

LAW, LIBERTY, NATIONAL SECURITY



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Professors, military officials and national security directors speak at the all-day symposium titled, "What the Future Holds: Balancing Law, Liberty and National Security" held at the College of Law on Nov. 4.

Textbook affordability still an issue

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Textbooks are a constant concern for students and were even the focus of a two year-old statute that came into question in a Faculty Senate meeting.

Florida Statute 6A-14.092 on textbook affordability was made effective February 25, 2009.

According to the statute, institutions within the Florida College System must make textbook information available to campus bookstores 45 days prior to the commencement of classes and should there be any trouble pertaining to classes posted after the 30-day deadline, textbook information is to be posted as soon as possible.

All information regarding textbooks should be made readily available to students online so that students have the ability to shop around for textbooks at lower prices.

The meeting minutes of the Textbook Affordability Committee on February 11, 2011 reveal confusion about the implications of this legislation.

John Stuart, professor and faculty fellow in the Office of the Provost and chairman of the committee, spoke about what he had discussed with the provost pertaining to the possibility of sanctions being leveled against those full-time faculty members who missed the deadline.

The deans were willing to consider

imposing fiscal sanctions by eliminating their access to discretionary funds. For adjunct professors who missed the deadline there would be some lowering in pay.

Earlier in the fall 2011 semester, there was a misunderstanding; the deans' willingness to consider such penalties was mistaken for a certainty. Lorna Veraldi, professor in the school of Journalism and Mass Communication was upset about the situation and sought verification as per the possibility of penalties being imposed.

Upon further investigation and questioning the provost, it was found that it was merely hearsay and no penalties have been or are planned to be applied.

"It was just a rumor, and it's been debunked," said Veraldi as she explained the situation.

Students appear to be content with the current system.

Brandon De Souza, an undecided sophomore explained that he looked for his textbooks on Craigslist.

"Not only does it turn out to be much cheaper, my money is going to another person rather than a business," he said, "If my book is unavailable there; I use Half.com. Same concept, but I have to wait for shipping."

When questioned about the amount of time necessary to acquire books De Souza agreed that he had sufficient time to get a hold of the text he needed for class.

Other students, even wait until class actually starts.

Talina Philips a prospective masters student explained, "I always get the books after classes start, professors change their minds all the time which is why Amazon or Chegg are awesome because they have expedited shipping. You still pay a lot less when you rent or order a book with expedited shipping versus spending \$200 on a book."

However, Sonam Santdasani, a textbook clerk at the Barnes & Nobles at the Modesto Maidique Campus and a freshman aspiring Nursing major, adds a caveat to all this good humor regarding textbooks.

"Although the majority of the customers I work with are happy when they leave the store, some do leave dissatisfied," she said, "We can't always guarantee a book will be in stock when students need them. It's not necessarily the professor's fault if they've put in the order, but we sometimes run out of the books that students need for exams the next day."

Students have the opportunity from very early on to shop and order textbooks for the classes they are taking, and exams usually take place quarter-way to mid-semester.

"It is beyond our control," Santdasani explained, "but customers don't understand that and often blame FIU or the bookstore for not doing their job."

ATHLETICS

Student-athletes may earn \$2,000

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Editor

Depending on what the University chooses to do, student-athletes may be walking around with a little more money in their pockets.

When the NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a package of sweeping changes, they placed the ball on the Sun Belt Conference's side of the court, giving major conferences to chance approve or afford a possible \$2,000 stipend given to student athletes.

Now the Sun Belt has put the ball on FIU's side of the court.

On Nov. 2, just over a week after the NCAA passed their legislation, the Sun Belt Conference became one of the first non-automatic qualifying conferences to give the nod to its Universities to embrace these changes.

In an unanimous vote, Sun Belt Conference chief executive officers and athletic direc-

tors have agreed to give each institution the option of determining how much cost of attendance and multi-year scholarships will be allocated to their student-athletes.

"Athletically, academically and financially the Sun Belt Conference is stronger than it has ever been. Our leadership is committed to building upon that foundation," said Troy University Chancellor and Sun Belt Executive Committee President Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. "We believe the new NCAA regulations will benefit student athletes and we encourage each of our member institutions to determine its level of participation. Such discretion will ensure that our athletic programs will continue to recruit and compete at a high level."

If FIU approves these changes, the university will have the opportunity to award scholarships for multiple years,

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UNIVERSITY-WIDE COUNCIL

Request made for free bus rides

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director

Not enough information and lack of authority made up the University-wide Council's November 2011 meeting.

The University-wide council – made up of the presidents, vice presidents, senate speakers, speaker pro tempores from both campuses and the hosting campus' comptroller – checked off key items on their agenda at their Nov. 4 meeting, but couldn't for others either because they didn't know enough about the particular item or they didn't have the necessary authority.

The UWC made a request to use \$3,000 from SGA's accumulated cash balance to make the Golden Panther Express

free during the Monday and Tuesday of finals week – a topic carried over from the previous UWC meeting.

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.

The charge was tabled until the CSO president and adviser could explain it in detail at the UWC's next meeting in December.

For more information from the UWC meeting visit our web site.

www.FIUSM.com

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Nov. 14 issue for coverage of this year's Shula Bowl X football game against Florida Atlantic University.

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NATION

US wealth gap between young and old is widest ever

HOPE YEN
AP Staff

The wealth gap between younger and older Americans has stretched to the widest on record, worsened by a prolonged economic downturn that has wiped out job opportunities for young adults and saddled them with housing and college debt.

The typical U.S. household headed by a person age 65 or older has a net worth 47 times greater than a household headed by someone under 35, according to an analysis of census data released Monday.

While people typically accumulate assets as they age, this wealth gap is now more than double what it was in 2005 and nearly five times the 10-to-1 disparity a quarter-century ago, after adjusting for inflation.

The analysis by the Pew Research Center reflects the impact of the economic downturn, which has hit young adults particularly hard.

More are pursuing college or advanced degrees, taking on debt as they wait for the job market to recover. Others are struggling to pay mortgage costs on homes now worth less than when they were bought in the housing boom.

The report, coming out before the Nov. 23 deadline for a special congressional committee to propose \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts over 10 years, casts a spotlight on a government safety net that has buoyed older Americans on Social Security and Medicare amid wider cuts to education and other programs, including

cash assistance for poor families. Complaints about wealth inequality, high unemployment and student debt also have been front and center at Occupy Wall Street protests around the country.

"It makes us wonder whether the extraordinary amount of resources we spend on retirees and their health care should be at least partially reallocated to those who are hurting worse than them," said Harry Holzer, a labor economist and public policy professor at Georgetown University who called the magnitude of the wealth gap "striking."

The median net worth of households headed by someone 65 or older was \$170,494. That is 42 percent more than in 1984, when the Census Bureau first began measuring wealth broken down by age.

The median net worth for the younger-age households was \$3,662, down by 68 percent from a quarter-century ago, according to the Pew analysis.

Net worth includes the value of a person's home, possessions and savings accumulated over the years, including stocks, bank accounts, real estate, cars, boats or other property, minus any debt such as mortgages, college loans and credit card bills.

Older Americans tend to hold more net worth because they are more likely to have paid off their mortgages and built up more savings from salary, stocks and other investments over time.

The median is the midpoint, and thus refers to a typical household. The 47-to-1 wealth gap

between old and young is believed by demographers to be the highest ever, even predating government records.

In all, 37 percent of younger-age households have a net worth of zero or less, nearly double the share in 1984.

But among households headed by a person 65 or older, the percentage in that category has been largely unchanged at 8 percent.

While the wealth gap has been

ment since World War II. As a result, the median income of older-age households since 1967 has grown at four times the rate of those headed by the under-35 age group.

Social Security benefits account for 55 percent of the annual income for older-age households, unchanged since 1984. The retirement benefits, which are indexed for inflation, have been a consistent source of income even as safety-net benefits for other groups

Grants to low-income students has risen somewhat, but covers a diminishing share of the actual cost of attending college.

"The elderly have a comprehensive safety net that most adults, especially young adults, lack," Danziger said.

Paul Taylor, director of Pew Social & Demographic Trends and co-author of the analysis, said the report shows that today's young adults are starting out in life in a very tough economic position.

"If this pattern continues, it will call into question one of the most basic tenets of the American Dream — the idea that each generation does better than the one that came before," he said.

Other findings:

—Households headed by someone under age 35 had their median net worth reduced by 27 percent in 2009 as a result of unsecured liabilities, mostly a combination of credit card debt and student loans.

No other age group had anywhere near that level of unsecured liability acting as a drag on net worth; the next closest was the 35-44 age group, at 10 percent.

—Wealth inequality is increasing within all age groups. Among the younger-age households, those living in debt have grown the fastest while the share of households with net worth of at least \$250,000 edged up slightly to 2 percent.

Among the older-age households, the share of households worth at least \$250,000 rose to 20 percent from 8 percent in 1984; those living in debt were largely unchanged at 8 percent.

“
The elderly have a comprehensive safety net that most adults, especially young adults, lack.”

Sheldon Danziger,
public policy professor
University of Michigan

widening gradually due to delayed marriage and increases in single parenting among young adults, the housing bust and recession have made it significantly worse.

For young adults, the main asset is their home. Their housing wealth dropped 31 percent from 1984, the result of increased debt and falling home values.

In contrast, Americans 65 or older were more likely to have bought homes long before the housing boom and thus saw a 57 percent gain in housing wealth even after the bust.

Older Americans are staying in jobs longer, while young adults now face the highest unemploy-

ment such as low-income students have failed to keep up with rising costs or begun to fray.

The congressional supercommittee that is proposing budget cuts has been reviewing whether to trim college aid programs, such as by restricting eligibility or charging students interest on loans while they are still in school.

Sheldon Danziger, a University of Michigan public policy professor who specializes in poverty, noted skyrocketing college tuition costs, which come as many strapped state governments cut support for public universities.

Federal spending on Pell

Organization brings election to Venezuelan students

STEPHANIE ARAUJO
Contributing Writer

VotoDondeSea: the majority of FIU students can make the literal translation "vote anywhere."

With a name like this it is simple for Venezuelans to grasp what this organization is about.

VotoDondeSea works

in favor of Venezuela as a non-profit organization that encourages Venezuelans that are living outside their native country to still participate in elections. Although the view of the organization is strictly democratic they are considered a non-partisan organization; it's main goal being concentrated on advocating voting.

Mario Antonio Di Giovanni Furiati, sponsorship coordinator of VotoDondeSea, expresses his desire for advancement for his native country.

"Even though we may have different ways of thinking, we are all citizens of the same country; we are all inspired by the stories and traditions of Venezuela," he said. "But

also, every Venezuelan has a commitment with the future of our nation. This commitment is fulfilled through the act of voting."

From the year 2000 to 2010, the Venezuelan population living in the U.S. rose from 91,500 to 215,000, mostly in South Florida. The Venezuelan Consulate of Miami requires a photocopy

of certificate of U.S. citizenship, permanent residence card of passport of visa regulations. VotoDondeSea aspires to raise the number of Venezuelan voters from 57,000 to about 500,000 that are living abroad.

The U.S. has the largest Venezuelan community; the majority being ones who came after President Hugo Chavez

took office in 1999. The presidential elections of 2006 conjured 15,800 Venezuelan American voters, 98 percent voted for Manuel Rosales, of the Acción Democrática party and the candidate who opposed Hugo Chavez.

Since Chavez already announced he will run again

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International students face distinct challenges on campus

HECTOR INFANTE
Contributing Writer

Being an international student is no easy task.

Different cultures and languages are just a few of the many obstacles that international students are faced with when making the transition.

The University receives more than 2,500 international students and 100 scholars from over 125 countries, according to the International Student and Scholar Services.

A set of rules must be followed to the letter for students to be eligible to stay and study.

To maintain their status, undergraduate students must be full time students,

“
Living in Miami itself is an experience. You do not feel different because the majority of students are from different parts of the world. In a way, we're all the same.”

Hadeel Baeshan,
public health graduate student
Saudi Arabia

meaning no less than 12 credits a semester or they can be deported.

Graduate students must maintain nine credits a semester.

They are constantly being followed up

by the International Students & Scholar Services and their academic advisers to keep them on track.

Ana M. Sippin, director of the Office of International Student & Scholar Services

at Modesto Maidique Campus makes sure things always run smoothly.

"International students have their own orientation and events. There's a U.S. culture class students can take to help them with the transition. There's also the International Student Club where students can meet and help one another," she said.

One of the first challenges students face is leaving their families behind.

Wenda Xu, a Chinese junior majoring in mathematics, remembers his first days in Miami. "I was really homesick. I came with my girlfriend, but it's never the same," he admitted.

Luckily for Xu, he found a group of Chinese students who helped him get

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Man dies battling bees in longtime Miami home

A 49-year-old man died after he fell while he tried to kill swarming bees in his family's longtime home.

Officials say the cause of death won't be known until an autopsy is completed. But Donald Mason's brothers told The Miami Herald on Sunday that he fell from a chair and hit his head. Mason's teenage daughter found him covered in bees Saturday night.

The Herald reports the man was apparently trying to spray the bee hive, which was located inside a hole in the wall he was trying to patch. Miami police spokesman Delrish Moss says officers hear a humming noise that sounded like the "the walls were alive" when they responded to a call Saturday night.

NATIONAL

W.Va. aiming to protect LGBT students from bullies

A proposed anti-bullying policy for West Virginia schools acknowledges that sexual orientation and gender identity are common reasons for harassment.

The state Department of Education is taking public comments until 4 p.m. Tuesday about the 75-page student conduct and disciplinary policy that the Board of Education will consider Dec. 14.

If approved, changes that specifically acknowledge the targeting of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students would go into effect July 1, 2012. The civil rights group Fairness West Virginia lauds the new language as "a landmark achievement."

It says the policy effectively provides political and legal cover to teachers and others who might hesitate to help a student.

—Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Students vote with VotoDondeSea

VOTO, page 2

for the elections of 2012, it is very important that Venezuelans receive the greatest number of voters.

Carlos Herrera, a founder of VotoDondeSea explained the organization's non-partisanship

"If there is something that young people VotoDondeSea want is to make clear that we are not aligned politically with anyone. They say they do not receive money from any political party, working as volunteers and are funded by small donations from its members to allow them to pay banners, and business cards of the organization."

VotoDondeSea believes every Venezuelan has a commitment to fulfill through the act of voting.

"Well personally, what I get from participating in VotoDondeSea is the satisfaction that even though I am not living in Venezuela, I have not forgotten my country and I am involved in its future," said Furiati. "It is specifically important for college students to participate as they are the next generation to provide for the success of their family's native country and being in college expects their knowledge on elections and the electoral process."

Their tactics include promoting their message on college campuses and partic-

ipating in different public events. They put together videos to trigger reminiscence in every Venezuelan: bringing up specific characteristics of Venezuela and how it is "their" country. VotoDondeSea is also expanding the times at which Venezuelans can register to vote. They have achieved interviews through television, radio and the Internet to help them promote their goals.

"El Venezolano Vota Donde Sea," the saying for the organization, translated means "Venezuelans vote anywhere." VotoDondeSea have proven to be successful according to statistics and will continue to promote their message for the 2012 elections.

Minor tasks not for internationals

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acclimated to the culture, which he had so eagerly wanted to live in.

"I like Miami and its weather. I also enjoy the typical foods including Cuban food," said Xu, with a smile on his face. "It has been one of the best decisions of my life."

As students arrive to FIU, their next task is picking classes.

"It was very stressful, you've got so many options", admitted Fernanda Mideros, a junior from Ecuador studying International Relations.

This is where the academic advisers come in and guide students.

Mideros quickly figured out which courses she wanted to take and now feels the relief of being done with that process.

Once on campus, students say one of the biggest shocks is the great number of students that

attend the school, from football games and activities to classes with over four hundred students.

"It was really different. I was used to classes with fifty students at most," said Mideros.

Another challenge students face while living in the U.S. is they aren't allowed to work outside of FIU, making it harder for them to have any form of steady income. The few that work must also report taxes to the IRS.

Students also receive

little financial aid from the University. Most of the time it comes from special scholarships their countries offer for international study.

Students also agree that having a car makes life much easier.

Given that distances around South Florida can be very far, a car is necessary an international student to explore and see what Miami has to offer.

"Living in Miami itself is an experience" said Hadeel Baeshan, a Saudi

Arabian-born graduate student majoring in public health.

"You don't feel different because the majority of students are from different parts of the world, in a way we're all the same," said Baeshan.

The "International" in the University's name doesn't disappoint, taking in students from every corner of the world.

"It was one of the reasons I chose this particular university," confessed Mideros.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 39 of *The Beacon*, the article titled "Panthers win SBC tourney" in the Sports section, the Denver Patriots are actually the Denver Pioneers.

In Vol. 23, Issue 39 of *The Beacon*, the article titled "Panthers lose on last-second field goal by WKU" in the Sports section, Winston Fraser's name was spelled incorrectly.

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

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STETSON LAW

VOLLEYBALL

Three players record career-highs in FIU road loss



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Jessica Egan notched 60 assists in loss to the Ragin' Cajuns.

EDUARDO ALMAGUER Staff Writer

Danijela Tomic, head coach of the Panthers' volleyball team, has often said that if her team is going to lose, it had better be in five sets.

Well, her team met the criterion when they lost in five sets to University of Louisiana on Nov. 6. The problem, however, is that this loss was to a team that was 4-9 in Sun Belt Conference play. FIU was already ahead 2-0 before its complete collapse and it had heartbreak written all over.

The Panthers (17-8, 9-5 SBC) lost all the momentum they picked up after a tremendous first-set comeback to lose to the Ragin' Cajuns (13-17, 5-9 SBC) in five sets, (26-24, 25-16, 27-29, 21-25, 11-15). The loss snapped FIU's six-game winning streak. It was also the first time the team lost when leading 2-0 this season.

The Panthers tallied 28 errors, the most since Sept. 2 against Auburn, which ironically was the last time they lost a five-set match.

Though three Panthers notched double doubles, only one, senior Sabrina Gonzalez, had a hitting percentage above .231. Junior Jovana Bjelica had 28 kills and 21 digs, setter Jessica Egan had 60

assists and 11 digs, and Marija Prsa had 16 kills and 19 digs.

The Ragin' Cajuns punished the Panthers to the tune of a 9-1 lead to open the first set. FIU was behind for the majority of the set, albeit cutting the deficit ever so slowly. Gonzalez managed to close the gap to five points, 21-16, with her first kill of the game.

Prsa committed an error to give back the point to UL, but FIU was about to complete a tremendous comeback. With the help of some sloppy Cajun plays, the Panthers roared back to tie the game 22-22. UL spun off two straight points, but two kills by Bjelica tied it again.

UL choked and committed two straight errors to give FIU a huge first-set win. Judging by the finish of the set, one would think there was no way FIU could lose the match.

It was a close affair in the second set until back-to-back kills by Prsa launched FIU to a healthy 18-10 lead. The Cajuns tried to fight back, but the Panthers answered every opposition kill with two of their own. Bjelica and middle blocker Silvia Carli slammed down two kills to win the second set 25-15.

The Panthers, clearly benefitting from the momentum behind them, claimed

another big lead when they saw themselves jump to a 20-14 lead in the third set.

Then came the collapse.

The Cajuns scored six consecutive points to tie the match and sent FIU scrambling to a timeout. Out of the break, the match became an anxious tug of war, as both teams sent the set into extra points. Starting from 23-23, the teams tied five times. With the score 27-27, UL broke through with a kill and an FIU error to capture the third set.

The Panthers were still dazed from having the rug pulled from under them when the fourth set began. FIU was never able to build a lead in the set, often falling victim to errors on their side of the net. Though FIU did not fall behind by more than five points in the entire set, they could not mount any momentum either, eventually losing 25-21.

As the pivotal fifth set opened, Egan fed a pass to Gonzalez that she proceeded to slam down for the first point of the game. Unfortunately for FIU, that was the only lead they would have. UL quickly grabbed a lead on a Panther error and never looked back, eventually capping their dramatic comeback with a 15-11 win.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT

Thomas: "I'm more concerned with graduating students"

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imposing higher academic standards on future recruits.

Under the current system, athletic scholarships are renewed annually and can be dropped for any reason. If the University accepts, they could award scholarships for the student athlete's entire collegiate career, losing the power to revoke it based solely on their on-field performance. However, scholarships could still be pulled for academic misconduct, low grades or other forms of inappropriate behavior.

"This presents us with another opportunity to enhance the well-being of our student-athletes by increasing our economic support to help them address the miscellaneous expenses they are faced with," said Dr. Dean Lee, Arkansas State Director of Athletics and Sun Belt Executive Committee Representative for Athletics' Directors.

Because of Title IX laws, schools must infer the cost of additional funding and will have to be allocated evenly to men's and women's athletes.

The NCAA has also approved raising the four-year Academic Progress Report score from 900 to 930. If any a program fails to reach that cutline, then they will be ineligible for postseason play. A four-year plan has been approved to add

in the new requirements.

The APR is a metric created by the NCAA to calculate the success of collegiate athletic teams in moving student athletes towards graduation.

Mario Cristobal, head coach of the football team, inherited one of the worst APR scores in the nation when he took over in 2007. Now his team has an APR score of 927 (multi-year rate of 936) as of 2010.

"I know the APR inside and out because upon arrival, a week after I arrived here, they told me that we were going to lose 30 scholarships...trust me when I say I know what that means top to bottom," said Cristobal, who wants more support academically from the NCAA.

"If they want higher grades, maybe we need more academic support. Educational seminars—whatever it may be—teaching methods, certain classes, whatever it may be, because if we're demanding so much of these young men in these programs we certainly want to be able to afford them the opportunity to achieve."

If a program does not hit a score of at least 930 by 2014-2015 season, not only will they be ineligible for postseason, they could face additional penalties, such as reductions in practice time and game limits, coach suspensions, scholarship reductions and restricted NCAA membership.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Mario Cristobal [above] has helped improve the football team's APR rating since taking over the team in 2006 while Isiah Thomas [above, right] has struggled to raise the men's basketball team's rating.

Now that the football team has no longer the lowest APR score on campus, the only sport currently in danger of missing out on postseason play is the men's basketball team. Isiah Thomas' team recorded an APR of 900 (multi-year score of 910), the first time that his team has recorded a multi-year score over 900.

"The APR needs to be connected to the graduation rate...The fact that we graduated 13 out of 15 students in my last two years here,

counting walk-ons, that says a lot, but that doesn't really help your APR," Thomas said. "I'm more concerned with graduating students than I am with the APR."

According to Thomas, the NCAA is taking a step in the right direction, but there's still work to be done. "I'm not an NCAA basher because there are a lot of things that they do right and some things that they do wrong, so let's give them credit for at least attempting and trying."



FIU ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE REPORT 2009-10

Men's Sports 09-10 Rate (Multi-year)

Baseball- 990 (954)
Indoor Track & Field- 964 (935)
Outdoor Track & Field- 964 (935)
Men's Soccer- 946 (940)
Football- 927 (936)
Cross Country- 917 (935)
Basketball- 900 (910)

Women's Sports 09-10 Rate (Multi-year)

Tennis- 1000 (1000)
Softball- 1000 (978)
Indoor Track & Field- 1000 (963)
Outdoor Track & Field- 1000 (963)
Swimming & Diving- 1000 (960)
Cross Country- 1000 (958)
Volleyball- 980 (968)
Basketball- 967 (957)
Golf- 926 (964)
Soccer- 924 (951)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

FIU will travel to UCF for NCAA first-round match

IGOR MELLO

Asst. Sports Director

The women's soccer team sat on the edge of their seats glued to the screen at the President's Suite at FIU Stadium, waiting to see where they would be slotted to begin the NCAA tournament.

FIU was selected among the field of 64 to represent the Sun Belt Conference in the NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament. The Panthers will travel 238 miles north to face UCF on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

UCF is 11-4 overall and was eliminated in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament to East Carolina, 2-1. They were the fourth overall seed in the conference.

"They are a good opponent. It's a great opportunity for us, but it really doesn't matter who the opponent is, we have to come out and play our game and give our best," head coach Thomas Chestnutt said. "It will be a great in-state game."

The last time these two teams faced one another was back in 2009. It was a lopsided loss for the Panthers as they were shutout by UCF 5-0.

The team earned an automatic birth to the NCAA Tournament after clinching their first Sun Belt Cham-



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Freshman forward Ashleigh Shim attempted one shot for the Golden Panthers in the SBC championship game against Western Kentucky on Nov. 5.

pionship crown since 2000, defeating Western Kentucky in penalty kicks 4-3 after 110 minutes of scoreless soccer.

"I try to read the player the best way I can, but at the end it's an educated guess on which way you go. I guess in our penalty kicks, I read the players well," goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage said.

But much has changed from then to now as FIU has matured under Chestnutt and is now standing atop of the SBC.

"We made a team promise to always play for each other, play as hard as you can...back each other up and be true teammates," Savage said.

Savage saved two penalty

kicks against the Hilltoppers in the SBC Tournament. The SBC also awarded Nicole DiPerna, Chelsea Leiva, Kim Lopez, Ashleigh Shim, and Johanna Volz first-team all-SBC Tournament team.

Even though FIU's 2011 squad is much improved since 2009, the Golden Panthers cannot overlook the Golden Knights.

The Knights boost a great squad with two perennial shooting forwards, Tishia Jewell and Nicolette Radovic. Nicolette leads the team in goals with seven. Tishia is not that far behind with six on the year.

But if the Golden Panthers proved anything when they faced off against WKU in the SBC final, it is

that their defense is hard to score against. FIU's defense has saved a total of 107 shots, 104 of them have been saved by Savage.

UCF has scored 30 times in their 15 games this season, averaging two goals per game. Their high-scoring offense and FIU's stingy goalkeeping will clash in the first round.

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FOOTBALL

Team focusing on bowl berth, finishing season strong

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

In a matter of 11 days, the Panthers went from kicking a game winning field goal against co-defending conference champion from a year ago, Troy, to having the exact same happen the other way around at Western Kentucky. The kick versus the Trojans kept FIU's hopes of repeating as Sun Belt champions alive, and the 34-yard field goal off the foot of WKU's Casey Tinius killed it.

With no shot of obtaining first place in the conference, now that the team sits four wins behind Louisiana with just three SBC games to go, the focus has turned to finishing the season off strong and getting into a bowl game.

"The most important part is not even worrying about any of that stuff, just play better football," said head coach Mario Cristobal. "We're fighting hard and a lot of the games have come down to the last possession, hell this last one came down to the last play. It's obvious, if we can get in rhythm and execute like we're capable of executing, we can be a real good football team."

The only time the Sun

Belt had three teams make it to a bowl game in the same year was in 2010 with Troy, FIU and Middle Tennessee. Right now, FIU's only opportunity of coming third in the conference is to win out the rest of the schedule and have WKU lose to North Texas and Troy so that both teams will be tied in third, but even then, WKU would hold the tie breaker.

"You win six games and you're bowl eligible. We definitely feel that we're still bowl eligible and that we're a real good football team," said tight end Jonathan Faucher.

The defense, which had been giving up over 20 points per game to opponents in seven out of eight games, gave up just 10 versus WKU in the loss on Saturday. However, the offense only managed three field goals and 180 yards of offense. The last time the offense generated such low numbers was against Florida in 2009 when only 189 yards were gained.

Although the defense gave up just one touchdown, WKU running back Bobby Rainey rushed for 155 yards on 28 carries and was flagged seven times.

"I thought at the end of one call on Isame [Faciane], that's just playing hard



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Sophomore running back Kedrick Rhodes has been a bright spot for the offense this season for the Golden Panthers.

football," Cristobal said. "It's a discretionary call and I'm in no way taking a shot at the official, they got to call the game as they see it."

Faciane's 15-yard penalty for a late hit out of bounds helped put the Hill-toppers, who were unsuccessful in the first three

field goal attempts of the game, closer into field goal range to win the game.

"I told him to not worry about it, I don't even worry about the play because he was playing as hard as he could and he was trying to stop that guy (Rainey), and he did everything he could so I could never

take that away from him and I'm proud of him and the whole defense," said senior defense back Jonathan Cyprien.

T.Y. TO SENIOR BOWL

According to FIUSports.com, receiver and return specialist T.Y. Hilton was invited to the annual Under

Armour Senior Bowl.

Hilton is the first player in FIU history to be invited to the game, which gives NFL prospects a chance to improve their stock for the NFL draft.

The Senior Bowl will take place on Jan. 28, 2012 at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala.

Offense has disappeared after a strong start to the season

Just when the Panthers seemed to be peaking and becoming a legitimate football power for the next few years, they found a way to stumble and show us how far they still have to go.

COMMENTARY



BRANDON WISE

Dating back to last season, the Panthers had won 10 of their last 12 games. Now, they have lost four of their last six. There is a reason for this: offense.

The old saying in football is: "Offense wins games and defense wins championships." The only problem with that is you have to win games before you can even get to a championship. Right now, the offense is simply not getting it done.

The offense came into this season with the hype of being an unstoppable force that no one could contain. That is laughable looking at it now because this offense seems like it cannot score on anyone.

Wesley Carroll has become the Carroll of old. After starting red hot, the red shirt senior has been exposed for being a game manager. He has catered to what has been asked of him in the past, but now he is being asked to do more than he can.

MEDLOCK'S MOMENT

With the offense sputtering worse than your grandma's Honda Civic in the cold, it is time to put Jake Medlock behind the wheel of this offense. The offense needs a spark to get them through this and that spark could come in the presence of a different quarter-



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Wesley Carroll and T.Y. Hilton [right] currently lead an FIU offense, struggling to put up points.

back leading the way.

When given a chance, Medlock was a solid option. At least he threw for over 200 yards.

Carroll could not even cross the 150-yard mark against Western Kentucky. That is unacceptable when the offense is based around spreading the ball around to receivers.

The yards are one thing, but the fact that the offense can simply not put the ball in the end zone is starting to get in their heads.

Carroll has made very poor decisions in the past four games, each of which he has thrown an interception. More importantly, the ball has not been getting into the offensive leader, T.Y. Hilton's hands at all over the

past few weeks.

WHERE ART THOU T.Y.?

Over the past few games, Hilton has been playing a different role in the offense than they are used to seeing from him. It is almost like he is a decoy. The explosiveness that fans have grown accustomed to seeing over the past few years with the legend has disappeared.

It is almost as if Mr. Electricity has passed the torch onto Wayne Times and Jacob

Younger because they have become the two leading receivers on the team, besides a few deep balls to Hilton.

Those glimpses are becoming like Haley's comet, only making an appearance every few weeks. Now, only getting those glimpses from Hilton could have cost the Panthers a chance at back-to-back bowl bids.

SAD ENDING

This season had so much promise, so many opportunities. Now, they are going to have to settle with a mediocre record and possibly no bowl game. For all the publicity that surrounded this team to begin the year, finishing 7-5, their best record ever, would be a disappointment.

Right now, they could miss a bowl game simply because there is no room for them to go to a game. There are only two bowl ties for the Sun Belt and even the third team, Western Kentucky, will be fighting for their own bowl position.

It is just the worst way imaginable for the Panthers to finish a season with so much hope in such disgrace.

CAMPUS LIFE

Longboards used increasingly to cruise around campus

VANESSA PAREDES
Asst. Life! Editor

His right foot is used to increase the speed as he cruises on his Landy-achtz on the paved paths around campus. With each stride his board swerves around the students walking, and finally arrived to his class in a fraction of the time.

With a campus stretching 342 acres, riding a long board around campus is not uncommon. Many students have fallen into this trend, saying their farewells to walking around campus.

Unlike the skateboard, many riders claim the longboard is easier to master and more efficient for getting from point A to point B.

“What is different from the skateboard is that although both can be ridden, longboards go much faster for longer distances while the skateboard is more commonly used for doing tricks on it,” said sophomore Alejandro Carrizales.

The longboard has various key differences from other boards, making it efficient from cruising. An obvious trait is the elongated deck, which allows for the rider to have more foot room, enhancing the comfort of the board. Furthermore, if you look closely, the wheels are a lot bigger than those of a traditional skateboard. This allows for a more

stable ride with fluidity.

Students who are avid riders around campus rave about the commodities the longboard has brought them.

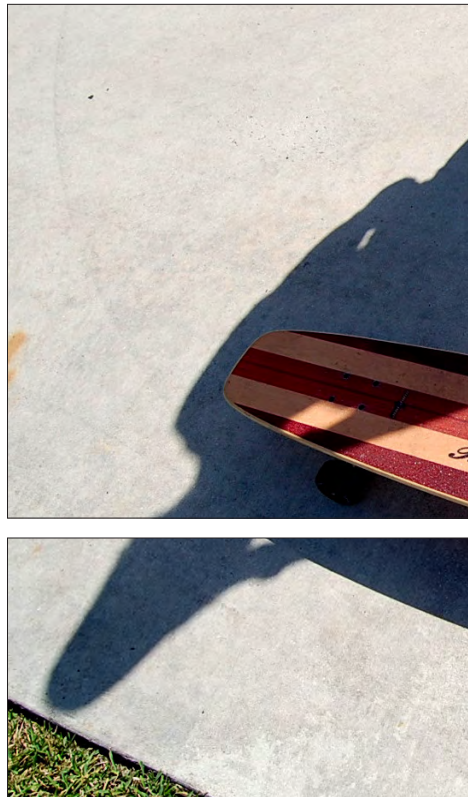
“Riding on campus is very practical, especially when you don’t have long gaps between classes, which is my case during this semester. I have 15 minutes between all of my four classes and if it wasn’t for my longboard, I wouldn’t have time to eat, talk and sit down for a little,” said sophomore communications major, Luis Carducci.

Longboarding and walking aren’t the only ways of transportation seen around the University though. Riding a bike is a more traditional way to get around, but students argue that the bike less convenient.

Sophomore Cynthia Fuentes said, “I think riding a longboard is much more efficient because it’s not so much of a hassle compared to locking up a bike somewhere on campus.”

Due to a growing number of longboarders on campus, it is likely to see longboarders while strolling from class to class. Some believe that longboarding poses no threat to the rest of the student body, yet others find it bothersome.

Ado Stimamiglio, junior and



ALEXANDRA SARDI/THE BEACON

Seeing longboards on campus is a common site. Some think it is the best way to travel, others find them annoying.

international relations major, does not longboard on campus but has no animosity towards those who do. “I really don’t feel any anger towards them if anything they’re getting around quicker,” he said.

On the other hand, Mady Calvo, freshman in business administration, has not had pleasant experi-

ences with the riders on campus.

“Students who use longboards throughout the University may find it convenient for them, but are much of nuisance to others walking around campus. Last week, I was almost run over by someone on a longboard on the way to class,” she said.

Whether the longboard helps students get to class sooner, or almost crashes into others while students walk to their next class, it is an extremely present accessory for students. As a mean of transportation, this peculiar board proves to be a fashionable form of transportation.

HAUTE TOPIC

Inspiring blogs the cure to fashion blahs

Remember when I said to cut down on fashion blogs to avoid fruitless spending? I couldn’t do it.

In order to survive without hitting the stores, I have needed some outfit inspiration.

The best way to do this is by observing bloggers’ style. I look at many blogs daily, ranging from fashion photography to beauty.

It seems like there are millions of them out there, some better than others. Here are some of my “real girl” favorites.

GARANCE DORE,
WWW.GARANCEDORE.FR/EN

Garance Dore is who I want to be when I grow up. She is funny, stylish, talented and French. Her blog features all of her cool friends from around the world and their personal style, alongside funny rants about the hair salon or debates about which shoes to buy.

Although she is probably best known for her photography, Dore started off as an illustrator for a magazine, so her blog is littered with really chic drawings of models in the new collections. In addition to clothes, she features

beauty, art and sometimes even health, proving fashion is not limited to simply garments. Dore is also the girlfriend of uber popular street style photographer Scott Schumann of The Sartorialist (www.thesartorialist.com). They are a perfect match made in fashion heaven. If you are a fan of wearable style with a twist, Garance Dore is for you.

LUXIRARE,
WWW.LUXIRARE.COM

Luxirare is home to a nameless, faceless fashion designer who has a penchant for fine dining. In a world of over sharing on the internet, it is really refreshing to see someone with a mysterious aura.

I have deduced that she lives in New York City and has graduated from a design school because of her restaurant reviews and impressive workshop.

Her style is pretty consistent, a mix of classic style and neutral colors with the influence of progressive designers like Comme Des Garçons, Viktor and Rolf and Maison Martin Margiela. What really intrigues me about Luxirare is her label; she designs and constructs her own clothes, shoes and

BLOGS, page 8

FILM STUDIES

UNDERGROUND

Students create Film Initiative

HOLLY MCCOACH
Contributing Writer

The word on campus is that there is an underground club that meets in secluded, dark areas to go about their business.

It may seem sketchy, but it is not trouble that they plan on bringing to the table.

The students gather because of the Film Initiative: Underground at FIU.

Students who enjoy seeing the likes of Clark Gable or Katharine Hepburn light up the screen should take note of this newly developed group at the University.

Although the club was recently started, a system has already been established as to how and what films are shown.

Due to the lack of a film presence on campus, Juan Barquin and Robert Colom decided to collaborate and immerse others

“It was a rocky start. [During] our first screening, we got escorted out by a security guard in the building.”

Robert Colom
Junior, Anthropology

into the world of film.

They did so by offering a film showing once a week — free of charge. However, lack of funding and a small budget have caused their creation to have a rocky start, but their passion for entertaining folks on film proved to overcome any obstacle.

Juniors Juan Barquin, an English major, and Robert Colom, an anthropology major, are both pursuing the Film Studies Certificate, the only film-related certification any student can obtain from the University.

The lack of film degrees offered has not stopped them in pursuing the group in order to further their interest on the subject.

With the help of Professor Barbara Weitz and a six-member staff, the group has been gung ho about the project.

Screenings of various movies began with only a handful of people, but have slowly been flourishing.

“We noticed we had a good program, so to speak. It was a rocky start. [During] our first

FILM, page 8

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Aspiring rapper does not let obstacles slow him down

AKIEL GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

"Hip-hop has always been controversial, and for good reason," wrote artist Jay-Z in his book, "Decoded." Nonetheless, one hip-hop artist that might be seen as controversial is Nicholas "Sain't" Brown because of his style and criticisms about a variety of topics.

Just take a look at one of his recent recordings, "For the Fallen," which the rapper describes as "...truth being spoken in those 52 bars of realness."

Brown is a current senior at the University, majoring in English, and is expected to graduate in spring 2012.

Music has always been a passion for the Bahamian-born rapper, and has never let any obstacle stop him from pursuing his dream.

He is a meticulous planner with a great entrepreneurial mind, has a thriving passion to succeed and is a dedicated student -- not just of hip-hop, but of all music.

When asked about who his biggest music inspirations are, he said, "Tupac Shakur and Michael Jackson because nobody can live up to their legacies, and it'll be a long time before anybody comes close to what they did."

His latest project is a mixtape titled "Collection Tape: Can't Afford Beats Vol. 1," which offers the listener with a different musicality compared to the usual hip-hop track.

Eleven out of this 12-track composition was produced under a beat-boxed simulated melody. According to Brown, he sought to create a "unique" project that



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Brown, who was frustrated with limited recording access, created his own production company.

was different from the norm.

Onzy, a longtime friend and executive producer for the project, describes the artist as being "a mix of humor and intelligence," and speaks of him as a born entrepreneur. Onzy also seemed enthusiastic about the fruition of his friend's music career and notes that he was "good to work with."

In 2003, Brown had signed his first record deal with a small, local independent label, but unfortunately, the venture short-lived and went bust.

However, learning from mistakes and following his own entrepreneurial passion, Brown now owns a production company and is proud of his accomplishment.

"I'm signed to my own label and own my masters so, yes, I have plenty

of regrets," Brown said sarcastically. "Seriously, I'm happy with where I'm at because I started my own company. When I get higher in status, my next deal must be epic, but until then, I can easily say I don't have any regrets whatsoever."

Outside of academia, the aspiring rapper reads books such as "How to Be a Hip-Hop Producer," and chooses to be studious by indulging himself in a supposed 16- to 18-month analysis process of each new hip-hop artist who lands on the The Source's Five-Mic list.

"Pay attention to who came before," he said, noting the importance of learning from artists who have made it before him.

Around 2006, Brown started working with two friends and formed a rap trio

named R.U.N. and the record label Whirl Wind Records.

At the time, he believed that the project would be a fruitful start to his career in which he even sold his car to fund it.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the project fell out and Brown was yet again back to square one.

"Go hard or go home, because if you aren't serious, then you're wasting time and energy that could have gone into something constructive like a solid education," the rapper explained.

Not wanting to give up, Brown chose to work on what would become "Collection Tape: Can't Afford Beats Vol. 1." The mixtape was inspired by rapper Dave Storm and his beat box remake of a song from Drake's "So Far Gone" mixtape. Brown said it took about a month and a half to write, but took a rough eight to nine months to produce.

When asked about his greatest accomplishment so far, he said, "getting people to pay attention me," and said that, as an aspiring artist, "you have to try prove to the world that you're something."

As his new project picks up steam online, Brown also has other plans in the work. He is currently working on his new mixtape, "Water into Mind," and an album named "The First Miracle LP." In the future, he hopes to take his movement worldwide and into the hearts of millions.

When asked about why he is so determined, he said, "It's instinctive. A moth to a flame, if you will. When you don't see yourself doing anything else except what makes you happy, you go for it 1000 percent and never say sorry."

Club members exposed to new and old film genres

FILM, page 7

screening, we got escorted out by a security guard in the building," said Colom.

"Casablanca" became their first official screening, and was presented in The Pit at the Graham Center.

The lack of an audience, a less than top-notch sound system and a huge screen presumed to be discouraging.

However, the dynamic duo was determined to learn from their mistakes, and since then, they have been gradually improving.

Now, the Film Initiative lets viewers know when and where they are screening films through their mailing list and their Facebook page.

Their Tumblr also previews films and links to videos.

As far as genres of movies that are shown, Barquin and Colom decided to establish a theme for each month, and plan to incorporate audience suggestions as well.

"We decided the first month would be October, [and played] our favorite classic movies. We ended with an audience pick, which we are going to continue every month. We'll compile a list of five movies and let the audience pick," said Colom.

Determined to present the highest quality possible, Barquin and Colom use Blu-ray discs and DVDs that they own or that they borrow from friends.

They also take advantage of the film

library on campus and are planning to expand and digitize it, seeing as how the majority of the films in the library are on VHS.

November houses the theme "Noir-venember," a twist on the film noir genre.

This term is used to describe films shown in post-World War II America, which involve sketchy gangs, murders, crime and "life on the streets."

The majority of these films are in black and white, with dim lighting to emphasize the motif.

Not only do Barquin and Colom wish to entertain, but they hope to bring awareness to these types of movies and genres through themes like "Noirvenember."

"It's a fun pun on the word. I got it from a friend of mine that lives in California. She introduced me to that," said Barquin.

"We've got a few plans for December; we haven't decided yet. So far, we have averaged about 30 people per screening. I honestly expected, like, 10 people."

Other themes on the radar include existentialist cinema, surrealist cinema, a Valentine theme, and the continuation of "Noirvenember" each year.

A theme for December has been established but is being kept as a surprise for the audience.

Whichever themes they choose, Barquin and Colom hope to imprint their paw prints in the University before they graduate and pass on their new-founded legacy to other followers of film.

HAUTE TOPIC

From models to designers, bloggers' posts influence

BLOGS, page 7

accessories for her self-labeled brand. Her work is really beautiful, and you can tell she puts a lot of thought into it. Browse around her online store and you will know what I mean.

FASHIONTOAST,
WWW.FASHIONTOAST.COM

Rumi Neely of Fashion Toast marries the casual style of a model off duty with tailored perfection. Her blog is full of photos ready to be reblogged on Tumblr. Neely's blog gives me serious wanderlust; as a model, she is invited all around the world for work and play.

The photography on her site is clean and simple, which makes me admire her clothing even more. Neely's style is exactly how I would dress if I were, well, a model. Her taste for unconventional shoes and luxurious basics is pretty much my ideal wardrobe. I also like that she wears a lot of her favorites again. It is refreshing to see bloggers repeat items.

SEA OF SHOES,
WWW.SEAOFSHOES.COM

I have been following Jane Aldridge for what seems like years now, and I find new things to love about her style every post. Her collection of shoes is

literally jaw-dropping. From vintage to the latest Miu Miu's, Aldridge has it all. Other than her shoe collection, Aldridge has the most unique style. You can't peg her in any category. One day she will be wearing the most amazing vintage 50s gown with Valentino heels, and the next ripped jeans with a cardigan and a pair of vintage boots. In addition to her intriguing outfits, Aldridge posts vintage photos and shots of interior design for inspiration.

SINCERELY JULES,
WWW.SINCERELYJULES.COM

Jules Sarinana of Sincerely Jules is the epitome of California girl. Sarinana is a fan of simple basics, ultra high sandals and piling on the jewelry. Sarinana's style is easy to imitate and appropriate for school or going out. Sarinana, who is also a model and dabbles in design, is the cool girl next door who you are secretly envious of.

If you have trouble layering or accessorizing your outfits, looking at this blog will definitely help. Sarinana is the queen of putting together unexpected shapes, like a billowy tank top with short shorts and high boots, but still manages to look totally cool.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Look for it every Wednesday this fall.

PANTHER POINTS 30

97 DE TOUREK WILLIAMS

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RADIATE REVIEWS

Irregular title for an album that is anything but



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLDPLAY FACEBOOK

With their fifth studio album, "Mylo Xyloto," Coldplay offers a healthy helping of pretty pop on a grandeur scale befitting of the biggest rock band in the world.

During an interview with Stephen Colbert on "The Colbert Report," Coldplay's front man Chris Martin was discussing the influences and similarities between them and fellow British contemporaries Radiohead.

Regarding this, he remarked, "We are not as good musically, but much more attractive."

For being on a facetious show and acting in similar tone, Martin ironically expressed some truth to that statement.

Coldplay has received those backhanded compliments of "Radiohead-lite" throughout their career, from the earnest efforts of "Parachutes" to the anthem styles of "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends."

No matter the album or approach, they would be under the myopic view of critics and old/new fans alike.

With their fifth studio album, "Mylo Xyloto," Coldplay offers a healthy helping of pretty pop on a grandeur scale befitting of the biggest rock band in the world that even the hipster crowd will admit to liking.

Artistic craftsmanship has taken a stronghold of a band who solely settled on some melodic strings from guitarist Jon Buckland and harmonic vocals from Martin that goes

down like traditional English tea.

Producer Brian Eno has taken the reigns of adding the ambitious elements of "Viva La Vida..." and now "Mylo Xyloto." "Hurts Like Heaven" automatically catches your attention with lively precision with Martin's faux-inspirational singing of the lyric "Don't let it take control."

He acts like a voice of generational youths that never necessarily wanted him to speak for them, but we still accept his preachy timbre that comes off more earnest than it does enforced.

A cascade of synths and ubiquitous "oohs" wash over "Paradise," which is a song ripped for epic chorus sing-alongs and claps at their stadium shows.

On record, it is a production piece of art that implements arching pianos and crescendo guitars with cranked-up drums on the mix that offers more to the listener. "Us Against the World" expands on their sound — but by its minimalist approach. It plays like a swooning lullaby that stretches for a "Hallelujah"-type feeling.

"Up in Flames" features a beat from Will Champion that grooves and echoes like hip-hop percussion resonating against Martin's tender vocals about (you guessed it) a relationship going up in flames. Simplicity can always be counted on, even if they are pop art superstars.

Having achieved success

in the avenues of commercial and critical gives Coldplay extra license to teeter the line of ambitious and audacious. This is the case for "Princess of China," featuring Rihanna. Yes, Rihanna. Are you surprised?

The biggest modern rock band in the world with one of the biggest names in the pop world seems like a match waiting to set fire — and it does.

The mechanical sonics mash up against one another like people will be mashing up with each other when this one is juicing up the club. I can imagine the countless number of fans going, "Oh, my God, I love this song!" turning their radio up when this hits No. 3 on "On Air with Ryan Seacrest" (you know who you are).

Crowd pleasing is something Coldplay can do so admirably that it is hard to find fault in a band who knows what they can give: music that is heartwarming and pleasant listening that does not cross the edge of too adventurous or indulgent.

"Mylo Xyloto" might not actually mean anything, but the music absolutely does.

It highlights a band who has amassed worldwide appeal and never seems to let up, offering a mix of pleasant, enriched pop rock that is entertaining as it is uplifting. Apparently, "Mylo Xyloto" does mean something after all.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9

- **11th Annual Women, Sexuality, and Gender Student Conference:** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., MMC GC Room 243

THURSDAY, NOV. 10

- **The Maltese Falcon (1941) by John Huston:** 9:30 p.m., MMC GC 140

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COMMENTARY

President's absence eases proceedings

Denise Haplin, president of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus, attended the Nov. 4 University-wide meeting via telephone. Calling from what sounded like the center of a Cambodian street market, she was forced to keep her phone on mute throughout most of the meeting, thus making her greatest contribution to the proceedings by not saying anything.

In the pursuit of brevity, the details will have to go unmentioned in referring back to the cover-your-ears-and-shut-your-eyes embarrassment of watching the SGC-BBC conduct itself at the Oct. 21 University-wide meeting, sporting a deficiency of professionalism like a vacuum has of oxygen.

That meeting – in which every issue was tabled and not a single decision was made – was presided by Ms. Haplin, whose acerbic manner fed the indignation and naïveté from which her colleagues

Their contributions to the discussions were largely digressive, meandering, inarticulate and prone to constipating whatever progress was on the brink of being made.

scraped their every barbed and wandering argument.

Here, for the Nov. 4 meeting at the Modesto Maidique Campus, under the orchestration of Patrick O'Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at MMC, the SGC-BBC was still of greater hindrance than help.

Their contributions to the discussions – with the exception of a few remarks made by SGC-BBC vice president Emilio Collyer – were largely digressive, meandering, inarticulate and prone to constipating whatever progress was on the brink of being made.

And yet, bad as they were, they were far more agreeable without Ms. Haplin than they have otherwise been, an improvement attributable to the assertiveness with which O'Keefe directed the meeting, aided by SGC-MMC Vice President Sanjeev

Udhmani's repeated contribution of figures, alternatives and resolutions.

When SGC-BBC didn't look totally uninterested or spaced, they looked confused. They dribbled these painfully awkward sentences, slow-spoken as they clawed for one mature-sounding word at a time in the hopeless quest for erudition.

And it just invariably yields to these clumsy and uncertain statements that begin "I believe that..." and which then go on and on.

In spite of their presence and the necessity of acknowledging it, some progress was made, namely the decision – tabled by senselessly vehement argument at the previous meeting – to make the MMC-BBC shuttle free to students on Monday and Tuesday of fall finals week.

The free rides, which usually charge \$2.50 each

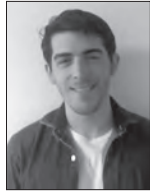
way, will cost the Student Government Association an estimated \$2,500 for the chosen days.

SGC-BBC argued that, rather than spending \$2,500 to give students free rides on finals week, they should spend \$7,000 to offer those same free rides during the spring semester's Week of Welcome, an idea that seemed more like a way to get rid of their money somehow because it's illegal to burn it.

They were brought to their senses by SGC-MMC comptroller Cristina Loreto, who pointed out that the goal of a student government is to aid its students with useful services.

Offering free rides to students during finals week, she argued, would be far more helpful than doing so during Week of Welcome, when missing the bus doesn't mean failing a class.

COLUMNIST



ALEX SORONDO

CLASS DISMISSED

Student loan bubble is escapable

Before the student loan crisis, borrowing money to obtain an education was seen as a wise investment, or at least a necessary evil

However, with so many students majoring in debt, it seems as if one's college diploma is more of a curse than a gift.

In a Nov. 6 article on huffingtonpost.com, it is argued that college students would be better off had they not attended in the first place.

Although a college degree is still valuable, it simply is not worth its weight in student loans. "A degree is an asset whose value can change over time," writes the article's author, Justin Pope. "Borrowing to pay for it is risky, and borrowing is way up. The stakes are high. You can usually walk away from a house. Not so a student loan, which can't even be discharged in bankruptcy."

Furthermore, Pope notes that student loans show bubble-like tendencies: everyone wants them, bills are being paid with the borrowed money, little research is done to see if the borrowers are truly

eligible and defaulting is on the rise.

Before we all submit university withdrawal forms to avoid amassing debt, let's keep in mind that the rising tuition costs is also an issue. If it was not so expensive to go to college, there would be no need for students to borrow funds to offset the costs.

That being said, if these trends continue, there will come a time where students cannot get loans at all, thus disenfranchising thousands of potential college graduates, which would then drive the economy even further downward, because many rising industries that require innovative thinkers also require at least a Master's degree, if not higher.

As college students, there are a couple of ways we can avoid this financial hardship. To begin with, we must resist the urge to borrow more than we actually need for tuition.

I know it is tempting to borrow several loans to buy a car or pay off some bills, especially since many loans are subsidized and are not due for repayment until six months after graduation. However, with the economy in such disrepair, there is no guarantee that a post-grad will be employed right after graduation, thus making it even

more difficult to pay back the loans in a timely fashion.

It makes little sense, then, to increase the hardship by over-borrowing, especially from multiple lenders. Sorry to burst your bubble, but keep the borrowing at bay.

Furthermore, search diligently for scholarships and grants. With enough research and a good grade point average, students could acquire enough "free money" to pay for college. Even if a scholarship only covers \$500 per semester, it will still make all the difference when it's time to purchasing books.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama's student debt relief plan, which reduces minimum payments and forgives debt after 20 years instead of 25, could be the solution to current and future students, thus giving college graduates a fair chance to pay their debt.

Even with this reform, we must borrow responsibly and fully understand what we are getting ourselves into when we borrow funds for college. Otherwise, we will have a heavy debt that comes along with our diploma.

"Class Dismissed" is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

THE BEACON | Editorials

Gun ban infringes upon basic right

Isolated examples of gun violence at universities are few and far between, but when they occur, most notably the Virginia Tech massacre that killed 32 people in 2007, they re-start conversations about restricting gun possession on college campuses.

This is not to shrug off the impact of the violent incidents that have occurred, but given that it doesn't happen with any regularity, the solution is to screen applicants for guns more carefully, not to strip them of their rights.

The discussion of guns being allowed on college campuses has been re-ignited as a student from the University of North Florida has reportedly filed a lawsuit against the school, challenging the ban of guns being stored in cars parked on campus. The suit was filed in Duval County court by Alexandria Lainez and Florida Carry Inc.

The issue is simple: the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of people to bear arms. After the Supreme Court's decision in *McDonald v. Chicago*, there isn't much room for interpretation -- if a firearm is lawfully possessed, then the person has the right to carry it. However, strict enforcement of screening and background checks for gun applicants will need to be instituted.

Seung-Hui Cho, the perpetrator of the Virginia Tech shooting, was able to obtain weapons legally and passed background checks, but he did not disclose a history of mental health problems. Cho was found to be "mentally ill" in 2005 after a district court in Montgomery County, Va. ruled him "an imminent danger to self or others."

The reform around gun laws shouldn't be about trying to stop people from having the firearms they lawfully possess on a college campus, but about installing a more meticulous process of attaining these guns with thorough background checks.

The University can also implement ways to monitor these situations without interfering with people's rights. The University could institute a system in which students who carry a legal firearm on campus have to register with the University so the student can be identified, and staff and faculty know when someone possesses a gun.

Instead of potentially overreacting to an incident, the Constitution should be respected and the actual root of gun violence, where and how the weapon is attained, should be the topic of discussion, along with how to manage situations with gun holders.

Firearms have no place on campus

It is a terrible idea to legally set a precedent that allows for a liberalization of gun laws on college campuses.

New York Times columnist Gail Collins wrote, "Concealed Carry on Campus [an organization that supports guns on campus] envisions a female student being saved from an armed assailant by a freshman with a concealed weapon permit. I see a well-intentioned kid with a pistol trying to intervene in a scary situation and accidentally shooting the victim." *The Beacon* also sees the latter vision.

The chances that a well-meaning student will be armed and prepared to shoot in the right place at the right time is highly unlikely; the chance that a well-meaning student will be armed, possibly impulsive and a poor shooter is far more possible.

Furthermore, college students are certainly not the ideal demographic to handle weapons.

A few examples: the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reported that two out of five students, over 40 percent, have reportedly binge drank at least one time during a two-week period.

Furthermore, NPR reported in January that the number of college students who take medicine for depression and anxiety has increased over 10 percent in the last 10 years.

The chance of a shooting on college campuses remains remarkably low, but if gun laws are liberalized, the chances will increase.

DISCLAIMER

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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.

THE FALL COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE HAS BEEN REVISED TO ACCOMMODATE MORE GUESTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

10:00 a.m.

College of Education (was originally scheduled at 3p.m.)
College of Engineering & Computing

3:00 p.m.

College of Arts & Sciences

- School of Environment, Arts & Society (SEAS)
- School of Integrated Science & Humanity (SISH)

7:30 p.m.

College of Arts & Sciences (was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)
• School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011

10:00 a.m.

College of Business Administration
• Landon Undergraduate School of Business

3:00 p.m.

College of Architecture + The Arts (was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)
School of Journalism & Mass Communication
College of Business Administration
• Chapman Graduate School of Business

7:30 p.m.

Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
(was originally scheduled at 3:00p.m.)
College of Nursing & Health Sciences (was originally scheduled at 3:00p.m.)
School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
(was originally scheduled at 10:00a.m.)

For more information, please visit
<http://commencement.fiu.edu>



Student embraces music while balancing school

CRISTINA MIRALLES
Staff Writer

Daniel Alejandro Sandler has spent half of his life in Argentina and the other half in Miami as a singer/song writer and a student. Sandler grew up in a family of musicians; his father and grandfather used to sing and his great grandfather was a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin. Their influences helped him grow into a musician in his own right.

By 2004, Sandler was playing the guitar and the piano, but it wasn't until 2006 when he began writing his own songs. As of now, he has around 40 original songs in both English and Spanish, and like any other composer, his songs come from personal experiences.

"[My lyrics mostly] come from my experiences with girls. Every time I like a girl I get inspired to write lyrics and create a melody. If it is not about a girl, then it has to touch my inner feelings, and if happens to be a girl that touches my inner feelings, then the song will most likely come out better," said Sandler.

Sandler's inspiration also comes from a few of his favorite bands like Queen, Los Enanitos Verdes, Fito Paez, Hawthorne Heights and Avenged Sevenfold.

On Nov. 7, Sandler performed at Rock Out with SPC, where he performed acoustic covers of alternative bands mixed in with his own original songs.

Sandler has had the chance to perform at the Hollywood Beach Bandshell, at local coffee shops, parties and at weddings, between



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Daniel Sandler, senior Spanish major, performs at 'Rock out with SPC' as he gets his name out to various audience members. Sandler has performed in past Student Programming Council events as he works on becoming a radio personality and future Spanish teacher.

his regular gig at The Coffee Scene where he used to play every Friday night.

When he is not writing his own music and performing, he's a student in his senior year at FIU

majoring in Spanish. Sandler wants to become a Spanish teacher in the future.

"It's hard trying to do both at the same time. They both interfere with each other, but I try

to manage my time so that both come out well."

Sandler says that just like any other aspiring student or musician, he has goals of his own that keep him on his feet.

"I have various goals in my life; I've wanted to become a musician for the five years. I still believe I can become a successful musician, [it might be hard] but not impossible."

'Rock Band', 'Just Dance' among activities at event

REBECA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Programming Council hosted Rock Out with SPC, which showcased the talents of singer Daniel Sandler, on Nov. 7.

Rock Out with SPC is part of the Student Programming Council's series of Square Days.

"Square Days are a series of events that aims to bring out different entertainers brought for students to enjoy," Maria Reynaga, SPC-BBC secretary, said. "Today's theme was Rock Out with SPC."

The singer for the event was Daniel Sandler, a University senior majoring in Spanish, who covered a series of alternative and rock songs

"Daniel had been to one of our previous events and he walked to into the office and spoke to the council and said 'Make me a vendor, I want to perform for you,'" said Catherine Vega, SPC-BBC President, on how they booked him. "At first we were a little hesitant, but when he brought his guitar in and sang for us, we were on board."

Along with the talents of Daniel Sandler, Rock Band and Just Dance were made available to students to play. Give-

aways, including candy, Rock N' Roll themed rubber bracelets, Vitamin Water, laptop cases and movie promotional items were given out as well.

There were around 30 students at the event, with several more walking by at any given moment.

Estefa Pinares, junior sociology major, was just walking by and when she heard the music.

"I liked what I was hearing and decided to stay," Pinares said. "I think it's nice that SPC does series like these because it brings more talent to the students."

General curiosity brought Chad Samlalsingh, a junior sociology major, to the event.

"I think it's important to support events like this," said Samlalsingh. "It's a great way to help social interaction in BBC community, and that's important in a campus that's primarily made up of commuters."

Friends Bianca Varjas and Michelle Muskus, both junior journalism majors, were listening to the music while studying for their next class.

"We were studying and heard the music," said Varjas. "Since there is always giving away free things at events like this, we decided to check it out and were pleasantly surprised by the performer."



[Above] Ned Chandler, sophomore art major, and Maria Del Sol, biology sophomore, play 'Rock Band'.

[Right] Sherezade Rodriguez, journalism junior, and Richard Wirie, undecided freshman play 'Just Dance'.



PHOTOS BY BARBARA DUARTE/THE BEACON