

**New student club tries to bring foodies together**

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**Students raise their voice for the freedom of Tibet**

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## SPOTLIGHT

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### AT THE BAY PAGE 4



Middle East Society will bring guest speaker to talk about Palestinian conflicts.

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FCC rules are impossible to enforce.

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Radiate FM's DJ Drastic X unearths local rap legends.

### LIFE! PAGE 9



Fistfuls of Tech: iPhone beware — there's a new smart phone in town.

### SECTION PAGE X

Lan estrud tism diam, si tat loboreet nulla facilisci bla commolo rperat. Faccum aci ex ex et.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Department of Psychology Workshop, Oct. 26, 11:00 a.m. Join in on this club general meeting for free, being held in GC 314.

F.E.M.A.L.E.S., Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. Join in on this club general meeting for free in GC 314.

Free Cuba Foundation, Oct. 28, 10:00 a.m. Come to this recruitment meeting being held in GC.

Dance Marathon, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m. Come and enjoy this rock show being held in GC 343. Event is free to the public.

### WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87



**TUESDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87



**WEDNESDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87

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## TRANSYLVANIA



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

**SEX, ORGIES AND HUMOR:** Dr. Frank N. Furter, played by Senior Doug Reilly, received a thundering applause at his first stage appearance during the Rocky Horror Picture Show to a sold out crowd in Deuxieme Maison 150 on Oct. 24. For a full review of the performance turn to Page 9 in Life!

## Center gets grant to study Islam

### LACC's research will focus on Muslims in South America

**MEENA RUPANI**  
Staff Writer

The global Muslim population hit 1.57 billion this year. According to The Associated Press, one in four persons practice Islam.

In order to accommodate this growing statistic, the Social Science Research Council recently awarded a grant ranging from \$35,000 to \$100,000 to FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center to initiate research and spread knowledge on the growing religion of Islam in South America. According to the Pew Report, South America currently houses just about four million immigrants of Islamic descent.

Cristina Eguizabal, LACC director, said that Roman Catholicism has traditionally been the dominant religion, but that is changing. People are converting by the thousands to protestant denominations and Islam.

"It is important to understand why and how the religious landscape of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean is changing," Eguizabal said.

The program officer for the SSRC, which awarded the grant to the University, said that the grant will help develop scholarships on Islam.

"The funds create new channels for the distribution of high-quality expert knowledge so that it might directly inform journalism, policy and public discourse," said Thomas Asher, a program officer

at the SSRC.

The funds are aimed at supporting basic research by FIU faculty on the increasing presence of Muslims in Latin America, a result of both conversion and migration, according to a press release. This research will position scholars to engage policy makers and journalists.

The lead professor of the research process, Dr. Maria del Mar Logrono-Narbona, an assistant professor from Department of History, said she believes it is important that students become aware of this fast-growing religion.

Narbona is a historian who has conducted archival research on the Arab communities that emigrated from the Middle East to South America at the turn of the 20th century.

"In addition, for the last six years I have been part of a larger

LACC, page 3

SGA

## Rionda vetoes resolution to restructure SGA

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Staff Writer

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda vetoed the senate's resolution that calls for the restructure of student government in the name of better unity.

In the University-wide Council meeting held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Oct. 23, Rionda called the resolution "a piece of s--t," and ripped it up in front of the of the UWC.

Rionda had announced his intention to veto the resolution during the Oct. 21 cabinet meeting.

The president said he was "not 100 percent in agreement with it."

He also acknowledged that the senate had the two-thirds majority needed to override his veto. The resolution named "In support of

Restructuring the Student Government Association to Better and Equal Services and Representation for All FIU Students," passed the MMC senate floor with 20 votes, six against and zero abstentions two weeks earlier.

Rionda had told Student Media that he would not sign anything that was divisive. In an interview with Student Media, SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus President Sholom Neistein called the resolution "unequivocally threatening" to the BBC government.

Senator from the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy, a sponsor of the resolution, asked on the floor what was divisive about the resolution.

The sponsoring senators of the resolution have maintained that the resolu-

SGC-MMC, page 3

## Event brings students, faculty, dean together

**LAEBONY LIVINGSTON**  
Contributing Writer

The impact of budget cuts to its departments in the last fiscal year dominated a College of Arts and Sciences forum held on Oct. 20,

The focus of the "Meet Your Dean" event was to address the future of majors and opportunities that can make students more prepared when they graduate.

Student Government Council

MEET YOUR DEAN, page 2

## NEWS FLASH

## LOCAL

**FPL goes over budget, will not affect customers**

Florida Power and Light has gone over budget in its campaign to raise customer rates.

According to *The Miami Herald*, FPL budgeted \$3.6 million to argue the rate increase case, however, the current amount spent is \$4.9 million.

Currently, FPL has spent \$173,000 on business meals, \$266,000 on hotels and \$870,000 overtime as a result of pursuing the rate increase case.

FPL said that it will only pass along the cost of the original budgeted amount to customers. The difference will be paid with profits.

## TECH

**Microsoft releases Windows 7**

Microsoft released the latest version of its popular operation system, Windows 7.

The Oct. 22 release marked the first update in the Windows line since Windows Vista was released in 2006.

According to *Los Angeles Times*, Windows 7 seeks to repair Microsoft's image after Windows Vista created many problems for PC users.

Windows 7 will hit retail stores with three versions: Home Premium, Ultimate and Professional. The three versions will sell for \$119, \$199 and \$219 respectively.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

# Students bring up quality of teaching

## Faculty advises students to be active in classes

**MEET YOUR DEAN, page 1**

at Modesto Maidique Campus Senator Cristina Loreto, a junior in international relations, and her fellow CAS senators, organized the event in order to bring leaders and students together.

During two hours, students were encouraged to stop by and participate in discussions with their dean, Kenneth Furton, along with other faculty members, about the new programs and changes that are coming to the college.

Senator Altanese Phenelus said that 94 students attended.

Due to class and other time commitments, not many students stayed for the entire event but many did come in to ask questions.

Futon told students that there will be changes and it is the faculty's intention for those changes to have a positive effect on the college.

One of the most notice-

able changes, he said, was the combination of CAS with the College of Education.

There was also the creation of three new schools within the college: School of International and Public Affairs, School of Environment and Society and the School of Integrated Life Sciences.

Furton said that University's President Mark Rosenberg "is committed to education and that other programs may be created as well."

Students expressed their concerns about budget cuts and the quality of their education.

One student stated that the college needs to ensure that they not only hire those who know the subject, but also those who know how to teach.

The dean and faculty members talked to students in attendance about their own college experience, assuring the students that they understand what they are going through and they

want to make the learning process as beneficial as possible.

Faculty also offered advice to students on how they could make the college experience more beneficial.

They encouraged students to be active in class and extracurricular activities along with talking to their professors. Students should also, according to them, build a portfolio of their materials and have them prepared when they come to profes-

The SGC-MMC CAS senators tried to get as many students as possible to know about the event.

Phenelus said they advertised the event on Facebook and used posters and a table in the Graham Center.

They also encouraged teachers and advisors to tell their students about the event.

The senators hope to turn this into an annual event and also plan similar events throughout the year.

They said they believe

**The event was beneficial to the students as well as to faculty ... It helps the staff and me in terms of developing services for students**

Kenneth Furton, dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

sors asking them for letters of recommendation.

"The event was beneficial to the students as well as to faculty," Furton said. "It helps the staff and me in terms of developing services for students."

it is important for students to have a chance to really connect with the leaders in their school.

"I want students to be closer to their dean," Loreto said.

## Need a STUDY BREAK?



Come by our booth and enjoy FREE PIZZA and a chance to win a NINTENDO Wii!

**When:** Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

11:00am – 2:00pm

**WHERE:** Graham Student Center

\*If you come by the booth, you will have a chance to enter to win a free Nintendo Wii! The winner will be announced at an Army Officer Panel Discussion on October 28<sup>th</sup> and you have to be **present to win!** Please visit [goarmy.com/officer](http://goarmy.com/officer) for more information on becoming an Officer in the United States Army.



## SUPPORT YOUR PANTHER FOOTBALL TEAM

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Paul McCall, #12 QB

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## CELEBRATING THE ARTS



PHOTOS BY ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**CULTURE SHOCK:** The College of Architecture + The Arts, in conjunction with the Frost Art Museum and The Wolfsonian, held an event on Oct. 22 at the Frost to celebrate art, design and culture with University President Mark Rosenberg (top left).

The event featured a preview of the Masters' Mystery Art Show, music and theater performances by students as well as student work, such as architectural designs.

## Video to highlight lives of Muslims

LACC, page 1

network of researchers from the U.S. and Latin America who specialize on the relations between Latin America and the Middle East," Narbona said.

The other key members working in the project are Professor Mohiaddin Mesbahi, director of the Middle East Center at FIU, and Professor Mercedes Vigon, who is in charge of educating students through the Office of International Media.

LACC and the history department are currently working on several other activities in order to provide information about the role of Islam in Latin American societies.

According to Narbona, a Web page that contains expert information

about Islam in Latin America will be launched. Also, a set of videos about the lives of Muslims in South America will be produced.

"We are organizing a set of lectures and roundtables on this topic that we planned to film in video," Narbona added.

The countries with the most Islamic immigrants are Venezuela and Argentina, according to The Associated Press. Islamic centers and mosques are being built constantly in order to accommodate the growing immigrant numbers.

According to SSRC's Web site, they have been dedicated to funding social science research and hope to do so with the grants they have recently given out.

They have awarded similar grants to other universities, such as Duke University and Princeton University.

SSRC notes that its networks and committees have pioneered new approaches to understanding society and processes of social, cultural, economic and political change, and have profoundly influenced many fields of social inquiry.

"Since the attacks of Sep. 11 in 2001, U.S. society has felt the need to better understand the questions related to Islam. For this reason, universities have contributed with their research to clarify aspects and disseminate knowledge about a religion that is widely practiced around the world," Narbona said.

## Communication issues need to be addressed

SGC-MMC, page 1

tion does not call for the removal of the BBC presidency or the creation of two independent governments.

The body of the resolution does, however, mention "one unified student body leader," and examples of "completely independent governments" as suggestions for student leaders to consider.

SGC-BBC Vice President Christin "Cici" Battle asked during the UWC meeting if the MMC senate had read the report sponsored by SGC-MMC last year looking into the need for the two-campus system. She stated that if the senators had read the report, such a resolution would not be made.

The report was part of last year's administration. A student government expert consultant was hired to analyze whether it would be better for the University to have different student government councils in each campus.

When released, the report stated that such an idea would not benefit the University at that time.

"I feel they were misinformed to make such a claim," Battle said.

Rionda responded that

he would make the report available, but explained he can't control what the senate presents.

"I can't tell anyone not to pass a resolution," he said.

Rionda agreed, however, that SGA could find ways to improve, but those changes would come within the current structure.

SGA Advisor for MMC Jose Toscano told Student Media he supported some internal restructure at the campus level over a University-wide one. However, one issue he would like addressed in a University-wide setting is better communication between the campuses.

Regular communication between the campuses becomes hard when SGA officers need to juggle school and work schedules, Toscano said.

"We struggle on a monthly basis on communication," Toscano said.

Although SGA has video conference capability on both campuses, the systems aren't linked, a problem which requires coordination between both campuses and University Technology Services.

The resolution's sponsoring senators could not be reached for comment.

## THE BEACON



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# HAPPINESS:

## PHILOSOPHIES OF THE EAST AND WEST

FROM BUDDHA TO PLATO

DATE:  
OCTOBER 27TH,  
2009

TIME:  
7:35PM - 8:35PM

LOCATION:  
3837 SW 8TH ST  
(8TH BETWEEN  
GALIANO AND  
PONCE  
IN CORAL  
GABLES)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPIRITUALITY, METAPHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY, THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!

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## MONSTER BURRITO



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

**GROUP EFFORT:** (From left) Camilo Patino, Chairman of Hispanic Heritage week, Collette Hanna, a senior in public relations, Demi Marroquin, a freshman in hospitality, and Melissa Desrameaux, SPC President (right), attempt to fold Biscayne Bay's largest Burrito, part of SPC's Hispanic Heritage week in Panther Square on Oct. 22.

## Guest speaker to discuss conflicts in Middle East

**SABRENA JOHNSON**  
Staff Writer

In June 200, civil war broke out in the Gaza Strip between two rival Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, for control of the Palestinian government. Thousands of deaths have been reported on both sides. This issue has raised concerns among many political activists about the future of the region, and there's an organization on campus that provides an open forum for students to discuss and understand these events.

The Middle East Society will kick off its lecture series Oct. 28 at 7 p.m with guest speaker Jonathan Schanzer, deputy executive director of the Jewish Policy Center, a Washington-based, nonprofit organization founded in 1985 that provides scholarly perspectives on foreign and domestic policies that impact the Jewish Community in the U.S.

The lecture will take place at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center, Room 155.

MES is a component of the School of International and Public Affairs, and the organization is based at BBC. It provides its members with an opportunity to discuss matters related to the Middle East with top experts from around the world.

The event is co-presented by the Judaic Studies Program, the Jewish Community Relations Council, Hillel Second Generation, and the Student Government Association.

"In addition to exposing students to a top speaker on the Middle East who is well known and respected, we hope to attract a large contingency of community members to our organization," said Shlomi Dinar, director of MES.

According to Dinar, one of the most misunderstood aspects of current

regional issues is the dynamic of the Palestinian society in the Middle East. Schanzer will discuss these issues, particularly as it relates to Hamas and Fatah, the two major political parties in the Palestinian territories.



SCHANZER

Jonathan Schanzer is also an American author and scholar in Middle Eastern studies.

Before he joined the Jewish Policy Center, he was a counter terrorism analyst for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Schanzer has a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published numerous articles and magazine features, and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree at King's College London.

His thesis will document the history of the U.S. Congress and its efforts to combat terrorism, according to the center's Web site.

Schanzer is also the author of *Al-Qaeda's Armies: Middle East Affiliate Groups and the Next Generation of Terror*, a book about his research of the Al-Qaeda armies in the Middle East. His latest book, *Hamas vs Fatah: The Struggle for Palestine*, is about the battle for the identity of Palestinian Arabs.

"Mr Schanzer is not only a dynamic and engaging speaker. He is also an expert in his field," said Dinar. "Having studied the Middle East and extensively traveled to various countries, he has an astute understanding of the region."

This lecture is among a number of other lectures MES will be featuring throughout the year.

"MES prides itself on presenting a balanced view of a variety of issues related to the Middle East. Our speakers have included published scholars,

MES, page 5

SGC-BBC

## Changing the government

### Council discusses the need for two presidents

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council once again discussed the resolution proposed by a Modesto Maidique Campus senator to restructure the University government.

The SGC-MMC senate's resolution, which was passed Oct. 19 with 20 votes to 6, called for the restructuring of the Student Government Association. The resolution did not specify how to restructure SGA, but during a senate meeting on Oct. 7, SGC-MMC Arts and Sciences Senator Adam Johnson discussed the possibility of eliminating SGC-BBC's presidency.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein was present at the Oct. 21 meeting, but said he was "feeling under the weather," so he told SGC-BBC Vice President Christin "Cici" Battle to chair the meeting.

Neistein, however, tried to ease SGC-BBC members' concerns about the SGC-MMC resolution, letting them know that SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda said he would not sign such resolution.

"Anthony assured me that everything is fine. It's just politics," Neistein said during the meeting.

He also said that although the resolution may not go anywhere, SGC-MMC is still allowed to work on it. But he thinks it is not a useful or effective way to spend time.

Battle continued the meeting and emphasized

one of their objectives: unity. She encouraged SGC-BBC members to work closer with SGC-MMC.

"Reach out to your counterparts, e-mail them, call them. We need to do our part," Battle said.

She explained the history behind the resolution and informed members about a University SGA structure report that former SGC-MMC President Arthur "AJ" Meyer requested last fiscal year.

The survey was submitted by American Student Government Association on March 19, 2009, and cost \$5000, all of which came from the SGC-MMC president's discretionary funds.

The report was conducted by W.H. "Butch" Oxendine, Jr., the SG Consulting Group executive director of ASGA, whose objective included to review the executive structure between both campuses, determine if the proposed model of a single student government was plausible, and review the role of the University Wide Council. Once his analysis was done, he made a recommendation based on his findings.

Oxendine administered several extensive interviews throughout the months of February and March 2009, with student leaders, administrators, and MMC and BBC personnel.

After analyzing the University's SGA structure of two different councils at each campus, each with its own president, ASGA made its final recommendation: the Univer-

sity needs two councils, each with its own president.

In his report he states, "this is easily answered in a single word: No."

"It is apparent that BBC students and administrators already feel ignored by the UP campus students and administrators. Removing the SGC president position at BBC would be a symbolic 'hurt,' but also would strip BBC's SGC of its sovereignty, as determined by the structure developed 18 years ago," Oxendine wrote in his report.

After reviewing ASGA's report, Neistein explained at the meeting that with the current SGA structure, "this is the only way that the school can run effectively because of the way MMC has treated this campus in the past."

A separate analysis compiled on March 16, 2009 by Rasheed Ali Cromwell, also a consultant from ASGA, concluded that there are three primary concerns: "1) adequate student representation on both campuses of FIU (with a specific emphasis that the BBC students' voices are heard), 2) unified student representation to outside entities and individuals, and 3) effectiveness of communication between SGAs on each campus," which also said that, "there is no feasible way that instituting a change from two student government systems to one student government system will sufficiently address internal representation, external representation and effective communication."

"ASGA found that the student structure was fine. Don't worry," said Battle. "The resolution happens every year, and it has been proven that we are here to stay."

## Students taste, cook, learn about gourmet foods and ingredients

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Staff Writer

Last week, about 20 students took sips of warm olive oil from a shot glass, letting air in through the sides of their mouths so that the flavors reached all the different areas on the tongue. They paired the oil with sauteed shrimp and an antipasto platter with Serrano ham, olives, artichokes and sun dried tomatoes.

The students are from The Gourmet Wine and Food Club, and they were following instructions from Carissa Giangrandi, owner of an olive oil company, on how to taste different kinds of oils during their meeting on Oct. 20.

The Gourmet Wine and Food Club, created by students from the School of Hospitality

and Tourism Management at the Biscayne Bay Campus, is bringing "foodies" together to learn about different foods, sample dishes and learn how to make them.

"I'm inspired by the culture of food and how it brings people together," said Rachel Reppert, club treasurer and student of the Hospitality Management masters program. "We love food so much that we needed another excuse to keep cooking and eating."

During the club's second meeting, the club brought in guest speaker Giangrandi, a 2001 HTM graduate and owner of Giangrandi Gourmet, who is part of her family-owned olive oil company. She spoke about Chilean olive oil.

Giangrandi told club members about the

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# Club lets 'foodies' share love of cooking and eating

FOODIES, page 4

history of olive oil and how it is made. She explained how timing, cultivation and different presses all affect the bouquet and flavor of the oils, and she gave out samples so students could note the differences.

Participants also tasted foods like sauteed shrimp and penne pasta in pesto sauce, an antipasto platter with Serrano ham, and other finger foods, all of which were prepared by club members with the olive oils tasted at the meeting.

"This was a great opportunity for students to learn," Giangrandi said to The Beacon. "This school is very dear to me. It has supported me throughout my career."

The club was started by Bianca Rojas, who is now club president and a HTM graduate student, with the help of club advisers Chef Instructor Michael Moran and Bill Pelzer, an HTM adjunct professor.

The club operates through the American Institute of Wine and Food, an organization founded by Julia Child and other chefs that offers educational programs, scholarships and social activities for members who share a passion for food and wine.

It was started to create a strong foundation and core group of people who care about cooking, Moran said, while providing the resources to expand members' knowledge and help them participate in activities that they normally wouldn't experience inside a classroom.

"We want to get students closer to the table instead of away from it," he said.

The club's main goals are to educate its members, create a passionate group of chefs, and help local community children and organizations through programs and service opportunities.

Since its creation at the beginning of this semester, the club has already participated in two community outreach activities and plans on continuing to do so, Moran said.

Members participated in the Annual Chocolate Festival hosted by Aventura Mall on Oct. 18, where the group decorated and sold cupcakes with little kids. All proceeds benefited the Children's Craniofacial Association, a national nonprofit organization that aims to improve the lives of children with facial or cranial physical abnormalities.

They also visited Chef Allen's restaurant in Aventura and participated in "Days of Taste," a program that allows local elementary school children to interact with chefs at local restaurants and prepare healthy meals.

But the club is not just about eating for the sake of eating, said Reppert.

Through every encounter they have with food, the club strives to educate its members about what they taste, how it is prepared, and what it goes well with, among other things. Members also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders, participate in community events and gain invaluable experience, Reppert said.

Maria Leonova, who is in her first year of the master's program in hospitality management, came back to the second meeting because she was impressed by the club's recent activities. She plans to become a member.

"This is an opportunity to learn about the fun part of cooking," she said. "It's all about food, wine, great table conversation and great people full of passion and inspiration."

The club plans to host different food and wine pairing dinners, and tastings throughout the semester. Members will also compete in a brisket cook-off Nov. 7 against other culinary students from different schools. The University



MELODY REGALADO/THE BEACON

**FOOD TASTING:** Club members sample shrimp and other dishes at the olive oil tasting on Oct. 20 in the HTM dining room.

placed first last year.

The club's next meeting will take place Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. in the HTM building dining room. There will be a beer tasting and food pairing.

To join, students must register with AIWF and pay a \$25 fee for the year. However, anyone can attend meetings and tastings without registering by paying \$5 per tasting. Students from different schools and interests are welcome to join.

For more information, e-mail [gourmetpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gourmetpresident@gmail.com), go to [www.aiwf.org](http://www.aiwf.org), or visit the club's Facebook group, Gourmet Wine & Food Club.

## Lecture to address political conflicts

MES, page 4

featured pundits, and award-winning reporters," said Dinar. "MES's ultimate goal is to secure FIU's place as a center of debate and learning on matters concerning the Middle East."

MES lectures are free and open to the public, but donations are encouraged.

All proceeds will go toward future discussions and events. All degree-seeking students can join MES for free.

Members of the community can also join at various membership levels.

For more information, visit [http://international.fiu.edu/index.php?name=middle\\_east\\_society](http://international.fiu.edu/index.php?name=middle_east_society)

# A Friend Dies. Who Cares?

Toxic drinking is an epidemic on campuses all across America.

It means consuming so much alcohol the drinker passes out. But while "sleeping it off," the victim may be quietly dying.

When you come right down to it, students themselves are the best ones to tackle this problem. So, in growing numbers, Stony Brook students have joined together in the Red Watch Band movement.

Working with experts, they fine-tuned a course in techniques to handle these alcohol emergencies. Red Watch Band members can act fast, when every second counts. They know the quick steps they can take to rescue a passed-out student from a drinking death, and can immediately summon professional help. Everyone completing the course is given the distinctive red watch for identification.

Since its inception at Stony Brook University in March 2009, approximately 40 schools across the country have signed on to implement this lifesaving program.

To prevent toxic drinking deaths, go to [redwatchband.org](http://redwatchband.org)



**STONY  
BROOK**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## THE BEACON | Editorial Quick resolutions from SGC-MMC signal progress on numerous initiatives

On Oct. 19, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus took action.

Passing several bills and resolutions in a productive meeting, the Senate took a series of steps toward addressing serious issues facing the University community. One pair of resolutions related to University dealings with companies with questionable labor policies, as well as the use of the Amazon Kindle as part of a pilot program that aims to tackle rising textbook costs.

But it was the passage of two other resolutions in particular that stand out as highly significant achievements and point toward measurable progress on the part of the council.

When dealing with the controversial campus-wide smoking ban that has been proposed by the University Health Task Force, the easiest thing for the council to do would have been to simply endorse the idea, rather than questioning it.

Fortunately, the council took the time to examine the current rules and simply insist that the current rules be enforced. Rather than endorse the ban, which *The Beacon* believes is not necessary given current rules, the SGC-MMC Senate opposed it.

By a vote of 20-6, the Council took a stance on the matter and, rightly or wrongly, showed it is willing and able to deal with complex issues.

On another contentious issue – the unification of the two student governing councils, – the senate took a pragmatic approach. Rather than outright recklessly calling for the unification of the two councils, the senate voted to consider the matter.

Of course, one could argue that this move meant little since it called for no concrete action. Nevertheless, *The Beacon* agrees with the spirit of the resolution and believes that such a move could be potentially beneficial.

This resolution is only the first step toward ironing out the problems that currently exist between the two councils. After all, it is much easier to call for examining an issue than to actually do so.

The senate has at times been criticized for tabling too many bills and dragging its feet on too many issues.

However, Monday's meeting showed that the council can tackle important issues and, more impressively, deal with several in one meeting.

Last year's senate was notorious for long meetings, disorganization and the inability to accomplish much of an ambitious agenda. This year's senate has also tabled its share of bills and has dealt with the seemingly perpetual problems. Yet the meeting on Oct. 19 stands out as an encouraging sign of progress for the MMC senate.

*The Beacon* agrees with the Council's anti-smoking resolution. More importantly, *The Beacon* feels that the SGC-MMC has shown signs of progress in the way of effective governance.

Whether these signs point to prolonged success remains to be seen, and *The Beacon* will continue to monitor the council and report its progress.

*The Beacon* hopes that Oct. 19 is a sign of things to come.

## War in Afghanistan not a lost cause Perseverance is needed

ROMNEY MANASSA  
Staff Writer

After nearly a decade of fighting, the war in Afghanistan continues to haunt us.

Long overshadowed by the greater military, political and public focus in Iraq, the war continues to plague like a tumor from remission. Now we're left with a grim choice between evils: battling this cancer to the end – at significant cost and no guarantee of victory – or ridding ourselves of the problem entirely, with just as great a long-term risk.

As with most decisions, especially one involving war, it comes down to which choice is the lesser evil in the end. Despite increasing public pessimism about the situation, we should continue the fight, on the basis that the cost of pulling out now will far outweigh the cost of staying.

Comparisons to the Vietnam War abound, with similarities not entirely without merit, much is exaggerated or mistaken. Afghanistan's scale of fighting is far smaller, and our fatalities (around 850) are considerably less than they had been in Vietnam (55,000), according to

*The Economist*.

The threat from Afghanistan, both past and present, is far more real than it had ever been for Vietnam. Numerous terrorist attacks have been linked to the region, including 9/11.

With relatively sound reasoning concerning a war and more ambivalence on our part than downright hostility – no mass anti-war protests as in the 60's

and 70's – the war in Afghanistan is no hopelessly tragic Vietnam.

However, Afghanistan does indeed look dire. But this should give us more reason to stay. If the situation is this bad now, imagine how much worse it would be if we bail out.

Afghanistan can very well fall into the lawlessness and division that allowed the incubation of groups like Al-Qaeda and brazen

plots like the 9/11 attacks.

Consider the greater regional implications. Most of the countries bordering Afghanistan, namely Pakistan, can easily fall into destabilization and even become new havens for terrorism. American and Pakistani forces are already engaging extremist groups in the borderlands between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It's not only about the tangible strategic aspects either.

Think of the damage to our public and American military

conflict, but losing for nothing is not.

We still don't have as many troops on the ground as we need. Despite being larger, more populous and more geographically rugged than Iraq, Afghanistan has only 100,000 troops – half of them non-American – compared to the Iraq war's 120,000.

There is room for improvement, leading to success. Stanley McChrystal, the four-star general in charge of the Afghan campaign, has highlighted what needs to be done.

Pushing ethical reform in the Afghan government will create the political legitimacy and accountability needed to win both Afghan and international support. An emphasis on infrastructure and institutional development will alleviate the poverty and degradation that the Taliban exploits for its own power.

And, yes, more troops – 40,000 more as assessed by McChrystal – and a firmer commitment to the war will increase the chances for victory.

We must always consider the long-term consequences, however easier it is to look at the shorter term ones. It was shortsightedness that got us into these wars in the first place. It certainly won't get us out any easier.

“Think of the damage to our public and American military morale – will our soldiers have died for nothing?”

morale – will our soldiers have died for nothing? And what about international perception of the United States?

Allies who look to us for leadership may waver in their commitments, while belligerent world leaders could exploit our perceived weaknesses, causing us to contend with even more troublesome challenges.

Loss is inevitable in any

## FTC regulation overlooks social networks

CHRISTIAN R. BAUMAN  
Staff Writer

Some say that Al Gore may have helped invent western civilization's greatest waste of time. The Internet is a wired, wired west where my friends and I have trolled message boards dedicated to popular Disney programs, listened to Japanese pop music, stalked our ex-girlfriends through Twitter and researched information about the show “Full House” that a healthy human being can live a fulfilling life without knowing.

A new class of writer, spawned from the stepping stones facing the information age, is emerging. A crew of writers who don't have writing pads or penmanship; these new writers perform an inkless labor.

We call them bloggers, and whether you think the title is one of an artist or a euphemism, you've ran into their words certainly on more than one occasion. And beginning Dec. 1, the Federal Trade Commission will see to it that I, and the seemingly infinite universe of blogging pioneers, will have to disclose any paid endorsements we receive.

Dec. 1, 2009 will be the day we've

taken the Internet too seriously.

On the surface, it sounds sensible. When I'm getting my information, I'd like to know the hand that feeds the source I'm hearing. I've never had a problem explaining how I get my money to anyone.

However, these guidelines run thicker than that. It's not just about the money, it's about any and all forms of compensation. And it's not just about the big bad bloggers on the “Internets” – this affects all parties involved in social networking.

Say I get a free massage from a business that I've listed myself as being a fan of on Facebook. I share a status about my how great my back feels. Then I tweet a positive opinion in 140 characters or less, but I forget to publicly disclose that they gave me treatment on the house.

I'm in violation of the FTC. I could face fines, or worse.

But word on the street is that the FTC isn't going after the small-game personal blogs or the prominent social network users. This is more so a measure to keep people in big business in check. It's downright impossible to get every person on the Internet that who not conform.

But the wording of these rules is so

broad that arbitrary enforcement and double standards are inevitable. The FTC has made the mistake of calling the Internet a medium – like television, in that we turn something on and something comes to us.

The Internet is more than a medium. It's a place where information isn't just sent or received, it's shared. We share what we write.

Jeff Jarvis of *BuzzMachine.com* writes, “Most people who blog don't think they are doing anything remotely connected to journalism. I imagine that virtually no one on Facebook thinks they're making media. They're connecting. They're talking.”

Just as liberty will always have excess, laws too broad to enforce will have loopholes. When the Internet first came about, fears amassed of it falling into the control of the wrong hands.

It's been decades since the day and as I stare into the monitor I can say things have been just fine. The Internet became something greater than a medium; it didn't grow into something like Big Brother, an evil empire or a digital enslavement.

It grew into something beyond man's control: a space and matter-less world.

### 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](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### 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

“And if media is operating, basically, as a talk radio format, then that's one thing. And if it's operating as a news outlet, then that's another.”

President Barack Obama  
on Fox News

### 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](mailto: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.

## X MARKS THE SPOT

# DJ Drastic X keeps ear to the ground for future stars

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Staff Writer

Before Pitbull and Rick Ross were platinum recording artists, they were two local hip-hop talents looking for a means to promote their music and name.

DJ Drastic X brought the local rappers as guests on his show, "It's All Gravy" and he knew those two would eventually go from sitting in the studio of FIU's student radio, Radiate FM, to making millions of dollars.

"I was certain Pitbull and Rick Ross were going to make it because you take one look at them and their presence, the way they speak, the way they carry themselves, their work ethic, the way they show love to everybody. They understand the business," DJ Drastic X said about the first time he had the two artists on his show. "I actually said on air, 'This is our next superstar here, respect this man.'"

Since 2000, DJ Drastic X, Hikmat Kilzi, has hosted his show with the purpose of not only playing and mixing hip-hop music from all parts of the globe, but giving up-and-coming rappers an opportunity to receive local exposure.

"We named it 'It's All Gravy' because we didn't want to corner ourselves to playing one genre of hip-hop music. Everything goes, everything flies. We wanted to have an outlet for local artists to come in and showcase their music."

### 'PROVE ME WRONG'

The 28-year-old Kilzi started rapping when he was 16 years old, but then decided DJing was a better way to connect with the Miami hip-hop audience.

"It's cool to be a DJ because when you step out there and you rock the crowd or you are on the radio and people are calling you up while you're tearing it up, it feels good to give people that service," he said. "I mix non-stop for three hours. Lots of DJs just press a button now. Here at Radiate we have real DJs."

In 2004, Drastic graduated from the University with a degree in journalism and mass communications. Although not a student anymore, he continued to host his show. Though he's been DJing for nine years, he didn't always receive the approval from one of his biggest inspirations: his father.

Kilzi's mother is Lebanese and his father was

born in Syria. Kilzi's father left to work in Venezuela with just a second grade education. His father was constantly moving to different countries to find work until he established himself in Miami and met Drastic's mother.

"My dad is my hero," he said. "I think of everything I've been through in life and it's not a tenth of what he's been through."

Alfred Kilzi, Drastic's 18-year-old brother, noted how Drastic has always admired their father, but he could never understand why he would want to be a DJ. He thought hip-hop was a vulgar genre of music with no purpose or value.

"He always told my brother, 'You have to prove me wrong,'" Drastic X's younger brother said. "Part of my brother's success was that my dad never liked hip-hop music. The day came that my brother won an Emmy for a hip-hop production – it was something he was working toward to show my dad that it wasn't just bad words; it was a passion."

### STAYING TRUE

Kilzi makes a living DJing at clubs occasionally and working as a TV producer for a major

local station he asked to remain nameless due to a possible conflict of interest. Drastic airs his show on Saturdays from 7-10 p.m. He is always trying to bring guests to complement the mixing he does. He's had guests such as Akon, Mike Jones, Flo-rida, G-Unit and Lloyd Banks on the show.

He remains in contact with Pitbull and Rick Ross and has them as guests once a year either in person or via phone. They also keep in touch and send him their latest music, which Drastic appreciates.

"They are true to themselves and true to the people that helped them on their way up because they still holler at me as well as other DJs that helped them come up. Maybe it's a Miami thing. We show love," he said.

As of now, the next two artists he sees with potential to make it to the mainstream audience are Brisco and Ice Berg. Those are two rappers who will need to become popular on the local scene before reaching a national audience.

"If you don't get love at home from every DJ in your city, then you can't be crossing over to other places. You have to have a solid foundation," Drastic said.

### F.R.E.E.: FOR RIDICULOUSLY EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

## Love takes center stage in innovative flash experience

Most of us have probably seen romance in films and wished that there was something more like that in our own lives.

Love is one of the most popular themes in film – and for good reason. Humans are inherently needy, social creatures who ultimately just want to love and be loved.

It's curious, then, that more game developers haven't made really great use of this in their products. *Colour my Heart*, a flash game created by SilverStitch, looks and feels like something Michel Gondry might put together with a pen and paper.

The animation is sketchy on purpose and the music feels sad and hopeful all at once. There's just the right mix of sadness, happiness, quirk and charm to make the theme of love feel totally genuine.

In this extremely short flash experience you will simply traverse the black and white environment searching for your mate – the one who will restore color to your world.

Movement is done with the arrow keys and clicking on certain objects will let you interact with them in order to make your way throughout the level.

The whole game can be finished in less than a minute but, by doing so, you'll miss out on what it's really all about.

Taking the time to explore and interact with everything around will reveal a much greater meaning and will make the resolution so much sweeter.

I haven't been so pleasantly surprised by anything in Flash for so long. It's good to know that there is still hope for video games

to become something much more than they are now.

I'd love to think that if we paid more attention to thoughtful games with interesting stories that really tried to reach us on a more personal, emotional level, the big names in the industry would have to take notice.

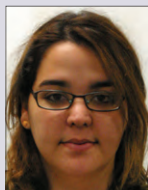
If you're looking for something to kill some time between classes, this isn't the game for you. But, if you'd like to see what interactive art can feel like, you're going to want to give this a try.

I'm a sucker for a really great love story, particularly when I have a hand in telling it.

Search for *Colour my Heart* at [www.newgrounds.com](http://www.newgrounds.com).

*The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.*

### COLUMNIST



ASHLYN TOLEDO

## UNLEASHING CREATIVITY



ISAAC SORIA/THE BEACON

**BRUSHLESS:** Jonathon Pedigo finger paints a panda as his talent for Alpha Omicron Pi's Alpha Male competition on Oct. 20.

# Club fights for freedom, recognition of Tibet

**ISABEL MAZA**  
Staff Writer

Students walking through GC may notice the many flags hanging from the walls representing the vast backgrounds and nationalities of the student body at FIU. However, one country's flag they won't find, despite the fact that it is represented by an FIU student, is Tibet's.

Tibet, a country in East Asia, was invaded by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in 1949 and remains, to this day, occupied by China.

More than 1.2 million people have died as a result of China's occupation of Tibet, according to [www.studentsforafreetibet.org](http://www.studentsforafreetibet.org).

The Chinese government is trying to wipe all traces of Tibetan culture and, as a result, basic human rights for the Tibetan people have been violated, according to the website.

Students for a Free Tibet, a national student-run organization, aims to promote the Tibetan cause and to promote awareness inside and outside of Tibet.

The organization, which has over 650 chapters worldwide, works to empower young Tibetans and give them the tools needed to contribute to their society and the world.

The different chapters exist in universities, high schools and even elementary schools.

The FIU chapter of Students for a Free Tibet also works to inform the University community about the Tibetan issues.

"We want to raise awareness about what's going on outside of our immediate environment. I feel that people should be sensitive to these human rights issues," said Vice President Carol Rodriguez, a psychology major.

Tenzin Gayden, the current FIU chapter

president of Students for a Free Tibet who is seeking his Ph.D. in biology with a focus on genetics, is the only Tibetan student in the club. He has conducted research and published papers on the Tibetan genetic identity.

"It makes me sad that there is no Tibetan representation at FIU. It is a rich culture with a lot to offer," Gayden said.

Political science major Mike Boan, started the club in the Fall of 2008.

"We take for granted the privileges we enjoy and forget we all have the ability to make a difference," he said.

"The Tibetan people need our help and Students for a Free Tibet at FIU is trying to make a difference in their lives."

Since its inception, the club has had a goal of sponsoring a Tibetan child.

Last week, it accomplished this goal and officially sponsored a young orphaned boy from Tibet.

Through the club's donation, he was able to live in an orphanage in India and receive a full year's worth of schooling, food, books and clothing.

Students for a Free Tibet at FIU aims to sponsor a Tibetan child every year.

"Education is our best weapon," Gayden said.

The organization also hosts different events on campus that are open to students.

They have aired movies related to Tibet that show the plight of its citizens. The club has also hosted guest speakers, mainly members of the faculty, to educate and inform students of the cause.

Those interested in joining Students for a Free Tibet at FIU can do so via [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com).

The club holds biweekly meetings to plan events and discuss different topics relating to Tibet. The meetings are open to students and those who would like to join can attend.

**"I started Students for a Free Tibet at FIU because we take for granted the privileges we enjoy... we have the ability to make a difference."**

Mike Boan, *Founder*  
FIU Students for a Free Tibet



## Tuesday Times Talks

Open Discussions of Global Current Events  
12:00pm-1:00pm · GL 220 · Refreshments served

**Oct. 27 "Cell Phones: The Missing Link to Progress for Rural Africa?"**  
Moderators: Fred Blevens, Journalism; Ben Lauren, English; George Pearson, Libraries

**Nov. 3 "Pharmaceutical Research: Medicine or Marketing?"**  
Moderator: David Cohen, Social Work

**Nov. 10 "The Arts: I Know What I Like and I Like What I Know"**  
Moderator: David Deleta, Music

**Nov. 17 "Women and Islam: Whose Marriage Is It Anyway?"**  
Moderator: Aixa Perez-Prado, Education

**Nov. 24 "Online Learning: Will Schooling Ever Be the Same?"**  
Moderator: Brian Peterson, History

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009

**CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 9:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

**CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

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

**DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOP**



WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

**BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

General Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

**PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

**SISTERS IN SPIRIT**

General Meeting  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 1235

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

**FIU SHALOM**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 4:45 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

**STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Workshop  
WHEN: 9 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

**TRUTH FOR LIFE**

General Meeting  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

**FUTURE OPTOMETRY STUDENTS OF AMERICA**

WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

**F.E.M.A.L.E.S.**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

**CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 316

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

**FREE CUBA FOUNDATION**



Recruitment  
WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC

**ARMY ROTC/MILITARY SCIENCE**



Officer Ship Conference  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 140

**FRENCH CLUB**

Movie  
WHEN: 1:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 150

**ACTIVE MINDS**

Awareness Out of the Darkness  
WHEN: 2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Pit

**STONEWALL PRIDE ALLIANCE**

Meeting  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

**HOMECOMING**



Meeting  
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009

**STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET**



General Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 150

**ITALIAN CLUB**

General Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

**DANCE MARATHON**



Enjoy this rock show!  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

**CATHOLIC STUDENT UNION**

General Meeting  
WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 1235

**WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION**



Movie  
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLUB**

Halloween Celebration  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Gracie's Grill

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.  
Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to [mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com](mailto:mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com).



## DRUNK WITH FUN



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

**SOBER GAMES:** Freshmen Amir Abdel-Malek (right) and his teammate freshmen Doug Jones (left) anxiously watch as their opponent's ball flies into the cup during a tournament of root beer pong. The event was held in Lakeview South's fourth floor lounge on Oct. 19.

## Web site offers users the chance to express their hatred for others

**LEONCIO ALVAREZ**  
Staff Writer

There is absolutely nothing funny about feces. Oh wait, yes there is. Turning your number two into the number one gag gift is *Poopiegram.com*, a Web site dedicated to sending out what's already been sent out – all puns intended.

That's right. It's poop in a box. And, as absurd and disgusting as it sounds, for Charles Miller – the man and mind behind the Web site – anonymously sending a box of crap to someone who really deserves it is no longer just an idea passed around as a joke, it is a shockingly funny reality.

"I first thought of the idea about three years ago, but was too busy in my regular job to bring the business to fruition," Miller said. "My wife and I finally decided this year that we were going to get this Web

site up and running, and it went live about three months ago."

Now, relax, breathe slowly and thanks for still reading ... it's not real poop. It's imitation poop, which still gets the job done with no need for flies or gag reflexes.

What's inside the box looks 100 percent real but is actually made of rubber. A personalized memo comes inside your package just in case the visual isn't enough to deliver the message.

There are three options when picking out your poop and all are \$14.95. "Heart Poopie" is in the shape of a heart and seems to lighten anyone's day – or at least anyone who correlates love and rubber poop. "Birdie Poopie" gives someone the bird. It is molded to be the most offensive of hand gestures and is sure to upset even the gentlest nun. The final option is simply "Poopie Poop" and it's the standard of boxed gross

gifts. The only thing someone who receives this must think is "Great, an invisible cat."

Anyone who you think deserves a pile of crap deserves a poopie gram. A specific office that has repeatedly taken your money for no good reason semester after semester is a good candidate.

Miller can relate. He says the No. 1 reason people have been sending poopie grams is road rage.

"If someone would like to have a poopie gram sent to the owner of any vehicle, all we need is the tag number and state of issuance and we can send one to the address they have on record with the Department of Motor Vehicles," he said.

*Poopiegram.com* is Florida-based but ships internationally, with 99 percent of orders coming from within the U.S. Miami drivers, beware. Something long-deserved is in the mail with your name on it.

### FISTFULS OF TECH!

## Droid poses threat to iPhone supremacy

I have been saying for the longest time that if Verizon Wireless added an iPhone to its roster, it would be the greatest thing since the invention of ... well, the iPhone. But it looks like Verizon did even better.

At an Oct. 6 press conference, Verizon and Google forged what is no doubt one of the most significant partnerships in the history of the mobile phone industry.

During the event, Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam announced that the company would strengthen its smart phone lineup with the addition of two new phones powered by Google's Android operating system and plans for that number to increase over the next few years.

One of these devices shown is a variant of the HTC Hero, which has been out for a while and is nothing to write home about. The other is the Motorola Droid, the most significant threat to the iPhone yet.

The Droid is the most powerful Android device to date, packing the same powerful processor in the iPhone 3GS, loads of memory, a 5 megapixel camera and something the iPhone lacks: a physical keyboard.

The problem with all Android devices currently on the market is that they lack the power to run the software. However, Droid remedies this with Android 2.0.

Android 2.0, a long awaited update to the software, adds several new features that improve the OS in many ways.

The update adds Microsoft Exchange support to Android, allowing it to cater to business and non-business consumers alike.

It will also add a more robust Google Maps application and a new web browser which, from what I've seen, looks to be a vast

improvement over the current browser.

The rumors of Verizon being in negotiations with Apple for an iPhone are a distant memory. The truth is, Verizon doesn't need the iPhone anymore.

Aside from being "Verizon's iPhone killer," the Motorola Droid is a statement of the company's commitment to open development, to Google's operating system, and a stern declaration that it will not conform to Apple's rules and demands like AT&T has.

Verizon recently released an aggressive ad campaign targeted directly at Apple. The company's new "iDon't" commercials pick apart the iPhone's flaws one by one compared to the Droid, particularly the fact that the iPhone does not allow for open software development.

Should Apple be worried about Verizon, Google and Moto's new baby? Absolutely.

The Motorola Droid is the same size as the iPhone and, though not as pretty, still outshines the iPhone in a few categories. The Android OS may not be as polished and tested as the iPhone OS, but it's definitely getting there.

In the end, this is a phone that is attached to the largest cell phone provider with the most users.

These users are clamoring for a fresh device that will replace the ho-hum Blackberries in their pockets. When the device hits in early November, I think the sales numbers will surprise a few.

So, am I going to torch my trusty iPhone and run out and get a Droid? Nope. But, if I were a Verizon customer, this would be the phone I'd be waiting in a three-hour line for.

"Fistfuls of Tech" is a weekly column on all things technological.

### COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

### THEATER REVIEW

## 'Rocky Horror' production shocks, awes, delivers the goods

**NATALIE LEVY**  
Staff Writer

As I stood waiting to be let in to the Friday Oct. 23 midnight performance of The Rocky Horror Picture Show it was difficult to know what I was in for.

I couldn't tell the difference between the cast members and the die-hard fans all dolled up for the cult classic. Even so I did understand immediately that this would not be an experience for the faint of heart.

What I walked into was a circus of debauchery. To my left was a boy in fishnets and heels helping audience members to their seats, to my right was a slender girl in pink latex with a giant matching boa grinding on an audience member.

I was very excited that something

as hilariously depraved as the RHPS Shadow Cast was being held on my campus and readily available to the student body. Judging by the sold-out ticket sales, the students brought their bodies out in droves.

The show opened with the director Michelle Fraioli in a sequined top-hat, red corset, and matching high-heels, welcoming the audience with a colorful barrage of sexual references, "ground rules" and F-bombs. She explained, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast is the longest running interactive, audience participating show of all time... It's a lot like sex; if you don't interact you don't come."

The director's speech was followed by the "Virgin Oath" which involved the large number of people, myself included, who had

never actually been to a Shadow Cast performance before. Half of us were rounded-up and brought on stage and the others stayed standing in the audience and subsequently were instructed to perform the world's largest orgasm. The movie hadn't even started and already I was having a lot of fun.

The film began on a large screen in the middle of the room and was mimicked, narrated, and shouted over by the actors and "Transies" (actors dressed as transsexuals).

At first, this really bothered me. I couldn't listen to what the movie audio was and hear the shouting actors at the same time. It was confusing and felt disorganized. However, I soon realized that organization is not why you come to see this show.

The cast poked fun at everything from Disney and Nazis to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and the University of Miami. When Barry Bostwick's character in the film, Brad, first enters the spooky mansion a Transie in the audience yelled "Describe UM!" The movie's audio answered with "Some kind of hunting lodge for rich weirdos." Needless to say people laughed long and hard.

Not every joke was well received by the audience. Even though RHPS poked fun at the barrage of recent celebrity deaths including Michael Jackson, Heath Ledger and Anna Nicole Smith, when a cast member made a Steve Irwin reference toward the end of the movie the response was a massive sigh from the audience who seemed to have a soft spot for the late Aussie.

What really stood out was the fan-frenzy when certain characters made an entrance. I expected people to go crazy when Rocky, the tall, tan, lean, blonde creation appears, or when Eddie, played by Meat-Loaf in the film, rides on stage on a scooter.

But nothing could compare to the arrival of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. Loyal to his Tim Curry counterpart in full makeup and four-inch heels, as soon as "Frank" hit the stage the audience went wild.

Between the cat-calls, the yelling, and the singing I wouldn't have realized what happened if it wasn't for that famous bustier.

In all "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" was unprofessional, offensive, ridiculous- and, the most fun I've had yet at an FIU theatre production.



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## BOXSCORE

	FIU	ASU
<b>First Downs</b>	11	22
<b>Rushes-Yards</b>	25-32	48-276
<b>Passing</b>	191	154
<b>Comp-Att-Int</b>	18-34-1	14-22-1
<b>Return Yards</b>	140	66
<b>Punts Avg.</b>	7-42.6	5-42.6
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	10-63	9-72
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	4-1	3-1
<b>Time of Possession</b>	24:27	35:33

**RUSHING — FIU:** Perry 8-19, Owens 3-8, Berry 4-17 **ASU:** Leonard 15-131, Arnold 23-110, Lawson 4-16

**PASSING — FIU:** McCall 17-37-1-173 **ASU:** Leonard 12-18-0-149

**RECEIVING — FIU:** Ellingson 2-41, Hilton 3-24, Frierson 3-48, Berry 3-25, Perry 3-24 **ASU:** Stockemer 4-81, Thompkins 3-20, Murry 2-22, Clements 2-21

# Late fumble hurts Panthers

## FOOTBALL, page 12

teams.

The Golden Panthers committed 10 penalties and had just 32 rushing yards as a team.

### BANGED UP

With McCall's foot ailing from an injury he sustained in practice on Oct. 22, backup Wayne Younger took over the offense on two drives. McCall returned and played the rest of the game. Even so, McCall

was not pleased with his overall performance.

"The foot had nothing to do with it. I had the worst half of football I've ever played," McCall said. "It feels bad as a senior, as the leader of this team not to be able to perform like we have been on offense."

Heading into the game, the Golden Panthers were allowing 228 passing yards per game.

They limited the Red Wolves to 154 yards through the air and defen-

sive end Armond Willis sacked the quarterback twice.

Meanwhile, Hilton did not return punts or kickoffs because of a sprained knee he suffered vs. Western Kentucky two weeks ago.

Whether Hilton sees more playing time will be the coaching staff's decision. But he said he is close to being back at full strength.

"It feels pretty good probably about 92, 93 percent," Hilton said.

Despite the defense's improved play, senior linebacker Scotty Bryant said the team needs to focus on the fundamentals to have a chance next week vs. the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

"That was our goal to eliminate as many big plays as possible," Bryant said. "They capitalized on our weaknesses. We have to be more alert for things like that. Defense, we came out; we played our heart out."



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

**COMEBACK:** Coach Danijela Tomic (left) riles up her team for the win.

## Win helps team build character

### VOLLEYBALL, page 12

"We started feeling pressure and getting away from each other, but that's when we have to stay together," Rosa said. "We weren't having fun. They were playing really good, and we started making some mistakes. The experience is good. It's good to know that we're in that situation and we

can make it through."

Rosa had a team-high 19 kills along with Natalia Valentin's 55 assists, helping push FIU over the top.

"Championship teams find a way to win," Tomic said. "This was an opportunity for us to see how good we are, to see if we had what it takes to be a championship team, and we did it."

## SWINGING FOR THE FENCES



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**SLUGFEST:** Sophomore Mike Martinez takes a swing in an exhibition game vs. British Columbia on Oct. 21 at home. The Golden Panthers defeated British Columbia 17-4. Martinez was one of many Golden Panthers with extra base hits. Tim Jobe hit two home runs and four runs batted in.

## University of Florida voted No. 1 by AP poll once again

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flip-flop.

Florida regained the top spot Sunday in The Associated Press poll from Alabama, which was ranked No. 1 for a week ahead of the Gators.

The Crimson Tide needed a blocked field goal on the last play to beat Tennessee 12-10 on Saturday, while Florida pulled away from Mississippi State in the fourth quarter for a 29-19 victory. The Gators received 30 first-place votes to Alabama's 23.

No. 3 Texas got seven first-place votes after its 41-7 victory at Missouri. The last time two teams flip-flopped in the top two spots of the AP Top 25 from one week to the next was 1992, when Miami and Washington did it.

Like Texas, No. 4 Southern California, No. 5 Cincinnati, No. 6 Boise State and No. 7 Iowa held their places in the latest media rankings.

TCU jumped two spots to No. 8 after a 38-7 victory at Mountain West Conference rival BYU. LSU stayed at No. 9 and Oregon moved up two spots to No. 10.

The Ducks host USC on Saturday in a game with huge Pac-10 championship implications.

Florida began the season as an overwhelming No. 1 in the AP poll. Alabama started five and steadily gained on the Gators before finally jumping past them last week, when Florida needed a field goal in the waning seconds to beat Arkansas at home.

Alabama's All-American nose guard Terrence Cody blocked Daniel Lincoln's 44-yard field-goal attempt on the final play Saturday to keep the Crimson Tide undefeated.

Florida led Mississippi State 16-13 in the fourth quarter, then scored two touchdowns 33 seconds apart to put the Bulldogs away.

No. 11 Georgia Tech starts the second 10, followed by Penn State and Oklahoma State. The Cowboys host Texas on Halloween night.

Virginia Tech is 14th and Houston is 15th.

Pittsburgh moved up four spots to No. 16 after a 41-14 Big East victory against South Florida. The Panthers have their highest ranking since they were 15th in October 2003. Ohio State, Miami, Utah and West Virginia round out the top 20.

The final five includes three teams that were unranked last week. No. 21 South Carolina moved up two spots and No. 22 Oklahoma moved up three.

No. 23 Arizona is in the AP ranking for the first time since Oct. 22, 2000. No. 24 Mississippi and No. 25 Notre Dame re-entered the rankings.

BYU, Kansas and Texas Tech dropped out after losses.

## Coach Edsall hopes funeral brings closure

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut football coach Randy Edsall says he's concerned about how his players will react to the funeral of teammate Jasper Howard.

Edsall says he expects a wide range of emotions at Monday's service, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. at

New Birth Baptist Church in Miami, Howard's hometown.

Howard, a 20-year-old cornerback, was fatally stabbed during an altercation outside a dance on Connecticut's campus early last Sunday. UConn played Saturday, losing to West Virginia 28-24 in an emotionally charged game.

The entire team is flying to Florida together for the service.

Edsall says he's hoping the service will provide a bit of closure that will allow his players to continue to move forward with their lives, while remembering Howard in their own way.

# BEACON

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VOLLEYBALL WEEKEND: FIU 3, UALR 2, FIU 3, ASU 0

## PINK PANTHERS DIG DEEP

### Team rallies late

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

Unlike the team's previous match, the Golden Panthers cut the theatrics in the match against Arkansas State on Oct. 24.

"It feels great, we did our job and we prepared mentally for that," said Natalia Valentin, who had 40 assists for the match and is currently second in the nation in that category. "We didn't lay back."

After a thrilling five-set match victory against UALR the night before, the Golden Panthers (21-2, 12/-0) defeated the Red Wolves (17-9, 7-5) in three sets.

The Red Wolves hung with the Golden Panthers for the first two sets, in large part due to their ability to neutralize Yarimar Rosa, who was limited to a season-low five kills.

But Arkansas State was unable to stop the rest of the offensive attack led by freshman Jovana Bjelica and her team-high 14 kills.

"I feel that we all played like a team and that helped a lot. We didn't have one individual who played; the whole team was playing well," said Bjelica, who also added 10 digs on defense. "We raised

**I feel that we all played like a team and that helped a lot. We didn't have one individual who played; the whole team was playing well.**

Jovana Bjelica, outside hitter  
Volleyball

the level of play from yesterday. We played our game and they couldn't."

In the third set, the Golden Panthers avoided a repeat of their third set meltdown on Friday night.

The victory gave the Golden Panthers their 14th consecutive victory in their final match against a Sun Belt opponent at home.

"Coming in ready after the break was the difference," Tomic said. "I told them in the locker room that I don't want to have a déjà vu experience. We had to come out in the third set and not give them a chance to come back."

The team will now embark on a five-game road swing that includes matches against rivals Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky University to finish up their Sun Belt schedule.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**ROSA KILL:** Outside hitter Yarimar Rosa led the team with 17 kills in the team's 3-2 win over UALR on Oct. 23.

FOOTBALL: ASU 27, FIU 10

## Golden Panthers drop second consecutive conference game

SERGIO BONILLA  
Sports Director

The last time wide receiver T.Y. Hilton fumbled a ball in the fourth quarter, he picked up the ball and threw a game-winning touchdown to Junior Mertile to defeat Arkansas State University 22-21.

On Oct. 24, there was no late game heroics, no "Hilton Heave."

This time, ASU recovered Hilton's fumble and it served as the final dagger in FIU's 27-10 loss at ASU Stadium.

Trailing 17-10, FIU had the ball on its own six-yard line. Quarterback Paul McCall completed a pass to Hilton and his effort to obtain more yards led the sophomore to fumble.

Red Wolves (2-4, 1-2 Sun Belt) running back Reggie Arnold ran 14

yards on the next play for the touchdown to make the score 24-10.

"In the second half, we started moving the football," said Coach Mario Cristobal. "We started doing things to give us a chance to win this football game."

### A TALE OF TWO HALVES

The Golden Panthers' (1-6, 1-3 Sun Belt) loss is the second defeat at the hands of a team they defeated in 2008 - Toledo being the other.

ASU held FIU scoreless in the first half and kept McCall, who was a game-time decision with an injured foot, off balance.

"We did not think he would be able to play today," Cristobal said. "He found a way to get out there, lots of courage, lots of guts by him."

In the second half, the defensive

chess match turned into an offensive contest. ASU came out in the third quarter and quickly manufactured a seven-play, 75-yard touchdown drive.

A 26-yard field goal made it a 17-0 game. FIU answered with a 36-yard field goal and a two-yard touchdown by Darriet Perry to make it 17-10.

A key defensive stop gave FIU the ball back, but the comeback ended in the fourth quarter with Hilton's turnover.

"He's playing hurt, and he's trying hard but the ball came loose," Cristobal said.

The crowd of 18,779 saw the Red Wolves go 7-0 in their last seven homecoming games. Six of those wins are vs. Sun Belt Conference



SAUNDRA SOVICK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PLAYING HURT:** Quarterback Paul McCall gets ready to pass vs the Arkansas St. Red Wolves at ASU Stadium on Oct. 24. He was a gametime decision. He threw for 173 yards.

### Squad recovers with clean sweep

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

Everything seemed to be going smoothly after the second set, with FIU dominating the visiting Trojans of UALR in a match designed to raise breast cancer awareness.

But the rest of the match was anything but smooth as the Golden Panthers (20-2, 11-0 Sun Belt) averted disaster and held on for a thrilling 3-2 victory over UALR (12-10, 6-5 Sun Belt).

"UALR started playing better defense, they adjusted to block our hitters," said Coach Danijela Tomic. "When we start losing, our players try and do things out of our character. We change things that work. You don't fix things that aren't broken."

"I'm going to credit [UALR] Coach Compton and her team for not giving up. They pushed us."

The Golden Panthers got off to a strong start, taking the first two sets and looked poised to take another conference victory.

But UALR stunned the 602 fans in attendance in the following stanza, coming out strong and holding off a Golden Panther comeback to take the set and keep the match alive. The Golden

Panthers had not lost a set since Oct. 4 against Middle Tennessee.

"We were too comfortable and we always do that," said Isadora Rangel, who had 17 kills for the match. "Obviously they started playing better. We were just shocked."

The fourth set picked up where the third one left off, with the Trojans riding on their momentum and building a lead going into the middle stages of a hard-fought set. Another comeback attempt by FIU came up short, setting up the stage for a fifth and final set.

The tension reached a climax in the final set, with the Golden Panthers down by five and then rallying to take the lead. The Trojans made a last ditch effort, but two kills by Jovana Bjelica would seal the match for FIU, extending their winning streak to 13 games.

"It builds team character," Rangel said about going down to the wire with UALR. "It teaches us to get back in the game, because in the third and fourth set we just stopped playing."

Yarimar Rosa said this was a game that forced the team to work together.

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**FOOTBALL, page 11**