



## SPOTLIGHT

### OPINION PAGE 4

Cultures around the world have made sacrificial rituals for thousands of years, but will a free Whopper get you to join in on the fun?

### AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Jalisco's has authentic Mexican food for a college students' budget. Get those Tums ready!

### AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Students get opportunity to meet local community organizations at Volunteer fair

### LIFE! PAGE 5

COLUMN: *Technolust* writes an open letter to Apple CEO Steve Jobs. He's got some explaining to do.

### LIFE! PAGE 5



MY LIFE EXPERIENCE: Monica Puerto recounts her experience at the Miami Tattoo Expo.

### SPORTS PAGE 8

Top team escapes Golden Panthers by five points.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Music Saves Lives meeting, Today, Jan. 14, 3 p.m.** Easier than giving blood, less expensive than charity. Save a life at GC 305 indulging in your own musical pleasures.

**Amnesty International meeting, Today, Jan. 14, 5 p.m.** Want to become the next Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt? Without plastic surgery? Visit GC 241 to be an activist and work to protect human rights.

**FIU Hip-Hop meeting, Jan. 15, 3:30 p.m.** With the new Biggie biopic about to slam theaters, check up on your skillz and thrillz at your FIU Hip-Hop meeting at GC 343. Datz right.

**JAM @ MAM, Jan. 15, 5 p.m.** Enjoy Happy Hour before reducing yourself to a corporate slave at the Miami Art Museum. There's art too.

**Funeral for a Friend, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.** Enjoy some angry kids with complicated hair cuts at Culture Room.

For the complete calendar, please visit FIUSM.com.

## WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 54 HIGH: 72



**THURSDAY**  
Mostly cloudy  
LOW: 53 HIGH: 73



**FRIDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 53 HIGH: 71

## CONTACTS

Editor in Chief ..... 305-348-1580  
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

UP Office ..... 305-348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office ..... 305-919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections ..... 305-348-2709  
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising ..... 305-348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

# CASH FOR CULTURE

## Wolfsonian receives \$500K grant

PAULO O'SWATH  
Asst. News Director

Almost one year after being awarded a \$50,000 monetary award from the Funding Arts Network, the Wolfsonian-FIU has been given a three-year \$500,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

"The Mellon grant will enable us to significantly strengthen the museum's integration with the academic programs of the University," said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian-FIU, in a press release.

As a result from this grant, the museum will establish a teaching gallery at University Park campus, in participation with the Frost Art Museum. Additionally, the grant will enable the museum to provide money to faculty members so that they are better able to fuse objects from the Wolfsonian collections into their teaching.

The Mellon grant will also help the museum enhance its staff capacity to undertake its goals.

"The museum will hire a full-time Mellon coordinator of academic programs," states the press release.

"We need to work with the academic community," Leff said. "And this can't be done without the great work of the faculty."

The Mellon Foundation, which makes grants in six core program areas — including museum and art conservation — has played a crucial



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVIA ROS

**ARTSY:** The Wolfsonian, associated with FIU since 1997, has worked to encourage use of its resources by faculty and students.

role in building up the continuing foundation of art museums on university campuses throughout the nation.

Grants from the foundation have been given to six universities including Princeton, Harvard, Dartmouth and the University of Chicago.

"This is one of the most prestigious grants one can receive," Leff said. "This is something that we've been working on for a number of

years. It is a very big deal for us."

Each awarded grant has encouraged colleges and universities by supporting their collections for advanced research and teaching. In order to receive this grant, a university museum must be invited to get it based on its work with faculty and students.

"This is the work of the museum and the faculty that is being recognized. It is a collected success," Leff said.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL AT UNIVERSITY PARK

# Understaffed: goals yet to be met

DAVID BARRIOS  
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at University Park Senate convened for the first time this year on Jan. 12 and among the issues discussed were goals still to be met, vacant Senate seats and a possible change to the financial code.

The meeting opened on a formal note by Senate Speaker Jean Roseme: "We only have three months left. We have many of the goals we set out to achieve this year that haven't been completed yet. We still need to work hard to try and push to complete what we set out to do."

One resolution was passed during the meeting: a formal letter

of gratitude to President Modesto A. Maidique for his service over the past 22 years.

The Senate discussed the upcoming lecture being held by John Legend on Feb. 11 and being arranged by SGC-UP.

"We've got a lot of things coming within this semester; we're considering legislation to add political parties within SGA, changing the finance code to be more transparent and allocate the fees more efficiently," Roseme said. "The students trust us with a lot of money and the codes haven't been revised in a while."

Roseme also mentioned the possibility of more structural changes within the body, in hopes of making it run more efficiently.

Comptroller Robert Chung

discussed the upcoming process of approving next year's SGA budget. Budget requests for the 2009-2010 fiscal year will need to be filed by Jan. 27 and to be heard and discussed by mid-February.

It was noted that nine seats in the Senate are currently vacant after the dismissal of nine senators toward the end of Fall semester 2008.

Another point brought up was that there is a surplus in funds in certain SGA accounts. Roseme and Speaker Pro-Tempe Chris Ponce encouraged the senators to distribute their money appropriately throughout their respective colleges.

"We still need to work hard to try and push to complete what we set out to do," Roseme said.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVE: PART 2 OF 8

# University keeps up its green mission

JULIO MENACHE  
Staff Writer

A customer service project was developed in a joint effort between Student Media and Student Government Association in order to address students' concerns regarding the University's services.

The two entities worked together in developing questions that were addressed to the heads of various departments in the University. Eight departments were chosen and this joint project will be published on *FIUSM.com* every Tuesday and printed in *The Beacon* every Wednesday.

Bill Foster, executive director of Parking and Transportation, answered students' concerns regarding the department.

### Q. How is your office working toward securing more parking spaces for students?

We are in the process of designing a new parking garage that will be located along 8th Street, next to the Red Garage. This will add approximately 1,500 new student parking spaces.

### Q. Can you give us an update on the new parking garages that are planned to be built on campus?

Parking Garage Five, the new garage, will have more than 2,000 total parking spaces and is expected to be completed by the beginning of the 2010 Fall semester. We are also working on ways to improve access to campus that will not involve having to drive here. We need to provide students and staff options, like our Greenride carpool program, rather than driving one car for one person. It helps the environment and the University does not have the land and funds to continue to solve the access issue with more garages.

### Q. What is the most common complaint your office receives?

The primary complaint we receive is that there is not enough parking. Unfortunately, convenient parking spaces can be scarce at peak times. As the University has grown, though, we have been fortunate to keep up with an adequate supply of parking spaces. Even during the peak times, there are actually plenty of spaces in the Panther Garage, Lot Five and the gravel overflow lot on the northeast corner of campus. While we will be adding some convenient spaces to our inventory, we continue to explore ways to make more convenient spaces available, like carpooling or vanpooling.

### Q. How have you used past recommendations from students to improve your processes?

Q&A, page 2

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

## Soccer game moved from FIU Stadium

The friendly soccer match between Honduras and Chile that was scheduled to play at FIU Stadium on Jan. 18 has been moved to Lockhart Stadium.

Media Relations did not say why the game was moved, but said other international matches will be played at the FIU Stadium.

Currently, Miami businessman Marcelo Claire is trying to bring a Major League Soccer franchise to Miami by 2010. Claire is working with FC Barcelona and, if successful, the team could play its home games at FIU Stadium.

The last time South Florida had an MLS team was when Miami Fusion played in January 2002.

LOCAL

## Jewish community unites in support of Israel

Thousands of South Florida Jews rallied in Miami Beach, Davie and West Palm Beach on Sunday to show their support for Israel as the country continues its military assault on the Gaza Strip.

More than 1,200 people gathered in the Orlove Auditorium at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie, with supporters filling every chair and lining the walls, while more than 500 pro-Israelis gathered at the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

Supporters of both sides in the conflict will rally for a Gaza cease-fire on Monday at the Torch of Freedom in Biscayne Boulevard. The event will be cosponsored by the American Muslim Association of North America and the Jewish Arab Dialogue Association.

NATIONAL

## Salmonella outbreak prompts peanut butter recall

An Ohio distributor is recalling one of its brands of peanut butter after finding it has been contaminated with salmonella bacteria. King Nut Company said that the bacteria were found in an open five pounds container of King Nut brand creamy peanut butter. The national salmonella outbreak has sickened almost 400 people in 42 states.

– Compiled by Paulo O'Swath and Charlie Grau

## Tri-Rail use increasing in S. Fla

OLGA VELEZ  
Staff Writer

For the first time in Tri-Rail's 20 year history, it has carried more than four million passengers in a single calendar year.

Not only has the system broken a record for a single calendar year, it has also doubled the amount of people using the commuter rail system since 2005.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority announced Jan. 5 that Tri-Rail carried a total of 4,303,509 passengers in 2008. This is a 22.9 percent increase from 2007, where Tri-Rail only had a total of 3,501,704 passengers.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, Tri-Rail also showed the largest percentage growth of any system in the country in 2006 and is still one of the nation's leaders for ridership

growth in the commuter rail sector.

"These statistics show that the trend of double digit growth that we have experienced over the past three years is continuing," said SFRTA Executive Director Joe Giulietti. "Even with

environment."

Tri-Rail has been known for taking the lead in the commuter rail system to protect the environment since its switch to a blend of 99 percent bio-diesel in 2008.

According to SFRTA, it

Karin Vallega. "I also think that since the start of the recession, it has become increasingly important to save money. I prefer using Tri-Rail to taking a bus because it takes longer to wait for a bus than it does to wait for a train."

Giulietti also noted that the amount of people using Tri-Rail keeps increasing despite the fact that gas prices have gone down significantly in the past 12 months.

"I don't think people would change transportation because of gas prices as they have decreased recently," said Antonio Jorge, professor emeritus of political economics. "Traffic has become very congested in the South Florida area. It takes a lot of time to drive from one area to another. Public transportation decreases the amount of time spent going from one place to another."

## ... Public transportation decreases the amount of time spent going from one place to another.

Joe Giulietti, executive director  
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

the dramatic reduction in the price of fuel, ridership continues to grow at a record pace. People in South Florida, like record numbers across the country, have come to realize that using public transportation isn't just about saving money on gasoline; it's also about mobility, sustainability and taking responsibility for the

is one of the few commuter rail systems in the country that can make such a change. This is due to South Florida's temperate climate.

"I think that the amount of people using the Tri-Rail system has increased because it is cheaper and it is faster than driving with all of the traffic there is in Miami," said sophomore

## New garage to add 1,500 slots

## Q&amp;A, page 1

We have adopted many practices to serve our biggest group of customers, our students. For example, we implemented our online solution that allows students to get their decals online instead of having to stand in long lines at the beginning of each semester. We also leave the Blue Garage open 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, to address the needs of our residential students. We have successfully implemented the Panther Safety trams that create a safer campus. We now have some portable, changeable signs that we can use to display messages about what is happening in a particular area that might impact parking. This information has been very helpful to students.

## Q. How are you working with SGA to better inform students about changes in your department?

We have participated in the forums that they have hosted to provide additional information about what is happening with parking and transportation around campus. Also, SGC, at BBC and UP, are members of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee. This committee is the body that recommends changes in policy and procedures. We feel that, since students represent about 80 percent of our customers, it is extremely important that their representatives are closely involved.

## Q. Why are the lights off in the garages at night?

The garages close at 2 a.m., except for the Blue Garage. These are very large structures that have a very low demand during the early hours of the morning. Since safety is a primary concern, we close them to help minimize security issues.

## Q. When can students park in faculty and staff and other designated parking spots?

Students can park in faculty/staff spaces after 7 p.m. every night. The ADMIN and E spaces are always reserved.

## Q. The University is becoming much more eco-friendly. What are you doing to be part of this?

We have been very active in this process. We purchased two 100 percent bio-diesel buses to service our CATS bus system to the Engineering Center. We have implemented a carpool system (Greenride) that is Web based and easy to use (<https://www.fiu.greenride.com>). Also, since we assumed supervision of the vehicle services area, our fleet of University vehicles has significantly decreased, enabling us to serve the needs of the University much more efficiently. Now, as chair of the President's Climate Commitment Task Force, I am in a position to help everyone at the University become more eco-friendly.

## POLICE NOTES

Jan. 5

Operational assistant at the College of Business Administration building, Yolana Rodriguez, reported that her golf cart, which was parked outside of the building, had been removed and unable to locate. The \$1,500 vehicle was later retrieved by PCO Myles.

Jan. 7

Campus resident to Apartment E, Alexis Baker, faced potential danger when her stove sparked while cooking. The spark created \$50 worth of damage to the apartment. No injuries were reported and the fire was extinguished upon ignition.

Jan. 7

Bridget Callahan reported a stolen decal which was removed from her vehicle at University Park campus, Parking Lot Five. The stolen decal resulted in a \$5 value.

Jan. 8

Miami-Dade transit bus driver Patricia Jacob reported injuries due to a fall while on Biscayne Bay Campus in a construction area when misplacing her footing on a mat. The mat, which is used as an underlay through the installation of portable ice skating rinks, had no barricades around the construction area of use. Jacob suffered from arm, shoulder, back and knee pain.

– Compiled by Cheryl Malone

## Q. What has been your greatest success this semester and what area do you see in need of improvement?

We are very excited to see the use of online services continue to increase. This has kept thousands of students from standing in line to get their decals. As far as improvements, we want to develop some options to improve convenience. We implemented a carpool program but we are also looking into a vanpool option and a valet parking service. We want to develop additional amenities

like car wash/detail services. Also, even though our new signage system has been very helpful, we want to look for more effective ways to communicate to the student population. We advertise in *The Beacon*, participate in forums, update our Web site daily, send e-mails, put out display boards, etc., but we are still seeking more ways to let students know about parking access issues that affect their daily lives at FIU. Participating in interviews like this one will hopefully help us be more informative.

## THE BEACON

## EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JESSICA MAYA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JULIA CARDENUTO

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PAMELA DUQUE

LIFE! EDITOR

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ

SPORTS DIRECTOR

ANDREW JULIAN

OPINION EDITOR

ERIC FELDMAN

PHOTO EDITOR

VICTORIA LYNCH

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

## 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](mailto:Beacon@fiu.edu). Visit us online at: [www.fiusm.com](http://www.fiusm.com)

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor.



**AMERICAN TIRE EXPRESS**  
General Auto Service

- COMPUTER DIAGNOSING
- GENERAL MECHANICS
- A/C
- BRAKES
- TIRES
- FULL INJECTION CLEANING

Students and staff with I.D. will receive **10% DISC.**

111 S.W. 107th Ave. Miami, FL 33174  
Phona: 305-222-0531 • Fax: 305-222-0533

## Volunteer fair aims to capture students' help

**ERIKA PEREZ**

Asst. News Director

Students will get the opportunity to be involved in their communities while gaining experience at this semester's Volunteer Fair.

The Center for Leadership and Service at the Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting a Volunteer Fair Jan. 15 in Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is open and free to all students, faculty and staff, according to Robert Borgmann, graduate assistant in the CLS at BBC, and it has been held for more than five years. The purpose of the fair is to provide non-profit organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, with volunteers.

Last year's Career, Internship and Volunteer Fair attracted 200 students, according to Borgmann.

"They're going to gain valuable experience and they can always put it in a resume," Borgmann said. "It's always good to get experience while you're in college so you're

prepared for graduation."

Other organizations participating in the Volunteer Fair are the National MS Society, City Year, North Miami Foundation, Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, King David Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park and the City of North Miami Beach.

The Humane Society of Greater Miami "Adopt-A-Pet" will also be present at the fair.

According to Allison Jianino, communications coordinator and volunteer coordinator with the Humane Society, taking advantage of volunteer opportunities gives students exposure to how non-profit organizations work.

"Students will get to see how non-profit organizations work from the inside," Jianino said. "They will get a chance to interact with animals through outreach events, such as dog walking. We usually have more than 150 dogs, which all have to be walked."

The Humane Society of Greater Miami is also recruiting volunteers for the

annual "Purina Walk for the Animals 2009" on Feb. 21. The event, which will take place at Bayfront Park, is the largest fund raiser for the Humane Society of Greater Miami, according to Jianino. Students can register in groups or as single participants the day of the event.

CLS will also host a Volunteer Fair on the University Park campus Jan. 22, which will take place in the first floor of the Graham Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people this time. The type of students drawn to volunteering with the Humane Society are very compassionate," Jianino said. "Volunteering teaches students how to be responsible and gives them exposure. They can learn a lot and have lots of fun."

For more information about the Volunteer Fair, contact the Center for Leadership and Service at (305) 919-5360. For information about the Humane Society of Greater Miami, visit [www.humanesocietymiami.org](http://www.humanesocietymiami.org).



### PEACEFUL PADDLING

NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**BAY BOATING:** "Kayaking on the Bay" wrapped up the Office of Campus Life & Orientation's "Welcome Week 2009," Jan. 9. Jonathan Torrey, BBC recreation specialist (pictured left), lead three trips through Oleta River State Park's kayak trail from the Biscayne Bay boat ramp.

## Found: authentic, affordable, a la carte, Mexican dishes

This week I celebrate my 24th birthday. It's bittersweet, isn't it?

On the one hand, I get to party with my best friends, eat good food, drink and have a great time. On the other, I'm now 24. To college students, that's basically one foot in the grave.



FOODGASM

BIANCA ROJAS

But what can I do? The waters of St. Augustine's Fountain of Youth taste like death and I'm too young for Botox. So here's to 24.

Now, I'm just concerned about dinner.

I'm going to eat at one of my favorite restaurants, Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant (18146 Collins Ave., Sunny Isles Beach). And just like turning 24, eating at Jalisco's is a bittersweet experience.

Recently under new management, this south of the border joint doesn't just offer Tex-Mex, but rather shines by making authentic Mexican dishes.

The best part is that the food is cheap and the menu is a la carte – you order piece by piece, instead of having some pre-fabricated numbered meal, like at McDonald's. A la carte ordering is perfect for the college student. I hate going to a restaurant where I'm told that the only taco combo available comes with three tacos for nothing short of \$10, with rice and beans that you hardly ever eat. Here you can order what you want, mix and match, and eat heartily for those \$10.

At Jalisco's, you are in charge of your gastronomic destiny.

My favorites include the \$3 *al carbon* steak tacos, consisting of homemade flour or corn tortillas, filled with marinated flanked steak and



**MUCHO GUSTO:** (Left) Jalisco's a la carte menu is hand painted on the restaurant's wall. (Right) Columnist Bianca Rojas holds an *al carbon* taco above her *sopa azteca*.

sautéed onions, topped with cilantro and served with some *crema* – the Mexican version of sour cream only thinner and with a tangy aftertaste – and some of the house salsas, like the mind-blowing green *tomatillo*.

They also serve "The Californiano," a gigantic \$5 burrito served wet – meaning it is served on a plate with spoonfuls of different salsas. This burrito is made with a flour tortilla and stuffed with your choice of grilled meat, as well as all the trimmings.

But none of these dishes compare to what I feel is Jalisco's strongest menu item, *la sopa azteca*, an authentic Mexican soup made with a smoky, thick and spicy tomato broth. Inside the



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

soup you will find tortilla strips, stringy cheese, spiced pork meatballs, *crema* and chunks of avocado.

The trick to making this soup a foodgasm is simple – order the avocado on the side. The combination of the smoldering soup in your mouth with a hearty chunk of cold avocado is euphoric; on the palate the different temperatures of the food cause them to explode. The rich fatty pork flavors come out, the chipotle undertone and excess heat cause your nose to run, the smoky tomato broth makes your taste buds dance and the strings of cheese hanging from your mouth after each bite make you feel young and messy, so you purposely drag your

spoon away from your face to cause even longer strings of cheese.

However, I did say "bittersweet." Despite the efforts by the new management, Jalisco's is not without faults.

Little things like the loud Spanish music playing over the speakers or the fact that rarely do your whole party's dishes come out together or appetizers make it to the table before entrees.

Here they practice the serve-it-hot, rather than the serve-it-organized, method. I guess it's a good thing, but when your whole party is starving and someone gets their Mexican tamale before anyone else is served, there is a chance that some hunger-induced violence will occur.

The service is also annoyingly Euro style. Your table can be cleared of all dishes and your party can be sitting in awkward silence, but your bill will not arrive unless you physically flag your waiter down and ask for it.

Jalisco's is affordable and student friendly, serving authentic dishes alongside American staples like fajitas and nachos, in a casual atmosphere complete with paper menu placemats and sombrero wall banners streaming from the ceilings. I overlook all the bitter parts of Jalisco's because the food is just so foodgasmic. It's under new management so I will give them time to work out the kinks.

And did I mention the everyday special of five Mexican beers for \$15, including Negro Modelo, Dos Equis and other imports? If that is not the way to your college-student hearts, I don't know what is.

*Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat, Bianca is here to help! Send any question, comments or foodgasm ideas to [bianca.rojas@fiusm.com](mailto:bianca.rojas@fiusm.com).*

## READ THIS NOW!

A WEEKLY COLUMN

# WHOPPER SACRIFICE

## Buddies vs. burgers

In recent years, I've had to make many decisions about friendships. Choosing who to associate with is probably one of the things that has some of the most bearing on your life. Sometimes friends do things that you do not approve of and others simply just drift away, but you are always left asking the same question: Is this friendship worth saving?

Normally, I err on the side of friendship. Losing a friend is a very painful thing, especially when you and said friend have had some very good times together. But I recently found a very good reason to knock some friends off my list, and it is a reason almost all college students can agree is a worthy one: free food.

Burger King recently created a Facebook application entitled "Whopper Sacrifice." Once you install this application on your profile, you pick 10 of your friends to remove from your Facebook friends list. Once you complete the removal of 10 friends, the application displays a free Whopper coupon, redeemable at participating locations.

Burger King, perpetual creator of clever advertising schemes including The Subservient Chicken and Whopper Virgins, is perhaps trying to send us a message here by giving us a reason to do something that we've been meaning to do all along: clearing out the people that we never talk to (or in some cases never heard of) from our friends list.

Or maybe they are just poking fun at our reliance on social networking (I've been distracted by my own Facebook three times since I started writing this column). Either way, it is a poignant message delivered electronically to a plugged-in generation.

I am not one to talk; I am as much a Facebook whore as any of you, but I decided to try out the "Whopper Sacrifice" application for three primary reasons. First and foremost, it was out of curiosity. Secondly, it

would give me something to write about and last and certainly not least, it would be pretty neat to have a free Whopper - they are pretty good.

The process was much more intense than I had imagined. You don't simply delete your friends; they are literally sacrificed. Once you choose who to delete, one by one their profile pictures appear on your screen and then the application sets them on fire and you watch as the photo of your dearly departed ends up in a pile of virtual ashes.

Yes, your ex-friend is notified of the fact that you sacrificed them. A note is also automatically posted to your own wall, notifying others of the fact that your friendships are feeble and that they had better watch their backs. You cannot hide your action, like you do when you sneakily add someone that you really do not like and then remove them two days later while hoping that they do not notice.

The first couple of choices were pretty easy: a couple of my "friends" were really people that I had only actually met once or twice at some sort of event or through a casual acquaintance. Or maybe we had a class together that I never showed up to, something like that. Regardless, three friends were immediately incinerated from my list without thought or regret.

But then it got more difficult. Sure, some of these people I haven't talked to in a year, but I used to see them all the time. I'd hate for them to get offended when they found out what I'd done. Plus, what if I ever need to get in contact with them?

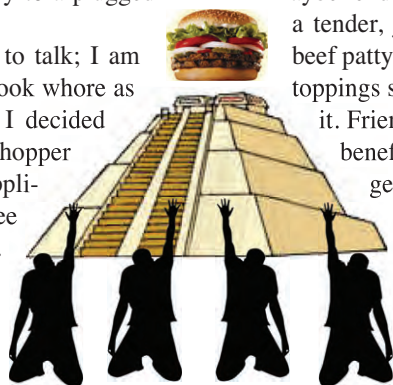
It was then that I realized that I am actually friends with two of my friends' dogs. No need for pets: two more victims.

After that, though, I realized that maybe ending friendships for a tender, juicy, flame-broiled beef patty with your choice of toppings simply wasn't worth it. Friendships have lasting benefits, but a Whopper gets digested. The Burger King in Graham Center operated by Aramark hates taking coupons anyway.

COMMENTARY



ERIC FELDMAN



## Economy in urgent need of rescue by federal government

OLGA VELEZ  
Staff Writer

In a speech delivered at George Mason University last Thursday, Jan. 8, President-elect Barack Obama painted a bleak picture of the future of the United States if his proposed \$800 billion stimulus package was not quickly passed by Congress.

"For every day we wait, or point fingers or drag our feet, more Americans will lose their jobs; more families will lose their savings. More dreams will be deferred and denied ... and our nation will sink deeper into a crisis that, at some point, we may not be able to reverse," Obama said.

There is no doubt in my mind that government intervention is necessary to get the United States out of the recession. The credit crunch and the collapse of the stock market means that households are trying to consume less and save more. In order for them to be able to do that, another sector of the economy must spend more and save less.

Corporations are not going to be able to carry this burden because they are cutting costs in hopes of preventing bankruptcy, while demand can't come from the rest of the world because many other countries are also in a recession. The only sector that will be able to pull this country out of the economic recession is the federal government.

The unemployment rate is now around 7 percent

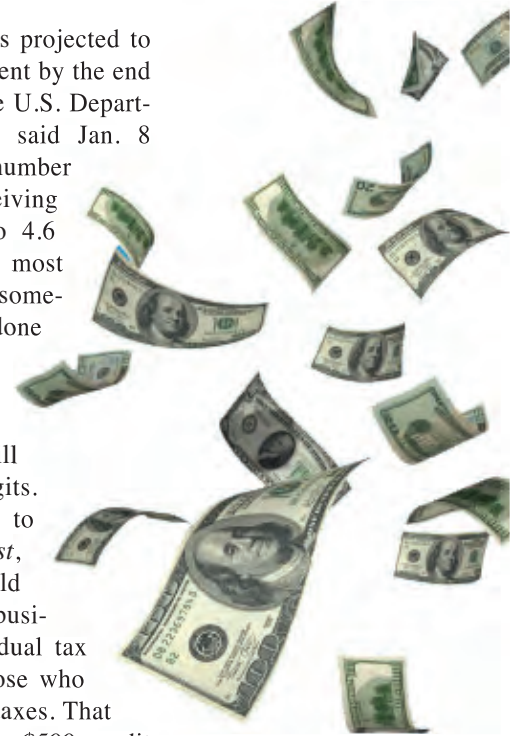
nationally and is projected to approach 9 percent by the end of this year. The U.S. Department of Labor said Jan. 8 that the total number of people receiving benefits rose to 4.6 million: the most since 1982. If something is not done soon to increase employment, the unemployment rate will reach double digits.

According to *The Economist*, the package would also include business and individual tax cuts and for those who pay little to no taxes. That would include a \$500 credit per worker or \$1,000 credit per household.

It would also include substantial funds for public works spending, additional Medicaid funds, as well as other aid for states and money to broaden the availability of unemployment insurance and provide health benefits to the unemployed.

"The majority of the stimulus package needs to go toward education, technology and infrastructure," said Andre Smith, an assistant professor of law at FIU.

"The development of alternative energy needs to be a part of the investment. This would stop job losses and set up the country for a better future. Not everyone will be able to find work in these fields, which is why we also need to



fund education. What do the people that can't find work do? For them, a short-term solution should involve being reintroduced to greater education," Smith said.

The biggest issue with such a huge stimulus is how to repay the deficit it creates.

The bottom line is that this is a crisis of confidence. People right now are too afraid to invest, buy or put any type of new money into the economy. Banks are reacting to it by cutting credit lines and insurance companies are pulling coverages to avoid more losses.

There is no easy alternative here. The price tag for future generations will be high and the exit strategy is still unknown.

However, this country has been there before. The Great Depression of the 1920s was also a crisis of confidence and thanks to an effective intervention by the government, we were able to get out of it.

We just have no other choice.

**The majority of the stimulus package needs to go toward education, technology, and infrastructure**

Andre Smith, Assistant Law Professor

## STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official?

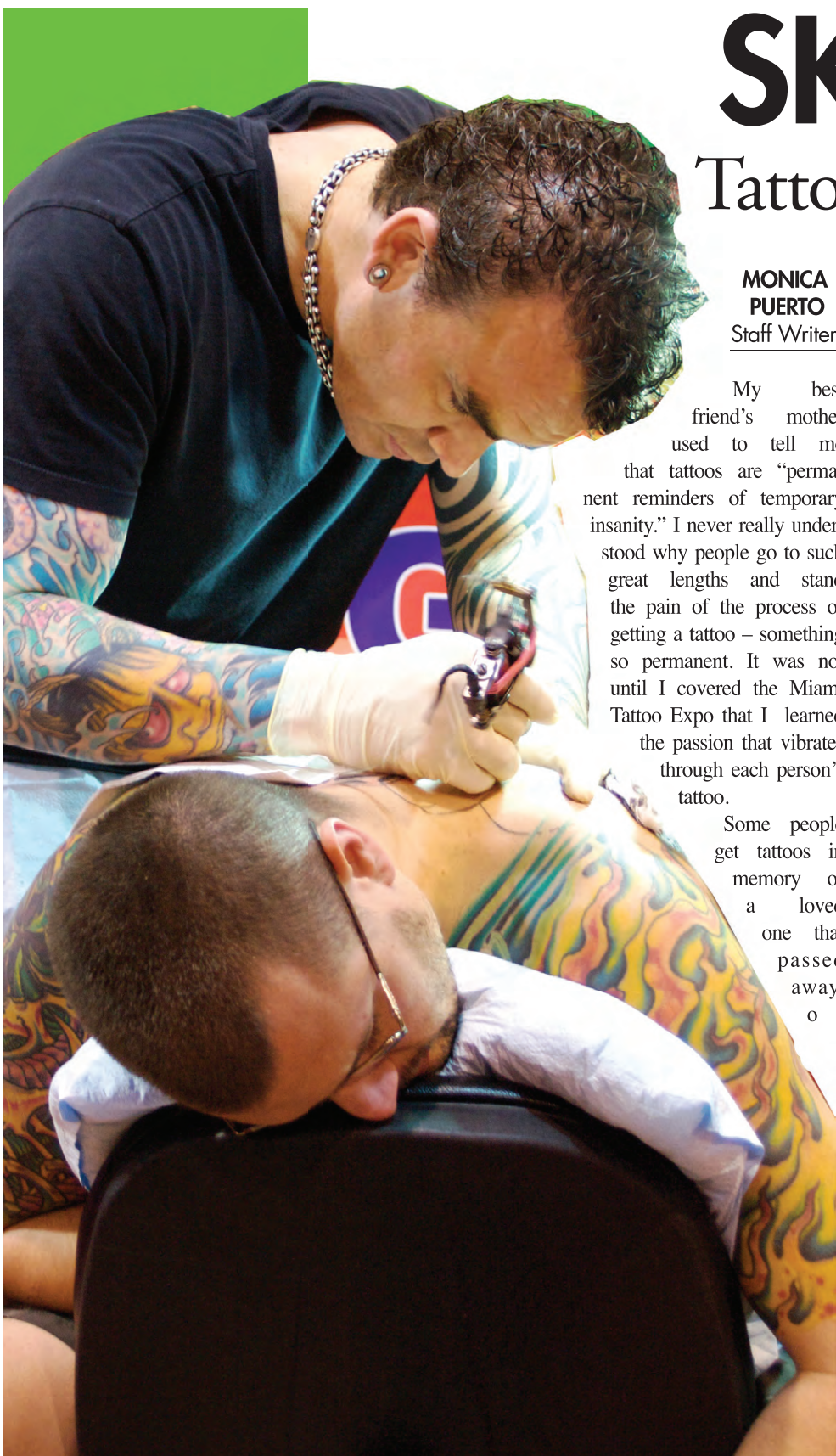
Have something to say?

Contact us at [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.



## SKIN CANVAS

### Tattoo Expo inks, pierces Miami



**MONICA PUERTO**  
Staff Writer

My best friend's mother used to tell me that tattoos are "permanent reminders of temporary insanity." I never really understood why people go to such great lengths and stand the pain of the process of getting a tattoo – something so permanent. It was not until I covered the Miami Tattoo Expo that I learned the passion that vibrates through each person's tattoo.

Some people get tattoos in memory of a loved one that passed away,

about a favorite place of theirs, or a favorite band, or to mimick a celebrity's tattoo – even about a meaningful thing that happened in their life.

"People get tattoos to set themselves apart; it is their own individual marking," said Kenny Dick, a tattoo artist at the Miami Tattoo Expo, this past weekend.

The Miami Tattoo Expo, formerly known as the Gold Coast Expo, gathered hundreds of people this year: an artist trying to gain exposure, a customer hoping to find the most unique tattoo by the most talented artist, or a vendor selling supplies to boost the growth of the tattoo world.

Standard Events, a promotion company of live entertainment, was the biggest sponsor of the event and has always had an affiliation with music and tattoo environments. The company has hosted previous events like the expo. According to Julie Fobert, each event outgrew its venue, which is why it has been moved from Fort Lauderdale to Miami.

The Miami Beach Convention Center's Hall D was filled with about 60 booths. Chico Cortez, the owner of Chico's Marked For Life and one of the event sponsors, had nine booths.

"This is the biggest event that has ever hit Florida. To get a booth here you have to be invited or have enough money and connections to acquire one," Cortez said.

Another important sponsor of the exposition was KingPin Tattoo Supply. Its multiple booths were covered with supplies such as tattoo ink, anesthetics, printing supplies and ultrasonic cleaning units. It is the biggest international supplier/printing press for the tattoo industry.

One of the invited and well-known artists present was Horiryu who came all the way from Tokyo with his fellow artist Nora Hue. Tattoo artists in Japan are admired and

respected, regarded with the same veneration as doctors, according to Hue.

"People do not shop for a specific tattoo in Japan, they shop for the specific artist," Hue said.

The tattoo contests were the main attraction, motivating artists to create the best and most unique tattoo to win the Tattoo of the Day award. The artists needed customers to come to their booths and get a tattoo for them to be eligible for the contest, so artists lured customers with discounts and gift certificates.

For many artists, this was their first time in Miami, and it was very interesting to them to see the differences between local work and the work of international artists.

Druso, an avid customer of Tattoo and Co. covered with tattoos from head to toe, was an example of having tattoos influenced by many cultures.

"I draw inspiration from the prime patterns of culture and elements from space, it is very galactic," said Druso, whose forehead and chin were outlined with symbols drawn from Egyptian and Aztec influence.

Damien Bart, the son of Bruce Bart, a local legend from Bruce Bart's Tattoos, has been tattooing since he was 18 and has seen the trends of the tattoo world fluctuate.

"People now want larger tattoos and are also mimicking celebrities such as basketball stars. It's all a mainstream of acceptance," Bart said.

Tattoos are a display of a person's personality on the outside. That's why artists take such pride in their work and customers search to the ends of the earth for the right tattoo and spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars to print their story on their bodies.

The next event will be held again in Miami in 2010.



## Where, oh where, has Apple CEO Steve Jobs gone?

My fellow technorati, updates to Apple's iLife and iWork MacWorld San Francisco 2009 has come, gone and goes forward without its muse.

Apple hosted its final keynote speech Jan. 6 at the magazine's annual MacIntosh trade show, seat of major product announcements by Apple, Inc. since 1997.

Considering that the major announcements this year were

### TECHNOLUST



SUSANA RODRIGUEZ

suites for Mac and new prices for digital rights management free music were delivered by someone who is not my beloved Steve Jobs, I have a little bone to pick with the powers that be.

A bone I'm picking directly.

Dear Steve,

Who is this Phil Schiller guy

and why is he not wearing the sacred black turtleneck and jeans uniform of the cult of Mac?

I don't care if he is the senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing and totally responsible for our dependency on overpriced but oh-so-sexy MP3 players – he's not you.

He doesn't have your penchant for making numbers as bland as company revenues sound like the world's won the lotto, your knack for theatrics and paced delivery

that makes every announcement feel like we're guilty of insider trading, your *je ne sais quoi*.

Had it been you up on the stage at San Francisco, I would've gleefully sunk further into debt for the privilege of being the first to pre-order iLife '09.

Hearing you talk about iPhoto's new facial and place recognition technology would've sent me into rapturous spasms at the thought of never having to manually organize my photo albums

again.

I would've been tearing my couch apart for change to download the first song I saw on iTunes if only to revel in the knowledge that it was DRM free and I could do what I want, when I want, where I want with my music – even if Lady GaGa and her Róisín Murphy ripping makes my stomach throw back out anything I so much as thought of eating.

# MacWorld San Francisco 2009 comes, goes without Jobs or verve

**JOBS, page 5**

And while DRM liberation is nothing to scoff at, *Amazon.com* has been offering its music catalog without it for a steady 99 cents a song – not at iTunes' new 69 cents, 99 cents or \$1.29 price tiers – since May 2007 according to *www.arstechnica.com*.

This puts Apple behind the curve, Steve, and we all know it never is. (But I'll be the first to admit Keynote's new cheat sheet presentations feature for iPhone makes me feel all kinds of warm and fuzzy).

Even though you posted a letter on *www.apple.com* explaining that a hormonal imbalance is to blame for your absence – without even signing off “yours” or “thanks,” where was the love? – I think even a 30 second video memo from you would've helped liven and honor the company's last hurrah at an event where almost 50,000 people migrated last year to see you introduce the MacBook Air.

I guess what I'm saying is this all feels a little weak sauce. Apple's last minute exit, announced on Dec. 16 at *www.apple.com*, could have been better.

## Vice presidents not supporting characters in politic's sitcoms

By the end of this month, the inauguration of America's 44th president will take place.

While much attention has been paid to the historic election of the United States' first black president, little attention is being paid to America's 47th white vice president, Joe Biden.

Having broken no barriers whatsoever, Biden, like many of his predecessors, is often treated as an afterthought.

The third wheel of American politics, the vice president is often given little responsibility and forgotten, left to live in the obscuring shadow of the president like a minor character in a popular sitcom.

Some vice presidents, however, are not content with merely blending in with the scenery and become breakout stars of their presidents' administration, often with disastrous results.

In honor of the not-all-that-historic election of Joseph Robinette Biden, let's take a look back at some of the people whose names would surely live forever in infamy, if only someone bothered to remember them.

### SPIRO AGNEW

Spiro Agnew has been called the worst vice president ever, but that may be what makes him so damn interesting.

Serving under Richard Nixon before being forced to resign shortly before Nixon himself, Agnew was quite the colorful character.

He and his speechwriting staff had a knack for alliteration, once referring to political enemies as “nattering nabobs of negativism.”

While this was considered a harsh comment at the time, in fairness, his opponents did natter a lot. And they were total nabobs (OK, I don't know what these words mean either).

Aside from his rhetorical quirks, he also had this annoying habit of making anti-Semitic remarks, of accepting bribes ... and getting indicted ... come to think of it, he had a lot of annoying habits.

On the bright side, his numerous flaws almost make Richard Nixon look decent by comparison. Almost.

### DAN QUAYLE

Unlike Spiro Agnew, Dan Quayle hasn't been found guilty of anything except sounding foolish. As vice president for the elder Bush from 1989 to 1993, he often said embarrassing things, much to the chagrin of supporters of the first Bush Administration.

Apparently, in the olden days, saying embarrassing and nonsensical things was some kind of major political handicap or something.

Perhaps his biggest gaffe was when he attempted to quote the United Negro College Fund's slogan, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste,” at a luncheon for the group.

“What a waste it is to lose one's mind or not to have a mind is being very wasteful ... How true that is,” Quayle said to *The New York Times* on Jun. 25, 1989. One can't help but think this was a man far ahead of his time.

### AARON BURR

There are a lot of fun things to say about Aaron Burr, but none of them are as fascinating as this: Aaron Burr once killed a guy. Not just any guy, but the guy on the \$10 bill: Alexander Hamilton.

Maybe it was because Hamilton owed Burr 10 bucks (not actually true).

Unlike other vice presidents, Burr shot his victim on purpose, in a duel no less.

It was a relatively simple dispute. Apparently, Hamilton was, as they said in those days, “talkin'

Maybe not choir-of-angels-singing-down-from-the-heavens good, but definitely holy-apparition-on-toast good.

It's you, dear Steve, that keeps Apple's consumers coming back for more. You and the vision only you can deliver with the right amounts of smarts and showmanship that keep us, your devoted Apple fanbase, loyal to the company and waiting with bated breath for that one more thing you know we really don't need but will devour without questioning its nutritional value because you said so.

And with *www.cultofmac.com*, *www.appleinsider.com* and *www.macrumors.com* powering the rumor mill with whispers that Apple might be exhibiting at the Consumer Electronics Show 2010, I'm feeling a little hopeful that we might see the second coming of Apple's product announcements.

I have faith in you, Steve.

*Technolust is a weekly column that fawns all over technology and all things that bleep. Email Susana at susana.rodriguez@fusm.com*

### CABRALITICS



CHRIS CABRAL

smack” about Burr and Burr was all like, “No, you didn't!” Then he shot him.

It's more complicated than that and involves a long history of political rivalry, but say what you will about Cheney, Quayle, Gore or Biden, they don't go around killing people in duels (as far as I know).

There have been many other vice presidents memorable for their many fascinating failures, but unfortunately there isn't enough space in this column to reminisce about them all (sorry, John Nance Garner fans).

Yet when one looks back on all the people who have occupied the second string of the executive branch, one can't help but wonder why vice presidents don't have a monument of their own.

Perhaps one day, like the presidents whose likenesses are carved onto Mount Rushmore, the faces of Agnew, Burr, Quayle and others will also be etched onto the side of a majestic mountain.

Not so much as a testament to their greatness, but rather as a reminder that there is nothing more dangerous than a politician with too much time on his hands.

*Check in on the state of Cabralitics every other Wednesday. Email Chris at chris.cabral@fusm.com*

## Pulse

# Testing for HIV offers peace of mind

I'm negative. When the counselor said I didn't have HIV, I was more than relieved: I was beaming.

I walked out of the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center last Tuesday feeling completely free. The sun was brighter and the sky was a nicer shade of blue than it had been before I walked in. Life couldn't be better.

On a second note, it was better. Why? Because Charlie, my boyfriend, was walking out with me. He tested negative too.

But before that day, life was not as pretty.

I had spent hours, days and even months wondering if I had ever contracted the human immunodeficiency virus that may lead to AIDS. Needless to say, when I thought about it, fear would consume me.

I've never shared a needle with anyone, but I've had unprotected sex – and that's risky behavior.

Having sex with someone whose history of sex partners and/or drug use is unknown to you or if you or your partner have had many sex partners, then you have more of a chance of being infected with HIV, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Being afraid of what “may be” prevented me from getting tested.

But the more time I spent at FIU, the more worried I became.

During the health fairs, a school assignment for which I interviewed a husband who was HIV positive and his wife who was negative, HIV and AIDS were everywhere.

It's like the universe was telling you to get tested, said the HIV counselor who administered the test.

I suppose it was.

The night before I got tested, I was watching TV and suddenly, there on my screen, was the couple I had interviewed a few semesters ago at a Broward County HIV/AIDS Community Service Awards Ceremony.

And so the journey began.

That night, as I listened to the

couple's story all over again, I began to get worried. I spoke with my boyfriend and the next day I found myself nervously walking toward the BBC Wellness Center with Charlie.

The counselor called me in first. By this point, my palms were sweaty. I sat down and said a little prayer, a last cry for mercy.

While we talked she handed me an oral swab with a window similar to that of a pregnancy test and showed me what to do with it. I stuck it in my mouth and swiped as close to my gum line as possible. If the virus is present, the swab draws antibodies from the gum line.

I inserted the swab into a fluid and we continued talking. Slowly but surely, a red line began to appear on the window.

“Oh my God! I have HIV,” I thought as I looked away. My heart began beating fast. The counselor continued talking and all I remember her saying was “journalism school.”

I suddenly felt dazed. I looked back at her and caught her staring at the line. She didn't say a word. I wanted to cry.

We continued our conversation and finally she said, “OK, you're good. The result shows you're negative.”

Huh?

I looked at the strip and asked about the red line. She said it meant the test was working properly. Had another line appeared below that one, then I would've tested positive.

I breathed a sigh of relief. Later on, when my boyfriend walked out of the counselor's office and gave me the thumbs up, I knew it was a new beginning for both of us.

Knowing, whether you test negative or positive, is better than not knowing.

And if you don't know your status, perhaps this is the universe's way of telling you to get tested.

*Check your Pulse for health, wellness and fitness every Wednesday. Email Eddith at eddith.sevilla@fusm.com*

### PULSE



EDDITH SEVILLA

## diversions

**HONEST ABE** has 20 minutes or less.

by michelle diaz



# Additions of Asprilla and Dominguez have impact

JULIAN, page 8

made this team.

Mostly because the Golden Panthers were already better than they were last season.

The names of the additions, Asprilla and Dominguez, and the names of those who have stepped up, Gaseca and Taylor, have been the catalysts for a start that produced more than expected when the starting lineup crumbled to the injured list.

But it's Galindo who changes this team from one that treaded water to one that may have the opportunity to swim with the big fish in the Sun Belt, deep into the spring.

Lost in the injury shuffle had been that FIU was playing with no seniors. Lost in the injury shuffle was that Michael Dominguez, who had a ridiculous start to the season, cooled off significantly as the season pressed into December.

Found for FIU, upon the return of Galindo has been the offense, which has produced three 20-point efforts in the four games, and has the shooting percentage at 44 percent, compared 39.8 percent for the season, including the better offensive scoring string.

Of course, stats never tell the whole story and there are leadership intangibles that experience brings that Alex totes back

into the lineup. It will be the confluence of the things both palpable and impalpable that will determine the remainder of the season for the team.

It would be rather elementary to simplify the result of the season to the question "How far can Alex Galindo lead FIU?" so I'll pose a more provocative query, "Now that Alex has returned to the FIU lineup, will the Golden Panthers be able to make a deep run in the Sun Belt tournament?"

The impact, as stated previously, hasn't been Galindo taking over games – although he's shown that he's more than capable to do so – it's been creating space for others.

Look forward to shooting percentages going up, thanks to more open shots, as defenses will have more people to key on, and look for better shot selection.

The final point that can't be understated has to be depth.

Losing veteran players means younger and untested players have to do the heavy lifting, a double-edged sword.

On the early hand, it means players never having seen certain situations early in the season and perhaps being hesitant in reacting.

And on the later hand, it means having a seasoned group, with experience on the bench too.

# Galindo has best game since injury with 19 points

MEN'S, page 8

a genius ain't I?," Rouco said. "He's very good. Kermit [Davis] tried to press us as much we can and made it hard at angles for us to get the ball. Our guys did a good job of getting it to him. He's a very good basketball player."

Asprilla, who is now averaging 13 points and 8.5 rebounds, has only scored in single digits once in his last nine games.

"We went to a zone but they got it to him no matter what," said Blue Raiders head coach Kermit Davis, according to *goblueraiders.com*. "We weren't pressuring the high post and because of that they got to him rather easily. And really nobody we had was any match for him."

Galindo aided the young center with 19 points in a game in which he appeared to be as healthy as he has been since he returned to the lineup five games ago.

"Today was the first day that I think of

the games he has played, his legs have been under him," Rouco said. "Tonight, he could drive the basketball and show some stuff offensively."

The Blue Raiders overcame the FIU duo.

Demetrius Green knocked down a game defining three-pointer to give the Blue Raiders a 65-62 lead. The Sun Belt Conference leaders held on to win the game after allowing the Golden Panthers to come back and lead the game 56-55 with roughly five minutes remaining.

"Nigel is the one who made that play. He mad a move and got me the ball, I just had to make the shot," Green said.

Green scored 14 points in the game and Nigel Johnson complemented him with 15 points of his own.

"I knew I had to penetrate and kick it out [for a three-pointer]. I saw Demetrius wide open and I have confidence that he'll make it," Johnson said.

# Team endures season's worst loss; FAU is next

STEPHANIE GABRIEL  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (3-13, 1-4 Sun Belt) couldn't handle the pressure from the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders' (13-4, 5-0) defense as FIU committed 24 turnovers and produced its lowest scoring output of the season.

The Blue Raiders defeated the Golden Panthers 68-35 on Jan. 11 in the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This marked the Golden Panthers' fifth consecutive loss.

The Blue Raiders were able to force 19 turnovers in the first half and gain 25 points off the costly mistakes. Sophomore guard Michelle Gonzalez, the team's main ball handler, was responsible for 13 of the turnovers and knocked down just four points in 40 minutes.

Middle Tennessee was also able to hold the Golden Panthers' leading scorer, junior guard Monika Bosilj, scoreless for the night.

"I knew coming into this game I was going to have to be alert defensively and coach challenged me to not even let her [Bosilj] catch the ball because if that happened she would be hard to guard. The team did a really good job of helping me out, so it was really a good team effort on her," said Blue Raiders forward Emily Queen, according to *goblueraiders.com*.

Alysha Clark was one of four Blue Raiders with double-digit scoring and led all scorers with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Queen followed suit with 14 points and 11 boards.

Senior forward Jasmine Jenkins and junior guard Ashley Traugott led the Golden Panthers in total points with eight each. Jenkins also led in the rebounding department with nine.



MIKE COSTA/THE BEACON

**TOUGH NIGHT:** Elisa Carey had eight rebounds but was limited due to foul trouble. FIU has lost five straight games

Middle Tennessee was able to control the reigns early on, especially after the game's first three-pointer was made by Brandi Brown at the 11:33 mark, as the Blue Raiders took a 13-4 lead in the first 9:45 minutes of the game.

Jenkins cut the Blue Raiders' lead to 14 after a jumper with 38 seconds left in the first half, but Jackie Pickel responded with a quick three-pointer to make the lead 35-18 as the teams headed to the locker room.

The Blue Raiders started out the second half with a 19-3 run to make the score 54-21 with 12:14 minutes left. FIU never became much of a threat for the remainder of the game.

The Golden Panthers were outscored 34-10 from inside the paint, 25-5 off of turnovers and 21-6 on second chance points.

The Golden Panthers connected 13-of-38 from the field, just over 34 percent, not much less than the Blue Raiders' 36.5 field goal percentage. However, the Blue Raiders defense proved to be the difference in this conference game.

"Our primary ball handler is Michelle Gonzalez and we wanted to keep the ball in her hands at all times but it's very difficult," said assistant coach Joanne Aluka-White in response to the MTSU defense and FIU turnovers, according to *goblueraiders.com*. "They trap and show a lot of help and our girls got rattled by that in the first half."

The team will try to snap their losing streak against conference rival at Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 14.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### SERVICES

#### BAHAMA SPRING BREAK SALE!

\$200 Sale! Includes Roundtrip Cruise, 4 Nights Beachfront Hotel, Meals & #1 Parties!  
Text Message: SPRINGBREAK to 313131 to redeem sale!  
Limited Space, Book Now!  
1-877-997-8747  
www.XtremeTrips.com

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

1987 Chevy SS Monte Carlo for sale \$4500 or best offer. New pearl white paint job, headers, exhaust, rebuilt motor. 305 horse power. For more information, call (305) 753-0838.

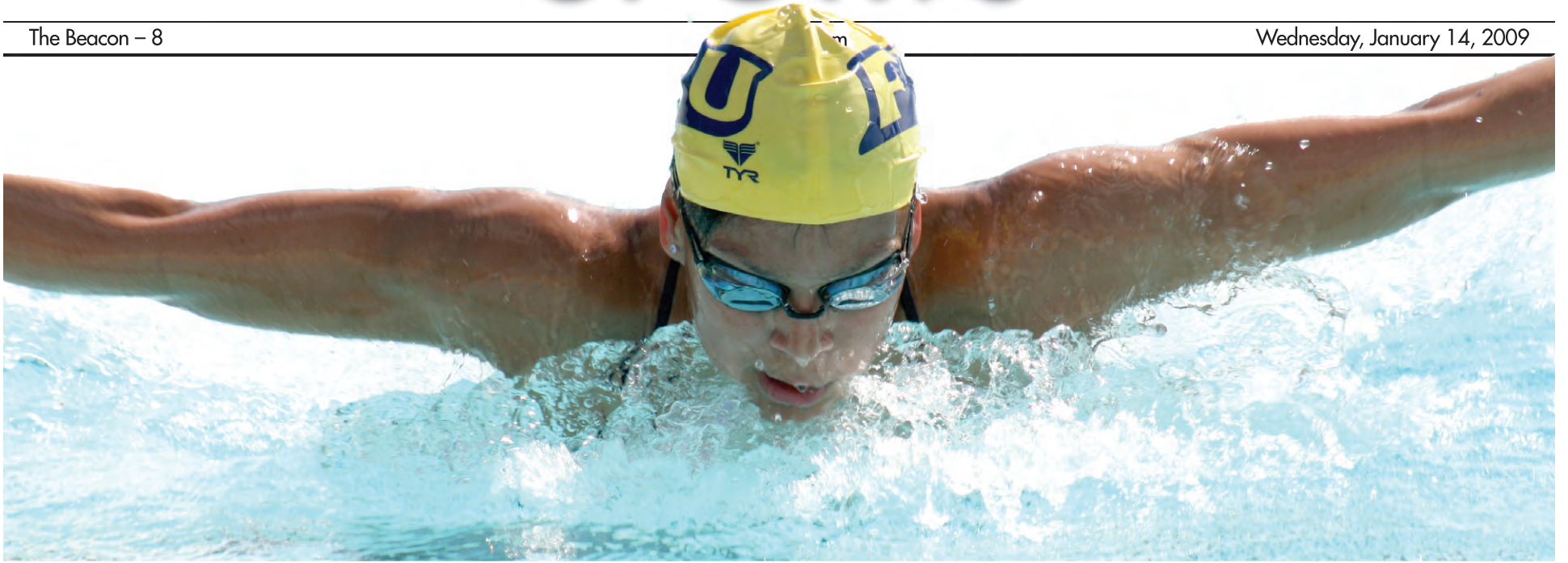
**THE BEACON**

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Thank you for reading

Monday, Wednesday, and  
Friday

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

## Swimming team earns second-place finish

**CHARLIE GRAU**  
Senior Staff Writer

Danielle Sneir was watching the clock anxiously as Kansas swimmer Carrah Haley touched the wall.

Sneir had won by less than a stroke. The sophomore swimmer took first place for the first time this season in the 100-yard backstroke in 59.77 seconds. Haley came in second with a time of 1:00.28 minutes.

That was one of the highlights

of this past weekend's swim meet where the Golden Panthers came in second after swimming against Cabrini College and Kansas on Jan. 9.

"We did well considering those other teams were really fast, but I think we held our own," Sneir said. "It was a good learning experience for us and it pushes us. There's still a lot we need to work on and this meet allowed us to see what we needed to work on."

Other highlights from the

meet were Regina Mayer, Katelynn Stevens and Erin Pavlick who finished in first, second and third in the women's 400-yard individual medley, and the two women's 400-yard free relay which finished first and second.

During the next meet Jan. 10 against Iowa and Purdue, Mayer set a new season-best record in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:16.52 minutes.

"I was still relatively sore so for not being fully rested and being able

to post a time like that gives me a lot of confidence for conference," Mayer said.

The Golden Panthers will now shift their focus to conference championships which will take place Feb. 11-18 in Nashville, Tenn.

"When you get down to the last five weeks before conference, every little thing counts from what you do at practice and outside of practice. Every lap, every set, every finish makes a difference because it really prepares you for conference," said

coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia.

The swim team's next match will be against Florida Gulf Coast College on Jan. 24 at 11 a.m.

The team is hoping it will be able to swim at its home pool at the Bay Vista Aquatic Center located on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The pool has been closed since 2007. If it is not ready in time, the team will swim its next meet at the Miami Shores Aquatic Center.

Charlie Grau can be reached at [charlie.grau@fiusm.com](mailto:charlie.grau@fiusm.com).

FIU 81, WESTERN KENTUCKY 79

## Golden Panthers fail to complete road comeback

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

Freddy Asprilla and Alex Galindo combined for 47 points, but the rest of the Golden Panthers scored just 16 points and in turn FIU (6-12, 1-4 Sun Belt) lost 68-63 to the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (11-5, 5-0) at the Murphy Center.

The Golden Panthers scored a season-high 81 points in their last game on Jan. 8 against Western Kentucky University, but were

anemic offensively outside of Galindo and Asprilla. The Blue Raiders raced to a 19-5 lead early in the game and held a double-digit lead at the half.

"I am disappointed that we came out in a lull. This is two years in a row that we came in here and gave them a big lead," said head coach Sergio Rouco, according to [fiusports.com](http://fiusports.com). "You can't shoot 49 percent from the field and lose the basketball game."

FIU was just 10-of-17 from the free throw line, even farther below

their season average of 63 percent. Despite a raging second half comeback, the Golden Panthers could not get their second straight victory against a quality opponent.

**'DARN GOOD'**

Asprilla continued his stretch of good games with a career-high 28 points on 11-of-16 shooting. The freshman big man earned praise from his coach in the loss.

"He's pretty darn good. I'm

**MEN'S, page 7**

## *It's not all about Alex, but it really is all about Alex*

Often times it's said that the real season doesn't start until the playoffs, or in the case of college basketball, the real meat of the schedule lies in the conference portion; after all, it is the conference champion that plays in the big dance, but only after another tournament.

This is perhaps not truer any

place in the United States than at FIU, which has just entered its conference schedule, like nearly everyone else.

But the Golden Panthers' fortunes rest on a single caveat more so than any college basketball team I've seen.

Any reader of this paper or listener to our radio broadcasts will be well acquainted with the smorgasbord of afflic-

tions that have affected the team this season, but there's one in particular that makes this team different and nearly a contender: Alex Galindo.

It's always easy to look at a team and say they won't be as good without their leading scorer and rebounder from a year ago, but "simply as good as last year" is not what Alex's return has

**JULIAN, page 7**



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**FALLING SHORT:** The Golden Panthers' rally fell short at MTSU on Jan. 10. Freshman Freddy Asprilla had a career-high 28 points.