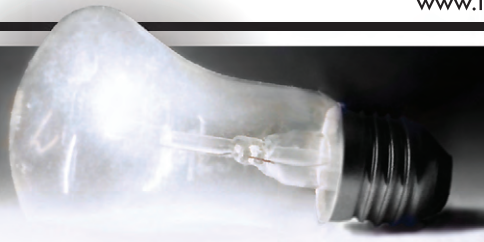


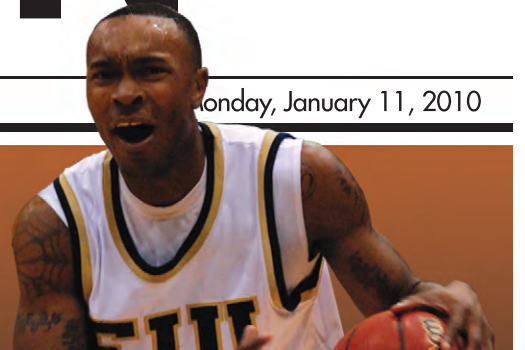
Keep the lights on in the garages

OPINION: PAGE 6



Golden Panthers fall to conquering Trojans

SPORTS: PAGE 12



SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

New year, new agenda – the latest SGA meeting discussed changes to the Senate handbook and introduced some new members-and new positions- to the council.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman will be visiting FIU to discuss the conflict-and, possible reconciliation-between the Jewish and Muslim communities with the help of Israeli 21st Century literature.

EDITORIAL PAGE 6

CSO cracks down on non-FIU students in clubs and organizations. Are they on the right path?

OPINION PAGE 6



President Obama is faced with a new foreign policy crisis after the failed airline bombing last Christmas. What can he do?

LIFE! PAGE 8

Wolfsonian: An existing exhibit on British Vorticism will have a lecture from Emily Braun.

LIFE! PAGE 8



Exploding Head: Ryan talks about Usher's new album.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Season filled with frustration for Isiah Thomas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Night James Brown Saved Boston, Jan. 11, 8:30 p.m. Check out this free event at Sweat Records.

Department of Multicultural Programs and Services – MLK Movie, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. Watch this historical movie for free in GC 140.

Florida Panthers vs. , Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. For \$10-25, you can cheer for your local hockey team live at the Bank Atlantic Center.

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

WEATHER

MONDAY
Sunny
LOW: 47 HIGH: 62

TUESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
LOW: 46 HIGH: 66

WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 54 HIGH: 66

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Climate change worries officials

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Editor in Chief

A study conducted by University researchers has found a strong sense of concern among environmental and political officials in the Florida Keys regarding the adverse affects of global climate change to the region.

While officials agreed overwhelmingly that the Keys should begin preparing for the most likely climate change scenario, 81 percent reported that their agency or organization does not have a

plan they know of for confronting the changes and opinions varied on how best to prepare for them.

Assistant professor and environmental economist Pallab Mozumder lead the research, along with graduate student Evan Flugman.



MOZUMDER

“Florida is at the very forefront of climate change, sea level rise and global warming. The rest of the U.S. is debating these issues, but Florida is different because it is the front line,” Mozumder said. “We need to act on these issues more aggressively than other parts of the

country.”

The Florida Keys are on average less than 1.5 meters above sea level, yet are home to more than 80,000 residents. They are adjacent to the third-largest barrier reef in the world, an ecosystem containing more marine species than any other in the U.S.

Their natural wonders make the Keys the fifth most popular tourist destination in the world according to Mozumder.

“A major gap exists today in understanding the science of climate change and how to prepare to avoid

SEA LEVEL, page 2

‘SUPER’ IMPRESSIVE



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Dale Parsan, accounting and finance major, participated in a card trick with magician Mike Super on Jan. 6 in the GC Ballrooms. Mike also levitated a student and performed voodoo as part of his performance. The event hosted by SPC as part of Week of Welcome.

Coca-Cola loses Pepsi challenge

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Florida International University has signed a new contract with the Pepsi Bottling Company to become the school's official beverage provider.

Replacing the expired Coca-Cola company contract, which served the University for about 7 years, Pepsi products will now be sold on both the Modesto Maidique campus and Biscayne Bay campus via vending machines as well as food venders.

The deal, which was signed Dec. 23, is to bring in an estimated eight

million dollars to the University.

“I know sometimes the thought is ‘oh it’s about the money’ but it’s really not. If anything I would say it’s about the service,” said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president for business services at FIU who oversaw the bidding process and helped negotiate the contract. “Certainly dollars have a part but it was really the other services that swayed us to Pepsi’s side.”

While the contract may be renewed for up to nine years, the partnership is to last at FIU for five years.

“We know that students’ taste and

preferences change over time so we have to have it long enough to get sufficient value to the vender but short enough that we remain in step with the customers,” said Kenneth Jessell, senior vice president for finance and administration and chief finance officer at FIU.

Lasting about three months, the negotiation of the contract was settled with the help of a committee that included Krablin, a faculty member, an administrator, a student and a staff member from the athletics department.

PEPSI, page 3

H1N1 vaccine accessible on campus

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

An on-campus solution exists for students worried about the threat of the H1N1 flu.

Univeristy Health Services has been administering vaccines for H1N1, also known as the “swine flu,” since last year. Vaccines are still available and UHS is still administering them to students who want to be vaccinated.

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 23, which was the last official day the University was open before the Holiday break, 702 vaccines were administered according to Dr. Oscar Loynaz, interim director of UHS at Modesto Maidique Campus. Vaccines weren’t administered during the break as the University was not open.

The number includes both UHS facilities at MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus as well as the College of Medicine’s Faculty Practice Plan.

The Faculty Practice Plan is a medical clinic that sees the University’s faculty and staff. However, Loynaz said that if a student comes to the practice plan specifically for the vaccine they will be seen.

According to Elvira Velez, director of health administration at BBC, there have been 53 cases of influenza-like illnesses and 11 confirmed cases of H1N1 at BBC.

There have been 58 confirmed cases at MMC. The 69 cases in total are as of April 2009.

The University received 1500 vaccines from the Miami-Dade County Health Department that were paid for by the federal government. They were a combination of nasal and injectable doses.

The nasal vaccine uses the live virus in minute quantities, according to Velez. The injectable has a modified version of the virus. To receive the nasal vaccine the recipients must be less than 50 years of age and have no history of chronic illness.

Loynaz said in the beginning there was a technical issue with ordering single dose vials. But because those were unavailable the University wasn’t getting their order completed. However, multi-dose vials were available and once they understood how the ordering process was done there wasn’t a problem.

The vaccines arrived at MMC

H1N1, page 2

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

‘Underwear’ bomber charged with attempting to use weapon of mass destruction

Umar Farouk AbdulMutallab, the man charged with trying to blow up a Northwest Airlines plane on December 25, pleaded not guilty Friday to six federal charges.

According to CNN, AbdulMutallab faces a federal indictment issued Wednesday, including an attempt to murder the other 289 people aboard.

Other charges include attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, as well as willful attempt to destroy and wreck an aircraft within the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States.

If convicted, the 23-year-old Nigerian national faces a sentence of life in prison.

INTERNATIONAL

One killed after separatists open fire on bus carrying Togolese soccer team

A bus carrying the Togo national soccer team was fired on with machine guns while on their way to the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

The team’s bus driver was killed in the attack, and three others were injured. An armed wing of an Angolan separatist group -- the Forces for Liberation of the State of Cabinda -- claimed responsibility for the attack.

Togo is scheduled to begin its cup campaign against Ghana on Monday although Thomas Dossevi, the team’s striker, told CNN he was not sure if the game would go ahead.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arraras

S. Fla sea level rising significantly

SEA LEVEL, page 1

losses in the future,” Flugman said, in a statement issued by the University.

In the summer of 2008, Mozumder and Flugman surveyed more than 850 officials serving the Florida Keys, including environmental professionals, non-governmental officials and policy makers from the local, state and federal levels.

“Climate change and global warming, from the science and policy perspectives, are very complex issues, Mozumder said. “And when you ask people what we should do about it or if it’s real, people get confused because they don’t have enough information to respond to those questions. But we still need this type of information from a societal perspective, because if the risk is significant, we need to act on it.”

The largest group of survey respondents was environmental specialists from such organizations as the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, among others.

Seventy-five percent of those surveyed said they were highly concerned about the effects of climate change in the Florida Keys. More than 70 percent of respondents also considered sea level rise a significant economic threat to the Keys and agreed that the massive loss of coral reefs, the loss of natural habitats and the extinction of species was highly likely.

“On average, the people we surveyed have around 15 years experience in their job and 13 in the Florida Keys,” Mozumder said. “I don’t think there is a better group of individuals than can get us that information.”

While world leaders grapple with how to curb the established causes of climate change, specifically the emission of greenhouse gasses, it is still widely accepted that these strategies cannot prevent a significant sea level rise this century.

According to the report, South Florida has traditionally experienced a sea level rise of about 3.8 centimeters per century. Yet tide-gauge data from the

Keys has found that between 1932 and 2000, the sea level has risen 22 centimeters, eight times faster than the average rate over the past 2,500 years.

The team also surveyed what Keys officials consider to be the best ways of adapting the community to the coming changes. More than 75 percent of survey respondents supported the creation of a “Community Adaptation Fund” to pool resources in an effort to minimize negative impacts of the climate changes.

Most respondents supported a tax increase on tourism related industries, essentially putting the added burden on travelers. Roughly 70 percent support adding a surcharge to motels and hotels, as well as adding a toll to the Overseas Highway, which carries U.S. 1 through the Keys.

Support was less ardent for those options which taxed more local ventures, such as a fee on recreational boating and diving activities. Only 50 percent of respondents supported adding a surcharge to commercial fishing and other industries heavily reliant on natural resources.

Both campuses distribute vaccine

H1N1, page 1

and were distributed to other University locations according to how many vaccines they needed.

There was never

a shortage problem, according to Loynaz. He also said they will be ordering more vaccines.

UHS staff on both campuses administer the vaccines. Students can either make appointments or walk in to receive a vaccine.

Elizabeth Moreno, senior registered nurse at MMC’s UHS, said she administered 40-50 vaccines a day that were a combination of both nasal and injectable doses. Moreno said that how students answered a consent decided whether they received a nasal or injectable vaccine.

No side effects were reported at the University according to Loynaz, however he does not rule out the possibility of side effects all together.

“If someone got their vaccine here, went to Connecticut for the holidays, got some sort of side effect and got treated there then we won’t know about it” said Loynaz.

Velez said that the possible side effects of the vaccine are nothing serious.

“It’s only a problem if people are allergic to eggs,” Velez said as chicken eggs are used in the making of the vaccine.

GET VACCINATED!

Modesto Maidique Campus:

University Health Services Complex
11200 South West 8th Street
Miami, FL
Call for appointments: (305) 348-2401

Biscayne Bay Campus:

3000 NE 151 Street,
North Miami, FL 33181
Call for appointments: (305) 919-5620

According to Loynaz the University will continue to provide vaccines until health officials say they are no longer necessary.

Velez said that because H1N1 is not following the pattern of the regular seasonal flu, health officials are not yet sure when the vaccine will no longer be needed.

“As long as vaccines are available and people are interested, we’ll continue to give them,” Loynaz said.

UHS promoted the vaccines in several different ways. They sent out a survey via e-mail to students on their mailing list that had a part asking them if they were inter-

ested in an H1N1 vaccine and if they were interested in being contacted when the vaccine arrived; 800 replied and were the first to be contacted about the arrival of the vaccine on campus.

Velez said that the concept of herd immunity is used when it comes to H1N1 and its vaccine.

“If everyone is vaccinated, if someone gets sick then you’re less likely to get sick,” Velez said.

THE BEACON

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RADIATE FM

Pepsi supports FIU green effort

PEPSI, page 1

“The components that we [the committee] were evaluating were: how do they service the machines, how frequently do they service them, will they react quickly when a maintenance issue occurs and making sure they take coins, bills and Panther Cards,” Krablin said.

As the University’s official beverage provider, Pepsi will now sponsor FIU athletics by selling their drinks at all University sports programs, advertising at athletic facilities, and setting up banners around campus with their logo.

They plan on personalizing their products to feature the annual FIU football schedule on the sides of each bottle; while also selling the FIU branded drinks off campus stores located in the community surrounding the University.

Each vending machine on campus, which is supposed to support the University’s green initiatives by using less energy, will now include alternative beverages like Aquafina, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew, and Starbucks frappuccinos. After the elimination of the Coke machines during the Winter Break, the number of Pepsi machines increased to serve more locations.

Once the company finalizes their technology, the future plans include running advanced software on the vending machines that can monitor

the temperature level and how often students buy a specific product. This will enable the machines to remember their traffic patterns, giving them the ability to cool down at times when purchases are usually low and then power up again during busy hours.

In addition, the company has also agreed to fund a university student as the on-campus liaison between Pepsi and FIU, who will be responsible for the marketing of the products as well as monitoring the needs of the students and faculty.

“I think as a school we’re starting to notice the change more and more with the banners and machines,” said Roberto Guzman, a sophomore majoring in international business. “Coke was a lot more popular, but people forget really quickly so it won’t be that much of an issue.”

While other colleges such as University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University already have contracts with Pepsi, FIU has caused other institutions like University of Central Florida to be considering a move toward the very same company.

“[Other universities] want vendors that provide service and Pepsi has decided that they’re going to be just that,” said Krablin. “And they are going to win some more business because they are more service oriented than Coke seems to want to be.”

OPEN DIALOGUE



TOP: President Mark Rosenberg held a housing townhall meeting on Jan. 6 in Everglades Lounge. Students addressed Breezeway Cafe pricing hours of operation at Fresh Food Company, parking, and other concerns related to housing students.



BOTTOM: Rosenberg (left) and junior Helena Ramirez, SGA-MMC Speaker of The Senate (right) converse before the townhall meeting.

PHOTOS BY BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Times Talks get name change

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Last semester over 300 students, faculty and staff members attended the five Tuesday Times Roundtable events.

“The discussions were free-ranging, honest and open; people are hungry for this sort of thing at FIU,” said Stephanie Doscher, the associate director of the office of Global Learning Initiatives.

These roundtable discussions are the by-product of a partnership between the Student Government Association, The New York Times and Global Learning for Global Citizenship, FIU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Originally known as the Tuesday Times Talks, the name was changed due to overlapping with another New York Times program, which was also known as “The New York Times Talks.”

According to Doscher, The New York Times then asked all colleges and universities using this name to change it.

The Tuesday Times Roundtable series is part of The New York Times Readership Program at Modesto

Maidique Campus.

As part of the SGA-funded readership program, New York Times newspapers are made available to students daily, free of charge, at locations across both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus campus.

The first roundtable discussion scheduled for this semester is entitled, “Alternative Energy: Who Could Object?”

Moderated by Mary Pfeiffer of the Honors College, the discussion will explore issues raised in the Jan. 4, 2010 issue of The New York Times, “For Cape Cod Wind Farm, New Hurdle Is Spiritual.”

According to a press release from the Global Learning Initiatives office, the GLI and SGA will be providing a free lunch at every discussion as well as a full menu of topics to discuss.

“Everything from alternative energy to slut lists,” Doscher said.

“Slut Lists” will be the topic of a Tuesday Times Roundtable on February 16th, based off a subject covered in a September 26th, 2009 New York Times article called “When the Cool Get Hazed.”

“The topics come from

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Alternative Energy: Who Could Object?

- January 12
- Hosted by Mary Pfeiffer, the Honors College

Green Cards for Children of Undocumented Immigrants: Yes or No?

- January 26
- Hosted by Alexandra Cornelius-Diallo, African New World Studies

Is There a Just War?

- February 2
- Hosted by Dr. Marifeli Perez-Stable, Global & Sociocultural Studies

Comparing Sluts: Why are “Slut Lists” Gaining Popularity Among Teens?

- February 16
- Hosted by Dr. Dionne Stephens, Psychology and African Diaspora Studies

All events will be held on Tuesdays in Graham Center Room 150 from 12 - 1 p.m.

New York Times articles, but you don’t have to have read the articles first to attend,” added Doscher.

All FIU students, faculty and staff are invited to the

Tuesday Times Roundtable, which takes place every Tuesday from 12-1 p.m. in the Graham Center, Rm. 150, beginning Jan. 12.

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SGC-BBC

Council revises handbook, enlists new members

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Finance Committee are making changes, including a tighter agenda, creating a new senate handbook and enlisting new members.

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin "Cici" Battle is the brainchild behind the new senate handbook, created to work as a simple learning tool for newcomers to the senate.

"I wanted to do a project for a semester for people who become senators to learn about the constitution and statutes and how to make a resolution or a bill on student issues," Battle said.

The new handbook will serve as a "breakdown" of guidelines for the senate and will be no more than two to three pages long, according to Battle.

Available positions in SGC-BBC include a hospitality and housing manager, the education senator, who will write statements or resolutions voicing issues concerning students, and press secretary, a position that entails serving as a communicator between the press and SGA.

The position, however, "hasn't really reached its full potential because it has just been created and takes time to work," said SGC-BBC President Shalom Neistein.

No job is exactly alike, but Neistein insists that working for SGC-BBC is a team effort.

"It's generic," Neistein said. "They all have the same responsibilities."

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser and assistant director of Campus Life, the executive assistant will work very closely with Neistein and Battle.

"The executive assistant will work hand-in-hand with the president and be his 'right-hand person' by helping with his agenda and getting things done," Zapata said.

Tanya Williams, who couldn't be reached for comment, is the new speaker of the senate and represents all elected members of SGC-BBC. Her position requires her to make sure all proposals get passed on to the president for signature, according to Zapata.

The new chairperson of the Finance Committee, Zahra Arbabi Aski, replaced former chairperson Tonie Williams.

"I tried to learn as much as I could last semester from Tonie and I gained a lot of experience from reviewing the different proposals and events the committee allocated money to," Aski said. "I hope to continue Tonie's path, but with a couple of new changes."

These changes include moving meeting dates to every Monday at 2:30 p.m. instead of every Wednesday at 2 p.m. Aski is also strictly implementing the committee's new rules.

"I am asking that all [students] who will be turning in proposals come to us at least four weeks prior to their event because



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

SGC-BBC President Shalom Neistein, alongside comptroller Robert Chung, addresses the council at the Jan. 6 meeting.

I want to make sure if there is a stipulation put on the proposal, the group that is requesting has enough time to fulfill what is asked by the committee," Aski said.

According to Aski, students last semester turned in proposals a week before their event, and, "since there were stipulations put on by the committee and they did not have enough time to fulfill what the committee

asked, their events did not happen."

"My main goal is to make sure we fund events," Aski said. "That's why we are doing surveys this semester to find out what type of events our students would like to see funded."

With about 40 members, Neistein said this semester marks the largest number of SGC-BBC members to date.

Scholarship program helps first generation students

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

The First Generation Matching Grant is a scholarship program offered to all students whose parents did not attend post-secondary institutions or have not earned a college degree at the baccalaureate level, but students must qualify based on income standards by the Financial Aid Office.

Daniel Anzueto, a senior psychology major, is one of many students to benefit from the FGMG Program at the University.

"The money I got from the program allowed me to keep up to date at school and with extracurricular activities and focus my attention on my classes," Anzueto said.

Florida State Representative and Director of Communication and Civic Partnerships Anitere Flores sponsored and helped write the law when it first originated in 2006.

"It is designed to help them," Flores said. "We know there are financial differences for a lot of families and the First Generation Scholarship will provide them financial assistance."

According to Flores, studies show that families whose parents have not attended college are more likely to have low incomes and paying for college becomes a large obstacle.

"If it wasn't for the program, I would have had to go to school part time and have to work, which would delay my graduation. The scholarship really helped me," Anzueto said.

The program, now in its fourth year, according to Flores, continues to grow with help from its sponsors.

Donations made by the sponsors are matched dollar per dollar by the state and are directly put into the scholarship funds.

The Latin Builders Association is a proud donor that, according to Flores, made a commitment to donate \$100,000 for four consecutive years.

"This is a significant gift from the community, which is instantly turned into \$200,000 by the state," Flores said.

Shalom Neistein, president of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, believes that the grant is an indispensable program for students.

"There is around \$650,000 reserved to FIU, if that is matched, but we have yet to reach that potential. As of right now, we're stressing on increasing the contributions and getting more funding for that scholarship," Neistein said. "If we do not meet that amount, the money will be given to another institution and that is why we stress the importance of this program."

This year, according to Mykaelle Figueiredo, SGC-MMC vice president, the Student Government Association is taking the initiative to help raise money by sponsoring a FGMG dinner on Feb. 5.

"SGA is going to be reaching out to local community and University leaders to help raise money. There will be a reception with entertainment and we will also showcase students who have previously received this scholarship. We have a goal of \$25,000," Figueiredo said.

Students interested in applying only need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and, based on the information provided, eligible students will be granted the aid.

Lecture will contrast Jews, Muslims via literary examples

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

In a time of rising conflicts in the Middle East and an alerted state of security in the United States, the FIU community is seeking to shed light on the differences between the Muslim-Arab and Jewish community and help students see the situation from a new perspective through a lecture.

The lecture, entitled "Paradoxes of Identity: Jewish/Muslim Otherness & Nearness in 21st Century Israeli Literature" will be held Jan. 12 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre in Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"We want the FIU students and community to be exposed to the cutting-edge research of scholars in the field who are shedding a more profound light on the conflict and also the potential reconciliation," said Dr. Zion Zohar, director and chair of the President Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic Jewry at BBC.

The lecture will focus on issues relating to Jews from Arab countries, often called Oriental, Mizrahi or Sephardic Jews.

"We are interested in everything that has to do with this specific group of people," Zohar said.

Because of the ongoing conflict

between Muslims and Jews, Zohar thought it would be valuable to bring another perspective, through literature, on how these people relate to each other.

"We are living in a time in which it seems as if we are engaged in an inevitable struggle," said Ranen Omer-Sherman, professor of English and Jewish studies at the University of Miami.

Omer-Sherman's work explores Jewish identity and representations of Arabs through literature and film, and although his books are not the

focus of the lecture, he is the author of three books - *Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish American Literature*; *Israel in Exile: Jewish Writing and the Desert*, and *The Jewish Graphic Novel: Critical Approaches* - that Zohar felt made him "an expert in modern Jewish and Israeli literature."

"He is a very dynamic speaker," Zohar said. "Those who listen to him can enjoy him both intellectually and as a person and will benefit from hearing him speak."

Attendees at this lecture will look at literary examples of how Jewish and Palestinian-Israeli writers examine ways in which categories often seen as polarized are often interlaced.

Jews and Israelis write about expe-

LECTURE, page 5



OMER-SHERMAN

Lecture gives insight on Jewish-Arab conflict

LECTURE, page 4

periences with the “other,” referring to Muslims or Arabs, and the same is written vice versa, but Zohar says there also exists a third category of Jews who are often seen as being in the middle.

“The Arab Jews, who are Arab in terms of culture and Jews in terms of religion, live in Israel and have the perspective that other Jews might not have,” Zohar said. “They know the language and culture.”

According to Zohar, they are in a unique position because of their experience in seeing both sides. He said third parties are not familiar with the deep undercurrents of relationships between both societies.

Zohar also said that people who live on both sides of the struggle or conflict and come to terms with both their identities can share important insight that everybody should be aware of.

Because the Muslim world and the West are inevitably in hostile opposition, taking a look at Europe who, dominated by other empires, is enriched, can shed light on the value of understanding differences, according to Omer-Sherman.

“Civilizations are enriched when they become porous and allow for non-fundamentalist ways and are confident enough in their own identity to reach out to others,” Omer-Sherman said.

The goal of the lecture is for students to be aware of the impact of identities and understand the similarities and differences among people of different cultures and experiences through the works of literature being discussed.

“When you struggle or fight the ‘other,’ using the pen is much more effective than using the weapon,” said Zohar. “It is much more effective to maintain humanity and hopefully achieving middle ground.”

Paradoxes of Identity: Jewish/Muslim Otherness and Nearness in 21st Century Israeli Literature

Lecture by Dr. Ranen Omer-Sherman
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
8:00 PM

WUC Theatre, Biscayne Bay Campus

SGC-BBC

Open house offers glimpse of new offices

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus started the new year with magicians, jugglers and a brand new office.

SGC-BBC’s open house was held in Panther Square, where it carried over into the association’s new office located in Room 301 of the Wolfe University Center.

The one-day event took place on Jan. 6 and included musicians, jugglers, face-painting, balloon animals and a popcorn machine.

“This open house says to students ‘We’re here to serve them,’” said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president. “It’s to have a deeper understanding of SGC-BBC.”

According to Neistein, SGC-BBC used to be located alongside Campus Life and Orientation in WUC 141, but officially opened its new office in Fall 2009.

Neistein thought it would be “prudent” to have an open house during the first week of

the Spring semester to introduce students, faculty and staff to SGC-BBC’s new location.

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin “Cici” Battle said she is excited about the new office space and the meet-and-greet event was designed to pique the interests of students who

“This open house says to students ‘We’re here to serve them’...It’s to have a deeper understanding of SGA.”

Sholom Neistein, *President*
SGC-BBC

would like to learn and get involved with SGC-BBC.

The new office includes a conference room, where magician, ventriloquist and fire eater Richard Adler, known as “The Amazing

Mr. A”, quickly became a hit among students and staff members.

“The magician was really cool. It’s awesome when you can entertain adults. He tried to teach us how to do some of his tricks, but we couldn’t do it,” said Davon Johnson, a sophomore journalism major.

Battle said she or Neistein are open to answer any questions a student may have about SGC-BBC, but if they are ever too busy, SGC-BBC’s staff clerk, Larissa Adames, is the next best solution.

“We moved to this office three months ago and the open house is not a recruiting event, but we do have some positions open,” Adames said.

Joining SGC-BBC gives students the opportunity to “make a stamp” on the FIU community just by being involved, according to Battle.

“SGC-BBC teaches networking and leadership skills. Education is great, but real-life experience is really important,” Battle said.

FIT TO BE DYED



CHRISTOPHER CADET/THE BEACON

Zahra Arbabi Aski, sophomore psychology major, makes adjustments to her tie-dye design on Jan. 8 at the Campus Life Fun Day event.

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Tuesday, January 12th
“Alternative Energy: Who Could Object?”
Moderated by Mary Pfeiffer, Honors College

(01/04/10) New York Times article
“For Cape Cod Wind Farm, New Hurdle Is Spiritual”

For more information visit:
goglobal.fiu.edu

COUNTS FOR CSO POINTS

Weekly discussions of New York Times articles
on global issues, events and trends

12:00pm - 1:00pm
Graham Center, Rm. 150
free, open to the public
lunch provided

For more information or to moderate a talk,
Contact: Maria Cedeno • 305.348.2220 or MCedeno@fiu.edu.



FIU Student Government Association

FIU Global Learning

The New York Times

THE BEACON | Editorial CSO's new policy to keep non-FIU students out of clubs filled with flaws.

What is an FIU student?

According to the student code handbook, a student is "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."

The Beacon editorial board certainly thinks that this definition makes sense.

Further on in the handbook, however, the description becomes warped.

The code allows for the term "student" to be used on people who are not enrolled at the University for a particular term but who have a "continuing relationship with the University," or "persons who are living in the residence halls but are not enrolled at the University."

Because of these blatant contradictions and misunderstanding as to what an FIU student actually is, persons who do not pay Activities & Service fees have been able to flock to student clubs and organizations.

The Beacon reported last semester that Campus Life officials had been informed that the "Anything Goes Anime" club had non-FIU students participating in events.

Campus Life and the Council of Student Organizations turned to a local Web site, Orgsync.com, to resolve the issue. The Web site is a filtering method and only allows potential members of clubs to join if they have a valid PantherID.

Orgsync is a step in the right direction for Campus Life and CSO. If run properly, it's restrictions will fix a major hole in the club system.

Currently, full-time FIU students are paying over \$14.50 per credit hour for Activities & Services fees when they pay their tuition. These fees are essentially paying for organizations to operate, clubs among them.

It is only fair that persons who do not pay these fees should not be able to partake in activities being paid by active students.

There is a solution to this, however.

If non-FIU students wish to join a student organization, these potential members should be forced to pay the respective A&S fee that all active students have to deal with when paying for tuition.

CSO would certainly not want to see membership numbers within clubs fall because of the vague definitions within the handbook.

In fact, there is a great opportunity to be made if CSO allows for these restrictions to be lifted.

CSO should follow the example the recreation center sets at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Local community members are allowed to use their facilities for a fee. CSO should allow these non-FIU students to pay this fee in order to take liberty with what our clubs have to offer.

CSO should still draw up laws to restrict the participation of these non-active students. For instance, under no circumstances should a non-active student be able to run for club legislature or have any role in the changing of the club laws.

While The Beacon believes that by employing Orgsync, CSO is taking a step in the right direction, steps in clearly defining who "students" are, need to be taken.

Gold Garage lights need to stay on

ERIC FELDMAN
Special to the Beacon

Around 2 a.m., the lights in the Gold Garage turn off leaving it pitch black. This presents a major safety hazard to any students who are on campus late at night studying, participating in meetings, hanging out or any other special events.

The parking garages do close after a certain hour, however this does not mean that students who parked there when it was open do not have to get to their car if they are leaving school late. If you walk through Gold Garage when the lights are off there are usually at least 5-10 cars on each floor, each car representing one student who will have to go their car in the pitch black darkness.

There are many legitimate reasons to be on campus this late.

Greek chapter meetings can often last until past the time that the lights go off during times such as recruitment and ritual review. Members of certain councils such as Student Programming and Homecoming undoubtedly have late nights when important events such as UP Roar and Panther Prowl are near, and this is not even mentioning that students could just be hanging out - whether visiting a friend in housing or going out to eat or a concert or sporting event in a friend's car and then having to go back to theirs in the pitch back garage.

I created a group on Facebook with an online petition to "Keep the Lights on in Gold Garage" which quickly garnered over 300 members all posting comments about the fact that they have experienced this issue and were

made very uncomfortable by the situation.

I contacted the Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster about this via e-mail the week of final exams and he replied stating that he would ensure that the lights would remain on for the rest of exam week.

While Foster's immediate action was noted and appreciated, I then pointed out that exam week is not the only time students are on campus late, as evidenced by the 300 students who joined the group. Students also stay on campus studying late not just for finals, but all exams, which are not all on the same week like finals.

I speak to many potential and new students about FIU and tell them that this is a very safe campus. While I generally believe that statement, this

oversight is simply to egregious to overlook and is a major hazard, whether someone ends up injuring themselves because they can't see where they are going or worse, victimized through assault, robbery or rape.

This cause has been noticed by Student Government. I have been contacted by the president and vice president of the council at Modesto Maidique Campus expressing interest in helping, but they will not be able to make our case to the administration unless we have strength in numbers. This is not a lost cause, we can make a difference.

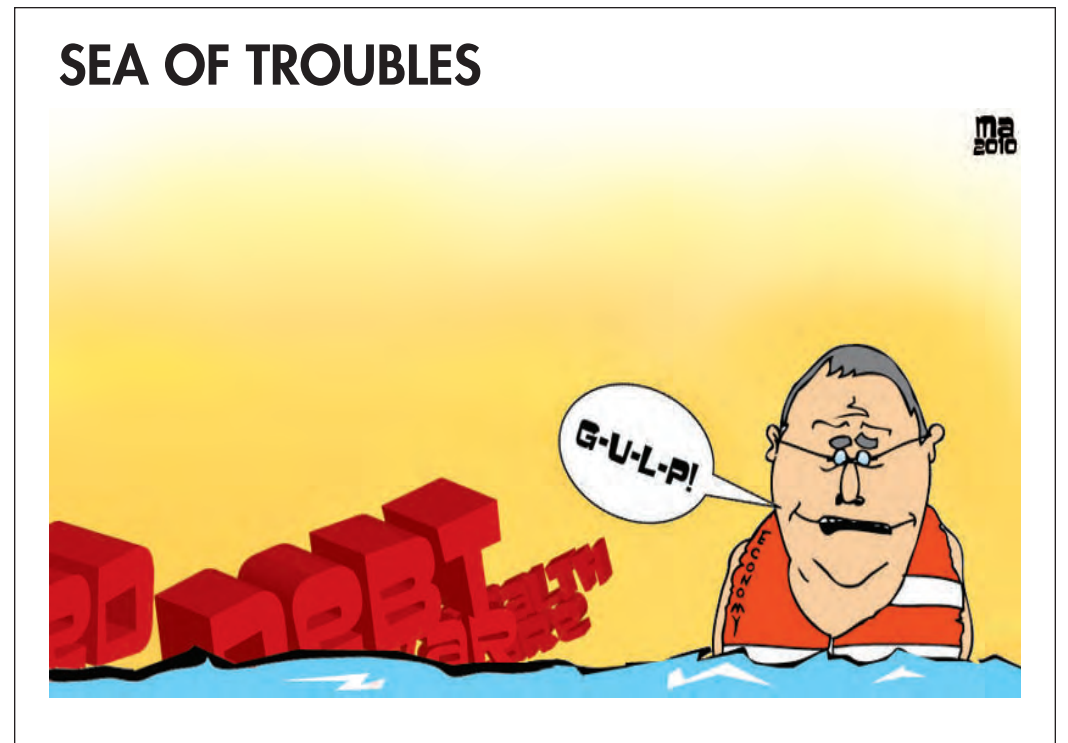
Please take action on this issue by contacting the following University officials who have some power in the matter and also joining the Facebook group.

Obama's foreign policy challenge

BRIAN ALONZO
Staff Writer

On Christmas day Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, set himself on fire in an attempt to ignite an explosive strapped to his leg on a flight bound for Detroit. He is currently being detained and the branch of Al-Qaeda in Yemen has taken responsibility for the incident. Media concerns have centered on how exactly Mutallab was allowed to board a U.S. bound plane with explosives and to what course of action should be taken to further strengthen airline security.

According to one Los Angeles Times story concerning the intelligence gaps that lead to the incident, it was found that the CIA had received a classified wire in November from the U.S. embassy in Nigeria where the suspect's father had warned that his son had been radicalized. The information was never turned into an official report but rather the name was added to a large data base.



This draws the blame to the inter-agency lags that have supposedly been improved since 9/11 and the creation of Homeland Security. Some argue if the CIA had turned the information into a report, then Mutallab would have had to endure more screenings which could have prevented him from boarding the flight.

While intelligence dissemination remains an issue, it is not the main contributor to this situation; there just wasn't enough evidence to warrant Mutallab a serious threat. Although some would argue that a stricter approach to dealing with suspects is needed, it could potentially place civil rights in jeopardy as well as strain intelligence resources.

The major concern policy

makers now face is responding to the Al-Qaeda threat in Yemen. Joseph Lieberman has already stated that Yemen could become the next engagement in the Middle East if preemptive action is not taken. The country is becoming a haven for fleeing jihadist, and according to National Counterterrorism Center, it could become a "regional base of operations for Al-Qaeda."

Our military resources are spread thin and if action is to be taken it must be a course that would contain and isolate threats rather than potentially expand the conflict.

President Obama should apply an international approach to the situation and see if he can persuade the governments of Yemen and

its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, to increase pressure on these militants as any more unilateral military force is simply out of the question.

Obama now faces a threefold challenge. He must first decide what the best course of action is in addressing continuing intelligence failures as well as how to best balance airport security procedures and personal privacy.

He must then take a responsible approach to what experts deem a growing threat abroad in Yemen while domestically attempting to end the partisan politicization of this issue in time to resolve the healthcare debate and focus on repairing the economy and winning in Afghanistan.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

WINNER/LOSER



Toshiba comes back to the forefront of home theater technology with Blu-Ray 3D. It is the first legitimate home theater format with 3D capability. Now you can watch "Avatar", at home and focus on the visuals and ignore it's lack of story or ideas.



NBC proves again that a five year old is more adept at running a network. Rumors persist that Jay Leno's new show will be brought back to the 11:35pm slot after their ratings tanked faster than the Exon-Valdez. Next time, don't cancel good shows like "Southland."

QUOTATIONATION

"I'm less interested in passing out blame than I am in learning from and correcting these mistakes to make us safer. For ultimately, the buck stops with me."

President Barack Obama
on his feelings after failed terrorist attack

EXTRACURRICULAR

Club fair helps students meet new people, explore new interests

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

Student organizations strive to offer a more complete college experience through hundreds of extracurricular activities.

To help students become better acquainted with the many clubs that exist at the University, the Council for Student Organizations will be hosting the Spring 2010 Club Fair on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

More than 100 organizations partic-

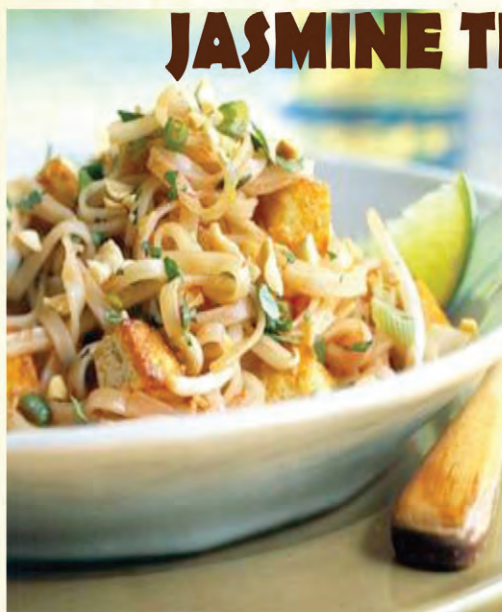
ipate in the club fair every semester, offering a wide variety of activities for every student's interest.

"The club fair is a chance for students to meet people that have the same interests as them. In class, you focus on learning but not making friends. The club fair is about joining an organization that you can relate to and the great thing is that most clubs are free," said Cristina Loreto, vice president of the Italian Club and secretary of

CSO, page 9



By ALIEN NERI



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EXPLODING HEAD

New tracks from Usher show his 'Freak' side

A couple of days ago, a track from Usher's upcoming record, *Raymond vs. Raymond*, was leaked on the Internet.

The album already has two singles, "Papers" and "Hey Daddy."

"Papers" is about his recent divorce, which is a pretty serious, exhausting ordeal, but the song submits to silly keyboard strokes that are annoying and

makes Usher sound like he's doing R&B circa 10 years ago.

"Hey Daddy" is absolutely promising at first, until Plies opens his mouth and gives this song some real crappy Becky.

Seriously, Plies, stop making music and keep updating your Twitter.

But *Raymond vs. Raymond* has somewhat of an epic ring to it, though. From the title, it sounds like Usher could have finally gone off the deep R&B end and produced a double-concept album of metal-like proportions. I can picture it now, too.

The first disc exhibits his smooth side containing collaborative slow jams with Ne-Yo and Drake, and the second disc embodies his deep, angry, repressed side in the form of club-bangers that may or may not have Gucci Mane on it. (See R. Kelly and Nelly.)

Sort of right about the Ne-Yo prediction, and I'm afraid Usher and Gucci Mane have been acquainted with each other on the underrated *The State vs. Radric Davis*.

But I can easily say that "Little Freak," the unofficial third single/leaked track, will be one of the catchiest songs of 2010, for the beat has been playing in my head for two days already and the song's replay factor is anything but finite.

"Little Freak" has Usher channeling his best T-Pain homage alongside Nicki Minaj. With the production help of Polow da Don, who's also related to Ludacris, Usher has made a song about picking up promiscuous girls and how picking up said promiscuous girls could possibly turn itself into some kind of a three-way ... and he does it all with just a bit of autotune, some Nicki Minaj-silliness and ridiculously catchy beat-making. It's also pretty convenient that Minaj guest stars, because how else will Usher make menga-trois puns without sounding creepy?

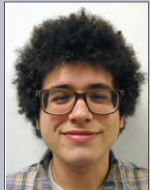
Minaj poses as Usher's wingman, though I hardly believe Usher needs any help picking up women.

She exhibits her signature Lil' Wayne-inspired incoherence that never really fails to entertain. She somehow even lists all of Santa's reindeer for some reason – in a song about little freaks. Huh?

Never mind Minaj. It's Polow da Don and Usher who really shine here creating a song that's loud, rowdy and borderline gaudy.

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music. Look for it every Monday.

COLUMNIST



RYAN MOREJON

Talk considers futuristic impact on art

Modern British prints discussed

ASHLEY CAPO
Staff Writer

The anticipated first week of the semester has come and gone. As the lines at the bookstore finally shorten and students are no longer awkwardly looking for their classes, it seems like the perfect time to take in some art history and culture.

On Jan. 12, The Wolfsonian-FIU will be presenting "Lines of Force: The Futuristic Influence on Modern British Art." The talk will be led by Emily Braun, distinguished professor of art history at the Graduate Center of Hunter College, and curator for The Leonard A. Lauder Collection.

Braun will discuss the works of British Vorticists that can be viewed in the museum's exhibit called "Rhythms of Modern Life: British Prints 1914-1939," a collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The term "Vorticism" is the name of an art movement founded by Wyndham Lewis, launched in June 1914.

Curator for the exhibition at the Wolfsonian, Sarah Schleuning, who will also be a part of the Italian exhibition, said that having Braun here for "Rhythms of Modern Life" is purely coincidental, but a welcome happenstance.

"It just happened to be a moment where she was coming and we thought 'Of course we need to have



her speak,'" Schleuning said. "It was a perfect moment."

The exhibit examines the works of 14 innovative artists of the Vorticist movement, including more than 90 graphic prints.

In a press release, Wolfsonian director Cathy Leff describes how proud she is to see these pieces finally on display at the museum.

"The Wolfsonian collection has many works by these extraordinary British modernists that have been widely overlooked until now. Wolfsonian founder Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. met several of these artists and began collecting their works in the 1980s," Leff said.

Rhythms of Modern Life highlights the period between the outbreak of World War I and the beginning of World War II. During this time, advancements in technology and the modern age inspired artists to challenge the changes in the world around them through

WOLFSONIAN, page 9



TOP: *Skaters*, by Cyril E. Power, part of the Johanna and Leslie Garfield Collection.

BOTTOM: *Fixing the Wires*, by Lill Tschudi, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, both courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Deconstruction and Healing



ALL PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Visitors at the Frost Art Museum witness the deconstruction of the museum's mandala, Jan. 5 during Target Wednesday After Hours. The ceremony included a ritual and prayer blessing the sand. Monks of the Deprung Loseling Monastery created the mandala over a three-day period this past November. The sand was passed out to visitors and dispersed into the museum's pond, to disseminate the mandala's healing properties.

GC Ballrooms serve as new location for club fair

CSO, page 6

Omicron Delta Kappa.

Tuesday's fair will host clubs for students interested in academics, engineering, graduate studies, honor societies, law and politics. Wednesday will focus on art, business, culture, health and wellness, religion and service clubs.

"College is not only about the education you receive at a university, but also your growth as an individual," said Trang Van, president of CSO.

Unlike previous years where the club fair was held in the GC Pit or outside on the lawn, CSO has chosen the ballrooms for this year's venue. The tables will be lined up inside the room so that students can easily walk around the room and visit the different organizations without such large spaces between booths.

The club fair is meant to attract students and get them involved on campus, but it is also beneficial for those already in clubs to attend and support their organizations.

"The club fair is great for meeting new people and showcasing what the club is about. It is about making students understand you are passionate about your club," Loreto said.

CSO will be hosting a banner contest for participating organizations so they can showcase their artistic and creative skills while promoting themselves.

As students exit, they will see the CSO table with free food, drinks and giveaways.

In order to get any of the giveaways, CSO will ask that students visit at least five tables. There will be plenty to choose from considering the amount of clubs that will be present.

They will also be giving away CSO T-shirts for the first time as well as flash drives, water bottles, thermal mugs, caps, duffle bags and more.

The CSO table will be more than just fun and games though.

They will also be providing information on the different organizations and how to join them.

"We have so many organizations and they all do something so amazing," said Van.

Club fair at a glance

- Tuesday, Jan. 12
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Both days in GC Ballrooms

"We have clubs that travel internationally to participate in community service events, others that provide opportunities to network and meet professionals within their academic and/or professional discipline, some who bring renowned speakers to FIU to speak to students, and much more."

The club fair is an opportunity to speak with members and leaders of various organizations in a relaxed environment and to hear about their experiences first hand.

"There is so much to learn and gain by being a part of an organization, and each of the CSO organizations can definitely bring something to the table to offer FIU students a great, unique experience to enhance their education here at FIU," Van said.

Former president of The Invitational Scholars Club and the Catholic Students Association at BBC, senior Miguel Alvarado said his college experience had a lot to do with the organizations he was a member of.

"I became a leader for these organizations and their individual goals and requirements helped to catapult my personality and abilities past places that I didn't know they could go," Alvarado said. "These particular organizations, along with all extracurricular involvement groups on campus, can give students the opportunities they need to realize their administrative and social potential."

There are many reasons to join a CSO organization and the club fair is the one time during the semester that students will have the opportunity to meet with them all at the same time.



A LONG RIDE: "The Tube Train" 1934 by Cyril E. Power from "Rhythms of Modern Life: British Prints 1914-1939."

Futurist's influence on British art part of lecture

WOLFSONIAN, page 8

their art, which is shown in the bold colors of the prints on display.

Juan Martinez, professor of art history with a focus on modern art, has not seen the exhibit but, with his prior experience visiting the Wolfsonian, expects that the exhibit will not disappoint those interested in the Futurist era.

"The Wolfsonian has a great collection of Futurist art," Martinez said. "The Futurists focused their work on the advancements of machines and mechanics. I think that is something that everyone can relate to,

especially today."

The talk will also focus on the influence Italian Futurists had on the pieces displayed in the exhibition, one of the many areas of expertise that Braun has based her career researching, teaching and writing about.

Braun's presence at the museum is highly anticipated among art enthusiasts, as well as staff.

She is not only lecturing at the museum, but also working on a future exhibition for the Wolfsonian, the Wolfsonian's sister museum on the Italian Riviera near Genoa, and will examine Italian art and

design.

In addition to her work on modern Italian art and fascist culture, Braun has published on Renaissance architecture, late 19th-century European paintings, women's studies, Jewish history and contemporary painting and sculpture. She has received several awards for her previous works on Jewish history.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Wolfsonian located at 1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. The talk is free for students and members of the museum; \$10 all others.

For more information, visit www.wolfsonian.org.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009

PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB



WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP - MEETING

WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

PANTHER RAGE



Meeting
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 140

CHOSEN GENERATION - MEETING

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Cafeteria Annex

THE NIGHT JAMES BROWN SAVED BOSTON



WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sweat Records

JAZZ JAM

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Churchills

MARY JANE MONDAYS

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Jazid

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

FRENCH CLUB



WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC140

FINE ARTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION - MEETING

WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

HAITIAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION - LECTURE

WHEN: 4:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES - MLK MOVIE

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

DANCE MARATHON



Meeting
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 1223

CASA DE HA-HA



Comedy show
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sweat Records

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS



Chapter Meeting
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION - MEETING

WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

BLACK STUDENT UNION - MEETING

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Broward Center for the Performing Arts

REBEL

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Churchills

JAZZ NIGHT

WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
WHERE: Club 50

FLORIDA PANTHERS VS WASHINGTON CAPITALS

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10-25
WHERE: BankAtlantic Center

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009

ITALIAN CLUB



WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

DANCE MARATHON - GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

ANYTHING GOES ANIME - MEETING



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST - MEETING

WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

FIESTA ARGENTINA



WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Jazid

A ROSE TATTOO - FILM

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Miami Beach Cinematheque

BASEBALL

Thomas believes incoming class could be FIU's best

CHRIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

With names like Chipper Jones, Alex Rodriguez, and Charles Johnson on his recruiting resume, FIU Baseball coach Turtle Thomas is no stranger to highly touted high school talent in his two decades in the college baseball world.

FIU baseball, however, may have never seen a recruiting class as talented as the one Thomas has inked to National Letters of Intent for the 2011 baseball season.

The class includes 3 players who played for respective national teams in the past season and the top position player in both Canada and the United States, according to Baseball America.

"It's a good class, with maybe a couple more guys on the way," said Thomas. "I'm very happy."

Miami Britto High shortstop Manny Machado is the top rated player in the class, rated as the top position player in America by Baseball America.

When asked about Machado, Thomas didn't hesitate to compare him to one Major League Hall of Fame shortstop and another future Hall of Famer he had a hand in recruiting while with the University of Miami.

"He has outstanding power for a shortstop, and at 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4, he's very similar to Cal Ripken," Thomas said. "He has a cannon for an arm. He's extremely

similar to Alex Rodriguez."

Machado is a good bet to be drafted by a major league team, with various online mock draft websites having him going as high as the 12 pick.

Along with Machado, the draft is very infield heavy as far as offensive players go, with just one natural outfielder, Joel Capote from Miami Dade College, among them.

One of the other big additions to the class is the top rated position player in

been out in our stadium."

Deglan will be joined behind the dish by Iosmel Leon, a defensive specialist who looks to limit extra bases with a quick release and strong arm behind the plate.

Mike Ellis, Deglan's teammate on that Canadian Junior National Team joins him in the class as one of the top pitchers in the class.

Ellis currently flashes a plus breaking ball that can be used as an out pitch, but he doesn't overpower with his fastball.

[Machado] has outstanding power for a shortstop, and at 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4, he's very similar to Cal Ripken.

Turtle Thomas, Head Coach
FIU Baseball

Canada, Kellin Deglan, a 6-foot-3 catcher from R.E. Mountain Secondary School in British Columbia.

Deglan is a power hitting left handed catcher who is still developing his skills behind the plate.

"One of our assistant coaches went to Orlando to watch Deglan with the Canadian junior team in a series of instructional games against big league teams," said Thomas. "With a wooden bat, he hit 7 balls in a row in game that would have

"The sky is the limit for Ellis," Thomas said. "He projects to add velocity and play in the rotation right away."

Andres Perez-Lobo from Columbus High School and Ricky Perez from Miami Dade College join the class as natural pitchers, while Perez-Lobo's teammate at Columbus, Jesse Pintado will look to split his time between the infield and the mound as a relief pitcher.

Brothers Wendell and Wes Soto project to play the middle infield, with the elder

Soto, Wes of Polk Community College, a 2nd baseman and Wendell a talented defensive shortstop out of Sarasota River-view High.

"Wes is just a winner. Some guys have it, and some guys don't," said Thomas. "He has it".

Rounding out the class is the player Thomas calls the top JUCO hitter in the state of Florida, "bar none", David Vidal.

Right now, Vidal appears to be a man without a position, but Thomas feels his bat is good enough to play anywhere on the field.

With a number of highly touted players, the class may look somewhat different by the time the players make it to campus in the Fall of 2010 with the MLB Rule IV amateur draft looming in June.

Thomas projects as many as 5 players from the class could be taken in the June Draft, though even if they are taken, the player can still elect to come to FIU.

Machado projects to be a first round pick.

Deglan with his rare mix of size and power from the left side as a catcher could be a first day pick.

The draft will definitely have a big impact on the outlook of the class, and if the class remains mostly intact this could prove to be Thomas' best of three so far at FIU.

"If they play, it will definitely be our best class," said Thomas.

Comeback bid falls short despite Adley's late efforts

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chemistry to the team."

Adley had 12 points and 9 boards on the night, including a game-high 6 on the offensive glass.

Troy responded with two three-pointers to go back up eight but Adley got down in the paint and connected on three layups and a free-throw in the final 80 seconds of the game to bring the Golden Panthers within two points of tying it up with just eight seconds remaining.

Manuel was fouled and went to the line to knock down two clutch free throws with seven seconds remaining to make the score 61-57 in favor of the Trojans.

FIU's final opportunity was with three seconds as Gonzalez put up a three-point shot.

The Puerto Rican junior missed the shot but was fouled and knocked down just two of the three shots from the charity stripe.

The Golden Panthers had an advantage from the stripe, but made just 13-of-21 attempts from the free-throw line while Troy made 11-of-15.

FIU has now lost the last three matchups against Troy and will look to rebound as they hit the road for their next game against Middle Tennessee on Jan. 13.

"I really felt frustrated and I wanted to beat that team because that is a team we should beat all of the time," Gonzalez said. "They can't match with our post players. We played good defense and we played hard but during some parts of the game we fell too far back."

Thomas era really begins with first class

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sation with an official during a loss to South Alabama on Dec. 31. During a 84-68 loss to Troy on Jan. 9, Thomas was out of his seat more than usual, again.

Drained from an eight-game road swing in which the team lost six games, Thomas' team has not accelerated quite as he expected.

"If I have been frustrated with anything, I wish we would've given the kids a better schedule coming out of the box," he said.

TOUGH ROAD

During the daunting road trip, four of the Golden Panthers' six losses were of the double-digit variety. The lowlight of the journey was a 30-point blowout loss to Sam Houston state to cap off the trip on Dec. 22.

It was a gauntlet that Thomas hopes his team won't have to handle in the future, but it also proves that expectations should be guarded in the short term.

Last Spring, Thomas inherited a team late in the recruiting period and patched it up with two-year junior college players that will serve more as bandages to cover the team's wounds than fixtures.

After the unexpected transfer of former Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year Freddy Asprilla, Thomas was left without a big man on a team that currently ranks 11th in the SBC in rebounding margin.

Asprilla, who is headed to Kansas State, was still being mentioned by Thomas as recently as last week as a player who could have made a significant difference to his team.

Thomas said before the season that he would like his team to be competitive by the time conference play rolled around, but said the progress was slowed by the tough schedule early on.

Some of that is true, but then there is also the fact that FIU cannot rely on a back-to-the-basket scorer this season, and have struggled to stop anybody.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Men's basketball head coach Isiah Thomas continues to learn on the job in his first season as a college basketball coach. His record is 5-14 so far.

The Golden Panthers rank dead last in the SBC in scoring defense and scoring margin as of Jan. 9.

THE DIFFERENCE

Before Thomas can sit back and let his coaching in practice carry over to games more easily, he will endure more nights like the loss to Troy over the weekend.

The Isiah Thomas era begins when he brings in his first full recruiting class, with a slew of players with four years of eligibility.

That includes the signature of consensus top 50 prospect, Dominique Ferguson.

"The thing that I'm really excited about is that I didn't know if we would have this much success on the recruiting trail," he said as his expression lightened up after a loss.

Thomas hopes that when Ferguson and others roam the U.S Century Bank Arena, he won't have as much to worry about. For the remainder of this season, though, Thomas will have to continue to get out of his seat more often than he would like.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

South Florida coach fired following investigation

FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

South Florida fired football coach Jim Leavitt after a school investigation concluded he grabbed one of his players by the throat, slapped him in the face and then lied about it.

A letter hand delivered to the coach and released along with a report on the three-week probe said the university's findings were based on "independently corroborated statements of persons found to be in the best position to observe your conduct."

"Coach Leavitt committed a serious violation of our standards of conduct regarding treatment of students," university president Judy Genshaft said Friday, adding a national search for a replacement will be begin immediately.

Reached by telephone, the only coach in the program's 13-year history told The Associated Press he was "disappointed" and the allegation was "absolutely false."

Leavitt told investigators he has never struck a player and that he was trying to lift the spirits of a player who was "down" when he grabbed the player's shoulder pads during halftime of a game against Louisville on Nov. 21.

But the letter athletic director Doug Woolard presented to Leavitt during a meeting with Genshaft stated informed the coach "your description of your conduct toward the student athlete in question was consistently uncorroborated by credible witnesses."

The school also concluded Leavitt interfered with the investigation by having "direct contact with material witnesses ... at a time you knew or should have known was critical to the review process."

Leavitt, who was 95-57, just completed the second season of a seven-year, \$12.6 million contract.

"I truly wish there had been another outcome to this situation," Woolard said during a news conference.

AOL FanHouse first reported the firing. Genshaft and Woolard launched the investigation last month after a FanHouse report said Leavitt had grabbed sophomore Joel Miller and hit him in the face twice during halftime of the Louisville game.

Miller was penalized for an illegal

block in the first half, and he also was on the field when Louisville returned a punt for a touchdown.

"I'm very disappointed. The allegations as reported are absolutely false," Leavitt said Friday. "I'm going to respond in time."

Citing Miller's father, high school coach and five USF players who were not identified, FanHouse initially reported Leavitt struck Miller because he was upset about a mistake Miller made on special teams.

Miller's father later backtracked, telling reporters Leavitt did not strike his son but rather grabbed him by the shoulder pads while trying to motivate the sophomore walk-on.

Neither Genshaft nor Woolard took questions and specifics about Leavitt's were not discussed during the press conference.

Investigators talked to several players, who were not identified by name and who either witnessed the alleged incident or were told of it by a player referred to in the report as "Student A."

The report said during an initial interview with investigators that "Student A" tried to play down the incident, saying the coach grabbed his shoulder pads and "didn't touch me in any malicious way."

The investigation concluded differently.

In his letter to Leavitt, Woolard said the athlete's statements after the probe began "are unpersuasive because they were contradicted by the same student athlete in his conversations with credible witnesses made close in time to when that conduct occurred."

Leavitt was hired in December 1995 and launched USF's program from scratch, operating out of trailers on campus in the early years while guiding the Bulls' swift progression from Division I-AA to BCS conference member.

USF joined the Big East in 2005 and has played in a bowl game every year since joining the league. The Bulls were ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation in 2007 before a mid-season conference slide dropped them out of the Top 25.

Similar collapses in conference play followed 5-0 starts each of the past two years. The Bulls finished 8-5 this season.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 68; TROY 84

TROJAN SHOOTING FORCE

Roberts' big night not enough as FIU falls

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

Facing a barrage of three-pointers, FIU (5-14, 2-4 Sun-Belt) was unable to respond in kind, shooting just 22 percent from behind the line in an 84-68 loss to Troy on Jan. 9 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"We shot the ball terribly," FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers played a horrid offensive game, making no first half three-point shots along with a mere 40 percent shooting percentage from the field on the night.

"At one point in the game we became really hesitant," Thomas said. "During the game Troy defenders would be standing at the foul line and we would be scared to shoot."

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE

Forward Marvin Roberts contributed a game-high 27 points, but by the time he poured in 19 in the second half, the Golden Panthers couldn't mount a comeback.

"We are constantly trying to dig ourselves out of a hole during games," Roberts said. "We have to start setting the tempo and making teams start to dig."

Roberts ended the first half with eight points before his 19 point outburst in the second.

"When we're losing I try to rally my team back as good as I can," Roberts said. "I get passionate when I score and that's what I'm trying to tell my team."

TROUBLE ON BOTH ENDS

The Trojans (9-7, 4-1) were nearly perfect against the Golden Panthers, shooting an



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Forward Marvin Roberts scored 27 points and was one of just two Golden Panthers to score in double digits as the offense stalled in an 84-68 loss to Troy on Jan. 9.

excellent 57 percent from both the three-point line as well as the field.

"I think we went too big too early in the line-up," Coach Thomas said. "I thought we would be able to compensate in rebounds."

The Golden Panthers had three steals and no blocks compared to Troy's nine steals and four blocks on the night.

"It seems like when we're playing good offensively, we play good defense," Coach

Thomas said.

There was no answer for Troy's starting shooting guard Brandon Hazzard.

Hazzard leads the Sun Belt Conference with 18 points per game and certainly put on a clinic against the Golden Panthers on the road.

Troy's star went 11-17 from the floor, also shooting a near perfect 6-10 from beyond the arc.

Frustrations not focus of Thomas' first season

During a game against the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Jan. 7, FIU head coach Isiah Thomas jumped out of his seat on the bench and

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS

began to clap and cheer after guard Stephon Weaver drew an offensive foul in the first half.

"I really want their work to pay off," Thomas said of his team after they defeated ULM. "I

see how hard they work in practice. We asked a lot of the kids the first half of the season."

It was a rare showcase of emotion for Thomas, who usually keeps a calm demeanor on the Golden Panthers bench, even in the midst of a 5-14 season.

As his team searches for improvement, Thomas continues to adjust to life as a college coach.

Thomas has cited conversations with college coaching legends Bob Knight and Mike Krzyzewski, and kept in mind the habits of his NBA coach with the Detroit Pistons, Chuck Daly.

"I'm not a guy that gets rattled. I pretty much try to keep an even keel," he said. "Chuck Daly had a great saying: 'Don't get too high and don't get too low.' I try to live that way."

Thomas hasn't been able to remain as calm as he would like during the season, however.

There was the instance in which he scolded Antoine Watson from the sideline while Watson held a lighthearted conver-

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 61 TROY 59

Golden Panthers rally late, fall short against Trojans

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

As the temperature outside dropped into the 40s, the FIU women's basketball team looked for shelter from the cold inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Saturday night.

FIU (7-10, 2-4 Sun-Belt) found no relief though, as they fell 61-59 to the Troy Trojans thanks to an icy shooting percentage from the field.

The Golden Panthers shot just 28 percent in the first half and 33.9 percent for the entire game while the Trojans knocked down 45.7 percent

of their shots, including a 53.8 percent effort in the second half.

Tenia Manuel went 3-for-4 from downtown and totaled 18 points along with four rebounds to lead Troy (9-5, 2-3).

Senior Monika Bosilj led the way for FIU with a game-high 19 points along with two blocked shots while point guard Michelle Gonzalez contributed 18 points and three steals.

After finishing the first half with both teams converting just seven field goals each, the Trojans held a one-point lead at the start of the second half, 19-18.

That one-point lead, however, turned into a 15-point lead for Troy after an 11-4 run that was capped off with a Manuel three-pointer with 7:21 remaining in the game.

Gonzalez was able to convert a three-pointer after a Trojan turnover to cut the lead to 10 points at the 6:43 mark. Less than a minute later, teammate Fanni Hutlassa knocked down a three, assisted by senior Marquita Adley, to bring FIU within seven points of tying the game.

From there, Adley went to work and brought FIU to the cusp of a comeback with a

series of big plays late.

With just under four minutes to play, Gonzalez missed a layup but Adley was there for the offensive rebound. Adley then attempted to go back up for the put-in but she missed and grabbed another rebound which allowed Bosilj to knock down a three that cut the Trojan lead to four points.

"I expected Marquita to play that well," Gonzalez said. "She's the best player we have right now. She gets rebounds and plays great defense. She brings great



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Point guard Michelle Gonzalez handles the ball against the Troy Trojans on Jan. 9.

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