

Men's Basketball enters a new chapter this year
 2009 BASKETBALL PREVIEW, PAGE 5

HOMECOMING EDITION
 PICK IT UP THIS UPCOMING MONDAY

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

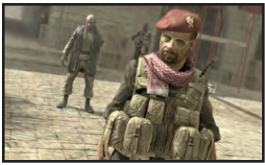


Hoping to win first prize for a second year, students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will compete in a cook-off against four local culinary schools.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Students can study abroad in China, Spain, and beginning next year, Brazil and Argentina!

OPINION PAGE 9



A leaked scene from the video game *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* shows a vivid act of terrorism at the hands of its player.

OPINION PAGE 9

Cabralitics: For Obama and other Democrats to gain support for health care reform, it's time to tango.

LIFE! PAGE 12



Preview: Angry ghost of man's ex-wife takes the stage in upcoming FIU theatre show.

LIFE! PAGE 11

Food for Thought: Web site offers info for foodies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, Nov. 6, 5 and 8 p.m. Enjoy the latest Harry Potter movie for free tonight in GC 140!

Sirens and Sea Lions, Nov. 7, 5 p.m. Folk it this Saturday with a performance by this local folk band at the Starbucks in Kendall Dr. and S.W. 137th Ave.

Metalocalypse live w/ Dethklok and Mastodon, Nov. 8, 8:30 p.m. Catch this metal performance tonight at Revolution live!

WEATHER

- FRIDAY**
Showers/Wind
LOW: 72 HIGH: 79
- SATURDAY**
Scattered Showers
LOW: 79 HIGH: 79
- SUNDAY**
Showers/Wind
LOW: 76 HIGH: 83

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SGC-MMC

Rionda sends bill back for revision

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
 Staff Writer

The senate at Student Government Council in Modesto Maidique Campus decided to send the resolution opposing mandatory health insurance back to the authors because some senators said that it was misinformed.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda had vetoed the resolution last week and told the senate this week that he believed the resolution needed more time to be researched and debated. He sent the legislative branch an e-mail with his reasoning.

Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez read the e-mail to senators during the Nov. 2 senate meeting. The message was sent almost 20 minutes after the start of the meeting.

"I believe both require more review, information, discussion and debate," stated Rionda's e-mail. "The two are complex issues which deserve more discussion and review."

Rionda was referring to both the mandatory health care resolution and another resolution he vetoed which called for the restructuring of the University's student government.

Rionda urged the senate to use the allowed time and structure afforded to the legislative body by the campus bylaws to fully investigate such issues and not pass resolutions on first reading.

According to the campus bylaws, anything brought to the senate, such as bills or resolutions, must be read twice in two different meetings in order to be passed. However, last year the senate passed a bill called "The Senate Speed Pass Act," which allows the senate to bypass the second reading and pass legislation in the first reading. This has been the method used almost every time a resolution passed this year.

"We have to look at the consequences of certain actions, not just pass it," Rionda told the senate.

Graduate senator, Lorene Fraute, called the resolution "completely irresponsible." He accused the sponsoring senators of not reading the state bill.

SGC-MMC, page 2

BACK FOR MORE



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE: Students participate in a scene from The FIU Theatre's rendition of *Blithe Spirit*. Written by Noel Coward, the play has received much attention from the Broadway and film community since its 1941 debut in London. **For more info, turn to page 12.**

FOOTBALL

Injuries not stopping Panthers

JONATHAN RAMOS
 Asst. Sports Director

When describing the state of the Golden Panthers, head coach Mario Cristobal mentioned a recent book on the NFL's Baltimore Ravens named *Next Man Up*. The way the 2009 season is unveiling, FIU might be a good idea for part two of the book.

According to Cristobal, 13 different starters have missed significant time or have been knocked out for the season with injury. The Golden Panthers have had a revolving

door at an array of positions. Key cogs like Ash Parker, Toronto Smith, Junior Mertile and Eric Kirchenburg have suffered potential season ending procedures. In addition, wide receiver T.Y. Hilton has been limited for weeks with a recurring knee issue, and cornerback Anthony Gaitor had to leave the game vs. University of Louisiana on Nov. 4 with a bad shoulder.

"Part of it is you have no choice, and the second part of it is something that we have drove home from the beginning of training camp," Cristobal said of the injury issues.

"Those situations oftentimes become a reality and sometimes to a greater extent than what you could ever even imagine. That is certainly the case this year."

Although Hilton and Gaitor will play at Middle Tennessee State University (5-3, 3-1 Sun Belt) on Nov. 7, FIU (2-6, 2-3) will continue to tap into the fountain of youth as inexperienced players are being thrust into action.

One of the underclassmen picking up a key role is linebacker Aaron

FOOTBALL, page 2

Regalado wins mayoral elections

LISA ORKIN EMMANUEL
 AP Writer

In Miami, a Havana-born commissioner and former television reporter was elected mayor with a wide margin Tuesday, while St. Petersburg picked a lawyer who had the support of the city business and political establishment.

In Miami, with all of the precincts reporting, unofficial results showed Tomas Regalado had nearly 72 percent and Joe Sanchez had just over 28 percent.

"We're going to recover our city and the confidence of our residents,"

Regalado said, according to *The Miami Herald*. "And we will do it by not wasting money."

Sanchez said he called Regalado to concede, but spoke with his chief of staff.

"The voters in the city of Miami have exercised their democratic process ... I certainly respect that we live in great country and I wish him the best," Sanchez said. "There comes a time in everybody's career when the sun rises and sets. It set for me tonight, but it's not the end of my political career."

In St. Petersburg, with all precincts reporting, unofficial results

showed Bill Foster with more than 52 percent of the votes and Kathleen Ford with just over 47 percent. Foster and Ford are both lawyers and former city commissioners. They were vying to replace popular Mayor Rick Baker, who was also limited to two four-year terms.

"Steady progress wins the day," Foster said, according to the *St. Petersburg Times*. "Radical change is something we've not been receptive to."

Ford said she called 46-year-old Foster about 8 p.m. to concede the

ELECTIONS, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

University staff accused of procurement card abuse

Two University staff members have been involved in another incident of procurement card abuse.

In an e-mail addressed to faculty and staff, University President Mark Rosenberg disclosed that the two staff members, one who abused the procurement card and another who did not follow proper University approval policies, have “separated from the University.”

“I want to remind all members of our university community that policies and procedures are in place to ensure the public’s continuing trust in our university and the safeguarding of financial resources,” said Rosenberg in the Nov. 3 e-mail.

This is the second instance of procurement card abuse, on Sept. 17 Rosenberg sent out a similar e-mail in which he announced that a faculty member had misused the card.

LOCAL

State sues Expedia and Orbitz for backed taxes

The state of Florida has sued discount travel Web sites Expedia and Orbitz for backed taxes.

According to *The Miami Herald*, the lawsuit, filed by State Attorney General Bill McCollum, alleges that the companies have kept millions of dollars in Florida sales taxes.

The article added that according to industry experts, both Expedia and Orbitz say that they do not purchase blocks of hotel rooms hence there are no sales tax funds involved.

McCollum has received praised from both sides of the aisle as a result.

NATIONAL

Tainted ground beef kills 2, sickens dozens

Two have died and 28 have fallen ill as a result of a mass shipment of tainted ground beef.

According to CNN, meat tainted with E. Coli was shipped to various retailers, such as BJ’s and Trader Joe’s. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a full list of retailers who have received tainted meat.

The USDA suggests that consumers ask retailers at point of purchase where the ground beef came from.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

Senate advised to read bills twice

SGC-MMC, page 1

The state bill, CS/CS/HB 885, entitled the “Student Health Insurance Protection Act,” would have given state universities the power to mandate health insurance as a requirement for registration.

“It died,” Nursing Senator Alejandro Garcia told the senate annoyed.

“Just because it died doesn’t mean it can’t be brought back,” said engineering senator and sponsor of the resolution, William-Jose Velez.

The intent of the resolution was to not deny education to those who could not afford health insurance, said senator from the Honors College, Vignesh Doraiswamy, another sponsor of the resolution.

One of the more controversial lines in the resolution contends that the State Legislature would enact mandatory health insurance without any financial assistance.

Student Media could not find any references in the “Student Health Insurance



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

MEETINGS: The MMC Student Government Council executive board meets every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the GC Chambers, Room 150. The Senate meets every Monday at 4 p.m.

Protection Act” that would address any additional finance to students in need.

Instead, the resolution focused on the logistics of getting university health centers to become in-network provider status for the major insurance providers in the state, and of collecting fees for services rendered from the providers.

The senate also passed a council bill that would change all references in the bylaws from University Park Campus to Modesto Maidique Campus.

Rionda also criticized the senate for passing that bill on first read without looking into the consequences.

“It is not necessary to pass this in one week,”

Rionda said.

Ramirez told Student Media that the senate sometimes gets “antsy” to get legislation through and that some legislation does not require a second read.

She added, however, that a resolution like the mandatory health care one would have benefited from a second read.

Davis, Cyprien fill key positions

FOOTBALL, page 1

Davis. The sophomore filled the shoes of Smith in the win against UL by recording a team high nine tackles, including two stops for loss.

Davis was called a “monster” by fellow linebacker Tyler Clawson, who stepped in for Winston Fraser and made two tackles for loss on the game himself. Arguably the most impressive unseasoned player has been freshman Jonathan Cyprien, who has taken over for Parker at safety and is second on the team with 47 tackles.

‘BAPTISM OF FIRE’

“Is the next guy expected to step up and play? Absolutely,” Cristobal said. “It’s our job to continue to get them ready, and sometimes through a baptism of fire, where they have to be put in a situation. They have to cut their own teeth sometimes because sometimes you have to learn by taking those painful steps.”

Cyprien has been one of the main culprits of that approach and he will likely start his fourth game in a row vs. MTSU.

The first-year defensive back from North Miami Beach High played roughly 90 plays last week between safety and special teams.

“He was a guy that since the day he’s gotten here has completely committed himself to being a great football player,” Cristobal said. “We ask a lot of him and he embraces it. If you come here late at night, you’ll find a light on in that film room and that’s him. He’s a little bit ahead of his time in terms of his mental approach.”

FIU will rely on their youngsters to grow up fast and their newly inserted starters to pick up the slack when they defend one of the most dynamic players in the Sun Belt Conference in Dwight Dasher.

The Blue Raiders dual-threat quarterback is eighth nationally in total offense and leads an MTSU unit that has accounted for 468 rushing yards combined in its last two games, which is 43 more yards than its previous four games altogether.

In last season’s victory over the Blue Raiders, FIU did not face Dasher for most of the game because he did not start the

contest, but Dasher accumulated nearly 300 total yards against FIU in a 47-6 loss to the Blue Raiders in 2007.

“What really sticks out in my mind is him going up there two years ago and him having his way completely,” Cristobal said. “As you watch him this year, he does some things that are unbelievable.”

Last week against Florida Atlantic University, Dasher scored the winning touchdown for MTSU on a 74-yard run.

NOT DONE YET

The Golden Panthers still have a slim chance at winning the conference and will need to win its remaining games to reach bowl eligibility.

“We have a chance for a lot of great things and we just beat UL for the first time in the program’s history,” Cristobal said. “We have a game coming up against a team that’s sitting right at second place in the conference standings. Several of our goals are still intact. We have a chance to beat the best conference record ever by FIU and besides our conference games, we have a tremendous opportunity at the University of Florida in a couple of weeks as well.”

Ford becomes St. Petersburg mayor

ELECTIONS, page 1

election and thank him.

“I’m sad, a little disappointed with the outcome, but extremely thrilled with the amount of volunteer support and financial support in these tough economic times,” the newspaper quoted Ford as saying.

The Miami candidates are both city commissioners. They were vying to replace outgoing mayor Manny Diaz, who has served two four-year terms and

can’t run again.

Regalado, 62, was born in Havana and came to Miami with his younger brother in the so-called “Pedro Pan Flights” of the early 1960s. A former television reporter, Regalado was first elected as a city commissioner in 1996.

Sanchez, a Cuban-born former state trooper, was appointed to his commission seat in June 1998 and has since been elected to two four-year terms. He is now the commission chairman.

Regalado had said he will focus on

growth and economic development, but added that any major city-financed projects should be placed before the voters.

In St. Petersburg, Ford, 52, developed a grass-roots campaign built on volunteers and sharp criticism of the status quo and what she said is a political good ol’ boy network in Florida’s fourth-largest city. She has been an outspoken critic of Baker’s administration and challenged him unsuccessfully for mayor in 2001. She served on the city council from 1997 to 2001.

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School competes for first prize in beef brisket cook-off

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

After winning first prize last year, students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and the Gourmet Wine and Food Club will go up against four culinary schools this year in a barbecue beef brisket cook-off challenge.

The competition, called the Flamingo Family Food Festival, will be hosted by the South Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food, and will take place Nov. 7 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Flamingo Gardens, which is located at 3750 S. Flamingo Rd. in Davie, Fla.

AIWF is an organization founded by Julia Child and other chefs. It helps its members develop their passion for food and wine through educational programs, scholarships and social activities.

The school competed in last year's cook-off and won first place with a menu of papaya-glazed ribs with jicama mint slaw, and a frozen mojito shooter with coconut rum. Their prize: a ceramic pig.

"Hopefully, we can make FIU proud and bring the trophy back home," said Max Albano, a junior hospitality management major.

This year's student competitors, lead by Chef Instructor Michael Moran, are: Bianca Rojas, an HTM graduate student and club president; Michael Vidal, an HTM senior and the club's vice president; Rachel Reppert, an HTM graduate student and the club's treasurer; and Lindsey Darkes, Christian Poole and Albano, all junior HTM majors and club members.

The students were chosen to compete because of their culinary backgrounds and involvement in the Gourmet Wine and Food Club, according to Rojas.

They will go up against culinary students from the Florida Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach, Johnson & Wales

University, Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, and Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts Miami.

Each school will receive a \$1,500 scholarship for competing, which will be distributed among the student participants. This year's first place prize is a ceramic cow.

The student competitors already have a menu in mind for the competition, but it's a secret.

"We will be going with a South Florida/Caribbean theme as far as I know," said Poole, "because Chef and all the other culinarians here at FIU strongly believe in supporting local sustainable farming."

Aside from the competition, the festival will feature entertainment for the whole family.

Chef Moran will do hands-on, nutritional cooking demonstrations for children at the Kids Corner at the Flamingo Café. There will also be food samples from local restaurants, including John the Baker Italian Restaurant, Really Good Cookies Gourmet Cookie Company, as well as "Top Chef" contestant Ron Duprat and others. Samples of different wines will also be offered.

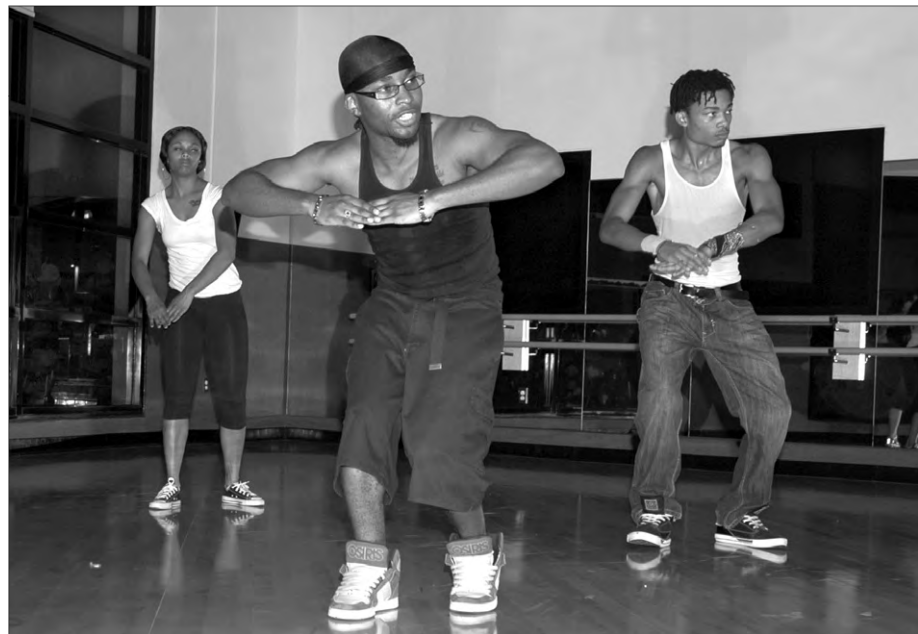
Whiskey River Bands, a country music band, will perform live, and tram tour rides around Flamingo Gardens will depart at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to visit the botanical gardens and native wildlife exhibits.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit AIWF's culinary scholarships and Days of Taste programs, as well as the Flamingo Gardens' Everglades wildlife sanctuary and botanical gardens.

Tickets are \$25 for students and seniors, \$50 for adults, \$15 for children under 12, and free for children under 4.

"It will give FIU a great image because we are not known as a cooking school," said Poole. "It would be great to show off some of the talent this school has to offer."

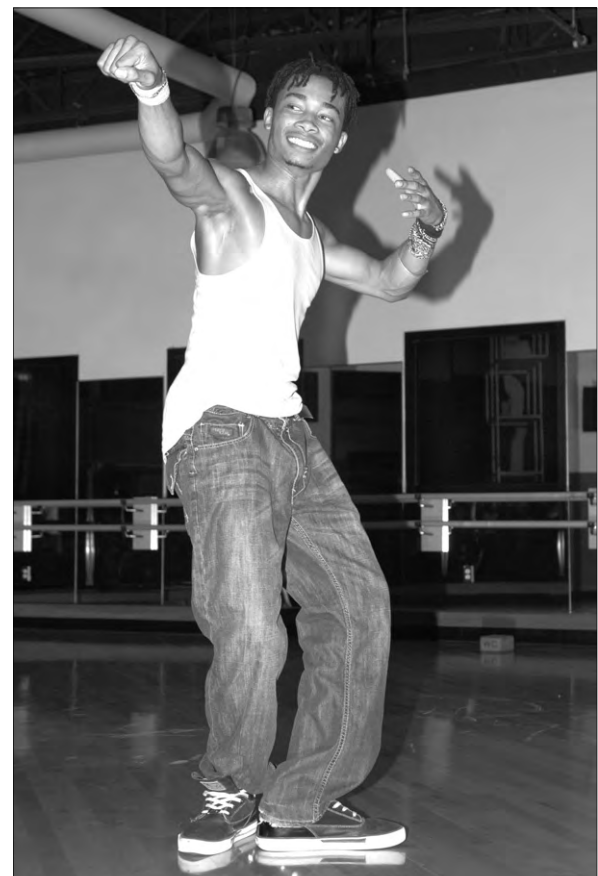
IN THE FLOW



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

RHYTHM: (Top) Asia Cunningham, a junior physical therapy major (left), and Joshua Eason, a junior education and music theatre major (right) follow hip-hop moves demonstrated by Ekandem "E" Essiet, a choreographer with Steele 1 Management (center), on Nov. 3.

(Bottom) Eason performs another hip-hop dance move on Nov. 3, as part of the hip-hop dancing night hosted by SPC, which is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center's aerobics room.



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Study abroad programs give students culture experience

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

David Fonseca, a senior political science major, has been studying in Tianjin, China, since Aug. 23. The study abroad program is scheduled to end in December, but he doesn't know when he's coming back home. He loves the experience too much to come back.

"It could be four months or eight months," said Fonseca during an interview with *The Beacon* via Skype. "It's a great experience maturity wise. You get to be more independent. You get to be away from home. There's a whole new level of freedom."

The schools of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Journalism and Mass Communication offer study abroad programs in China, Europe and South America.

HTM has a program in Tianjin, China every semester for both undergraduate and graduate students. The trip costs \$4,900 and includes airfare, accommodations, travel and health insurance, as well as tuition, books, food, a tour of the city and personal expenses for one semester. Pell grants and need-based scholarships are available for study abroad students.

The deadline for the Spring semester trip has

already passed, and the specifics of the Summer trip have yet to be determined, according to Dawn Fagnan, enrollment manager of HTM's study abroad program. Those specifics include when the deadline will be and what classes will be offered.

Fagnan said the deadline could be March 15, and although the classes have yet to be determined, the classes offered in the past were Event Management, Wine Tasting, Organizational Behavior and Research Methods, among others.

To be able to study abroad in HTM's program, students must be at least juniors and have a 2.5 undergraduate GPA or a 3.0 graduate GPA. They should have taken at least one semester at the University. They don't have to be part of HTM. All majors are welcomed, Fagnan said.

During the semester abroad, students must take at least one course offered, each one worth three credits. They can take up to three undergraduate courses and two graduate courses.

Fagnan said one of the benefits of studying abroad in China is being able to experience the country and what it has to offer.

"Students will be taking courses that they need to graduate anyway, but they get to experience them in this international destination," Fagnan said.

Senior HTM major Sebastian Garcia, who also studied in Tianjin, said he learned to be sensitive to other cultures during his trip.

Garcia now volunteers with Fagnan to recruit students for the program.

"Because it had such a big impact on my life, I want to be able to open that up to other people," Garcia said.

SJMC study abroad programs are also open to all majors. Students can sign up for trips to Seville, Spain; Berlin, Germany, and the Galapagos. SJMC is also creating a new program to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, according to Fernando Figueredo, associate professor and chair of the department of advertising & public relations.

The Berlin and Seville trips are 20- and 30-day programs that cost \$2,890 and \$2,050, respectively. These are two separate trips that take place during Summer A.

The Galapagos trip also takes place during Summer A from May 27 to June 10. The deadline and price of the summer 2010 trip has not been set yet, but they will be by Nov. 17, the day of the Study Abroad Fair at the Modesto Maidique Campus' Graham Center, according to Laura Marks, intern at the Office of Education Abroad.

Marks said the deadline is usually February or March, and the price of last summer's trip was \$2,026.10. This included in-country airfare, accommodations, most meals, local transportation, activities and guided tours. It did not include the University's instructional fee and the \$175 non-refundable mandatory study abroad fee.

Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro are one program. Students will spend 10 days in Buenos Aires and 11 in Rio de Janeiro during Summer B. The trip to South America will be a pilot program during Summer 2010 and full-fledged by the following Summer.

Airfare is not included in the cost of the trips because students have decided to figure out their own ways to the study abroad destinations in the past, Figueredo said.

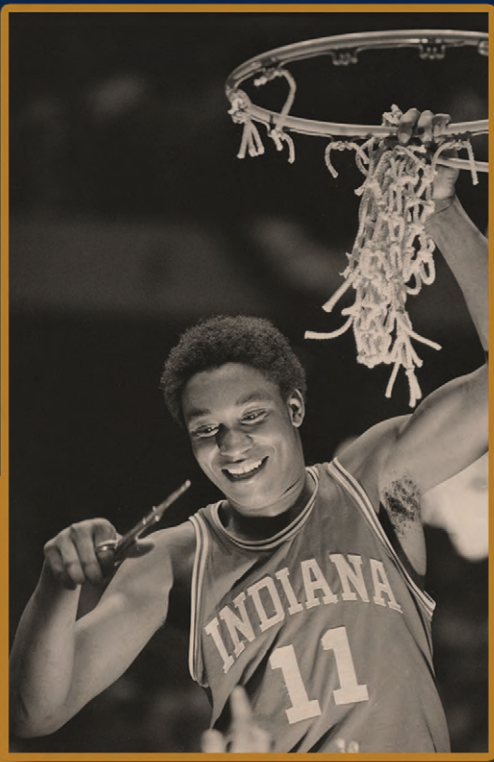
He also said financial aid covers all trips. The deadline, which is when the first down payment is due, is Jan. 15.

Stephanie Castro, senior HTM major, went to China, where she visited seven cities in two weeks. She said students should be prepared to encounter different cultures.

"Students won't come back the same persons," she said. "I didn't come back the same person. I opened my eyes."

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

By Charlie Grau



A New Chapter

Main Cast



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STEERING THE SHIP: Golden Panthers men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas instructs his players during a practice before the start of the season. This is his first season as a college coach.

Thomas' journey to FIU filled with peaks and valleys

CHARLIE GRAU
Staff Writer

Isiah Thomas believes he's a blessed man.

For over 25 years, the NBA Hall of Famer has been involved in some form or another with the game he's loved all his life.

Even during his tumultuous tenure as coach and president of Basketball Operations for the New York Knicks, he never once wanted to skip a day at the gym.

"Every morning I wake up excited to go to the gym," Thomas said. "I never looked at basketball as a job and I hope that never happens."

Thomas gets to continue his trips to the gym as FIU's head basketball coach.

Although he's served as head coach for two NBA teams, this will be his first job at the collegiate level.

Though the game is still the same, Thomas said the most difficult part about college basketball is learning the NCAA rules.

"I'm just trying to absorb and understand it all, but once you get on the court it's still basketball," he said.

With so much to learn in a short amount of time, Thomas has reached out to several NCAA coaches for advice, like his former coach at Indiana, Bob Knight, and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"The best advice I've received so far was from Coach K.," Thomas said. "He just reminded me that he's from the West Side of Chicago and I'm from the West Side of Chicago and to just go back to being yourself."

With all the advice he may receive, he

knows it will never substitute learning from making mistakes and he realizes that.

"This is a game that no one ever masters. It's always evolving and you're always learning, always listening and trying to get better," Thomas said.

Many have been labeling Thomas' first time coaching at the collegiate level as an opportunity to start a new chapter of his life and get away from drama that has followed him.

But Thomas sees it differently. "I'm extremely comfortable with myself. I'm not trying to remake myself. I just look at this as an opportunity."

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

At halftime of the 2009 Bowl Championship Series title game at Dolphin Stadium, Thomas was supposed to meet up with University of Florida men's basketball coach Billy Donovan, but the Gators coach got pulled into a meeting with New Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

While grabbing a bite to eat, Thomas bumped into FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia.

The two chatted for a while, caught up and exchanged numbers.

A week or so later, Thomas received a call from Garcia with a question.

"I want you to think about something and don't answer. Would you ever be interested in coaching college basketball?" Garcia asked.

At the time Thomas was talking to a couple of colleges through their search committees.

Then Garcia said, "Well don't answer the question, but would you be interested

in starting your own program and starting it from the bottom and building it doing it here at FIU? Don't answer, just think about it."

As soon as he hung up, Thomas went straight to the FIU Web site to learn what ever he could about the University.

Prior to the telephone conversation, all Thomas new about FIU was the University of Miami-FIU brawl.

Two days later, Garcia calls Thomas back and invites him to Miami. While being escorted around the University by Garcia, Thomas was surprised at what he saw when he arrived. FIU wasn't what he was expecting.

After the trip, he called up his wife and several other people close to him and told them he was going to take the job. Everyone asked him the same question: "FIU? Are you sure?"

"Yeah I'm sure. You see you got to see what can be, not what it is. I see what can be of this. And that's why I'm here," he said.

LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES

During his basketball career, Thomas has had great success: two NBA titles, 12 All-star appearances, an NBA Finals MVP, an NCAA Championship, and had his number retired by the Detroit Pistons.

But he has also seen his share of failures. His most criticized and recent came as coach and president of the New York Knicks.

During that time the Knicks were regularly at the bottom of the standings despite a large payroll. Beyond the court, he was entrenched in a lawsuit for sexual harassment.

He admits that his venture in New York was unsuccessful.

"There have been a lot of us so called Hall of Famers who have failed in New York. Why so much has been made about my failure is still a mystery to me... New York is the greatest challenge because it's the hardest nut to crack. A lot of have tried and failed."

But despite all the bad press and public backlash, Thomas believes his failure will help him in the future.

"Courageous people are people who take the hard jobs and fail. But we need those people even if they fail. They lay the founda-



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP PHOTO

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND: While serving as coach of the New York Knicks, Thomas' team finished at the bottom of the standings with a team that had one of the highest payrolls in the NBA.

tion for others to follow."

And at FIU, Thomas is building on the foundation of former Golden Panthers head coach Sergio Rouco's failures.

Thomas believes in FIU basketball and has a vision for it.

"I was with the president the other day and he told me vision is the art of seeing the invisible. Then he pulled out a picture of FIU in 1975. And all there was at the time were two buildings and an airport tower. And he said, 'Now somebody saw everything that's here right now,' and I see what this basketball program can be if we connect the dots."



STEPHON WEAVER

FORWARD JUNIOR 6-5 210

New arrival Stephon Weaver was named the Bi-State Conference Player of the Year and led Connor State to the 2009 NJCAA Region II Championship. Weaver is a perimeter scorer and has been working on his defense under Isiah Thomas. "I'm seeing a defensive tenacity in Weaver that I hadn't quite expected," Thomas said.



CEDRIC ESSOLA

FORWARD SENIOR 6-9 215

The 3 letter senior Essola is a low block defender and will wear his defenders out on offense. Essola put up an impressive 11 blocks and 14 steals last season. "I never really knew much about him because he was always injured," Thomas said. "He is tough as nails and has great basketball instincts."



J.C. OTERO

FORWARD SENIOR 6-7 210

The Colombian returns from a knee injury that sidelined him almost all of last season. "He and Niko play well together," Thomas said. "J.C. has something called know how, meaning he knows how to get himself in position to get an open shot."



MARLON BRIGHT

FORWARD SENIOR 6-5 235

The team captain is a returning 3 letter senior. Bright is a strong inside post player and plays aggressive defense. He is known as "The Standard". "Marlon is the epitome of what a student athlete should be," Thomas said. "He is the leader of our team, and embodies what FIU is all about."



NIKOLA GACESA

FORWARD SENIOR 6-9 239

Gacesa has the most returning experience on the floor as he started 26 games last season. Gacesa returns as a senior that can shoot basketball, pass well, and produce points in the post. "If I had to pick two captains on the team, they would be Niko and Marlon," Thomas said. "He led the team defensively in blocks with 14 and averaged 10 points per game last season."



ANTOINE WATSON

FORWARD JUNIOR 6-5 210

Antoine Watson averaged 24.8 points per game last season at Redlands Community College. He led the NJCAA in steals per game, and three-point shooting percentage. He won two high school championships where he was the MVP of both games. Coach Thomas states that Watson has taken a liking to defense and covering the best player on the court.



MARVIN ROBERTS

FORWARD JUNIOR 6-5 210

Transferred to FIU after leading the NJCAA last season averaging 29.6 points per game, made 47 three-point shots in 2008-09, and averaged 4.6 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.1 steals per contest. Coach Thomas: Marvin is probably the most explosive scorer on the team. Look for Roberts to be a primary target this season because of his offensive capability.



TREMAINE RUSSELL

GUARD JUNIOR 6-1 180

This returning guard is a prime time athlete who uses his speed to penetrate the lane and guard the opposing team's top scorer. Do not expect him to slow down this season. He had 28 steals last on 2008-09. "He has been in the weight room and it has definitely shown out on the floor," Thomas said.



MARTAVIS KEE

GUARD SOPHOMORE 6-2 190

Much success is expected from the transfer from Temple University. He was HoopScoop's No. 133 prospect in 2007. Coach Thomas classifies Kee as an emerging defender and great player. He will not be eligible to play this season until the game against Florida Gulf Coast on Dec. 12.



NICK TAYLOR

GUARD JUNIOR 5-10 165

The Miami native ended the season last year with 99 assists. He has great court vision, which allows him to capably play the point guard position. He had the most assists for a Golden Panther in a season last year since the 2000-01 season.



ANTHONY ANDERSON

GUARD JUNIOR 6-0 160

The Golden Panthers' zone buster started 24 games at Cedar Valley College in Texas last season. Thomas can look to Anderson in clutch game situations because of his strong defensive ability. Anderson can stretch the floor and knock down the long range shot for the Golden Panthers as well.



PHIL GARY JR.

GUARD JUNIOR 5-11 190

The transfer averaged 19 points a game while at Chicago Malcolm X Community College. Coach Thomas: Phil is a good point guard who manages the offense and is really starting to get a feel for tempo. Gary put up an astonishing 3 triple-doubles last season, scoring at least 30 points in three of those contests.

"Courageous people are people who take the hard jobs and fail. But we need those people even if they fail. They lay the foundation for others to follow."

Isiah Thomas
men's basketball coach

What people are saying about FIU Basketball:

PRESEASON SUN BELT COACHES POLL

East Division

1. WKU **77** (12)
2. Troy **62** (1)
3. Middle Tennessee **53**
4. South Alabama **40**
5. Florida Atlantic **21**
6. FIU **20**

West Division

1. North Texas **85** (9)
2. Denver **73** (1)
3. Louisiana-Lafayette **56** (1)
4. UALR **53** (1)
5. Louisiana-Monroe **45** (1)
6. Arkansas State **36**
7. New Orleans **17**

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31-0!

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PRESEASON ALL SUN BELT TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Nate Rohnert, **Denver**
Desmond Yates, **Middle Tennessee**
Eric Tramiel, **North Texas**
Brandon Hazzard, **Troy**
A.J. Slaughter, **WKU**

SECOND TEAM

Chris Gradnigo, **Louisiana-Lafayette**
Josh White, **North Texas**
Richard Delk, **Troy**
Sergio Kerusch, **WKU**
Steffphon Pettigrew, **WKU**

THIRD TEAM

Donald Boone, **Arkansas State**
Tony Hooper, **Louisiana-Monroe**
Malcolm Thomas, **Louisiana-Monroe**
Michael Vogler, **Troy**
Jeremy Evans, **WKU**

2009 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Nov. 09	North Carolina	at Chapel Hill, N.C.	7 p.m.
Nov. 13	Monmouth	at West Long Branch, N.J.	7 p.m.
Nov. 15	Tulsa	at Tulsa, Okla.	3 p.m.
Nov. 17	Fla. Memorial	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Nov. 20	N.C. Central	U.S. Century Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	James Madison	U.S. Century Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Nov. 23	Murray State	U.S. Century Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Eastern Kentucky	at Richmond, Ky.	7 p.m.
Nov. 30	Bowling Green	at Bowling Green, Ohio	7 p.m.
Dec. 03	Florida A&M	at Tallahassee, Fla.	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 06	Florida State	at Tallahassee, Fla.	1 p.m.
Dec. 12	Fla. Gulf Coast	at Fort Myers, Fla.	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Denver *	at Denver, CO	9 p.m.
Dec. 20	North Texas *	at Denton, Texas	4 p.m.
Dec. 22	Sam Houston St.	at Huntsville, Texas	8 p.m.
Dec. 31	South Alabama *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	Noon
Jan. 02	New Orleans *	at New Orleans, La.	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 07	La.-Monroe *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 09	Troy *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 14	Middle Tenn. *	at Murfreesboro, Tenn.	8 p.m.
Jan. 16	W. Kentucky *	at Bowling Green, Ky.	8 p.m.
Jan. 21	Arkansas State *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 23	Ark.-Little Rock *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 30	FAU *	at Boca Raton, Fla.	7 p.m.
Feb. 04	La.-Lafayette *	at Lafayette, La.	8:05 p.m.
Feb. 06	North Texas *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	South Alabama *	at Mobile, Ala.	8:05 p.m.
Feb. 13	Troy *	at Troy, Ala.	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	FAU *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 25	Middle Tenn. *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 27	W. Kentucky *	U.S. Century Bank Arena	8 p.m.

* Denotes conference game

SOUNDBITES

- On part ownership of a popcorn company, Dale & Thomas: "I love everything about popcorn. Growing up it was the one food that we could afford. My mom would make a big bowl on Thursday nights and we would watch Batman and the Green Hornet."
- On getting lost in Miami: "A lot of people don't get lost anymore because they've got Neverlost and GPS. I wanted to get a feel for the city and its people."
- "What stood out to me about Miami is that most cities I lived in preached diversity, I see diversity here culturally. That's the coolest thing. It's not about integrating races but cultures."
- "Critics aren't always wrong. There are some good things you can draw from criticism."
- "Well, they've got us picked last [in the coaches poll]. Man, I've been picked last all my life."
- "I never go into a job thinking I'm going to leave a legacy. I look at it as another chance to go to the gym."



ABOUT THE COACH



Ed Betz/Associated Press

Isiah Thomas, a first ballot NBA Hall Of Famer as a player, was a two-time NBA Champion with the Detroit Pistons as a player and won an NBA Finals MVP award in 1990. At the collegiate level, Thomas won an NCAA Tournament Championship in 1981 and was the Tourney's Most Outstanding Player. Had a .456 winning percentage as a head coach of the Indiana Pacers and New York Knicks over five seasons in the NBA.

ROSTER

32 Allen, Jeremy	G 6-3	186	Jr.	McAdoo, Russell	G 5-11	170	Sr.
24 Anderson, Anthony	G 6-0	160	Jr.	22 Moore, Brandon	F 6-8	207	So.
34 Bright, Marlon	F 6-5	235	Sr.	Nunez, Manuel	G 6-4	175	So.
Crawford, Marcus	G 5-11	170	Sr.	10 Otero, J.C.	F 6-7	210	Sr.
Crowder, Nehemiah	G 5-10	170	Fr.	11 Roberts, Marvin	F 6-5	210	Jr.
21 Essola, Cedric	F 6-9	215	Sr.	3 Russell, Tremayne	G 6-1	180	Jr.
15 Gacesa, Nikola	F 6-9	239	Sr.	23 Taylor, Nick	G 5-10	165	Jr.
4 Gary, Phil	G 5-11	190	Jr.	1 Watson, Antoine	G 6-4	200	Jr.
5 Kee, Martavis	G 6-2	190	So.	2 Weaver, Stephen	G 6-3	195	Jr.

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PLAYING THE TERRORIST

Video game's violent scene adds depth to experience

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

Politicians and uptight parents tend to blanket all types of video game violence as unnecessary. In most cases, people see violence in a video game superficially, and don't see it in context.

A recently leaked scene from Infinity Ward's highly anticipated first person shooter, *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*, depicts a violent scenario in which the player must kill various civilians while undercover with a terrorist cell.

The scene takes place in an international airport terminal on Russian soil. Emerging from an elevator into a crowded transit hub, the player is commanded by the leader of the group to immediately gun down a large group of civilians.

The scene is powerful and really shocked me upon first viewing. No doubt, this is one of the more gruesome scenes I have seen during my extensive video game playing career, and I have played a lot.

Some Internet and online forum critics feel the scene depicts violence for the sake of violence and could be left out of the game entirely. I disagree.

Infinity Ward has become a master of creating gritty, edgy and thought provoking games that really immerse the player in a detailed, no holds barred story line.

According to Activision, the game's publisher, the leaked footage is part of a plan that serves a purpose in the single player campaign.

"The game includes a plot involving a mission carried out by a Russian villain who wants to trigger a global war. In order to defeat him, the player infiltrates his inner circle. The scene is designed to evoke the atrocities of terrorism," Activision said in a

written statement to *Joystiq*, a popular video games blog run by AOL.

Activision added that the game would feature a "mandatory checkpoint" that will allow the player to choose whether or not to play that part. Also, the game has been clearly rated "M" for Mature by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board.

Apparently, Hollywood's idea of a "terrorist" is a concept that is tired and repetitive. The terrorist strikes, the good guy hunts the terrorist down, the terrorist and the good guy square off and the good guy wins.

I have played or watched countless video games, movies and TV shows that follow this same formula and more often than not they are monotonous and leave no lasting impact.

The terrorist is rarely a character who can be explored and the viewer – or player in this case – can never really understand why or how this man is evil.

However, I think this scene in *MW2* seeks to address this problem, and really helps put into perspective the threat the player faces in the story.

Infinity Ward wants players to understand why he is hunting down the game's villain, Vladimir Makarov.

In the game, according to Activision, Makarov is "dedicated to bringing the world to the brink of collapse" and wants to do this by igniting a global war.

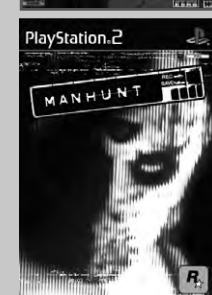
That's easy to say and easier to assume. In the end, the player won't know why this dude is gunning down civilians; they have just been told they should.

The enemy in the previous *Modern Warfare* game was clear, and the shocking events that transpired in the game, such as the detonation of a nuclear device during a U.S. occupation – seen through the eyes of a U.S. soldier on the ground – are ingrained in my mind almost two years after its release.

That is exactly the goal that Infinity Ward has in mind when creating the story for this game.

The airport scene in *MW2* is not needlessly violent, or some attempt to create controversy to generate hype, Infinity Ward doesn't need to do that.

This scene exists not only to provide perspective but also ignite emotions, making the single player experience a memorable and lasting one.



PROBLEMATIC PLAYS

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas has been chastised for its violent gameplay, including robbery and gun use. This installment of *GTA* has an unlockable scene where a player can have sex with a hooker.

Postal 2: Share The Pain is emblematic of graphic video games not only because of the massive amounts of violence encouraged within the game but also because of the ability for players to urinate on corpses after a killing spree.

Manhunt is infamous for its "execution scenes." Various finishing moves are performed on a myriad of gang members that include plastic bags, crowbars and a hammer. The game was taken off the shelves in the U.K. after a boy murdered his friend in the same style as the game.

SAY WHAT?!: Are video games today too violent?

"Call of Duty is just a game. It's not too violent for the age group it's meant for. I don't think any video game can be so violent that it can trigger violent tendencies."

Matthew Colon
Junior, English

"Yes, videos games are too violent and graphic, but all video games have a rating. It's also up to parents to do their job in order to protect their kids."

Jose Angel Perez
Junior, International Business

"Video games definitely are too violent nowadays. Because of the times, the more realistic things are, the more fun it is. They do have ratings, and it's up to parents to take care of their kids."

Andy Catalan
Junior, Music Business

"Video games are violent but playing them is no different than going to watch a violent movie; it's only escapism."

Stephanie Rodriguez
Junior, English

CABRALITICS

Obama, Dems should dust off their dancing shoes

President Obama can certainly give a good speech, but the real question is: Can he dance?

Health care reform has become the defining issue of his presidency. Yet, with his approval ratings far from their stratospheric heights, and Joe Lieberman rearing his ugly head, Obama and the Democrats need to do something drastic to regain the attention

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

of the American people and give reform the push it needs.

Let's face it: Most people don't find the day-to-day intricacies of the political process very interesting.

A recent Gallup poll found that only 36 percent of Americans closely follow national politics.

That's why, after months of trying to fight conservatives on health care, it's time Obama livened up the debate

and settled this health care battle once and for all.

Obama should abandon the conventional law making process and pass health care reform through more entertaining means. Like a dance-off, or an arm wrestling competition. Sure, it isn't constitutional, but if his predecessor taught us anything, it's that a good leader doesn't let the constitution stand in the way of getting things done.

First, he could challenge the Republicans to a dance-

off to decide the fate of health care reform. This approach has many advantages. For one thing, a dance contest would draw huge ratings, more so than any meeting of the Ways and Means committee. Fox chose to broadcast an episode of "So You Think You Can Dance?" over the president's speech in September for a good reason.

Another little known advantage is the fact that the Democrats in Congress are far better dancers. Nancy

Pelosi has been known to do a mean robot, and Harry Reid's slick moves at his eighth-grade formal are still the stuff of legend.

A dance competition hasn't decided the fate of a bill since the days of the Dancing 97th Congress, but it may be time for Democrats to finally break it down.

If Reid or Pelosi balk at unleashing their stunning moves, Obama and the Democrats could challenge the Republican leadership to

an arm wrestling competition. By all accounts, the president is in good shape, while John Boehner just barely beat Eric Cantor in arm wrestling for minority leader.

Failing these exciting new approaches, Obama could just stick with the current boring process. Yet if Obama is bold enough, he can not only pass health care reform, but go down in history as the president who brought change (and the cabbage patch) to Washington, D.C.

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.

QUOTATIONATION

"I think it kind of reflects a general anti-incumbent feeling ... next year is a millennium away, politically, so there's plenty of time for us."

Patrick Kennedy
Representative, U.S. Congress

DAILYQUERY

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, over 20 presidents of private colleges earned more than \$1 million – a 5.5 percent increase in pay from last year. Should college presidents be paid less during this time of economic hardship?

Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com

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.

OPINIONPIECE

23

The number of former U.S. intelligence operatives sentenced to prison for the 2003 kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric from Milan.

Spirit to be revived by FIU theatre department

SPIRIT, page 12

tion 68 years ago. "It goes from a romantic comedy, to at times slapstick. And the characters are great," noted Yawney, "It's a fantastic cast. One minute they'll have to play a tender love scene and next minute fall on their backs."

The production, which was cast last spring, has been in rehearsal for five weeks. Even so, the production continues to challenge the cast.

"At this point we just can't wait to get an audience in there. The other day someone came in and started laughing and it's like, 'Oh that's right, this play is going to make people laugh.' You start working on it, and after a while ... there was a different energy going into the room the moment the actors heard that person laughing," Yawney said.

But it's not just the cast that has worked long and hard. The crew for *Spirit* is attempting some of the most ambitious feats in the special effects department.

"It's really exciting and really frightening at the same time," Yawney hinted. "I don't want to give anything away, but at the climax of the play we have very unhappy ghosts who take out their anger on the house. Making that happen in a university involves calling on everyone's imaginations to figure out ... Can we make a cushion fly from the couch into someone's face?"

On Broadway, *Spirit* re-opened with Rupert Everett and Angela Lansbury. According to the *NY Daily News*, Lansbury is "playing an eccentric psychic medium who stirs up ghostly trouble in *Blithe Spirit*, Angela Lansbury may be fidgety and frazzled at times, but she's the spark in the new production of Noel Coward's 1941 comedy."

Unfortunately, the play's revival on Broadway opened to mixed and unsatisfied reviews. FIU's production, however, promises a completely different experience.

Yawney speaks affec-

tionately of his cast.

"It's weird really, the rehearsals have actually been really enjoyable. We've been in really close contact, working in a lot of detail. They're really one of the hardest working group of people I've ever been around," he said.

Carolina Pozo also chimed in with nothing but a positive attitude toward her experience.

"I've been having a blast. It's a really fun show to do. My (fellow) cast members are a trip."

Blithe Spirit Show times

Nov. 5-7 and 12-14 at 8 p.m.
Nov. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

For more info contact the FIU Theatre Department at (305) 348-0496

Man steals airplane and crosses borders to see film

**CHERYL WITTENAUER
AP WIRE**

A Turkish-Canadian man was sentenced Tuesday to two years in federal prison for stealing a plane in Canada and flying over three states before landing along a dark southern Missouri highway.

Adam Dylan Leon might have received only 12 to 18 months. But U.S. District Judge Charles Shaw went beyond federal sentencing guidelines in deciding punishment.

Shaw said the 31-year-old's actions posed risks to himself and others, cost the government \$230,000 to keep fighter jets in the air for seven hours tracking him, and caused the Madison, Wis., capitol to evacuate.

He also had some advice for Leon who said he had hoped to be shot down. His attorney, Lucille Liggett, had asked for leniency, saying her client suffered from severe depression from the death of his parents in 2002 in Turkey.

Shaw told Leon it would be worth his while to see *It's a Wonderful Life*, the classic Frank Capra film starring James Stewart, about a despairing man who comes to know through an angel what life would have been like if he never had lived. Leon said he hadn't see it.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sauer said the sentence was fitting for a "dangerous and harmful course of conduct," and hopes it will deter others from such behavior.

"Law enforcement response was excellent, competent and swift," Sauer said. "It never ended up being a serious imminent threat to

anyone's security."

Brady Randus, a friend from Confederation College Flight School in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where the plane was stolen, wrote in a letter to the judge that he knew Leon was "honest, trustworthy and dependable" and an intelligent student who was at the top of his class and well-liked by others in the program.

He wrote that Leon's actions were "shocking" and "totally out of his character." The friend's father, Karl Randus, agreed, saying in his letter that Leon's actions came on the anniversary of his parents' death. "We can't imagine what he was thinking, but we care about Adam, he is a good person, and we hope there will be a chance for leniency for him."

Leon, who was born Yavuz Berke in Turkey before moving to Canada, changing his name, and becoming a naturalized citizen, admitted that on April 6, he stole a four-seat Cessna 172 from his flight school and crossed the U.S. border. Leon landed the plane more than seven hours later on a road off of Highway 60 near Ellsinore, Mo.

U.S. Department of Defense aircraft intercepted the plane after it entered American airspace and tried unsuccessfully to contact him. Authorities said the plane was nearly out of fuel when Leon landed it near Ellsinore.

The Highway Patrol said Leon got a ride from a passer-by to a store, where he bought a Gatorade and sat at a booth until authorities arrived.

Leon pleaded guilty in August to interstate transportation of a stolen aircraft, importation of a stolen aircraft and illegal entry.

THE BEACON

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NEON NIGHTS

Ms. Gaga not the only diva set to rock Miami in '09

I am always impressed by beautiful women who can perform in stilettoes. They can end a show with their hair and makeup a sweaty mess but their legs will always look great upon those painful looking things. Although I am sadly going to have to accept the fact that I may not get to see Lady Gaga this year, there are still other dance divas coming to South Florida that are well worth seeing. I know some might be rolling their eyes at this confession, but anyone who can sing and play the piano while wearing a gyroscope will win my vote.

Afrobeta, an electro-funk duo, will be playing on Commodore Street at the Grove Block Party on Nov. 7. Cuci Amador is their sultry, 80s loving front woman providing the vocals and vamping while keyboardist Tony Smurfio brings the space-age beats and beeps. I saw them once at Jazid where they perform on Tuesday nights and again at an event for the Science Museum. Both shows were satisfyingly disco and high-energy.

Cuci takes a drink from

her water bottle and kneels at the edge of the stage as if she's about to share a juicy secret with us: "This next song is about how there is always that one friend that you are more than just friendly with" she says with a great big Cheshire cat grin on her face. The crowd responds.

"I know you guys know what I'm talking about," she observes before standing back up and striking poses to the programmed drumbeat kicking in from Smurfio's keyboard. It's the playful, enthusiastic and poppy sensibilities that Afrobeta shows in their live performances that will surely make them a favorite at the free Grove Block Party this Saturday. The song "Nighttime" is a popular single of theirs, and it proves that this duo has real potential to come into the mainstream.

Also on the list of divas to see is Peaches, of "F--k The Pain Away" fame. Peaches is touring for her new album *I Feel Cream* at Revolution Live on 200 West Broward Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. Peaches is known for her outrageous live shows as

much as she is for her lewd and crude music. In the past, Peaches' shows have featured beards, leotards, capes, hologram projectors and inflatable genitals. The album is loaded with songs produced with a European dance sound from names like Soulwax, Simian Mobile Disco and Digitalism.

The title track is a homage to Donna Summer's days of lush with one of Peaches' signature raps tacked in for good measure. In both the title song and "Lose You," Peaches does something she isn't usually known for: actually singing.

Tickets are still available for under \$20, and judging from her past shows, this tour is certain to be the kind of freak show that we love down here in South Florida.

Although Lady Gaga may be conquering Miami for only two nights when she comes at the end of this year, South Florida will never be lacking beautiful women who love to dance on stage. I'll get my fix of femme fatale one way or another.

"Neon Nights" is a weekly column focusing on Miami nightlife. Look for it every Friday in *The Beacon* and on *FIUSM.com*.

COLUMNIST



BOBBY JOE BRACY

COLUMNIST



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food Web site turns the heat up on the tasty competition

Although the Food Network and its corresponding Web site will always have a special place in my heart, another site is producing some stiff competition.

Chow.com is a Web site that offers a wide variety of food-related coverage. In addition to more traditional cooking subject matter, such as holiday entertaining guides and beginner's food recipes, *Chow* also includes more in-depth content such as an interactive pasta guide complete with ideal sauce pairings, and a drink recipe gallery complete with photographs.

One highlight of the Web site is the feature titled "Table Manners," which is run by author Helena Echlin. In this section, Echlin has addressed etiquette topics including which fork to use first, how to decide if a waiter deserves more than a 20 percent tip, how to handle the (hopefully) accidental breakage of expensive china, and how to carry oneself at a formal dinner party. I find that this is among the most useful of the site's features, as it constantly offers practical advice seasoned with a pinch of dry wit.

Another notable facet of the site is the Chowhound section, which is a forum of member-recommended restaurants separated by city. Areas that have been catalogued range

from major U.S. cities such as New York and Chicago to international locales such as the Caribbean, the U.K. and Greater Asia. Furthermore, the forum also has sections for broader topics such as "Cookware" and "Food Media and News" allowing for interaction with fellow food enthusiasts throughout the world.

Aside from articles, recipes and photo galleries, *Chow* also has an extensive video library. The video section entitled "You're Doing it All Wrong" is a collection of videos that show how to complete simpler tasks such as making a grilled cheese sandwich, chopping an onion and tapping a keg. Another section entitled "Chow Tip" contains more advanced, if not unusual, information such as how to clean a cast iron pan, when to use cubed or crushed ice in a drink, and which wine goes best with certain candies.

Becoming a member of the *Chow* community is free of charge. Once membership has been established, it will allow the member to save a limitless personal archive of articles, recipes and videos to a favorites page. It will also allow access to the Chowhound forums and the ability to publish recipes as a member. Furthermore, the member also receives a personal profile in which

they can share their favorite meal, favorite comfort food, personal blog and top five favorite restaurants with their fellow foodies. Under such information is a box that will constantly keep the member up-to-date with the latest articles, galleries and videos

True, *Chow.com* does not have a long history. Even so, it still manages to put out useful, witty information that food enthusiasts will savor and enjoy.

posted by the *Chow* staff and the most popular forum topics so that they, too, may join the discussion. A membership also comes with the option to sign up for newsletters so that stand-out recipes and articles are sent directly via e-mail.

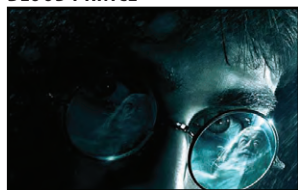
True, *Chow.com* does not have a long history or food personalities such as Emeril Lagasse at its helm. Even so, it still manages to put out useful, witty information that food enthusiasts will savor and enjoy.

"Food for Thought" is a weekly column reviewing restaurants in the FIU area. *Beacon* reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE

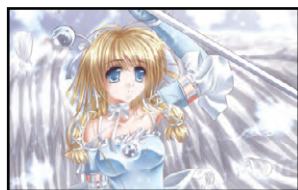


WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

ASIAN MOVIE CLUB - MOVIE

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

ANYTHING GOES ANIME - WINTER BALL



WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION - FRIDAY PRAYER

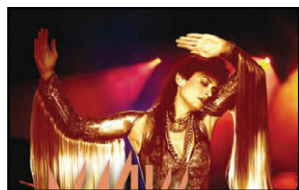
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

YUSSUF JERUSALEM @ THE AMERICAN LEGION

Performances by: Jacuzzi Boys, Melted Sunglasses, This Heart Electric

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The American Legion, 6445 NE 7th Ave

PEACHES



Electro goodness, Peaches performs!
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$17
WHERE: Revolution, 200 W Broward Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

SIRENS AND SEA LIONS PERFORMANCE



Enjoy a free concert by this local folk group!

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Starbucks, Kendall Dr and SW 137th Ave

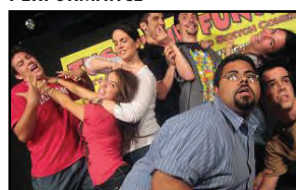
VEGAN POTLUCK AND JESSE JACKSON AT SWEAT!



Enjoy a vegan meal and a performance from this folk artist.

WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$7
WHERE: Sweat Records, 5505 NE 2nd Ave.

JUST THE FUNNY IMPROV PERFORMANCE



WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Just the Funny Theatre, 3119 Coral Way, Coral Gables

TERRY GROSS

An evening with the NPR host of "Fresh Air"

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$150
WHERE: Gansevoort Hotel, 2377 Collins Ave, Miami Beach

RICH GUZZI



An evening with the hypnotist.
WHEN: 10:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$16.05 + two drinks
WHERE: Miami Improv, 3390 Mary St # 182

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009

METALCALYPSE LIVE WITH DETHKLOK + MASTODON



WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$34.50
WHERE: Pompano Beach Amphitheater, 1806 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach

BLACK DEATH ALL STARS - ANARCHO PUNK BLUEGRASS BAND

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: The Firefly, 219 NE 20th Street, Miami

MIAMI BOOK FAIR EVENINGS



Book readings by Ruth Reichl and more!
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 per author
WHERE: Miami Dade College, Wolfsonian Campus

RIBFEST

Need we say more?
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Homestead Air Reserve Park, SW 268 Street and SW 122 Avenue

GARDEN POP

Pop art exhibit.
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Pincrest Gardens, 1100 Red Road, Pincrest

CONVERGE



WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$31
WHERE: Pompano Beach Amphitheater, 1801 NE 6th St Pompano Beach

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa. Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to mariana.ochoa@fusm.com.

WIFE OF THE LIVING DEAD

Spirit of ex-wife wreaks havoc in new theater production



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

I HAVE RETURNED: Students Fernando Lamberty and Carolina Pozo in a scene from *Blithe Spirit*. The production is sponsored by the FIU Theatre Department and directed by Professor Michael Yawney.

NATALIE LEVY
Staff Writer

Blithe Spirit is the story of a man who gets himself into big trouble with the two women in his life: his wife and his dead wife.

Since its London debut in 1941, Noel Coward's creation has had two films adapted from its original script, has been seen on Broadway, and is currently in revival both on Broadway and at FIU.

"Even though it was written in 1941 and even though the characters are supernatural, I guarantee you that anyone who's ever had a boyfriend or a girlfriend or a husband or a wife can really relate to it... or anyone who's ever had an ex may be more accurate," said Professor Michael Yawney, the director of the production.

The story focuses on Charles, an English man who has since remarried after the death of his

first wife, Elvira.

"He's reasonably happily married until the ghost of his first wife shows up and moves in with him and his second wife. As it goes on we start to see the problems as he goes through the trouble of living in a house with two wives," Yawney said.

The cast of characters include a married couple, a maid, a strange and mysterious medium, and a ghost.

Carolina Pozo, who will be portraying Elvira in the FIU production of *Spirit*, explained: "She's been called back and she doesn't know why. She causes a lot of chaos between her former husband and his new wife. There's a lot of flirting with the husband to make the new wife angry."

The play has been widely lauded as a truly masterful comedy ever since its introduc-

SPIRIT, page 10

IS IT WORTH IT?

'Potter' film worth seeing despite very boring protagonist

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

A good friend of mine once looked at me with regret and said, "If I had known that a movie about a boy wizard with a scar on his head would make billions of dollars, I would have written it."

Sadly, neither of us wrote the book. J.K. Rowling did, scribbling it down on cocktail napkins as the famous story is told. Hence, the birth of Harry Potter, a multimedia phenomenon that still manages to connect to so many people around the world.

Many know the story of the boy wizard, orphaned after his parents fought off the dark lord, Voldemort. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* picks up during Harry's sixth year at Hogwarts with Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) doing the typical teenager thing: trying to figure out women, balancing school with play, and deciding whether he really is the chosen figure to fight Voldemort.

The sixth film is a much more brooding piece than the earlier films. In a film like *Harry Potter*

and the *Sorcerer's Stone* or even into *Prisoner of Azkaban*, there was a sense of child-like youth and a refreshing sense of discovery.

The plot revolves around an aging Harry being sent by his mentor, Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), to visit retired Professor Horace Slughorn (Jim Broadbent) and retrieve Slughorn's memories of an old student: Tom Riddle, the boy who would become Voldemort. The whole purpose is to try and find a weakness to what is the logical conclusion of the series.

The film unfolds in several parts with memories of Tom Riddle swerving in and out as Dumbledore privately tutors Harry and prepares him for what looms. And then there's the Quidditch, the girls and the continued friendship between Harry and his friends Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint).

As the series has continued, Harry has had to enter darker and darker realms as death and peril grow to be stronger presences in his life. This is a tran-

sitional moment in the series though and, as such, it is much more subdued. No climactic battle or rah-rah moments. It's an important chapter in the series but has no closure.

Also, it is difficult to overlook the jarring transitions between the "teenage" elements of the plot (i.e. dating and friendships) and the "adult" elements (i.e. death and fear).

Of course, it's also a problem that Harry is just boring. A Christ-like figure (yes, I went there), destined to battle evil and, with great expectations laid upon him, you don't find that much frustration in Radcliffe's performance. Sure, he huffs and puffs and has doubts as to his abilities, but his performance throughout the series is wooden. He's grown older and more handsome – but wiser? Well, that's what the movie and the screenplay tells us, but it's hard to sense. It's hard to have an emotional bond which is problematic because if you can allow yourself to get submerged into Rowling's world, you'll find this to be a

compelling coming-of-age tale.

It's not hard to fall into this world. The supporting cast is impeccable. Gambon is spot-on in his portrayal of Dumbledore. He brings great presence and intelligence to his role. He is a father figure to Harry and is part of the emotional core to the audience. Of course, Alan Rickman is wonderful to watch; hero or villain, detestable or honorable, he brings layering to his work.

I got lucky with this series. I read the first four books as a child, so I have them for reference and I've been familiar with the plot. If, however, you've been out of the loop of the series, good luck. I give a solid recommendation of this film for its fans and those who have kept up with the series. Those who haven't kept up, I suggest you start if you're planning to see it.

"Is It Worth It?" is a weekly feature rating the relative quality of films screened by SPC. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince will be screened in GC 140 at 5 and 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6.

