

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Serenity Room provides students with an escape

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In GC 343, the silence is deafening.

The noise, music and conversation from the first floor of the University's Graham Center fails to reach the corner room on the third floor – and students like it that way.

The Serenity Room, which opened to students, faculty and staff on Jan. 9, is a room designated for those who wish to unwind in a quiet environment.

Its uses include meditation and prayer, which for many Muslim students is an essential part of their everyday routine.

"To be a Muslim, you must complete five daily prayers and they have to be at certain times. We need to have quiet, clean environment, free from distractions," said Sarah Usman, the previous president of the Muslim Student Association, who mentioned that she use to pray in



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Sophomore English and Creative Writing major Sayem Huq prays in the Serenity Room in GC 343.

the stairwells and between bookshelves in the Green Library.

The room comes equipped with wall panels to separate the space for each student.

bring their own floor mats, things such as incense, candles and music are prohibited.

"The idea has a lot of merit since it's going to hit home with a lot of international students and even just random students who lean towards that path of tranquility and meditation," said Sanjeev Udhani, vice president of Student Government Association at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

As a pilot program for the University community, the space is open for use 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Everything that's being done now is to garner support for the Serenity Room because we want to show administration [the results] in numbers and how we're going to measure that data is by having a pilot project," he said.

Udhani, who was behind the establishment of the room, said he had been hearing student concern over having a separate,

SEE ROOM, PAGE 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Former BOT leader named chairman Emeritus

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Former Board of Trustees Leader, Albert E. Dotson has been given the opportunity of retaining his professional relationship with the University whilst relinquishing most if not all responsibilities, and named senior chairman Emeritus.

Dotson has been working with the University for three decades, most recently acquiring the title of Board of Trustees Chairman in 2009.

Upon approval of Dotson's emer-

itus status, Albert Maury, who is the current BOT chairman said that Dotson "bleeds blue and gold."

"I am humbled that the trustees elected to honor me in this fashion," Dotson said in a press release. "I will always be a Panther at heart, and I will continue working to help the finest institution in the Universe reach its fullest potential."

Dotson began his service with the Board of Trustees in 2001. Before then he had worked on the FIU Foundation Board from 1983 to 2001.

Dotson was a part of the BOT Presidential Search Committee that ultimately appointed current presi-

dent, Mark Rosenberg, as the University fifth president.

Prior, he worked on the presidential search committee in 1986 that appointed President Emeritus Modesto Maidique.

Dotson has worked as the chairman and CEO of several business enterprises, and now works as a business consultant.

He is also an active member of the community, now serving as chairman of the FIU Athletics Finance Corporation Board of Directors, the boards of the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, the Orange Bowl Committee, Santa Fe HealthCare



Albert E. Dotson
Former Board of Trustees Chair

and the Salvation Army.

He has also participated on the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, served at Baptist Health and on the

board of Barry University.

He received a Ph.D from Trinity Southern University in Dallas and an honorary doctorate from Barry University.

"I will always be a Panther at heart, and I will continue working to help the finest institution in the Universe reach its fullest potential."

SEE CYBER BULLYING, PAGE 2

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Online harassment still present in student life

DIANA MARTI AND TIFFANY HUERTAS
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University student, Christian Rodriguez, remembers the first day he faced cyber bullying.

When Rodriguez was in eighth grade, he was hiding a big secret from his family and friends -

a secret that could potentially break friendships and expose his real self.

He was gay.

One day after school, he confided in his best friend, Jose Pereda.

"He wasn't very accepting of it," Rodriguez said. "He had a lot of issues with it."

This eventually led to Pereda ignoring Rodriguez the rest of the year.

Months had passed when Rodriguez decided to log on Yahoo! Messenger, an instant messaging site. What he found was quite surprising.

"He called me a faggot and all these derogatory names," Rodriguez said. "It was a very difficult moment that I had with him and cyber bullying."

Rodriguez got over it and has since joined Delta Lambda Phi at FIU, the nation's first

fraternity for gay men.

"I now help other brothers of mine in the fraternity with bullying issues," he said.

Cyber bullying and stalking affect 99 percent of people over 18, according to the national halt online abuse research of 2011, but it can also happen at a very young age.

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Jan. 13 issue for a preview on the women's basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 14 against Louisiana-Lafayette.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Fla. economists won't predict casino impact

Florida state economists are saying they can't figure out how much money three new casinos could mean for the Sunshine State.

Two lawmakers have filed bills seeking the Florida's Legislature's approval for massive casinos, most likely in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The initial measure would require each casino developer to spend at least \$2 billion.

Economists have been struggling to figure out how much state and local tax dollars would go up if the bill passed.

At a panel meeting Friday, officials decided that while mega-casinos could yield as much as \$456 million over the next five years there are too many questions about whether the schedule outlined in the proposed legislation could actually be met.

Economists say any delays in construction or permitting could render the estimates wrong.

NATIONAL

Flow of money from US to Somalia faces disruption

Tens of thousands of Somalis living in Minnesota might be forced to find another way to send money to relatives in their homeland after a bank that handles the majority of the community's wire transfers said it was halting the service amid fears some funds could go to terrorists.

Sunrise Community Banks plans to close its accounts with several Somali money transfer businesses after determining it could be at risk of violating government rules intended to clamp down on terror financing.

WORLD

UN climate talks on edge heading into final hours

The United States, China and India could scuttle attempts to save the only treaty governing global warming, Europe's top negotiator said Friday hours before a 194-nation U.N. climate conference was to close.

After two weeks of negotiations, talks went through the night Thursday with delegates struggling to keep Durban from becoming the graveyard of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

"If there is no further movement from what I have seen until 4 o'clock this morning, then I must say I don't think that there will be a deal in Durban," said Connie Hedegaard, the European commissioner for climate action.

—Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Experts say internet bullying affects person's trust levels, self-esteem

CYBER BULLYING, PAGE 1

"I was bullied in middle school," said University student, Marissa Gold.

Gold said it has left her with big scars. She now faces anxiety issues.

Specialist in mental health, Lauren Struck at a Coral Gables counseling center, deals with cyber bullying patients on a daily basis.

Struck said cyber bullying can affect people in a number of ways.

"It can affect the way they form attachments, their trust levels with other people, their ability to extrovert and share things with other people and just the risks that they're willing to take in life," she said. "They may feel stunted or hesitant, where

they wouldn't have otherwise."

Struck said this may also affect self-esteem and the ability to make friendships.

"I think the next step after the child has been bullied is to get them help. Whether it's through a therapist or just having a good level of discussion," Struck said. "The longer parents or guardians wait, the worse it's going to get."

The cyber bullying statute in Miami-Dade County was passed on April 30, 2008.

"Cyber bullying is a statute that was enacted in order for the school board to deal with children or students who are being either bullied or harassed via Internet, school, hazing, etc." said Detec-

tive Roland Garcia.

He said that it is important that parents be involved with their child.

"The parents are reporting the incidents, not the students," said the Miami-Dade detective adding that the more involved the parents are, the more likely their child is to open up to them.

Struck agrees.

"They need to talk to their child about what affected them emotionally and socially, and start addressing those issues right away," she said.

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Professor Teresa Ponte in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

All faiths and practices welcome

ROOM, PAGE 1

quiet area since summer 2011.

While the space was originally going to be open starting Nov. 2011 to Jan. 2012, by the time it was approved by the Student Affairs department, "it was already finals time."

Funding to provide the room with panels and other adjustments, cost around \$150 total, according to Udhmani.

The money was provided through SGA discretionary funds.

"We're doing this in the hopes that those who want to observe their faith, meditate, or even just sit and relax," said Udhmani. "It's a serene, quiet room that students can go to escape the loud hustle and bustle of GC and have

their own little corner."

With a small corner that is anticipated to bring followers of many different religions, SGC-MMC held focus groups during the fall semester to brainstorm any kind of conflicts and scenarios that might come up in the serenity room.

In 2008, University of South Florida incorporated their serenity

room into the design of the 233,000-square-foot, Marshall Student Center to give the institution's 39,000 students "an oasis in the desert, a harbor in the storm of hectic campus life."

The University also hopes to do the same by including the idea in the future GC expansion plans.

"It hasn't been approved

or funded yet, but this is definitely something of interest that we would want to dedicate some space to," said Carlos Carrasco, senior director of business finance and building operations at GC.

Depending on the results of the pilot program, rooms may also be opened at the Biscayne Bay Campus and Engineering Campus.



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

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers set for revenge against MTSU



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Phil Taylor [left] is third in the Sun Belt Conference in scoring through 15 games with 14.6 points per game.

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The last time the Golden Panthers squared-off against Middle Tennessee, on Dec. 29, they were breaking in a new lineup in the frontcourt while adjusting their play from the guard positions. Although FIU out-shot the Blue Raiders from the field, the Golden Panthers were unable to secure the win.

On Jan. 12, FIU (4-11, 1-2 SBC) got its second opportunity against the Sun Belt Conference's best team; this time at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

INCONSISTENT PLAY

Head coach Isiah Thomas was not pleased with the effort shown in his team's 54-50 defeat to last place Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 7.

"Our [players] just got to learn that there is one way to play," Thomas said.

One of the issues that have plagued the Panthers this season has been the inconsistent play from the guard position.

"We kept settling for

the three [pointers], we kept shooting long shots," Thomas said.

The frontcourt of Dominique Ferguson, Brandon Moore, Gilles Dierickx and Joey De La Rosa has struggled to make a consistent impact for the Panthers on both sides of the floor. In their last game against ULM, FIU had a tough time establishing the front court offensively.

"We did not have enough patience to move the ball and put it inside," coach Thomas said. "Our size and our height is our advantage. We have to play inside-out."

The Panthers have been out-rebounded in their last eight contests.

DEFENSIVE STALWARTS

The one constant that the Panthers have had during conference play is its defense. The implementation of the 2-3 zone defense has been the foundation for the Golden Panthers this season. Through the first three games in Sun Belt Conference play, the Panthers are in the top five in blocked shots, defensive field goal percentage and

three-point percentage. In all three conference games this season, the Panthers have held their opponents under 40 percent shooting from the field.

CONFERENCE BEST

Middle Tennessee (13-2, 4-0 SBC) enters the matchup against FIU on a seven-game winning streak after defeating Louisiana-Lafayette 65-53. Guards Marcos Knight and Raymond Cintron will provide an outside shooting threat for MTSU.

In the last meeting against FIU, the front line of forwards JT Sulton, LaRon Dendy and Shawn Jones matched the physicality of the Panthers front line. The trio combined to tally 43 of the Blue Raiders' 71 points in the win.

The physical play also cost the Panthers, as Middle Tennessee shot 42 free-throws, causing most of FIU's big men to be in foul trouble throughout the game. Entering the matchup with the Blue Raiders, the Panthers will need to solidify its deficiencies on both ends of the floor.

"It just starts in prac-

lice," Phil Taylor said. "We have to keep improving and take our practices into the games."

WRIGHT OUT

For the sixth consecutive contest, the Panthers will be without senior guard DeJuan Wright against Middle Tennessee due to a leg injury.

The Panthers have dropped four out of their last five games without the senior guard from Detroit.

SUN BELT STANDINGS

EAST	Sun Belt	Overall
MTSU	4-0	15-2
FIU	1-2	4-11
FAU	1-2	5-11
TROY	1-3	6-9
WKU	1-3	5-12
USA	0-3	8-6
WEST		
UALR	3-0	6-11
DU	3-1	13-3
ASU	2-1	8-9
ULL	2-1	8-9
UNT	2-2	9-8
ULM	1-3	2-11

*Through January 9, 2012

Thomas' team still struggling

In Isiah Thomas' third season as head coach of the men's basketball team, things haven't exactly gone as planned. With a record of 23-60 through two and a half seasons, it's clear that something isn't working.

COMMENTARY



JACKSON WOLEK

Their loss to Louisiana-Monroe, who came in with a record of 1-15 prior to the game, exemplified everything that Thomas has had to deal with in his short tenure so far as a Panther. His team has been playing down to their opponent's level. "Not taking away from ULM, but we have a habit of playing to the level of our competition," said sophomore guard Phil Taylor. "If we cut that out and we jump on people from the beginning, we won't have these problems throughout the end of the game."

The team's leading scorer DeJuan Wright, who injured his leg in the first half at Maryland on Dec. 14 and has failed to return since, can't be used as an excuse to the team's stagnant offense in their last game. They scored just 50 points and shot 32 percent from the field.

Just one week ago the Panthers were able to put up 81 points in the victory at Western Kentucky without him. Even though the offense has struggled to find that go-to player who can constantly give you double digit points, they shouldn't have to. One of the big advantages FIU will have against most teams in the Sun Belt is size. Thomas finally has a team this year that is not extremely guard-heavy. Now that he has the size, Thomas must find a way for these big men to produce in the paint. They have four players that are 6-9 and taller, but none of them are averaging double digits in any statistical category.

Despite the size, sophomore Dominique Ferguson is the only big man to have significant playing time, since Brandon Moore was out for 11 games and newcomer Joey De La Rosa was out for a dozen. Gilles Dierickx is only a freshman and averages just 15 minutes per game. "We have size and we didn't use it to our advantage tonight," Thomas said after their 54-50 defeat to ULM. "We practice everyday putting the ball inside, our size and our height is our advantage and we got to play inside-out, not outside-in."

For the rest of the season, the only other team that FIU faces who has at least two players 6'10" or taller is UALR on Feb. 16. Once Moore and De La Rosa get more acclimated to the offense, an improvement should be seen in time for the conference tournament. No longer can Thomas try to rely on Ferguson being a force down low. If they want to stand a chance in the tournament, Ferguson must be moved to his natural position of playing outside on offense, rather than force him to try and go inside. Although offensively the size isn't being used, defensively, FIU has allowed less than 80 points in a game the entire season. The 2-3 zone defense makes it hard for any team to get inside. Also, their length creates difficult shots for opponents.

What it all boils down to is not being consistent. FIU has not won back-to-back games yet this year. If they can play the way they did against George Mason when they completed arguably the biggest upset in FIU basketball history, or even when they traveled to Maryland and lost by just four respectable points, then a loss like the one against ULM would have never happened. "At Middle [Tennessee] it's a five-point basketball game, then we go to Western Kentucky and it's an 18-20 point win," said Thomas. "And then we come home and... well maybe we should stay on the road. We'll keep working with the guys and try to get them better."

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL
UPCOMING GAMES**



JAN. 12
MTSU
7:30 p.m.
THU



JAN. 14
UL
8:15 p.m.
SAT



JAN. 19
USA
8:05 p.m.
THU



JAN. 21
FAU
2 p.m.
SAT



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU looks to extend win streak against Blue Raiders

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There are two teams in the Sun Belt that nobody wants to see right now: the FIU Panthers (11-5, 1-2 SBC) and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (12-5, 4-0 SBC).

Both teams are riding winning streaks, FIU with a four game and Middle Tennessee with a six game. One of those will come to an end when the two teams meet at U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 12.

The Panthers will have to find a way to contain Forward Ebony Rowe of the Blue Raiders. Rowe comes into this game averaging a double-double, with 16.7 points per game and 10 rebounds per game.

In their last game, the Blue Raiders trounced the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns 104-53, where five different players reached double digit scoring.

Heading into this game, the Panthers are on a roll of their own. In fact, the last loss the Panthers suffered

was against the same Blue Raiders 58-53 on Dec. 21 in Murfreesboro.

In the last meeting, Jerica Coley was held to only 17 points and five assists, just making 7-18 shots from the floor. Other than Fanni Hutlassa (13) and Finda Mansare (13), no other Panther could even reach six points.

The key will be on how well Mansare can matchup against Rowe in the paint. In their last meeting, Rowe was dominant inside, grabbing 13 rebounds and scoring 15 points.

The offense has been run through Coley, then dishing it off to Hutlassa as she tries to find open space.

If Coley cannot find open space, then Hutlassa will either shoot or try and get it down low to Mansare for points in the paint.

As of late, Mansare's role in the offense is scoring in double digits in five of the past six contests.

HOLY COLEY

Coley heads into this game coming off her best performance of the year,

where she went for a career-high 36 points against ULM on Jan. 7. For her performance, she was awarded the Sun Belt player of the week recognition.

She is the third leading scorer in the nation, averaging 24.9 points per game. Not only has her scoring been off the charts, but she also has 7.5 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game, making her top 20 in the nation.

Head coach Cindy Russo simply stated how great of an athlete Coley is.

"Jerica is everybody's game plan," Russo said. "We really need to execute our offense so that we can get her the ball back. She has to be everybody's game plan, she attracts a committee to stop her."

BY THE NUMBERS

36 Points scored by Jerica Coley against Louisiana Monroe Jan. 7. It was a career high for the sophomore and led to a Sun Belt Conference Player of the week award.

399 Total points scored this season by Jerica Coley. She leads the nation in total points and ranks second in points per game, only behind Elena Delle Donne of Delaware.

SWIMMING & DIVING

With three meets to go, Panthers focus on CCSU

SWIM, PAGE 8

with a score of 312.08.

A LOOK AHEAD

FIU will now put their focus on the last three meets of the season before the SBC tournament, including the final home meet of the season against Central Connecticut State on Jan. 14 at 12 p.m. There is a bit of a revenge factor coming into this meet.

"It's a team that beat us last year so we want to finish at home with a win and take that confidence to the next level," Horner said.

The last meet that CCSU competed in was at the USA Winter Nationals at Georgia Tech on Dec. 1-3. The focus for the team is preparing for the Sun Belt championship.

"Doing the little things right, working our turns, our starts and our finishes," Horner said. "Just racing properly and not taking anything for granted. That's the biggest key right now."

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ELECTIONS 2012

ROCK THE VOTE

Students expected to break voting records this year

ELIZABETH FUNES
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College students all over America took a well-needed study break and showed up in unprecedented numbers for the 2008 presidential elections.

It is estimated between 22 to 24 million young people, age 18 to 29, flooded the polls to cement their vote for the next head of state, according to CIRCLE, a nonpartisan center dedicated to civic research. That is over two million more than in 2004.

In fact, amid the high number of young American voters, those with at least some college education are among the most represented voters. Four years later, and riding on the heels of 2008's considerable turnout, we stand to find out whether our generation will continue to rock the vote, or on the contrary, if Generation Y will become the generation that did not show up.

"I plan on keeping myself informed on the elections and news," said Gracie Aguero, a senior political science major.

Aguero, who was under voting age in 2008, said that she made it a point to keep herself in the loop with the elections and will continue to do so. Some college students have also taken a hands-on approach and provided the backbone to many presidential campaigns in recent years.

"I'm currently volunteering with the Newt Gingrich 2012 campaign," said Daniel O'Quinn, a business management and political science major. "I think it's pretty safe to say that I will become even more involved. With the

help of other students from universities such as Barry and Florida Atlantic, these elections will prove to be the most pivotal in American history."

In our plugged-in digital world, young people are finding themselves increasingly connected to today's political issues. In 2008, youth voters said the economy was their top pick as the most important political issue. Eliana Jimenez, a sophomore majoring in journalism, said the economy remains her biggest concern.

"It truly is hitting people

hard, including myself, and it's definitely affecting college students because less and less students can afford to go to school," she said. On the other hand, for O'Quinn, the upcoming elections will center themselves on maintaining a country with a distinct moral compass.

"I'd enjoy seeing the next president reverse Roe v. Wade. We have the right to life, which is being utterly misrepresented, as abortions have been far too numerous. We've deleted a complete generation of people that could've been,"

he said, regarding the heated debate on abortion. Others say a lackluster job market will push our young constituents to the polls.

"We want to live the dream of having a well-paying job, owning a home and being able to have some luxuries. And when we grow old, we want to be sure that there is social security for all of us," said Olga Urbina, a health service administration major. "Job security is very important; one of the biggest fears for a college

SEE VOTE, PAGE 6

ART BEAT

Frost museum earns highest accreditation

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While the Metropolitan Museum of Art has historical interiors of the Van Rensselaer House and the American Museum of Natural History has irreplaceable artifacts, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum caters to its community and university through photographs, paintings and sculptures of the 20th century, and are recognized for it.

Accreditation is the achievement that takes a museum to a higher nationally recognized standard.

Awarded by the American Association of Museums, the Frost Art Museum has succeeded beyond to gain this high recognition.

Just 4.5 percent of the approximated 17,500 museums nationwide are actually accredited.

Initially accredited in 1999, The Frost Art Museum has

received this recognition once again and is also one of the 50 recognized museums in Florida.

"With the opening of the new building and reaccreditation dovetailing, a number of essential documents and policies and procedures were updated. This puts [us] in [the] best possible position to continue serving our community as a World's Ahead museum of excellence," said Carol Damian, director and chief curator of The Frost Art Museum.

Accreditation is given to those museums that apply for it and surpass a rigorous amount of requirements.

The mandatory accreditation process requires a thorough year-long self-study of all the museum's operations, such as financial governance, collections stewardship, public programs and community engagement.

The second step is the site visit conducted by one of AAM's outside peer reviewers.

The final decision is granted based upon these two reports by the accreditation commissioner, such as Dewey Blanton, director and spokesman of AAM.

"Accreditation looks at all aspects of the museum's operation, from soup to nuts," said Blanton. "It takes 2 to 3 years to go through the whole thing."

The goal of AAM is to promote the proper practices in educated decisions, contain resources and sustain itself financially and fairly.

"[Accreditation] validates our

SEE FROST, PAGE 6

RADIATE REVIEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WALKINGWALLOFWORDS.COM

Neutral Milk Hotel released an affordable box set that includes all their works with new, unreleased material.

Box set lets fans feel nostalgic

Not all bands shine in the same way.

Although this small independent group may not sell out stadiums, Neutral Milk Hotel does not fail to please its loyal fans.

After the massive success and acclaim generated by their second album "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea," and an abrupt breakup thereafter, fans have always hungered for more material from the

band, perhaps hoping for Jeff Mangum to reunite the group and record new material, in a nostalgic urge to see the indie stars of yesteryear on the spotlight once more, much like the other indie darlings such as the Pixies and Pavement have done in past years.

This lingering hope, in turn, generates the opportunity for increased revenue for the bands, expanding their audience towards a younger demographic and repackaging material — or as record labels often take advantage of their

rights over the catalogs, creating "best of" records, many of which, in my opinion, fail miserably with the track selection and "bonus material" (I am looking at you, Capitol Records, for your Radiohead "best of" CD), oftentimes turning the potential of a great opportunity to complete one's music collection or discover lesser-known tracks into nothing more than a money grubbing scheme.

Yet, this is the price the consumer often pays for devotion towards a group, an expensive

purchase that makes one feel closer to our favorite artists, regardless of cost.

The Pixies' Minotaur box set, at a whopping \$495, provides an immense amount of art, albums in different formats and notes, yet neglects the reason for its existence in the first place: the music.

Neutral Milk Hotel's approach contrasts that, providing not only its two major releases ("On Avery Island" and "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea") in vinyl LPs, but

SEE HOTEL, PAGE 6

“What this means is that the Frost Museum is one of the best museums in the world.”

Dewey Blanton
Director and Spokesperson,
American Association of Museums

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@Beyonce_Knowle: Officially Blue Ivy Carter for those asking. A whole world awaits you :) -Singer Beyonce Knowles on the birth of her daughter

Student turnout in 2012 will “make up a significant 1/4 of the electorate”

VOTE, PAGE 5

student is graduating and not having a job.”

Being on the brink of entering what some would call the real world seems to be pushing college students and recent graduates to secure their futures in the polls, while supporting a variety of issues.

“We are the immediate future of the U.S. As we step out on to the real

world, we will be automatically placed with the deficits of the past years. The decisions made by the winning candidates will have a great influence on how our adult lives will commence,” said Urbina.

A little over half of all eligible voters under the age of 30 rallied for the previous presidential election.

According to Rock the Vote, an organization dedi-

cated to building the political power of the millennial generation by engaging the youngest set, young people will make up a significant 1/4 of the entire electorate in the upcoming presidential race, making this demographic a potentially powerful bunch. “I think the young vote will be very important continuing into 2012,” said Jimenez. “That said, as important as our votes are, most people our

age will probably choose not to vote because they are either not familiar with the candidates or they simply don’t care enough to vote.”

Whether or not this is true remains to be seen in the coming year. As the November elections approach, only time will tell if we will continue to see an increase in political interest from the youngest electorate voters.

Frost “up there” with MET, Getty

FROST, PAGE 5

work in knowing that we uphold and maintain the standards and best practices of the profession.

It feels rewarding for all of us to be recognized for our continued hard work,” said Damian.

Being recognized by the AAM’s standard also has its perks considering that it can be a prerequisite for loans from other museums funding from certain foundations and local or state governments.

“There are many foundations of philanthropy who will only give finan-

cial grants to accredited museums. To be eligible for state funding, [museums in Florida] have to be

accredited by AAM,” said Blanton.

Being accredited shows that a museum is significantly supe-

rior of the standards and have the best practices in the field.

“The Frost

Museum took it upon itself to see how it measures up to the higher standards and elite museums in the country, and it not only measured up, but excelled,” said Blanton.

“What this means,” continued Blanton, “is that The Frost Museum is one of the best museums in the country. It’s on the same car as The Metropolitan Museum in New York, The Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and The American Museum of Natural History in New York. It’s right up there with them.”



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

The Frost [above] staff feels very rewarded by the recent accreditation.

Indie band will put new material at pay-what-you-want price structure

HOTEL, PAGE 5

also includes five new records of previously unreleased material in 7” and 10” formats, along with posters and notes, creating the most complete collection of material one could possibly ask for. There are no “Live in Concert” Blu-Ray discs to be found here, and the extras are minimal.

The packing, in fact, is in itself rather austere and simple, creating a great focus on the records as the most important aspects of

the box set, and allowing the listener to once more experience the magic this band provided in years past.

The total cost for this collection? \$88, a fraction of many others (Pavement’s individual records’ deluxe editions range at about \$60-80 per record); better yet, all of the newly released material will be available for download under a pay-what-you-want price structure at the group’s Bandcamp page.

Ultimately, Mangum et al created a reasonably

priced alternative to learn all about the band, discover its early material and obtain a better grasp of the evolution of their sound.

While both of the band LPs share certain common traits in their sound, the beauty of discovering the nuances in their second LP, the changes in the themes and lyrics, and much more cohesive sound, becomes a reward in itself, as “In the Aeroplane Over the Sea” was and remains one of the most important and influential indepen-

dent records to be released.

The sheer agony and anguish in the vocals and the raw unfiltered sound of the percussion and guitars set a pattern that is still found in modern alternative music.

While most new bands try and revive the sounds of decades past, Neutral Milk Hotel remains at the forefront of independent music; its sound remaining as crisp and fresh as it was first released, giving fans hope for future generations to have the opportunity to experience it as well.

CLASS DISMISSED

Teacher auditions demand performance

When “classroom performance” is discussed, society often puts students at center stage. Some public school districts now think it is time to put teachers in the spotlight.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

The Washington D.C. school system is implementing an audition component in its search for teachers.

A potential hire must teach a lesson while a 360-degree camera records the reactions of a group of students under their watch.

According to *The Washington Post*, this is part of an initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that hopes to “define ‘measures of effective teaching’” and has since been adopted by the Tampa, Pittsburgh and New York public school systems.

Some critics of this practice argue that this is flawed and fear that good teachers could be thrown out because of “bad” students or subjectivity.

Even though the research on the effectiveness of this component has yet to be seen, I do think that adding teacher auditions to the hiring process is a step in the right direction in improving teacher quality, especially in Miami where low-performing urban schools continue to decline.

In the hiring process for teachers without an audition, the quality of the teacher can only be determined by what

“By watching a potential hire who may be in it for the money or lack the true ability to teach, school districts will avoid putting duds in the classroom.”

is on their résumé, their references and their interviewing skills.

However, by placing a teacher in classroom conditions and watching how, or even if, they are able to effectively engage their students, the hiring officials get a better read of their style.

This, in turn, will ensure teachers are hired based on their actual teaching skills rather than the complimentary praise of their peers.

I also think that requiring teachers to audition would weed out the bad apples. In my experience, I have encountered teachers, new and experienced, that would have never made it past the audition phase due to their apathy toward their job and the lack of professionalism made evident by their incomplete lesson plans and lack of enthusiasm.

By watching a potential hire who may be in it for the money or lack the true ability to teach, school districts will avoid putting duds in the classroom.

I would even suggest that districts place the camera in the classroom at random periods during the school year

so principals can consistently evaluate teachers’ performance throughout their career and help them improve when necessary or terminate teachers who only decline in their classroom performance.

Student performance is directly linked to the teacher. Sure, there are a handful of students who may be careless toward their studies on their own. However, we have a right to hold teachers accountable when they are unqualified for their jobs due to poor teaching skills.

We also have a responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure that it is the quality teachers that make it to the front of the classroom.

By mandating that teachers audition for their jobs, we prompt them to step up their game by providing solid lesson plans and dynamic teaching styles that keep students engaged and learning to the best of their ability.

“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America. Email: jasmyne.elliott@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

The start of the semester calls for student participation

Students can often get caught up in the whirlpool of information that gets thrown their way with the start of the spring semester—the looming graduation dates, the hustle to find open seats in those required courses and the mile-long lines for basic student services.

Yet, amidst all of it, *The Beacon* implores students to focus in on an often overlooked organization that impacts students’ daily affairs, the Student Government Association.

The student body should understand how crucial their awareness and involvement will be in the upcoming months. Students, even those who will not be returning next year, should be aware of the impact that decisions made by the SGA will have upon the 2012-2013 academic year.

Throughout this semester, SGA will hold hearings and deliberations upon requests for funding of organizations and facilities across both campuses. These decisions ultimately lead to how approximately \$11,000,000 will be spent.

Some students might feel like this money has no connection to them, but they would be wrong. These dollars come straight from our wallets, and it is our role as investors in the University to see how this money is spent.

It is imperative that students have an understanding of how our elected student representatives function and the sort of impact we, as a constituency, can have upon the allocation of students’ funds.

The Beacon strongly encourages students to attend their respective Student Government Councils’ meetings, both at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus, to stay up to date with the direction in which these councils are heading.

All SGA meetings, including budget hearings and deliberations, are open to the public and can serve as a forum for all to address their concerns, or for students to just sit in as casual observers. Dates and times are available on sga.fiu.edu and sgabbc.fiu.edu, along with meeting agendas and minutes.

Student involvement and awareness is the only way that a collective University voice can be heard. The easiest way for students to get involved is by participation in SGA elections, which serve to set the pace for the upcoming academic year.

Seeing the importance of SGA elections, *The Beacon*, will commit its self to presenting students with thorough and consistent coverage on not only key election issues, but on all matters of public record pertaining to our student government in order to provide readers with the information necessary to make informed and accurate decisions to the best of their ability.

With the spring semester comes an opportunity for the student body to collectively impact the decisions that shape this University, and it is our job, as a community, to actively engage in the process.

Laptop use should be limited in classroom

JUNETTE REYES
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Students at the University have managed to integrate the use of their laptops into their classroom experience, for better and for worse.

While most laptop-using students appear to be diligent in the classroom while using them to take notes, others wander into the Internet to browse websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and so on.

It is the time and money of those students that is being wasted, but I still find this to be an unruly habit that should cease.

The misuse of laptops can prove to be risky for students since it presents yet one more distraction for them to over-

come in focusing on their studies.

The only action I see fit to solve this problem would be to limit the use of laptops in the classroom. This could be by simply not using a laptop in the classroom unless it is necessary or by somehow integrating their use into the current lesson.

Of course, this would be to the chagrin of most laptop-using students who truly use them for taking notes, but it is not as though using laptops is their only way of doing so.

Before arriving at college, some students, like me, were exposed to the old-fashioned way of taking notes with a pen and paper without ever having to touch a laptop.

Some professors on campus do not even allow laptop use in their classrooms, and yet those

students manage to take notes without them.

Those few students that use class time to check their email on their laptop prove that it is

“As students, we can barely afford to be distracted and especially, of all places, within the classroom.”

very easy for a laptop to become a distraction.

As students, we can barely afford to be distracted, especially, of all places, in the classroom.

As previously mentioned, it

is the time and money of those students being wasted every time they surf the Internet on their laptops during a lecture, but limiting their use in the classroom presents the possibility that those students would take further advantage of their time in the classroom, having one less distraction stopping them from fully appreciating the lesson being taught.

Of course, limiting the use of laptops within the classroom would mean that most students would suffer for the acts of few, but it would also mean that students would be one step closer to achieving their goals of excelling.

It would drive most students into changing their note-taking routines, but if it means making students more attentive to their professors, then so be it.



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SWIMMING AND DIVING

Panthers sweep all 14 events to capture FIU Invitational

RICO ALBARRACIN
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When it comes to sports, there is nothing quite better than a sweep.

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team wrapped up a strong outing by winning all 14 events that they participated in at the FIU Invitational on Jan. 7. FIU defeated the College of St. Rose and Florida Institute of Technology on Saturday afternoon at Biscayne Bay Campus.

FIU, as a team, scored 838 points, while St. Rose scored 600 and FIT scored 247. The victory gave the Golden Panthers their third straight meet victory, all in the span of a week.

"It was a low-key meet for us to finish up the training camp. It was successful in our minds. We swam fast and swam hard," said Randy Horner, coach of the swimming and diving team.

FIU began Saturday's meet by winning the 200 medley relay, with a team of Elly James, Klara Andersson, Melissa Moreno and Kelly Grace, who swam a 1:54.47 for the victory. Kariann Stevens turned out a strong performance for the Golden Panthers, winning four events on her own and winning one as a team. Stevens



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

FIU scored 838 points at the Invitational to defeat the College of St. Rose, who scored 600 points, and Florida Institute of Technology, who scored 247.

won the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:00.29, the 100 breaststroke in 1:12.52, posted a 55.33 time in the 100 freestyle and won the 100 Individual Medley in 1:02.40.

Stevens teamed up with Andersson, Grace and Nadia Farrugia for a time of 1:42.91 and a win in the 200 free relay.

Danielle Meara finished first in the 100 backstroke and the 500 freestyle, with times of 1:02.35 and 5:14.56, respectively. Adding to the win total for the Golden

Panthers on Saturday were Chelsie Kidd with a win in the 50 fly (28.01), Grace cruising in the 50 freestyle (25.45), Farrugia in the 50 backstroke (29.84) and Jean Madison in the 50 breaststroke (33.54).

Sabrina Beaupre, who was named the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Diver of the Year, won the two events she participated in. Beaupre won the 1-meter dive

SEE SWIM, PAGE 4

SOBE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

University's Student Associate Program hosts countdown BBQ

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
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Students will be able to get involved and sign up for the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by Food & Wine Magazine on Jan. 12. The Student Associate Program will host a welcome barbecue, "Reach the Beach: Countdown to the SOBE WFF."

"It's the first week of school, so maybe there are some people that are shy, but when it's a friendly environment like that, it's a lot easier for students to get to know each other, to get to know us and register for the festival," said Vanessa Rajnish, senior, hospitality major and Student Associate Program apprentice.

The FIU Student Associate Program is an initiative designed to present FIU hospitality management students with the opportunity to network with professionals within the International Hospitality Industry, according to the event website.

The welcome back barbecue has happened in previous years; however, this is the first time it is primarily involved with SOBE WFF.

"We invited the event managers from the festival to come down, a lot of the key players that put together the festival will be there, so it's a great opportunity to get face time with people that are going to be in South Beach, that are going to be mentoring you," said Richard Joseph Lopez, MBA graduate student and Student Associate Program manager.

The event will have exclusive catering, barbecue, raffles and giveaways. According to Lopez, they're expecting to receive 500 to 700 people.

Students are encouraged to register and participate in the SOBE WFF. Among the 3,000 positions available are culinary, front of the house, back of the house, inventory, press and media.

"It's something special that FIU has," Lopez said. "If everybody would get involved with it, they can see what excellent opportunities they have to round out their academic experience because it will give them opportunity to get some solid industry experience from seeing a huge large skill event unfold right on the center of South Beach."

The SOBE WFF will

occur from Feb. 23 to 26. The deadline to register for positions is Jan. 25. Students can sign up at the Student Associate Program Office, located in the Hospitality and Management building, room 249.

Even though priority is given to the hospitality students, the opportunity is open to all majors.

"So many students have gotten jobs out of the festival, so it's a really great place for connections," said Rajnish.

The welcome barbecue will take place on the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Patio.

"It's great for us to talk to them and see in what they are interested in, so we can best match them with something that they would like to do and enjoy it," said Rajnish.

SOCIAL WORK

TLC Brigade gives a helping hand to at need faculty and staff

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
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There will always be tough times, according to Jose Miranda, clinician at the office of employment assistance, while explaining one of the services that the Tender Loving Care Brigade provides.

In the fall of 2009, Raul Moncarz, professor in the Department of Finance and Real Estate and former vice provost of Biscayne Bay Campus, and FIU First Lady Rosalie Rosenberg created the TLC Brigade.

Among the services offered by the Brigade is the expression of sympathy and support to people who are going through unfortunate situations or emergencies, such as losing a member from their immediate family, going through a surgery or delicate medical situations.

"I think, unfortunately, the thing that happens most often is that FIU staff loses a member of their close family," said Julissa Castellanos, member of the TLC Brigade committee.

"That's what we most often find ourselves doing: extending our condolences for the loss of our locals."

In situations like this, the group also helps to notify people about the incident, and provides valuable information for the family that suffered the loss.

"[There was one case that] the TLC Brigade brightened the day of a staff member facing a terminal illness [by providing] them with an autographed DVD of one of their favorite artists, Andrea Bocelli," said Trudy Fernandez, director of Human Resources and TLC Brigade Coordinator.

"On behalf of the TLC Brigade, a request was made to the artist and an autographed DVD was received straight from Italy to be enjoyed by the staff while they rested in hospice. The smiles and feelings of elation exhibited by the staff member were priceless."

In addition, the brigade organizes diverse workshops, such as giving information for parenting and work-less management.

"The beauty of our work is that we make a difference in letting others know that the university cares about their well-being," Fernandez said. "It is our emotional ecosystem that compels us to demonstrate love and compassion for each other."

The TLC Brigade does not provide financial support, but the committee works to find alternative ways to facilitate the difficulty of emergencies and special

circumstances.

Fernandez tells a story of a family that asked for financial support for burial services.

"We were able to assist the family by leveraging 'the assignment of benefit' feature in the staff member's life insurance policy. Basically, instead of the family having to pay the funeral home approximately \$8,000 to hold services for their loved one, the family only had to pay \$400."

The group collects specific items, such as furniture and basic objects for newborn children, and a food bank receives donations of

"The beauty of our work is that we make a difference in letting others know that the University about their well-being."

non-perishables.

"We had a year when a family lost their home due to fire, and so we provided food for them," Miranda said.

Most of the time, people use the bank as a one-time occurrence.

Yet Miranda stresses that if people do need ongoing help with food, then the Brigade will provide resources from food banks and food drives.

Although the food bank is for FIU faculty, staff and retirees, in cases of emergency, students may also receive help through the student's council.

Donations are accepted throughout the year. During the holiday period, the donations exceeded the expectations.

"We tried our best to spread the word out there and ask people to donate food, and they were very, very generous for the holidays," Miranda said.

"We received tons of donations from other employees wanting to help other fellow employee."

According to Fernandez, in its two years of existence, the TLC Brigade, lead by chair Raul Moncarz and co-chair Rosenberg, helped more than 500 people, including victims of natural disasters in Haiti, Chile, China and Japan.

"[TLC Brigade] is one little thing that at least we can do for each other," Miranda said.