



SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

Disorganized Senate needs to elect replacement senators and buckle down.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Golden Panther invited to try out with MLS franchise F.C. Dallas. First Golden Panther to be invited since Shawn Crowe in 2007.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Celebrate Pan African heritage with concerts, poetry and free food!

LIFE! PAGE 6

Volunteering presents new opportunities for undecided students.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Struggles continue for Women's basketball as club has lost 10 of its last 11 games.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Diversity comedy show makes light of stereotypes.

OPINION PAGE 4

Unpredicted interview shows Obama's wordly aspirations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Miami Heat vs. Los Angeles Clippers, Today, Feb. 2, 7:30pm. Take a break from your everyday routine to enjoy the Heat burning it up on the court at American Airlines Arena.

Yoga Club Meeting, Today, Feb. 2, 7:45pm. Strike a pose! Learn Madonna's favorite exercise at GC 241

Miami Jazz Jam, Today, Feb. 2, 10pm. Bring some soul into your life and enjoy the smooth sounds of jazz with young and old musicians, if the old guys are there you know it's good jazz.

Career Fair, Feb. 3, 10am. Get off the couch and get on your way to getting a great job, if there are any left.

Skeptical Society, Feb. 3, 12pm. Don't be a skeptic and join the society that Bill Nye "the Science Guy" Belongs to, today!

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER



MONDAY
AM Clouds/PM Sun
LOW: 61 HIGH: 78



TUESDAY
Isolated t-storms
LOW: 45 HIGH: 71



WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 44 HIGH: 69

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Professor tries to solve mysteries of universe

JORGE VALENS
Contributing Writer

Experimental Particle Physics professor Pete Markowitz is on a quest to discover the origins of the universe and how it all began.

Markowitz is one of nine university scientists who were asked to join a special project created by the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN.

The goal of the project is to understand how the universe was formed and what it contains. Scientists are utilizing a special tool called the Large Hadron Collider to house their experiments and find answers.

The LHC is a large particle accelerator near Geneva, Switzerland, about 570 feet underground and spanning 17 miles in circumference. It is so large that it extends well into France.

The project draws its funding and staff from 10,000 scientists and engineers from 100 different countries and various universities and laboratories.

The LHC's purpose is to recreate the conditions shortly after the Big Bang. In simplest terms, the LHC uses two beams of subatomic particles called hadrons, usually consisting of protons or lead ions. These beams travel in opposite directions, picking up energy as they go along.

Eventually, these hadrons crash into each other at a very high level of energy. It is this collision that is key, as scientists



MAXIMILIEN BRICE/CERN.CH

BANG: Workers at CERN work on the insertion of a tracker in the heart of the Compact Muon Solenoid detector.

will then analyze the resulting particles created using special detectors housed within the LHC.

Markowitz, an eight year veteran of the program, is involved specifically with the Compact Muon Solenoid, a component of the LHC. According to CERN, the CMS is considered a "general-purpose detector" as it is used to detect a few different things.

The CMS can detect the existence of the Higgs boson particle – a particle referred to as the "God particle" since it is

essential to the theory CERN's LHC project is trying to prove.

It is believed that this particle is what originally gave all the other particles in our universe matter.

Markowitz believes the "God particle" is out there, to the point where he believes that physicists would be more astounded if they did not find it rather than if they did.

The CMS can also spot the presence of dark matter, which can't be seen through astronomical means.

Dark matter makes up about 26 percent of our universe and

its gravitational force causes galaxies to spin faster. Additionally, dark matter causes a phenomenon known as gravitational lensing, wherein light emitted from distant objects is bent on its way to the observer.

"There could be stars and masses out there that are so dark we can't see them," said Stephan Linn, a professor in the physics department.

Lastly, the CMS detects the possible existence of other dimensions. Some theorists believe that there are up to six different dimensions besides

our own and that they could be all around us, but our senses are not receptive to them.

A common misconception is that the LHC seeks to recreate the conditions of the Big Bang itself. However, the LHC only seeks to recreate the conditions shortly after the Big Bang.

This project has also stirred some concern in the media that the experiment carries with it a risk of opening microscopic black holes, which can yield disastrous results. Some have

LHC, page 2

Rubio gives students taste of real-world politics

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

Having started his University teaching career Fall 2008, Marco Rubio has quickly become a valued member of the faculty. The former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives is currently teaching Miami Politics alongside Dario Moreno, director of the Metropolitan Center.

"Teaching is the academic component of my service," Rubio said.

According to Rubio, everyone at the Metropolitan Center has to make an academic contribution to the community. The contribution could be made in many ways, ranging from writing an essay to participating in a research project.

Rubio decided to make his contribution by teaching at FIU as a visiting distinguished service guest professor.

"I wanted to share some of the

insight that I've gathered in politics with [students]," Rubio said.



RUBIO

As a young Cuban-American politician, Rubio finds the University to be a good place to teach because he easily identifies with the Hispanic and minority demographic the school represents.

"One thing is what you read in books, another thing is to have a conversation and share your perspective on issues having just come

out of that process," he said.

Rubio's students agree. Many have said he offers a more "real" perspective to political classes – having been involved in politics – as opposed to professors who mainly teach out of books.

Afroza Kashar, a senior political science and international relations major, finds Rubio to be a charming, inspiring person.

RUBIO, page 2

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Alaskan volcano shows signs of possible eruption

The Alaska Volcano Observatory announced Jan. 30 that monitoring on Mount Redoubt has shown an increase in amplitude in volcanic tremors. This would mean that eruption is imminent for the volcano. Scientists at the observatory said that the eruption could take place within hours, weeks or days, but it is impossible to give an exact date and time.

Mount Redoubt last erupted in December 1989, the eruption lasting four months. Geologists believe that this eruption would be smaller or similar to the one experienced in 1989.

An eruption in Mount Redoubt would produce ash fall that may spread all the way to Anchorage, the most populous city in the state 100 miles northeast of the volcano. It may also produce lahars, or volcanic mudflows.

– Compiled by Carla Garcia Inguanti

Music technology finds new niche

AMY RAMIREZ
Contributing Writer

Sound experimentation mixed with technology and art is the new project that FIU students and professors are about to celebrate and show to the community.

FIU Laptop & Electronic Arts is celebrating its first year on Feb. 6 at the Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall at University Park campus.

At 8 p.m., the newest musical group in the College of Architecture and the Arts will celebrate its first solo concert, exploring “music technology as a vehicle of performing [and] a way of interacting with other instrumentalists,” according to Paula Matthusen, assistant professor coordinator for Music Technology, founder of FLEA and composer.

There are currently seven members in FLEA: Pedro De Faria, Erik DeLuca, Juan Espinosa, Jacklyn Heyen, Daniel Lepervanche, Nayla Mehdi and Jamie Reveles.

The concept of laptop ensembles is still relatively underground, but many groups were formed in colleges across the nation, such as Princeton.

“There is no real type of identity for what a laptop ensemble is or what it should be,” Matthusen said. “Part of the idea is that we have great, intimate relationships with our machines and our computers and we use them in a way that is becoming increasingly social.”

The technicalities of composing allow artists to revel in their own creative process and bring forth their individual contribution.

“What I bring to the ensemble is more of my classical [vocal] training,” said Heyen, a graduate student majoring in music technology.

Heyen considers FLEA an experimental art group.

“It’s very much unique as an ensemble



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYSPACE.COM

ELECTRONIC ART: FLEA band prepares for musical performance.

because we are questioning the relationships of technology and music-making art,” Matthusen said.

The five-piece concert performance will open with “undisturbed stress,” a contribution by Kristine H. Burns, associate dean of the Cultural Affairs College of Architecture and the Arts.

“[Undisturbed stress] is basically a walk through the dictionary,” Burns said. “I am interested in the sounds of the words, as well as their meaning, and how one word can flow into the next. This is in respect to the use of the syllables, phonemes and, also, the meaning,” she said.

Most college students are receptive to the idea of laptop ensembles becoming a progressive and influential art form.

“Electronic methods can be used to improve ‘organic’ music,” said Stefan Vischal Mauhavir, a psychology major. “Every instrument has its inadequacies, electronic music just has so much range.”

Some, however, are skeptical.

“Digital music is less capable of inflecting grace and beauty in the phrasing of sounds than the intimate nature of the classical instrument,” said Alexandere Yefimovich Tepper, mathematics major.

Whatever the public opinion may be, members of FLEA are hoping to find diversity in their audience.

“A lot of ensembles that play get a specific audience and we want to make it a wider range,” Heyen said. “You have your classical musicians but then you just have your ordinary person off the street come in and enjoy it.”

In the year that FLEA has been together, it has performed in venues including the Miami Beach Art Center and at FIU’s Frost Museum.

Matthusen said that “odd venues” and “unconventional spaces” form part of the ensemble’s artistic pursuit. “We’re just hoping things don’t blow up,” she added.

Guest professor considers Senate run

RUBIO, page 1

“He’s a really good professor. Overall, I really like him,” Kashar said.

In the light of Senator Mel Martinez’s decision not to run for a second term, Rubio is a strong candidate for the soon-to-be vacant seat. Bloggers like Reihan Salam, a writer

for *The American Scene*, have already openly embraced the idea of Marco Rubio running for the Senate.

“Rubio might be the Latino conservative suburban Republican Obama, which is to say that he is not like Obama at all, apart from being young and charismatic and sharp – which is more than enough,” Salam

said.

Rubio has said he would consider running for the Senate seat if Jeb Bush decided against running.

“I don’t think any respectable Republican would challenge him,” Rubio said in a statement that was published in the *Sun Sentinel* in December.

Since that statement, Bush

has announced he would not be running for the vacant seat in 2010.

Despite the attention and growing support base for a Senate run, Rubio is still unsure whether or not to go through with it when the time comes.

“No, I haven’t made a decision on [whether to run for

Physics curriculum includes LHC

LHC, page 1

even contended that the project may potentially lead to the destruction of Earth.

However, Jorge Luis Rodriguez, associate professor of Experimental Particle Physics, said that is not the case.

“In the theories that people have talked about, these microscopic black holes evaporate almost instantly,” Rodriguez said.

The LHC is lower in energy output than the cosmic ray events that happen around our planet all the time, according to Rodriguez.

“We are inundated by cosmic rays coming from outside the solar system,” he said. “The energy of those events is much higher than what is produced in the LHC.”

In the past 10 years, FIU has received roughly \$15 million in grants coming from

its involvement with CERN and the LHC.

Above all, the LHC’s findings have dramatically influenced the physics department’s curriculum.

“It definitely defines the curriculum much more,” said physics graduate student Luis Lebolo. “This is not just coming from a book.”

Graduate students are given various opportunities to actually travel to Switzerland, live at CERN and bring back the knowledge and hands-on experience they gain to the University.

Though this is mostly apparent in the graduate student program, the benefits from the University’s involvement with the LHC have started to spread down to even the introductory classes offered by the department.

One such class, Modeling Physics, has students building computerized physics

models and then testing that model to its limits.

“The goal in our Modeling Physics courses is really trying to get students to act and become scientists themselves as they learn physics,” said Laird Kramer, associate professor of Experimental Particle Physics.

The physics department stresses that student involvement in research is a priority. Using the Internet, undergraduate students can actively participate in research and are then able to reap the benefits of that research in class.

Markowitz said this type of involvement also fosters interest and a desire to know more about physics, primarily in those who are initially disinterested in the field.

“We are looking for incredible things which most people would consider science

THE BEACON

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Show lets audience in on the joke

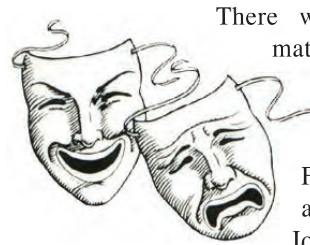
DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Laughter filled the air as three comedians joked about school, life and reality.

NBC's Stand Up For Diversity Comedy Tour came to the Wolfe University Center's Mary Anne Wolfe Theater on Jan. 29.

"The purpose of tonight's show is to have a diversity of comedy from a group of comedians of different races, cultures and genders," said Rashida Jones, Student Programming Council secretary at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The show was hosted by SPC-BBC and began with Chinese comedian Shen Wang, featured Jamaican/Haitian comedian Michelle Buteau and concluded with Haitian/American comedian Wil Sylvince.



There were an estimated 70 people in attendance, 17 of which were non-FIU students, according to Jones.

"I'm really glad I came. It's nice to know that we have events like this on campus," said Emily Kotyza, 19, an exchange sophomore hospitality management major. "My mom came too and she thought it was entertaining."

Topics ranged from racial stereotypes, fart jokes, sex, pregnancy, STDs, high priced textbooks, living in the dorms to taking out loans and shopping for credit cards.

"I love the diversity of FIU. [The students are] so open-minded. I love [BBC] because I went here," said Buteau. "This is my second time performing here."

Other jokes were based on family issues, discipline and relationships.

"You can go all over the place with the jokes," Sylvince said.

The comedians allowed the audience to be part of the show. They pointed out and made fun of individuals in the crowd.

"I cried buckets of tears and left with a sore throat from all the laughter," said Jones, a freshman majoring in architecture from Broward College.

Two audience members, Kemlie Alexandre and Malcolm Jones, were called onto the stage by Buteau for trivia, in which they each had to name four songs by two popular artists: Britney Spears and T.I.

They both answered within the time frame and received either Buteau's catchphrase t-shirt, which said "from the waist down," or her stand-up comedy DVD.

"It was very attention-grabbing and there wasn't one dull moment. I lost my voice laughing," said Alexandre, a freshman business major.

At the end of the event, the three comics gave autographs, talked to members of the audience and took pictures with the fans.

"We had a very good turnout," said junior Melissa Binns, a public relations major and SPC-BBC Chair.

"We're definitely going to bring it back."

Pan-African event aims to unite

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

Free food, concerts and dances will all be part of this year's Pan-African Heritage celebration at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The events, taking place throughout the month of February, are designed to celebrate Black History Month and to include people of other backgrounds, according to Zakina Ogbourne, a graduate student.

"We want to include Afro-Cubans, Afro-Caribbeans, European Africans and any other person who has any roots in Africa," Ogbourne said.

Ogbourne was the chair of the Pan-African Heritage celebration at the University Park campus in 2006, the first year the celebration was extended through the month of February.

"It used to be a week here [at BBC] and two weeks at UP, but I asked the advisor to make it a month because it is also Black History Month," said Ogbourne, now the graphic designer for Campus Life and Orientation at BBC.

All events are open to students, faculty, staff and the public, according to Sabrina Saint Jour, 2009 BBC Pan-African Heritage chair and a senior English major.

This year's main events consist of live performances

and dances, as did last year's celebration.

"Last year, students were very excited. It is something that they look forward to every year, especially with the major events like the concerts," Saint Jour said.

"ISIS Speaks," a performance by Def Jam poet Isis, will take place Feb. 6 and there will also be a Gospel concert in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom Feb. 13, featuring local artists and students, according to Saint Jour. The concert will also feature a live jazz band and free dinner.

Shihan, a popular and controversial poet, according to Student Programming Council secretary Rashida Jones, will perform Feb. 18 at the WUC Ballroom.

"He will not only entertain the audience with his informative poetry, but will also make them laugh," Jones said.

Black Violin, a successful violin group which has previously performed at the Apollo theater in New York will also perform at the WUC Ballroom Feb. 18.

The second annual "Katastrophik Stroll Off," consisting of fraternity and sorority dance performances, will take place Feb. 17.

"[At the Stroll Off] Greek groups form in lines and compete against each other. The difference from stepping is that at a stroll they can

dance to music," Jones said.

The Pan-African Pageant will take place Feb. 25 in the WUC Ballroom.

The pageant will award prizes to a king and queen, based on the talent and communication skills of the candidates, according to Jones.

"They can read poetry, sing, dance or show any other talent they have," Jones said.

The events will be paid for by SGA.

"The funding is coming from a specific budget set aside from the Student Programming Council," said Saint Jour. "Each week has a specific budget, and that of course

comes from SGA, which comes from our tuition."

This year's theme for the Pan-African Heritage celebration is "Live, Love, Laugh," according to Saint Jour.

"We had a lot of major accomplishments this year as far as African Americans are concerned," Saint Jour said. "It is about trying to learn more about what Pan-African is and the accomplishments of not only African Americans but also people from around the world."

For more information, contact the SPC office at (305) 919-5280.

NEWS FLASH

FIU BBC

Students at the Biscayne Bay Campus will have the chance to talk directly to several University administrators, including President Modesto A. Maidique, in an open dialogue.

"This could be the last chance for students to have direct contact with Maidique as president," said Kenasha Paul, BBC Student Government Council vice president.

The Town Hall Meeting will take place Feb. 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center's Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

Issues regarding budget cuts, academics, housing, students services and future plans for BBC will be discussed by different administrators, such as Vivian Sanchez, chief financial officer, Dean and Vice Provost Joseph West and Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs.

The meeting is free and open to all students, faculty and staff.

-Pamela Duque

Super Bowl fever hits Recreation Center

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

While Super Bowl XLIII happened yesterday, campus tailgating activities kicked off with their own game last week.

The Recreation Center hosted its annual Madden NFL Super Bowl Tournament Jan. 28 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in WUC 160.

The purpose of the event was to attract students to the Recreation Center and to show them that the center has more to offer than the gym or the pool, according to Warren Shaw, assistant director of Campus Recreation.

"We do the whole video game thing, too," said Shaw. "We want to connect with students who may not come into the gym."

The Recreation Center hosted other events such as "Pamper Me Day" on Nov. 18, 2008, where students got massages and facials and female students were able to get their make-up done.

"This is just an alternate, non-physical activity we decided to do," said Todd Bowyer, an administrative intern at the Recreation Center.

A total of 21 students registered for the event.

The event consisted of a single elimination match, much like the NFL's playoffs, in which the team with the highest points advanced to the next round. Contestants faced off on three Xbox 360 consoles

running EA's *Madden NFL 09*.

The prizes at stake were 1,600 MS points - which are used on Microsoft's Xbox Live and Zune marketplaces - for third place, 4,000 MS points for second place and first place received 4,000 MS points and a reservation of a free copy of *Madden NFL 2010* for the Xbox 360, released Fall 2009.

All participants received one Rec Buck, redeemable for Recreation Center items, such as a sports bottles (10 Rec Bucks) or a kayak day (100 Rec Bucks). Additional Rec Bucks can be earned by working out at the Recreation Center and by participating in its events.

The opening matches quickly eliminated players from the competition, with most matches ending in either complete shutouts or a large difference in scores.

Once the quarterfinals and semifinals arrived, the atmosphere became much more competitive. Emotions were running high among participants, who cheered when they stopped another player's movement and cursed plays that ended with mistakes.

The final four players faced off in two different matches, a match to determine third place and the University's version of the Super Bowl. The match for third place was between Matt Moll, junior hospitality major, playing as the Dallas Cowboys and Israel Felhadler, freshman business major, using the Philadelphia Eagles. Felhadler defeated Moll 21-16.



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

CHAMPIONS: The winners of the tournament relished their victories with XBOX Live gift cards, Jan. 28.

"I've been in the final four twice before," Moll said.

The Super Bowl was between sophomore Isaac Helfner, playing as the Jacksonville Jaguars, and Raymond Gravie, senior psychology major, playing as the Cowboys. Gravie and the Cowboys emerged victorious, 24-10.

"I had a good time," said Gravie. "It was fun and I had some good matches."

The Recreation Center is considering holding more tournaments in the future.

For more information, contact the Recreation Center at (305) 919-5678.

THE BEACON | Editorial

SGC-UP Senate needs to fill vacancies and get back to work

When the Student Government Council at University Park Senate met on Jan. 26, one of their intentions was to fill up to 9 vacant senate seats. After a long and heated discussion, the senators agreed that the vote to fill those vacancies would be postponed until the following meeting, Feb. 2.

This decision lead to further debate on the application process itself, and whether or not new candidates could enter the pool even though the initial application deadline had already passed. This led to the passage of a motion which give candidate who had filed by the 26th of January priority over newer applicants.

Though all the measures passed during the meeting were constitutional, and the senators were wholly within their rights to table the vote, it was the latest example of a disorganized legislature that has been struggling throughout the year to get even the simplest of things done.

During most Senate meetings, pending legislation can't even be voted upon due to the body's regular failure to meet the necessary quorum, an issue that once resulted in the need for a re-vote when it was discovered that the original vote was null due to poor attendance.

Even at last Monday's meeting, the first order of business before the senate appointments was the reading of resolutions, many of which have been pending for several months now. The resolutions had not been brought to a vote primarily due to the persistent failure to meet quorum in the past.

Among these resolutions was one recommending that the Athletics employee who struck down a student rushing the field during a football game last year should receive harsher punishment or possibly face termination.

Though this is a noble cause, one that *The Beacon* supports, almost four months after the incident occurred it is questionable how effective this measure would be or if anyone really cares anymore. Had the Senate acted more swiftly immediately following the incident, their legislation could have possibly made a difference and been more than the mere symbolic gesture it is now.

Meeting quorum was not an issue, however, during the Jan. 26 meeting. Rather, the issue was the prolonged, tense and often chaotic discussion that ensued, and the apparent widespread confusion regarding the rules and procedures relating to filling vacancies in the Senate.

Though the SGA constitution does delineate, to a limited extent, the process of filling vacancies, it is obvious after Monday's debacle that the constitution should have clearer rules regarding the application process and voting procedures.

Jean Roseme, Senate speaker, agrees.

"The procedure defining ... the process for these types of elections ... is what we need to look into improving," Roseme told *The Beacon*.

Despite the ambiguity of the procedures, *The Beacon* feels that the Senate should have kept its word and followed through with voting on the announced day.

Candidates came dressed and prepared to address the Senate, expecting that by the end of that meeting, they would know whether or not they had been elected. If the Senate did not plan on voting that day, they should have let the candidates know ahead of time, instead of wasting their time.

Part of the reason the many members of the Senate felt it wasn't prepared to vote that day were some of the candidates' qualifications, or lack thereof. However, *the Beacon* is inclined to agree with SGA Advisor Jose Toscano, who argued that if the candidates were deemed insufficiently qualified, the Senate, "could have simply voted them down."

Regardless, its clear that these vacancies, some of which have lingered for months, must be filled soon. After all, this Senate doesn't have much time to meet the goals they set out for themselves.

"We've only got three months left," emphasized David Dial, senator for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "We've got so many things that need to be done."



REACHING OUT

Obama's address the right step

IRIS FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

The image of President Barack Obama flooded many television sets across the world, with streams of Arabic captions scrolling below as he participated in an interview nearly a week after his inauguration.

Through this pivotal interview held Jan. 26, America may well be on its way to repairing relations between itself and the Muslim world overseas.

In his first televised interview as president, Obama talked with Al Arabiya, an Arabic-language channel based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. From the White House, Obama clearly demonstrated his desire to facilitate urgent dialogue between the United States and the Middle East.

"Ultimately, we cannot tell either the Israelis or the Palestinians what's best for them,"

Obama said in the interview. "But I do believe that the moment is ripe for both sides to realize that the path that they are on is one that is not going to result in prosperity and security for their people, and that instead, it's time to return to the negotiating table."

An opportunity for



negotiations could not come to us at a better time.

We have faced an incredible amount of uncertainty in regard to the violent tumult seen in the Middle East.

In light of the violence in Gaza, as well as the continual suffering because of the war in Iraq, I believe the United States has an obligation

to pursue peace whenever possible with patient diplomacy.

Would former president George W. Bush have been so keen to enact measures of dialogue? I cannot be sure. The image the past administration bore was one of impatience and intimidation. To me, it seems Obama is welcoming the chance for talks and extending a much-needed olive branch to the Middle East.

The attitude he presents carries incredible humility - an attitude not present during the previous administration.

Obama noted, "My job to the Muslim world is to communicate that the Americans are not your enemy. We sometimes make mistakes. We have not been perfect."

No longer will America be seen as an aggressive entity putting on airs.

"If we are looking at the region as a whole

and communicating a message to the Arab world and the Muslim world that we are ready to initiate a new partnership based on mutual respect and mutual interest, then I think that we can make significant progress," Obama said during the interview.

This attempt at a "new partnership" is certainly a signal as a significant change for the course of America.

During his inaugural speech, Obama said, "To all other peoples and governments who are watching ... know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more."

We need no more enemies. This year will mark the beginning of great progress for the United States, and hopefully we will see a more peaceful future.

Sound polices will be tough to sell

JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ
Staff Writer

The economy is at its lowest point since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Florida's unemployment rate is at 8.1 percent and skyrocketing per day as companies are forced to downsize or close altogether.

And if that isn't enough, foreclosure signs are more common than street signs nowadays.

Keynesian economics has become the trend recently to spike up the economy.

Under This school of thought encourages governments to step in and increase spending..

As such, President Obama has introduced a stimulus package starting at about \$800 billion, in addition to \$350 billion from the financial bailout passed last November.

He needs to make sure these are passed now, while he is still in his honeymoon period, and Congress in the public is more accepting of his ideas.

Economic experts believe that although there are numerous ways to spend the money, there are some options that are more appropriate in

the long run.

One of these is to spend it in state and local governments so that their programs do not suffer more than they already have.

"You can't let the safety net unravel just when people need it most," said Len Burman, director of the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, to *TIME* magazine. "A lot of states have been terribly irresponsible, but this probably isn't the best time to teach them a lesson."

According to a *Forbes* magazine article released Jan. 28, Florida stands to gain \$4.26 billion from the stimulus package to fund Medicaid in order to help the less fortunate.

Also, Miami-Dade County schools would be relieved, since this year the district cut \$289 million from its budget.

The plan would create 329,550 jobs and reduce the state's 8.1 percent unemployment rate by 2.4 percentage points through the end of next year.

Spending should include environmental endeavors such as investing in green technology like solar panels, "green" school buildings and sewage-treatment plants, repairs to bridges, airports, research and job training.

Scandals concerning where taxpayer's money goes has sparked outrage.

MSNBC reported on Jan. 23 that Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain gave bonuses totalling approximately \$3 to \$4 billion in December to his employees before Bank of America took over.

As a result, Bank of America received an additional \$20 billion from the government.

If that weren't enough, Thain spent \$1.22 million to remodel his office in early 2008. He resigned only after Bank of America pressured him to do so.

After the first year is over, the adrenaline fades away and it will take more than charisma to win public support.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters can be sent to opinion@fiusm.com. Letters must be under 300 words and include the writer's name, year, and major.



ROAD TO LANGERADO

POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Festival set to launch exciting concert season

With the additions of Modest Mouse, Deerhunter, Gene Ween Band and Alberta Cross, the Langerado lineup appears to be set and final. More than 60 artists will join the festival as it moves downtown, switching from its late-night camping set to a more typical day festival at Bicentennial Park. As the festival has moved away from its jam band roots, it has grown larger and more eclectic, earning a reputation as the unofficial beginning of the festival season every year. It has even served as a jumping-off point for some smaller bands to make their move into the bigger festivals.

While the loss of camping has surely upset many fans (including

myself) who thought last year rocked, the move downtown should provide an awe-inspiring view of the bay and skyline, and the lineup should be more than enough to keep everyone happy.

With that in mind, here are the top five bands you'll see if you are making it to the festival.

5. COLD WAR KIDS

Alright, their second album was absolutely terrible. There weren't more than three songs worth listening to more than once; it was a massive disappointment following their promising debut.

All that said, their appearance on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" last week showed they are still a

great live act. The band knows how to ride a groove and their sparse drum, bass, piano mix really translates well.

4. GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC

A legend of the funk scene, George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic have become renowned for their live show, which commonly features theatrical elements and the funk that Clinton helped popularize.

Clinton is sure to get a nice late afternoon spot, which should make a perfect atmosphere for this show. Don't be surprised if Snoop Dogg makes an appearance too.

3. GASLIGHT ANTHEM

One of the best bands to come out in the last few years,

Gaslight Anthem's '59 Sound was one of the best albums of 2008. The band honed their live music chops by playing small punk clubs, but their sound is much bigger than the average punk band. Expect a fast, energetic early-afternoon show to get the day started on a high note.

2. RYAN ADAMS & THE CARDINALS

This is truly a wild card on the list, because it could be an epic set, with Adams making his first (and possibly last, considering his recent retirement announcement) South Florida stop. However, given his history of erratic behavior and his recent ear problems, there is no telling what to expect when Adams & The Cardinals take the stage for

their festival closing set.

1. AGAINST ME!

Despite cries and accusations that they "sold out" following the mainstream success of their 2006 album *New Wave*, Against Me! remains one of the most exciting live bands around. They'll probably be taking the stage earlier in the day on Friday, so there won't be much time to prepare for the mosh pits and early afternoon sun.

Even with their "new sound," they still come on stage and play faster and harder than almost anyone else. Make sure you familiarize yourself with their songs, because there are few things better than singing along to "Pints of Guinness Make You Strong."

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS



STOP THE PRESSES! art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez

diversions

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Dicount tickets available at Culture Shock Miami

ROSALYN DELGADO
Recruitment Director

Imagine a world where tickets to a museum, play, or upcoming festival is just a mere \$5 or less and only a mouse click away.

In today's dwindling economy, anyone has the right to have such a dream.

For those who are looking to broaden their entertainment horizons and steer away from the typical night at the movies or mall, there is light at the end of the routine tunnel.

"This past weekend I attended Fairchild Tropical Garden's Annual Chocolate Festival, an event I had been highly anticipating for a few weeks and instead of forking over its original price of \$20, I only paid \$2.50 for my desired ticket to chocolate land," said Ann Marie Munoz, a senior psychology major.

Munoz is one of many Miami-Dade County college and high school students taking advantage of www.cultureshockmiami.com, a site whose sole purpose is to provide high school and college students ages 13-23 a variety of tickets to a variety of events taking place in Miami-Dade County for only \$2.50-\$5.00, depending on the event and location.

You can even buy a ticket for a friend, sibling, parent or grandparent at the discounted price, according to the Web site.

Created in 2005, Culture Shock Miami is modeled after its founding counterpart, highfivenewyork.com, a site that allows New York's high school and college students to purchase tickets to many city attractions at affordable prices.

"The initial idea to implement a project similar to highfivenewyork.com was brought up by the Knight Foundation, who gave us a grant of \$75,000 to start the project here in Miami," said Gerry Landreth, projects administrator of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

Tickets donated to the Department of

Cultural Affairs are available for purchase through www.cultureshockmiami.com or at any Ticketmaster outlet free of taxes, fees or surcharges.

A student must use the first ticket purchased, but the second ticket can be used by a person of any age.

The department chooses what events it will provide tickets to by reaching out to various high schools and college campuses in the county and distributing surveys or presentations to ask what kind of events they'd prefer to attend, according to Landreth.

The results have yielded cheap ticket prices to museums, plays and virtually every festival taking place in Miami.

"I paid \$2.50 for a ticket that was going for \$50 to see Anti-gravity High Flying Extreme at the [Adrienne Arsht] Center for the Performing Arts," said Richard Lopez, an international business major, who first heard of Culture Shock Miami over a year ago. "It was my first time at the [Arsht] Center and I paid less than \$5 to see a Broadway performance. It was a very interesting experience."

More than 90 organizations performing in more than 100 locations donate a wide variety of entertaining opportunities to Culture Shock, according to Landreth.

Listings on the Web site are updated regularly, so there is always something new. There is even a weekly e-newsletter with information about the latest offerings. You can sign up when you visit the Web site.

"Nothing beats it as far as value goes," said Gabriel Correa, a senior who heard of Culture Shock Miami through a friend six months ago and bought a ticket to Miami's Metro Zoo for only \$2.50 instead of its usual \$8-\$12 rate.

Log onto www.cultureshockmiami.com and browse through the events calendar, pick the event you want to attend and click on the Ticketmaster link to purchase tickets.

Don't forget to print out the confirmation page – it's required to redeem your purchase.



New horizons opened by volunteer opportunities

MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

The question that has haunted us since we first learned to walk has come up multiple times in our lives: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Some students feel the pressure to choose a major as soon as possible.

"I ... feel hurried to pick a major because no one wants to waste their time and money taking classes for a career they might not end up liking," said Rocio Felipe, who recently changed her major from business to pre-medicine.

But there's help.

These days, internships are not the only way to get a look into the career of your choice. Volunteering gives you experience working with what you are passionate about, but it may also help you realize what you are not passionate about.

"Volunteering helped me realized that I do not want to [do pre-med], but that I enjoy working with children," said Katy Patao, a University of Miami freshman who has volunteered more than 150 hours at Miami Children's Hospital.

The amount of volunteer opportunities range from field to field.

If you're interested in art, want to be part of the museum environment or even major in public relations or communications, the Frost Art Museum would be the place to go.

The museum offers the opportunity to become a Frost ambassador, in its new docent program, by conducting educational tours of the exhibitions in either English or

Spanish. Students can volunteer for event planning and marketing events such as the "Target Wednesday After Hours."

The Miami Children's Museum has opportunities for those interested in education, art and business. Become a gallery guru and learn the basic operations of the museum by answering questions and leading special exhibit activities.

If you are leaning toward the field of communications and broadcasting, Radio Lollipop at Miami Children's Hospital is a good start.

The station serves as the entertainment for the hospitalized children at night, providing activities, contests and allowing them to request their favorite songs.

The staff is made up of volunteers who, if not working at the station, go room by room visiting the children and involving them in activities.

Even DJ Laz and Power 96 got involved in Radio Lollipop, devoting a day's programming to sponsor the station, raising \$45,000.

The Universities' Career Services is also looking for volunteers to assist in the Spring 2009 career fairs.

"Volunteering for Career Services events will guarantee you points that would go toward your organization, such as your club or fraternity, which can help you acquire money or other things depending on your organization," said Vee Sam, a graduate assistant working for Career Services.

Wherever you decide to volunteer, you may discover different career options you never knew before.



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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • FEBRUARY 2

WHAT: Miami Heat vs. Los Angeles Clippers
WHEN: 7:30pm
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHAT: Miami Jazz Jam
WHEN: 10:00pm
WHERE: Churchill's Pub
CONTACT: 305-757-1807

WHAT: Haitian Student Organization meeting
WHEN: 6:30pm
WHERE: GC 150
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305 -348-1069

WHAT: Relay for Life Meeting
WHEN: 6pm
WHERE: GC Cafeteria Annex
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305

WHAT: Yoga Club Meeting
WHEN: 7:45
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 3

WHAT: "Engaging in the Urban" Architecture Exhibit
WHEN: 9am
WHERE: Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture, BEA International Gallery
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

WHAT: Career Fair
WHEN: 10am
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
CONTACT: 305-348-2423

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet meeting
WHEN: 3:30pm
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305

WHAT: Chinese Club movie
WHEN: 2:30pm
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305

WHAT: Skeptic Society meeting
WHEN: 12:00pm
WHERE: GC 343
CONTACT: 305-348-1069305

Compiled By: Mariana Ochoa

Balanced Trojan scoring big difference



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

LOOKING AHEAD: Elisa Care will play big minutes when FIU travels back to Louisiana to take on the Ragin' Cajuns

WOMEN, page 8

committed 13 turnovers compared to three for the Trojans in the first half.

The second half started out much different, both teams slow to score, hitting a combined two out of the first 13 shots, but FIU showing a burst of momentum when they cut the lead to five on an Elisa Carey jumper with 9:53 remaining, making the score 45-40.

Things slowed down for the Golden Panthers over the next 6:13, scoring just two points and allowing the Trojans to go up by 12 after Chastity Reed scored on a driving a layup with 4:07 to play.

The Golden Panthers wouldn't come closer than

seven from that point and the Trojans would close out the game up by scoring the final four points.

Following the loss, Michelle Gonzalez expressed optimism by concentratig on the positives from the loss, and looking forward to the next game.

"I think we communicated more this game, on defense we were talking a lot more" said Gonzalez. "We played better on defense. especially on the perimeter"

FIU will hit the road to Louisiana for the third time in the past two weeks to face Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns, who has yet to win a confrence game this season, (0-10), and post a 3-18 overall record, for their next SBC matchup.

'They wore us down'

MEN, page 8

Asprilla could have helped Hicks on the boards as the Trojan's outrebounded the Golden Panthers 35-25 for the game.

"They wore us down physically, coach Rouco said. "They were taller on the wings, stronger in the post. I thought Russell played as hard as he could and as good as he could, but they just pounded us down across the board; we were not able to handle their toughness."

Hicks finished with 15

points and four rebounds. Forward Alex Galindo added 13 points and five boards.

Rebounding was a major priority for Trojans head coach Steve Shields, who thought the Golden Panthers' height and size advantage was going to be a problem.

"Our goal coming in was to have plus-seven rebounding margin, and we were plus-ten" said coach Shields.

"I admit today, they're a better basketball team than us," coach Rouco said.

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	14-7	8-2	.667
Middle Tennessee	14-8	8-3	.636
Troy	13-10	8-3	.565
South Alabama	12-10	5-6	.545
FIU	9-15	4-7	.375
Florida Atlantic	5-18	1-10	.217

*All records up to date as of Feb 1.

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Troy	23	1784	77.6
North Texas	21	1596	76.0
South Alabama	22	1580	71.8
Middle Tennessee	22	1573	71.5

*All records up to date as of Feb. 1

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	19-4	11-0	.826
Western Kentucky	12-8	6-4	.600
South Alabama	15-7	6-5	.682
Florida Atlantic	9-12	6-5	.429
Troy	9-12	4-7	.429
FIU	4-18	2-9	.182

*All records up to date as of Feb 1

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Middle Tennessee	22	1629	74.0
Western Kentucky	19	1315	69.2
North Texas	20	1337	66.8
South Alabama	21	1391	66.2

*All records up to date as of Jan. 29

CLASSIFIEDS

VALENTINES

Flowers and Chocolate not enough this Valentine's Day? Proclaim your fuzzy feelings for your sweetheart in The Beacon. For only \$10, you can write a 25-word Gram. Call 305-348-6993 or e-mail Beacon@fiu.edu for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

HONOR STUDENTS: Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trojans use late first-half run to spark road win

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Matt Mouzy started the game on the bench and ended up putting the University of Arkansas Little-Rock Trojans in the winner's circle with a 23-point performance in just 21 minutes of play.

The 6-foot guard, heckled by FIU fans for his youthful appearance said the Golden Panthers' defense was overaggressive.

"We tried to exploit their over-aggressiveness with shot fakes," Mouzy said.

Those shot fakes contributed to the Trojans' (16-6, 9-2 Sun Belt) 11-of-19 performance from 3-point land against the Golden Panthers,

Its funny how in sports, you have a perception of someone without playing him...The kid lit us up

Sergio Rouco, Head Coach

who dropped the 78-57 decision at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 31.

FIU head coach Sergio Rouco thought his team underestimated the sophomore guard, who shot 5-of-7 from beyond arc.

"It's funny how in sports, you have a perception of someone without playing him," said coach Rouco about Mouzy, "They see him being little kid; he's a little guy, he doesn't look like anything. The kid lit us up."

Mouzy is averaging 11 points per game and shooting over 40 percent from 3-point range. He said he had been struggling, but that wasn't going to stop him from shooting.

"If I was open, I was going to shoot," he said

The Trojans game plan was to counteract the Golden Panthers' size by shooting from the outside, yet they managed to outscore the home team 22-16 in the paint.

Even center Russell Hicks' newfound aggressive play, which he displayed by dunking and nearly fouling out, against UALR, the Golden Panthers could not make up for center Freddy Asprilla's fourth consecutive game out of the line up.



OUT OF STEAM: Senior forward Alex Galindo drives to the basket for two of his 13 points against UALR in a 78-57 Trojans victory. Galindo did not start, and his spark off the bench proved to be too little.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TRICKY INJURY

During that four-game stretch the Golden Panthers have gone 1-3. Asprilla missed three games originally due to back spasms, but coach Rouco said he is unsure when the freshman center will play again.

"Freddy's status is week-to-

week not even day-to-day. He's got a herniated disc. After workouts he's got a lot of pain. At no point in my career am I going to risk him or any kid's injury on a back."

Coach Rouco said Asprilla suffered the herniated disc this season.

He's never done the things

we've asked him to do here. In high school you don't lift, you don't bang against a big kid that's 300 pounds. It's taking a toll on him. We'll bring him back when he's 100 percent."

PHYSICAL PLAY

MEN, page 7

SPORTS REPLAY

Swimming regular season ends at home; Guerra gets pro tryout

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

MIAMI 152, FIU 79

In the final home meet of the season, the Golden Panthers swimmin and diving teams took the on cross-town rival Miami Hurricanes at the Bay Vista Aquatic Complex, at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan 31.

With the meetings between the schools in athletic competition becoming fewer, and further between, the Canes (10-7) made the most of the opportunity, in what was a tune up for the ACC tournament.

Sophomore Danielle Sneider captured the 100-yard back stroke, with a time of 1:00.20, and freshman Elly James finished third in the event.

The meet also marked Senior day for the five departing Golden Panthers, Sara Giovannoni, Lindsay Juman, Chrisna Luus, Katelynn Stevens and Meredith Tisch.

The Golden Panthers (2-9) will remain in the home pools until the Sun Belt Championships in Nash-



SAMUEL LEWIS/FIUSPORTS.COM

ON TO THE SHOW: Forward Juan Guerra will now take his scoring prowess to the next level, Major League Soccer.

ville, Tennessee, starting on Feb. 18.

GUERRA TO CAMP WITH FC DALLAS

Forward Juan Guerra has been invited to training camp with the MLS franchise.

Guerra collected 15 goals in his three seasons played at FIU, and was

named the conference USA preseason player of the year for the 2008 season. The 5-foot-9 senior from G. Holmes Braddock High School in Miami was named first team all C-USA each of the last two seasons.

If signed Guerra would be the first MLS signee from FIU since Goalkeeper Shawn Crowe in 2007.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UALR collects first ever win at FIU with 22 from Reed

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The FIU women's basketball team took on Sun Belt Conference west division leader Arkansas - Little Rock at the US Century Bank arena on January 31.

The Golden Panthers (4-18, 2-9 Sun Belt) were looking to snap a three game losing streak, however; UALR (18-4, 10-1. Sun Belt) managed to turn 21 FIU turnovers into 27 points and shoot 50 percent from the field come out with a 62-51 victory.

UALR forward Chastity Reed led all scorers with 22 points.

Sophomore point guard Michelle Gonzalez followed and led FIU with 15 points, while Monika Bosilj chipped in with 13. Sophomore guard Elisa Carey led the boards for the Golden Panthers with eight.

Arkansas-Little Rock took the

lead on a 6-0 run to start the game. FIU forward Marquita Adley came off the bench and responded with two quick baskets to make the score 6-4.

UALR then went on a 12-2 run and put themselves up by 11 at the 13:13 mark. Back to back scores by Monika Bosilj put the Golden Panthers within five points with 9:49 to play in the first half.

The Trojan defense came on strong at this point, forcing seven FIU turnovers over the remaining 7:41, as part of a 13-5 run and were ahead by 11 points as the teams headed to the locker room.

FIU was able to shoot just 17 times in the first half compared to 32 for UALR, and the Trojans shot 56 percent from the floor in the first frame. In addition to allowing a high shooting percentage, FIU

WOMEN, page 7