

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Florida Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart was met by some opposition from students, including Occupy FIU protestors, at his Nov. 28 lecture.

## STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

# Board of Governors approves state-wide “Strategic Plan”

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
News Director

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Governors of the State University System approved new or updated components and a set of performance indicators for the 11 state universities called the “Board of Governors’ Strategic Plan for the State University of Florida: 2012-2025.”

The benchmarks, according to a press release from the SUS, will revolve around three key themes: excellence, productivity and strategic priorities for a knowledge economy. The BoG’s strategic planning committee identified the components and indicators for the 13-year period after a special workshop in January 2011. The current strategic plan which started in 2005 will last through 2013.

The committee’s new plan aims at increasing degree production at all levels but especially for minorities and the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

The committee also wants to increase the SUS’s “nationally competitive standing” gained in several areas, particularly research and development spending, and tied in commercialization opportunities.

“The work product of this committee during the past 18 months – with all of the research, vetting and data review from across the nation – is nothing short of extraordinary,” said Chairman of the planning committee Frank T. Martin. “It is also good public policy direction for the future of our public universities, providing us with new or amended performance indicators that we will monitor closely.”

Input from the public, the state legislature and governmental policy staff played a major role in the development of the changed set of performance indicators, according to the press release. It also said input from the SUS’ stakeholders will be important when coming up with tracking systems for new data streams needed to come up

with any additions or changes for the “dashboard” in the 2012 annual report.

The 2010 annual report is available on the SUS website but the 2011 report has yet to be released. The BoG will release the 2011 annual report on Jan. 18 and 19, 2012 and Ava L. Parker, chairwoman of the BoG, will present it.

Some of the new goals and increased outcomes for the strategic plan are as follows:

Increase the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded each year from 53,000 to 90,000.

All universities in the state system will have Carnegie’s Community Engagement Classification.

Increase the number of freshmen in the SUS who were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating from 28 percent to 59 percent.

Currently seven of the 11 universities, including FIU, have the certification, which is a national indicator of a public

SUS, page 2

# Behind the names, students learn about culture

**TIFFANY HUERTAS**  
Contributing Writer

At the University, the game is in the name.

Indeed, all across the University, students, professors and staff are finding unique ways to link a rich reservoir of individual names to nationalities, regions, culture and ancestry.

In some countries, people have only one name – also called a mononym – and in other countries people have more than three names.

But the mix of cultures in the American family has changed dramatically in how the letters of the last name indicate the family to which they belong. To fathom that change and the universality of family names, consider the U.S. Census Bureau which now lists Rodriguez as one of

the 10 most popular last names in America.

University professors try to embrace different last names in many unique ways.

Magdad Noveli Pearson, Italian instructor in the Department of Modern Languages, focuses on teaching students about not only the history of Italy, but also the history of last names.

“The first day of class I give my students Italian first names. I asked them to choose, and if they don’t know any, I write a lot of names on the board,” Pearson said. “For the whole semester, it sticks with them.”

Pearson’s passion and consistency has had a positive outcome.

“At the beginning it’s awkward and they smile and laugh, but then after a while they love their

name,” she said. “If I call them by their real name, they get upset.”

Students are given names ending in “e” – like Alceste, Alice, Matilde or Clemente.

the Hany Shuiping Kaoshi test, which is required for university scholarships and employment decisions for foreign nationals in China.

University lecturer Yunjuan He said culture

proud of being Chinese.”

He also gives students a Chinese last name at the beginning of class.

“I will translate their last name into a Chinese last name. I just take the first

expand its markets, many students have relied on learning the language and names, too.

In addition, social media sites have targeted consumers to find their family and friends through last names.

Websites like Myspace, Facebook, Twitter and Ancestry.com are helping people search for their families faster and easier.

Matthew Deighton, spokesman for Ancestry.com, believes it is more than a social site.

“Ancestry.com changes lives,” Deighton said. “How you view yourself, where you come from can explain who you are.”

Ancestry.com has many approaches, but one way you can find your family extension is through your surname.

NAME, page 2

“The first day of class I give my students Italian first names. I asked them to choose, and if they don’t know any, I write a lot of names on the board.”

Magdad Noveli Pearson,  
Italian professor  
Department of Modern Languages

Due to the high demand for learning Chinese, the University has signed an agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Education to become one of the 41 U.S. testing centers for

is important wherever you go.

“You cannot forget where you are from,” she said. “I keep my identity in America through my Chinese language. I am

syllable of their last name and find a similar pronunciation in Chinese,” she said. “In China, everyone carries their father’s last name.”

As China continues to

## COMING UP | Life!

Check out the last issue of the semester on Dec. 2 for a feature by Sylvia Simioni on what seniors wish they knew when they were freshmen.

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**NEWS FLASH**

**NATIONAL**

**GOP Latinos face questions of own immigrant past**

More Latino Republicans are seeking and winning elected office and their families' background are becoming the subject of increased scrutiny from some liberal Latino activists.

Experts say it's a reaction to Latino Republicans' conservative views on immigration, and the scrutiny into their background is a new phenomenon that Latino Democrats rarely faced.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican and the nation's only Latina governor, recently found documents that suggested that her grandfather legally entered the country. Previous reports said her grandfather was an illegal immigrant.

Marco Rubio, Florida's GOP senator, also was accused of embellishing his family's immigrant story and later corrected his Senate website.

Brigham Young University history professor Ignacio Garcia said most Latino voters tend to vote Democratic but Republicans are more successful at recruiting Latino candidates.

**WORLD**

**UN conference to deal with carbon reductions**

The U.N.'s top climate official said Sunday she expects governments to make a long-delayed decision on whether industrial countries should make further commitments to reduce emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases.

Amid fresh warnings of climate-related disasters in the future, delegates from about 190 countries were gathering in Durban for a two-week conference beginning Monday. They hope to break deadlocks on how to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Christiana Figueres, head of the U.N. climate secretariat, said the stakes for the negotiations are high, underscored by new scientific studies.

Under discussion was "nothing short of the most compelling energy, industrial, behavioral revolution that humanity has ever seen," she said.

Hopes were scrapped for an overall treaty governing global carbon emissions after the collapse of talks at a climate summit in Copenhagen two years ago. The "big bang" approach has been replaced by incremental efforts to build new institutions to help shift the global economy from carbon-intensive energy generation, industries and transportation to more climate-friendly technologies.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

# University alum creates law app

**KEVIN CRUZ**  
Contributing Writer

Milana Kuznetsova is revolutionizing legal practice, with an app. The University alum, who is currently an attorney at law, created a new, breakthrough software called LegalFile.

According to the official website, "LegalFile Mobile is a case management application focused on facilitating the litigation life cycle from the comfort of your iPad." LegalFile allows users to pull up resources from past cases with the tap of a screen.

The app allows for a paperless case management system

as well as a virtual office for attorneys. LegalFile can be used in a courtroom as a replacement for the traditional briefcase. This new application will also make considerable contributions to the environment. With lawyers losing the typical briefcase filled with files, there will be a reduction in environmental harm.

It also allows users to search past files in any setting.

Kuznetsova came to the University and in three years completed a triple major. Following this, she graduated from University of Miami's law program. In addition to having been thoroughly involved in academics, she was

also member of the Center for Leadership Services.

As a freshman, she became involved with the idea of leadership.

"Lead Team taught my strengths and weaknesses and also helped me realize what would help me be all that I wanted to be," said Kuznetsova.

Her involvement in these leadership activities allowed her to get considerable practice for her career.

"I was very fortunate to have job experience after I graduated," she said.

Kuznetsova came up with the idea of LegalFile and subsequently met with several soft-

ware developers before discovering that her idea was in fact very attainable. When she met with a software developer in Denver, Colorado, the coding for LegalFile began.

Currently, she is going from meeting to meeting in order to assure LegalFile's success.

"From lawyer to entrepreneur", she said.

A large part of her efforts are empowering individuals; she recently visited the University to spread knowledge of her main endeavor. Kuznetsova strives to be a good example, spreading the message of self-determination.

"A dream without action," she said, "is just a daydream."

# New plan will last for 13-year period

**SUS, page 1**

university's commitment to community engagement. Carnegie defines community engagement as the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities – local, regional/state, national, global – for the mutually beneficial

exchange of knowledge and resources. This goal falls under the plan's excellence area.

On the faculty side, the new plan wants to increase the number of faculty in the SUS who are members of National Academies from 38 to 75, thus increasing the SUS' national ranking from 10th to fifth.

The above goals and the rest, which are in the full plan available on the SUS' website, are necessary to "demonstrate to the legislature and other stakeholders the board is meeting its constitutional obligations and responsibilities to oversee a coordinated and accountable [SUS]," according to Parker and Martin.

# US sees greater diversity in names

**NAME, page 1**

For example, the last name Rodriguez comes from Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia or China, according to Ancestry.com, and it derives from the Portuguese name Rodrigo.

Some people may wonder why someone would pay money monthly to Ancestry.com to find out their family tree, but for others, it's simple.

"My sister-in-law has used it before," said University student Adriana Gamboa. "I think it's a great resource. She was able to contact someone from our family and they

even sent her a book that was related to her ancestors from Ireland."

"Now, I am part of it."

This story was researched and written for JOURNALISM 3300 Advanced

News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to [thenews-wave.org](http://thenews-wave.org)

## THE BEACON

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panthers bounce back with win over CSU Bakersfield

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

If the special water that Michael Jordan gave to his team, ToonSquad, in the movie Space Jam to make the players perform better was real, then head coach Cindy Russo might have it.

FIU came out at half-time with a four-point lead over CSUB and never looked back, outscoring the Roadrunners 42-23 to win the final game of the Thanksgiving Classic.

In the 82-59 victory, the Panthers held CSUB to just 35 percent shooting and out-rebounded 47 to 28 while shooting 50 percent from the field.

Sophomore Jerica Coley led all scorers with 30 points and an FIU record tying six blocks. She also earned All-tournament honors along with Fanni Hutlassa.

"I think it was just the adjustments that our coaches made with our offense," said Coley on the second half success. "Instead of trying to run the plays like we normally

do, I think we just spread ourselves out more and got the defense a little flustered, making it easier to score for all of us."

With the win, FIU (3-3) reached .500 for the first time this season and avoided a second two game losing streak.

"We want to have a winning season, we don't just want to break .500," said Russo. It's been a tough schedule, we're on the road for some tough games and I think we grew up a lot tonight because this team [CSUB] is a good team if you let them do what you want them to do," said Russo.

The Panthers kept a lead the entire first half and distributed the points amongst each other well, on the back of 11 assist. However, with the assist came 11 turnovers as well.

"We need to work on some things and that's one of them, taking care of the ball and making better decisions," Russo said.

FIU took the largest lead of the first half on a Kamika Idom layup to make it an 11 point lead

with 4:33 to go.

It was a quick 7-0 run that elapsed just one minute and 20 seconds. This was the one of two seven-point runs the Panthers had in the half.

The lead was short lived though, and CSUB fought back and was able to end the half down by only four, 40-36, with 11 points from Tyonna Outlands.

FIU came out in the second half strong by building up a 13-point lead from yet another 7-0 run in less than six minutes.

This time, the defense, who forced CSUB into 22 percent shooting in the second half, prevented another comeback like the one in the first half.

"We were trying to deny them the ball so they couldn't catch it and our rotation was very important," said Hutlassa on the teams defense.

The 82 points were the most points for the Panthers this season, as were the 20 assist.

The next game will be at U.S. Century Bank Arena against Lynn University on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

Jerica Coley dropped 30 points, five rebounds and six assists in a win on Nov. 28.

## FOOTBALL

# Season filled with surprises, disappointments



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Kedrick Rhodes [right] rushed for 1121 yards and eight touchdowns, only 12 yards shy of the school single-season record.

The season's done. The FIU Panthers just completed their most successful season of all time, yet they could not win the Sun Belt title. The team won eight games, one more than their record setter of the previous year, but somehow it feels hollow, like they left us wanting more.

### COMMENTARY



BRANDON WISE

Even with that, certain players broke out this year and some left us scratching our heads. Here's a look at a few of those:

### SURPRISES

*Kedrick Rhodes, RB*

Coming into the year, there were four possible running backs that could see their fair share of touches. It seemed that head coach Mario Cristobal would have been just fine with doing that too. The only problem is

nobody told Kedrick Rhodes that. Rhodes broke out early against North Texas when he had 16 carries for 76 yards and two touchdowns.

That was only scratching the surface. He finished his sophomore season with 1,164 yards and eight touchdowns to solidify himself as the true number one running back of the offense. The future is bright for this team if he can keep this up over the next two years.

*Richard Leonard, DB*

Early on in the year, many people, including me, were unsure about the stability of the secondary after the departure of Anthony Gaitor and Ash Parker. It is a very young group of guys who had to go out and prove themselves week in and week out. Leonard, a freshman, earned his spot early and often.

Many teams lined up their number one receiver across from Leonard and he showed that he has the capabilities to hold his own. This season,

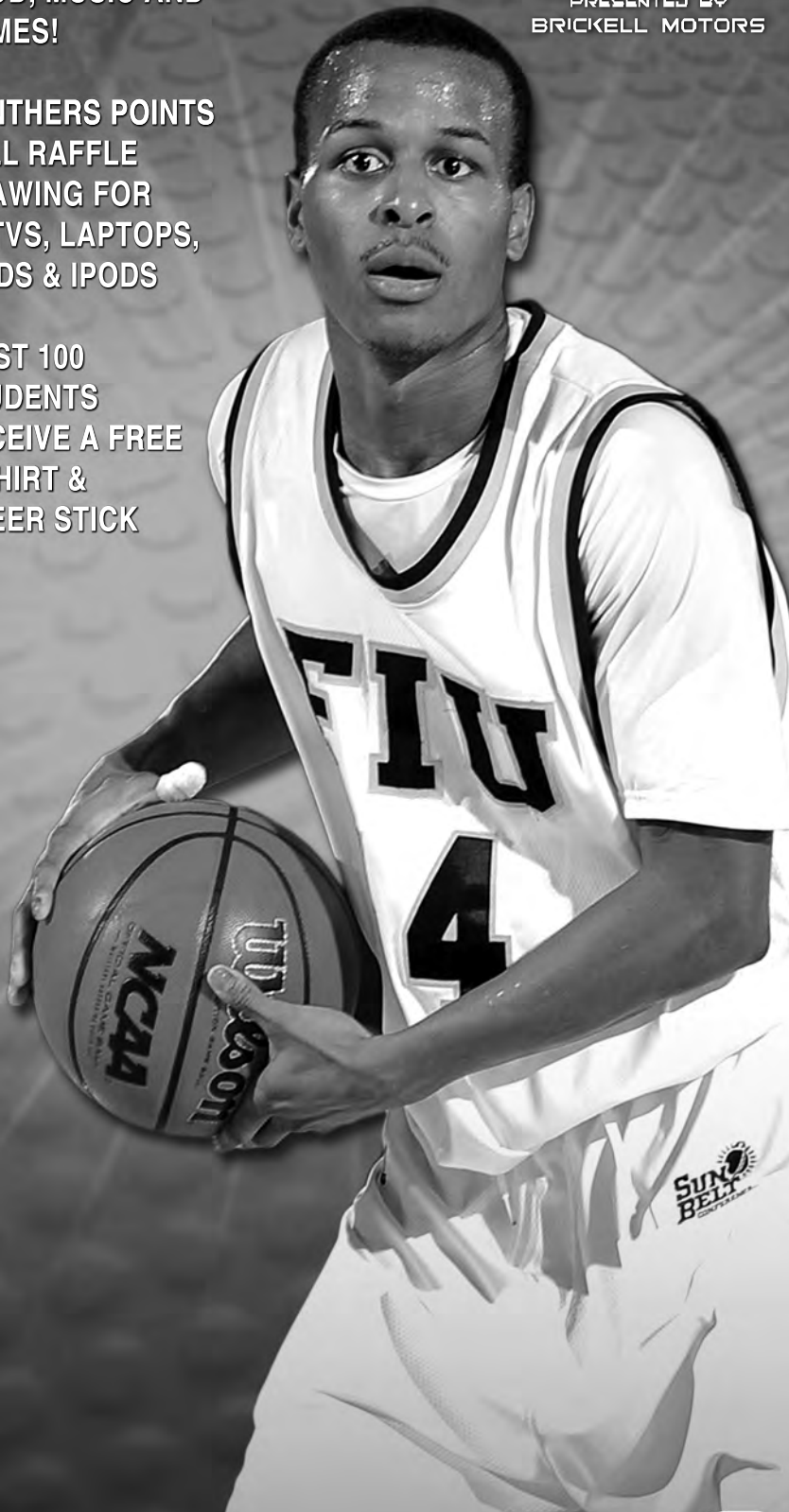
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## Perry failed to live up to expectations, Halley rises

### FOOTBALL, page 3

he was second on the team with two interceptions and a forced fumble.

The future is very bright for this secondary. Think of how much better he can get with three more years in the program.

*Justin Halley, DB*

When the secondary took a major hit after Chuck Grace suffered a season ending injury, it left a void that needed to be filled. For much of the season, defensive coordinator Todd Orlando attempted many different combinations until he found one that stuck.

Enter Justin Halley against Troy. The Trojans had an opportunity to drive down the field and score with little time left on the clock. On a huge third down, Halley broke up a pass that would have given them a first down.

Then, against rival FAU, Halley led the defense with two huge interceptions. The redshirt freshman has earned his playing time late in the season and will make

it an interesting decision for Orlando to make come next fall as to who is the starter at safety.

Honorable Mention: Wayne Times, WR, Offensive line, Jake Medlock, QB, Greg Hickman, LB

### BUSTS

*Darriet Perry, RB*

Last season, Perry was the offense's go-to-guy around the goal line. He pounded in 16 touchdowns along with 865 yards. There was no reason for him not to have that same kind of year.

However, he was outplayed at his own game. Rhodes does everything Perry does and more. Perry managed only 469 yards and six touchdowns in his final season with the Panthers.

As a captain, that is just a sad way to close out his career, especially when he is leaving as the all time leading rusher at FIU.

*Jonathan Cyprien, DB*

Another captain of the team that had a disappointing year, Jonathan Cyprien, did not live up to the expectations. While he did not have the same guys that he did

last year around him, the junior was expected to lead a very young secondary to great performances.

The secondary was exposed early and gave up many big plays. Cyprien could not stop anything, and when the secondary started to get it going late in the year, it was everyone but him making plays.

Only getting one interception and one sack are hardly good enough from a captain.

Honorable Mention: Willis Wright, WR, Jose Cheeseborough, DB

With all that being said, Wesley Carroll had a much better year than expected. Only throwing four interceptions is a great difference from the 14 last year. His season was so up and down that it is hard to say whether it was a surprise or a bust.

I lean to surprise only because of how efficiently he threw the ball early in the year and then picked it up again towards the end.

If this team goes to a bowl game, it could surpass last year's team as the best in FIU football history.

2011 **SIS**



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## GIVING BACK

# Students paint shoes for The Art of Giving project

**EISSY DE LA MONEDA**  
Staff Writer

Shoes were lined up by the dozen, all freshly painted. What started off as a community service project turned into an artistic token of goodwill for Haitian children in need.

Earlier this year, The Art of Giving was introduced to the University by the Art and Art History Department. The project's main goal was to help unfortunate children in Haiti. The project prompted students to honor other cultures and to give back to the needy.

Professor Jacek J. Kolansinki presented TAG to the department in hopes of making an impact. When the project was presented to students in Kolansinki's art thesis class, they were told to brainstorm on ideas that would serve a greater purpose.

Kolansinki brought up the idea of shoes, decorating them and sending them to the children in Haiti. The art students were thrilled with the idea.

"It's cool because the kids in Haiti don't have much, and now we have a chance to give back," said sophomore Monica Talavera.

When the project first began, it received support from more than just the art students. Many University students donated shoes to the cause, including the University's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Professor Gretchen Scharnagl, Kolansinki's colleague and friend, heard about the project and decided she would like to be a part of it as well. She, along with her other two colleagues, Professors Katherine Smith and David Mendoza, incorporated the project into their Artistic

Expression in a Global Society class by centralizing the class on the project and grading students on their participation in the project.

"This has been more than just an assignment. The students are so passionate about it. They always want to do more," added Scharnagl.

The art students supply their own materials and get creative as they decorate the shoes. The shoes are then collected, packed up and delivered to the kids in Haiti by Kolansinki.

Some students designed shoes with the colors of the Haitian flag while others made their own creative designs. Kolansinki had delivered shoes to the children once earlier this year, but he told Scharnagl that going once was not enough.

"He [Kolansinki] told me that once just wasn't enough — they needed more. Haiti had been in bad conditions even before the earthquake, so imagine now," said Scharnagl.

These thoughts prompted Scharnagl and her colleagues to join the cause. Kolansinki made his second shoe delivery to the children during the Thanksgiving break. This project helped the children in Haiti and created a sense of unity among the art students.

"The students supply their own materials, but they also share with each other," said Scharnagl.

Other University students have also asked if they could participate and donate shoes they have decorated. When asked if this project will continue, Scharnagl said, "I don't know, maybe. But I do hope this project will live on as a concept; it makes us better citizens."



PHOTOS BY VANESSA PAREDES/THE BEACON

Professors Kolansinki, Scharnagl, Smith and Mendoza worked together to incorporate The Art of Giving project into their Artistic Expression in a Global Society class. Students supplied their own shoes and paints to decorate shoes for the children in Haiti.

## HAUTE TOPIC

# Lessons learned post-ban

I did not think things through carefully when I decided not to shop during the month of November. I do not know how I forgot all about the Black Friday deals and free shipping until the end of the month that most online stores offer. I almost thought I would not make it. I came really, really close to cracking after impulsively wandering into J. Crew on Black Friday after seeing a movie.



ESRA ERDOGAN

I picked up a few things a little more frantically than I needed to and calculated how much I would save. I would have saved a lot, but while waiting in line for the dressing room I looked down at the things I was holding and decided it was not worth it. I had gotten so far and resisted so much temptation; I was definitely not going to give in that night along with all the angry and aggressive shoppers.

I was not even sure if I genuinely wanted the stuff or if I wanted the items because they were on sale. I left the store feeling more gratified than I would have ever felt if I had purchased anything at all.

However, I must confess that I have not stopped thinking about shopping. Even so, I have not scribbled "to buy" lists on the margins of my school notes.

I do have a clearer idea of the things that my closet is missing, though. Oddly enough, it isn't quantity that I realized I am missing but quality. Sure, it is great to buy a few trendy items here or there but the things I get the most use out of are not the things I buy on impulse, but things I have obsessed over for months.

I'm obsessing again, but the things I want are not a specific brand or a certain style at all. They are just things I know that I will wear to death.

For example, through this no buying exercise I realized that I really want a nice pair of black jeans. Instead of jeans, I have been resorting to black leggings through the month

For the rest of this column, go to our website and click Haute Topic under Life! columns.

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## RADIATE REVIEWS

# "Take Care" is hollow

Emotions do away with the façade and bring forth both the beautifully tender nature of people and also the bitter, ugly resentment. With that being said, it must be truly exhausting to be Drake; his perpetual cross of sensible yet approachable, constantly hurt and reminiscing yet badmouthing past lovers becomes an awkward juggling act.

Drake is walking along a fringe that could label him as either a misogynist or a method actor stuck in a shtick of overtly sensitive boy next door. This is not unlike early boy bands of

years past with predefined roles and personalities or his character in Degrassi. "Take Care" is Drake's second full length effort, featuring a long list of producers and contributors to what could be considered his triumphant return.

Thematically speaking, the album feels hollow; it is an amalgam of braggadocio and self pity that draws away from what could have been a far stronger effort.

Instead, he gives the listener an 80-minute long look into an emotionally stunted individual who often lost in the mirage of newfound wealth and followers while never quite developing his own value on the tracks. He sounds like a guest on his own album and does not stand out.

"Take a shot for me," the starting track, creates the

precedent for the rest of the album. The song is a guilt trip where he takes a position of superiority by means of affluence through a barely clever quip: the tax code and a dismissive attitude toward everything other than record sales figures, cash stacks and all material matters as determinant of what makes a person valuable.

Truth be told, Eminem outdid Drake when "Thank Me Later" was released, but it is ultimately a matter of hyperbole for poetic purposes where Drizzy took such liberties on his lines.

As a result, we don't know where to separate the

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# finals week cram jam



## PREP WEEK

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MMC/GC 305:  
Yoga/Pilates  
10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
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BBC/Panther Square:  
Release Week Kickoff  
& Interactive Games  
10am-2pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:  
Yoga/Pilates  
10-11am

**TUE**  
NOVEMBER  
**29**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

Massage & Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:  
Hip Hop  
5pm-5:30pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:  
Holiday Fest  
11am-2pm

Tree Lighting  
12pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:  
Yoga  
5:30pm-7pm

BBC/AC1 - 160:  
Memory Techniques for For  
Testing Workshop  
5:30pm-7pm

**WED**  
NOVEMBER  
**30**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/Everglades Hall  
Massage & Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:  
Yoga/Pilates - 10-11am  
Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:  
Spa Day  
11am-2pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:  
Yoga - 10am-11:30am

BBC/Hospitality  
Management Lawn:  
Under the Stars Movie Night  
7:30pm

BBC/AC1 - 160:  
Test Taking & Anxiety Reduction  
Workshop  
8pm-9:15pm

**THU**  
DECEMBER  
**01**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

Massage & Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:  
Yoga/Pilates - 10-11am  
Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:  
World AIDS Day  
11am-2pm

**FRI**  
DECEMBER  
**02**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/GC Lawn:  
Yoga  
10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:  
Yoga  
10-11am

**SAT**  
DECEMBER  
**03**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

**SUN**  
DECEMBER  
**04**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/Green Library:  
Opens at 10am for  
24hr Service

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Hubert Library:  
10am-4am

## FINALS WEEK

**MON**  
DECEMBER  
**05**

MMC/Fresh Food:  
Midnight Breakfast  
Doors Open: 11:45pm

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
10am for 24hrs  
• Dj, Massage & Giveaways  
11pm-1am

MMC/Green Library:  
Open 24hrs

MMC/GL 220:  
Massage, Aromatherapy &  
Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:  
Pilates  
9:15am-9:45am

MMC/GC Lawn:  
Yoga  
10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

**TUE**  
DECEMBER  
**06**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes - 24hrs

MMC/PG5:  
Chick-Fil-A - 8pm-10pm

MMC/GL 220:  
To Go Bags - 8pm-10pm  
Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/Green Library:  
Open 24hrs

MMC/Everglades Hall:  
Donuts, Coffee, Tea &  
Aromatherapy - 8pm-10pm

MMC/GC 305:  
Abs&Glutes - 8:15pm-8:45pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:  
Holiday Fest - 11am-2pm

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

EC/Panther Pit:  
Engineering Late Night  
Meal - 6pm-8pm

**WED**  
DECEMBER  
**07**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/GC 305:  
Yoga/Pilates  
10-11am

MMC/GL 220:  
Massage, Aromatherapy &  
Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm  
Biofeedback: 9pm-12pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:  
Free academic printing

MMC/Green Library:  
Open 24hrs

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

EC/Panther Pit:  
Engineering  
"Lun-ner"  
6pm-8pm

**THU**  
DECEMBER  
**08**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/GL 220:  
Massage, Aromatherapy &  
Giveaways  
10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/Green Library:  
Open 24hrs

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

**FRI**  
DECEMBER  
**09**

MMC/GC Pit:  
Stationary Bikes  
24hrs

MMC/Green Library:  
Closes at Midnight

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

**SAT**  
DECEMBER  
**10**

MMC/Green Library:  
8am-8pm

BBC/Hubert Library:  
7:30am-4am

Web: [cramjam.fiu.edu](http://cramjam.fiu.edu)  
Mobile: [cramjam.fiu.edu/mobile](http://cramjam.fiu.edu/mobile)



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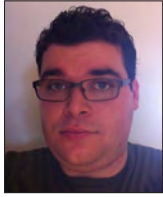


## Nature preserve a security liability

The University's nature preserve at the Modesto Maidique Campus is a valuable part of our community.

It is a close place to conduct research, a final bastion for nature surrounded by a concrete jungle. But, I think it is time to seriously address its security concerns.

### COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Aside from a place of research, it has also become a dark, thorny refuge for criminals on the run from police.

During my time at FIU Student Media,

I remember a few instances where the nature preserve and its surrounding area played a role in criminal activity. The most recent incident happened on Oct. 7, where a suspect was able to elude police.

At night, the nature preserve is uncomfortably dark. It is a pitch-black mass without a well-defined entrance or any sort of lighting system. The light posts are far from the preserve, which is understandable, considering that they are intended to light the road and the path around it.

The preserve is located in the middle of a rather highly populated part of campus, though one wouldn't notice that being stuck in the Graham Center all day.

To the North, the College of Law, the U.S. Century Bank Arena, and the Recreation Center border the preserve, the latter being one of the most used buildings on campus. South of the preserve is the football stadium.

More importantly, Panther Hall sits to the east of the preserve. Students live here; they park their cars in the parking lot that faces the preserve. I have also seen a

*A pretty brazen criminal can strike in any of these areas and disappear in the nature preserve, coming out on the other side.*

number of students jogging on the sidewalk and grassy areas that surround it.

A pretty brazen criminal can strike in any of these areas and disappear in the nature preserve, coming out on the other side.

Its proximity to high traffic areas would also test the response time of the University's police. A criminal operating in this area could strike and get away very quickly.

The nature preserve has been a point of debate at the University for some time. Rumors circulated in late 2010 that it would be demolished as part of the University's plan to expand its footprint.

Those rumors resulted in students marching to University President Mark Rosenberg's office on Dec. 1, 2010, upon hearing that the University allegedly hired inspectors to audit which parts could be torn down.

I am not saying that the nature preserve should be bulldozed in favor of new buildings or Greek housing. This place is still important to several departments and academic programs.

On the University's online campus map, most everything is painstakingly pointed out, with the exception of the nature preserve. Students should know the location and the hours of operation of the preserve.

The University needs to define the nature preserve's boundaries and exit and entrance points. It needs walking paths that direct people around the preserve, while not hindering research efforts.

Clearly defined entrances would allow University police to close it quickly, and students who wish to conduct research at night can do so with special permissions.

Lighting the preserve would be difficult, considering the affect lights can have on the wildlife within. Proper security would do away with the need for a fully lit preserve.

In an effort to leave the patch of land to nature, we have forgotten that just as we have an affect on it, it can also have an affect on us.

I think with a little compromise and input from all those involved, the University can have a safe preserve.

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Safety overrides nature in construction of new entrance

It is never ideal to pour concrete over a nature preserve. However, because of the University's poor planning, the accumulation of gross traffic and lingering safety concerns, it is necessary to construct a second entrance at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

*The Beacon* would like to point out that it is extremely unfortunate that the University failed to anticipate an influx of traffic whilst constructing BBC. According to an article published on Nov. 28 in *The Beacon*, North Miami Residents were livid over the proposal. It is incredulous that no one planned a second or even third entrance while constructing BBC and we echo residents' irritation that nature now has to be jeopardized.

Anthony Cave quoted an opponent of the second entrance, asking, "Why don't you build it in your backyard?" *The Beacon* notes we are building it in our backyard. Another person, booing the proposal, asked, "What about our children?" Because the University, Alonzo and Tracy Mournig Senior High School and the David Lawrence K-8 Center all share only one entrance and one exit, the construction of a second pathway is not just more convenient, but does, indeed consider the safety of the children.

According to an article in *The Miami Herald* on Nov. 23, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization said that there are three other options than the one chosen by the University that would run the path right through a nature preserve. *The Beacon* thinks that if the University chooses cost over nature, everyone loses; however, if indeed the only entrance truly sustainable and feasible is through the nature preserve, then it must be done.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Activity charge proposal must be clarified

The purpose of this letter to the editor is to address the content of an article regarding a Student Government Association University-Wide Committee Meeting that was released in the Wednesday, November 9th edition of *The Beacon*, and to clear up any misunderstanding surrounding the activity charge proposal from the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) to the Student Government Association (SGA).

As written, the November 9th article states:

"The idea of a CSO activity charge was brought up and eventually tabled during the meeting. If passed it would require a fee from CSO club members to conduct events, but not to be a part of said club."

This is inaccurate.

CSO submitted a proposal to SGA that recommended changes to the University-wide Finance Policy that would allow student organizations the option of having an activity charge.

There was absolutely no talk about having a required fee in any form.

Simply put, an activity charge would be a voluntary fee that student organizations could adopt for those members who would choose to pay it.

In doing so, organizations would have more financial freedom and extra funds to assist them with their programming and events.

Students would not be required to pay an activity charge in order to join a student organization nor

would they have to pay in order to attend an organization's events.

Again, this is a proposal from CSO to SGA that if implemented would not require students to pay an activity fee to join a student organization or attend an organization's events.

Student organizations would not be mandated to adopt the activity charge should the proposal be approved by SGA. It would merely be an option for student organizations and it would be up to their discretion as to whether or not to accept it.

This proposal is not geared towards hindering student involvement, nor is it "an asinine ploy to swindle paying students" that was conducted in "extreme secrecy"; it is

nothing of the sort.

CSO's advisor Ayana Wilson and its President Elizabeth Fava have been very forthcoming about this proposal and have been more than willing to answer any and all questions regarding it.

Wilson and Fava even offered to make an appearance at a University-wide committee meeting to clear up any misunderstandings on the issue. Therefore any notion that they were somehow purposefully omitting information is not only baseless but false.

This process has been very open and transparent and if there are any questions about the proposal they should be addressed with either SGA or CSO.

-Donovan Dawson,  
Speaker of the Senate

### VERBATIM

*"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."*

- Benjamin Franklin

*"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."*

- Mark Twain

*"Fearlessness is like a muscle. I know from my own life that the more I exercise it the more natural it becomes to not let my fears run me."*

- Arianna Huffington

*"But innovation comes from people meeting up in the hallways or calling each other at 10:30 at night with a new idea, or because they realized something that shoots holes in how we've been thinking about a problem."*

- Steve Jobs

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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



## Increase in raccoons harmful to the environment



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Dorm residents at the Biscayne Bay Campus have been a witness to the growing population of raccoons around Bay Vista Housing. Fish and Wildlife Commission Administrative Lieutenant Curt Kaloostian urges students to stop feeding feral cats that attract raccoons.

**STEPHANIE FELDMAN**  
Staff Writer

With their masked faces, raccoons look almost like mischievous cartoon characters as they scurry around, using their little leather paws to open garbage cans and maneuver other tactile tasks.

The sight of them has become very

common at the Biscayne Bay Campus dormitories.

Raccoons are a native species of South Florida, but their numbers in urban areas have grown significantly, especially in areas where large amounts of garbage and other food sources accumulate and are not disposed of properly.

BBC is surrounded by the native

habitat of raccoons; forest, marshes, and the mangroves – yet numbers around the dorms have gone up.

Wei Ding, a hospitality grad student and Resident Assistant at Bay Vista described seeing several.

“I saw a family of five in the hallway of the second floor when I went to take out my trash, but I think they’re cute,” Ding said.

While many find the clever creatures cute, one dorm resident, Karla Gonzalez, a freshman psychology major, admits to being scared of them.

She recalls a time when one aggressive creature actually began to chase her and her boyfriend in the parking lot. She feels that they “shouldn’t be there” and are often mean and aggressive.

In addition to boasting a large population of raccoons, the area around the dorms has provided shelter to a growing number of feral cats, many of which are taken care of and fed by residents.

Also just as problematic, food left for cats is often taken by raccoons, which they see as an easy dinner. As the numbers of both species swell, so does competition for food, habitat and space.

According to Curt Kaloostian, an Administrative Lieutenant at the Office of Fish and Wildlife Commission, he believes that people feeding the feral cats is one of the contributing factors to the increase in raccoon sightings.

He explains that because raccoons are opportunistic feeders who will eat literally anything, they thrive in urban environments, even diving into dumpsters and garbage cans to scavage.

These raccoons have become acclimated and dependent on humans. Leaving food out for them and other animals is illegal and amplifies the problem.

Kaloostian mentions that while the raccoons on campus are not a severe problem, they can be a nuisance because of the messes they make as they forage in garbage cans, as well as the defecation they leave behind.

The main risk behind the increase in the urban raccoon population is that they are becoming more aggressive than those found in rural areas like the everglades.

Another concern is the fact that raccoons are a notorious carrier for the rabies virus, a deadly virus that can infect mammals, including humans.

Kaloostian also emphasizes that the feral cats commonly seen alongside the raccoons at Bay Vista present a danger to the wildlife in the area, as both species frequently kill and eat birds and their eggs, resulting in drastic decreases of bird and other small animal species native to South Florida.

Ultimately, Kaloostian stresses that while people think they are doing a good deed by feeding the feral cats, they are, in the big picture, harming the environment by disrupting the natural rhythm of that ecosystem and supplying an easy source of food for the raccoons.

He urges residents at the dorm to consider the harm they are doing to the delicate balance of the environment, and to stop feeding feral cats and other invasive species.

This, he hopes, will help to quell the numbers of raccoons on campus.

## Students struggle with Golden Panther Express schedule

**ADRIANA MONTOYA**  
Contributing Writer

It’s 1:45 p.m. and Germaine Escobar, a journalism student at FIU, must quickly make a decision.

Does she stay in class and listen to the last 10 to 15 minutes of her professor’s 50 minute lecture, or does she pack her bag and walk out of class early to wait for the next bus?

Because the Golden Panther Express – the school’s shuttle service that transports students between the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus – departs at the exact time Escobar’s class lets out, she always feels caught between a rock and a hard place.

“A student should not be placed in this predicament,” Escobar said. “Every time I have to get up and leave the class while my professor is still speaking, not only am I being disrespectful and disruptive to my professor and classmates, but I walk out feeling as if I’ve just lost pertinent information in this course.”

Like Escobar, many FIU students are facing similar dilemmas, and the Student Government Council, along with the University’s Department of Parking and Transportation, have been hearing their complaints.

But SGA and the FIU administration contend that the problem simply cannot be solved in the short term, that

“If I adjust and meet those four, then I don’t meet those six. This group that’s upset will now be happy, but now this group will be upset.”

William Foster,  
Executive Director  
Parking and Transportation

some students – even in future semesters – will have to cope with walking out of classes early, arriving late and missing out on course material.

Natalie Batista, a senior public relations major, has had trouble with the schedule and must leave her evening class at BBC a few minutes early to catch the 8:40 p.m. shuttle. Her main concern, she said, is that it feels unsafe to wait an hour for the next bus to arrive so late at night.

“I don’t want to stay on north campus by myself in the dark,” said Batista. “It’s so desolate on that campus. I wouldn’t mind being on south campus until late because there’s more people, but north campus is totally different.”

Patrick O’Keefe, president of the SGC-MMC, said the issue is high on their agenda, but the association has yet to come up with a solution that pleases everyone.

In August 2010, SGA and the Department of Parking and Transportation were able to address some issues by adding three more trips to the schedule, which doubled the existing schedule, but that didn’t completely solve the problem, he said.

He and a few other SGA members met with the directors of parking and transportation recently to discuss the shuttle schedule.

The meeting was not open to concerned students or the press because the student government members who were attending would be discussing several other private transportation-related proposals, O’Keefe said.

“Parking and Transportation is a very underfunded department,” O’Keefe said. “You can throw a lot of money at it and you’re still going to need more money.”

William Foster, executive director

of parking and transportation, said classes are an hour apart, but each shuttle runs on an 80-minute schedule. The 80 minutes takes traffic, loading time and travel time into account.

The department has compressed the schedule as much as possible, Foster said, but 80 minutes is the minimum that American Couch, the company contracted to provide shuttle service, requires per round trip.

“We’re meeting six of 10 classes right on time, but we’re not meeting four of them right on time,” Foster said. “If I adjust and meet those four, then I don’t meet those six. This group that’s upset will now be happy, but now this group will be upset.”

Another option might be to move the four class times so they actually align with the shuttle. Moving these classes to a time block that works for the bus would accommodate all students in need of the service.

“We could attempt to do that, but I honestly don’t know if it can be done because I haven’t tried it. Before you go that far, you need to get the provost’s approval first,” O’Keefe said, adding that finding enough classrooms to accommodate more classes within a particular schedule block might pose another problem.

The best strategy would be for all affected students to contact SGA with time change suggestions that address specific classes that should be moved and where they would fit better with the bus schedule, O’Keefe said.

Once he has the requests in hand, he can speak to the provost and the scheduling department on behalf of the students to change those classes to more appropriate times next semester.

However, O’Keefe predicts that rescheduling four class times can cause “huge space scheduling issues because the second you overlap classes, you’re changing the whole system.”

“I don’t know if that solution is going to work,” he said, “but I’m more than willing to bring anything to the table. I just really need suggestions.”

*This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to [thenews-wave.org](http://thenews-wave.org)*