

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Budget deliberations postponed at last minute

MELISSA CACERES
News Director
melissa.caceres@fiusm.com

Campus-specific budget deliberations at both the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses were postponed until further notice, according to the Student Government Association.

They were set to take place on Feb. 29 at MMC and March 3 at BBC.

"I feel pretty confident that we'll be meeting again sometime next week," said Patrick O'Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at MMC.

With the Activity & Service Fee Committee in discussion about an increase in the A&S fee, it would be difficult to begin any new allocations with funding numbers continuously changing, according to Donovan Dawson, senate speaker of SGC-MMC.

The A&S fee is one of the fees that students pay for with their tuition, along with an athletics and health fee.

"I wouldn't want to hand anything over to the Senate that is incomplete or isn't finalized," said Dawson to Student Media after the U-wide budget deliberations on Feb. 18.

The budget deliberations involve student government leaders deciding the disbursement of the \$13 million of A&S fee monies.

Unlike University-wide deliberations, campus specific deliberations are supposed to address the funding of organizations that are exclusive to each campus such as Student Programming Council and Council for Student Organizations.

Recently, the A&S Fee Committee held two public hearings at both campuses to listen to the concerns and opinions of students and faculty regarding the proposed increase in the A&S fee this year.

According to the SGA website, the committee's final meeting to vote was scheduled to take place Feb. 28.

They are to announce the decision during the coming weeks as to whether the fee will increase and if so, by what percentage.

LECTURE

Foreign editor discusses importance of interest

NEDA GHOMESHI
Opinion Editor
neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com

As a college student, Joe Kahn was uninterested in global affairs.

Over 25 years later, Kahn, now a foreign editor for *The New York Times* spoke to this generation about the importance of interest in international matters through a teleconference on Feb. 29.

Hosted by the New York Times Readership Program at the University, the teleconference was open to the public and could be viewed on the web from anywhere.

He addressed the political and economic issues currently plaguing areas such as China, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

"The world is experiencing considerable turmoil," Kahn said.

"Although the United States is beginning to recover from the 2008 financial crisis, European countries are still experiencing an ongoing crisis." The lecture was

“Students need to be aware and deeply informed of what's going on outside our borders.”

Joe Kahn,
Foreign Editor
The New York Times

hosted at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and, as a participant in the Readership Program, FIU was provided free pizza for the attendees. Eric Feldman, graduate assistant for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, helped orga-

nize and market the event.

"Because of our partnership with the Readership Program, we are offered these kind of opportunities," Feldman said.

Around eight students attended the conference and appeared prepared to ask questions. After speaking for 20 minutes, Kahn began answering questions posted in the online forum by different students across the nation.

Fufu Zhou Wu, a sophomore international relations major, asked, "How long will it take China to become Democratic?"

Kahn responded with a prediction that it will happen in the future.

The two-time Pulitzer Prize winner has a master's in East Asian studies from

SEE NY TIMES, PAGE 2

SPORTS



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Coley (above) is a sophomore guard who is averaging 24 points per game this year.

Jerica Coley wins Sun Belt Player of the Year

BRANDON WISE
Asst. Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

was named to the third team.

TOURNEY TIME

If there is one thing that this season has proven, it's that Coley has staying power at the top.

On Feb. 29, she was honored for her performance this year by the Sun Belt, which named her the Player of the Year for the conference.

She currently is the third leading scorer in the nation at 24 points per game, just a half a point behind second place Tavelyn James of Eastern Michigan.

The sophomore is also 41st in the nation in blocks per game, averaging two per contest.

Also making an appearance on the all-conference team was Fanni Hutlassa who

Throughout the season, the Panthers have slid up and down the standings. Whether it was losing to Texas San Antonio early in the year, which is 8-19 on the season, or defeating Albany and Auburn as a part of the Sun and Fun Classic, FIU went through its own turmoil this season. But, as of now, the team is playing well at the right time. At least, that is, according to head coach Cindy Russo.

"We are definitely getting better with every game," Russo said. "I was most proud of them last game because it was a very physical game and they played back like that."

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 4

COMING UP | Sports

Check out our recap of FIU baseball's home opener against Brown University from today at 7 p.m.

ONLINE | www.fiusm.com

Follow us on:
Twitter - @FIUSM
Facebook - FIU Student Media: News,
FIU Student Media: Sports

RADIO | Radiate FM

Tune in to Radiate FM on Mon., Wed. and Fri. for our Opinion, Sports and News shows or check out them out on FIUSM.com.

The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Jackson Health System cuts 10 percent of workers

Miami-based Jackson Health System, which is one of South Florida's largest healthcare providers, is cutting about 10 percent of its work force.

Chief Executive Carlos Migoya said at a news conference Tuesday that they would be cutting 1,115 jobs. The Miami Herald reports that the cuts are expected to create a net savings of \$69 million. The struggling public hospitals have lost \$420 million the past three years.

Migoya says the cuts will mean 920 people will be laid off, while another 195 vacant positions will be eliminated. The system is adding 350 part-time positions, which those being laid off will be allowed to apply for.

NATIONAL

Romney wins in Michigan by sinking a surging rival

Republican Mitt Romney staved off calamity in his presidential bid by returning to a familiar plan: Attack the surging rival.

He won Tuesday's primary in his home state, Michigan, after assailing conservative challenger Rick Santorum's principles and conservative credentials, both considered Romney's own weaknesses by some of his critics.

With a big win in the Arizona primary the same day as his Michigan victory, Romney enters the 10-state Super Tuesday gauntlet on March 6 as the clear national front-runner. But Santorum's strong showing underscores the lingering doubts conservatives have about the former Massachusetts governor.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 69 of *The Beacon* in the At the Bay section, the article "Pepsico Dream Machine decreases carbon footprint" the beverage company Pepsi should be referred to as PepsiCo.

In Vol. 23, Issue 71 of *The Beacon* in the Sports section, the tennis photo of Lisa Johnson was not taken by Jonathan Segal. It is a Beacon file photo by Kristi Camara.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

SOCIAL WORK

Director 'gives back to community'

KATHERINE FEROLITO
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

The fourth floor of the University's Green Library had a peaceful buzz.

All that could be heard was the soft, smooth sound of typing and an occasional phone ringing.

Most office doors in the hallway were shut, but Mary Helen Hayden's office was wide open. Outside her door sat a student assistant and Hayden's office manager. Plush chairs, stacks of books and binders filled the room.

Hayden is director of the School of Social Work at FIU. This March marks her 35th year at the University, a good time to look at the serious impact she has had on the community from her years as an adjunct instructor to her recent appointment as school director.

Jennifer Abeloff, associate director of the school, has worked with Hayden for about eight years.

"She has been my mentor and guided me in my administrative and leadership skills," Abeloff said of Hayden.

"Dr. Hayden is a very intelligent, organized person with a wealth of knowledge regarding FIU and social work. She is able to engage students, faculty and community members at a level that is above and beyond what most individuals can accomplish," said Abeloff.

Born in Havana, Hayden came to the United States when she was just a few months old and long before she had any idea of a career path.

"I knew I wanted to do something helping people," she said.

She earned a master's in social

work from Florida State University and embarked on her career.

She met her husband of 39 years, Bruce Hayden, while working in Miami's Spectrum Program, where she began her career in social work.

The pair counseled heroin addicts for about a year and a half. The opportunity to co-facilitate groups together let him see that "her talent and love was more in the area of training and organization and teaching than it was working one-on-one."

When the University of Miami received a grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to conduct training in addiction, the university contacted Hayden to work in the program. She took the job as a trainer.

Hayden spent years traveling the southeastern United States, Central America, South America and the Caribbean Islands teaching 10-day training programs. The program at UM would bring people to Miami or have the trainers stay on site.

"It was quite an experience," she said.

While at UM, she accepted an offer to become an adjunct policy professor at FIU.

"As a faculty member she was wonderful," said Mario De La Rosa, a professor of social work at the University, noting that Hayden has been director for only a year. "She is a key member of our faculty and now takes on the key role of administrative issues."

As director, Hayden deals with student issues, oversees the faculty and handles curriculum and scheduling. Hayden also makes sure the school adheres to

the accreditation standards set by the Council on Social Work Education.

Along with her duties as director, she is on numerous committees at FIU. She is part of the Office of Engagement, the Leadership Center and Neighborhood Help, a joint program that includes the College of Public Health and Social Work, the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Students in Neighborhood Help go out into the neighborhoods of northeast and northwest Miami. Each team is assigned a family.

The medical and nursing students are with the families for four years and look after their medical care, while the social work students are with the families for two semesters and deal with the social issues in the households.

Some of the issues that the families face are unemployment, psychological problems and drug and alcohol abuse. The students connect the families for services and to conduct counseling.

Abeloff said Hayden "gives back to the community not only through her work as the director but also personally as a board member at Camillus House, as well as through tremendous social service programs that she leads at her church."

Serving FIU is just as rewarding for Hayden as it is for students and faculty.

"It's not just my career," she said. "It's me."

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenewswave.org

Foreign coverage expanding

NYTIMES, PAGE 1

Harvard University. Before joining *The New York Times* in 1988, Kahn spent six years in China

while working for *The Wall Street Journal*.

After a brief introduction by host Stephanie Doba, and before he began his lecture, Kahn applauded students for their interest in global affairs and mentioned his lack of interest while attending college.

"Although it was wrong at that time [to be uninterested], at this time, it's even more wrong," Kahn said. "Students need to be aware and deeply informed of what's going on outside our borders."

With over 75 full time reporters across the globe, *The New York Times* aims

The New York Times is not [cutting back on overseas coverage.] We have been expanding our programs abroad.

Joe Kahn,
Foreign Editor
The New York Times

to inform its readers about global affairs. our programs abroad."

Many of it's competitors, according to Kahn, have been cutting back on their overseas coverage.

"*The New York Times* is not doing that," he said. "In fact, on the contrary, we have been expanding

This is the second teleconference this semester hosted by the New York Times Readership Program. Last week, Dean Baquet, the managing editor for news for *The New York Times* spoke about civic engagement.

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

- | | |
|--|--|
| EDITOR IN CHIEF
ALEXANDRA CAMEJO | ASST. OPINION EDITOR
BROOKLYN MIDDLETON |
| BBC MANAGING EDITOR
JONATHAN SZYDLO | PHOTO EDITOR
KRISTI CAMARA |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF
LAURA ALONSO | ASST. PHOTO EDITOR
ALEXIA ESCALANTE |
| NEWS DIRECTOR
MELISSA CACERES | BBC PHOTO EDITOR
ANDRES BEDOYA |
| ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS
MELHOR LEONOR
NADRA MABROUK | COPY EDITORS
DIANE ARIAS, JASMYN ELLIOTT, JONATHAN RAMOS, JOHN GIRALT, PATRIK SIMMONS |
| SPORTS DIRECTOR
IGOR MELLO | PAGE DESIGNERS
CAMILA CALCINES, EISSY DE LA MONEDA, CRISTINA MIRALLES, ALEXANDRA SARDI |
| ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS
RICO ALBARRACIN
BRANDON WISE | RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR
KYLE PINEDA |
| LIFE! EDITOR
ESRA ERDOGAN | BUSINESS MANAGER
EDDITH SEVILLA |
| ASST. LIFE! EDITOR
VANESSA PAREDES | DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
ROBERT JAROSS |
| OPINION EDITOR
NEDA GHOMESHI | ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
ALFRED SOTO |



CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR STUDENT MEDIA:
EDITOR IN CHIEF, WRGP GENERAL MANAGER AND FIUSM.COM EDITOR

For an application packet, stop by GC 210 or WUC 124.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON MARCH 9



THE DRIVE TO THE SUMMIT Follow the men's basketball team and their journey through the Sun Belt Championships

Panthers clash with Western Kentucky in opening round

MALCOLM SHIELDS

Staff Writer
malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

After enduring an entire regular season of injuries, inconsistent play and multiple losing streaks, all of that can be nullified if FIU completes a feat that the program has not obtained in over 15 years: winning its conference championship.

The Panthers take their first step at a run in the conference tournament on March 3 at 8:30 p.m. against Western Kentucky in the first round of the Sun Belt Tournament in Hot Springs, Ark.

The Panthers split the season series with Western Kentucky. FIU (8-20, 5-11 SBC) won the first meeting in Bowling Green 81-63.

The Hilltoppers won the second meeting 61-51 in Miami. Western Kentucky (11-18, 7-9 SBC) enters the matchup with FIU on a two game winning streak, which included a win over conference leading Middle Tennessee.

The Hilltoppers have balanced scoring from the outside and inside from guards Derrick Gordon, Jamal Crook, T.J. Price and forward George Fant. "[We are] two teams that are evenly matched. They play a lot of young players," head coach Isiah Thomas said. "It's going to be a tough game."

FOUR GUARD LINEUP

In FIU's win against South Alabama, coach Thomas utilized a four guard lineup, which consisted of DeJuan Wright, Jeremy Allen, Phil Taylor and Deric Hill. The lineup allows Taylor to play more off the ball.

Taylor, who is slated as the



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

DeJuan Wright [above] leads the conference in points per game and was just named second team all-Sun Belt on Feb. 29.

starting guard, continues to grow from a score-first guard to a facilitating guard. "I have come a long way. It has been a learning experience," Taylor said. "Coach is on me everyday and I just try to get better every day."

Combined the quartet amassed 66 of FIU's 81 points against the Jaguars. Also the group combined for 13 of the teams 16 assists in the game.

DEFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT

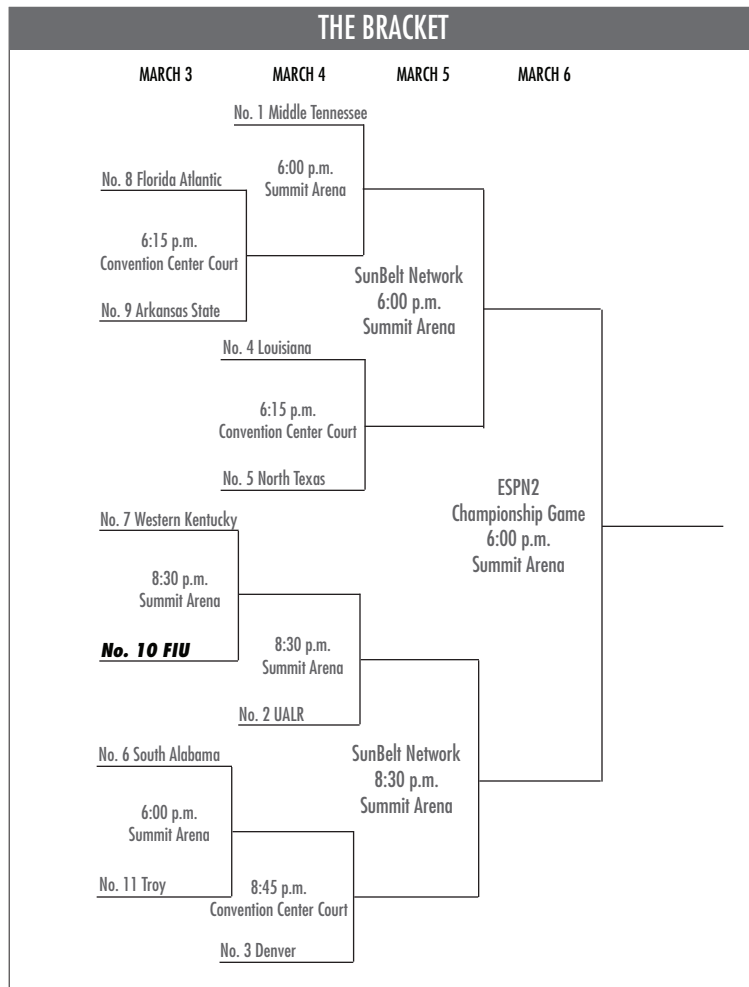
In three of the last four games, FIU has allowed teams to shoot over

45 percent from the field.

Against the Hilltoppers, the Panthers will need to do a better job on the defensive end, closing out on their shooters on the outside.

"We have to work better on our defense, work better on our zone [defense and] look at what they did that made them successful against us last time," Wright said.

The Panthers have keyed in on Price to limit his shooting from beyond the arch. "Price hit two back-to-back big three's on the wing last time to put them up so we got to



contain them," said Wright.

THREE PANTHERS HONORED

Wright, Allen and Taylor were recognized by the Sun Belt Conference by being named to the 2011-2012 All-Conference teams.

Wright was selected to the second team, while Allen and Taylor were voted to the third team.

Despite missing the first five conference games for the Panthers due to injury, Wright completed his senior season in conference, averaging 16.8 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

Allen completed his senior season as the third leading scorer in the conference with 15.4 points per game. He also led the conference in steals with 40 and ranked fifth in the conference by shooting 81.8 percent from the free-throw line.

Taylor capped off his sophomore season as the seventh leading scorer in conference play with his 14.3 points per game average.

Taylor finished the season ranked fourth in three-point field goal percentage at 44.6 percent and second in three-pointers made with 41.

THE TOURNAMENT FIELD



#1 MTSU

RECORD: (25-5, 14-2)
FIRST OPPONENT: 8th Seed Florida Atlantic or 9th Seed Arkansas.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: An at-large bid for MTSU to the NCAA tournament is not guaranteed if they falter in the conference tournament. With a potential NBA player in LaRon Dendy in the frontcourt with JT Sulton and solid guard play by Marcos Knight and Raymond Cintron, MTSU is primed to lock up the Sun Belt title. The Blue Raiders rank first in the Sun Belt in scoring defense and third in scoring offense.



#2 UALR

RECORD: (15-15, 12-4)
FIRST OPPONENT: 7th Seed Western Kentucky or 10th Seed FIU in the quarterfinals.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Last season's surprise winner of the conference tournament have won of three of its last four games entering the tournament. 6-foot-10 forward Will Neighbour will be a matchup problem due to his shooting touch from the outside. His ability to stretch the floor will allow D'Andre Williams and Chuck Guy to penetrate to the basket. The Trojans are third in scoring defense in the Sun Belt.



#3 DU

RECORD: (20-8, 11-5)
FIRST OPPONENT: 6th Seed South Alabama or 11th Seed Troy in the quarterfinals.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: The Pioneers style of play is very unselfish. An offense that is predicated on precise passing and cutting, Chris Udofia and Royce O'Neale provide the slashing to the basket, while Chase Hallam and Brian Stafford spot up to knock down open jumpers that are usually from three-point range. Denver leads the Sun Belt in assist-to-turnover ratio, three-point field goal percentage and steals.



#4 ULL

RECORD: (16-14, 10-6)
FIRST OPPONENT: 5th Seed North Texas in the quarterfinals.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Throughout the season, the Ragin' Cajuns have shown a knack of rising to the level of its competition. Louisiana defeated its quarterfinal opponent North Texas twice as well as Arkansas State twice and Denver, UALR and Florida Atlantic once during the season. Kaddem Coleby and Darshawn McClellan has paced Louisiana to best in the Sun Belt in blocked shots and defensive three-point percentage.



#5 NT

RECORD: (16-13, 9-7)
FIRST OPPONENT: 4th Seed Louisiana-Lafayette in the quarterfinals.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Mitchell is the favorite to win the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year award. Tony Mitchell, who has drawn the attention of NBA scouts, leads the conference in scoring, rebounding, three-point percentage and blocked shots. North Texas also has contributing players Chris Jones, Alzee Williams and Jordan Williams who can take advantage of scoring chances when Mitchell draws double teams.



#6 USA

RECORD: (16-11, 8-8)
FIRST OPPONENT: 11th Seed Troy in the first round.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Winners of four of its final five regular season games, the Jaguars enter the tournament with momentum. The Jaguars swept its two games against Troy in the regular season. Augustine Rubit enters the tournament with three consecutive games with at least 10 points and 13 rebounds. The Jaguars are in the top five in rebounds per game in the conference.



#7 WKU

RECORD: (11-18, 7-9)
FIRST OPPONENT: 10th Seed FIU in the first round.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Despite of all of the adversity with the Hilltoppers this season with season-ending injuries and having its coach dismissed; Western Kentucky battled to obtain the 7th seed. The Hilltoppers will utilize three to four guards in a rotation. Western Kentucky has won three of its last four games entering the conference tournament.



#8 FAU

RECORD: (11-18, 7-9)
FIRST OPPONENT: 9th Seed Arkansas State in the first round.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Gantt is the fourth leading scorer in the conference and the Owls will depend heavily on his scoring. The backcourt platoons with Alex Tucker, Raymond Taylor and Shavar Richardson playing alongside Greg Gantt. The Owls will depend on its defense to force its opponent to play a slower pace. The Owls defeated Arkansas State earlier in the year at Jonesboro.



#9 ASU

RECORD: (12-19, 6-10)
FIRST OPPONENT: 8th Seed Florida Atlantic in the first round.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: Marcus Hooten is a volume shooter, but does not have a high field goal percentage. The Red Wolves will need to go inside to Malcolm Kirkland for easy baskets. Trey Finn is an excellent three-point shooter. As a team, the Red Wolves are efficient shooting the basketball as they rank in the top five in shooting percentage and three-point shooting percentage.



#11 TROY

RECORD: (10-17, 5-11)
FIRST OPPONENT: 6th Seed South Alabama in the first round.

WHY THEY WILL WIN: A backcourt with upperclassman, the Trojans have the experience to make a run to the championship. Troy enters the tournament on a two game winning streak. Will Weathers leads the Trojans in scoring. The Trojans are ranked second in three-point field goals made and fifth in both scoring and steals in the conference.

WOMEN'S GOLF

FIU finishes eleventh in Sir Cards Pizza Challenge

JACKSON WOLEK

Staff Writer

jackson.wolek@fiusm.com

After a four month layoff from the last time they participated in a tournament, the women's golf team played three rounds at the Weston Hills Country Club in the Sir Pizza Cards Challenge from Feb. 27-28.

FIU finished 11th, tied for their worst placing this season since the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic in Oklahoma on October 2011.

Reigning Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Shelby Coyle completed the tournament shooting the best for the Panthers, going seven over par with a score of 223. She came in 12th place out of 81 golfers on the field.

"I started off really well and then I just had problems with my swing," said Coyle. "Considering it's the first tournament I played this spring, I played decent. I can't complain."

The Panthers, who came into the tournament ranked 60th in the nation, have now fallen to 41-25 on the year and have yet to win over a top 25 team.

"We only had one player that I think shot her average for the week, so that means we had six players who didn't play very well," said head coach Joe Vogel. "It's pretty disappointing



DANIEL RIVAS/THE BEACON

Shelby Coyle was the top performer for FIU, going seven over par (+7), coming 12th overall.

from that standpoint so I'm just hoping that we shake the dust off and try to get ready and play Notre Dame out in Arizona."

In the first round FIU shot a combined 309 with Coyle leading the way, shooting a 73

with the par set at 72. Yolecci Jimenez shot second result for the Panthers in round one with a 76, while Katie Mundy (79), Monica Miller (81) and Tania Tare (85) rounded out the top five.

The second round brought the best results for the team, with a total score of 303. This time Mundy led the effort with a 73 of her own with Coyle shooting a 76, Miller at 76, Jimenez at 78 and Tare at 81.

"We just didn't really get off to a good start and never really turned the corner," Vogel said. "We were the fourth ranked team coming into this field so you figure we got to do fourth or better, anything less than that it's really not a good thing."

The Panthers were unable to make up for the slow start on the first day in the third round and fell behind even more by shooting another 309.

For the second time Coyle led the round shooting two over par with a 74. Makayla Mier shot 75, Laura Stempfle a 76, Tare a 76, Jimenez a 77, Mundy an 82 and Miller an 83.

What the Panthers didn't do particularly well in was their short game, something Coyle said they are always working at.

"Usually short game is what we're always striving to work on, it's the most important part of our game," Coyle said. "Definitely for this tournament that's probably what we needed to work on, and it didn't help that it was windy the first day, so everything got affected."

The team ended shooting 57 over par for the entire tournament with no individual getting under par.

They will play in three more tournaments before going to the Sun Belt tournament from April 16-18 at Muscle Shoals, Ala.

BASEBALL

Panthers open home schedule against Ivy League opponent

EDUARDO ALMAGUER

Staff Writer

eduardo.almaguer@fiusm.com

The boys of baseball are coming home.

After a two consecutive series on the road against two top-20 programs, the Panthers are ready to kick off their home opener against the Brown Bears tonight at 7 p.m.

Though the players return to FIU Baseball Stadium with a 1-5 record hanging over their head, they know that it is not remotely indicative of how good they are.

"Our record should be 4-2, and that's modest," said senior left-hander R.J. Fondon.

Fondon recalled the bizarre play that unfolded on Sunday in the late innings where junior Jabari Henry hit a line drive to the Seminole third baseman that caromed off him and landed in the hands of the second baseman for a force out. A hit would have tied the game.

Head coach Turtle Thomas suspects that at the very worst his squad should be 3-3.

Part of the struggle for FIU has been the walks. With 53 in just six games, the ability to get out becomes harder. So what is the cure?

"You have to throw strike one," said Thomas. "You don't want to throw it down the middle because any

good hitter will catch it, but you have to stop nibbling."

A CLASS ACT

Senior outfielder Pablo Bermudez was nominated as one of the 30 finalists for Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

To be eligible for the CLASS (or Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) award, one must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence – community, classroom, character and competition.

Bermudez, the reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year, has been active with the Susan G. Komen foundation, as well as the American Heart Association, Arthritis Foundation and MLK Day of Service among others.

The winners will be announced during the College World Series in mid-June.

BEAR BEATDOWN

The Panthers are set to pounce on the Bears tonight and are looking to exploit Brown's lackluster squad.

FIU's home opener will serve as the Bears' season opener. They are an Ivy League school, thus their games start a little later than most NCAA teams.

Brown had a forgetful 2011, posting a 13-29 record overall and an

abysmal 5-23 mark on the road.

Though they did beat University of Texas and had close games with Vanderbilt, the returning players from 2011 are a few notches worse than the FSU and Rice batters FIU just faced.

Of the returning hitters, not a single one had a .300 average in 2011. The one that did, Matt Colantonio, is in the San Diego Padres' organization.

FIU last played Brown in 2009 and split the two-game series, though the Panthers lead the all-time series 6-2.

Despite being the early favorites, FIU players are trained not to take any team for granted.

"They're really underrated and they can hit the ball really well," said Fondon. "Any day, any team can win a game."

Someone who will miss the home opener will be junior Rudy Flores.

Flores was also sidelined for the FSU series with a broken jaw. According to Thomas, a ball hit him in the bating cages last week. Though Thomas casually threw out 3-4 weeks as a length to the first baseman's absence, he said it could be longer.

Flores was the starting first baseman in the team's first three games of the season and had a .385 average, two RBIs and one walk before the injury.

A 6 p.m. Saturday start time and a 1 p.m. Sunday first pitch will follow tonight's game.

Ragin' Cajuns meet FIU in first round

WOMEN'S, PAGE 1

She knows, however, that this tournament will be telling to who the best team is, especially because the officials are going to leave it in the players' hands.

"The games are going to be hard," Russo said. "Most of the time, the officials will let them play; they don't want to determine the outcome."

Junior guard Carmen Miloglav is excited for the tournament, especially that they were able to hold off South Alabama on Feb. 25.

"I think we are really ready for [the tournament]," Miloglav said. "We are happy that we didn't get the four seed because then we would have had to play the host, Arkansas State, and then the other host, in UALR. It's kind of easier to go into the tournament against two teams you have beaten before."

In the first matchup of the tournament, the Panthers will face off against Louisiana Lafayette, who went 7-22 overall and 1-15 in the Sun Belt. Their only win in the conference came at the last possible time, in their final game against Louisiana Monroe.

Sophomore sensation Jerica



Coley believes that the team needs to pick up its intensity as a whole heading down the final stretch of the season.

"We need to keep up the good rebounding that we did in the last game," Coyle said. "We've been doing pretty good on defense, so if we pick up our defense a bit and our intensity overall."

As of late, Coyle has struggled a bit with her shot, going 5-18 in the past two games. Russo would like to see Coyle starting to pass it off a bit more than she has.

"[Coley] doesn't see the court as well as she needs to," Russo said. "But, she will definitely step up when she needs to."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LOUISIANA VS. PANTHERS

SATURDAY,
MARCH 3, 1:15 p.m. ET
SUMMIT ARENA
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Professor teaches Portuguese with creative spin

SHANNAN O'NEILL-FIGUERO
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Americans admire foreign tongues, especially the romance languages. For Professor Beatriz Cariello, the passion in Portuguese doesn't only come from speaking it, but teaching it as well.

Cariello teaches advanced Portuguese 1, a Portuguese class for Spanish speakers. She makes sure that no single class of hers is the same. Cariello aims to make her students well-rounded.

"You are going to talk, you are going to read, write, communicate and learn about the culture, food, people and how the people behave."

Her classrooms are always buzzing with discussion. It is not uncommon for students to speak up and share with the class. Recently, a student

played and interpreted several songs during class and gave some background information on the artists.

"I loved the way it happened," said Cariello.

The students couldn't agree more. "I think the class is very entertaining. It is an interactive way of learning. She is very enthusiastic and it makes the class interesting," said Catalina Arce, graduate architecture student, after class.

During her high school years, Cariello planned to study medicine until a teacher she loved turned her away from medicine and toward studying what she loved.

"I always loved Portuguese...this is my passion," said Cariello.

After attaining her master's degree in Portuguese language, Cariello moved with her husband and children to the United States from Brazil.



JESSICA SCHERER/THE BEACON

Professor Beatriz Cariello encourages her students in Advanced Portuguese 1 for Spanish speakers to speak, read, and write in Portuguese in her classroom.

They first moved to Boston, where Cariello decided she had to start a program in education. When Cariello's husband was transferred, the

family moved to Miami. She did not want to get attached, thinking she and her family would eventually move again. However, in 2006, she

was invited to teach at the University.

"I said, 'Why not?'" said Cariello.

Today, Cariello teaches

at the University, two middle schools and is the academic coordinator for the "Vamos Falar Português" foundation. The foundation, which is based in Miami, holds free classes for children to teach them how to speak Portuguese. They teach with music, cooking, history, theater and more.

Since a foreign language credit is required at the University, Cariello believes Portuguese is a smart choice because of its practical applications.

"There are many opportunities in Brazil and to work with Brazil. My goal is that my students have the passion, learn the culture and succeed," said Cariello.

Being able to communicate while understanding culture and utilizing Portuguese in their careers is all part of Cariello's plan for her students' success.

REEL TO REEL

Three films that were looked over for best picture

Year after year, casual moviegoers leave it up to the Academy Awards to let them know what films are the cream of the crop. The biggest issue with this is that the

Oscars are just as flawed as any other award show in their selection of nominees. This year's ceremony, even with its grand total of 61 nominees, brought along another predictable batch of winners that aren't doing much to help the film industry.

This isn't to say that all the films nominated for Academy Awards this year, specifically the nine Best Picture nominees, are bad. Quite the opposite, actually.

Martin Scorsese's "Hugo" makes full use of the 3D technology made available today. The enigmatic Terrence Malick's film, "The Tree of Life," proves to be one of the most experimental and divisive works in cinema today, challenging everyone to think outside the box even through his depiction of Earth's creation.

Best Picture winner, "The Artist," stands out by focusing on the silent era to the point where the film itself is a black & white silent film.

Audiences can only imagine how hard it is to find actors who can express sentiment using only their facial expressions, write a script with no dialogue and compose a score that can hold a grip on the audience from start to finish.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FILMDISTRICT

Ryan Gosling stars alongside Carey Mulligan in the movie "Drive."

Regardless of great films like these, there are just too many bad apples that make it into the running that don't deserve a nomination.

This year, it is films like "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," "Moneyball" and "The Help" that I personally believe were entirely undeserving of their title as Academy Award nominees for Best Picture.

The following three movies are ones that I and many other film buffs genuinely believe deserved far more recognition than they received this year.

DRIVE

What can I say about "Drive" that hasn't already been said? It's a movie about a nameless stunt driver, but also a whole lot more than just that. It is definitely not the sort of thing that

fans of "Fast and Furious" are accustomed to.

This same man moonlights as a getaway driver, seemingly living a lonely life with no attachments. We slowly see him becoming involved in the life of his neighbor Irene and her son to the point that he offers to help her husband Standard in a tight situation involving the most unforgiving of gangsters.

It's easy for one to dismiss this as just another action film after reading the synopsis, but there's nothing average about Nicolas Winding Refn's "Drive." In terms of its technical achievements, it rises above the craft of many filmmakers today.

While one can see the influence of filmmakers like Michael Mann— especially in his late 1980s work, including the production of the

popular series "Miami Vice"— Refn allows his film to embrace the past while establishing its own noir-like style in a genre that is as bloated with bad films as action is.

The performances alone are enough to watch this movie; Ryan Gosling's portrayal of the driver is some of his best work yet.

If you instantly fell for him after "The Notebook," watching him bash someone's head in might cause you to either fall out of love or make him even more appealing to you.

The supporting cast, featuring Carey Mulligan, Albert Brooks, Ron Perlman and Bryan Cranston, all bring top-notch performances.

The film undoubtedly belongs to Gosling, but Brooks' work stands out above the other cast members, leaving millions to wonder how these two intense and frightening characters were left out of the race for Best Lead and Supporting Actor.

"Drive" is an artistic, violent, engaging and unique film that is appealing to stingy critics and average moviegoers at speeds that most filmmakers just can't keep up with.

SHAME

It's an NC-17 movie that features a lot of sex and has full frontal nudity. Why hasn't every single person gone out of their way to watch Steve McQueen's movie? Probably because NC-17 films rarely get a chance to see the light of day, even though they tend to be the bravest depictions of harsh topics.

In this case, we have a relent-

less look at the life of Brandon, a sex addict whose life is disrupted by the arrival of his sister, Sissy.

"Shame" might sound like borderline pornography, but I can assure you it's anything but erotic and will likely leave people feeling uncomfortable rather than aroused.

McQueen places the audience in a purely voyeuristic position, utilizing an immense amount of long shots to enhance the somber mood of the film. Even the use of full frontal nudity does not go to waste; it shows us Brandon in his most vulnerable state—physically and emotionally.

This year has undoubtedly been remarkable for Michael Fassbender, but his performance as Brandon is one that truly showcases his superb talent.

While he has a body that everyone dreams about seeing either in the mirror or on their bed, the camera is focused on the slightest changes in his facial expressions that show us the downward spiral his character is taking. Without his perfect acting guiding it, the film would be nothing.

This isn't to say that Carey Mulligan doesn't bring her best to the film. Breaking from her usual characters, she dives into the role of Sissy, embodying this mess of a woman perfectly. The two complement each other in the best and most unusual of ways.

"Shame" is a film powerhouse and a masterful character study. It is well-deserving of Oscar nominations

SEE FILMS, PAGE 6

EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL

Peru offers colorful culture

For anyone interested in adding South America to their travel plans, a stop in Peru might be a good idea. Extremely friendly locals, ancient ruins and great amounts of musical entertainment make Peru a good fit for any seasoned traveler's needs.



HOLLY MCCOACH

A true Peruvian herself, Zoila Yovanna Clark, a University alumna who graduated with a doctorate in Spanish, was born and raised in the capital, Lima.

Extremely vibrant when it comes to the subject of her country, Clark emphasized on what to do and what not to do while visiting Peru.

Peruvians are passionate when it comes to their food. A traditional example is ceviche, an entrée usually eaten with corn or sweet potato. Corn, a popular ingredient, is not only much larger than American corn, but it is also available in purple and white.

"The traditional drink is made of purple corn. It is like lemonade because they boil the purple corn, the water becomes purple and they put sugar and lemon in it," said Clark. This beverage is called chicha and it is available in an alcoholic version that uses maize and white corn.

Color is highly valued in food and fashion in Peru.

"The more colorful [the food], the better," emphasized Clark. A dish that contains much color is an indication that there is a high presentation of

nutrients.

A great restaurant to test the palette of Peruvian dishes is Brisas del Titicaca, located in downtown Lima. As you eat, a spectacular show takes place; it features dances from the Amazon and the Highlands.

Fashion is very similar to American culture, but it lacks neutrals. Color is often played with, perhaps by the influence of the dress of the indigenous people.

Many of them move from the country to city, but still dress in traditional clothing. However, American brands and clothing can still be found throughout the malls for interested tourists.

As for souvenirs, be sure to stop by the artesanales, a place where crafts, clothes and various other souvenirs can be found; all are made by hand. Although more expensive, you will be sure to find various items made of alpaca wool, one of Peru's main sources of income.

Although there are various vacations spots, most of them can be busy as well as expensive. Beaches are no exception.

"There is a beach called Pucusana in Lima. It is nice because it is not for tourists," said Clark. Although beaches are free, the popular beaches can be crowded with tourists and are more posh, which means you are more likely to spend more pennies.

Besides the sizes and colors of corn, there are many other differences between Peru and the United States.

Clark related how much Peruvians enjoy music. "In Peru, as soon as you arrive, you hear a lot of music. People are

never in silence; there is always music playing."

Peru's representation of American fast food places is also very different. At McDonald's, onions and spices are mixed in with the meat to please the Peruvians. Everyone eats with forks and knives and it is considered a treat to dine at any fast food restaurant due to its extravagance. Even though it is more expensive and donned with elaborate decorations, it is normal since it is a foreign entity.

As for the weather, it is very, very humid; it almost feels like it is raining when you stand outside. Towels found in hotels are usually going to be damp because they can only get so dry in the dryers.

According to Clark, this is common. Packing any type of leather, such as purses or jackets, is not a good idea because they might get ruined.

In downtown Lima, there are two parts to the city: the colonial and the modern.

The colonial area may be more interesting; it has more history and it fully represents what Peru may have been like in past ages.

"The modern part is nice; it looks like Miami," said Clark.

Colonial or modern, Peru might be the place to meet all of your rest and relaxation needs during your next vacation break.

Explore International is a bi-weekly traveling column where Holly McCoach interviews students and alumni about their native countries. Email her at holly.mccoach@fiusm.com.

Oscar's snubs movies



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONYCLASSICS

Michael Shannon as Curtis, a construction worker, in "Take Shelter."

FILMS, PAGE 5

for its stunning direction, cinematography, the lead and supporting performances by Fassbender and Mulligan.

TAKE SHELTER

"Take Shelter" was featured at plenty of festivals, but it didn't make it to a single theater in Miami last year, making it one of the most underrated films of 2011. It is a tough film to watch; it focuses on the idea of mental illness and the effects it can have on even the most average individual.

Curtis, a construction worker living a quiet life with his wife and daughter, begins having dreams of an impending apocalyptic storm. These dreams begin to plague his everyday life as he obsessively builds a shelter for safety and questions whether or not he may be losing his mind.

"Take Shelter" is only Jeff Nichols' second feature film and he's already proven himself to be someone to look out for. His camerawork is steady and haunting; it is able to instill anxiety in any viewer as they watch Curtis' descent into madness.

From start to finish, one wonders whether this man has genuinely lost his mind or if their approaching demise is in fact reality. In addition to Nichols' visual effects, the use of sound and David Wingo's unsettling score enhances the atmosphere of horror and tension that the film is going for.

Its two-hour length may not please everyone, but no one can deny that Nichols packs it with anxiety, even in its

final minutes.

Michael Shannon, who most recently has been featured in "Boardwalk Empire," delivers what one might consider his most stunning performance to date. His characters are always intense and demanding, but they never feel like he's giving the same personality to each.

He manages to embody all the flaws that a character like Curtis has, jumping from a strong silent scene to a booming nervous breakdown in front of an audience. The other great performance in the film comes from Jessica Chastain, who also has the ability to easily slip into any role that's given to her.

While she was nominated this year for her supporting role in "The Help," there is no denying that this character (not to mention her role in "The Tree of Life") is the most memorable of her performances this year.

Few films can blur the lines between disaster movie, family drama and psychological thriller so well, but "Take Shelter" expertly blends these genres together, creating a film that will leave one feeling hopeless and emotionally vulnerable for hours after the credits roll.

"Drive" and "Take Shelter" are currently available on DVD and Blu-ray, while "Shame" will be released on April 17 on both DVD and Blu-ray.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival. Email at juan.barquin@fiusm.com.

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

2 FRIDAY

FIU OPERA THEATER:
"THE TURN OF THE
SCREW" BY BENJAMIN
BRITTEN

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$15 General Admission, \$10 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

RELAY FOR LIFE
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Ryder Business Building Circle

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WORKSHOP: DE-
VELOPING A KILLER
BUSINESS PLAN

WHEN: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Registration Fee (per session) \$50
WHERE: MMC College of Business Complex, Special Events Center, CBC 232

SPC MOVIE "THE INCREDIBLES" IN COLLABORATION WITH RELAY FOR LIFE
WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 140

3 SATURDAY

FIU OPERA THEATER:
"THE TURN OF THE
SCREW" BY BENJAMIN
BRITTEN

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$15 General Admission, \$10 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

RELAY FOR LIFE
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Ryder Business Building Circle

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS:
ARABIAN NIGHTS

WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free General Admission \$15, Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff \$12, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members \$10
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

FIU SOFTBALL VS. INDIANA
WHEN: 11:15 a.m.-11 pm
WHERE: AWAY Fullerton, Calif.

4 SUNDAY

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS:
ARABIAN NIGHTS

WHEN: 2-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free General Admission \$15, Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff \$12, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members \$10
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

FIU SCHOOL OF
MUSIC PRESENTS
THE AMERNET
STRING QUARTET IN
CONCERT AT CARTA

MIAMI BEACH URBAN STUDIOS
WHEN: 4-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General admission: \$25
WHERE: CARTA Miami Beach Urban Studios

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED
EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

Memoir writing a frivolous outlet for untalented authors

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer
alex.sorondo@fiusm.com

A *Huffington Post* article published on Feb. 16 titled “10 Secrets of Successful Memoir Writers” offered more unnecessary encouragement to the maddening trend of memoir writing currently in national focus.

It feels so unwarranted to be frustrated by the current obsession with memoirs and the rampant compulsion to write them because, at the end of the day, nobody gets hurt, and little is wasted but for the time and money of those who choose to spend them in the grottoes of ghost-written banality.

Every month, the front display at Barnes and Noble is littered with new hardback memoirs, decorated by nothing more than the face of the celebrity subject, their name always four or five times bigger than the title, which is often something like “My Life” (Bill Clinton), “Life Itself” (Roger Ebert), “My Story” (Susan Boyle) or “My Life So Far” (Jane Fonda).

Clearly, these books are being bought, otherwise they would have stopped being published long ago. The sales must quickly dissolve, though, because celebrity memoirs tend to enjoy a burst of activity before migrating shortly thereafter to the bargain section, promptly replaced at the front with others of their kind - like politicians or herpes.

Equally common, if not more so, are the

“**What bothers me is the overwhelming frivolity of it, that so many of these books are being written and so few of them actually surviving because they leave no mark on their audience.**”

memoirs that get no attention, many of them self-published, chronicling a troublesome childhood, turbulent marriage or life with a disability.

These usually have triumphant or inspirational titles like, “The Hills Had Eyes and They Watched Me Win,” or “One Leg, Twice the Fun.”

A lot of these are written with the intention of inspiring their readers, as I have yet to read the memoir in which everything ends horribly and everybody’s miserable (but there’s still time), and are therefore often shelved in the Self-Help/Inspiration section.

Surely some of them are picked up and put to good use, making a reader feel warmed and confident, if only for a while.

What bothers me, though, is the overwhelming frivolity of it, that so many of these books are being written and so few of them actually surviving, given the shortage of

reviews and their quick trip to the bargain bin and, after that, obscurity, because they leave no mark on the audience. Even worse than that is the inherent narcissism of such a project when the narrative is semi-coherent, the prose is poor, the pacing is slow and the reader can see that this author clearly cannot write, cannot tell a story, probably does little reading of their own, and most likely did nothing that teaches them how to work a narrative.

Take, for example Kris Jenner’s memoir, “Kris Jenner... And All Things Kardashian.” Speaking about her parents’ divorce, Jenner writes, “It was very, very hard for me to wrap my head around my parents not living together anymore... [My father] would come to visit us and then leave again. That was really weird for me.”

So this is apparently what it’s like to see your parents get divorced: “weird” and “hard.” The problem is, I can think of at least six expe-

riences Kris Jenner may have found “weird” and “hard,” so how do we distinguish this ostensibly formative experience of her parents’ divorce from any of those?

I’ve argued this memoir issue with friends before, and the conversation always comes down to the question of whether or not every person has a story to tell.

I do think that everybody has a story worth telling, something about their lives that we could all probably learn from. More often than not; however, their story is probably better suited for an article or an essay, not a book.

Whatever shape it takes, the most important factor is that the person in question knows how to tell the story, and I’m convinced that if you don’t read, and don’t read often, you have no business writing.

Mark Winegardner, a novelist and professor at the University, said that aspiring writers should read 200 to 300 books for every one that they plan to write. The novelist Stephen King has written, “If you don’t have the time to read, you don’t have the time (or tools) to write.”

Through poor writing, the memoirist is only aping the form and their subject. This only adds to the endless proliferation of these books which, in dealing with serious human issues through bland, cliched, uninspired writing, serve only to trivialize those issues, and to make them, in the ocean of half-hearted descriptions, all the more difficult to understand and relate to.

Whaling activities mass murder of highly intelligent species

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer
paolo.ramos@fiusm.com

The search for intelligent life beyond our atmosphere is ironic considering that it exists right here on the same planet.

In oceans worldwide, intelligence and culture are present in the dwindling communities of cetaceans, which is the family that dolphins and whales belong to that are constantly threatened by human activities.

Whales and dolphins have proven that they have the capacity to understand and learn just as humans can.

Incomprehensibly, humans have responded by hunting their species to near extinction and giving little to no regard to the protection of their environment.

The underestimation of the intellectual capacity of cetaceans has contributed to the unrelenting terror caused by whaling activity.

Whales and dolphins must be treated with respect and dignity, much like how humans are supposed to treat each other. To lose such valuable animals would

be a devastating loss to the planet.

In the minds of much of society, whales and dolphins exist as caricatures of simple-minded animals whose only aim is to blindly entertain us.

A generation of people who grew up with characters like Free

“**Whales and dolphins must be treated with respect and dignity, much like how humans are supposed to treat each other.**”

Willy or Flipper have a severely limited understanding of the true nature of these animals.

Cetaceans are not the puppy-dog like characters that can easily be taught to do tricks as they are portrayed in film.

Rather, they are beings with complex thought processes and cultural aspects that transcend the regular animal nature.

They are capable of self-awareness, empathy and higher learning, characteristics that constitute sentience.

In an article published in *The Guardian*, several examples of high intelligence in cetaceans were listed.

In one case, dolphins were observed to check marks that were drawn on their bodies when presented with a mirror.

In another scenario, a pod of wild orcas exhibited strong social ties when an elder member of the pod suffered a jaw injury and was helped by the other members that resorted to manually feeding it.

On a biological level, certain species of whales and dolphins, such as the bottlenose dolphin, have been found to have “spindle cells,” neurons that are designed for rapid transmission and were previously thought to occur only in humans, apes and elephants.

The mounting evidence for high cetacean intelligence should be a determining factor in whether or not whaling should continue.

Whaling activities continue to be a significant threat to whale and dolphin populations worldwide.

Although the International Whaling Commission has placed a moratorium on whaling, activities still occur through legal or illegal means to seemingly no benefit.

Whales and dolphins are hunted for their meat, which some countries consider to be a delicacy.

This is ironic because whale and dolphin meat has been known to contain significantly high levels of toxins and pollutants such as mercury.

Modern whaling methods make this fact even more disturbing. One method is the exploding harpoon, which explodes in the inside of a whale upon penetration.

In the film *The Cove*, an undercover mission exposed the horrific methods of dolphin-drive hunting in Japan where thousands of dolphins were driven and trapped in an inlet and were subsequently slaughtered.

There are current discussions in the scientific community on whether or not cetaceans should be considered “non-human persons.”

Whales and dolphins are one of the few species of animals that demonstrate higher mental processing. They have exhibited

culture, language, learning and complex social structures, much like what humans call civilized society.

In a BBC article, psychologist Dr. Lori Marion was quoted saying: “We went from seeing the dolphin/whale brain as being a giant amorphous blob that doesn’t carry a lot of intelligence and complexity to not only being an enormous brain but an enormous amount of complexity, and a complexity that rivals our own.”

If whales and dolphins exhibit similarity to human culture socially, mentally and biologically, then there should be more considerations taken when making decisions such as those involving whaling.

If humans wish to gain a better understanding of intelligent life, then the preservation of whales and dolphins is the key.

The future looks bleak for most cetacean species, but if there are more efforts to iterate the fact that dolphins share the same values as humans, then maybe there is still a chance for the several endangered species to replenish.

Public Reason  Gathering Opinions, Generating Discussion

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and online at FIUSM.com
Call in at (305)348-3575
“Like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @PublicReason

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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.

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 neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

HEALTH

Quick, easy and greasy bites increase the risk of obesity



PHOTOS BY ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Obesity rates have held steady in America and remain the highest among other developed countries. A busy college life will often result in students grabbing whatever is nearest and quickest to eat, such as these bites from the bookstore. The largest increase in obesity rates happened between 1988 and 1994.

DAYANA MCPHERSON
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Think twice before chowing down on that venti caramel macchiato and cheeseburger: enough of these may eventually kill you.

These indulgences have caught up to Americans with the last several decades. Studies have shown that the largest jump in obesity rates happened between 1988 and 1994. The rates, which have remained steady in America, are the largest in comparison to any other developed country.

The popularity of television series such as “The Biggest Loser” and “Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition” has awakened watchers to the epidemic.

The awareness has made many reevaluate the meal choices they’ve been making. For others; however, other details, such as convenience, still play key roles on the foods they are choosing to eat.

Thanks to the hectic schedules of most college students, many find it difficult to maintain healthy eating habits, usually settling for whatever options they have on their way to campus.

“It was for pleasure, because it was tasty, and the special of

the day,” biology major Steven Russey said while indulging in Grille Worke’s Chef’s meal of the day, spaghetti and meatballs. “I know I can do better, but it is what appealed to my appetite and wallet at the time.”

However, the majority of students seem satisfied with the variety of food choices offered at FIU.

“FIU has a diverse choice of foods for most people, and I never see a special repeated in the cafeteria,” said Pablo Gomez, a business major.

The increasing number of students trying to become fit, whether it is for health or other reasons has caused most Universities to add facilities in which students can reach their health goals.

The clinic and wellness center work together and do outreach, which includes tabling events in the Wolfe University Center, Academic One, and in front of the gym, said Pamela McGuinness, a senior registered nurse at Wellness Center.

“We play games and help clarify any questions and common confusions students often have and hold cooking demos along with the hospitality department, which are usually held in the dorms,” said McGuinness.

TOURISM

‘Haters always going to hate’ on Miami being a trashy city

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer
joel.delgado@fiusm.com

Florida just can’t seem to catch a break—not even while it’s on one.

After finding itself on a slew of not-so-flattering lists, South Florida can add another one to its resumé: Trashiest Spring Break destination.

Key West was runner-up to only Las Vegas while a number of other spots across the state, including Miami Beach, also ended up among the top 10 list compiled by CoEdMagazine.com.

The qualifications for landing on such a list? They include the number of Hooters restaurants, the strong presence of tattoo parlors, liquor stores and strip clubs in the area, and the number of times the destination has made an appearance on “Girls Gone Wild.”

Students are beginning to wonder whether appearances on lists such as this one will repel them from hitting South Beach. That could cause problems for the local economy, since tourism is an essential driving force.

At the same time, there is

also reason to believe that the “trashy” label may act as a magnet for college students looking for a fun and reckless week long getaway.

“This could be a positive thing to attract people for spring break,” said Rosanna Fiske, an associate professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations.

“I don’t know if this story will help or hurt tourism... but when [University of Florida] and [Florida State University] were named the top party schools in the country in different years, they received more applications from prospective students. That might happen in this case.”

But UF and FSU also pushed back against those labels by becoming stricter on academic standards. Places like Miami Beach and Key West may also push back against these recent stories by highlighting other areas.

“They have to showcase what makes Miami special,” Fiske said. “You can’t be a trashy city and then have events like [South Beach Wine and Food Festival], art festivals and other events of that nature at the same time.”

Junior Mario Riveron, a

construction management major, usually makes his way upstate for the week-long break from anything school-related, but this time around he is staying in Miami. And he is ready to enjoy the week-long hiatus from textbooks and studying.

“It’s beach time,” he said. “The good thing about Miami Beach is that you have everything there. There’s also a great nightlife. It’s a whole week of just partying and it’s very accessible.”

According to Riveron, despite the stinky moniker, there are positives to Miami Beach as a spring break spot.

“I say it’s really safe and enjoyable,” he said. “It’s one of the hardest places to get into a club without a proper ID. Surveillance is high and you see cops cracking down on DUIs more than ever.”

Nubia Palma is spending her spring break differently than most, joining 15 other students on an Alternative Breaks project to the Dominican Republic to help disadvantaged elementary school students. But if she was staying in Miami, she said she would try and find a way to go to the beach with friends and

family.

“I usually enjoy my spring break in Miami because there are so many interesting things you can do,” she said. “I don’t think it’s fair that Miami was named one of the trashiest spring break destinations. But then again, haters are always going to hate.”

The stories that label some of these Florida cities in a negative light have had an effect on Riveron and whether or not he chooses to visit a certain loca-

tion. But he realizes what might appeal to his preferences may not be what other spring breakers are looking for.

“It’s all based on perception and what they want to do,” Riveron said.

“These stories do have an effect in the moment. It creates an effect momentarily in the first couple weeks. But after that, people kind of forget, especially in cities where a lot is going on like Miami,” Fiske said.

TOP 10 TRASHIEST SPRING BREAK CITIES

- Las Vegas, NV
- Miami Beach, FL
- Key West, FL
- Panama City, FL
- South Padre Island, TX
- Fort Meyers, FL
- Daytona, FL
- Lake Havasu, AZ
- Myrtle Beach, SC
- San Diego, CA

Courtesy of CoEdMagazine.com