

JERRY! JERRY!

Jerry Springer to visit BBC

AT THE BAY

PAGE 4

POOR PRESCRIPTION

High cholesterol drug not effective

OPINION

PAGE 5

LAUGH FEST '08

Comedy festival begins

LIFE!

PAGE 6

BIASED REPORTING

Examining prejudices in sports

SPORTS

PAGE 12

BEAUTY WITH A CAUSE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

MISS RELAY FOR LIFE: Contestants are introduced by host Carmen Murphy (far left) and last year's winner Erika Gaeta (second from left). Proceeds from the event will be donated to Relay for Life.

FACULTY SENATE

MIXED MESSAGES

Chair, Provost differ on effects of budget cuts

CHRISTINA VEIGA
News Director

Persisting budget problems and a new final exam schedule were among the items discussed at the Jan. 15 Faculty Senate meeting.

The state of Florida's budget as it relates to funding the State University System was discussed with mixed messages by Bruce Hauptli, chair of the Faculty Senate, and Ronald Berkman, executive vice president and provost of Academic Affairs.

Third quarter distribution projections released by Governor Charlie Crist were low again, with

the expectation that the state budget will be cut by another \$2 billion in a Special Session in February, according to Hauptli.

"I believe that it is likely that once the Special Sessions are over and this year's legislator meets to approve a budget they will enact one which, while extremely tight, is far in excess of what it can actually fund. It is, after all, an election year," Hauptli said in an oral report to the Faculty Senate. "I caution all to moderate their expectations when receiving good news about state budgets prior to December of 2008."

FACULTY SENATE, page 3

E-MAIL CHANGE

Say goodbye to Webmail

CHRIS TOWERS

Asst. News Director

Students who have gotten used to their FIU Webmail box are going to be in for a shock on Jan. 28, when the university switches their e-mail accounts to Gmail servers.

The new service will be known as "PatherMail" for students.

The transition, which University Technology Services has been working on for several months, will upgrade students' e-mail storage capacity from the old system's 100 MB, to a 5GB capacity with Gmail.

"This is a move that has been in the works for a few months," said John Cabarga, Marketing Director for UTS. "It has taken less than a year to implement."

Along with the increased storage capacity, students will be able to access their e-mail anywhere in the world from their mobile Internet devices.

Students will also be able to take advantage of Google's numerous services, including a built-in address book, instant messaging and calendar features.

All login and web addresses will remain the same for the

new service, although when they first log in, students will have to reset their password, as it will automatically revert to the MMDDYYYY default date of birth setting.

One main selling point for the university was Google offering the service for free, as they have done for numerous other universities.

"The move has no cost for us, and no new software or hardware was needed," Cabarga said. "They've been doing it with other universities, it's part of their business strategy."

It isn't all good news regarding the new service, as students will lose any settings or contacts they have on the current system, and old e-mails will not be transferred to the new system.

In order to allow students the time to transition smoothly to the new system, the Webmail servers will stay up until April 30, allowing time for students and faculty to archive and transfer information.

UTS is urging students to forward any information or e-mails from the old system to

E-MAIL, page 3

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FESTIVITIES

Week-long celebrations honor civil rights leader

EVELYN DIAZ

Staff Writer

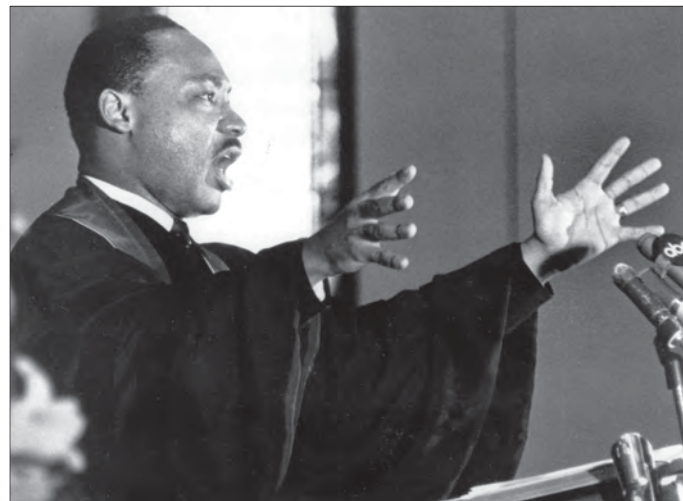
On Jan. 15 FIU began celebrating the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the American civil rights movement, officially commencing a week-long series of events.

The 17th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration began with a youth forum and peace walk held at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center.

Meanwhile, at University Park, the Black Student Union sponsored a lecture titled "In the Legend," which reflected upon the man who struggled for racial equality and eventually changed America.

Though Jan. 15 marks the beginning of the celebration, events were held throughout the week, including a showing of the film "Crash" followed by a discussion sponsored by the Counseling Center and Student Programming Council on Jan. 16.

On Friday Jan. 18, FIU will host its annual MLK



AP PHOTO

THE DREAM CONTINUES: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gestures and shouts to his congregation in Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. on April 30, 1967 as he urges America to repent and abandon what he called its "Tragic, reckless adventure in Vietnam."

AT THE BAY

For more information on MLK events at the BBC campus

Page 4

Commemorative Breakfast at 8 a.m. in the Graham Center Ballroom.

According to Allison McComb, assistant director

of Multicultural Programs and Services, the whole University could attend the breakfast; however, the tickets are sold out this year.

"Generally, the breakfast does sell out every year. This year 500 tickets were sold out. The tickets sold out at least four weeks ago," said Yusila Ramirez, assistant

MLK, page 2

NEWSFLASH

FIUSM.com launch date postponed

Due to technical errors, the launch date for the new FIU Student Media Web site *FIUSM.com* has been postponed. *The Beacon* can still be read online at beaconnewspaper.com

The site launch date is to be announced.

Music technology program to host second annual FEAST festival

The Florida Electro-Acoustic Student festival features music compositions from students around the state.

The two-day festival, beginning Feb. 1, will bring together experimental electro-acoustic musicians from around the state who will exchange ideas about music and technology through guest lectures and performances. The FEAST festival will be held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Lecture compares diaries of two Holocaust-era girls

The FIU Judaic Studies program, along with the Holocaust Memorial, will be hosting a lecture on Anne Frank and Kitty Weichherz, entitled "Two Girls, Two Diaries." The lecture will investigate the diaries of the two young victims of the Nazi war crimes.

University of Tennessee professor Daniel Magilow will conduct the lecture on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kovens Conference Center at Biscayne Bay campus.

Reception for valedictorians to take place at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House at UP

A reception will take place at 6 p.m. on Jan. 17 at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House at UP to honor the students who inspired the advertising campaign "Best in Class."

During the reception the students will be paired with a mentor from the FIU Council of 100 and select business and civic leaders.

- Compiled by Beacon Staff

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Dec. 6, 2007, the story "Students play stocks on the web" incorrectly listed a \$100 prize as \$100,000. Also, Andrew Gunn sponsors the prize, not his father.

In the Jan. 7 and Jan. 10 issues of *The Beacon*, Corey Bachman was incorrectly listed as Corey Anderson.

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

FIU only local university in MLK parade

MLK, page 1

director of the Office of Media Relations.

The guest list varies from local officials to students and staff. Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, a pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, will serve as the keynote speaker at the breakfast.

The profits from the breakfast will be awarded to

the parade's inception 30 years ago.

But while all of FIU is encouraged to attend the parade, only a number of student organizations will be participating in it.

"There are only certain groups involved and they have been organizing themselves for months," Ramirez said.

Groups including athletes, cheerleaders, ROTC, FIU's Black Employee



Yusila Ramirez, Asst. Director Media Relations

There are only certain groups involved and they have been organizing themselves for months.

three Miami-Dade County students, winners of an essay contest with prompts involving Dr. King.

The winners will receive varying amounts of scholarship funds that will go toward their first year of tuition at FIU, the total of which will equal approximately \$3,500.

The celebration doesn't end there. FIU will also participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 21.

The parade will begin on N.W. 62 St. and Seventh Ave. or MLK Boulevard, at 10 a.m.

FIU is the only local University that will be joining the parade. According to Ramirez, this will be the 12th time the University is involved since

Association, Multicultural Programs and Services, Student Government, the Golden Panthers Marching Band and others will be joining the parade.

While some march and others walk, some of the staff and administrators will be riding in a convertible, including Coatie, who has been a part of the parade for the past three years.

"This is a big event in the Miami community," Coatie said.



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

POWER AT THE PODIUM: Dr. Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP at the 2007 MLK Breakfast in the GC Ballrooms.

So you know...

MLK Events

Jan. 18
MLK Breakfast
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Benjamin S. Carson
University Park – GC Ballrooms
8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 19
MLK Day of Service – Eight Sites in Dade County
Registration starts at 8 a.m. in front of the University Bookstore with Patty Temino. Transportation offered from UP and BBC to worksite. For more info email teminop@fiu.edu or see the Life! section for the full story.

Jan. 21
MLK Parade
Parade Starts at N.W. 62 St. and Seventh Ave. or MLK Boulevard, at 10 a.m.

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.beaconnewspaper.com

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PantherMail debuts Jan. 28

EMAIL, page 1

the new one as soon as it is in place. This ensures a smooth transition and avoids information loss.

Also, beginning in the summer semester, the old Webmail system will be completely removed from the university.

Faculty and staff e-mails will be changed from the Webmail system

to Microsoft Exchange, for which the university is partnering with Microsoft.

The University staff believes both measures will give students additional freedom with e-mail as well as more abilities to succeed in the classroom.

"It isn't just an e-mail system," Cabargas said. "There is a whole suite of products that come with it."

POOL SIDE



POOL PARTY: Sophomores Lee Polites, James Julian, Jonatan Gonzales, Larissa Metalids are making the best of a cloudy day and at the welcome back pool party hosted by Resident Hall Association.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Faculty Senate approves new final exam schedule

FACULTY SENATE, page 1

Other Florida schools have already run into budget problems. Florida Atlantic University President Frank Brogan is freezing all hiring, travel and equipment purchases in response to an anticipated \$7 million budget shortfall, according to a Jan. 15 *The South Florida Sun-Sentinel* article.

"What we are going through in Florida seems to be more the rule than the exception," said Berkman in regards to the state budget for higher education.

While Hauptli warned the Faculty Senate to err on the side of caution, Berkman was more optimistic about FIU's budget.

Departments will not face any more budget cuts and there will be no hiring or travel freezes at FIU, according to Berkman.

"It's really important not to breathe doom during this time," Berkman said. "All that does is increase hysteria, which increases the magnitude of the crisis."

One item Hauptli and Berkman agreed on was a vote to approve a new final exam schedule in light

of scheduling conflicts caused by FIU's adoption of the Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule in Fall 2007.

The new schedule includes 42 testing periods, as opposed to 30 testing periods offered in Fall 2007. The extra test periods allow for special accommodations, such as alternate exam periods and opportunities for departments to administer common exams for all sections of a course.

Most notable for students is the shorter time that would be allowed under the new schedule, which

cuts testing time to two hours, as opposed to two hours and 45 minutes.

However, the new schedule would allow for longer testing periods if a professor requests a longer testing period, or cannot hold an exam on their scheduled day.

The final exam schedule used for the Fall 2007 semester was developed by the Classroom Utilization Implementation Committee in August, however, courses that fell outside of the standard M-W-F schedule,

approximately 41 percent, were not accounted for in the new final exam schedule. More scheduling conflicts arose when approximately 800 courses were not included in the final exam schedule and some scheduled exams were incorrectly listed.

For the new final exam schedule for Spring 2008 visit the Web site for the Office of the Registrar by the end of Feb. 2008 at <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/register/>.

Additional reporting by Corey Bachman and Chris Towers/
Beacon Staff

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For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757



MD CLINICAL

Jerry Springer to defend show at lecture series

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

As the first stop on his 2008 college campus tour, Jerry Springer will lecture on the 17-year history of his show and its impact on pop culture as part of Student Government Council's lecture series at Biscayne Bay Campus.

"I [tour] on a regular basis and, particularly with the kind of show we try to do, I try to keep in touch with whatever the pop culture is at the time," said Springer in a telephone interview with *The Beacon*.

Formerly mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, Springer earned his doctorate from Northwestern University in 1968 after working toward his Bachelor's in Political Science at Tulane University.

"I remember while I was going [to Tulane] I kept saying, and believing, that was gonna be the best four years of my life," Springer said. "It really was, at the time, the last class of innocence because it was that October [in '65], after I graduated, that America went into Vietnam in a heavy way."

After college, Springer practiced law in Cincinnati and led the Ohio campaign to ratify the 26th amend-

ment to lower the voting age from 21 to 18. In 1971, he became a city council member at 27, serving for five terms before becoming mayor in 1977. Since then, Springer has been a radio show host, an Emmy award winning television news anchor and recorded two country albums.

But it is his eponymous television show that he is best known for. Started in 1991, "The Jerry Springer Show" is nationally broadcasted over 200 television stations and has rendered Springer as a cultural icon.

"I create this character on a talk show because it's a crazy talk show," Springer said. "When they talk about 'Jerry Springer' I realize they're not talking about me, they're talking about this guy that has a talk show. I don't take it personally."

"The Jerry Springer Show" is known for its guest's penchant for brawling live on set at the slightest provocation. Though their actions may seem outlandish and scripted, Springer assures his guests are real people with real stories.

"They're real and I'm fake," Springer said. "It's funny because when the writers' strike started an interviewer asked me how that was

gonna affect our show and I just looked at the person and I said, 'You really think our show has a writer?'"

Despite his television show, Springer continues to work in politics. Thanks to his success, Springer was able to host a South African variety show broadcast in more than 40 African nations whose net proceeds were donated to AIDS charities.

"I spend two days a week on the show but the rest of the time I'm doing political work - politics is still my major passion," Springer said. "The television show is how I make my living and I always wanted to keep my politics separate from that because that would keep me intellectually honest in my politics."

"It's when you try and make a profession out of politics that you become dishonest because then you'll say anything to get elected just because you have to put food on the table."

After 17 years on air, however, Springer finds nothing on his show shocking.

"There is nothing we've ever had on our show that is more outrageous than anything on a daily newspaper ... whether you're talking about



DAVID KOHL/AP PHOTO

SPRING TO ACTION: Springer answers the tough questions.

9/11 or scandals or Britney Spears," Springer said.

Springer will be on campus Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. Free tickets are

available to students at the Campus Life Office, WUC 141. Each ticket is good for one person. Additional tickets may be purchased at the WUC information desk for \$10.

19-year-old CEO speaks at MLK forum

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

To celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, the MLK Youth Forum and Peace Walk Committee invited media mogul Hezekiah Griggs III to speak to middle school and FIU students at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

About 160 middle school students from Dade and Broward counties gathered in the Wolfe University Center's Ballroom Jan. 15 for the forum and peace walk.

"This is geared to providing a program to the young people in our community. We invited middle school students to hear a keynote, youthful speaker," said Dorret Sawyers, director of Multicultural Programs and Services at BBC. "We tried to find someone closer in age who can be a positive role model for these young people."

Griggs, a 19-year-old who started his first business at age nine, is one of America's youngest CEOs. His concern with the lack of means of expression for teens prompted him to create *TEEN magazine*, according to his Web site *HezekiahGriggs.com*. In 1999 he founded his first company,

Griggs Cinematography and later founded and served as the president and CEO of the American Justice Company. He now runs HG3Media, which operates six different magazines and multimedia projects.

"This was a great opportunity for middle school students to hear from someone so young and so well accomplished," said Simone Morgan, a senior majoring in nursing. "It's important for the kids to hear that you don't have to be a rapper to be successful. You don't have to be a basketball player. You can just be good at what you know."

Marsha Fracois, a junior majoring in elementary education and finance was motivated by Griggs' success at a young age.

"I think it was relevant - especially toward us - to have a young speaker," Fracois said. "We usually see 19-year-olds and they're just in school and everything, but we got to see a different kind of 19-year-old."

Sawyers also believes that Griggs was an inspiration.

"We realize that in our society there are many kids who drop out of high school ... So many young people

end up in prison especially children from the minority populations. They have a lower graduation rate and a higher incarceration rate and we feel that giving kids the exposure to these fascinating and motivational speakers may inspire them so that they too can achieve Dr. King's dream," Sawyers said.

The forum was accompanied by a peace walk, which kicked off behind the Aquatic Center and continued along the bay.

"The walk traditionally symbolizes peace. It is when we can quietly reflect Dr. King's life and his legacy and the messages he had for peace and equality," Sawyers said.

Sawyers considered the bay an asset to the walk.

"We wanted to use the bay area because we wanted it to be a quiet peaceful walk. Water is always very soothing so we utilized the beauty back there. Where else could you find that? Certainly not [University Park]," Sawyer said.

While this was the only program scheduled at BBC, other events will be held throughout the week at UP, including the MLK breakfast with keynote speaker Dr. Benjamin Carson on Jan 18.



Free food will be available to anyone who gets his/her SOC Passport stamped by at least 5 club booths

Deceitful drugs call for reform, investigation

JOSE MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

The *New York Times* recently reported that a study conducted over a two-year period confirmed that a widely prescribed cholesterol drug, Zetia, which is also contained in the pill Vytorin, has no beneficial effect on combating high cholesterol.

The clinical study conducted by Zetia's manufacturer, Merck and Schering-Plough, ended in April 2006, and the results had failed to disseminate until now.

Due to the alleged complexity of the data compiled it can be inferred, however, that the unrelenting media attention centering on the delay, as well as recent congressional inquiries, caused the drug companies to relent and reveal their findings.

Merck and Schering-Plough formally announced its results in a press release, and noted that Zetia failed to combat the gradual collection of plaque within arteries, and contrary to its intended use, contributed to the formation of a miniscule, almost negligible amount of plaque.

Millions of unsuspecting patients, some of whom are afflicted with severe coronary conditions, continued to use these medications, putting their faith in the belief that these medications do what they intended to do.

The fact that these medications, which are of the highest degree of importance for those who suffer

from coronary heart disease, were allowed to be prescribed for such a prolonged period of time is a flagrant low-blow to pharmaceutical consumers everywhere.

It brings into question the efficacy of other medications that have not undergone formal clinical trials on a long-term basis, and exposes some glaring flaws in the manner in which the FDA operates.

The FDA should have insisted on seeing the findings sooner; and better yet, take the initiative to oversee such studies themselves, rather than leaving it up to a multi-billion dollar corporation that is only mindful of profit.

These medications should not have been made available to the general public in the first place if questions of their functionality were still up in the air.

The delay that prevented the disclosure of the study results was too convenient for the manufacturer to be merely the result of complications with the data.

Merck and Schering-Plough likely foresaw the monumental losses that the announcement would hold for them, and deliberately withheld the information for as long as possible.

"In light of today's results, which were released nearly two years after



the Enhance trial ended, it is easy to conclude that Merck and Schering-Plough intentionally sought to delay the release of this data," Rep. Bart Stupak of Michigan told *The New*

York Times. A congressional investigation into whether or not any sort of malicious malpractice was committed on the part of the manufacturer, is currently under way.

Merck and Schering-Plough has a prior history of releasing medications that were deemed to be either ineffective or potentially dangerous. Vioxx, which was initially approved by the FDA and deemed a safe and

to heart attack and stroke. Patients who used Vioxx were twice as likely to have a heart attack or stroke as individuals on a placebo.

The FDA needs to use its power to a much greater extent to prevent these pharmaceutical companies from robbing consumers blind with a product that does not work, or worse yet, can be potentially dangerous.

Every effort should be made to prosecute the individuals who deceived the general public by hiding these findings.

One million prescriptions are written for Zetia and Vytorin on a weekly basis and five million people use them regularly, all victims of abuse for the sake of a single objective: profit.

“These medications should not have been made available to the general public in the first place if questions of their functionality were still up in the air.”

York Times. A congressional investigation into whether or not any sort of malicious malpractice was committed on the part of the manufacturer, is currently under way.

Merck and Schering-Plough has

effective treatment for arthritis and chronic pain.

It was withdrawn from the market by the manufacturer after it had been discovered that long-term use caused an increased susceptibility

Romney beats out McCain in Michigan primary

JOSEPH MARHEE
Staff Writer

With John McCain being so highly touted by numerous pundits as the Republican Party's candidate, the results of the Michigan primary might tell a different story: Mitt Romney – the seemingly perpetual second place finisher – came out ahead of Senator McCain by a very narrow margin.

Prior to Michigan, the press had all but declared former Governor Romney's campaign dead in the water based on the results of the essential Iowa and New Hampshire primaries.

Michigan's primary will be a simpler one to determine because the Republican National Committee, according to *The New York Times*, "The Republican National Committee plans to penalize Michigan Republicans for holding an early primary by stripping the state party of half of its delegates. Without the pen-

alty, the state party would have 57 pledged and three un-pledged delegates."

The penalty against Michigan may have eschewed the results in Romney's favor and salvaging his campaign for the foreseeable future.

With this



advantage, Romney would be able to remain viable – not a huge risk for himself, McCain, or Huckabee, who has recently been waning in support – and receive more much needed

support when the time comes for more New England states.

Needless to say, the Republican race is slowly, but surely becoming as much of a neck and neck race as the Democratic race has become. The margins of votes for McCain and Romney have been slowly becoming narrower, with the results of Iowa at 15 percent, and New Hampshire at 5 percent. Michigan's results would come as a surprise to those expecting McCain to take Michigan as well.

Thus far in his campaign, Romney has only had widespread support, achieving a victory in Wyoming, which has had little or no effect on the momentum of his campaign until now.

With this sudden change of events, Romney may get the push he needs to garner enough support to win the southern states and possibly the nomination if Romney's steadfast supporters in the south do not change their tunes by elec-

tion day.

The optimism for Romney's staff was very high because of exit polling conducted by CNN earlier in the day, projecting Romney to lead. Judging by Romney's steadily increasing support correlating with McCain's steadily maintained support, the results

of Michigan's primary may have been easy to project (especially since Michigan is the home state of Romney), but are the results enough to get the Republicans all singing Romney's tune or will this be the push McCain needs to step it up for Nevada and South Carolina on Jan.19?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think the FDA standards are too lax?

- Yes – The FDA should conduct better studies of new products and institute a follow-up procedure.
- No – It isn't always possible to foresee the long term affects of all foods and drugs.

Cast your vote at www.fiusm.com



FESTIVAL OF LAUGHS

South Beach plays host to big names in comedy

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

The South Beach Comedy festival is back for its third year, offering its audience a culturally diverse festival with a variety of comedians and some free shows.

Comedians such as Jeff Dunham, Stephen Lynch and Dave Attell will be performing this year at the Lincoln Theatre, Colony Theatre, Lincoln Road Stage and The Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre.

The festival kicked off this Wednesday at the Fillmore Theatre with a performance by Kathy Griffin and ended at the Colony Theatre with a Billy Eichner show.

The comedy festival was founded by current festival director Raul Mateu on a cold January day in New York. Mateu, senior vice president and managing director of the William Morris Agency in Miami Beach, wished he was in Miami enjoying the weather.

He came up with the idea for the festival and used advice from his fellow talent scouts to create the first festival in 2006.

Chosen through a wish list created with the partners of the festival, the comedian lineup encompasses

comedians of different styles.

These partners, which include the William Morris Agency, decide whom they want to bring back from previous years. Starting from the top of the list, they work their way down by contacting comedians to bring to the festival.

"All theatres are within walking distance and are user friendly,"



Mateu said.

Thursday night, Katt Williams will be performing at the Fillmore at 8 p.m., while the musical comedian, Stephen Lynch, will appear at the Lincoln Theatre.

Friday night's events will begin at 8 p.m. at the Fillmore with a performance by Jeff Dunham followed by Susie Essman at 11 p.m. in the Lincoln Theatre.

Closing the festival on Saturday will be comedians Andres Lopez, Dave Attell and John Fugelsand.

Also featured over the week-

end are free comedy shows at the Lincoln Road Stage at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Last year, the festival sold about 21,000 tickets and more than 8,000 people attended the free events. Mateu's expectation for this event is for it to become the top comedy festival in the U.S.

"The first year no one knew about the comedy festival, but once year two came around people knew that the festival was here to stay," he said, believing that he has overcome the obstacle of raising money and getting noticed.

Sponsors for the festival include Taco Bell and Kia Motors.

This is the only major comedy festival that does shows in Spanish.

"We are very proud to host the best talent working today, as well as the next generation of talent.

Knowing that we are bringing laughs to South Beach is a lot of fun for us and is very gratifying," said Mateu on a previous press release.

For more information on tickets and scheduled performers, visit www.southbeachcomedyfestival.com.

Tickets can be purchased through ticketmaster.com.

SHOW HIGHLIGHTS



KAT WILLIAMS



KATHY GRIFFIN



STEPHEN LYNCH



JESS DUNHAM



RALPHIE MAY



JEFFERY ROSS

Behind the mind of comedy's John Fugelsang

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

The son of a Franciscan brother and a Catholic nun, John Fugelsang didn't grow up in a typical religious family. A comedian for 12 years and former host of America's Funniest Home Videos from 1997-2000, Fugelsang will be performing his one-man show "All the Wrong Reasons" at the South Beach Comedy Festival on Saturday Jan. 19 at 11:59 p.m.

The event will be free and tickets can be obtained at www.southbeachcomedy-festival.com. "All the Wrong Reasons" is a scripted show written by Fugelsang about family, religion, sex, love and guilt.

Q: What was your inspiration for becoming a comedian?

A: George Carlin meets Spalding Gray. I wanted to be the bastard child of these men.

Q: When did you realize that this was what you wanted to do?

A: When I saw George Carlin as a teenager, I knew I wanted to do stand up. I studied to become an actor and I wanted to do something in theatre and in stand up at the same time. I wanted to do something that was funny, dramatic, smart and silly.

Q: How did you develop your style?

A: I started to evolve into being mostly about political comedy. I love history and politics. My mom is a former Catholic nun

and my father a former Franciscan brother. I grew up in an abnormally Catholic family. I also always love doing material about religion.

Q: How do you choose your material when you go in front of an audience?

A: Some audiences want to hear about the Democratic Party. Some want to hear about the Republican Party. And that's fine with me because I have a lot to say about both of them. That's the good thing about stand up comedy is that you get a feel for what your audience wants, and what they like to laugh at, so I can change things around.

Q: Any interesting or weird things that have happened to you throughout your career?

A: I was on the show called Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher and David Duke. And David Duke is famous for being racist. But on the show he was being so offensive that I ended up offering him gay sex if he would stop. The audience loved it but my parents didn't speak to me for a month because I was mean to him.

As quoted in the South Beach Comedy Festival; Why has his life been so eclectic? "It's the outsider status," he says. "I grew up too liberal for the Christians and too Christian for the hipsters." He adds, "I did this show to bring back the Bible from the creeps to bring back the flag from the hypocrites."

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WEEKEND RUNDOWN

• THURSDAY • JANUARY 17

WHAT: Big Head Todd and the Monsters
WHERE: Culture Room
3045 What N Federal Hwy.,
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33306
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$19.99

WHAT: *Imortales de La Salsa*
WHERE: Hard Rock Live
5747 Seminole Way,
Hollywood, Fl 33314
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$45 - \$100

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Jeff Ross with Ralpie May
WHERE: Colony Theatre
1040 Lincoln RD,
Miami Beach, Fl 33139
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$39.50

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Katt Williams
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre
1700 Washington Ave., Miami, Fl 33139
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$51

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Stephen Lynch
WHERE: Lincoln Theatre
541 Lincoln RD.,
Miami Beach, Fl 33139
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30 - \$40

• FRIDAY • JANUARY 18

WHAT: Robin Trower
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$29.99

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Jeff Dunham
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach Jackie Gleason Theatre
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$23.50 - \$38.50

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Raul Gonzales
WHERE: Colony Theatre
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$35

WHAT: Absinthe A production of Spiegelworld
WHERE: Collins Park
2200 Collins Ave.
Miami Beach, Fl 33139
WHEN: 10p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$69 - \$85

• SATURDAY • JANUARY 19

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Andres Lopez
WHERE: The Fillmore Theatre
WHEN: 7:30p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$58

WHAT: The Audition
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:30p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12

WHAT: Jay Black
WHERE: Parker Playhouse
707 NE 8th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33338
WHEN: 8p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival: Dave Attel
WHERE: Lincoln Theatre
WHEN: 11:59p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$49.50

WHAT: The Machine: A tribute to Pink Floyd
WHERE: Revolution Live
200 W. Broward Blvd.,
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33312
WHEN: 8:30p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$14

• SUNDAY • JANUARY 20

WHAT: Bill Cosby
WHERE: Hard Rock Live
WHEN: 4p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$49.50

WHAT: Marilyn Manson
WHERE: The Fillmore Theatre
WHEN: 7:30p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$37.50 - \$47.50

WHAT: Stranahan House Tours
WHERE: Stranahan House
335 SE 6th Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33301
WHEN: 1 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$3 - \$6

WHAT: Shimon Attie
WHERE: Miami Art Muesums
101 Flagler St.
Miami, Fl 33130
WHEN: 12 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Drink and Chill Literally
WHERE: The Polar Bar
938 Lincoln RD.,
Miami Beach, Fl 33139
WHEN: Varies
HOW MUCH: Varies

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

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Commemorating Dr. King via service

JEANETTE LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

FIU's Center for Leadership and Service is working with Service of Peace, a Miami-Dade county wide committee, and the City of Miami to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a full day of community service on Saturday Jan. 19. CLS has chosen the holiday as one of the four service days they coordinate.

The City of Miami is expecting anywhere from 800 to 1,000 volunteers for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in different sites including Little Haiti, Bay Point Schools, Brentwood Park, Overtown and the Hope Center.

FIU's student volunteers will be divided into groups with team leaders.

"It was a really great event last year. We had lots of positive responses from students," said Patricia Temino, assistant director of FIU's CLS at University Park.

This marks the second year FIU will participate in the event.

The University of Miami, Barry University and Miami Dade College are also participat-

ing in the event.

Any resident in the area is also encouraged to take part.

Some volunteers helped build gardens in elementary schools.

Similarly to this year's event there were several sites around Miami with volunteers.

"It was inspiring to see so many people come together in honor of what started out to be one man's dream," said Vice President of Service for Peace Campus Corps, Marea Perea.

Perea participated in the event last year and is taking part again this year.

"Together we served our community, gave others a helping hand and reflected on the difference one person can make in the world," she said.

This year, CLS decided to get more involved with the event by offering students an official registration site outside of the bookstore at UP or in WUC 256 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

FIU is providing transportation for students at both campuses.

Students are allowed to provide their own transportation.

FIU's student volunteers will assist in revamping 20 apartment buildings for low income homeowners at Town Park Village in

RETRO GIRLS



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FIFTIES FEMMES: Girls dressed in 1950's era attire collect money for Relay For Life. From left: Joycelyn Baez, Laura Cruz, Yelisbet Fernandez, Meliza Frias, Veritza Kostovski, Ruby Montero, Lauren Perez, Navila Rincon.



Marea Perea, Vice President of Service For Peace Campus Corps.

Together we served our community, gave others a helping hand and reflected on the difference one person can make in the world.

Overtown.

Senior Candice Thompson believes this event is important because it promotes volunteering within the community and encourages others to volunteer in Dr. King's memory.

"That's what makes the day more special than it is," said Thompson.

Volunteers will also have

the opportunity to engage with the families and children in the area by participating in several activities such as landscaping, reading stories and painting murals.

"It's important to get young kids involved to understand their community," Thompson said.

Thompson hopes to inspire the children within the Overtown

community and offer them hope and motivation.

She hopes to offer them the guidance she admits she lacked during adolescence.

"When you have someone who believes in you, it makes a difference," Thompson said.

For more on MLK Day of Service, visit CLS's Web site at <http://www.fiu.edu/~cls>.

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Sports Replay

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Golden Panthers (5-10) saw their two-game winning streak come to an end against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (12-5) Jan. 12 at the E.A. Diddle Arena.

Going on the road didn't suit the Golden Panthers well as they fell 76-60 despite Nikola Gasca's career-high 13 points.

Junior center Russell Hicks became a non-factor early on as he picked up two quick fouls. Hicks was coming off a double-double against Troy in which he recorded 16 points and 10 rebounds. He finished 4-of-10 from the field with seven rebounds.

However, he was on the floor for just 24 minutes. This caused the offensive production to drop off from the Troy performance in which FIU scored 73 points and shot 55 percent from the field. The Golden Panthers shot just 43 percent against the Hilltoppers.

A total of 12 first-half turnovers and Hicks' absence aided the Hilltoppers in extending their lead from 24-22 to 35-25 heading into the second half.

The 11-3 run opened a Pandora's box for the Golden Panthers as the Hilltoppers picked up in the second half where they left off in the first half and went on a 23-11 run.

In addition to foul trouble, a poor 16-of-29 free-throw shooting performance did not allow the Golden Panthers to close the gap either.

The Golden Panthers continue play on the road against the University of Louisiana-Monroe (6-11) Jan. 19. The ULM

Warhawks are 0-5 in Sun Belt play while the Golden Panthers are 2-3.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson led the Golden Panthers (6-10) in scoring again, but her 16 points would put a little dent in the massive lead the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers 12-5) developed.

In the end, the Lady Toppers defeated the Golden Panthers 84-53 Jan. 12 at the E.A. Diddle Arena.

WKU's Crystal Kelly led all scorers with 24 points and 16 rebounds. The Lady Toppers outrebounded the Golden Panthers 58-34. The Lady Toppers grabbed more offensive rebounds than the Golden Panthers had defensive rebounds.

They also had a clear advantage shooting 50 percent from the field compared to the Golden Panthers' 31 percent.

Early on, the Lady Toppers went on a run to solidify a significant lead for the remainder of the game. There were three instances during the second half in which the Lady Toppers led by more than 20 points.

The closest the Golden Panthers came to cutting the lead to single digits was when the score was 57-46. But the Golden Panthers would not slice the lead anymore after the Lady Toppers responded with a 9-0 run to extend the lead to 20 again.

The Lady Toppers closed out the game on a 17-3 run.

The Golden Panthers will go on the road to face the University of South Alabama Jan. 17.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

Miami has enough talent to compete

VILLARMARZO, page 12

plays and their defense is the epitome of disorganization.

The team has enough talent to be a top-tier team in the NBA, but they have been stricken with bad luck dating back to late last season – starting with Dwyane Wade's injury and the first round sweep at the hands of the Chicago Bulls.

I believe the problem with this team is something greater than it having no will to win.

I think something karmic is going on with this team.

As the old saying goes, karma is a word that rhymes with witch and the Heat is feeling her wrath.

Look back at all the events that have happened in the past four seasons and tell me this is definitely a case of "what goes around comes around:

After drafting Dwayne Wade with the No. 5 overall pick in the 2003 NBA Draft, Pat Riley resigns as coach just days before the season – with low expectations – is set to begin, leaving Stan Van Gundy at the helm.

The Heat trades three

players – Lamar Odom, Caron Butler and Bryan Grant – to the Los Angeles Lakers for Shaquille O'Neal.

Those three players were main components in the nucleus of that 2003-04 Heat team that surprised many by advancing to the second round of the playoffs.

After falling one game short in the 2004-05 Eastern Conference Finals against the Detroit Pistons, the Heat overhauls its roster, bringing in James Posey, Jason Williams and Antoine Walker, while getting rid of long-time Heat veteran Eddie Jones among others.

Twenty-one games into the 2005-06 season, Stan Van Gundy surprisingly resigns with the Heat just one game over .500 to "spend more time with his family." Heat president Pat Riley takes over and we all know what happened later.

After relatively mediocre 2006-07 regular season, in which Riley took a mid-season hiatus to "recover from injuries," the Heat's title defense ends prematurely after being swept in the first round by the Bulls.

Prior to the current

season, Riley frantically attempted to improve his roster, but failed to sign coveted point guard Mo Williams and instead ended up trading Antoine Walker (and others) for Ricky Davis and Mark Blount.

Obviously that's not everything that happened, but looking back, Riley has pulled some shady moves.

And so have the most of the players (including Shaq), dogging it during the regular season – showing up overweight, not giving a lot of effort, etc.

This team should not be as bad as it is. It has the talent to at least make a decent playoff run, so the fact that the Heat stands as the worst team in the Eastern Conference shows us that there's something more to this.

Call it karma. Call it the law of averages. Call it whatever you want, but this team should already be cutting its losses and look toward next season by playing the young players more often and looking into who it is going to select with its top-10 draft pick.

Georgetown's 7-2 center Roy Hibbert would look good in Heat uniform next year, won't he?

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National media needs to change its mindset

TOWERS, page 12

In it, one of the researchers, Raymond Rainville, finds that by listening to football broadcasts, he can often tell the race of a player specifically by the way announcers talk about him. Following further study of 273 stories regarding six NFL quarterbacks (three black, three white), they found that the black athlete's success is attributed to an uncontrollable, innate, physical nature, whereas the white athlete's were described as being more cerebral and more of a product of "hard work".

While describing athletes who aren't white as more physically gifted might not seem like a harmful thing to do, but the implication being made is that non-white, as a result of their genetic make up, are intellectually inferior to their white counterparts.

Assigning blame is easy, in this context. It is far more difficult and also far more important to try to figure out why sports writers have their biases.

In his 2005 book *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, Malcolm Gladwell discusses the power of "thin slicing," or our mind's ability to make informed decisions based on small amounts of data. Gladwell paints this as an enormously powerful and helpful tool, but also warns of our subconscious mind's desire to paint with a broad stroke in order to make decisions more efficiently.

Even in a field as liberal as journalism, sports writing is still, for the most part, a white man's game. It is understandable then, that there is an subconscious racial bias amongst

those reporting to us.

These sports writers, especially beat reporters, are getting to know the players on a team extremely well over the course of several seasons, and so when Plaschke sees Guerrero remain mostly quiet, responding to questions with smiles and nods or through an interpreter, it is not hard to imagine him gaining an image of Guerrero as childlike, since he is unable to communicate with him.

But this cannot possibly excuse this type of poor journalism, and it has become apparent that strides are being made in this regard.

According to another study ("*White Men Can't Jump*": *Evidence for the Perceptual Confirmation of Racial Stereotypes Following a Basketball Game*), despite a significant bias still remaining, these stereotypical designations of each type of athlete have become less frequent.

So what is the answer? Do we turn a blind eye to people's natural opinions, refusing to designate blame for something they can say they don't control?

We cannot force people to change their natural ways, obviously. The mind is extraordinarily powerful, and, as such extraordinarily stubborn.

So maybe it falls on us, the consumer, to right the ills of our society. We don't need to accept the prejudiced ideas of our sports writers.

The biases inherent in our society are only inherent because we refuse to question them. If we refuse stereotypes and instead create informed opinions, we will be able to rid ourselves of these types of stereotypes for good.

BEST STUDENTS



PHOTO COURTESY FIU SPORTS

TOP OF ITS CLASS: Coach Noemi Zaharia's swimmers and divers earned the Athletic Department's best cumulative GPA of 3.20 for the fall semester.

Forward verbally commits to FIU

NOTEBOOK, page 12

Due to the perimeter-oriented game of ULM and the fact that they have no player over 6-8, Russell Hicks will have another chance to have a big game and exploit the undersized Warhawks.

Hicks, who scored 16 against Troy on Jan. 9, responded with a nine-point

effort on 4-of-10 shooting in the following game against WKU. How much of an impact Hicks, who leads the team in scoring, can have in the game will likely indicate how the rest of the team will fare.

NEW FACE

The Golden Panthers already have a verbal commit in its 2008 class as

Patterson (NC) Prep School center Freddy Asprilla gave the Golden Panthers his word in November.

The 6'9" Colombian is a three-star performer according to *Rivals.com* and, if the commitment stands, will be the highest rated recruit FIU has had since coach Sergio Rouco took over the program before the 2004-05 season.

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JUDGEMENT CALLS



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI (LEFT) AND TONY GUTIERREZ (RIGHT)/AP PHOTOS

BIASED PLAY AND CALLS: Despite having great seasons and putting up similar numbers, Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard (left) and Peyton Manning (right) are described and viewed differently by sports writers.

Karma to blame for horrid season



Commentary

Xavier Villarmarzo
Copy Editor

It's time to give up any and all hope, because even though it's been a constant for the past four seasons, the Miami Heat will not be making the playoffs this year.

Like many Heat fans, I was spoiled, always knowing the team would be in the postseason regardless of what turbulence occurred during the regular season.

But this year it became clear that even the players on the team had this same mentality.

I was never one to believe the whole notion that a team doesn't "want it bad enough" or doesn't have a "will to win." Seriously, how can you not try to win a basketball game?

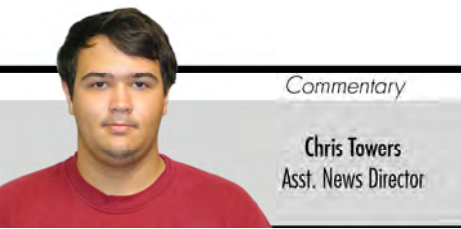
You can say the players are complacent with the copious amounts of money they're making, but a lack of effort will get them out of the league quickly – and with much lighter pockets.

The 2007-08 Miami Heat, however, are making me believe otherwise.

It's been said before, but the team really seems lost on the court. The players have no semblance of offensive set

VILLARMARZO, page 10

For sports writing, it's still a white man's game



Commentary

Chris Towers
Asst. News Director

For the longest time, I have had an unsettling feeling regarding sports writers. It became most clear to me when reading a baseball playoff column written by Bill Plaschke of the *Los Angeles Times*.

In this column, Plaschke criticized L.A. of Anaheim Angels right fielder Vladimir Guerrero for not showing enough emotion or

taking enough blame for his team's offensive woes in October.

At one point, Plaschke said of Guerrero, "He is the quietest of Angels, impervious to peer expectations, available to batting coach Mickey Hatcher only through an interpreter, a childlike hitting savant who may not even own a mirror."

I find myself to be the type of person who is not easily offended, and yet this sentence made me stop. Does Plaschke realize what he is saying here? Is he so oblivious that he cannot see that calling a Hispanic player a "childlike savant" right after discussing his difficulty in grasping the English language is just a flat out stupid thing to say?

Obviously, what Plaschke means to say is that Guerrero makes it look easy, but what he meant to say isn't really the issue. The issue is that Plaschke apparently sees no problem with describing Guerrero as a savant.

Following reading this article, I began noticing other similar things throughout the sporting world. David Eckstein is praised as being a hard worker, while Manny Ramirez gains a reputation as being lazy, despite being arguably the most cerebral hitter in the game, studying pitchers the way law students study court cases.

Now, these are obviously not comparisons made with malicious intent. I am not trying to accuse Bill Plaschke of being the Grand

Wizard of a Journalistic Ku Klux Klan, or anything, but there is an obvious pattern amongst those paid to comment on sports.

And since this pattern seems to be one that permeates throughout all sports (except maybe hockey, which is, racially, if not ethnically, about as homogenous as you can get), I decided to try to see if there was a reason for this.

In my research, I came across numerous studies regarding the coverage of the various races in athletics, and perhaps the most telling was one entitled, "*Casual attributions of performance for black and white quarterbacks in the NFL; A look at the sports pages.*"

TOWERS, page 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Warhawks' guard play concerns Golden Panthers

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

As if the men's basketball team has not had enough lately, it will face yet another strong perimeter assault in Louisiana-Monroe Jan. 19 at the Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers have met strong outside scoring teams with mixed results over their last two

games.

FIU (5-10), has played Troy and Western Kentucky in its two previous games, two teams in the top half of the Sun Belt Conference in scoring that are led by strong guard play.

The Golden Panthers managed to beat Troy, the conference leader in team scoring in the Sun Belt, by a 25-point margin, but lost by 16 to

WKU, who is second.

The loss to Western Kentucky, however, is respectable due to the Hilltoppers' 12-5 record and the fact that the game was on the road.

The Golden Panthers will return home in hopes of regaining the momentum they had after the Troy game and have a similar result against ULM (6-11).

The Warhawks boast the dynamic backcourt of veterans Tony Hooper and Jordan Payne, who both have 36 3-point field goals on the season.

Hooper is averaging over 15 points per game for the second consecutive season, and is sixth in the conference in scoring.

His backcourt mate, Payne, is not far behind him as he averages

14 per game.

The Warhawks top four scorers are all guards as they will keep the Golden Panthers' perimeter defense on their toes.

The game has a chance to be a shootout, as the Warhawks allow even more points per game – 73 – than they score – 70.

NOTEBOOK, page 11