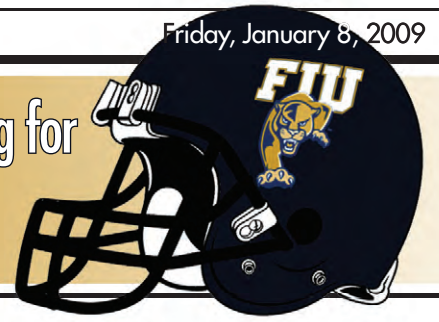


Weekends with Paradise:
pints and European flair

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Golden Panthers searching for
coordinator positions

PAGE 8



SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

After performing during Homecoming 2009, a few talented FIU students continue to freely blend genres, musicianship, and creativity in hopes to reach the heart and SOL of their fans.

OPINION PAGE 4



Food Stamps have moved from simple aid for those less fortunate to an unsung hero during times of economic troubles.

OPINION PAGE 4

Bright Futures starts charging students for classes they drop. How can this be a good thing?

LIFE! PAGE 5



The Miami International Art Fair will feature local and international artists with the hopes of expanding Miami's art scene.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Menu items that are kept secret but you can enjoy at most big chains.

SPORTS PAGE 8



The Golden Panthers are looking to create more opportunities on the court.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Acoustic Flow, Jan. 8, 2:30 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of free open mic night at Literary Cafe & Poetry Lounge.

Emeril Lagasse, Jan. 9, 8 p.m. Enjoy the high energy creations of the 'Bam' man over at the Adrienne Arsht Center. Tickets are going for \$25-200.

The Phantom of the Opera, Jan. 10, 2 p.m. Enjoy this classic play at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts; tickets are going for \$34.75-103.75.

—More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!

WEATHER

FRIDAY
PM Showers
LOW: 50 HIGH: 71

SATURDAY
Showers
LOW: 39 HIGH: 52

SUNDAY
AM Clouds/ PM Sun
LOW: 39 HIGH: 54

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TROY STORY

Men and women look for weekend wins

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

As the FIU women's basketball team enters the thick of their Sun Belt Conference schedule it will try to break a streak of three consecutive seasons without a winning conference record.

The Golden Panthers have not had a winning percentage above .500 in conference play since the 2005-2006 season. That year the team went 19-13, 9-5 in the conference.

FIU has one road win against a conference opponent this season. After taking its first SBC loss of the season at Denver, the Golden Panthers topped North Texas, 64-55.

Since that road trip the Golden Panthers (7-9, 2-3 SBC) have dropped two straight games to conference rivals South Alabama and New Orleans but most recently they defeated Louisiana-Monroe at home to pick up their second conference win of the season.

Next up is a vital match-up against Troy on Saturday, January 9 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Leading the way for FIU on the

ANTOINE WATSON

offensive side, average about 11 points per game, are Monika Bosilj and Elisa Carey. Carey also averages 9.4 rebounds and 2.0 blocked shots per game.

For the Trojans, the main threat is forward Donette McNair, who has put up 13.2 points per game on 53.7 percent shooting this season, before escaping with a one point win at

CHERRISSE BUDDY

HOOPS, page 7

CSO-MMC

Site helps clubs stay organized

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Assistant News Director

In order to help Campus Life manage student organizations in a more efficient way, they have turned to OrgSync, a Web site that helps universities manage all their student organizations in one centralized system.

The OrgSync Web site will help Campus Life and the Council of Student Organizations manage student organizations better because it will keep track of every member in each club using each members' individual Panther ID numbers.

Allegations of non-FIU students participating in student organizations were brought to the attention of Campus Life officials this past fall semester, when Campus Life was notified to that the 'Anything Goes Anime' club had non-FIU students participating in its events, said assistant director of Campus Life Ayana Wilson.

All FIU students who are enrolled in classes pay Activities & Service fees that go to fund these clubs. According to Wilson, this was the first time the issue had been brought up, and it has been thoroughly addressed by Campus Life officials.

"We did address the matter with the current FIU students on the [AGA] E-board, letting them know those organizations are only for FIU students," Wilson said.

According to the FIU student handbook, the term "student" refers to any person who participates in any course or program of the University, either full-time or part-time, whether degree-seeking or non-degree seeking.

However, the handbook goes on to say that persons who are not officially enrolled at the University for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University are also technically considered 'students'; former students and alumni members fall under this category.

"It became a slight issue as far as voting rights and stuff like that is concerned," Wilson said.

The 'voting rights' issue Wilson referred to is that non-FIU students, whether former students or current

CSO, page 2

SGC-MMC

Meeting outlines final months

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council Cabinet at Modesto Maidique campus will be slimmer while it attempts to end its run during the next four months.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda mentioned during the Jan. 6 joint meeting with both the executive cabinet and SGC-MMC Senate that some cabinet positions had and would be let go and that the open spaces will not be filled.

Rionda cited that with only four months left in his tenure, it would make more sense to just combine the jobs within the remaining members of the cabinet. He said a

report of these changes would be presented to the senate for their approval and trusted the legislative body would be receptive because, according to Rionda, they had proved to be "fiscally responsible."

Chief of Staff Nick Autiello is in charge of the changes and could not be reached in time for this article.

To the remaining cabinet, Rionda said he had two requests: to finish the programs they have started and to leave the ground work for future student governments. He did not go into specifics.

Next up for the executive branch in the upcoming months will be the budget process and

the annual FIU Day at the Florida capital. The budget for the next financial year and government is set by this administration on the campus level and also plays a part in the University-wide SGA budget.

FIU Day is a trip student leaders make to the capital to lobby the Florida legislators on behalf of the University.

Rionda also mentioned his desire to start a new push with SGA's marketing that, according to him, has been "lackluster." The Web-site will also get some attention as part of the effort.

"We are going to launch this final push," Rionda told the cabinet. "It is starting immediately."

NEWS FLASH

TECH

Google reveals newest gadget

Google officially unveiled their newest mobile device Jan. 5.

The Nexus One, named after a fictional robotic character in Phillip K. Dick's *Blade Runner*, was designed by cell phone maker HTC and contains the latest version of the Andorid operating system dubbed "Eclair."

According to *Engadget.com*, the device features a 3.7" AMOLED display, 1ghz "Snapdragon" processor and full GPS. The device sells for \$529 unlocked or \$179 when coupled with T-Mobile service.

NATIONAL

Justice department joins Comcast investigation

The Department of Justice is joining the Federal Communications Commission's anti-trust investigation of Comcast's planned acquisition of NBC-Universal. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the union will "settle a tug-of-war" between the two agencies. Comcast placed and won a bid to purchase a controlling stake of NBC-Universal for \$30 billion.

— Compiled by Jorge Valens

Car chase ends in FIU garage

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

A white SUV was seen striking one of the yellow guard posts at the entrance to the Gold Garage at Modesto Madique Campus.

The Jan. 5 collision followed an alleged robbery the driver was fleeing from, which occurred off-campus.

One witness reported seeing one white SUV hitting the guard post and seeing another white SUV follow shortly afterward.

Miami-Dade police, who ran the investigation, found and apprehended the suspect a short time later in the southeast corner of the Gold Garage with the assistance of FIU Police, according to a statement issued by the University. The statement added the incident was concluded by 5 p.m.

"Fortunately, no weapon was involved. The University community was not in danger at any point during this incident," said FIU Police Chief Bill King in the same statement.

Those with information regarding the incident should call FIU Police at 305-348-2626



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Officers Matt Halfhide (left) and Kenneth Manuel (right) searched trunks of drivers exiting the Gold Parking Garage shortly after an alleged robbery on Jan. 5.

New site allows clubs to catalog students efficiently

CSO, page 1

FIU alumni, cannot participate in drafting student organization legislation.

Campus Life's official policy on student organizations states that: "Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended only to all currently enrolled FIU students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status."

Campus Life hopes that OrgSync will be able to help them keep track of all FIU student organizations and their members in order to prevent problems like this in the future.

According to the OrgSync Web site, OrgSync offers an online community management system that centralizes campus involvement.

Once a student registers with the OrgSync Web site, they will be able to see all of the 233 student organizations listed, as well as a small description for

each. They will also be able to request to join whichever organization they choose.

However, contacting some student organization officials through OrgSync may prove difficult because the majority of the clubs on OrgSync offer no contact information. CSO declined to comment on whether or not this is intended or merely a case of these organizations forgetting to update their contact information.

Student Media attempted to contact several of the biggest

student organizations at FIU through the OrgSync website and only heard back from one club.

"All of our membership is cataloged on OrgSync," said Leonor Armas, president of the Yoga club.

She goes on to say that OrgSync helps her immensely because it makes mass member communication easy.

"We have over 200 members so this is a big advantage because members have to create an account to add us. This ensures that only those who are truly

interested join the club and [it] gives us a better idea of how many people we can expect at events," Armas said.

Managing all 233 student organizations at FIU is no easy task for Campus Life, who does not have the manpower to go through each organization individually to make sure they are all following the rules and working efficiently. OrgSync is there to help.

"We are big fans of OrgSync; this is our first year using it, so we are trying to get the word out there," Wilson said.

THE BEACON



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Cold front reaches record lows throughout Florida

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Assistant News Director

Florida, as well as the rest of the U.S., is experiencing some of the coldest weather it has seen in years.

A hard freeze warning was issued by National Weather Service forecasters this week along the Gulf Coast, including most of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle.

In central and south Florida, farmers scrambled to salvage citrus and vegetable crops by spraying them in protective layers of ice and covering them in plastic.

According to *The Miami Herald*, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist signed an executive order Wednesday that gave the state's Division of Emergency Manage-

ment and other agencies the authority to provide farmers with assistance.

The National Weather Service cited this weather as some of the most severe cold weather South Florida has experienced in seven years, with temperatures averaging 10 to 15 degrees below normal for this time of year.

Several cities in Florida experienced record lows, including Tampa, Melbourne, Orlando, Daytona Beach, Fort Myers and West Palm Beach. Naples and Miami experienced temperatures that tied the record lows previously established.

This type of weather is very rare down here in South Florida, for the urban areas of Miami/Fort Lauderdale, temperatures drop to at least 35 degrees

only about two to three times a decade, added the National Weather Service report.

The cold weather has forced FIU students into bundling up in order to keep warm. Some students, like international relations major Mari Tirado, feel liberated from the heat and enjoy the change of pace.

"I love this cold weather because I love wearing nice winter clothes; it's a good change from shorts and sun dresses," Tirado said.

Other students find themselves in a constant struggle to stay warm, insisting that they live in Florida for a reason, the warm weather.

"I hate the cold because I can never be warm," said chemistry major Nicole Metallo.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

British-style pub a cozy vacation from ordinary

In case you haven't noticed, it is freezing out there!

Sure, I could recommend a nice coffee shop to hang out in to beat the cold, but how boring is that? The cold just makes me want to relax in a cozy spot with good friends over a beer.

Of course, the only place to do that is at The Pub at Pembroke Gardens, 237 SW 145 Terrace, Pembroke Pines.

The central idea behind this joint, as stated on the back of the menus, is that "British pubs at their best lie at the heart of a community, whether in remote hamlets or in the rush bustle of their great cities," and indeed they have done just that.

This is my all-time favorite pub to hang out. It's like taking a trip to England without having to book the flight. My good friends and I used to frequent this place to the point where we are all on a first-name basis with our favorite server Lesly.

You walk in and the servers are wearing kilts. Most decide to complete their ensemble with shirts from various football (meaning "soccer", in case you didn't know) clubs.

On the walls you'll find posters honoring bands such as The Who and The Beatles, flat-screen TVs tuned into football games, and more sports memorabilia. A massive bar sits in the middle.

Now, when I say "bar" I am not talking about a couple of standard drinks. This thing is stocked with beer from England, Ireland and Scotland along with a few domestic beers and imports from other European countries.

The trick to drinking here is to go on a Tuesday night: \$4 a pint. My favorite beer is a Hoegaarden White, and a snack bite, which is half apple cider and half Hoegaarden, all yummy!

As for avid beer-lovers, I recommend that you invest in the beer passport. For

only \$20 you get a booklet listed with each beer offered at The Pub. Every time you go, whether it is Tuesday or not, your beer will cost \$4. Now that's a deal.

COLUMNIST



PARADISE
AFSHAR

When it gets warmer, make it a point to sit outside with a snack bite and play a game of darts. Just bring your own darts because they don't provide.

Of course, every bar has to have its share of bar grub and this place is no exception. The food is a mix of British with some American colonial influences. I recommend

the portobello mushroom and goat cheese sandwich. When you bite into this flat bread sandwich, with its roasted red peppers and tomatoes, you will thank me. It is served with "chips," or fries as we Americans call them.

Another food specialty: the fried pickle. Yes, it may sound strange but the mix between the hot pickle and the spicy bread coating will warm your belly and your heart.

Since drinking is a social sport, my friends and I always end our trip with whiskey bread pudding (\$6.95). It is bread pudding served with a side of vanilla ice cream and served you-know-your-fat-self-is-not-gonna-eat-that-alone style, i.e. you get enough powdered sugar-covered spoons for everyone at the table to share.

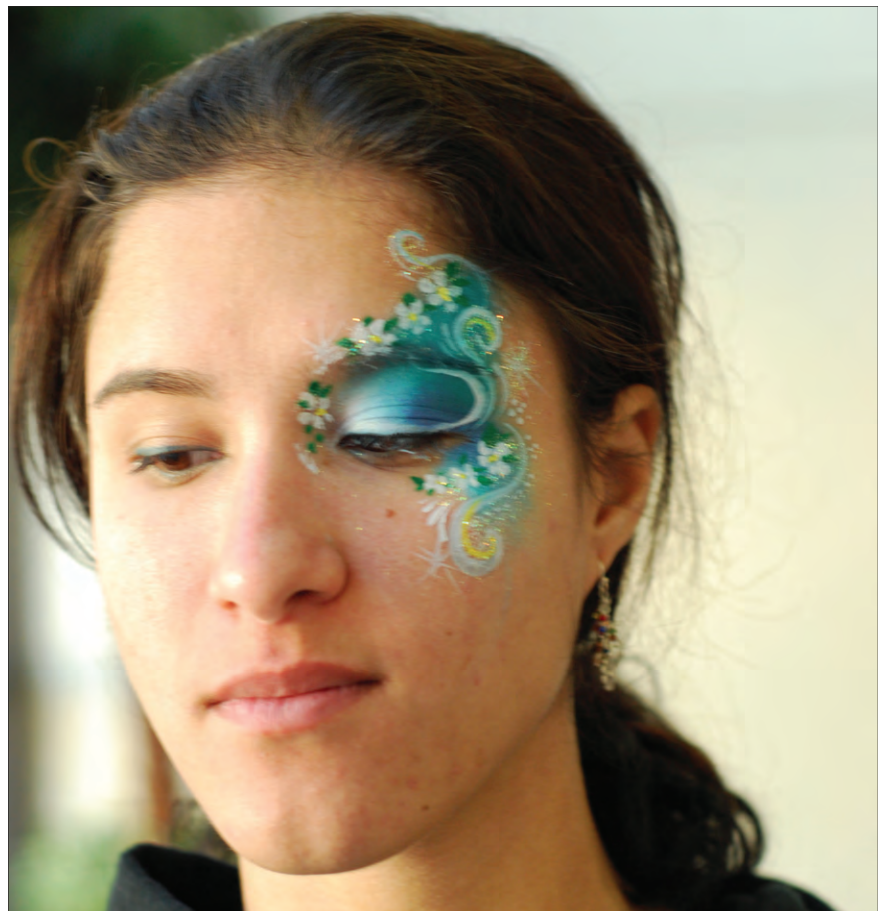
Fair warning: The Pub tends to fill up really quickly over the weekend, so get there early because they do not take reservations and wait times can run about an hour.

So this winter, forget the coffee shop, cozy up at the best bar in town and have a pint with some great British food.

Cheers!

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fiusm.com. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.

PAINTED LADIES



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

ABOVE: Athena Obregon, freshman hospitality major, had her face painted on Jan. 5 during the Blue and Gold Breakfast, sponsored by Campus Life and Orientation. **BELOW:** Sonia Robinson, a faculty member in Multicultural Programs has her face painted on Jan. 5, at Blue and Gold Breakfast.

Local band working to surpass FIU homecoming popularity

MICHAEL FARNHAM
Contributing Writer

It's 11:30 a.m. and Walter Fleming is on his way to class with Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony" pumping out of his iPod.

Fleming, a sophomore accounting major, gets enjoyment out of the majesty of music.

But what makes him unique is that the notes, rhythm and orchestration become clay for him to mold with his band, Sounds of Light Entertainment, or SOL (pronounced "soul").

"We'll take a Beethoven song and add some saxophone and turntable scratching. We'll take a country song and add bass and a hip-hop percussion. We like to mix all kinds of music," Fleming said.

On the afternoon SOL was founded, a fellow student, Hubert Phanord, a sophomore music major, approached Fleming

while playing piano in the Graham Center Piano Room at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"He heard me playing and just started talking to me. It [the conversation] started out about piano and music in general, but then we found another common bond in our Christian faith," Fleming said.



FLEMING

After that meeting, another friend, Quintel Smith, aka "Smith 'Q' Keyz," came in and the three formed SOL.

The band performs with saxophone player Sean "Slap" Smith, keyboardists Fleming and Phanord, drummer Chauncey Riley, and singer Keba Williams, all FIU students. Fleming, Phanord, and Keyz also

alternate playing the bass.

SOL classifies themselves as a cover band, performing everything from top 40 to reggae. That versatility only enhances the band, according to Fleming.

"One of the main problems with music today is the lack of musicianship," Fleming said. "Nobody plays instruments anymore, and to us it's a great source of pride to be able to play many different instruments. We feel it makes us more authentic and unique."

One opportunity to display their wide array of sounds came at Biscayne Bay Campus' homecoming

last Fall.

Normally, the University would just hire a DJ to spin for the occasion. But Pharnord

offered his band's services, as well as SOL's own DJ as part of their ensemble. Fleming was impressed by the response.

"Homecoming was definitely one of our favorite shows yet. It was a crowd that we knew would be eager to get hyped up. We also love the chance to play in front of our peers. It's a cool feeling when you're up on stage and you can see people in the crowd that you see in class. It was a great amount of energy that night and it definitely brought out the best in us," Fleming said.

As the Spring semester begins, SOL's popularity has only increased, Fleming said. Venues they have appeared at include Sunset Plaza, FIU, Miami-Dade College, Broward College, Coconut Grove and South Beach.

While a record deal is their ultimate goal, SOL is content with their current status.

"We love being at FIU, having met here and playing around South Florida; it's a blast. We're blessed, and we thank God. We're having a lot of fun," Fleming said.

We'll take a Beethoven song and add some saxophone and turntable scratching... We like to mix all kinds of music.

Walter Fleming, keyboardist
SOL

Revision to Bright Futures necessary, will teach lessons

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

Thousands of students were presented with an early Christmas present during last winter break: a bill from Florida Bright Futures for classes they had dropped from their schedule months before.

The Sun Sentinel reported Jan. 3 that revisions have been made in the Bright Futures program, forcing students who chose to drop classes after the add/drop period to pay for them in full.

The revisions, made during the 2009 state legislative session, are part of a wholly necessary revamp of the program. This shift also has unforeseen positive aspects.

Initial student reactions, of course, have been unfavorable to the changes.

"It's like you're being forced to fail. If you withdraw after drop/add, you've got to pay the money back. If you stay in the class, you may get a bad grade that will hurt your GPA," said Boris Bastidas, a sophomore at Florida Atlantic University to *The Sun Sentinel*.

To put the numbers into perspective, a credit hour for undergraduate students at FIU is \$142.05, making a typical three-credit class

cost about \$426.50, along with fees.

It is a new burden to these students who were free to experiment with classes without any penalty, even after the drop/add period.

The Bright Futures program is first and foremost a merit-based scholarship based on academic performance throughout high school. As with any scholarship, responsibility must be put on the student.

Dropping a class should always be the final option for a student. For those students who have Bright Futures, dropping a class carried no consequences.

Essentially, the program was a parachute for mediocrity. Students' GPAs would be safe and their pockets untouched.

Bright Future recipients will now be exposed to the issues students who pay out of pocket face when making the tough decision to drop.

Students will also need to be more selective and judicious in their class choices.

It will also push students to work harder in their classes to ensure that they're not forced to make such a decision; potentially

DIM FUTURES



enhancing academic achievement among students.

The state of Florida is currently in a multi-billion dollar budget deficit. This move is expected to bring in over \$32 million tuition dollars that were lost; it is good business in the midst of a financial crisis.

It is also highly unfair to ask the taxpayers to foot the bill for a student's scholastic snafu.

The Bright Future's reform could also enhance state schools' standings and their reputations.

Since the revisions made in the fall of 2009, the number of

students dropping classes within state universities has dropped significantly. According to *The Sentinel*, the drop rate fell by over 13 percent at FIU.

At FAU and the University of Florida, the drop rates fell by 22 and 32 percent respectively.

The U.S. News and World Report releases its highly respected list of college ranking annually. Among the items that determine a college's ranking on the list is the amount of time it takes a student within the school to finish a program

The lower the drop rate, the less chance a student will stay in a

university for more than four years while trying to complete a four-year bachelor's program which could help improve the university's reputation standings, something I'm sure the administration enjoys. According to The Education Trust, the six-year graduation rate for students looking for a four-year degree is 49 percent at FIU.

This move will cause less harm than anticipated. It's a matter of adapting to harsh economic times and re-examining a flawed system. It will teach students something necessary - responsibility as citizens.

Prejudice against food stamp recipients unjustified

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Asst. Opinion Editor

After years of the government's attempts to erase the stigma behind food stamp programs, it is evident that ignorance is hard to battle. There are still people out there who look at government assistance programs with disdain, categorizing them as programs for the lazy and as "failed welfare schemes."

Instead of placing judgment on the needy families of America, those who consider this assistance unnecessary, or a "burden to taxpayers," should ask themselves what they would do if they could not provide for their own.

Due to the recession, food stamp use is at a record high and it continues to grow every day. Today, more than 36 million people use food stamps to buy groceries, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program now feeds one in eight Americans and nearly one in four children.

The food stamp program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, helps low-income families buy food for their families. The main purpose of the program,

“What was once used to give but a mere financial boost has become the only source of income for a lot of families.”

however, is rapidly changing. What was once used to give but a mere financial boost has become the only source of income for a lot of families. To many, it is a life-saver.

Shockingly, much of the recent growth in the program comes from places once deemed the wealthiest towns with the highest-paid working people.

According to *The New York Times*, "the richest counties are often where aid is growing fastest, although from a small base. In 2007, Forsyth County, outside Atlanta, had the highest household income in the South. Food stamp use there has more than doubled." Food stamp use has also doubled in Warren County, the second-richest in Ohio - a county that has previously held strong resistance toward government aid.

While the dependence on government assistance programs, such as SNAP, has increased, it seems like some politicians make it their goal to complicate things. Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation, a well-known conservative organization, argues that food stamps should have strict work requirements similar to those placed on cash assistance.

How would one fulfill these requirements with unemployment on the rise? I'm almost

positive that he hasn't been job-hunting lately.

The increase in food stamp recipients isn't just a product of laziness. It's a product of a recession and a struggling economy. While I'm sure that abuse and misuses of the system do exist, you can't demolish an entire program that feeds millions because of certain individuals. At any rate, the stigma behind government assistance programs should have died a long time ago. It is the wealthy people who criticized them once upon a time that are justifying it now because they have found themselves in vulnerable, needy positions. Even then, the program doesn't reach the numbers it's supposed to.

Nationwide, food stamps reach about two-thirds of those eligible and it is estimated that there are another 16 million who could benefit. There are people out there who are eligible for help and they probably don't even know it. I have a job and it's hard for me to make ends meet; I can only imagine what an unemployed parent must feel like.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER/LOSER



Rob Anderson of Louisville, Kentucky won the largest lottery jackpot in state history; over \$126 million. All because of a shop keeper's mistake. He wanted to buy three \$1 lotto tickets but was given one \$3 dollar ticket. Talk about luck.



Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was charged on Jan. 6 for attempted murder, possession of a firearm among other crimes. Abdulmutallab tried to set off explosives on a Northwestern Airlines flight last Christmas. Bad idea.

QUOTATIONATION

"I lost a beloved sister in July and in August, Ted Kennedy. I battled cancer over the summer, and in the midst, found myself in the toughest political position in my life."

Christopher Dodd,
U.S. Senator (Conn.), on his retirement.

Making over Miami's art scene

Miami International Art Fair helps put art in South Florida center stage



ASHLYN TOLEDO
Life! Editor

The Miami Beach Convention Center is playing host to the reincarnation of Art Miami – the Miami International Art Fair.

After much demand from local art dealers, David and Lee Ann Lester, founders of Art Miami and founding organizers of MIA, have worked to bring an international art fair to Miami in January.

They are hoping to fill the void left by Art Miami, which was moved to December to coincide with Art Basel after the couple sold it.

This year, because Argentina is celebrating its bicentennial, MIA will feature a special exhibit called "Focus: Argentina," which brings the largest exhibition of Argentine art to the United States.

Other special exhibits include "Next Generation," a pavilion of galleries curated by young, up-and-coming artists, and an installation by Colombian artist Federico Uribe titled "Risk" which will feature pieces from his "Human Nature" exhibit as well as new pieces that will be displayed at the Shanghai Biennale later this year.

In addition to the special exhibits, there will be a lecture series featuring experts in Latin American and contemporary art including a conversation between Mark Milloff, painter and dean of the Rhode Island School of Design, and Uribe which is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 8.

In conjunction with the "Focus: Argentina" exhibit, a lecture called "The Development of Contemporary Art in Argentina 1970" will be given on Jan. 9 at 4:45 p.m. in Spanish, and then on Jan. 10 at 4:30 p.m. in English. The lecture will be a discussion of the development of the arts in Argentina.

Lee Ann Lester hopes that this event will attract attention from all parts of the globe to help grow the Miami art scene.

"Our goal is to bring a single event in January to serve not only the South Florida

market, but the international market as well," she said.

Lester has been dedicated to helping local artists gain recognition through these events. Of the over 70 exhibitors showing at MIA, 22 are local.

"We've always had a very strong commitment to promoting the local museums, the art colleges and all of the art non profits," Lester said.

Dorothy Long, owner of Chelsea Galleria located just north of downtown Miami, is showcasing seven local artists at her booth including University professors Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gomez. The couple recently had their "On View" series displayed in the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum.

Long would like to see MIA bring lasting change to Miami's art community.

"We hope this Fair will help establish Miami as a year-round arts venue, not just during December," she said.

Also participating in the event is Stefano Campanini, owner of Etra Fine Art Gallery, who hopes the fair will bring him business.

"I hope to get more visibility in the Miami market," he said.

The fair, which began with a preview night on Jan. 6, is open until Jan. 10 and marks the beginning of the international art fair season. Fair hours are 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are available at the door of the convention center, located at 1901 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, Fl. 33139, and costs \$15 for a one day pass or \$20 for a multi-day pass.

Lester advises students to register as press on the MIA Web site, www.MIA-artfair.com, to download a free pass.

For more information regarding the events and exhibits at the fair, visit their Web site or call (239) 498-1683.



TOP: Federico Uribe's "Puma" from the Human Nature exhibit at Praxis International.

MIDDLE: "Juego de Cartas" by Alicia Carletti from the Holz Galeria de Arte.

BOTTOM: "Mato o Paha" by Jose Bedia courtesy of the Lyle O. Reitzel Galeria.

Some menu items kept under wraps at popular local chains

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Restaurants and food spots all around Miami might have more to offer than what their menus read.

Some locations which you have been visiting for years have secret items available only for those who know about them and dare the possible embarrassment at the head of the line.

These surprising additions will entice you to change it up with more variety than your everyday latte at Starbucks and turkey sub at Subway.

STARBUCKS

If a tall-sized drink is still too big for you, just order a short. It's way smaller but it gets the job done for less the pocket change.

Most Starbucks stores have different items available at specific stores. For example, the Starbucks on 8 Street and 142 Avenue has a Captain Crunch-flavored frappuccino that only the in-crowd knows about.

An orange creamsicle inspired concoction is also a rumored favorite at other locations.

Baristas usually don't like to say no to customers so if it doesn't affect the blender in some way, they can blend it.

Every syrup flavor is available as a blended beverage with either a coffee or cream base, even if the menu doesn't say

so.

MCDONALD'S

Biscuits and gravy is a favorite dish for those who like southern cooking. Little do they know, during breakfast hours, it can be ordered at their favorite yellow arch.

All they have to do is ask. There was no problem ordering it at the McDonald's on Flagler and 77 Avenue.

A poor man's Big Mac is an option for those who don't want to pay full price for their favorite sandwich as well.

Just order a double cheeseburger, with onions, lettuce, tomato and the infamous Big Mac sauce on the side; those are all extras that McDonald's should not charge

extra for.

A Neapolitan milkshake is also a delicious secret that has been kept hidden for far too long.

JAMBA JUICE

Jamba Juice already has an assortment of yummy drinks that quench your need for a brain freeze.

But what many don't know is that an entire secret menu is up for grabs at this trendy juice spot.

Due to name infringement the names of the drinks cannot be published on the menu, but that doesn't stop some students

Secrets abound at your favorite food spots

SECRETS, page 5

from changing up their orders once in a while.

"I know about a 'White Gummy Bear' drink that really tastes like a gummy bear," said Jacklyn Trias, a senior and art history major. "It is so good and they make it for me every time. Don't be scared to order it. They won't think you're crazy."

After some asking around, it was discovered that a white and red variation of that drink is available at the Jamba Juice in the Graham Center as well as a "Pink Starburst."

At the International Mall store a very tasty key lime pie rendition is just a

question away.

All cashiers have a different list of the secret menu items for sale at each store, just ask them for it and they will gladly serve you up a totally different drink than the guy behind you.

Drinks vary by store, so once you discover a tasty one, remember where you got it.

Jamba Juice is also known for bringing back past favorites onto the menu for a limited time so keep your eye out for the "Wake up and Mango."

WENDY'S

Excess is essential for Americans, good ol' Dave knew what was good for his fellow patriots.

That's why at some Wendy's there exists such thing as a "Grand Slam" behind closed doors.

Don't expect bacon and eggs here, this slam consists of four patties in between those buns.

If you tell the cashier exactly what it is you want there shouldn't be a problem getting it.

SUBWAY AND CHIPOTLE

In the '90s, before Jared made his waistline a national problem, Subway offered a pizza sub that was taken off the menu when more healthy options were added.

The pepperoni and cheese infused sub is still available at some stores that have the ingredients at hand.

Chipotle, a Mexican food chain, actually has a policy that as long as the ingredients are there, they can make it for you.

This includes quesadillas and nachos. Again, if you have the nerve to ask for it, they can probably make it happen.

"At other places, like Taco Bell or Moe's, they charge you extra for additions to your food. At Chipotle, we like to make sure you're eating what you want," said David Bermudes, a Chipotle employee.

So as you can see, even places that were childhood favorites have been serving up changes for your taste buds all along.

Some places don't exactly have secret items, but personalization on orders can really go as far as you take it.

Just don't go asking for baked beans and *churrasco* at Burger King, that's just crazy.

LAST CHANCE



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

"The Missing Piece: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama" will be closing this week on Jan. 10 at the Frost Art Museum. The exhibit includes more than 40 artists exploring the concept of peace through art.

FISTFULS OF TECH

AT&T fails iPhone users

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

AT&T's 3G network has crashed more times than Billy Joel – and it's the iPhone's fault.

As of late, AT&T has been dragged through the mud by competitors and the media for delivering lackluster performance in its major markets, particularly New York and San Francisco.

AT&T Mobility CEO Ralph de la Vega admitted during a *Wall Street Journal* interview that networks in these cities are "performing at levels below our standards."

But these areas aren't the only ones with problems; most iPhone users in major cities are reporting severe problems as well. My iPhone is practically useless in some areas in Miami, areas where my friends with T-Mobile and Verizon get great reception.

Frankly, I am used to my feature rich, \$200 phone being completely useless in certain parts of my daily commute. AT&T was once a bastion of reliability in a world of start-ups and local cell phone companies.

I have been with them since the Cingular days and, at the time, they had a reliable, growing network and were well on their way to becoming the nation's largest carrier. Where did AT&T go wrong? The mobile giant decided to take a major leap in 2007 by signing a deal with Apple to be the exclusive carrier for the iPhone.

The device, and its subsequent 3G-equipped brothers, placed a massive strain on the growing 3G network. Let's face it, when 33,745,000 users flock to your network in a period of three years, your network will have to play some serious catch-up.

De la Vega's admission and the recent suspension of online iPhone sales in New York City, where an AT&T customer service representative was quoted as saying that New York was "not ready for the iPhone," speaks volumes for the internal turmoil in the company.

AT&T's attempts to reach out to customers and try to establish reliability once more are ridiculous at best, and a clear example of how out of touch this company is. The company went so far as to provide an application on the iPhone to let users report dead signals and areas of bad reception using their phone's GPS with the tap of the screen.

Exactly how am I supposed to report an area of bad reception and dropped calls if my phone has no reception? Moreover, what are they going to do with this information – how urgent is it to them?

Another ridiculous solution to the problem is AT&T's sale of what they call the "3G Micro-Cell." Basically, it's a FemtoCell transmitter, or a mini cell phone tower for your home that uses broadband Internet to boost cell reception.

The device costs \$150 and requires an additional \$20 per month, but it will give you full reception at home. However, not only is it not available in some areas (like my zip code) it is also completely absurd. Let me get this straight AT&T, because you are failing to provide reliable coverage, I have to pay more money to get what you should be giving me already? The MicroCell is really not a bad idea, but AT&T is going about it all wrong.

Look AT&T, we know you got greedy and wanted to keep the iPhone all to yourself. That's understandable, Steve Jobs basically prints money.

But, given the fact that all these new users are straining the hell out of your network, maybe you should think less of your bottom line and more about your users before there is no bottom line left.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.

Sudoku answers from 1/6/10

3	6	2	8	5	7	1	9	4
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	8	3
4	9	8	3	1	6	2	7	5
7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
9	8	1	6	4	3	5	2	7
6	5	4	1	7	2	8	3	9
2	7	3	9	8	5	4	6	1

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION- PRAYER



WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

BLACK STUDENT UNION - SOCIAL

WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Panther Suite

ACOUSTIC FLOW

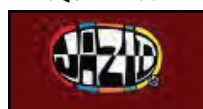


Open Mic
WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Literary Cafe & Poetry Lounge

MIAMI CITY BALLET

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$80-300
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House

THE SQUARE EGG



Rap group from Miami
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Jazid

LAUGHING GAS COMEDY IMPROV

WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$12
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

LIL DAGGERS



Miami garage psych crew
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Electric Pickle
2826 N. Miami Ave.

KILLER NIGHT

Punk Night
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Churchill's

X RAY



Death related art exhibit
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Art Center
800 Lincoln Road

EMERIL LAGASSE

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25-200
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center

GUSTAVO ROMAN



Music/arts opening
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: David Castillo Art Gallery
2234 NW 2nd Ave.

GALACTIC

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25.50
WHERE: Revolution Live

SUNDAY, JAN. 10

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$103.75 - \$34.75
WHERE: Broward Center for the Performing Arts

FL RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
WHERE: Virginia Key Beach Park

TROPICAL SUNDAYS

Live Caribbean music
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Biltmore Hotel

BEAUX ARTS FESTIVAL

WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Lowe Art Museum at University of Miami

THE GREAT TASTE OF THE GROVE

Arts, food and music
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$1-5
WHERE: Peacock Park

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR

WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center

ACOUSTIC NIGHT

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: John Martin's Pub

Team attempts to overcome injuries

HOOPS, page 1

before escaping with a one point win at the U.S. Century Bank Arena later in the season.

In the one-point loss, FIU dominated from beyond the arc shooting 47.8 percent, but Troy held an advantage at the free-throw line as they hit 19 of their 28 shots compared to 8 of 13 for the Golden Panthers.

The team's three point shooting has continued to be a threat this season knocking down about 6.5 treys per game.

However, the team's field goal percentage has dropped into the low 20's in recent losses.

HAMPERED

Head coach Cindy Russo's roster has been decimated by injuries, compounding the recent shooting woes.

The most recent loss is Rakia Rodgers who will be out 4-6 weeks with an MCL sprain in her knee.

Rodgers, who was averaging 15.5 points, faced the injury in her fourth game back, after sitting out the first nine of the season due to NCAA transfer regulations.

Freshman Erin Knight, who has yet to make her debut as a Golden Panther, will continue to sit out as she has been dealing

with an injured back since the summer.

Meanwhile, Marquita Adley plans to play after returning from a shoulder injury just a few games ago.

The senior's minutes, however, could be limited due to her history of injuries in past seasons.

"We continue to be frustrated with our injury situation and we can't get a break," said Russo in a previous interview.

Although she agrees injuries can be a set back, senior Ashley Traugott won't blame the team's play entirely on that.

"Honestly, the biggest struggle right now is field goal percentage. We are not shooting very well at all and that contributes to our previous losses," said Traugott. "We've had a lot of injuries but I personally would never blame a loss on an injury."

GETTING DEFENSIVE

Something the whole team can agree on is an improvement on the defensive end.

Center Maja Krajacic has been a solid inside presence for FIU averaging 2.5 blocks a game.

The junior currently leads the SBC in blocked shots and ranks 18th in the nation.

"Since my freshman year I have been learning from my



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Junior point-guard Michelle Gonzalez will look to lead the Golden Panthers past Troy this Saturday for their eighth win of the season.

older teammates. I have always looked at them to improve," said Krajacic.

Krajacic and Carey recently put on of the most impressive defensive efforts in FIU basketball history by combining for 16 blocked shots against Bryant just last month to set a new school

record for most shots rejected in a single game.

"[Maja] is a huge presence in the paint, anyone who drives her way, she's going to send them away," said Traugott. "If I were playing against [Maja and Elisa] I would probably not drive in towards their way."

Thomas and bench give FIU energy

MEN'S, page 8

SPARK

Thomas's bench is providing not only points but excitement to the team as well.

Thomas told fiusports.com that Steven Miro provided much needed spark to the South Alabama game.

Even though FIU lost the game, Miro and Thomas were both bringing intensity to start heading into conference play.

Prior to the South Alabama game, Thomas rarely ever got up from his seat and had not shown much emotion during previous home games.

During the South Alabama game, he was up and down the court, yelling at his team to stop talking to the officials and even yelling at the officials themselves.

Thomas stated in the post-game interview that he was simply getting his team ready for conference play.

Phil Gary Jr. finished by stating that there still isn't enough spark on the team, and that the team needs to show more consistency to contend this season.

FIU Payment Plan

What is the FIU Payment Plan?

The FIU Payment Plan will allow students to pay their tuition and fees for the term in two installments.

When will the Payment Plan be available?

Available for the spring 2010 Term.

How much time do I get to pay my tuition?

50% of the total tuition and fees are due on the Last Day to Pay, the balance is due by the end of the seventh week of the term.

Is there a late payment fee if I enroll in the Plan?

No, as long as the two installment payments are made by the due dates, you will not be charged a late fee!

Is there a cost to enrolling in the Plan?

Yes, There is a \$15 service charge each term that you enroll.

How do I enroll in the Plan?

By going to the MyFIU portal (<https://my.fiu.edu>) and selecting "Payment plan" in the Finances Section.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the Student Financials offices, [located at MMC, PC 120 and BBC, ACI 140].
- E-mail: stufinan@fiu.edu or Phone: (305) 348-2126



FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Office of the Controller

TIME FOR CHANGE

Staff purge leaves football in search of new coordinators

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

FIU offensive coordinator Bill Legg will not return next season after deciding to take the same gig at Marshall University.

Legg, who called the plays for the Golden Panthers the last two seasons, will return to the Thundering Herd after a stint on their staff from 2001-02.

Under Legg's direction, the Golden Panthers slightly improved offensively as they went from being second to last out of 120 in the Football Bowl Subdivision in total offense to finishing 96th in 2008.

In 2009, however, FIU did not progress and ranked 100th in the FBS in total offense. In addition, the Golden Panthers finished 8th out of nine teams in total offense in the Sun-Belt conference and had the worst rushing attack in the SBC.

Legg did play a key role in the development of two-year starter Paul McCall, who set FIU single season records for touch-down passes and passing yards. FIU's aerial attack in Legg's spread formation led to a 6th place ranking in the SBC in passing offense.

When FIU coach Mario Cristobal promotes or hires a new coordinator, it will be his third offensive playcaller in four years, as Legg replaced James Coley after



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

HEADED NORTH: Former offensive coordinator Bill Legg took the same job at Conference USA's Marshall last week.

2007.

On the other side of the ball, defensive coordinator Phil Galiano's contract will reportedly not be renewed. FIU finished last in the SBC in total defense in 2009 and allowed 35.3 points per game. The Golden Panthers ranked 71st in total defense in 2008 but fell all the way to 119th this season.

The Golden Panthers defense suffered a

myriad of injuries last season as well, which played a role in the team's decline. Galiano will not return after being behind the Golden Panther defense for three seasons, and coaching on the same staff as Cristobal dating back to Rutgers early last decade.

No announcements have been made as to who the replacements will be at either position.

- In a minor shuffling of the staff, Offensive line coach Greg Laffere will coach the tight ends for the Golden Panthers next season while former tight ends coach Alex Mirabal will make the move to the offensive line.

- Cornerback Corey Ammons is expected to transfer from UCF this spring.

FIU MEN VS TROY @ 8 P.M., JAN. 9

Team looks to limit turnovers on key homestand



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

GETTING A HANDLE: Point guard Phil Gary Jr, a JUCO transfer, looks to improve his ball handling as conference play looms.

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Starting point guard Phil Gary Jr. has brought defensive quickness and scoring capability to his team this season, but he has also brought 42 turnovers to his new group.

"We've got to stop losing the ball on our own," Gary Jr. said "Most of the turnovers have been due to miscommunication."

One of FIU's key struggles this season has been turning the basketball over. This season, the Golden Panthers have a whopping 235 turnovers, averaging 13.8 a game.

The Golden Panthers make up for the giveaways, however, by leading the Sun-Belt conference in steals.

Gary Jr. would still like to see himself and his team be more careful with the ball.

"Coach tells us in practice to put up shots when facing a turnover situation," Gary Jr. said "If we shoot the ball, even if it's a bad shot there's still a chance for a rebound unlike a turnover where the other team automatically gets the ball back."

Against SBC contender South

Alabama on Dec. 31, FIU gave up 26 points off turnovers.

Point guard Nick Taylor has only played in six games this season after starting most of last season in place of an injured Josue Soto. Taylor was third in the Sun-Belt conference last season in the turnover ratio category

to the center and power forward positions. Bright is shooting an impressive 52 percent from the floor.

"Marlon is our team leader," Gary Jr. said "In the current position he's in, we can't ask him for much more."

In a preseason media conference,

If we shoot the ball, even if it's a bad shot there's still a chance for a rebound, unlike a turnover.

Phil Gary Jr., Point Guard
Men's Basketball

with at 2.15. In 2008-09, he was also 11th in the conference in assist with 99. Taylor was injured earlier this season, but is now healthy and could be an option to do some of the ball-handling.

EFFICIENCY

When Nikola Gacesa was sidelined with a knee injury, and center Cedric Essola has remained banged up, Thomas was forced to move Marlon Bright and J.C. Otero down

Thomas could not give a description of Otero's style of play because he did not get a chance to see him on film, since the senior forward was sidelined with a serious knee injury.

This season he has proven to Thomas that he is back and healthy while leading the team in blocks with 11 and shooting 46 percent from the field.

MEN'S, page 7