 people, including FIU students and faculty.

"We try to give the public opportunities to meet with nationally-known authors, making them available to the public and the FIU community," Lee said. "It's a good way to network."

The creative writing program's faculty boasts several members who have published literary works and are nation-

ally-recognized, according to the program's Web site.

"Those who apply for the program do so because of our reputation. The faculty introduces them to agents and give a lot of counseling on how to go about publishing, having students submit to literary journals," Lee said.

Alumni attending The Writers on the Bay on Sunday have new books out this year. Lynn Kiele Bonasia's novel, "Some Assembly Required," helps readers "feel the sea breeze and taste the salt air," according to the description on her Web site. Susan Briante's poetry collection "Pioneers in the Study of Motion," is "an ode, a screed, a lament, a love song of 'pristine and inarticulate mornings,'" writes poet C.D. Wright, a winner of several highly-regarded awards, in a critique of Briante's anthology.

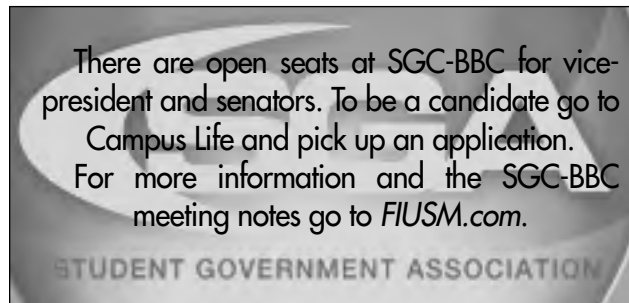
Rita Martinez's poetry collection, "Jane-in-the-Box," contains "astounding poems [that] are literary, conversational, personal and fun,

as she confidently transports her Janes from the Moors to Macy's, from Thornfield Manor to the world of tattoos," said Denise Duhamel, an author and faculty member of FIU's creative writing literature program.

Ian Vasquez, a copy editor at the *St. Petersburg Times*, just released his first novel, "In the Heat," which drew inspiration from his passion for professional boxing and is peppered with references to his hometown in Belize.

The Writers on the Bay will feature these alumni, along with recent graduates Jen Bartman, Andrea Dulanto, Kevin Allen, Jose Fallad, Denise Sebesta Lanier, Karen Kravit, Patsy Warman and Jeff Wehr.

Books and Books is located at 265 Aragon Ave. in Coral Gables. For additional information contact the English and creative writing department at (305) 919-5857. For directions to Books and Books, call (305) 442-4408.



There are open seats at SGC-BBC for vice-president and senators. To be a candidate go to Campus Life and pick up an application. For more information and the SGC-BBC meeting notes go to FIUSM.com.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

POOL CONSTRUCTION: Construction is underway to fix the Olympic-sized pool at BBC. Existing tiles are being removed and the pool floor resurfaced.

Improv, comedy at variety show

ALEXA SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

FIU students will have the opportunity to be hypnotized during a night full of free entertainment on campus.

The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus will host a Variety Show Sept. 25, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

Organized each year, the variety show is free for students and the general public, according to Petra Haven, vice president of SPC-BBC. Students just need to bring their Panther ID's.

"The show is for students, just pure entertainment for the students – something to get your mind off of your studies for a while," Haven said.

The show will feature performances by Leroy "Hypno Bro" Williams, BET hypnotist comic, and Mission Improvable, sketch improvisers from Chicago.

"Every year, we have 'Hypno Bro.' He is performing the main act," Haven said.

During "Hypno Bro's" act, students will have the opportunity to be part of the show, and get hypnotized on the main stage as the audience witnesses the entire scene.

"He ['Hypno Bro'] asks people from the audience to come up to be hypnotized, and he asks you to do certain things, obviously that are acceptable. It's really funny to watch," Haven said.

This year is the first time Mission Improvable is performing at the Variety Show. With improvisational sketches, this group will interact with the audience as well.

"[Mission Improvable] walk off of the crowd, so there is going to be a lot of audience participation," Haven said. "It's going to be different. Something that you probably won't see at a regular college."

For more information, call (305) 919-5280.

Spice event draws students to Miami's culinary hotspots

From Aug. 1- Sept. 30, Miami foodies rejoice. It's that special time of the year when tasting menus are abundant, and wallets don't suffer as much as they would any other day of the year.

That's because it's Miami Spice time. Miami Spice is an event used to promote our city and our fine dining restaurants by offering affordable three-course menus.

High-profile restaurants like Michy's on Biscayne Boulevard, where the cost is approximately \$70 or more for three courses, create special "spice" menus that are \$23 for lunch and \$36 for dinner- that includes your choice of appetizer, entrée and dessert.

Miami Spice's official Web site, miamispice.com, leads you to a list of over 150 showcased Miami restaurants. Where should you dine?

Here are my two favorite picks for foodgasm and my one disappointment from this year's Miami Spice.

Best of Miami Spice 2008: Chef Allen's, 19088 N.E. 29th Ave., Aventura – (305) 935-2900.

Not only is Chef Allen's close to Biscayne Bay, but it is what Miami Spice is all about. Renowned chef Allen Susser, FIU alumnus, rooted himself in Aventura with his Caribbean fusion foods. Chef Allen's Miami Spice menu changes frequently, like on Tuesday's, when your entrée could be a 1.5 pound lobster with a twist on the traditional clam bake, including a chorizo-infused broth with corn and clams.

It is definitely the place to go, because not only are you getting incredible-quality food for a low price with the "spice" menu, but the service is relaxed and non-intimidating.

If you enjoy a hearty, authentic-tasting curry, I highly recommend getting the curried lamb with fingerling potatoes.

Try some wine too; most of it is organically made. The best thing about Chef Allen's is that it is extending its "spice" menu until the end of October.

So grab your special someone, make a reservation, and eat one of the best meals of your life – I did.

The Restaurant at The Setai, 2001

Collins Ave., Miami Beach – (305) 520-6400, is my second pick.

The Setai is a famous South Beach hotel that students probably shouldn't even look at because that alone would cost them too much money.

But during "spice" season, one of its restaurants, The Restaurant, makes its cuisine available to people like us. Only serving dinner at \$36 Sunday through Thursday, The Restaurant is perfect for those of you looking for that "wow" factor.

If you want to take your date there, and watch their eyes open in excitement and confusion with the first course, this is the place. The Restaurant showcases the finest of Asian fusion foods.

Chef Jonathan Wright combines flavors with the freshest ingredients to give you a little of Thailand, China and India.

The service is like I've never seen before; anything you need from your server you will get, and foods like the slow-cooked hen egg with truffle sabayon will scare you with the name but go down oh-so-good.

Eat here if you want to lick your fork after each course. Joyce Maingi, a hospitality management senior, did

so after the lime and chili caramelized pork belly, and enjoyed the opportunity Miami Spice gave her to experience The Restaurant.

"I wouldn't normally go to The Setai because it's too expensive, but Miami Spice gave me the chance to try something new," Maingi said.

When choosing which restaurant to go to for Miami Spice, you have to be careful.

Some of the restaurants are chains, which could be great but usually lack the intimate fine dining aspect other Miami staples carry.

Some restaurants on the list would probably cost somewhere in the \$36 range for dinner on any other day, so why not go somewhere where you can get the most bang for your buck?

Sometimes you'll find a restaurant where the food is mediocre, and the service is dreadful – that's why Smith & Wollensky, 1 Washington Ave., Miami Beach- (305) 673-2800, is my disappointment for this year's Miami Spice.

The service was awful. The waiters gave attitude to "spice" eaters. I imagine it's because they are getting a tip on \$36 instead of \$75 – and the food was mediocre at best. A steak

is a steak, there is no "wow" factor here, and in the end you leave full, but empty in the cultural aspect that Miami Spice is opening our doors to. I suggest you take your \$36 and foodgasm somewhere else.

Miami Spice is a fantastic opportunity, and all students should take advantage of it. It gives you the chance to not only impress your palate, but perhaps a date, and learn about Miami's food culture without breaking the bank.

As Vincent Tien, a hospitality management senior, told me about his experience working at Pacific Time, a "spice" hot spot, "[Miami Spice] is a win/win situation: If customers like the food that's offered at a price that they can afford, they will come back in the future for special occasions."

And that's true. I will be at Chef Allen's on my birthday and any other excuse I can find to have that foodgasm.

Read 'Foodgasm' every other Wednesday for more food trends. E-mail your culinary ideas to Bianca Rojas at bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

America's morality lies upon the people, not candidates

CHRIS LEE REYES
Contributing Writer

This has undoubtedly been one of the most dynamic presidential races in history – but anyone who believes the result of the 2008 election will entirely change the course of the world is terribly naive. For those who may feel a sense of xenophobia and/or fear with a particular party winning this fall, it's important to state that Barack Obama winning the presidency does not mean Armageddon is automatically upon us, nor will McCain's victory entail our country's eternal damnation into Dante's Inferno.

What will truly define our course in American history is our own culture, not politics.

Don't get me wrong, this election result is vital – especially considering the state of the economy. However, the strength of true morality in our culture is much more important than the demise of Lehman Brothers, an investment bank.

Do you really think the fate of our country hinges on how much foreign policy experience Obama has? Or did you honestly believe that John McCain's stance against insurgents in Iraq would define the course of mor-



CHRIS LEE REYES / THE BEACON

al history? If you answered yes, or a hesitant maybe, then your worldview has been corrupted.

Like most Americans, you have either been swayed away by rhetoric or have become indifferent to politics. Both illusions are dangerous; they fool you to think America will not survive because of who sits in the Oval Office.

The reality is that the citizens' choice of moral direction for the next four years is much more prevalent

than that of the rookie senator's – or the 71-year-old veteran's – domestic policy concerning the economy.

Politicians kindle the hearts of the voters; they don't create the voters' hearts. It's the morality of our culture that needs to be fixed.

Now, who could possibly make this paradigm shift become a reality? Is it the environmentalists? Could it be Shaolin monks? Chuck Norris? The answer lies within the historically proven two-hit combo for cultural

change: moral soundness and political stability.

Church and state have always been the most essential tools by which to sculpt morality within culture. In fact, church and state are to culture as sex and gambling are to Las Vegas: inseparable. Through the course of American history one can see how Christianity has laid the moral foundations by which the sovereign state can function and prosper.

In the old days, I'm told, most people would value the beauty of Sundays; going to church and spending quality time as a family. Nowadays, in the status quo of family social life, the father dedicates himself to his Fantasy Football results as the kids Xbox their lives away.

One of the most remarkable men in U.S. history, former president Abraham Lincoln, summed up this reality with much greater eloquence than I can in one of his most memorable speeches: "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

And destroying ourselves we are, for America today, thy name is wickedness. Looking at the core of America's moral fiber, you can't help

but feel that we are going in the wrong direction.

The deflation of love for God and country is very alarming. It seems not nearly enough people are willing to take a stand against the massive killing spree of babies (or as most call it: abortion) and the family-value slicing immoral acts of homosexual marriages, all which undermine the traditional values that made this country great.

With divorce rates, illegitimacy and abortions skyrocketing as crime rates continue to be associated to the disintegration of the family, one can't help but want to retain traditional values and forego secularism. And although the naysayers would like you to believe it's worthless to try and change the culture, I believe our Rome can still return to its grandeur.

Once again, these elections are vital. But let us also consider, in these turbulent times, the state of our decaying culture. Let us consider family values and the Biblical-based ethics that helped this country excel.

Because all in all, the real solution to this country's ever-growing decay is less about the White House and more about what fills the hearts and minds of the people of a country in flames.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

USF student weighs in on behavior of Golden Panthers' fans during Bulls' injury on field

I would just like to say how disgusted I was with the behavior of your students and fans while our player was facing a possible life-threatening injury.

Your fans have once again proven to be the epitome of all that is bad in society. It is fitting that this moment was captured on the ESPN broadcast and is getting national media attention.

At least your coach and players showed a little class, which is something that your student fan base seems to sorely lack.

Despite the fact that USF played its absolute worst, I congratulate Coach Cristobal on a close game and send my thanks for being a lone beacon of respectability in an otherwise despicable crowd.

I know firsthand that all teams have their idiot fans, but it takes someone far worse

than an idiot to chant obscenities when a player is seriously injured, and to cheer when the ambulance arrives.

USF fans may talk a lot of trash, but if it were your player down on our field, then we would show our signs of respect by relative silence and holding the traditional "bull" hand high in silent prayer.

If your school wants to be known as the "bad boys," then fine, but do it by fielding a winning team, not by stooping to subhuman decency.

I feel that an apology is in order from your administration on behalf of its fans to the family of Brouce Mompremier, as well as the entire USF family.

Jamie Smith
Senior
History
University of
South Florida

Poll finds race could still cost Obama the election

IRIS A. FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

I suppose I've learned a lesson in ignorance this week as I reviewed poll results released by Yahoo News and the Associated Press.

I learned racism is still abundant in the United States, even though I clearly knew it has not been completely eliminated. I thought we had come a long way since the founding of the NAACP as well as the work done by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who helped reform civil rights – but after learning about this poll, I became gravely concerned.

According to the poll, which was conducted by Stanford University, one third of white Democrats harbored negative views toward blacks. The results suggested that the percentage of voters polled could swing the election more easily toward Republican Sen. John McCain.

I find it incredibly disconcerting that votes to be cast in November will simply stem from personal, prejudiced views on a particular race.

How can voters only consider the color a candidate's skin instead of focusing on what policies he believes in and what they strive to do as president before they cast their ballots?

The poll indicated that "40 percent of all white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks, and that includes many Democrats and independents."

Barack Obama needs this one-third of skewed voters in order to

win the election, the poll suggests, although they are "significantly less likely to vote for Obama."

The survey had respondents "rate how well certain adjectives applied to blacks." Among all whites, 20 percent said the word "violent" strongly applied, while 13 percent agreed with "lazy." One third of the white Democrats agreed with one negative adjective, although 58 percent "said they planned to back Obama."

"There are a lot fewer bigots than there were 50 years ago, but that doesn't mean there's only a few bigots," said Stanford University political scientist Paul Sniderman. Sniderman assisted in analyzing the survey.

I don't know about you, but that scares me to death. As a Democrat I can freely admit Obama is not perfect, by any means; he has shifted positions on offshore drilling, for he's not opposed to all offshore drilling opportunities, according to a blog from *The Los Angeles Times*.

Obama recently told *The Palm Beach Post*, "The Republicans and the oil companies have been really beating the drums on drilling. And so we don't want gridlock. We want to get something done."

I understand the need for bipartisanship and compromise, but I thought Obama would realize drilling for oil now would not yield the immediate results Americans desperately want as they fill their cars and trucks with gasoline as prices fluctuate from bad to worse.

And yes, I too can get tired of his

rhetoric and arguments for "change." The apparent grandeur of his speeches, which bring in attendees by the thousands, can become questionable.

According to *The Miami Herald*, Obama's appearance at the University of Miami on Sept. 19 drew skepticism.

"He's a good orator, but I thought this speech was very vague," said Liz Alarcon, a UM student. "We've heard this before."

Although I appreciate his eloquence and (perhaps excessive) accessibility, I'm craving a bit more substance from the Illinois senator.

But voters should decide to give McCain the White House based upon these aforementioned criticisms and other ones of Obama, not upon the fact that he's black. Race should not even factor into the equation at all, for it has absolutely nothing to do with the candidate's overall credentials and professional experiences in local and national government.

It worries me how people still harbor such tainted views toward blacks.

Even though we have progressed as a nation toward greater civil liberties, it shocks me to see that these outdated – and frankly, despicable – views still exist.

I don't want to believe these views are incorrigible. But change in government and society, whether it is brought by a black man or a white one, needs to manifest itself quickly.

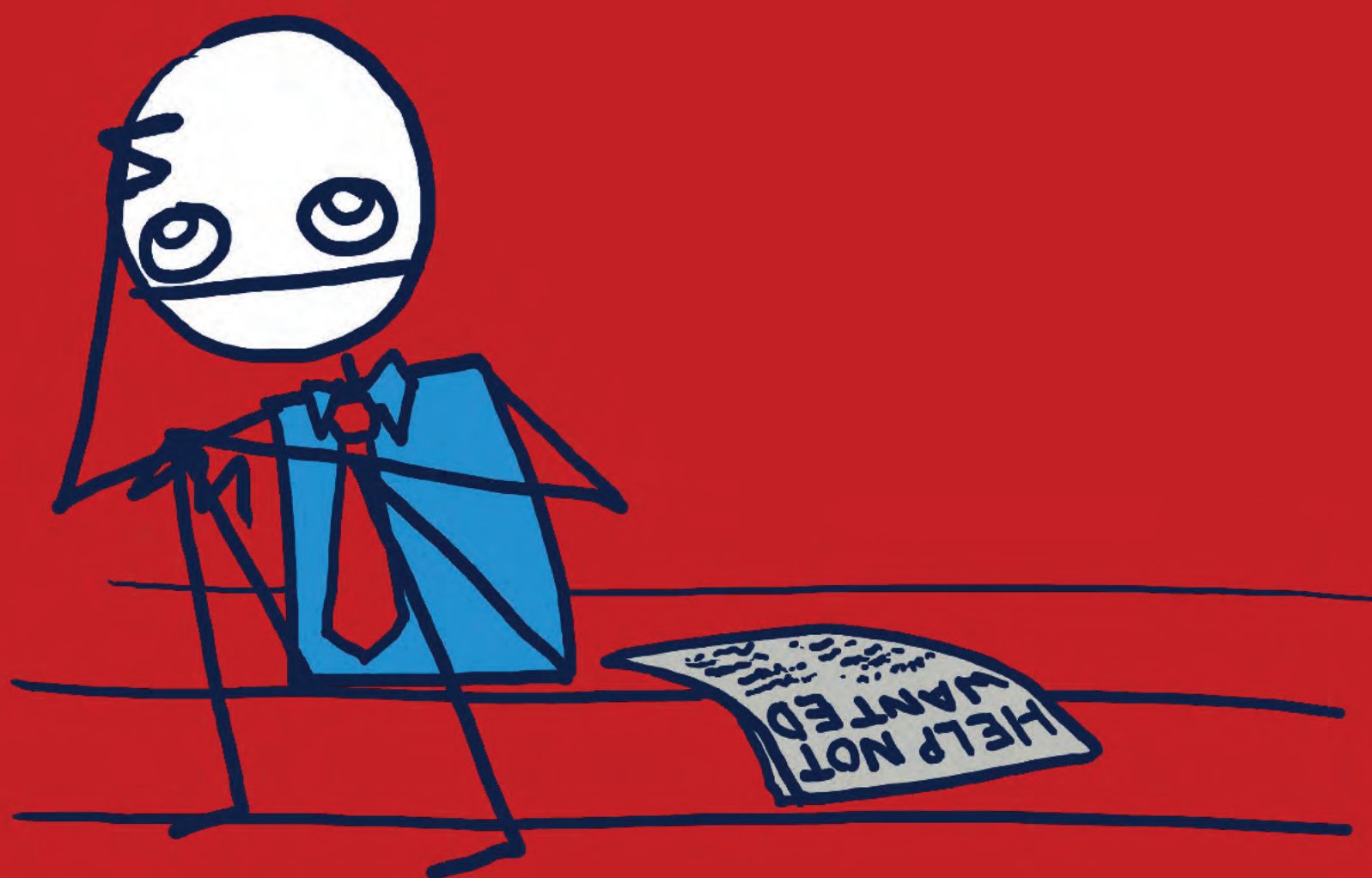
A racist nation would only propel efforts to better it backwards.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Have something to say?

Contact us at opinion@fiusm.com and we'll give you space to share your opinion with the FIU community. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

I'm voting because living
with my parents is depressing.
Charmaine W.



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Theater department depicts Cuban history in test play

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

"The Cook," written by Cuban born playwright Eduardo Machado is FIU's latest production and is stirring up emotions around the FIU theater scene.

It takes a look into Cuban history and the effects on its people by exploring the loyalties that have divided and united Cuban people.

Machado was inspired to write the play from an incident dating back to his travels in Cuba when he met a woman while eating in a *paladar*, a restaurant which is run out of a private home.

The movie depicts the story of Gladys, a woman maintaining a house in Cuba in memory of its original owner who fled to the U.S when Fidel Castro rose to power.

The play has attracted controversy for its depiction of American-born Cubans and those who never left the island, but stayed to endure the hardships.

The play illustrates how their shared Cuban culture separates them instead of uniting them.

It exhibits the significance of this divide in the Cuban people.

It also introduces aspects of life in Cuba and Cuban culture from the '50s through the '70s.

To help prepare for their roles, students didn't need to look further than their own

homes for background information.

Natalie Sevayos, a theater major, said she asked her grandmother for help with particular words and geography.

"I play the role similar to what my grandmother did in that time.

I'm literally experiencing what she did, and [I] get to see it from her perspective," she said.

Michelle Cote, the production's stage manager, thinks the show will be a great success, loaded with lots of energy and emotions on Cuban culture and heritage.

"I love working with the cast. They're a great ensemble with amazing energy and they just work off each other's energy.

They just love being on stage and doing their thing," she said.

Sheldon Deckalbaum, a native south Floridian, Yale graduate and accomplished director, steps in and leads the prominent cast during this impressive take on historical Cuban culture.

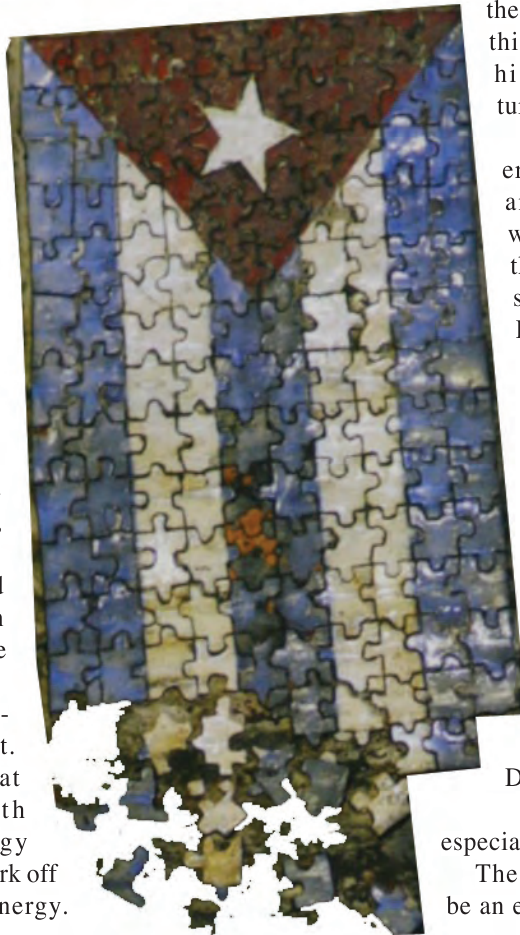
"There's a lot of ownership and connection and it's enjoyable to work on. [It's] something that everyone [is] strongly invested in," Deckalbaum said.

His accomplished resume gave the FIU cast new insight on acting and brought new light and direction to the FIU production.

"It's refreshing to see how to get to the same goal a different way," said Paul Perez, the actor playing Julio, about Deckalbaum.

Cuban roots run deep, especially in South Florida.

The production proves to be an efficient way to involve



I love working with the cast. They're a great ensemble with amazing energy and they just work off each other's energy and they just love being on stage and doing their thing.

Michelle Cote
stage manager

young Cubans and Cuban-Americans to take interest in modern Cuban History in this captivating production.

The play will begin on Thursday, Sept. 25 and run through Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Thursday through Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee performances are at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students, alumni and seniors.

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Hall of Fame nominees incorporate unprecedented variety

JOE MILICIA
AP Wire

Run-D.M.C. could “Walk This Way” into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The 1980s rap act, along with Metallica and the Stooges, are among the nine nominees for next year’s hall of fame class, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation announced Monday.

The other nominees are guitarist Jeff Beck, singer Wanda Jackson, Little Anthony and the Imperials, War, Bobby Womack, and disco and R&B group Chic.

The list is for the wide range of musical genres represented — hip-hop, metal, punk, disco and R&B — and the large

number of first-time candidates. Only Chic, the Stooges and Jackson have been previously nominated.

“It’s an interesting group because it really shows the nominating committee showed some thought and energy into who should be inducted,” said Joel Peresman, president and CEO of the New York City-based Rock Hall foundation. “It truly shows it’s never a closed door for any artist to be nominated.”

The five leading vote-getters will be announced in January and inducted April 4, 2009, in Cleveland.



FRIENDLY COMPETITION



RICK MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

TUGGIN' AT THE TAILGATE: FIU and USF fans play tug-of-war before the highly anticipated FIU football home opener at the new FIU stadium.

It's an interesting group because it really shows the nominating committee showed some thought and energy into who should be inducted

Joel Peresman,
president and CEO of the New York City-based Rock Hall foundation

The ceremony typically has been held in New York but is returning to Cleveland after more than a decade-long absence. Tickets will be made available to the public for the first time.

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five opened the door for rap at the Rock Hall as the first hip-hop act to be inducted in 2007. Now, Run-D.M.C., nominated in the first year of its eligibility, has the chance to follow on the strength of rock and rap blends such as the 1986 cover of Aerosmith’s “Walk This Way” and classics like “It’s Tricky” and “My Adidas.”

“The big thing they did is took hip-hop more into the mainstream,” said Jim Henke, chief curator of the hall of fame and a member of the nominating committee.

“They did combine a lot of rock elements. As far as hip-hop groups go, they’re certainly right there at the top.”

Metallica jumped on the heavy metal wave of the ‘80s and 25 years later is still selling out arenas. This month the group released “Death Magnetic,” which marks a return to its early speed metal days.

The Stooges, recently given props in

the film “Juno,” get another shot after last appearing on the ballot two years ago.

Left off the ballot were Stevie Ray Vaughan and Bon Jovi. Both had been eligible for the first time. To be nominated an act must have released its first single or album 25 years prior.

“They’re great artists,” Peresman said. “People’s time comes for whatever reason when it does.”

Rock fan Neil Walls, who started the Web site futurerockhall.com two and one-half years ago to discuss which of today’s artists could end up in the hall of fame, said this year’s nominees offer great diversity. But he questions why artists like Kiss, Alice Cooper, Peter Gabriel, Chicago and Rush keep getting snubbed.

“They need to go back to at least nominating 14 or 15 to at least give the voters more of an option,” Walls said. “It really puts the power in the nominating committee’s hands.”

More than 500 musicians, industry professionals and journalists vote on the inductions.

On the Net: <http://www.rockhall.com>

Student association focuses on European issues, culture

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

In a university with no lack of ethnic variety, a new student-run group on campus promises to bridge cultural gaps.

The idea for the group, simply named the Europe-Student Association, was conceived when Mirsad Krijestorac, a senior journalism major who is a Bosnian native, noticed the interest and awareness students have about Europe while working on his European Studies certificate.

With no outlet provided by the University to discuss European issues and culture, he knew that there needed to be a change.

That is when Krijestorac, along with a group of about fifteen other students, decided to form the association, which is holding its first general meeting this Tuesday, Sept. 23.

“The group is supposed to bridge native European students and Miami natives who are interested in having a forum to exchange information on the student level,” said Krijestorac. “It will build social ties and gain the interest of people.”

The association will also serve as a means to comfort European students at FIU by introducing them to other Europeans, and allowing them to speak about issues from their countries to Americans interested in it in an open forum.

The meeting will introduce students to the group and inform them about future events. The Europe-Student Association plans to have two different kinds of events throughout the term.

Some of the meetings will be informational sessions.

The association plans to have professors and experts come in to explain current events which, according to Krijestorac, are

often misunderstood because the explanations given by the American media are often put in broad terms.

Last week, one such discussion took place. Five speakers were brought in to round table discussions to explain the current hostilities in Georgia. Both professors and representatives spoke to the students and explained the facts, the intricacies not often discussed in the media and the different viewpoints, such as the opinion of the European Union on the issue.

The meeting brought in an impressive crowd of about 50, but after the first official one, members of the association hope that there will be even more for the next discourse.

The other meetings will take a completely different direction. To lighten up the serious tone of the association, they will be organizing social networking events, like parties or dinners, with cultural ambassadors and professors mingling among the members.

However, along with those social gatherings, they are thinking outside the box.

“We want to plan a soccer club, and maybe play against other clubs on campus, like the Caribbean Students Association,” Krijestorac said.

If you are interested in learning more about the culture and current events of Europe, or if you are a European student yourself, the meeting on Sept. 23 will take place in Graham Center room 220 at University Park from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the meeting, visit the Europe-Student Association Web page at <http://www.fiu.edu/~cso> or call (305) 348-5949.

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS



JESSE MEADOWS/THE BEACON

GETTING INVOLVED: From left to right, sophomores Lisandra Cassola, Andrea Valenzula, Hector Gomez and Joseph Elias get together at a John McCain table inside of Graham Center.

Broadway's biggest tour the nation with two stops in South Florida

JADE LEONART
Staff Writer

Broadway Across America hopes to ease the pain of theater-goers who wish they could go to a Broadway show, but don't have the resources or time to plan an entire trip to New York around one sitting of "Avenue Q." Known by different names over the past 25 years, Broadway Across America will present touring theatrical shows in 40 cities



around the country, including Ft. Lauderdale and Miami.

The Ft. Lauderdale shows are presented at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts while the Miami shows take place at the Adrienne Arscht

Center for the Performing Arts.

"It's not economical for people to just take off and go to New York, so we're bringing Broadway to your backyard," said

Jennifer Sierra-Grobbelaar, spokesperson for Broadway Across America.

The Ft. Lauderdale season begins with "Hairspray" from Oct. 17-19 followed by "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" from Nov. 18-30.

After that, "Avenue Q," "Mamma Mia!" and "A Bronx Tale" will be coming to town, followed by even more

shows.

Miami's Broadway run is shorter but just as exciting.



It starts on Oct. 28 with "The Wizard of Oz" which runs until Nov. 2. "Annie" comes to town from Dec. 2-7 followed by "Cats," "Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy" and "Chicago," which ends the Miami season on May 31.

Patrons have many options when it comes to their Broadway at home experience.

They can either buy tickets for single shows, which are available six to eight

weeks before the show's run, or they can sign up for a subscription package that gets theater-goers tickets for every show presented during the season.

These packages are available now.

By the time these national tours arrive in South Florida, the cast for each individual show will have changed many times, so there is no knowing who will

be entertaining until a few weeks before the show.

There are two actors who are guaranteed to show up down here though - Dame Edna of "Dame Edna Live - My First Last Tour" and Chazz Palminteri of "A Bronx Tale."

So don't fret, you won't have to spend a weekend away from home to enjoy a night of great theater. Broadway Across America allows you to enjoy these plays in your own backyard.



Emmy winners receive recognition

LYNN ELBER
AP Wire

The sleek '60s drama "Mad Men" made Emmy history Sunday as the first basic-cable show to win a top series award, while the sitcom "30 Rock" and its stars Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin also emerged as big winners.

"We're all so very grateful to have jobs in this turkey-burger economy," Fey said after accepting the best comedy series trophy for

her satire about a late-night TV show.

"This is the greatest job I've ever had in my life," Baldwin said of his role as a network executive.

He paid tribute to Fey, the NBC show's star and creator, as "the Elaine May of her generation."

"I thank my parents for somehow raising me to have confidence that is disproportionate with my looks and abilities.

Well done. That is what all parents should

do," said Fey, who also won for best actress and writing in a comedy series.

Emmy voters rewarded quality, not ratings: Many of the winners draw relatively small audiences. AMC's "Mad Men," which looks at America through the prism of Madison Avenue, is lucky to get 2 million viewers.

Glenn Close of FX's "Damages" and Bryan Cranston of AMC's "Breaking Bad"

EMMYS, page 10

Jeff Toomer retires after 35 years

CHRISTIN ERAZO
Staff Writer

Professor Jethro "Jeff" Toomer will bid farewell to FIU in the spring of 2009 concluding 35 years of teaching students the study of forensic and clinical psychology.

An expert in his field, Toomer has been involved in many high profile trials, notably, the trial of notorious serial killer Ted Bundy.

He has also worked as a treatment consultant for the NBA and the NFL.

The study of clinical and forensic psychology has always interested Toomer. He caught the bug for the field during his high school and college years.

His interest grew through the inspiration of his professors.

"I was always interested in the process of change and organization," Toomer said. "There is a certain curiosity the field allows."

I work with players and help keep them on track. If their personal lives are in order, so will their professional lives

Professor Jethro "Jeff" Toomer

During his graduate program at Temple University, he assisted in sorting individuals through the criminal justice system and gained firsthand experience.

Toomer's passion for forensic psychology - psychology used in the judicial process - was solidified when he saw the role money played in the criminal justice system.

Toomer, who specializes in appellate and death row cases, provides services for convicts and those who do not have the resources to acquire proper legal assistance.

His role as a forensic psychologist is to screen individuals and provide the defense with an inside look into the person's mind and reveal any issues that may have been traversed during the trial.

He has served as an expert witness and assists in jury selection evaluations for a number of judicial circuits in the state of Florida.

One of Toomer's most notable cases was his expert analysis of Bundy, a serial killer who raped and killed many women, including two Florida State University students.

"I was contacted by [Bundy's] attorney and was asked to evaluate [him]," Toomer said.

He has also psychologically evaluated Aileen Wuornos in her trial for several interstate murders during the '90s.

Clinical psychology is also a significant part of Toomer's career. Employed by both the NFL and the NBA, Toomer works with athletes to make the transition from celebrity to civilian.

"I work with players and help keep

TOOMER, page 10

Presidential race recaptures TV audiences at Primetime Emmys

EMMYS, page 9

Bryan Cranston of AMC's "Breaking Bad" captured drama acting trophies.

Close, honored for her portrayal of a ruthless attorney, complimented her fellow nominees, including Holly Hunter and Sally Field.

"We're proving that complicated, powerful, mature women are sexy in high entertainment and can carry a show," she said. "I call us the sisterhood of the TV drama divas."

Cranston won the trophy for his role of a desperate man who turns to making drugs.

Dianne Wiest of "In Treatment" and Zeljko Ivanek of "Damages" won supporting acting honors for the drama series. Jean Smart of ABC's "Samantha Who?" was honored as best supporting actress in a comedy series, with Jeremy Piven her actor counterpart for "Entourage."

Piven took aim at the five reality hosts who helped open the ceremony in what could charitably be called a rambling way, saying, "What if I just kept talking for 12 minutes — what would happen? That was the opening."

The crowd at the 60th annual Primetime Emmy Awards laughed heartily, not a good sign for the hosts, who included Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol."

Don Rickles was honored for best individual performance in a variety or music program for "Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project."

"It's a mistake," Rickles said. "I've been in the business 55 years and the biggest award I got was an ashtray from the Friar's in New York."

Best reality-competition program went to "The Amazing Race," the show's sixth award. It and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" are now tied for most consecutive awards in a best-series category.

Jeff Probst of "Survivor," one of the ceremony's masters of ceremonies, claimed the first award for best reality series host.

"We feel honored to be part of this family. Thank you for letting reality in," he said.

As the evening progressed, politics went from having a cameo to a co-starring role.

"I really look forward to the next administration, whoever it is," Jon Stewart said as he accepted the best variety, music or comedy series award for "The Daily Show." "I have nothing to follow that. I just

really look forward to the next administration."

Later, Stewart and Stephen Colbert, whose "The Colbert Report" won a writing trophy, teamed to present an award — and exchange banter in which they used a package of prunes as a metaphor for the upcoming presidential election.

"America needs prunes. It may not be a young, sexy plum. Granted, it's shriveled and at times hard to swallow. But this dried-up old prune has the experience we need," Colbert said.

Tommy Smothers received a commemorative writing achievement for his work on the cutting-edge and controversial "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" from the late '60s — and turned serious.

"It's hard for me to stay silent when I keep hearing that peace is only attainable through war. And there's nothing more scary than watching ignorance in action," he said, dedicating his award to "all people who feel compelled to speak out, and are not afraid to speak to power, and won't shut up and refuse to be silenced."

Martin Sheen, who played a president on "The West Wing," lauded television for giving America a front-row seat to real presidential campaigns. Then he urged viewers to vote for "the candidate of your choice, at least once."

The award for best TV movie went to "Recount," about the con-

Giamatti, Laura Linney and Tom Wilkinson.

The historical drama set a record for most awards, 13, including five trophies Sunday and eight previously announced. The record of 11 was held by HBO's "Angels in America," the TV academy said.

HBO was the most-honored network, with 26 awards earned Sunday and at the creative arts ceremony held earlier this month.

ABC was second with 12 awards, followed by CBS, NBC and PBS with 10 each; AMC with eight, Showtime with five and Fox with four.

Throughout the evening, the ceremony kept its landmark 60th birthday in the spotlight with salutes to television's past.

Pop star Josh Groban offered a marathon medley of TV theme songs, ranging from "The Simpsons" to "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" to "South Park" to "Gilligan's Island."

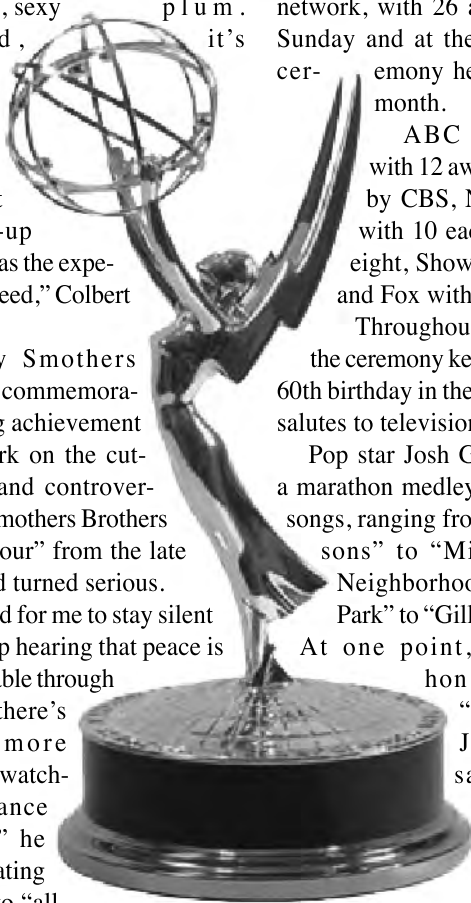
At one point, Ed McMahon kicked in a "Heeere's Johnny!" to salute Johnny Carson's "Tonight" show.

A tribute to memorable TV dialogue of the past was delivered by the stars of today in an opening clip package.

"One of these days, Alice, pow, right in the kisser!" Helen Mirren said, quoting Jackie Gleason's line from "The Honeymooners."

As the show opened at the Nokia Theatre, Howie Mandel and his fellow hosts riffed about a lack of material for the ceremony.

They then turned to slapstick:



It's hard for me to stay silent when I keep hearing that peace is only attainable through war. And there's nothing more scary than watching ignorance in action

Tommy Smothers

tested 2000 Bush-Gore contest.

HBO's "John Adams," about the founding father, was named best miniseries and won other awards including acting trophies for Paul

"Boston Legal" star William Shatner came on stage to help Tom Bergeron rip off co-host Heidi Klum's modest suit to reveal hot pants and more skin.

Professor hopes he has given enough insight

TOOMER, page 9

them on track. If their personal lives are in order, so will their professional lives," Toomer said.

Having worked for the NFL for over 10 years, Toomer assists players who have difficulties with life skills and substance abuse problems, as well as players with injuries and those who transition into retirement.

Toomer has been a professor at FIU for almost as long as he has practiced psychology and has enjoyed the university environment.

Teaching mental health and counseling under the School of Education has been a rewarding career for Toomer, who has never taught at another university.

He believes in engaging his students and giving them a taste of what a career in forensic psychology is actually like. This mirrors the same experiences he had as a young graduate student as he processed people through the criminal justice

system.

"I believe it is important to combine teaching with what is going on in the real world. You need both," Toomer said. "Theory is nice, but there is a significant variation to the real world."

I have experiences I can share."

As Toomer leaves FIU in the spring, he hopes to have connected with his students and provided them with some insight.

Toomer has left an impression on his colleagues in his department.

Dr. Maureen Kenny, associate professor of mental health counseling, sees Toomer as "foundational and as an on site historian."

Toomer hired Kenny 14 years ago and considers him an icon of the department.

"It's going to be strange not having him here," said Kenny. "He has an uncanny sense of humor. This is certainly both a personal and professional loss."

Toomer will be retiring from teaching, but he will continue his work with forensic and clinical psychology.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 24

Departme of Career Services "Career Fair", GC Ballrooms 8:00 a.m

Italian Club General Meeting, GC 343 4:00 p.m

Music Saves Lives General Meeting, GC 305 12:30 p.m

Panther Promotions General Meeting, GC 340 5:00 p.m

Yoga Club "Yoga Session", GC Lawn 10:00 a.m

Leaders of Tomorrow General Meeting, GC 340 1:00 p.m

Student Alumni Association General Meeting, GC 140 5:00 p.m

SOC General Meeting, WUC 150 2:00 p.m

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 25

"Panther Pal", GC 305 12:00 p.m

French Club General Meeting, GC 343 3:30 p.m

FIU Ecoists General Meeting Kick-Off Session GC 140 3:00 p.m

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting, Gracie's Grill 8:00 p.m

Caribbean Student Association Meeting, GC 140 5:00 p.m

National Society of Collegiate Scholars, GC 314 5:00 p.m

Muslim Student Association Ramadan week, Cafeteria Annex, 7:30 p.m

Women's Center Information Session, GC 314 3:00 p.m

- Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.



Dolphins become wildcats with new offensive formation

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

The Miami Dolphins found a solution for their chronic problem at quarterback: Don't snap him the ball.

That wasn't Miami's real motive for springing an unorthodox formation on the New England Patriots that turned quarterback Chad Pennington into a wideout, with running back Ronnie Brown taking a direct snap.

The goal was to confuse the Patriots, and it worked. New England was outfoxed in Foxborough by a team that had lost 20 of its previous 21 games, giving the Dolphins their first win in the Parcells era.

"We finally had some fun out there," Miami tight end Anthony Fasano said Monday.

Six times the Dolphins ran plays from the formation they call Wildcat, and four times they scored a touchdown. That provided the margin in a 38-13 victory.

Wildcat isn't new; it's similar to the single wing, which dates back a century. The Arkansas Razorbacks used it often the past two seasons with Darren McFadden.

And it wasn't new to New England — coach Bill Belichick said his team practiced against it just last week. But the formation left the Patriots clearly confused, and Miami's element of surprise helps explain the shocking result.

"It threw them off a little bit," said Brown, who set a franchise record with four touchdowns rushing and threw for a fifth score. "It was like playing hide and go seek, making them guess, and hopefully they were guessing wrong."

New England guessed wrong so often the team that nearly went undefeated last year lost to the team that nearly went winless last year. The stunner ended the Patriots' NFL record regular-season winning streak at 21 games, while fortifying the foundation Bill Parcells is building in Miami.

Tony Sparano will have extra time to savor his first victory as an NFL head coach because Miami (1-2) is off this week before facing San Diego. The celebration began along the sideline Sunday when the Dolphins dumped Gatorade on Sparano.

"The Gatorade thing was the players having a good time and feeling good about them-

selves, so I felt good about that," Sparano said. "I didn't feel great when it was rolling down my back, but I felt pretty good about it. Seeing their faces and how happy those guys really were was nice. It was one game, but we want to get used to being there."

While the work Sparano's staff did with Xs and Os rightly earned raves, Miami won with more than mere trickery. The defense became dominant once the Dolphins went ahead 14-3 midway through the second quarter, throttling a New England offense that sorely missed Tom Brady.

"Playing with a lead, we're a totally different team," said Joey Porter, who had three of Miami's four sacks.

The ground game averaged 6 yards per carry, and Pennington looked like more than just another caretaker quarterback, completing 17 of 20 passes while finding receivers open downfield for the first time this season.

This against a team Pennington always struggled with as a Jet.

Still, Pennington did his best work as a decoy. When he lined up wide, left tackle Jake Long moved to the right side, running backs Ricky Williams and Patrick Cobbs became wingbacks, and a third running back — Brown — took the snap from a shotgun position.

Then came the most surprising sight of all: the Dolphins in the New England end zone. Their point total was a five-year high. They gained 461 yards, their best effort since 1999, and earned their most lopsided win since 2002.

"A team like the Patriots, they pride themselves on preparation," Williams said. "When they're unprepared like that, it's really hard for them to recover."

Miami quarterbacks coach David Lee brought the Wildcat from Arkansas, where he was offensive coordinator last year. The Dolphins installed the formation during training camp, then put it in mothballs.

On the flight home from last week's 31-10 loss at Arizona, Sparano and Lee decided the Wildcat might be just the thing to jump-start a sputtering offense.

"This is not something that just came up and we scribbled on the board a couple of days ago," Sparano said. "I just felt on the way back from Arizona that we needed to create space. That's where the process began for



WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP PHOTO

WILD DOLPHIN?: Ronnie Brown had great success running and throwing for a touchdown from the quarterback position in the Wildcat formation.

me. How do we create angles? How do we create space?"

From the formation, Brown found plenty of openings. When he scored up the middle on runs of 2, 5 and 62 yards, it looked a junior-high JV play, only simpler.

Brown also rolled out and threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Fasano, and twice he handed off to Williams coming in motion from the wing.

"It's more fun than the same old running back right, running back left," Williams said. "That can get a little old. It's neat to have Ronnie playing the quarterback position.

That's basically what it is."

The possibilities are endless, and Arkansas used the Wildcat — calling it the Wild Hog — about 30 times in a single game last year.

Those sneaky Dolphins are coy about the formation's future in their offense.

"Who knows?" Sparano said with a slight smile. "Wildcat might be dead."

Not likely. The Chargers probably should brace themselves for the return of the single wing.

"It's a good package," Williams said. "If you execute it well it's hard to stop, even if you're prepared for it."

COACHES' CORNER: WOMEN'S SOCCER

Chestnutt looks for first win with 'improved team chemistry'

Seven games into regular season play, the women's soccer team's head coach, Thomas Chestnutt, has his mind set on leading the girls to their first win of the season.

According to Chestnutt, although the team has not brought back a win to FIU thus far, they have come a long way with such a new team.

"Team chemistry has improved a lot," Chestnut said, "They have gotten to know each other's tendencies and learned to play with each other more effectively."

Including the pre-season, the team has only been together for little over one month.

In addition, the large amount of rookies this year made it a little more difficult for the team to find cohesion as a unit early on.

"The college season goes by very quickly and, at this point, the new players are comfortable together on and off of the field," Chestnutt said.

Even with the newly developed chem-

istry, the team has not been successful in recent matches.

The girls headed west two weeks in a row to play Fresno State and California Polytechnic State University.

The two losses showed Chestnutt what the team needs to work on during the bye week in order to play strong against Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky at home.

Chestnutt believes that a key ingredient to winning is maximizing the strongest and weakest points of the team. According to Chestnutt, the two coincide to create exactly what the team needs.

"With such a young team, we may make mistakes that a veteran team would not make, but we also take risks that they wouldn't attempt either," Chestnutt said.

The team is now reviewing film of previous games in order to figure out the missing element to winning close matches.

"We have a lot of wrinkles to iron out,"

Chestnutt said, "We are constantly looking at past matches to see where we can improve and [what we can] learn from."

Throughout the season, the team has struggled with missed scoring opportunities and a lack of aggression against opponents.

"The other teams were able to put the ball in the back of the net and we weren't," he said.

Falling behind early in matches has made it harder for the team to rebound.

"We have had a lot of trouble putting the ball into the back of the net, and that has probably been our biggest setback," Chestnut said.

Luckily, the team will have home field advantage for the upcoming matches on September 26 and September 28.

COMMENTARY



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TOUGH WEEKEND

FIU goes the distance, falls to Fairfield in OT

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU Men's soccer team completed a two-game home stand by falling in overtime 2-1 to the Fairfield Stags on Sept. 19 and settling for a 1-1 tie with the Holy Cross Crusaders on Sept. 21. The Golden Panthers (0-5-2) have yet to reach the win column and will look to make that happen in their next contest against Florida Gulf Coast University on Sept. 28.

FAIRFIELD 2, FIU 1 (OT)

The Golden Panthers (0-5-1) played yet another close match but fell 2-1 in overtime to the Fairfield Stags (2-2) on Sept. 19 at University Park.

Despite out shooting the Stags, FIU could not execute on several scoring opportunities and, ultimately, it caught up to them.

"It's a tough loss to swallow especially when you out shoot a team 17-6. There's no excuse for losing the way we did," head coach Munga Eketebi said.

The aforementioned scoring chances mostly came in the first half as several Golden Panthers came very close to getting FIU on the board.

In the 9th minute, sophomore midfielder Marco Ballardès beat out a Fairfield defender and had an open shot on goal but was denied by Stags goaltender Justin Burse.

Several minutes later, another opportunity was lost as senior defender Corey Kendall headed a ball that came off a corner kick and was again saved by Burse.

The Stags finally capitalized on the Golden Panthers lack of execution in the 25th minute as Tom Clements scored on a header that sailed passed freshman goal-

keeper Jesse Fullerton and into the bottom right corner to put Fairfield up 1-0.

The Golden Panthers out shot the Stags 8-2 in the first half and but kicked up their effort a couple of notches after halftime.

"In the second half we were able to get the crowd into the game and were pretty much able to dominate but if you don't put your opportunities away, your not going to win," Eketebi said.

Although the Golden Panthers clearly had control of the game, they still couldn't find the net until a fortuitous penalty in the 77th minute.

Sophomore forward Steven Jair Cabas was tripped up and taken down inside the box which awarded the Golden Panthers a penalty shot.

Junior midfielder Juan Guerra elected to take the shot and scored with ease by sailing a shot to the top right corner to tie the board at 1-1.

Guerra, the team's captain, seemed grateful but humble at the same time.

"We were practicing penalty kicks all week so thank goodness. I knew I was going to hit it to the right side and the guy [goalkeeper] was big too but it was alright," he said.

The match remained tied and proceeded to overtime where the Stags wasted no time in sealing the contest.

Midfielder Christian Uy scored just 3 minutes into overtime after an FIU defender carelessly failed to clear the ball inside the box. The goal propelled the Stags to their second victory of the season.

The game-winning goal seemed to really irk Eketebi.

"That's a tragedy," stated the coach with a hint of sarcasm, "It's sad that at this point and at this level we can give up goals like that."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

MAKING STRIDES: Men's soccer played two overtime games, getting the offense going.

Despite the disappointing loss and a winless record, Guerra feels that the team is giving their all.

"For the past two weeks, we've been waking up at five in the morning, doing two-a-days, running in the dark, training together and the whole team has been giving 110 percent," the captain said, "We made two mistakes and we paid for them and that's what I told the team."

When asked if the team was still short-handed, Eketebi agreed.

"We're still without three guys [Ricardo Ximenes, Diego Tamburus, Dane Smith] and those are players that definitely help us but it was still a game that we should have been able to win," he said.

Freshman goalkeeper Jesse Fullerton recorded 3 saves while Stags goalkeeper Justin Burse finished with 7.

Golden Panthers score late, hold on for draw in second OT game of weekend

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

HOLY CROSS 1, FIU 1 (OT)

In the second and final match of the home stand, the Golden Panthers came from behind to settle for a 1-1 tie.

"A tie is better than a loss but I think we had plenty of opportunities to put the game away," Eketebi said.

FIU out shot the Crusaders 5-3 in the first half but were once again blanked in the goal column.

In the 26th minute, it looked like the Golden Panthers would jump in front after forward Mark Zimmerman was fed a pass off of a free kick that left him in perfect position but the sophomore put too much velocity on the shot and the ball sailed way over the head of Crusader goalie Thomas Booth, who finished with 7 saves on the afternoon.

After a scoreless first half, Holy

Cross wasted no time in tallying a score after Jon Werth came from midfield untouched and zipped a shot that sailed right out of the reach of FIU goalkeeper Jesse Fullerton who finished with 4 saves.

"Again we gave up a soft goal in the sense that we allowed a guy to run for 60 yards unchallenged. We talked about how that could be a way that they could score and we still allowed it to happen," Eketebi said of the goal in the 47th minute.

Just when it appeared the Golden Panthers would suffer their sixth defeat of the season, they responded with a score of their own in the 87th minute.

Juan Guerra beat a defender but was forced to center the ball and sophomore midfielder Marco Ballardès scored his second goal of the season to tie at 1-1. Guerra and Ballardès are the only Golden Panthers to have scored a goal for the Golden Panthers thus far.

"I didn't even see the net I just kicked it in. I had an impact play and I knew we needed it," Ballardès said of the score.

The late goal propelled FIU into overtime where the Golden Panthers avoided a game-ending goal for what would be the second consecutive match but it did not come with ease.

The Crusaders nearly won the game with several seconds left to play when Miami native Franco Bacigalupo ripped a pass just outside the box that was intended for Kyle Miller, who was in front of the FIU goal unguarded, but the ball flew over the goal to hold the tie for FIU.

The Crusaders ended up edging the Golden Panthers in shots 13-11 and FIU failed to record a shot in the 20 minutes of extra play.

FIU was still without its three prized recruits [Ximenes, aTamburus, Smith] and it is unknown when they will make their respective debuts.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FINDING SPACE: Christian Caporaletti picks his way through Holy Cross defenders in Sunday's 1-1 draw.