

## A NEW(T) DAY



## GOP hopeful speaks on campus

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An eye of Newt, a touch of Rivera, and a bit of Burton were the key ingredients to the political brew that was Gingrich's campaign stop on Jan. 25 at the University.

The FIU College Republicans sponsored a visit by Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich to the University's Wertheim Performing Arts Center to gather the support of South Florida's Hispanic voters. He focused his discussion on Latin American policies which will be a key demographic in Florida's Jan. 31 GOP Primary election.

Present at the event were members of the community at large, a few students and a battalion of media crews gathered to see what Gingrich had to say.

Florida Representative David Rivera delivered opening remarks in both English and Spanish that had supporters in attendance "smelling victory."

"We've got the only Republican candidate in this race that actually has experience dealing with the important



PHOTOS BY KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

(Top) Newt Gingrich, Republican presidential candidate, deliberated on the previous night's State of the Union address. (Bottom) Rep. Dan Burton from Indiana, Rep. David Rivera from Florida joined Gingrich at his speech on Jan. 25.

issues facing our nation," said Rivera to a roar of applause.

Dan Burton, representative from Indiana, then came on stage to not only introduce Gingrich, but to "set the record straight" by denouncing recent polit-

ical ads that were in opposition to the Gingrich campaign rejecting the idea that Gingrich resigned in disgrace as Speaker of the Senate in 1999. He also denounced

**SEE GINGRICH, PAGE 2**

### NATIONAL

## State of the Union address targets college tuition

**AARON PABON**  
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President Barack Obama outlined an economic plan during his State of the Union Address on Jan. 24, which included a strategy that would affect tuition for University students.

"At a time when Americans owe more in tuition debt than credit card debt, this Congress needs to stop the interest rates on student loans from doubling in July," said Obama during his televised speech.

The president took aim at colleges and universities, and pledged that if they can not stop or fix the rising cost of tuition, "the funding you get from taxpayers will go down."

"I feel that our President really understands the problem with the raise in tuition around the nation," said international relations and economics major Leonardo Curiel, who is the president of the FIU College Democrats. "He knows that it is to every state to decide where their money is going to be spent. He asked states to make higher education a priority when they decide on each state's budget."

The "Pay As You Earn" proposal of the Obama Administration will reduce monthly payments for more than one and a half million current college students and borrowers.

It will also allow about 1.6 million students the ability to cap their loan payments at 10 percent starting next year and permit an estimated 6 million students and recent college graduates to consolidate their loans.

"Pay As You Earn," is set to reduce students' loan interest rates and forgive the balance of their debt after 20 years of payments.

This may serve as a relief to graduate students who suffered the loss of subsidies on their loans earlier this year as a product of the Budget Control Act.

"I was appreciative of his statements about wanting to increase the number of students in work study and keeping the students interest rates low" said Francisco Valines, director of financial aid and enrollment services at the University. "Hopefully Congress will come up with funding to increase the work study program."

The address came just

**"I feel that our president really understands the problem with the raise in tuition around the nation."**

Leonardo Curiel,  
President of the FIU  
College Democrats

shortly after Florida House leaders in Tallahassee put forth a proposal to raise tuition at public colleges and universities by 8 percent as part of a new budget plan.

"It is a shame that our legislature considers other spendings more important than the education of the future of this state and this country," said Curiel.

In 2009, the Florida Legislature allowed the state's public universities to increase their tuition rates by up to 15 percent each year until tuition reaches the national average of \$3,735 per semester.

The proposal would also reduce Florida's contribution to higher education by approximately 6 percent, and tighten the requirements for Bright Futures scholarships.

It would decrease the time that students have to start using funds from Bright Futures after high school graduation from three years to two.

Obama concluded his message of college tuition by saying "higher education can't be a luxury - it's an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford."

### COMING UP | Sports

Check out Monday's issue a profile on Cindy Russo, head coach of the FIU women's basketball team.

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## LIBRARY

# Financial setbacks threaten availability of journals

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Academic journals, the basis for many student papers and reports, are being threatened by an increasing price tag.

The University library system is struggling with a 3-5% increase per year, which has been occurring over the last ten years.

In 2011, the University spent \$2.2 million in e-journal packages, a price that is bound to increase in the coming fiscal year.

"This is a problem that affects the publishing industry at large, especially publishers of academic content, and the library/education community," said Laura Probst, dean of libraries at the University. "The reasons for the problem are complex. But there are two primary drivers, consolidation of

the publishing industry into a small number of very large publishers and the transition to a digital publishing environment."

Another push for the increases is the dependence of universities on large commercial publishers.

"It's not just the library system at FIU. These price hikes affect libraries and education everywhere," said Philip Bolton, an electronic thesis and dissertations coordinator at the University's Graduate School. "Librarians are being forced to cancel subscriptions to important databases and library funding has shrunk in recent years in conjunction with the economic downturn."

In order to address the increases, the University has begun to adopt strategies to lessen the effects on students and staff, among them are seeking additional funding.

"The University provides new

strategic initiative funding to the libraries each year," Probst said. "Without this funding, the libraries would need to cancel subscriptions to journals and our students and faculty would lose access to these critical resources."

University students and faculty have access to over 10,000 journals, some of which are used several thousand times a month.

"Academic journals are crucial to my majors," said Marianne Liens, a junior majoring in political science and international relations. "Most of my classes require a lot of written work and regular Internet sources like Wikipedia are unreliable. If academic journals would not be available through the University it would be an extra cost to me, as a student, or a drop in the quality of my work."

"Internally, we have reduced our costs by eliminating duplication and

cancelling subscriptions for journals that are not heavily used or are no longer needed to support research and teaching," Probst said.

Additionally, the University is also reducing the number of printed versions per journal as electronic options become more popular.

Externally, the University is working with publishers, re-working contracts for lower pricing and to develop alternative models that reduce costs while also maximizing access to journal content and retaining access to the most critical journals.

While rising costs are a problem, Probst said the real issue to be addressed is the need for fundamental and structural changes in academic publishing.

"The academic community is exploring alternatives to commercial publishers for distributing faculty research publications," Probst said.

"More recently, the 'open access' movement is gaining prominence, advocating for open Internet access to faculty research and publications as an alternative to the high-cost and subscription-only access currently available from traditional, commercial publishers."

Moving towards this alternative benefits both the University and the faculty that publish their research, according to Probst.

It would decrease costs and would allow the faculty to keep copyright of their work, a privilege they often times lose when signing contracts with corporate publishers.

"Information is more important than sports," said Bolton, who studied library and information science at Syracuse University, "more important than brand new facilities, more important than nearly any initiative that requires significant budgetary

# Candidate addresses concerns of hispanic community

**GINGRICH, PAGE 1**

claims of Gingrich having been, or being a lobbyist and reassured the crowd that Gingrich has always been and will continue to be a conservative.

After claiming that President Barack Obama is taking the country down the path to socialism, he gave the stage to Gingrich, who took the podium and addressed the auditorium.

Gingrich opened up by immediately shooting down remarks made by Obama during the State of the Union Address, claiming that if the

President meant what he said, it would cripple the American economy; much like Peronism did in Argentina since the 1960s.

"There are also lessons to be learned from Latin America that are positive. Chile has had the most advanced social security program in the world," said Gingrich.

"Latin America is central to our future," Gingrich said, and went on to lay out what he would do in regards to the region if he were elected president.

The presidential hopeful

wants to strengthen Southern Command, the division of the United States Military that oversees the majority of Latin America, and wants to shift Mexico from falling under the purview of Northern Command to Southern Command.

"We need to take Mexico, that for some bizarre reasons is currently under Northern Command and transfer it to Southern Command because nobody in Northern Command has a clue why they have Mexico and doesn't work very well," said Gingrich. "In fact, Mexico is a part of Latin America and should be treated as part of Latin America."

He went on to stir up the crowd by hitting points regarding Cuba.

"We need to take a very clear position. Over 50 years of dictatorship is more than enough...It's never occurred to a single person in the White House to look south and to propose a Cuban Spring," he said.

In dealing with Cuba, Gingrich promised to use every non-military tool that former President Ronald Reagan and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher used against the Soviet Union.

Continuing down the list of Latin American enemies of the State, Gingrich brought up Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and acknowledge that he is "a growing problem."

Gingrich began to wind down his speech with remarks on immigration, and how he only wants to allow immigrants that want to legally enter the country and wants to deport any and all known criminal offenders who currently hold illegal status in the United States.

He made no mention of the DREAM Act. Gingrich closed out his presentation by pushing for a "Cuba Libre". He cited the Declaration of Independence

as not only being an American document, but a "document for the human race" and that it should apply to Cuba as well because once Cubans are free "they are going to spring to prosperity".

Anthony Maneiro, a sophomore political science and international relations major,

was pleased with the fact that Gingrich came to the University.

"The fact that we have a candidate that is running for president that came to FIU is great, as opposed to Bush and Obama who went to Miami-Dade College instead," said Maneiro.

But some students, like Jose Villasmil, a freshman criminal justice student, were disappointed with the lackluster turnout of students to the event.

"I feel that more people should have come out. He's a good candidate and he knows what he's talking about," said Villasmil.

## CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 56 of *The Beacon* in the Life! section, the article "Transition from teen to adult style," guest columnist Juan Satizabel's name was misspelled.

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

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Barry Law students (L-R)  
Brian Kozlowski,  
Leanne Palmer, John Berry

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panthers are hoping to avenge early loss at WKU

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Coming off one of the most disappointing losses of the season at home versus FAU, the Panthers are hoping to bounce back at home against Western Kentucky on Jan. 28 at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Head Coach Cindy Russo wants to emphasize the need of a presence down low, especially the last time that they faced Western Kentucky earlier in the season.

"It was a no show up game. We have to rebound," Russo said. "We're not going to win too many more games unless we rebound. The frustration level of us not being able to score is breaking them down."

Those frustrations were abundant when the team struggled to be able to crash the boards against FAU. In their previous meeting with the Hilltoppers, the Panthers were also out rebounded 37-31. Junior guard Fanni Hutlassa credits the loss to being an early game in the year.

"That was our first conference game, since then we've gotten a lot better," Hutlassa said. "We played zone against them last time. We are going to have to pressure them a lot

more this time."

In their first meeting, the Panthers were just 4-22 in the first half, shooting a mere 18.2 percent.

"We need to run our offense our way," Hutlassa said. "Which we didn't do before."

The Panthers only scored 11 points in the first half of the game at Western Kentucky on Dec. 11, which led to their 65-48 loss to the Hilltoppers.

After being on the road for the last week, the Panthers finally got a chance to rest this week. It is the only time that the Panthers will get a week of rest like this for the rest of the season. Junior guard Carmen Miloglav noticed that the road trips had been an issue for the team.

"It definitely affected us," Miloglav said. "We were a little tired because of the trips and didn't perform like we were suppose to do."

Russo has also noticed that the defense has begun to not try to fight for rebounds. She wants them to at least get inside the paint and fight. The Hilltoppers will come to town with the best rebounding margin in the Sun Belt Conference (+7.7 per game).

"We're not even going in there," Russo said. "[Even]

if we're not scoring like we want to or the way they were before, we still have to win games."

With the team struggling to find a solid rotation, Russo has been trying to find a group that sticks, but it has not worked out as planned.

"We've tried to get more girls in the game and they aren't doing that job either," Russo said.

She also observed the emergence of another guard to add to the rotation she already utilizes in the games.

"[Sasha Melnikova] single handily won that South Alabama game, but she's just got to get use to things. She's only played in four games so far."

Melnikova has seen her minutes increase ever since she first saw playing time against Louisiana Monroe.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAME



SAT JAN. 28  
5:30 p.m.



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Coley (right) scored 32 points on Dec. 11, the last time the Panthers met WKU.

## ROUND UP

# Swimming looks to continue hot streak at FGCU

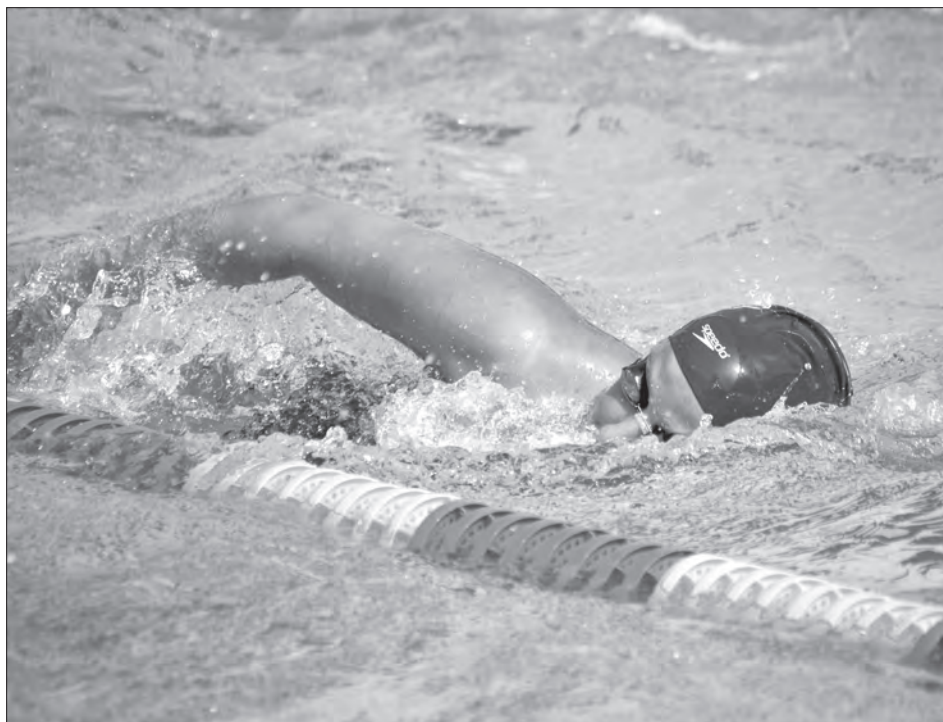
**FIUSM SPORTS STAFF**  
sports@fiusm.com

The Panthers have demonstrated a dominance over the past five meets, all on the East coast, crushing each team they have faced. Now FIU will look to extend that dominance to the Gulf coast.

The Panthers will face the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles Jan. 28 at the FGCU Aquatics Center for a match-up between two teams that are firing on all cylinders. Both teams are riding four-meet winning streaks going into the meet, including the Eagles' three victories against conference opponents.

The Eagles will look to stop the Panthers in the final home game of the season for FGCU, which happens to be Senior Day, before making their way to the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association Championship on Feb 16-18.

The last time the Panthers were in action, they defeated



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The swimming and diving team has not had to travel out of Florida since Dec. 3.

Central Connecticut State 174-120, which included 10-for-11 performance in the individual events. The victory led to a sweep in the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week awards, given to sophomore swimmer Sonia

Perez Arau and sophomore diver Sabrina Beaupre.

Not to be outdone, the Eagles put together back-to-back crushing victories of North Florida and Georgia Southern, 132-102 and 180-115, respectively.

Emma Svensson, freshman swimmer for the Eagles, has won two of the past four Swimmer of the Week awards in the CCSA. Along with Svensson, FGCU has also won two of the past four Diver of the Week awards,

given to freshman Cayla Collins and junior Maegan Butler, respectively.

The Panthers will have one more meet against Florida Atlantic and Daytona State on Feb 4, before beginning the run to the SBC championship on Feb 22-25.

-RICO ALBARRACIN

## TENNIS

After dropping two consecutive events, the Panthers will look to bounce back in the ITA Team Indoor Qualifying events in Athens, Ga.

Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au's team will face No. 66 Fresno State on Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. If the Panthers win on the 27th, they will face the winner of Georgia-Missouri match the following day. If the Panthers lose, they will play the loser of the Georgia-Missouri. The Bulldogs, who are hosting the event, are ranked sixth in the nation, according to the latest ITA rankings.

Last weekend the Panthers started the season ranked 72nd in the nation but dropped their first two events.

After a strong start by the tandems of Giulietta Boha, Karyn Guttormsen, Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni, FIU defeated No. 14 Clemson in the doubles portion of the event to take a 1-0 lead over the Tigers. Despite winning the doubles point, the Panthers dropped all six of their singles matches to lose the event 6-1.

The following day Applebaum-Dall'au's team dropped another event, this time to Furman. After dropping three out of the first four points, including the doubles matches, FIU shortened the deficit when Sarrah McLean won her match in straight sets. Seredni dropped her singles match to give Furman the win 4-3.

FIU is currently unranked after suffering two-consecutive losses.

-IGOR MELLO

## MEN'S BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES



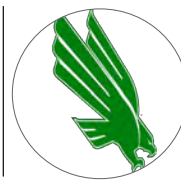
JAN. 28  
WKU  
7:30 p.m.  
SAT



FEB. 2  
@ Troy  
8:30 p.m.  
THU



FEB. 4  
@ FAU  
7 p.m.  
SAT



FEB. 9  
North Texas  
7 p.m.  
THU

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panthers use week of rest to prepare for Hilltoppers

## MALCOLM SHIELDS

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After waiting a week to reflect and learn from a gut-wrenching two-point loss to Florida Atlantic, the Panthers will return to the hardwood on Jan. 28 to face-off against East Divisional rival Western Kentucky at home.

Western Kentucky (6-14, 2-5 SBC) has struggled throughout the entire season. The lowest point for the Hilltoppers came in a 72-70 overtime loss to Louisiana on Jan. 5. In the final seconds, the Ragin' Cajuns played the final 21 seconds of overtime with six players on the court.

The result ended in a loss for Hilltoppers and its coach, Ken McDonald, who got fired the following day. Interim coach Ray Harper has not fared any better leading the Hilltoppers.

Since taking the reigns, Western Kentucky has posted a 1-3 record; its only win coming against Arkansas-Little Rock a week ago.

The Hilltoppers will be without its point guard Kevin Kaspar, who is out for the season after injuring his knee against UALR.

Derrick Gordon continues

to be the constant for the Hilltoppers. The guard leads the team with 12 points per game. In the first meeting against FIU in December, Gordon led WKU with 11 points. Jamal Cook is a combo guard who can play both positions in the backcourt alongside Gordon.

### JOCKEYING FOR POSITION

Although FIU (5-14, 2-5 SBC) currently has a losing record in conference play, they currently are in a four-way tie for third place in the Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division along with South Alabama, Troy and Western Kentucky. The schedule does not get any easier for FIU after playing the Hilltoppers.

Three of FIU's next four games are against teams with winning records in conference play: Florida Atlantic, North Texas and Denver. Consecutive wins against Western Kentucky and Troy would put the Panthers one game under .500 before facing the Owls, Mean Green and Pioneers.

### WRIGHT ON ABSENCE

Western Kentucky will be DeJuan Wright's third game back in the starting lineup since being out for over a month due

to a leg injury. Wright stated his time on the sideline was valuable. "It helped me tremendously," Wright said after the South Alabama game.

"I just got to see what goes on and see where I can help. Sitting out for that month really helped my knowledge of the game...It did a lot for me," Wright said.

Despite back in action, Wright is still wearing a brace on his right knee. In his two games back in uniform, he is averaging 16 points per game.

### FROM THE FIRST MEETING

The last time the Panthers faced the Hilltoppers, FIU exploded with 54 second half points and registered two 20-plus point performances by Jeremy Allen (22) and Phil Taylor (20) in an 81-63 win.

The game was the only win the Panthers earned while Wright was out of the lineup.

The major advantage that the Panthers had was its multiple trips to the foul line in the second half.

The Panthers shot 25-of-29 from the charity stripe in the second half alone. Defensively, the Panthers held the Hilltoppers to 34.5 percent shooting for the game.



LAURA PACCHIONI/THE BEACON

Brandon Moore (center) tied for a team-high with three blocks on Jan. 21.

### FOOTBALL

# Moore and Laffere out, Ellingson signs with VooDoo



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Former Panther Greg Ellingson has signed a deal to play in Arena Football.

## JACKSON WOLEK

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Not only will Mario Cristobal have to find a new offensive coordinator after Scott Satterfield left to go back to his Alma Mater Appalachian State, but he is also on the search for a few assistant coaches as well.

Greg Laffere, who was the assistant coach and worked with tight ends, is no longer with FIU. He helped in working with the offensive line, and in 2008 he helped improve the offense by almost 50 yards more per game in total offense.

FIU will look for a new Director of Strength and Conditioning coach since Roderick Moore, who was in charge of conditioning both the men's basketball team and football team, is no longer in the position. Moore is still listed on the FIU website, and his twitter account still claims he is with FIU.

### HILTON OUT FOR SENIOR BOWL

T.Y. Hilton should be

preparing with the rest of the top seniors in the nation for the annual Senior Bowl on Jan. 28 in Mobile, Ala.

He would be the first Panther ever to play in the game. Instead, he will not be in attendance to nurse his still injured quad. This could also affect his NFL combined performance, which he will be held from Feb. 22-28.

### FORMER PANTHER SIGNS WITH ARENA TEAM

Another former Panther, wide receiver Greg Ellingson, has signed with the Arena Football League's New Orleans VooDoo. Ellingson signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted free agent last year before getting waived after the preseason.

The New Orleans VooDoo starts play on Mar. 18 at the Philadelphia Soul. Ellingson says that mentally he will be ready for that game, and physically he has been training ever since he got released.

"The arena league is predominantly passing, which is really good for my situation to try

and get some exposure and get people to know me out on the football field," said Ellingson. "It's 95 percent passing. Receivers, quarterbacks and it's a much smaller field with the walls on the side."

Ellingson will be joining forces with former FIU offensive lineman Joe Alajajian, who according to Ellingson, helped make him a VooDoo.

"I'm happy really, just to be playing football. They gave me the opportunity and I get to go out there again and do what I love. I'm really grateful for it."

Ellingson had 2,018 yards receiving in his four years with the Panthers, hauling in 14 touchdowns.

Ellingson hopes to shine in New Orleans in order to draw attention from other professional leagues, perhaps even in another country.

"It would help to do really well and it will get people to recognize me. And hopefully after the AFL season, more people will recognize me. Maybe in the CFL or NFL and I'll get a chance to do that again."

ARTS BEAT

## Miami Film Festival puts spotlight on student films

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With award season upon us, Miami joins the celebration of cinema, as Miami Dade College hosts the 29th Miami International Film Festival. With more than 100 films slated to screen, and over 75,000 guests expected, the festival is considered the pinnacle of film culture in Miami, encouraging creativity and fostering an artist community within the city.

MIFF showcases Ibero-American and international films, including films from Cuba, Spain, Israel, Argentina, Brazil, United Kingdom, China and many other countries. There are nine categories artists can enter their films into, most of which are noncompetitive.

Florida Focus is a category devoted to films made partially or entirely in Florida by filmmakers (directors or producers) who are residents of the state.

MIFF is not only an opportunity for international film-

makers to make their mark, as the festival also provides young, local talent a chance to make a name for themselves in the industry.

The Festival offers a variety of jobs and internships to students in areas like event planning, marketing and outreach,

lot of their time viewing films and writing papers, but being involved with [actual] film people is a totally different experience. It's very hands-on; it's a great opportunity."

Additionally, last year, the Festival began CinemaSlam, a short film competition for

select one overall winner. Additional awards will be given in other categories for Best Comedy, Director, Animation, and Technical Achievements, among others.

This year, five films were submitted by University students. Robert Colom, a junior majoring in anthropology, made his film while studying abroad in the Czech Republic.

Though the film has no dialogue, those who viewed it online felt the film was "full of symbolism and emotion."

"The film is an exploration of some of the Czech histories we were introduced to on the trip. I wanted to create a comparison between the old history and the new," said Colom. Though initially reluctant to share his work with others and enter his film into the competition, Colom soon changed his mind.

"I felt it was important for people to see that it's not just the art schools [who make films], there is a movement

TITLE	STUDENTS
<i>A Means to an End</i>	<i>Manny Castro</i>
<i>Behind the Green Door</i>	<i>Robert Colom</i>
<i>The Insider</i>	<i>Haonan Wang</i>
<i>The Smiling Tear</i>	<i>Francisco Pedro</i>
<i>Till Life Do Us Part</i>	<i>Jannelly Avelaine</i>

“Over the years a number of our students have been hired permanently by the Festival, and all of the students make excellent contacts.”

Barbara Weitz,  
Professor  
English, Film

programming and working in a film industry office.

"Over the years, a number of our students have been hired permanently by the festival, and all of the students make excellent contacts while interning there," said Barbara Weitz, a professor of English and film at the University.

"The film students spend a

student filmmakers. CinemaSlam continues this year with entries from Miami Dade College, University of Miami, Miami International University of Art and Design, and Saint Thomas University, even including our own.

One winner will be selected from each school and from these the CinemaSlam jury will

here, too."

The student films can be viewed online at <http://miff.openfilm.com>. Viewers also have a chance to help decide the winner by voting for their favorite films online. Voting will be open until Friday, Jan. 27. Finalists will be announced on Tuesday, Jan. 31, and the winners will be announced and screened on Monday, March 5, at The Tower Theater in Downtown Miami.

Cutting the Edge, another

noncompetitive category, includes "provocative and stimulating feature-length visual experiences" which "test limits and take viewers to the extreme." The Knight Documentary Competition exhibits documentaries which explore social issues, diversity and cultural icons.

The films tackle a wide range of issues and topics, from death and loss to comedy and

SEE FILM, PAGE 6

REEL TO REEL

## What to Watch: Academy Awards Edition

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

With the Academy Awards being announced earlier this week, everyone is wondering what is worth watching and where to watch it.

Many times, the nominees can be obscure and hard to find, but this handy guide will keep you informed and ahead of the curve.

In addition to a short review on each of the Oscar nominees for Best Picture, I've included the options available for watching each movie—whether in theaters or on DVD and Blu-ray.

THE ARTIST



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PETITE REINE

To think that a black-and-white silent film could be made today is almost unreal. Michel Hazanavicius has managed to bring this surprising and entertaining one to the world.

The film follows silent film star George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) through the late '20s, as the arrival of talking pictures in Hollywood begins to take its toll.

At the same time, we have a young woman, Peppy (Berenice Bejo), an up-and-coming star, who never forgets the man who helped give her the start she needed. Bejo and Dujardin give

award-worthy performances, as does the adorable dog Uggie who lights up the screen every time he shows up. Ludovic Bource's score adds to the feel of the silent film, placing you straight into the intended era.

While I have some reservations about it—specifically the use of music pieces that stand out far too much, and a quick bit of spoken word—"The Artist" will be sure to enchant and entertain audiences around the world, even though it would probably be a forgotten film had it been made in the time period it portrays.

["The Artist" is currently in theaters and showing at AMC Sunset Place 24, Coral Gables Art Cinema, Regal South Beach Stadium 18, Movies at the Falls 12, and AMC Aventura 24.]

HUGO



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

While advertised as a light-hearted adventure film, Martin Scorsese's "Hugo" turns out to be quite a surprising treat. Based on the novel by Brian Selznick, the film colorfully illustrates the tragic history of Georges Melies through the eyes of an orphan named Hugo, who has a budding passion for invention and cinema.

While Hugo as a character is not particularly great, the story would not be the same if told through a different point of view. Scorsese

has always been a master of both technical and artistic aspects of cinema, but with "Hugo," he truly manages to tell something personal, all while capturing the true essence of cinema and the power that movies have over us.

The film starts off slow, but once it kicks into gear, it unfolds into a very touching love letter to the history of film. Viewers might hesitate due to the 3-D aspect of the film, but the way it is handled makes for a wondrous and satisfying experience.

This is one of the few films this year that leave you with a sense of pure joy rather than feeling cheated with illusions of something magical that are not delivered.

["Hugo" is currently showing in theaters only in 3-D at both AMC Sunset Place 24 and AMC Aventura 24.]

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAVIER PRODUCTIONS

With over 40 years of filmmaking under his belt, Woody Allen continues to bring us beautiful films year after year—and "Midnight in Paris" can be regarded as one of his best. Owen Wilson stars as Gil, a screenwriter who is working on a novel while traveling with his fiancée and her family in Paris.

At the stroke of midnight, a group of partiers pick him up and sweep him back to Paris in

the 1920s where he meets a colorful collection of famous writers and artists of the time.

Allen returns to what makes some of his older films so appealing: fantasy and romance; not the romance between Gil and his fiancée, but between Gil and Paris.

The film not only brings us to a city with an extremely rich history in the arts, but it also transports us into a world which has that Allen magic. It is a world where anything can happen and nothing feels out of place, no matter how implausible it really is.

["Midnight in Paris" is now available on DVD and Blu-ray.]

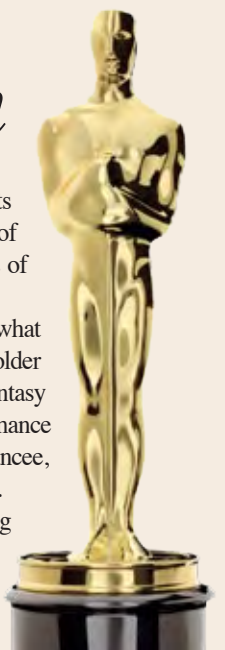
THE DESCENDANTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AD HOMINEM ENTERPRISES

Contrary to seemingly popular belief, "The Descendants" is not a great movie by any standards. In the film, Clooney dives into the character of Matt King—a man in the middle of a land deal that will determine the fate of his

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 6



## TECHNOLOGY

# First Game Jam hosted by Game Developers Guild

**HOLLY MCCOACH**  
Staff Writer  
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Playing video games isn't the solitary activity it once was. Within just the past decade, players across the globe have united thanks to the rapidly growing field of technology.

With programs such as Playstation Network and Xbox, gamers have the ability to communicate with one another instantly, through webcam and a connected microphone.

Whether it is to plan out digital warfare in the latest Call of Duty game or just to chat, people can socialize at a new level through video games.

This weekend in Miami, artists, musicians, engineers, designers, programmers, and even game enthusiasts have the chance to partake in a worldwide 48 hour phenomenon this weekend. The cost? Just an interest in video games, and a prob-

ably a few Red Bulls.

Hosted by the Game Developers Guild, the Global Game Jam will be held in Miami for the first time. Frank Hernandez, a third year Computer Science major, helped put together the Game Developers Guild in December 2011, in hopes to gather game enthusiasts. Hernandez, along with other individuals created this group in order to combine the talents of many. After their hopes to travel to the Global Game Jam in Orlando didn't work out, the idea of hosting it in Miami struck Hernandez.

This computer programming event occurs in over 44 countries across the world, which allows game developers to produce videos games over the span of the weekend.

As gamers collaborate to produce a work of art in a few short days, each station in the world will be provided with live streaming to show their progress to the rest of the

Jam sites.

There is no competition here: each Jam site's goal is to generate entertainment for onlookers and the developers beyond the screens. Free of charge, anyone and everyone are welcome to attend this event held at the University.

"We don't want money. We don't want [people] to feel like we are getting money out of this," says Hernandez.

To spread the word and get support, Hernandez contacted the School of Music, the School of Architecture, and even Panther Dining. According to Hernandez, the hardest ordeal of the plan was finding a place to host the event, but thanks to support from the Collaborative Open Innovation Lab, the Jam has the ability to use a handful of rooms at the College of Engineering and Computing.

The Jam will provide computers to registered participants, speeches

by guests from the game industry, and the ability for students and other interested guests to pass by and watch the entire process.

Registered guests are divided into teams based on level, and are separated into rooms to start creating their own unique game. Each person has a role, and together they work adamantly for two days to create a work of art.

As for the Guild, anyone who has an interest in joining is free to sign up. A lack of programming skills will not keep you out of the group; in fact, Hernandez encourages musicians and artists to join, due to the fact that the existing members are the ones that have an upper hand on programming.

One of the purposes of the Guild is to bring together students from different departments, such as computer engineering, architecture, music, and so forth. All these elements have to come together to

create the escapist environment necessary for a good game, so many different kinds of expertises are required.

"We are looking [to support] what you do. You come in, you produce, and you go to the next thing," states Hernandez.

The Global Game Jam is not the only event gamer enthusiasts can look forward to this year. The Guild is planning to develop a local game jam that should be hosted sometime between Summer A and Summer B at the University. By the end of the summer, the collaboration of the Guild, the Miami Global Game Jam, and the local game jam would have been developed within a span of less than a year, any gamer's or tech aficionado's fantasy.

"It's a dream, but you sometimes you cannot be afraid to dream," says Hernandez, who hopes to have the Guild grow bigger at the university, even after he graduates next year.

## Where to see the Best Picture noms

### AWARDS, PAGE 5

family's fortune, and who has just found out that his comatose wife was cheating on him. While these issues weigh heavily on him, he must take responsibility for himself and for his two children when he has never had to confront anything in his life.

Despite Clooney's impressive performance, Alexander Payne's story is just plain weak. The writing is completely off-focus, and the subject matter is tackled without any tact. His attempts at adding comedy into the film is so poor that one might be shocked at how inappropriately timed and unfunny they are. The supporting cast is a mixed bag of sincere and artificial, but that could all tie back to just how messy the script was. All in all, "The Descendants" is nothing more than a mediocre film that is anchored by a stunning performance from George Clooney.

["The Descendants" is currently in theaters and showing at AMC Sunset Place 24, Paragon Grove 13, Regal South Beach Stadium 18, and AMC Aventura 24.]

### WAR HORSE

Steven Spielberg seems to be back in action, riding his way back to the big screen with two feature films in one year. "War Horse" revolves around a horse named Joey, who is sold to the war by the family of his owner, Albert (Jeremy Irvine). The film follows Joey's journey from person to person and Albert's determined journey to find his horse, showing glimpses of how the war takes its toll on individuals of every nationality.

Everything in "War Horse," from the sentimental approach to the stunning technical work, especially during war sequences, echoes Spielberg's past works, and just listening to John Williams' grandiose score gets you right in the mood for another one. While the film is relatively lengthy, clocking in just under two-and-a-half hours, at no point does it drag. The wide cast of characters, all of whom perform well enough to entertain but not stand out, add to the appeal and intrigue of the film.

Its impressive technical work and

gorgeous cinematography should draw anyone in, and those who dismiss Spielberg's "War Horse" as just another horse movie will be missing out on much more than that.

["War Horse" is currently in theaters and showing at Regal Kendall Village Stadium 16, Paragon Grove 13, Cinemark Paradise 24, Regal Southland Mall Stadium 16, Flagship Cinemas Homestead, AMC Aventura 24, and Regal Oakwood Stadium 18.]

Due to its recent release and a lack of time (and interest), I have been unable to watch and review the ninth nominee for Best Picture, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

[It is currently in theaters and showing at Palace 18 Cinema, Regal Kendall Village Stadium 16, AMC Sunset Place 24, Cobb Theatres Dolphin 19, Dolphin Mall's CineBistro, Movies at the Falls 12, AMC Mall of the Americas 14, and Paragon Grove 13.]

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

## Foreign films also to screen

### FILM, PAGE 5

the spread of consumerism.

"The Student," an Argentinian film from the Lexus Ibero-American Opera Prima Competition, examines the murky world of university politics, using it as a microcosm for the world at large, exposing the backroom dealings and negotiations of student politics.

This past Tuesday, MIFF announced the full list of the films to be screened. They included films like "Juan of the Dead," a horror-comedy from Cuba about a man who begins a zombie-killing business; "Darling Companion," a story about a woman (Diane Keaton) who loves her dog more than she loves her husband (Kevin Kline); and "Jeff Who Lives at Home," in which Jason Segel plays a 30-year-old who still lives at home with his mother, played by Susan Sarandon.

The films will be shown from Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 11 from 2:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. and until 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 and Friday, March 9. Tickets are on sale to the general public from Friday, Feb. 10 to Sunday, March 11.

## UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

### 27 FRIDAY

#### NEW YEAR GET FIT EVENT

WHEN: 12 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: BBC Rec.

#### SPC MOVIE: LION KING IN COLLABORATION WITH DANCE MARATHON

WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC 140

#### HOE DOWN/I-REP PARTY

WHEN: 8 p.m.-12 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$2 entry fee. To obtain free entry check our facebook "Fiu Sgrhos" for details  
WHERE: Engineering campus in student lounge

#### AIR BRUSH ARTIST WILL BE AIR BRUSHING SHIRTS

WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

### 28 SATURDAY

#### FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WKU

WHEN: 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

#### 12TH ANNUAL JOSE MARTI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

#### KEYBOARD ART SERIES: KEYBOARD ALUMNI

WHEN: 7:30-9:30 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

### 29 SUNDAY

#### 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 & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts, Black Box Studio Theatre

#### RECYCLEMANIA TRIAL WEEK 2

WHEN: Ongoing  
WHERE: FIU

#### PRAYER BREAKFAST

WHEN: 9-11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC 243

#### TO HAVE YOUR EVENT

FEATURED EMAIL:  
**CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM**

## Gingrich's non-motivational speech lacked details, support

**NEDA GHOMESHI**

Opinion Editor

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On Jan. 25, Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich visited our University to speak with students, alumni and the Miami community.

After a 45 minute wait, he spoke for 25 minutes. During his campaign speech, he focused on President Barack Obama's lack of attention on Latin American politics and the overload of attention on the Arab Spring.

He also reiterated his perspective on Obama's poor performance over the past four years, but failed to present specific examples. His short presence and lofty comments left a bad impression on me.

Congressman Dan Burton introduced Newt Gingrich to the audience. During his introduction, Burton stated that "Gingrich is a great fighter for a free Cuba," without providing specifics.

All throughout his speech, Gingrich was reassuring his Cuban fan base that as President, he would dedicate his time and energy to assuring that the Cuban dictatorship is out.

He said, "There will not be a succession to Castro. We will not allow a new future of dictators for Cuba." Even though execution plans of removing Castro were not mentioned, the primarily Cuban audience ecstati-

“  
**His foreign policy suggestions were ambitious, but unrealistic and flawed.**  
”

cally applauded.

According to Gingrich, President Obama has allocated too much of his time and available resources to the Arab Spring.

He said, "We spend more energy on Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan than we do in Latin America." Gingrich disregarded the fact that the Arab Spring is a threat to

American foreign policy and cannot be neglected.

Gingrich was trying to convince his audience that Obama's foreign strategies are flawed, yet his reasons were insufficient and lacked details. A president's role in managing foreign crisis is more to ensure that they are handled carefully and efficiently, and are not ignored or mishandled.

Providing a lofty list of to-dos without articulating how they will be done is characteristic of a campaign and insufficient to attract my vote. I expected more details from Gingrich who is very articulate than just a list of lofty ideas tailored to solicit short-lived applause.

Gingrich claimed that Obama is a socialist, however, he was unable to provide specific examples to support this claim. Regardless, the audience, which is filled with voters against socialism, were pleased and comforted to hear Gingrich's opposition to socialism.

Gingrich's non-motivational speech was discouraging. His foreign policy suggestions were ambitious, but unrealistic and flawed. Lacking in detail, his speech was meant more to create applause than to lift the audience. Some of his ideals were naive, although, they seemed calculated. His overall presentation reassured me that I will not be voting for him.

SCG-MMC COMMENTARY

## Black Student Union considered for budget increase

The Black Student Union was granted a budget of \$60,000 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, of which they have so far spent \$8,264.49, according to an audit report presented by Senator Carlos Rodriguez at the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus' Jan. 23 meeting

For the Spring 2012 semester alone, their programming budget stood at \$49,048.93. According to Senator Rodriguez, this isn't enough.

"I think they should be given an extra \$2,000 to \$5,000 as sort of a cushion," Rodriguez said after the meeting, handing over and reviewing an audit summary he defined as a "bare-bones generality," promising a more comprehensive and up-to-date

summary in the days to come.

He also pointed out that his report was filed in November, and that the numbers have since changed.

Upon seeing at first glance that the BSU is awarded what appears to be, in comparison to the funds of other student organizations, a substantial budget, and that only a fraction of that money was spent in the first semester, a budget cut seemed in order, if not inevitable. Consequently, I was baffled by Rodriguez's request.

Senator Rodriguez assured us after the meeting that BSU has plans for spring semester programming that will, without question, spend the remainder of their budget and probably more. This isn't exactly the case.

According to BSU President Jarron Johnson, the spring semester is indeed packed with BSU events, with near-daily events in honor of Black History Month in

February.

However, their self-appointed budget is \$15,000 for the month of February, and while they have begun planning many of their events, few have been so meticulously mapped as to reveal their exact dollar amount. So, if they keep their expenses, as planned, under their \$15,000 budget, BSU will still have \$30,000 for March and April.

This, of course, can easily be spent with three or four big events, and one of the reasons for BSU's considerable budget is the consistency with which they draw in large crowds, generating not only excitement but a good deal of ever-evasive school spirit.

The thing is, if BSU could provide well-received activities with large turnouts throughout September, October, and November for less than \$10,000, the same should be expected of them for March and

April.

This prompts the question of whether an organization's knack for prodigious frugality should warrant a lowering of their budget and subsequent reallocation of excess funds toward groups that need it.

Sometimes, yes, and if the figures I have been given by Senator Rodriguez and President Johnson are accurate, then BSU could survive with maybe a five percent budget cut.

At the same time, however, they do good work, generate school spirit and positive attention for the University, and therefore make the most of their money when they spend it. Given their track record for efficient and modest spending, they certainly should not get any more money than they already do.

*SCG-MMC Commentary is a feature that evaluates the student council's performance. Look for it every Friday.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Explanation for Jan. 12 arrests from President Rosenberg

Dear students, faculty and staff:

I know that many of you have heard that two students and five individuals who are not students were arrested on Thursday, January 12 for disrupting school functions. One of the most fundamental characteristics of the academy is the free and open expression and discussion of all points of view and FIU has a rich history of allowing and supporting individuals and groups to express their beliefs and opinions without hindrance.

Some of the individuals who participated in Thursday's event have taken part in several other on-campus demonstrations throughout the fall semester without incident.

A group demonstrated on the Graham Center lawn during the two days in mid-September when we hosted the Board of Governors meeting. All the previous demonstrations were without incident because the participants held their events in locations identified for such activities and followed operational requests of the University.

As a university dedicated to education and free speech, we have established guidelines that allow both of these essential activities to occur simultaneously.

Individuals and groups wishing to demonstrate on our campuses may do so in areas designated for this purpose and must follow university guidelines, including prior approval, when required. Please click here to review our guidelines on demonstrations.

On Thursday morning, we learned that an unscheduled art and music festival would be taking place that afternoon near the DM building on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

As the group started to assemble at 1:15 pm, Student Affairs staff and police advised them of the areas identified for such activities and the fact that amplified sound could not be used in an area that would disrupt classes.

Seven times over the span of three hours, police advised the group of their options, which included moving the event to a

nearby area, where classes and other university activities would not be disrupted.

The group refused to move the event and they insisted on using amplifying equipment, despite repeated requests by police to disconnect the equipment given its proximity to classrooms where 39 classes with 1,325 enrolled students would be meeting that afternoon and evening (between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm). When it became clear that the group was intent on continuing activities that would disrupt classes, the police notified the group that if they didn't leave in five minutes they would be arrested. After waiting for fifteen minutes, the police arrested seven individuals.

We look forward to working with our students and our community to continue to provide an environment where both free speech and high quality education exist and are respected.

-Mark B. Rosenberg  
President

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.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 word 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.

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

## RENOVATION

# Water meter forces cafeteria to temporarily close

STEPHANIE FELDMAN

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As lunch time approaches, hungry students at the cafeteria in Biscayne Bay Campus will have to rearrange their schedules today. The cafeteria will be closing at 2:30 p.m. instead of the usual 4:30 p.m. due to the replacement BBC's water meter.

The water meter is a fundamental instrument in water management, used primarily to accurately calculate the utility costs of the campus.

Small and usually located underground, the nondescript piece of equipment is not only important in measuring water consumption for billing purposes, but also for the purposes of conserving this important natural resource.

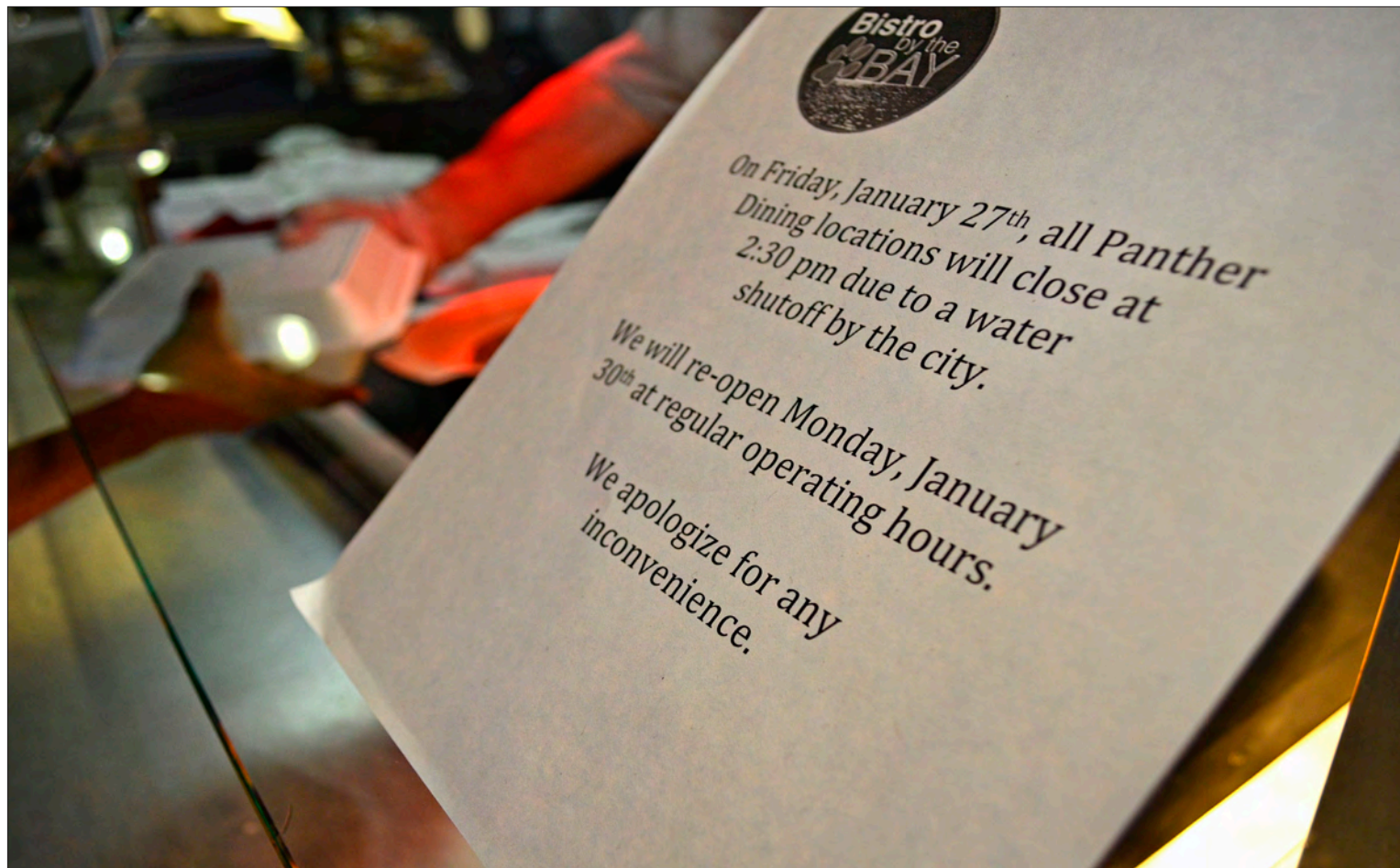
Water meters resemble the odometer of a car, and are composed of three parts; the sweep hand, flow indicator, and most importantly the register, which reveals, in cubic feet, how much water is being consumed.

According to Nicholas DiCiaccio, Senior Director of Facilities at BBC, water meters can last up to 25 years, but must be replaced immediately when they become defective or stop working.

He believes that the last water meter was installed at FIU 15 years ago, and that the replacement is necessary as the meter has not been functioning for the past two weeks.

The replacement is not only vital in terms of correctly monitoring water use, but the register on the meter can reveal a leak or other problem, which could result in many gallons of wasted and unaccounted for water.

DiCiaccio estimates that BBC's monthly water consumption is, on



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The cafeteria will be closing at 2:30p.m. due to the replacement of the water meter. Students who get hungry after 2:30 p.m. will have to turn to the vending machines or they might be forced to eat off campus. The cafeteria will re-open on Monday, Jan. 30 at its regular operating hours. BBC's monthly water consumption is, on average 1,351,000 gallons. The coordinator for operations and maintenance services understands the inconvenience and assures that the job will be done as quickly as possible.

average, 1,351,000 gallons of water, which costs them \$3,500 per month.

The replacement of the defective meter will be done by officials from the City of North Miami, and DiCiaccio assures hungry students and faculty that the job will be done as fast as possible and take around 40 minutes to replace the meter.

The water however, will have to be shut off for an hour, which is why the

cafeteria will need to close.

While FIU has experienced issues with water and other utilities, particularly in MMC, the difficulty in closing the cafeteria and scheduling an appointment is what caused the replacement of the meter to be postponed for the past two weeks.

Assistant Food Service Director Lorvin Ramirez, reveals that although cafeteria employees will

have two hours taken off their salary, he understands the necessity of the replacement.

"Fridays are slow anyway. They wanted to do it during the week, but because of the high volume of customers we were able to push it to Friday," Ramirez said.

Matthew Mielke, the Coordinator for Operations and Maintenance Services, stated that "Friday after 2:30

p.m. is the time we worked out with the representatives from the City of North Miami for their meter swap. The water shutoff should last less than an hour."

He understands the inconvenience and promises that the job will be done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

"The intent is to have minimal disruption to food service in the Cafeteria and to other activities in Wolfe University Center," Mielke said.

## PORTERHOUSE BLUES



BARBARA DUARTE CORBELLINI/THE BEACON

Scott Porter played in Wolfe University Center Panther Square on Jan. 24 at 12 p.m. presented by Student Programming Council

## SCHOLARSHIPS

# Seven students to be awarded at Jose Marti's annual birthday celebration

NADRA MABROUK

Asst. News Director

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The line, "I cultivate neither nettles nor thorns, I cultivate a white rose," from one of Jose Marti's poems titled "I Cultivate a White Rose" represents the ideals of Marti, a leader of the Cuban independence movement from Spain, a poet and a journalist.

On Saturday Jan. 28, the 12th annual Jose Marti birthday celebration and scholarship awards distribution will take place between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center ballroom.

Reservations are required and the celebration is free. It will include a brunch of rice and beans, plantains, salad and a pig, to be the main dish, donated by Frank Peña, from the board

of directors of the FIU Alumni Association. A performance will be made by the David Lawrence Upper Academy Spanish-Music Showcase. They will read poetry about Marti, sing and play instruments.

According to Jan Solomon, development officer at the Office of the Vice Provost, all the money they receive from donations goes to the University-wide Jose Marti scholarship.

The scholarship is merit based upon an application, an essay written and based upon the student's academic performance with a grade point average of a 3.0 or higher. From BBC, the two scholarship recipients are Nadia Bryham and Santiago Cardona. From the Modesto Maidique Campus, the five recipients of the Badia Spices Jose Marti Scholarship are Joseph Montes De Oca, Juan Brizuela, Ashley

Diaz, Ivan Jimenez, and Azael Sarmiento.

The amount of the scholarship given to each student may change every year, according to Solomon. It depends upon the amount of donations received. The amount each student may receive ranges from \$250 to \$500.

Solomon expects around 150 to 200 people to show up. Among the people present will be Steven Moll, BBC vice provost, and Raul Moncarz, vice provost emeritus.

Guest speakers are still being finalized for the event. Marti dedicated his life to Cuban Independence and believed in the ideals of freedom, good will and love.

"We want students to look to Marti as a role model for freedom of speech, human rights and self expression," Solomon said.