

FINANCIAL AID

Credit requirements change for students

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As of summer 2012, students on federal financial aid will no longer be able to use the summer semester to make up credit hour deficiency.

In the past, if students were receiving federal financial aid, they had to take credits toward their degree while making academic progress.

The way the University and the federal government define academic progress is that students have to complete a percentage of their credits each year, maintain academic standing so that they are eligible and complete their degree within a certain amount of time.

The component that has changed is completing the certain percentage of credits each year.

At the University, students have to pass 67 percent of every course attempted in the fall and spring.

Before, if this requirement was not met, students could get financial aid and make it up in the summer. If students did not want to take classes to make up during the summer, they had another alternative.

"[If] you could not go to summer school, you [could] appeal and say something happened that wasn't your fault. Perhaps you were in a car accident, you were ill, a family member was ill and you had to

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BIG MAN ON CAMPUS



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon gathered around Jonathan Gomez, the new Campus Man for 2012, signaling their sorority's mascot, the unicorn. All funds raised from the Jan. 6 event will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

LECTURE

FIU hosts New York Times writer Thomas Friedman

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The Graham Center Ballrooms will host a lecture on America's challenges featuring author Thomas Friedman on Feb. 13.

The event, sponsored by the Knight Foundation, will begin at 1:30 p.m., and will be followed by a teach-in by SIPA and law professors on Friedman's co-

authored book "That Used to be Us."

The lecture, titled "Rediscovering America? A Geopolitical Summit," will have Friedman discuss economic issues affecting the country and their social and political implications.

"The Geopolitical Summit brings to South Florida some of the leading thinkers in the US and beyond to discuss the urgent issues that face our

nation and the world," said University President Mark Rosenberg in an email

about the event.

A three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Friedman has

"The Geopolitical Summit brings to South Florida some of the leading thinkers in the U.S. and beyond to discuss the urgent issues that face our nation and the world."

Mark Rosenberg,
President
FIU

worked at *The New York Times* since 1981, where he covered such events as the First Palestinian Intifada and the 1982 Lebanon War.

He is also the author of best-selling books "The World is Flat" and "Hot, Flat, and Crowded."

"In his latest book, [Friedman] analyzes the critical challenges the U.S. currently faces and spells out what needs to be done to sustain the American dream

and preserve American interests in the world," said Rosenberg in the email.

Following the main lecture, a panel composed of SIPA and law professors will analyze Friedman's ideas.

The teach-in, scheduled for 3 p.m., will include discussions by professors Shlomi Dinar, Jose Gabi-londo, Allan Gummerson, Cem Karayalcin, Paul Kowert and Judith Stiehm.

CAREERS

Post-grads seeking jobs outside of South Florida

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The beaches, nightlife and gorgeous people attract outsiders to come to South Florida, but not to stay.

A lack of opportunity in the region has encouraged many young professionals to look to other states for career caliber jobs.

"I'm moving when I graduate. I'm going far, far away. I don't want to be limited," said Ashley Ferbeyser,

a senior journalism student.

South Florida is ranked fifth for metro areas that are losing people in the 25 to 34 age demographic, according to the Brookings Institute.

For many, it's the lack of opportunity in South Florida that has them leaving to find a job in another city.

These other cities include Seattle, Denver, Houston, Dallas and Austin.

When asked about the job market in South Florida for her field, Lauren Samani, freshman studying biology said, "I love Miami and would love to stay for my physical therapy career,

but I feel like leaving Miami would provide a better education and opportunity. There's not a large enough market here, but out of state, yes."

Ivette Duarte, associate director of career services said her office provides help for students looking for a job.

Through the NACELINK online database, students of FIU enrolled with Career Services can search through local, national and international job opportunities.

Still, South Florida is losing many of its brightest prospects.

They're finding success in other states and opting not to return to Miami.

This trend is known as "brain drain," and means that the well-educated young professionals in local college systems are taking their talents elsewhere.

"We encourage students to consider relocation in particular cities, not just anywhere. Certain industries are headquartered outside of South Florida," said Duarte.

She mentioned Silicon Valley is a hot spot for computer science majors

in Los Angeles.

Although this major averages some of the highest pay nationally, there is a minimal market for it in South Florida.

The Miami Herald reports that Miami rates among the top for cities with the smallest percentage of tech jobs.

MSNBC ranks Austin, Texas, Boston and Washington D.C. as the three best jobs markets in the United States.

SEE JOBS, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Life!

Check out Friday's issue for a feature on Ashley Garner, a student and recently-signed freelance model.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Ecuador columnist asks US for asylum

A former Ecuadorean newspaper columnist who faces prison and millions of dollars in fines for criticism of President Rafael Correa is asking for asylum in the U.S.

Emilio Palacio claims he is the victim of persecution aimed at stifling free expression in Ecuador.

Palacio was chief opinion writer for the opposition El Universo newspaper when he was sued for libel by President Correa. He and the paper's three owners and the newspaper itself were fined \$42 million because of a February 2011 column titled "No To Lies." The four men were also sentenced to three years each in prison.

A hearing is set Wednesday in Miami on his U.S. asylum request. A decision isn't likely for weeks or months.

Correa has said the verdict was a victory for responsible journalism.

NATIONAL

Hackers post W.Va. police officers' personal info

Hackers affiliated with the Anonymous hacking group obtained more than 150 police officers' personal information from an old website for the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Association and posted it online.

William Roper, the association's president, told the Charleston Gazette the FBI is investigating. Roper is also the police chief of Ranson, W.Va.

Roper said a group called CabinCr3w hacked the website Monday and obtained the home addresses, home phone numbers and cellphone numbers of current and retired police chiefs.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 58 of *The Beacon*, in the News section, the standalone photo titled "Career Fairing," photographer Jessica Scherer's name is misspelled.

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

OBITUARY

In memoriam: Antonio Jorge



PHOTO COURTESY OF DRANTONIOJORGE.COM
Antonio Jorge

Professor Emeritus Antonio Jorge died Feb. 6 at the age of 80, after 34 years of collaboration with the University.

Jorge came to the University in 1978, already an experienced professional in

economics and the social sciences.

He served as the president of the Cuban College of Economists in Cuba and the United States.

He also worked as the chief economist of the National Association of Manufacturers in Havana, and as vice minister of Finance and Chief Economist of the Cuban government.

When he left Cuba in the 1960s, Jorge assumed teaching positions at a number of institutions including St. Thomas University, where he also worked as provost.

Jorge's expertise in Cuban economics, and presence as a voice for the Cuban exile community helped to bolster

the University's understanding of Latin American economies.

He taught in four different departments during his tenure: economics, political science, international relations and sociology-anthropology.

During his time teaching at the University, Jorge wrote or edited 20 books, and published a number of articles, essays and monographs in areas including the external debt and the economic development of Latin America, foreign investment and international trade, and modernization and social change.

Jorge retired from FIU in 2007, but remained involved with the University giving his input to panels and media

interviews.

In January 2008, Jorge was sent a letter informing him that the president had approved the recommendation of the provost that he be appointed College of Arts and Science Professor Emeritus of Political Economy.

His viewing was scheduled for Feb. 9 at Caballero Rivero Woodlawn Funeral, and the funeral service was scheduled for this morning at 10 a.m., at Saints Peter and Paul Church. After the mass, a procession is planned in his honor at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Jorge is survived by nine of his ten children.

Written and compiled by Lauren Rovira.

Summer not an option for students

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care for them," said Francisco Valines, director of financial aid at the University. "You can always appeal and say 'these are the circumstances; this is why I couldn't do it.' Based on that, we would be able to say 'we understand you couldn't do it,' in which case you would be given another opportunity and aid for the coming semester." Starting summer 2012, students who do not meet the 67 percent will have two choices: they can make it up by paying out of their own pocket or appeal if they had circumstances outside their control that explain why they were unable to complete the 67 percent.

"We have about 1,500 to 1,700 students who don't make progress because they don't pass the 67 percent. About half of them either appeal or

make it up in the summer and get their aid in the fall," said Valines.

According to Valines, valid reasons are recognized.

"It's going to affect me; I live in Homestead and I use financial aid to get to campus and for food," said Rogelio Ludenas, a junior majoring in biology. "Students will have to pay out of their own pockets and this change will cause students to not take summer classes."

Claudia Sifontes, freshman psychology major, who found out about the changes online, said, "I am still going to do summer using loans; I will do whatever it takes. I know for some students it will be harder."

One of the new things students are asked to do is submit their plan for success, along with an academic plan and their appeal to explaining what happened.

"We can't just approve them and let them do whatever they want to do. Student need to be working towards their goal and be successful," said Valines.

The degree audit, found on my.fiu.edu, will help students keep themselves on track.

When asked what the purpose is for changing the rule, Valines said, "[The Federal government and the Department of Education] frame it around program integrity; [they] tighten program integrity and make sure that federal aid dollars, our tax dollars because that is where it comes from, are being used in the best way possible."

"I think that's what they would say to ensure that we're giving financial aid to students who are going to graduate and be successful because that's what it's about," he added.

Miami ranked third city with the worst job market

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Miami was ranked third for cities with the worst job markets, with Orlando and Jacksonville ranked tenth and ninth, respectively.

"I'm staying. Florida is home. I would prefer to pursue a career where I can see friends and family on a regular basis instead of just on holidays. Not to mention that by building your career where you live strengthens your home town. Leaving doesn't fix anything," said Begonia Saiz, a second year graduate student studying Social Work when asked about her plans for the future.

Regardless of the city, internships are a key for any post-graduate.

"Internships help you. Eighty-two percent of internships lead to a job offer," said

Duarte.

Some students around FIU appear to want to leave South Florida not only because of an unstable job market but because they want to experience life in another city.

"I don't see an issue with finding a job here. I think it would be easy for someone to come here and find a job. There's a lot of different markets in the area. I just want to move elsewhere," said Nicole Perez, a senior journalism student.

Recently, *The Miami Herald*, published an article regarding the subject: "Brain drain in Miami? More like 'brain gain.'"

Michael Simmons, the author of the article, doesn't feel brain drain is a problem for South Florida.

He notes that Miami has an

ideal combination of factors that lead him to believe that South Florida will quickly begin to attract young professionals again.

Among the factors mentioned are Miami's accessibility to Latin American markets, the low cost of living and the opportunity for development within the region.

Major corporations can look to Miami as a new market, one where they have leverage.

According to Duarte, jobs with great potential in South Florida after graduation include those within the tourism, travel management, retail management and accounting fields.

"Understand that relocation is not permanent, and your job may lead you back to South Florida," said Duarte.

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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.



2012 SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW



Ashley McClain, former Sun Belt Player of the Year

Golden Opportunity

Season Outlook

Check out the 2012 softball preview by Anthony Guivas as the Panthers are projected to finish fourth in the conference. They'll get set to host the COMBAT Classic on Feb. 10-12.

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Projected lineup and rotation

Find out who will take the field for the Panthers on opening night as FIU will face Michigan State at home on Feb. 10. Find out who will toe the rubber this weekend.

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New Coach

Jake Schumann is the new skipper for FIU. Find out his previous track record at other schools and why he is not worried about replacing Beth Torina this season.

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2012 SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW

OPENING NIGHT

Panthers set to kick off Combat Classic versus Spartans

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With the season a few hours away, the Panthers prepare to take it on and prove they are better than the fourth place finish of last season.

As high as the Panthers confidence is heading into the 2012 season, early season predictions are stating that FIU will eventually land in the same place they finished last season – fourth, according to the latest Sun Belt preseason conference polls. Defending champions Louisiana-Lafayette are predicted to win another conference title according to the nine head coaches who voted.

“I don’t take much stock in those preseason stuff. I think last year when I was in Texas we were in the preseason picked eighth and we won the conference,” head coach Jake Schumann said.

When it comes to describing Louisiana’s success, impressive would be an understatement. The Ragin’ Cajuns have dominated the decade, winning 11 out of the last 12 conference championships.

As the Panthers look to prove the league wrong, they will first have to prove they can take on the Ragin’ Cajuns. The Panthers could only notch a 1-2 record in 2011 in a three-game series against Louisiana.

While Louisiana may potentially be the Panthers top target in the



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Beth Peller (above) and the Panthers will play five games in the span of three days to start the season.

conference, there were still two other teams that were in front of them in the standings last season – Florida Atlantic and South Alabama.

Against the Owls, FIU won the season series 2-1 and against South Alabama the Panthers dropped two of their three games on the year.

The Panthers may have steep competition in the Sun Belt, but they do have the pitching and hitting to take them far in 2012.

On the pitching end for FIU, the Golden Panthers bolster three

great arms in Jenn Gniadek, Mariah Dawson and Ashley McClain in their rotation.

Gniadek, who is entering her senior year, posted a 14-13 record to go with a 2.65 ERA last season. And when the games mattered most, she posted an impressive 1.87 ERA in Conference play.

Standing at an imposing 6-feet, Gniadek will look to finish her collegiate career with a bang.

Sophomore Dawson went 9-9 along with a 2.87 ERA in 2011.

Standing only at 5-3, Dawson throws fire when on the mound, which resulted in her leading the team with 133 strikeouts on 129.1 innings pitched. Opponents batted a meager .259 against her.

Last but not least is McClain. McClain, the star of the team, is mostly known for her offense, but she also dominated the mound in last season. McClain posted an impressive 8-5 record with a 2.56 ERA. And like Gniadek, McClain stepped her game up in conference play as

she posted a 1.91 ERA. “I am very confident that they will do their job. Hopefully they will stay healthy... we are going to mix and match everybody to work on the best possible matchup,” Schumann said.

As the Panthers pitching may look willing and able to keep the opposing team’s bats at bay, the team will need to post runs on the board to secure wins as well.

Offensively, FIU will look upon McClain, Shelby Graves and Kayla Burri. McClain dominated in 2011 posting up a .401 average, 12 homeruns and 44 runs batted in.

Graves, a freshman from California, will be positioned at first base – a position she has played sporadically in high school.

Kayla Burri, a junior, will play shortstop in 2012. She posted a .343 average to go with five homeruns and 29 runs batted in last season.

But one question mark that had loomed around camp for a while was who was going to play Catcher and left field, and that question has been answered. On opening night, Rachel Slowik will be in left field and Megan Horne will be behind the plate.

The team will take on Michigan State on Feb. 10, then a double-header against Louisville and UMass on Feb. 11, followed by another double-header against Illinois and UAB on Feb. 12 to round off the weekend.

Schumann has successful track record as skipper

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Softball head coach Jake Schumann has proven to be a great coach in the making, long before he decided to take his coaching talents to FIU.

Schumann started his collegiate coaching career as an assistant coach at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. During his tenure at Northeastern Oklahoma, Schumann assisted in all aspects of the program, including recruiting, budgeting, travel, on-field instruction, classroom monitoring and field maintenance.

Schumann then spent four seasons in the state of Oklahoma culminating a record of 101-16. During his time there, Schumann placed his focus solely on putting the ball on play and forcing the defense to make a play.

“My style of play is that I like to run, to steal, and to hit and run, all the short fast things that put all of the pressure on the defense,” Schumann said.

After Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Schumann proved that his success was no fluke as he continued to win, climbing up the ranks as a coach.

In 2002 Schumann joined Carl Albert State College, a team that before his arrival compiled a record of 19-35. Schumann then helped Carl Albert State make an astonishing turn-around as the club had a record of 31-23 in his first year as a head coach. In his second at the helm, Schumann went 31-17.

After two successful years at Carl Albert

State, Schumann, which produced five all-region infielders, began to coach at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for four seasons, leaving with a school record of 120 victories.

And like Schumann has done in the past, he continued to improve his teams win total year after year.

In 2010, Schumann helped the Islanders compile a record of 35-22 leading to a Southland Conference Tournament and also finished at an even .500 record against teams that made it to the NCAA tournament.

That momentum then led to a breakthrough in the 2011 season, which saw the Islanders notch 41 wins and a Southland Conference regular season championship.

As the team advanced to the finals of the Southland Conference Tournament, it solidified the fact of Schumann deserving the Southland Coach of the year award.

Now Schumann will fill in the shoes of the successful coach Beth Torina who finished with a record of 129-111 in her four-year tenure as a Panther.

“You’re not trying to fill another person’s shoes, you’re going to be who you are, and when you look in the mirror you’re going to do the best you possibly can,” Schumann said.

For many coaches, that pressure may be difficult to handle, but Schumann isn’t focused with the past, he is looking ahead.

“I think in anything in life you’re going to have to do your best and it’s what you can do. It’s your footprint and not anybody else’s,”

Schumann said.

Coach Schumann is also looking towards surpassing early season predictions that predict FIU finishing fourth in the Sun Belt.

“Conference championship for sure... so anything less than wanting to win a conference title is the wrong mindset for any sports program in our program,” Schumann said.

2012 PROJECTED LINEUP

RACHEL SLOWIK, LF

BETH PELLER, CF

ASHLEY MCCLAIN, RF

KAYLA BURRI, SS

BRIE ROJAS, 2B

JESSY ALFONSO, 3B

SHELBY GRAVES, 1B

JENN GNIADEK, RHP

MEGAN HORNE, C

PROJECTED ROTATION

<p>1. Jenn Gniadek Senior, RHP</p>	<p>2. Mariah Dawson Sophomore, RHP</p>
<p>3. Ashley McClain Senior, LHP</p>	<p>4. Reina Baluja Freshman, RHP</p>

DANCING IN THE DARK



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The dance crew "Tokyo Love bots" performed at the Black Out Green On! block party event at the housing quad on Modesto Maidique Campus on Feb. 7. The event was meant to inform the University community about sustainability through performances, music and and spoken word.

REEL TO REEL

“Extremely loud” proves to be incredibly frustrating



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Thomas Horn plays Oskar Schell, a young boy in search of a way to be closer to his dead father.

Stephen Daldry's films have so far been consistent favorites among the Academy during award season. "Billy Elliot," "The Hours," and "The Reader" have all been criticized, but none of their nominations have been quite as surprising and controversial as the ones for his latest film, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

Thomas Horn plays Oskar Schell, a very curious boy whose father passed away on 9/11. One day, he comes across a key inside of an envelope mysteriously labeled "Black." This discovery sets him off on an adventure, as he searches all around New York for clues to where this key might lead, in hopes that it will somehow bring him closer to his dead father. I will not hesitate to expose my bias in saying that I am a big fan of Jonathan Safran Foer's novel of the same name.

The narrative at the film's core is truly fascinating, but almost everything else about Daldry's cinematic interpretation is an unfortunate mess. The film's biggest flaw is probably its main character, Schell, who has been written into an insufferable child. One cannot place the blame on Horn because he works well with the poor material he is given and does a decent job at portraying a child suffering from social anxiety.

SEE LOUD, PAGE 6

Students bring experience and culture to play

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Sitting on cushions onstage and listening to live, original music while watching a magical and rich story unfold is just a few of the features the audience attending "Arabian Nights" will be apart of. The play is directed by Phillip Church and written by Mary Zimmerman.

"Live music far outweighs the creative experience for the audience. At times, the musicians are in the audience, and at other times, they are onstage. Our audience is also onstage as part of the ruler Sharyarar's court, lying back on cushions, so having the musicians in such close contact will be exciting for the audience," said Church, an associate professor at the Department of Theatre.

While the play does contain musical cues in the original script, Church is using the original music of three students and the voice of another to capture the Arabian culture in its entire splendor.

"Arabian literature and culture, in general, is very much tied in with music; it is a big part of the cultural life of Arabians. Audiences today, because they are so connected to the cinematic and video worlds, really enjoy theater that develops music as part of the dramatic fabric," said Church.

Jessica Halim Tohme, a freshman nursing major, who will sing in Arabic, was introduced to music at an early age. "I can clearly state that if it weren't for my mother, I probably wouldn't be where I am now. It was she who had introduced me to the works of the Celine Dion and Frank Sinatra."

Having a parent who is Middle Eastern as well as having lived in Lebanon for seven years exposed Tohme to the language, which has since become second nature to her.

"In a way, it is through family tradition that I got exposed to this type or genre of music, but it was my overwhelming interest in the language that forced me to continue singing in that language." Tohme, who came from Coral Reef Senior High School, has also written minor compositions in the past and has been working closely with Carla Cao, a student at

the New World School of Arts. "I can't take all the credit. A lot of the writing will come from accompanying musician and friend Cao. If anything, I'll be doing the Arabic translating and adding a few motifs that I've come up with."

Cao, who will supply the music of the clarinet, has also had previous experience in writing and began her musical journey at an early age with the keyboard.

“Arabian literature and culture, in general, is very much tied in with music; it is a big part of the cultural life of Arabians.”

Phillip Church,
Associate Professor and Director
Department of Theatre

"I have composed original music before, but never for a play. The process is harder in some regards but definitely easier in others. It is harder in that there are more non-musical variables to take into account when composing for a play," said Cao. "In the case of plays, though, there is already a story being told, and as a composer, you need to try to fit the music to the story of the play instead of the other way around."

Joey Basna, a senior religious studies major, who will be playing the Darbuka drum, did not get into music until he was 18, when he began to drum with other people.

For him, the turning point was five years ago when he met a Turkish student, Osman, who introduced him to other instruments such as the drums, guitars, bass, keyboards, as well as vocals.

"The difficult part to me is connecting with the other musicians; it is really hard if everyone involved does not see eye to eye. To me, working with musicians that are good listeners make things easier, because it allows chemistry to develop and ideas to flow," Basna said.

Basna, who has known Church for a couple of years and worked with him on a

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Supporting cast the silver lining in contrived film

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Schell's many interesting quirks within the novel just do not fit well into the approach that Eric Roth took with the screenplay.

He and Daldry illustrate the boy's various ticks and issues through annoying scenes where one almost wants to yell at him until he shuts up.

A series of frustrating voice-overs do not help to improve this grating character, either, as they just never seem to stop.

It is a damn shame that this is what we are given, but on the other hand, the movie would have to be much longer to form the right character.

Another burden on the film is the artificial sentimentality that comes along with its uneven exploita-

tion of 9/11.

What should be a simple fact that lingers in the background becomes an unnecessary story arc in which Schell keeps six voicemails that his father left from the World Trade Center to himself, but feels the need to bring it up to every stranger he meets.

This is not to say that "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" does not have a few positive qualities, specifically in the supporting performances from a big cast of small roles.

Tom Hanks is charming in his five minutes of screen time as Schell's father, but he is barely existent aside from the constant whining from his son.

As for Sandra Bullock, who plays his mother, this

role actually brings out a decent performance that shows more depth than expected.

Max Von Sydow makes his wordless performance count, but it is so limited that one wonders why he was nominated for supporting actor over other worthy candidates.

The stunning Viola Davis delivers the best work in the movie, showing more versatility in just a few short scenes than she did in her Oscar-nominated lead role in "The Help."

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is a fantastic story about loss that, unfortunately, was not translated well onto the screen, making it one of the worst Best Picture nominees of the year and Daldry's most disappointing film to date.

My advice? Skip the film and read the novel. However, if you are still interested in watching the film, it is currently playing at Cobb Dolphin 19 Cinema, AMC Sunset Place 24, Movies at the Falls 12, Paragon Grove 13, Cobb Miami Lakes 17, Cobb Hialeah Grand 18, Regal South Beach Stadium 18, and Frank Theatres Intracoastal 8.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIU THEATRE

"Arabian Nights" will offer unique experiences for students participating and audiences alike.

"Nights" offers unique opportunities for artists

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dramatized staged reading of "Samson Agonistes" by John Milton, did not audition, although he described "Arabian Nights" as his most important play so far. "It is the first play in which I am getting sized for a costume and months of preparation are going into it. I am excited to have this opportunity, although I lack the formal education."

Omar Bam, a senior theater major, will be pulling double duty, playing various characters including Wazir, Clarinetist and Ishak of Mosul, as well as supplying the percussion section when not in character.

"[When I came to the University] I actually was torn between pursuing music or a degree in acting," Bham said.

"I kind of fumbled with both my first year, but I eventually needed to pick one. I chose acting, but have maintained a relationship with the School of Music through the marching band, which I was a part of for three years. I was privileged enough to have the opportunity to lead the drum

line as section leader last year."

His experience with the percussion ensemble on campus also exposed Bham with playing rhythmically complex pieces of music and other instruments like the lids, marimba and drums.

Having worked with Church as well on previous productions, Bham was sought out once again for his reliability as a musician, although he did have to audition for his role in the play.

"I haven't ever composed this style of music, or really listened to it much, so it should be a new and interesting venue to grow as an artist. I am used to writing music, but mainly drum or piano music," said Bham. "I'm excited and hope that we can create the atmosphere that makes the show just that much more authentic while gaining new knowledge of Middle Eastern music and rhythms."

"Arabian Nights" premieres Friday, Mar. 2 and runs through Mar. 11.

Look for a preview about "Arabian Nights" in the next few weeks in the Life! section.

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UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

10 FRIDAY

NSCS TABLING
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to students
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

NSCS VALENTINE SOCIAL
WHEN: 8-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free; Free food will be given
WHERE: MMC Panther Suite

SPC MOVIE: CRAZY STUPID LOVE
WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free; Free food will be given
WHERE: MMC GC140

NEW MUSIC MIAMI FESTIVAL: GUEST COMPOSER TANIA LEON AND THE FIU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

11 SATURDAY

BSU PRESENTS SPEAK YOUR HEART OUT
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Faculty Lounge

SPC MOVIE: CRAZY STUPID LOVE
WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC140

MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: A VALENTINE EXTRAVAGANZA
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

VOCAL ARTS SERIES MASTERCLASS: TEACHING THE YOUNG MALE VOICE
WHEN: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free admission to member's of the National Association of Teachers of Singing
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

FIU LAW GRASS-ROOTS: RON PAUL V. BARACK OBAMA
WHEN: 12-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

12 SUNDAY

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: IN THE NEXT ROOM (THE VIBRATOR PLAY)
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: General Admission \$15.00, Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff \$12.00, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members \$10.00
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Black Box Studio Theatre

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESTIGE CULTURAL SERIES: THE JOYS OF LOVE, A VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT (BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS)
WHEN: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20.00
WHERE: BBC Maryann Wolfe Theatre

FIU TENNIS VS. TEXAS TECH
WHEN: 12-7:45 p.m.
WHERE: Away; Lubbock, Texas

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Student's religious intolerance fueled by selfishness, scorn

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer
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Abiding by an increasingly fervent trend with secular youth of reflexively attacking religious gestures, Jessica Ahlquist, a high school student in Rhode Island (the country's most Catholic state, according to *The New York Times*), lobbied for the removal of a banner listing a school prayer at her high school.

The prayer read: "Our Heavenly Father, Grant us each day the desire to do our best, to grow mentally and morally as well as physically... to be honest with ourselves as well as others... to be good sports and smile when we lose as well as when we win. Teach us the value of true friendship... Amen."

Ahlquist told *The New York Times* that just looking at the banner, which was eight feet tall in the school's auditorium, made her feel ostracized.

She claimed to have had no trouble with religion in school before (suggests, in fact, that she did not even notice the banner but had it pointed out by a friend); still, with greater selfishness and intolerance than she attributes to the school, she pursued the prayer's removal.

Conservative ideologies will always earn the scorn of mainstream youth, particularly with kids who, sheltered from the toils and demands of adult responsibilities, have yet to realize the benefits of moderation, respect, and patience.

One drifts with age, ideally, further and further from a sense of all-knowingness. But while it lingers in later youth, and a young person – myself included – begins to read the tracts of popular contrarians and their vocabulary grows and, in the ocean of post-modern hipster culture, they develop a strong disdain for emotional

candor and matters of the heart, they tend to sprout some indignation, usually in the form of some social or political outrage.

This indignation must then be directed at something (as Norman Mailer said, "There's nothing more onerous than practicing on a team that plays no games,") and tends now to point toward Christianity and Catholicism, the most prevalent sources – or the faces, at least – of American conservatism today.

“

The words on this banner were of good intent and little consequence, but because it began with an address to a god and closed with "Amen," she took offense.

”

You will find, however, that the well-spoken young contrarian will rarely wag their finger so aggressively at any other conservative orthodoxies, religious or not.

In Jeffrey Eugenides' latest novel, *The Marriage Plot*,

he writes, "The worst part about religion is religious people."

There are misanthropic, bigoted, uninformed fanatics like those who stand outside of the Graham Center and berate us for our "drugs and homosex," but they don't accurately reflect their religion's modern sentiments.

Unfortunately, such people ferment a widespread disdain for what they claim to represent.

If, in Ahlquist's situation, there was any display of intolerance, it was her own. I say this on the basis of *The New York Times*' Nov. 26 story, in which no mention is made of Ahlquist being told to pray or adhere to the majority's religious ideals.

She was asked only to sit from time to time in a room where, on a tall stretch of wall, someone had written some pretty harmless words.

There are no bad words, the late comedian and atheist George Carlin argued; only bad intentions. The words on this banner were of good intent and little consequence, but because it began with an address to a god and closed with "Amen," she took offense.

The aforementioned radicals, propelled by hatred and aspirations of control, are the ones who deserve the humanist's scorn, not their religion.

Were there no Christianity or Catholicism, they would be radicals of something else.

Unappealing as it might be for those of us who don't ascribe to it, religion is the well from which a huge number of people tap both meaning and strength, and the majority of them are surely pretty decent people.

To attack their beliefs is to attack their intelligence and their character, their approach to life and their values. And I'd guess that nobody has so strong a grasp on life, so measured a control over its curve balls and miseries, as to fairly criticize the means by which others get by.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editorial incorrectly states implications of court ruling

After examining *The Beacon* editorial on the SGC-MMC Supreme Court decision in the Ex Parte Velez SC 001 Case, CSR believes *The Beacon* has overstretched aspects of the court's ruling, and that with its scathing rhetoric against the court, has overlooked the relevant aspects of the case.

"There have been egregious gaps in legality in the budgeting process at all stages since I was student," says Ben Badger Jr., CSR Director of Alumni Affairs.

"The fact that the SGA courts have evolved enough to finally tackle this issue is very promising for the future generations of FIU students."

By no means does this court case suggest that the SGC-MMC Judiciary has jurisdic-

tion over the whole of SGA in the view of CSR.

"To claim that this case nullifies the SGC-BBC is simply not based on fact," says William-Jose Velez, CSR President.

"The SGC-MMC court did not reach its decision out of thin air, but instead used the same powers it is granted by the Constitution. Their decision stands to be validated also by the fact that the SGC-BBC Supreme Court does not appear to have enough members to discharge its constitutional duties; to imply that a decision could not be made unless there was an ad hoc court created does not withstand a constitutional test." The Constitution does not state that a court must create an ad hoc court for U-

Wide issues, rather that it is

one of the powers they have, as "becomes necessary."

While CSR applauds *The Beacon* for being so diligent in covering this issue, again CSR wants to reiterate the true importance of this case. The budget process is now compliant with Florida law and more transparent.

"SGA has a long history of acting incorrectly simply because the previous administration did the same thing," says Badger. "However, with every year and every new case, SGA makes leaps and bounds in progress."

Section III of the Constitution states that SGA will be in compliance with Federal and State laws.

Clearly the current budgetary process conflicts with state

law, which is of course why the SGC-MMC Supreme Court ruled the way they did. And that was the core of the case. Not the less than subtle rivalry between the SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC.

When it comes to analyzing this decision, instead of creating an issue out of a thinly constructed argument, we should focus on its real implications.

To have a decision that is so simple and clear in its writing, in our view stands to show the validity and strength of our argument. Because of this, *The Beacon's* editorial could have addressed other areas that can raise important questions, such as why even with an argument that is evidently logical, the administration of Presi-

dent O'Keefe represented by Attorney General Colesanti, decided to defend a process that was so clearly contrary to state law.

Most of us can stand to witness the true and clear cut implications of the Ex Parte Velez SC 001 ruling, which represents a dramatic step forward towards an SGA that operates as the government that it should be.

So let us focus on the real issues at hand, seeking to solve any problems caused by noncompliance with the laws that be, instead of ignoring, or even defending, the status quo and its many faults. That is the right thing to do.

-William-Jose Velez, President of Coalition of Students for Reform



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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.

SMOKING GUN



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Peter Ferencik, junior and English major takes a break by taking a puff from his cigarette. Smoking and the use of any tobacco products on all areas of the University's campus has been prohibited since Jan. 1, 2011.

RECREATION CENTER

Programming expands to include triathlon

MERY M. RIVAS
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

The Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus has a new triathlon program for swimmers, bikers and runners. Training for the triathlon with certified trainer Diane Calloway takes place every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. this semester, and it will take place on Feb. 18.

Interested students can register online at www.active.com or at the Fitness Center located in Wolfe University Center 160.

"I'm not too sure what a triathlon is but I have seen a couple of flyers about the program on campus," said Paolo Ramos, a junior and public relations major.

Sprint, or short distance triathlons, are perfect for beginners who lack experience in these physical activities. Swimmers will cover a distance of 500 yards in the Bay. Bikers will pedal a 10-mile roundtrip course set up from BBC to the city of North Miami. Finally, runners will huff a distance of three miles, also at BBC.

Those participating in the triathlon's training session will need to bring a pair of running shoes, a change of cloths, a swimsuit, swimming goggles and a swim cap.

Bikes are optional, although stationary bikes are available at the Rec Center. For students looking to shed a few pounds or stay fit for spring break this March, the

Rec Center has many other programs to offer such as kayaking, paddle boarding, Zumba, yoga, pilates and the Get Fit Bootcamp.

Every month the Rec Center offers kayaking events for beginners and pros. The event's highlight, which takes place on Feb. 17 and Feb. 25, is a trip through the mangrove trails of Oleta State Park.

Zumba known for its hypnotic latin rhythms is also another popular program offered. "It's awesome. It's a really good class," said Stephanie Shimon, sophomore and public relations major. "I would definitely recommend it to other students."

With Zumba group exercises available twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, students are able to dance their stress away. Another favored program is Yoga. Yoga is known for its integration of the body, mind, and soul could help students deal with the demanding work load of the semester.

"The instructor [Bonnie Quiceno] is really good. Yoga helps me get through the week," said Adam Rospnblatt, a PhD student and biology major.

"The gym programs are very beneficial to students because they're giving students a chance to expand their knowledge on different physical types of activities," said Danny Sandler, a senior and Spanish major.

The Rec Center hours are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

STUDENT LIFE

TV personality and music journalist heading to BBC

TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIZ
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

American novelist, essayist, music journalist, and National Broadcasting Channel correspondent Touré will be speaking at Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Wolfe University Center 100.

The discussion will focus on his latest publication, "Who's Afraid of Post Blackness?"

The book covers an array of topics on black identity in America and includes a foreword by Micheal Eric Dyson with excerpts from over 100 interviews with people like Henry Louis Gates, Melissa Harris-Perry, and many more prominent African American voices.

Touré started his journalism career as an intern for *Rolling Stone* magazine, after dropping out of Emory University during his junior year in 1992. A few months after being fired from his internship, *Rolling Stone* asked him to return and write record reviews mainly on hip-hop music.

Today he continues as a contributing editor for *Rolling Stone*, and just

last year in April he wrote the magazine's cover story on Adele.

According to *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review, in his latest book publication, "Touré praises the effortless 'mode-switching' of celebrities and leaders like Oprah Winfrey and Barack Obama. Blackness is an important part of them but does not necessarily dominate their persona."

The guest speaker event is sponsored by the African American Diaspora Studies program. The discussion comes to campus in time for the University's celebration of Black History Month. AADS program offers students a chance to learn about racial conflicts and issues about African American identity.

GUEST SPEAKER

Touré

- Time: 7:30 p.m.
- When: 2/10/12
- Where: Wolfe University Center 100

BREAK A SWEAT



JONATHAN RAMOS/THE BEACON

Dimitri Defrant, freshman and biology major helps Richard Currie, freshman and undecided major, lift weights at the gym. The gym is open all week to students and staff. The Recreation Center has now added new biking, kayaking and dance programs for students to enjoy, including a triathlon.