

## Police auditing security measures in University

**DIEGO SALDANA**  
*Staff Writer*

As on-campus safety continues to be an issue, the University's police department is making sure it's ready for the worst case scenario.

The University police department has begun to investigate some of its own security measures.

The department is currently conducting an internal survey of security measures on campus including cameras, panic buttons and locknetics according to Chief of Police Alexander Casas.

There are currently 1,500 security cameras on all campuses including the Engineering Center, the Wolfsonian and Pines Charter. There are also 121 panic buttons at the Modesto Maidique Campus, 32 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and one at the Engineering Center.

As of press time 13 panic buttons were deemed inoperable by University Police on MMC campus said Casas.

"As we were evaluating our emergency response ability, we realized that there was a disconnect between the systems we had," Casas said. "We are trying to figure out a way to make it easier for our dispatchers to use what's available for them, connecting the legacy systems with the newer systems, we figured out that we weren't really 100 percent certain of what

we had. No one had ever actually gone and checked the panic alarms."

Because of this, police service technicians were forced to check each alarm to see which ones were malfunctioning.

Each panic button was installed and is maintained by facilities management.

Chelsie Calvo, a grad student in speech therapy, noted that these issues raise concern for her.

"I don't feel safe especially considering I have classes at night," Calvo said. "That's not exactly reassuring."

Saurabh Voharg, a chemistry graduate student, also thinks that such malfunctioning security measures present a danger to students.

"It's quite unsafe," Voharg said. "I've never encountered a mishap, [but] for now I've been safe."

Since 2012, there has not been a single user to press the panic button for help, according to Casas. There are also 31 cameras paired with panic alarms around campus.

Viola Sckeyde, a sophomore international business major, has never noticed there were security cameras at MMC.

"I think its a bit weird when everybody is watching you all the time but I think for safety reasons it's good," said Sckeyde.

Most of the time, cameras are placed in areas where there is high foot traffic or money

## Keep on surviving



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

During the ninth annual Relay for Life event, which took place south of the Ryder Business building on March 1, cancer survivors lead the first lap.

distribution such as the cashier's office.

Another new technology that Casas has been working with at the University is locknetics.

Locknetics are electronic key locks that allow for police dispatch to lock doors and close off entire buildings. As of now, 11 buildings are currently equipped with the system.

In addition, all new buildings constructed at the University will

have this technology, including Academic Health Center 4.

However, not all the locking mechanisms were functioning properly.

University Police is still ongoing in its review of the locknetics program.

Casas plans to move the University safety systems forward by providing more camera and panic button integration and easier to use controls for

University Police dispatchers.

All audits started in November and have been of no cost to the department aside from man hours put in.

These audits will become a yearly check up that the department will conduct in the upcoming semesters and years.

*Additional reporting by Jonathan Jacobskind.*

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### SECURITY EQUIPMENT

Cameras	1,500
Locknetics	11 buildings
Panic Buttons	154

- In 2012, there were 100 calls for panic buttons that were all on accident
- So far this semester, there have been 38 panic button calls also on accident

## Sam Raimi and James Franco talk about Oz

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

man who rarely disappoints. We can only

With yet another Oz themed film, everyone is wondering what exactly makes this one different. Sam Raimi, director of films like the genius "Evil Dead" series, "Drag Me to Hell" and the "Spider-Man" trilogy, is a

imagine what he'll bring to the table with "Oz the Great and Powerful," especially with actor James Franco at the lead.

FIU Student Media was lucky enough to get a chance to participate in conference calls with both Raimi and Franco. Questions were thrown at each of them and the responses were honest and enlightening.

When questioned about what inspired his version of Oz, Raimi responded by

saying, "Well I drew it all from the great author L. Frank Baum, his vision of Oz, that he had written about in 14 some books. And then, I was also inspired by the illustrator, [W. W.] Denslow, he was the original, the original illustrator of the L. Frank Baum books."

He also added that one of the greatest sources of inspiration was from "The Wizard of Oz," specifically "the charac-

ter's sense of love that they have for each other. How friends come together and that very soulful sweet message that comes at the end of the picture when we learn from the Wizard that all of us are complete, all of us broken, lonely individuals are [complete], we have within us the thing to make us complete if we only recognize it."

SEE OZ, PAGE 5

## University starts to feel effects of budget cutbacks

**MARIELLA ROQUE**  
*Staff Writer*

Now that the nationally discussed sequester is no longer an abstract idea, the parties affected have to deal with the fallout, including university students receiving finan-

cial aid.

A series of federal spending cuts went into immediate effect on March 1, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2011 as the Budget Control Act, having failed as a means to force a more balanced,

bipartisan, spending cut agreement.

The sequestration produces automatic cuts for each of nine years, totaling \$1.2 trillion.

One of the areas affected by the sequester is student financial aid, including federal grants and loans.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators calculated what universities could expect to see as a result of sequestration.

NASFAA found that the Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant, offered exclu-

sively to Pell Grant recipients, would see an \$85,000 cut, effective immediately. According to Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines, this would mean 100 less students receiving the FSEOG.

"About 100 students—who would've gotten it,

might've gotten it—aren't going to be able to get the FSEOG," said Valines. "We're going to have about 100 less awards to make."

NASFAA also found that federal work-study would also receive a hit—

SEE SEQUESTER, PAGE 2

## WORLD NEWS

### Czech lawmakers charging president with treason

The Czech Republic's conservative President Vaclav Klaus is facing high treason charges over his controversial amnesty of thousands of prison inmates and others, an unprecedented case that is tainting his final days in the post after a rocky decade.

Lawmakers in Parliament's upper house, which is dominated by the leftwing opposition, voted Monday to file charges at the Constitutional Court.

Marking the country's 20th anniversary of independence on Jan. 1, Klaus used a traditional tool of Czech presidents and ordered the release of more than 6,000 inmates serving short prison terms.

### Venezuela says Chavez receiving chemotherapy

President Hugo Chavez has been receiving chemotherapy since recovering from a severe respiratory infection in mid-January and "continues his battle for life," his vice president said late Friday.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro suggested the chemotherapy was continuing in the government's first mention of it as among treatments that Venezuela's cancer-stricken president has received since his Dec. 11 cancer surgery in Cuba.

Maduro made the disclosure after a Mass for Chavez in a new chapel outside the military hospital where authorities say the socialist leader has been since being flown back to Caracas on Feb. 18.

### Afghan president lashes out at Pakistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai lashed out once again at his supposed ally, Pakistan, saying Monday that a statement by a Pakistani cleric endorsing suicide bombings in Afghanistan shows the neighboring country is not sincere in efforts to fight terrorism. "Afghanistan wants a real struggle against terrorism and wants the Pakistani government to realize that both our nations are burning in the same fire," the Afghan leader said, speaking at a press conference with visiting NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

For more world news, check out [www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com).

# House, debris over Fla. sinkhole to be removed

TAMARA LUSH  
AP Staff

Authorities hope to get a better look at a sinkhole that swallowed a man in his Florida home once demolition crews knock down the remaining walls of the house Monday and begin clearing away the debris.

The remainder of the house and its contents will be dragged toward the street so crews can recover items inside and keep debris from falling into the hole, Hillsborough County spokesman Willie Puz said Monday morning. Authorities were still not certain exactly how big the sinkhole is.

Crews on Sunday razed more than half the home, managing to salvage some keepsakes for family members who lived there.

The opening of the sinkhole has been covered by the home, but once emergency officials and engineers can see inside it more clearly, they could begin planning how to deal with it. They also need to decide what will happen to the two

homes on either side of the now-demolished house. Experts say the sinkhole has "compromised" those homes, but it's unclear whether steps can be taken to save them.

Jeremy Bush, 35, tried to save his brother, Jeff, when the earth opened up and swallowed him Thursday night.

On Sunday morning, Bush and relatives prayed with a pastor as the home — where he lived with his girlfriend, Rachel Wicker; their daughter, Hannah, 2; and others — was demolished and waited for firefighters to salvage anything possible from inside. The home was owned by Leland Wicker, Rachel's grandfather, since the 1970s.

The operator of the heavy equipment worked gingerly, first taking off a front wall. Family belongings were scooped onto the lawn gently in hopes of salvaging parts of the family's 40-year history in the home.

As of Sunday afternoon — when demolition had stopped for the day and

only a few walls remained — a Bible, family photos, a jewelry box and a pink teddy bear for Hannah were among the items saved. Firefighters also were able to pick out the purse of one of the women in the home.

Cheers went up from family, friends and neighbors each time something valuable was salvaged.

Wanda Carter, the daughter of Leland Wicker, cradled the large family Bible in her arms. She said her mother and father had stored baptism certificates, cards and photos between the pages of that Bible over the years.

"It means that God is still in control, and He knew we needed this for closure," she said, crying.

Carter said she spent from age 11 to 20 in the home, and she had to close her eyes as the home was knocked down.

"Thank you for all of the memories and life it gave us," she said.

The Rev. John Martin of Bell Shoals Baptist Church said he had been with the family all morning. "We

just prayed with them," he said. He added that all five who lived in the house — Bush, Wicker, Hannah and two others ages 50 and 45 — were in need of support and prayers from the community.

Several generations of family members lived in the home at the time of the ground collapse, including Jeff Bush, the man now presumed dead.

The search for Jeff Bush, 37, was called off Saturday. He was in his bedroom Thursday night in Seffner — a suburb of 8,000 people 15 miles east of downtown Tampa — when the ground opened and took him and everything else in his room. Five others in the house at the time escape unharmed as the earth crumbled.

Jeremy Bush tried to save his brother by jumping into the sinking dirt hole. He had to be pulled out of the still-shifting hole by a Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputy, who was shaken when talking about the incident more than a day later.

## Budget cuts begin to impact students

### SEQUESTER, PAGE 1

a cut of about \$142,000, meaning 50 less students will be selected for work-study opportunities.

"Anything that's going to take away from students is important," said Dean Williams, founding chairman of FIUnite. "The sequester limits the funding for low-income students

who rely on grants and end up staying at school an extra two years because they can't get funding."

Williams issued a statement explaining that sequestration would result in approximately \$140 million being slashed from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance.

"Students who rely exclusively on grants will be punished for trying to better themselves instead of getting rewarded for their hard efforts," said political science alumni Ed Vega. "Congress is sending us a message that hard work doesn't actually pay off."

Another type of finan-

cial aid affected immediately by sequestration would be the loan origination fee, a processing fee charged to the borrower initially when taking out a loan. The Stafford loans would see an increase of 0.053 percent in the fee and for Plus loans, the increase would be 0.2 percent. According to Valines, about 20,000 students at the University take up a Stafford or Plus loan.

"It's not a lot, but every dollar counts for students," Valines said.

Valines warned of Pell Grant amounts potentially going down in the coming years, as well.

"What we know is that Pell Grants are only protected for this and next

year, so for the 2014-2015 school year, Pell Grants are up for grabs if Congress doesn't do anything," Valines said.

Political science senior Anthony Maneiro felt that these cuts would help drive down tuition prices, which have increased for Florida universities in the past year.

"The prospect of guaranteed money from the federal government through grants and low-interest loans has driven the cost of education up almost single-handedly," said Maneiro. "Maybe the threat of cutting federal aid will keep tuition prices from rising so much."

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

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## A few more words than you're used to

MICHAEL BAISDEN  
*Opinion Editor*

Generation Y lives in an unbelievable time where distance does not limit a person's ideas, thoughts, feelings and creativity, allowing them to be heard and seen by thousands of others. The amount of connections that can be made is nearly inconceivable.

But in my experience, this constant stream of content we receive every day is often filtered, leaving out the important details or quickly glanced over.

What most often gets dismissed is hard news.

In 2012, the Newspaper Association of America Foundation conducted a study on young people to determine their newspaper readership.

To my surprise 74.9 percent of the subjects, who had spent one to three years in college, said they'd read some form of a newspaper within the last 30 days. However, they did not actually explore how much content this age group is actually getting.

A few weeks ago this section printed a piece about the drones controversy that's been in the news for a few weeks. When I discussed this with a fellow classmate she said, "What's that?"

I don't think that my face read, "Are you serious?" but I quickly briefed her about the

article which discussed the drone situation in Pakistan.

My overall point here is not only that we aren't reading the news, but the question, how are we so completely disconnected?

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So often young people talk about changing the world. But how could you even think it feasible if you have no idea what's going on in it?

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So often young people talk about changing the world. But how could you even think it feasible if you have no idea what's going on in it?

The hours people spend reading newspapers is at the lowest amount it's been in the past 10 years. In 2003 the average American spent 198 hours per year, but now that number is 150 according to a survey conducted by Veronis Suhler Stevenson, a major investment firm that publishes forecasts and reports on communication trends.

Today, most of us scroll through our social media news feeds to share and retweet links

with the assumption that this is equivalent to news gathering. Or perhaps most of us don't even believe it's news gathering, perhaps most of us just don't care to hear about world

or local issues.

But I choose to believe that we are far more capable than that.

The blame is not only in ourselves but also in our social sites. They have molded us into people who don't wish to read more than 100 words at a time.

There's the signature '140 characters' policy on Twitter. You can opt to get the Twitter longer plug-in, but what followers will go through all that trouble just to see the rest of your sentence.

On Facebook, I even find myself unwilling to read a friend's lengthy status about their relationships or political

views.

We have, more or less, grown up in a world where you have to explain your thoughts in 200 words or less, because if you don't you've lost your audience's attention.

The pace at which we try to get news information is equivalent to a teaser trailer, and that's entirely too fast to get anything of substance. It barely works for movies, how could it work for news?

Sure, some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times, and I'm glad we're going to several sources for news content, but are we clicking the link to their site to read the rest of the story?

Probably not.

It's kind of disheartening, but at the same time I get it. I only read one or two stories from The Miami Herald per week but it's something we all should do in order to be informed citizens.

For many of us, there's Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. Thank God for those two making news interesting. But still, they are just pre-packaged, small servings of a few pieces of news, not going into all the detail that's necessary.

Wherever you get your news is up to you, but get it.

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## Getting the news: Generation Y bother?

ASHLEY OROZCO  
*Contributing Writer*

If asked where our troops are currently stationed, a typical college student might not know and fewer would be able to tell you why they're there.

Despite the fact that news outlets worldwide have been covering this for quite some time, few from our age group actually take the time to invest their own time to find out.

This is our generation.

Though news outlets have gone digital, for the most part they can't project full stories onto a single tweet or status update. So they post a headline or a few words that they hope will catch the attention of smartphone users.

However, that headline is the only thing our generation will read and they leave feeling as though they've been fully informed.

This trait of ours speaks volumes about our generation as a whole. We've grown up with constant technological advancements and learned to keep up with the ever

changing times. In our accelerated lifestyle, we only take what we believe is necessary and continue to move forward.

This goes for news as well. And since we've become addicted to checking updates on the Internet, we find that those short bursts of text are enough and we continue with our daily routines.

Sadly, I too am guilty of this.

On Twitter, I follow a fair amount of the BBC accounts as well as the New York Times. I followed them with the intention of being able to click the link to full articles since going on their websites can sometimes be a nuisance and I check my Twitter feed a lot.

But now, I only go through my feed skimming headlines or whatever updates they can squeeze into 140 characters or less; rarely do I click the links for more information.

In high school my English professor assigned weekly articles. We had to analyze and then write a reflection.

If professors followed this example and assigned two or more news articles a

month, I think it would boost our generation's appreciation of news content and also help us to become more aware.

At the same time, we are adults now, and we should be doing this kind of thing independently, without having it assigned as work. It should be something we do on our own time as a citizen.

There are always things happening in all of our communities. There is plenty of content, just not enough readers.

Something as simple as picking up The Beacon every other day could make a difference.

I would argue that our generation's great folly is not entirely our own fault. It's how we were brought up. But we do have the capacity to be an informed generation.

It's not that we don't want to be informed, it's just something we're not used to.

In the long run, we will end up with a society of entirely ignorant people, so it's best that we fix this now rather than sooner than later.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

## A hasty move to become "Worlds Ahead"

Trying to be "Worlds Ahead" can put a heavy-handed burden on FIU's shoulders, however these decisions should not be made in haste. When this happens, it leaves doubt in the minds of the University community.

The proposed contract with the company Academic Partnerships would really carry the University's "Worlds Ahead" mantra by helping it gain the increase in enrollment numbers it yearns.

The partnership would help market a new online Master of Business Administration program to foreign students in China and South American regions.

The company has a goal of recruiting 100 students for every class. However, University records show that AP has fallen short of its recruitment goals except for once.

The company has a goal of recruiting 100 students for every class.

In 16 classes, the company has met this goal only once in 2011 with 117 students. According to The Miami Herald, the three most recent classes have had only 67, 54 and 40 company-recruited students.

Dean of University College Joyce Elam told The Beacon she is not looking at the numbers because she is no longer in charge of the partnership, but the University is satisfied with the recruitment AP has done. Elam also said that the University does not have the capital nor the "translation materials" to do the marketing on their own which is where AP comes in.

Academic Partnerships was initially taking about 70 percent of tuition revenues from the program. The University later negotiated this to 45 percent.

But the University needs to look at the enrollment numbers of the past and use that as a determining factor in the decision; recruiting as many students as possible is the goal and these numbers should be the first thing the University weighs out.

Although Elam is no longer dean of the College of Business, she or someone from within University College should continuously monitor AP's progress and make suggestions on whether to continue using the company.

If the University does not have the resources to run FIU Global on its own, then it should not continue using AP if it has not met the University's enrollment goals.

The main problem is that the decision did not have any competition nor was it voted upon. AP is not new to the University, with the first contract signed in 2009 that created the online MBA program. The Faculty Senate is supposed to approve new degree programs but it was not informed of the contract.

What's the hurry? During the Faculty Senate meeting on Feb. 21, concern was raised over the Faculty Senate being "circumvented" when it came to the AP decision and working with a company of lesser quality.

Let's not forget that the founder and chairman of AP, Randy Best, a close friend of Jeb Bush. This creates some political tension around the University that is disconcerting. The University should understand that the community will not overlook the political affiliations connected to the company.

While we applaud the University for trying to create relations outside of itself and reaching out to outside companies to help it expand, we need to look at all of our options and not make decisions without involving all parties concerned.

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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## Miami International Film Festival

### MIFF celebrates its 30th anniversary in the film industry

**CONSUELO NARANJO**  
*Staff Writer*

Bright lights warmed up Gusman's Olympia Theater in downtown Miami. This is where film lovers gathered on the red carpet for the opening inauguration of the 2013 Miami International Film Festival, celebrated from Friday, March 1 until Sunday, March 10.

Remarkable characters from a variety of countries arrived to the land of cortaditos and palm trees to share their most creative work.

This year the MIFF celebrates the 30th anniversary of the world's finest film industry. This celebration, which introduced important foreign directors, actors and producers to the United States, was founded by the Film Society of Miami, Inc., in 1983.

With the main objective of providing cultural understanding, encourage artistic development and excellence through film, the MIFF gained recognition from the best and most exclusive directors and critics within the film business, globally.

In the 1990s, the Film Society transferred the administration of the festival to FIU; however, since October 2003 Miami Dade College (MDC) is the principal sponsor and organizer of the gala.

Enthusiastic founders, excited viewers and 140 loyal sponsors such as

American Airlines, HBO Latino and the Knight Foundation hosted one of the important parties in the industry. Jaie Laplante, executive director of the MIFF, welcomed the public and presented "Twenty Feet From Stardom" by director Morgan Neville at the Ultimate Opening night party.

"This is a documentary about the life of backup singers. These are groups of people who are some of the most incredible artists that you have never heard from, except in the background," said Neville.

Regal South Beach Cinemas, Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts, Tower Theater, O Cinema, Coral Gables Art Cinema and Miami Beach Cinematheque are the venues of 117 feature-length films and 12 shorts representing 41 countries.

Students are one of the principal ingredients for this international mix of art. Julissa Perez, a senior in theatre performance, is managing the tower theatre at the festival. She describes the MIFF as a unique occasion with amazing benefits.

"FIU students working or volunteering in the event have a great opportunity to watch films, and enjoy events that are different from the usual film festivals," Perez said. "Especially for my fellow theatre majors; it is lovely to be



able to expand our artistic views and really eat up what Miami has to offer in terms of visual and artistic stimulation."

Art experts and dreamers should not miss any element of the festival. That is the case of American actor, and Academy Award nominated actor, James Cromwell.

Humbly, he shared his excitement for his performance in "Still Mine," by Michael McGowan.

Also, he shared some expert advice to FIU students: "Don't give up and be creative. The movie industry is a hard field but you can reach your objectives with hard work and

**SEE FILM, PAGE 5**



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

The Miami International Film Festival is holding its 30th annual festival from Monday, March 1 to Sunday, March 10. Academy Award nominated actor James Cromwell was present at the event, celebrating his performance in "Still Mine," by Michael McGowan.

## Wolfsonian exhibits labor history in the United States

**NATALIE MONTANER**  
*Contributing Writer*

FIU's Wolfsonian museum at Miami Beach never falls short with the exhibits it puts on display to willing patrons and art enthusiasts. Among the various exhibitions there are two that encompass the work and labor that historically propelled the United States forward.

Shining light onto the hard work of those who currently are, and have always been, this nation's understated backbone, "Describing Labor" exhibits the talents, ambitions, and determination of laborers throughout history.

This exhibit, which reminisces on the industrialized success of the USA, is one of the many ways to adequately show appreciation and give thanks to those who

dedicated their life towards their careers.

In a Wolfsonian press release, Esther Shalev-Gerz, the artist behind this exhibit, is quoted saying, "I realized that this was more or less the last time in our recent history that images of

workers conveyed a sense of heroism. Since the end of the period represented in the collection [1885–1945], the image of the worker fell out of favor as a subject for the arts."

She added, "It made me think about how we do not know the

faces of the people who create the things that surround us. We know other faces—politicians, celebrities, criminals—but not the worker, the one who makes. The lines, curves, shapes, and volumes of the items in the collection give image to the interests, passions, and quests of an epoch and those who produced it."

Shalev-Gerz chose to portray the labors of these unsung Americans through many different forms.

In order to properly encapsulate the diversity of the workers and the wide range of goods and services they produced for this country, it only seems logical to include anything and everything that can adequately exhibit these labors.

She collected 41 objects, ranging from sculptures to photo-

graphs to paintings, as well as others objects from The Wolfsonian, The Martin Z. Margulies Collection and The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Private Collection, in order to do so.

"Describing Labor" made its debut on Nov. 29 and will run until April 21.

One of the exhibits "Back to Work: FDR and Labor's New Deal" depicts the visions and programs proposed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt that ultimately helped the nation overcome the Great Depression of the 1930s.

This exhibit showcases the various propaganda – pamphlets, periodicals, and other prints – that highlighted FDR's plan to restore the failing economy and put Americans back to work.

"I realized that this was more or less the last time in our recent history that images of workers conveyed a sense of heroism."

Esther Shalev-Gerz  
Artist  
"Describing Labor"

# Chatting with Raimi and Franco, the new wizards of Oz



JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP

James Franco [left] stars in the new upcoming film, "Oz the Great and Powerful," directed by Sam Raimi [right], who is known for his work in the "Evil Dead" trilogy, "Drag Me to Hell" and the "Spider-Man" trilogy. The film follows circus magician Oscar Diggs [Franco] into the Land of Oz where he encounters three witches [Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams] who doubt he's the great wizard everyone's been waiting for. In a quest to prove himself, Diggs ultimately transforms into the great and powerful Wizard of Oz.

## OZ, PAGE 1

During the casting process, Raimi claims he "was looking for that actor or actress that had the qualities of the character they're going to portray." In scoping out an actress for Theodora, two films sealed the deal for Mila Kunis: Forgetting Sarah Marshall and Black Swan. When it came to Michelle Williams, he joked that he "needed an actress with a good soul" and "that ruled [out] about 90 percent of the actresses in Hollywood."

James Franco, who saw the role as something he "could have a lot of fun with and be fairly creative with," has always been a big fan of L. Frank Baum's Oz books. His initial hesitations went out the window after understanding what would distinguish this version of Oz from other versions, notably the fact that "they weren't just gonna redo it."

He liked that his character was "a con man that was stumbling through Oz, pretending to be something he's not. He gets into a lot of awkward situations that could be played for comedy and I thought that comedic edge would help distinguish this version of Oz from others."

Franco not only addressed his role as Oz, but also touched upon his diverse acting and directorial career. When asked about how he balances his work in Oz with something like Harmony Korine's "Spring Breakers," he replied by saying, "They're made on very different scales and they have very different subject matters, but there are essential things about making movies that are in place

in both films."

Franco added that he goes into different projects by "trying to figure out what the tone of the film is, what [his] place in the film is, and how [he] can best fit into that world." With Oz he plays a magician and con man and with "Spring Breakers" he plays a gangster, mystic rapper, and he "had to figure out how to play each of those roles as realistically as possible."

If these interviews are anything to go by, we can expect a fun film out of "Oz the Great and Powerful." At the very least we can keep our hopes up, as even James Franco praises Sam Raimi as one of the best directors around.

Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.

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## "OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL"

When:  
In theaters on Friday, March 8  
Genre:  
Action, adventure, fantasy

Inspired by author L. Frank Baum and illustrator W.W. Denslow.

# Film Festival brings film lovers together

## FILM, PAGE 4

originality," Cromwell said.

Mauricio Parra, Miami personality and official DJ for Vogue magazine and MTV events, lit up the inauguration party with a fusion of vibrating and energetic rhythms.

This FIU alumnus also encouraged future musicians to follow their dreams: "This is a hard field with ups and downs, but if this is something that you are passionate about, keep working towards your aspirations," Parra said.

All forms of art expressions were on display at the Opening Night Contest, of the MIFF; the most unique was awarded with a \$1,200 gift certificate from the upscale boutique, Osklen.

Even though the Miami International Film Festival is a display of fashion with a sparkle of bohemian glamour, Rodner Figueroa, well known fashionista and hostess of "Sal y Pimienta," broadcast by Univision, decided to leave fashion critiques at home and enjoyed, what he called, "The real protagonist of the nights, the films."

"The MIFF gives you the opportunity to enjoy independent movies from all around the world. I

am looking forward to enjoy[ing] Spanish speaking movies," Figueroa said.

Originally from Venezuela, Rodner Figueroa was delighted by Spanish language submissions. "I deeply enjoy Hispanic films, I feel closer to them, and I love hearing my native language on the big screen."

From unraveled love stories to topical social problems, the MIFF presents No, an Academy Award nominated foreign film, starring Gabriel Garcia Bernal.

White Elephants, A Gun in Each Hand and Eenie Meenie Miney Moe are also the most featured movies at this festival.

Stefany Rodriguez, a sophomore majoring in psychology and a cinephile, is looking forward to enjoying some of the 23

categories that the MIFF offers to the public.

Rodriguez is also applying to the Film Studies certificate at FIU, directed by Richard Schwartz and

Barbara Weitz from the English department.

"Movies are my second love. They represent genuine expressions and some are pure art when they

allow you to truly connect with story," Rodriguez said

Spectators are able to support these films and enjoy the many after party events that the MIFF is

sponsoring. For more information visit: <http://miami.festivalgenius.com/2013/>

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## FIU regular season ends, postseason just ahead



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

While there were several cogs in the men's basketball success this season, Tymell Murphy, left, provided the rotation with superb numbers to boost the team to the No. 4 seed in the conference. He led the team in points, rebounds and blocks and was top 10 in the country in field-goal percentage.

**KEVIN CASTANEDA**  
*Staff Writer*

On Oct. 24, the Sun Belt Conference Coaches' Poll for men's basketball was released. The coaches picked FIU to finish second to last in the SBC and dead last in the East Division.

Head Coach Richard Pitino shrugged off the preseason prediction and went to work with his hard-nosed team. The first-year head coach and young roster defied all expectations as they ended the season above .500, securing the No. 4 seed for the SBC Tournament.

"People in our league didn't have high expectations for us, I don't think anyone did. But that was justified," Pitino said. "I thought the guys really exceeded expectations in the regular season."

The Panthers finished the regular season with a 16-13 overall record and 11-9 in SBC play. The last time the Panthers had 16 wins was during the 1999-2000 season, when the team went 16-14 under Head Coach Shakey Rodriguez.

Even more impressive, is that FIU finished their season with a 10-3 home record. The 10 wins at the U.S. Century Bank Arena this year is the most the team has had since the 1999-2000 season, when the Panthers went 10-6.

"It's just the mentality of playing at home" said Pitino. "It's better to play in front of your own fans. Our guys saw each game the crowds getting bigger and bigger. They didn't want to let the fans down that decided to come."

Pitino does not like singling out one player on his roster as the best. Even with his reluctance to name a star, a few names really stood out this season.

The first player to jump off the stat sheet is sophomore Tymell Murphy. The 6-foot-5 forward averaged just above 15 points and

nearly seven rebounds a game. Besides those statistics being team-highs, he finished the season ranked seventh in the SBC in points per game and sixth in rebounds per game.

Murphy not only ended the year with seven double-doubles, but scored in double-digits in 20 consecutive games. The most incredible part about Murphy's ability to score was his efficiency. He shot 58 percent from the field which ranked him first in the SBC and eighth in the nation.

"You got four categories where he's top 10 [in the conference]. He did a little bit of everything, he had a great year for us," said Pitino. "When things broke down he was able to get things done for us. I would say he's definitely just scratching the surface."

It is difficult to follow up what Murphy did, but Jerome Frink sure added a punch to the Panther lineup. The freshman finished the season third in scoring and second in rebounds for the Panthers. Pitino knew he had something special in his 6-foot-5 forward when Frink opened up the season against Boston College, with a 22-point and 10-rebound performance.

"I think he was probably, if not the best, the best freshman in this league," Pitino said. "He was very valuable. It's always tough for a freshman to contribute [30 minutes a game] because they're not used to it, but he did a great job at it."

Both Murphy and Frink were rebounding threats on the court, but junior Malik Smith took a different approach to the game. Smith's focus going into the season was to be the best three-point shooter in the conference. He accomplished just that as he ranked first in three-pointers per game, with nearly three a contest.

His remarkable shooting netted him an

**SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 7**

## Panthers stomp through the Red Storm

**STEVEN ROWELL**  
*Contributing Writer*

While the win streak continues for FIU tennis, so does the recent surge by three upperclassmen from the Panthers.

The Panthers won their second straight match over the Red Storm of St. John's University, 5-2, on March 1 at the FIU tennis courts, boosting their record to 2-6, but Head Coach Katarina Petrovic is still not satisfied.

"I really think we didn't played all that well," Petrovic said. "I think we had more energy than them and that was the main reason we won."

In doubles, junior Giulietta Boha and freshman Carlotta Orlando downed St. John's Amber Washington and Yanita Amadova 8-2. Then it was senior Rita Maisak and freshman Aleksandra Trifunovic winning their doubles match 8-4 to give FIU the doubles point and a 1-0 lead.

In singles play, FIU was

impressive, winning four of the six singles matches. Freshmen Michelle Sabado won her first set but still found herself on the short end of her singles match. Orlando, who has been on a hot start in singles play, suffered only her second setback of the season in singles, losing in straight sets

do on the court," Petrovic said. "I told her that the main thing in college tennis is the team needs to get four points and sometimes it's not going to be you getting one of the points."

With the freshmen not at their best, it was the upperclassmen that carried the Panthers once again.

match in straight sets 7-5 and 6-3.

"The main thing is practice. I feel like if I get enough practice even during the hardest moments I can still pull off the match," Maisak said. "Serving is a big advantage, but you can do without it."

"Rita is known to always be frustrated and she is a senior, and she struggled with her serve, and that's the thing in college tennis, sometimes you have to change your game plan when something is not working," Petrovic added.

Boha and senior Magali Holt also enjoyed success against St. John's.

Boha won her second straight singles match in straight sets, and Holt prevailed in her singles match that went the maximum three sets. Boha, Maisak and Holt were key in the victory over St. John's and will be in victories moving forward.

"I tell Giulietta that sometimes I believe in her game more than she does," Petrovic said. "When

she is confident I feel she can beat anybody. I think our upper class girls need to continue to step [up] to not only be examples to our freshmen, but also to not put so much pressure on them either."

"I played well. I am getting more confident, but next match I would like to win my singles match in straight sets," added Holt.

Despite the win, Petrovic thinks there is room for improvement.

"It was a grind it out win," Petrovic said. "One of the sweetest things in college tennis is when you don't play your best and still find a way to win. We didn't play our best, but we had a really good day of practice and I hope we do the same in our next match."

Today, the Panthers host Georgetown University and then on March 7, they'll welcome the Spartans from Michigan State University. Both matches are set for a noon start.

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# Panther bats can't rebel against Ole miss pitching



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

The FIU starters couldn't handle the Ole Miss bats this past weekend, giving up a whopping 14 earned runs and nine walks in only 15 innings.

## Basketball enters as No.4 seed in tournament

### BASKETBALL, PAGE 6

average of 13 points a game, putting him just behind Murphy.

"Malik is a great leader. His confidence and leadership on the court carried us. He never seems rattled and is never scared to take the big shot," Pitino said.

These players were the standout performers over the course of the season.

The other players on the team were just as vital in piecing together a winning season.

Pitino wanted to play fast up-tempo basketball that revolved around steals and fast-breaks.

Deric Hill provided that with his team-high two steals a game, which helped the Panthers rank first in the SBC in steals.

Pitino wanted a savvy veteran to guide the team. Cameron Bell, a senior, provided that experience both of the bench or in the

starting lineup.

Role-player Marco Porcher-Jimenez helped across the board by either grabbing pivotal rebounds or hitting big threes.

The Panthers are not done just yet. They are heading to Hot Springs, Ark., for the SBC Tournament.

As the No.4 seed, they are getting a first-round bye, meaning their first game will come on March 9 against Arkansas-Little Rock.

FIU has not been a four seed since the 2000 SBC Tournament.

Pitino and his team will be looking for his players to not hold back.

"I think we can get more out of all my guys. Everyone single one of them has something they can improve on," Pitino said. "I want everybody to give it their all."

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### FRANCISCO RIVERO Staff Writer

The past weekend series against No.8 University of Mississippi was a battle of David versus Goliath, but unlike the original story, David got a reality check.

Coming into the Ole Miss series, FIU (7-5) had scored 69 runs while winning four of their last five games. Freshman first baseman Edwin Rios was leading the way with a .400 batting average along with 14 runs batted in.

However, the Panthers would have to deal with a Rebel team (11-1) whose top three pitchers have a total earned run average of 3.96.

Add to the fact that the last time FIU defeated a Southeastern Conference team was in 1996, and it was easy to tell they faced a long weekend.

First up was Rebels' ace Bobby Wahl, who came into Friday's game with a staggering 0.79 ERA. Although the Panthers scored four runs off the Ole Miss ace, with the biggest contributor being Rios who ended the game with 3 RBIs and a homerun, FIU still fell short as they lost by score of 11-9.

The next two games involved more of the same for FIU, simply bad pitching and shaky defense.

Rebels Mike Mayers and Sam Smith pitched sharp

games, combining for 11 strikeouts and only two earned runs.

"Our guys battled their rear ends off and they battled hard," said Head Coach Henry Thomas. "We just got to play better defense, we have to do a better job of making the plays on the field."

The word to describe this weekend's series is simple: errors. The Panthers committed six errors this past weekend with half of them coming from veteran second baseman T.J. Shantz.

"We are not playing very clean baseball right now," said Shantz. "We just need to come focused to the ballpark every day and practice, we really need to get after it on defense and work well with the pitchers and really just stick to the fundamentals."

The bad defense galvanized Thomas to make a change on the field. Rios, who has been a fixture at first base this season, shifted over to shortstop on Sunday booting Julius Gaines to the designated hitter spot.

Thomas was unsure if this would be a regular occurrence moving forward. Gaines, however, isn't helping his case with six errors on the season, a conference high.

FIU's inconsistent pitching is also another looming concern for this Panther club. After the series

against Ole Miss, where FIU pitchers allowed 27 runs on 37 hits, FIU now ranks in the bottom of most Sun Belt Conference pitching statistics.

FIU has the worst era in the SBC, second most hits allowed, most earned runs allowed, most walks allowed and most home runs allowed.

"We haven't had a good outing from our starting pitcher since last Saturday," Thomas said. "If you don't have a good start from your starting pitcher then you're going to have a difficult time winning a baseball game."

Starter Mike Franco, who had the best start of all the Panther pitchers this past weekend, having at one point sat down 11 straight Rebel batters, understood just how important it was to locate pitches against this Ole Miss team.

"Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you," Franco said. "They just don't want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball."

FIU now travels up to Deland, Fla., to play Stetson University (3-6) today. The Panthers will be looking to snap a four-game losing streak and get back on track.

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## Financial relief for students pay- ing out of pocket

VINSON PRESSLEY  
*Contributing Writer*

Students who do not receive enough scholarships or grants to cover the cost of their education may qualify for tax credit by filling out a 1098-T form.

The 1098-T form allows students who cover their educational expenses out of pocket to claim tax credit for those expenses and receive extra funds when they file to receive their income taxes.

This is made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which allows more parents and students to qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit according to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Individuals who qualify for this tax credit can receive a maximum of \$2,500 per student.

Although this information is available on the [my.fiu.edu](http://my.fiu.edu) portal, knowledge of this tax credit is not common and students are paying out of pocket without realizing their college expenses are tax deductible.

Malynda Point Du Jour, junior nursing major has not heard of this tax credit and pays for school out of pocket. Du Jour mentioned that FIU stressed how to pay for her courses and about loans but has never mentioned the 1098-T form.

"They didn't tell me what options I have," said Du Jour.

Du Jour has one job that attempts to cover about "60 percent" of her college expenses and admits that most of her checks go toward her college bills. "I can't do the things I want," said Du Jour.

Some students receive financial aid but still have to come out of pocket for expenses.

"I have grants but it's not enough sometimes. I have to

work," said Oscar Cifuentes, sophomore psychology major. Cifuentes, who pays 30-40 percent of his tuition bill out of pocket, believes that FIU should have "more work-study opportunities" to help students pay for their college expenses.

Some students have to accumulate debt in order to fund their education.

Jennifer Rye, a sophomore English major whose parents used to pay for her education before a sudden change in income, said she had to accept an unsubsidized loan in order to fund her education.

"I felt bad at first [about having a loan]," Rye said but mentioned later on that without her loan, she wouldn't be able to earn her degree by paying out of pocket.

Rye also felt that FIU should post more educational material about the scholarships and grants they offer; she also mentioned that FIU has financial aid opportunities, one just has to look for it.

Some students have their tuition expenses fully covered by financial aid but still understand the impact it could have if they didn't have it.

"If I didn't have the scholarships, I wouldn't be in school. I wouldn't be able to afford it," said Catherine Mieses, freshman mass communication journalism major.

Despite having scholarships, Mieses still feels the need to have a job to prepare for any changes in the future. "I still have to keep working just in case scholarships don't come through," said Mieses.

The Financial Aid Office at Biscayne Bay Campus refused to comment.

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## Hips don't lie



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

While students enjoyed the free glitter tattoos, relaxation session and hearing about their fortune from a psychic, belly dancers shook their hips around Panther Square for the International Women's Day Celebration. International Women's Day is a global awareness day on March 8, but since it will fall during spring break, the International Student and Scholar Services is hosting a Women Awareness Week from March 4 to March 6. ISSS is collaborating with several organizations on campus throughout the week, such as the Black Student Union and the International Students Club.

## Students to "get their country on" at the bay

JENNIFER SANS  
*Contributing Writer*

Cowboy boots may not only help warm Miamian's feet during the few cold days this March. Keep them on for the Student Programming Council's Country Throw Down.

Tomorrow, March 7 from 12-2 p.m., SPC will be holding their Country Throw Down in Panther Square at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Vice President of the SPC, Cristina Miralles, said she wanted to coordinate this particular event because she really likes

country music. She also said that there were other students who thought doing this event would be a good idea because they also like country music.

A country event has not been held at the BBC yet. Students can listen to country music and learn to square dance.

The DJ, who is from the Roundup Nightclub in Davie, Florida, will be teaching participants how to square dance to different country songs. All students passing through Panther Square are welcome to participate in the event.

Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant at Campus Life, said, "The purpose of

this event is to reach an audience of students we haven't reached before. Any students that like country music and haven't seen an event at BBC targeting the genre will now get the chance to be a part of it."

To many students, country music is not their first choice of music, but there seems to be a body of students at BBC who think the country theme is a great idea for the event.

"I think it would definitely be a fun event to participate in. The square dancing sounds like a lot of fun and I love country music," said Natasha Perez, senior English major. "I've been to the Roundup Night-

club before and the DJ plays country music along with other styles of music. They also teach line-dancing there."

Jazmin Felix, a freshman majoring in nursing and English, said she loves country music and she actually listens to it a lot.

"I think this is going to be such a fun event. I once tried square dancing in high school and it's a lot of fun. Most people are surprised that I like country music so much. I can sing songs word for word by country music artists Chris Young and James Otto!"

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