



LIBYA

Official gives Egypt Gadhafi message

A ranking member of the Libyan military flew to Cairo with a message for Egyptian officials from Moammar Gadhafi, whose troops pounded opposition forces with artillery barrages.



AFGHANISTAN

Iran shipped powerful rockets to Taliban

NATO forces in Afghanistan have seized about 50 Iranian-made rockets intended to aid the Taliban's spring battle campaign, the most powerful weapons ever intercepted en route.



CUBA

US gives 8 more airports approval for Cuba

Eight airports have gained federal approval to schedule charter flights to and from Cuba, opening new gateways for Cuban Americans to visit relatives in the communist island nation.

PEN AND INK



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Senior Scott Hinz, a BFA in performance major, writes a letter to a loved one at Scrivener's Sentimental Station at Austenmania. The event, which was hosted by the English and Theater departments, was a tribute to the 19th century author Jane Austen.

Graduate Council to get a new addition

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

In a unanimous vote at a March 8 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the addition of a student representative to the Graduate Council.

The student member would be a non-voting representative appointed by elected graduate student senators from Student Government Association.

According to Faculty Senate Chair Thomas Breslin, the Steering Committee "felt that [it] was a good idea" and will be recommending the Undergraduate Council to do the same.

"The purpose of this is to make the governance system more inclusive, to share it and to bring in a perspective from graduate students. It is to follow a trend that has been very successful at other universities for about three

decades," said Fred Blevens, chair of the Graduate Council, during the faculty senate meeting. "Almost all of the universities in the state of Florida have done this already and it seems to bring students in to give their perspective on policies and procedures into the council, as well as concerns that we might not otherwise have heard."

As one of the 18 committees of the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council is a committee that is "charged to recommend and evaluate policies and procedures concerning graduate education at the University, evaluate proposals for new graduate programs, tracks, or academic certificates, safeguard the Curriculum and perform related tasks as assigned by the Faculty Senate."

During the meeting, the Senate also passed a Graduate Council

SENATE, page 2

Spring break gives students time for rest and relaxation

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

Spring break is here again, marking the beginning of a much needed break from the hectic life-style of college students giving them a chance to sit back and breathe before diving in again for one last stretch.

For some, this week offers the chance to disappear, clear their heads and not think about anything.

"I'm like a hermit," said Claudia Vega, 18, a freshman and sociology major. "I don't see a lot of friends. I see it as an opportunity to rest."

Vega also takes the week as an opportunity to spend time with her family.

"If my parents aren't working, we go out to dinner and the movies; my sister works there so we get to go for free sometimes," she said.

Apart from all of the family time, Vega gets the added benefit of celebrating her birthday which sometimes coincides with spring break.

"The whole extended family gets together and we celebrate. It's a chance to share family time with everyone," said Vega.

Other students see spring break as an opportunity to get out of Miami and see what else is out there. Kenneth Dyches, a sophomore political science major, will take a trip with his family and others to Steamboat, Colorado to go skiing.

"Last year we went to Breckenridge, Colorado, and we took skiing lessons," Dyches said.

"By the end of the trip I was going on black diamonds [the hardest terrain]."

This pseudo-tradition came from one of the families which belonged to Miami Ice and invited Dyches and his family along with them. Together they went upstate to enjoy the community restaurants and ski resorts.

Dyches and his family have also enjoyed trips to Yellowstone and Canada on spring break. "We always make the best of our vacation time. It's better than being home and sleeping," Dyches said. Another student who won't stay home and sleep is Eduardo Almaguer, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Almaguer will take an 8-day trip to Tennessee to experience snowboarding, skiing and snow

tubing.

"Last year my friend [Christopher Gonzalez] invited me but I broke my left ankle running down the sidewalk and I wasn't able to go," Almaguer said. "This year when they invited me again I couldn't turn down the opportunity."

The trip to Tennessee, aside from a 17-hour car ride, will feature a pit stop at the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina. "I'm pretty excited," said Almaguer. "Last spring break I just chilled and took it easy but I'm going to be more adventurous this year."

And while some relax in the snow, others will take the sunny weather in Florida.

BREAK, page 6

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida House moves to cut unemployment benefits

BRENT KALLESTAD
AP Staff

Florida's jobless may soon find the going even tougher as the Florida House moves quickly toward passing a bill that would sharply reduce state unemployment benefits.

The House is set to vote Thursday on its proposal (HB 7005) that is designed to reduce unemployment compensation taxes that businesses pay, and reduces the limit on state benefits from 26 to 20 weeks. The state pays a maximum of \$275 monthly in addition to federal unem-

ployment assistance, which lasts up to 99 weeks.

"These are people who have to feed their families, clothe themselves and they are trying to not lose their homes to foreclosures," said Rep. Geraldine Thompson, an Orlando Democrat who offered an amendment aimed at getting more federal grant money.

But Republicans hold an 81-39 advantage in the Florida House and used that muscle Wednesday to reject a handful of amendments aimed at softening the blow to those jobless workers who depend solely

on their unemployment checks to pay bills.

"The intent of this bill is to reduce taxes on businesses to help our businesses recover," said Rep. Doug Holder, a Sarasota Republican and real estate broker who sponsored the bill. "It's about tax relief, to save more jobs so that more people aren't added to the unemployment system."

Because of the lengthy recession and its toll on the economy, businesses are looking at having their minimum unemployment compensation tax rate being hiked from

\$25.20 per employee in 2010 year to \$72.10 in 2011.

The Senate is working on similar legislation that is favored as well by Gov. Rick Scott.

And while it could reduce the maximum state benefit from \$7,150 to \$5,500, the \$1,650 difference is seen as huge by those on both sides of the issue.

Holder, who is chairman of the House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee, pointed out the state has borrowed heavily from the federal government to cover its share of the unemployment benefits

and now finds itself paying millions in interest, adding that the state system is broke.

The Republican-dominated House voted down several amendments before the bill was slated for debate and a final vote Thursday, which will be the third day of the 60-day legislative session.

"It is reprehensible that the Florida House of Representatives' first order of business was to cut unemployment benefits," said Jeannette Wynn, local president of the union that represents state and municipal workers.

NEWS FLASH

Final landing day for space shuttle Discovery

Space shuttle Discovery aimed for an on-time touchdown Wednesday to wrap up a long flying career. The world's most-traveled spaceship was due to return to Earth — for the last time ever — three minutes before noon.

NASA's oldest shuttle has flown 39 missions over nearly 27 years. Discovery is headed back from the International Space Station. Its crew delivered and installed a new storage compartment, complete with a humanoid robot.

The mission added 13 days to Discovery's lifetime total of 365 days in space. Its total mileage is 148 million miles. Once back at Kennedy Space Center, Discovery will be decommissioned and sent to the Smithsonian Institution for display.

NPR chief ousted after exec's racism remarks

NPR's CEO and president, Vivian Schiller, has been forced to resign, the radio broadcaster's media correspondent said Wednesday, following an undercover sting in which a senior executive was videotaped describing Tea Party members as "racist."

On Tuesday, Schiller had condemned the comments by Ron Schiller (no relation) — NPR Foundation's senior vice president for fundraising at the time — that were secretly filmed by political activist James O'Keefe of "Project Veritas."

But a Wednesday statement from the chairman of NPR's board of directors, Dave Edwards, said the board had accepted Vivian Schiller's resignation "with deep regret." It was effective immediately.

— Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 23 of *The Beacon*, the article titled "Survey finds colleges looking at students' social media presence," cites a Kaplan survey saying that eighty percent of colleges use social media to assess students. This is incorrect. The Kaplan survey states that eighty percent of colleges use social media to recruit students.

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

Location a factor for some employers

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Students tend to hope that the type of classes they take, the internships they attain and their final GPA to lead a high paying salary, but it seems there may be a factor that most don't think about—location.

According to Business Week, cities like Austin, San Antonio, Salt Lake City and Seattle rank at the top of the list for best places to go to start a career.

Location is one facet that is highly influential to career success and is typically overlooked, as the article suggests, by the average incoming college freshman.

Career Services at FIU stresses the importance location has in reference to a potential employee's familiarity with it.

"From an employer's perspective, I can say that companies like to hire individuals that are familiar with the demands of a particular location," said Assistant Director for

Employee Relations and Event Planning, Lauren Hubacheck-Butler.

Hubacheck-Butler referenced recruitment techniques with locally companies such as Caterpillar Corporate. The construction product and service company, according to Hubacheck-Butler, recruits students from FIU because its employers are on the search of applicants who are familiar with the Hispanic culture and the University often stands out for its Hispanic population.

The benefits of each location, as suggested by Business Week, involve the amount of money saved in the long run and an increase in the chance of becoming hired.

Being familiar with the area, not needing relocation and having contacts within the area are some of the things that companies look for when selecting new employees.

Graduate students have reported positive financial and psychological impacts from choosing a loca-

tion that encouraged their career development.

According to CampusGrotto.com, in an article referring to the importance of location for career success, students should take into consideration two important factors: states with the best career growth and states with the lowest cost of living.

Hubacheck-Butler believes job opportunities would significantly increase if students were more aware of the growth rates, average salaries and living costs in different states.

At the end of each semester, seniors fill out a survey about their plans after graduation. The University hopes to find out how many students are moving out of state after ending their college career.

While the responses from this semester's survey have not yet been processed, previous surveys have revealed that students often leave South Florida for graduate schools.

According to Business Week, students should aim to seek high-wage employment in massive business and professional services sectors.

"Ultimately, it's up to [the student] to weigh the factors that [he or she] think will work most in your favor in regard to being a successful student and a future job applicant," said Erica Cunningham, an undergraduate at George Washington University and writer at UniversityChic.com.

Although Cunningham sounds persuasive when explaining the new finding, he makes it clear that ultimate success is unique to every individual and depends on the person's efforts and skills.

The Career Fair and the Mega Career Week at both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses, which hosts more than 700 students, aims to give graduation-prone students a more in depth of look into the job and location hunting process.

New member to bring student voice

SENATE, page 1

motion which "urges the dean of the University Graduate School and unit deans to evaluate the level of funding for graduate students in differing units and, where appropriate, improve support."

Within the motion there was emphasis on those doctoral students in the social sciences who have exhausted fellowship aid and are working as adjuncts without tuition waivers.

"From a student perspective it will give us a sense of knowing what's going on. I think that too many of us don't know. To have another voice in the Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council [gives us] more of a sense of a grad life and makes sure that our needs are being met," said SGA Graduate Senator Erika Edwards, who proposed both motions to the Graduate Council.

In an interview with Student Media, Blevens stated that he looks forward to more student driven proposals, like Edwards', to be brought up at the Graduate Council meetings now that they will have a voice within their board.

"I would hope that we see a lot of input from the graduate student body now. It's something that was overdue and I'm glad that it had that support from the Steering Committee enough to have them recommend it to the Undergraduate Council," said Blevens.

While the Senate heard no opposition to the student representative motion from any of

the senators, the College of Education Senator Leonard Bliss inquired about reasons behind the non-voting factor.

"If we're after the aspect of 'inclusiveness', then the student should really be a voting member, not a member without a vote," said Bliss, who is a professor of educational research methodology. "It seems to me that the most logical thing to do."

In response, Blevens mentioned that the voting issue

was the most contentious issue brought up by the Graduate Council during their meeting.

Yet in their research involving other universities, the Council members found that it was common practice that the student was a non-voting member.

Also considered was the fact that the student was sitting on the board that is "part of the faculty senate and that the voting function should remain among those faculty

members."

With the approval of the updated Graduate Council policy and procedural manual, which includes the two discussed motions, it is possible that a student representative could be sitting on the Graduate Council before the end of the spring semester.

Melissa Caceres works as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate.

IN THE WILD



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

The Marine Biology club met at Bill Baggs State Park at Key Biscayne on March 6 to explore the local marine life. Members snorkeled around the local sea grass beds and used a seine net to observe squids, octopuses, conchs and urchins.

THE BEACON

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GOLD CUP 2011

GOLDEN CHANCE

Honduras, Jamaica to play at FIU

*FIU has
chance to
become
"Soccer U"*

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

International soccer is coming to Southwest 8th street this summer.

On March 9, the 2011 Gold Cup group stages and schedules were announced by the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football. The top nations in CONCACAF will compete for the right to participate in the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil.

The Gold Cup will take place from June 5 through the 25, with the champion being crowned on Jun. 25 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Out of the 13 venues, FIU Stadium will play host to two Group B stage matches. Jamaica will face Guatemala, followed by Grenada versus Honduras. All matches will be played on June 10 at FIU Stadium.

"We are extremely excited for this year's Gold Cup and are completely confident that it will be the best ever," CONCACAF General Secretary Chuck Blazer said. "We are bringing our fans the region's best football in fantastic venues - with a lot on the line. It is truly a can't-miss event."

The Jamaican national team is no stranger to FIU Stadium. "The Reggae Boyz" played at FIU Stadium in the last installment of



LYNNE SLADKY/AP PHOTO

Jamaica will return to FIU Stadium for this year's Gold Cup after a 1-1 draw with El Salvador in 2009.

the Gold Cup in 2009. 17,269 spectators attended Jamaica's Gold Cup match against El Salvador in 2009, where Jamaica edged El Salvador 1-0. Jamaica, winners of the 2010 Caribbean Championship, have appeared in the Gold Cup seven times. Their best result was a third

GOLD CUP, page 4

GOLD CUP 2011

Jamaica vs. Guatemala

- Time: 7:00 p.m.
- When: 06/10/11
- Where: FIU Stadium

Honduras vs. Grenada

- Time: 9:00 p.m.
- When: 06/10/11
- Where: FIU Stadium

SOFTBALL

Golden Panthers prep for trip

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (10-10) will travel west this weekend to participate in the Reno Classic.

The team will face off against New Mexico and Boston College on March 9. The Golden Panthers will then play New Mexico for a second time on March 10, followed by an early evening tilt against tournament host Nevada.

FIU comes into the tournament on a two game losing streak. When the Golden Panthers get off to a fast start, they are in good shape to win the game.

FIU currently has a 9-1 record when they score first in a game, but the team has struggled to pull out wins when trailing. The Golden Panthers have a 2-8 record when trailing after four innings of play.

Offensively, FIU will be led by Ashley McClain who is hitting .397 and slugging .603 on the season. Jessy Alfonso is not far behind with a .327 average.

In the circle, look for the platoon

of Jenn Gniadek, Mariah Dawson and McClain to likely make starts during the weekend. FIU's team ERA is a solid 2.43 and opponents are only hitting .245 against the Golden Panther pitching staff so far this season.

The New Mexico Lobos (6-6) are led offensively by junior Jessica Garcia, who is hitting .447. Garcia also leads the team with a .921 slugging percentage. The top of the Lobos lineup is loaded with numerous .300 plus hitters that includes Kerry Hodgins (.379), Kaity Ingram (.333), and Danielle Castro (.324). Castro also leads the team with 10 RBIs on the season.

The Lobos pitching staff is led by sophomore Kaela DeBroeck, who currently is 3-3 with a 3.74 ERA in seven starts for New Mexico. The pitching staff is also supported by Kari Gutierrez and Madeline Greene, who have combined to pitch in 39.2 innings this season. The Lobos have faced a future opponent of FIU in the Baylor Bears, but lost all three games against Baylor.

The Boston College Eagles (5-11) have struggled early on this season.

The Eagles have played against tough non-conference teams in Michigan State, Virginia Tech and No. 10 Tennessee.

The Eagles also lost to DePaul, who defeated FIU earlier in the season. The Eagles are led by pitcher Nicole D'Argento. She is 3-1 with a 3.75 ERA with twenty-seven strikeouts.

Brittany Wilkins leads the Eagle offense coming into the series with a .379 average and three homers. Maria Pandolfo leads the Eagles with eight RBIs on the season. Boston College has a team batting average of .235 on the season.

The Nevada Wolf Pack (5-16) has lost four of their last six games. The Wolf Pack is led offensively by Karley Hopkins and her batting average of .378. Nevada is led in home runs and RBIs by Lauren Lastrapes. Erin Jones, and Danielle Patrick, are also hitting over .300 for the season for Nevada.

The pitching staff has struggled throughout the season. The Wolf Pack team ERA is a robust 6.08. The lowest individual ERA is held by Mallary Darby at 4.15. Opposing teams are hitting .314 against Nevada.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Ashley McClain [above] has a .397 batting average heading into this weekend's Reno Classic.

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

On a typical summer day, FIU Stadium would not be a very eventful place.

Most students are out of class. Summer practices have yet to begin for the Golden Panther football team with the season still several months away. The aluminum seats at the stadium would be the only things bearing the brunt of the Miami summer sun

But with FIU Stadium hosting its first Gold Cup group matches in 2009, things began to change.

Thousands of soccer fans congregated at 'The Cage' to watch Costa Rica take on Canada and Jamaica face off with El Salvador. By night's end, the aluminum stadium was nearly filled to capacity with prideful and passionate fans hoping to see their team earn a World Cup berth.

FIU will have a chance to repli-

SOCCER, page 4

TENNIS

Golden Panthers win fifth straight match

BRANDON WISE
Contributing Writer

Following a weekend road trip to Fresno, CA, the Golden Panthers came out with a strong 6-1 victory over the College of Charleston Cougars.

The team started out a little shaky, barely pulling out the doubles point when Lisa Johnson and Christine Serendi won a 9-8 tie breaker over Katie Lee and Kinsey Casey. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au was happy with how the team competed.

"The first match after a big win is always a difficult one," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "But they came out and competed. They started out slow, but they turned it on and in my book winning 6-1 is okay."

The team came out after having a rough doubles portion to a strong finish in singles. Liset Brito, a senior, defeated Christine Newman in straight sets (6-0, 6-2). This was her fifth consecutive singles victory and felt pleased with her effort today.

"We bonded a lot in Fresno... I feel like we will always come through because I know that everyone will fight to the end."

"It was a long weekend but overall, it was a good day," Brito said. "I didn't have a good rhythm at the beginning, but came out strong in the end. It was a little uncomfortable with the wind, but it is always going to be there."

The wind might have played a role for both teams, but neither team would let it be an excuse.

Maria Spenceley also came out strong and defeated Kinsey Casey in straight sets (6-1, 6-2) and then Lisa Johnson clinched the match for the Golden Panthers with her victory over Caroline Newman in straight sets (6-1, 6-1).

She is confident in where the team is heading.

"We bonded a lot in

Fresno as a team," Johnson said. "Let everyone become more of a team. I feel like we will always come through because I know that everyone will fight to the end."

Also picking up wins today were Rita Maisak (6-2, 4-6, 6-1) and Giulietta Boha (2-6, 7-6 (10-4), 10-5).

The Golden Panthers seem to have hit their stride, now winning their fifth consecutive match.

They are heading into a tough stretch against Sun Belt foes such as Troy, North Texas, and South Alabama. Coach Applebaum-Dall'au is looking forward to the challenge.

"We are not playing our best tennis yet, but that's what we want to see at conference,"

Applebaum-Dall'au said. "We have three big matches coming up, all conference matches, it will be a good test to see where we are."

Lisa Johnson
FIU Tennis

BRITO WINS SUN BELT AWARD

Liset Brito was named the Sun Belt Conference Women's Tennis Athlete of the Week on March 8 after going unbeaten in the past week with singles victories over Miriam Westerink, 6-2, 6-1 (Eastern Michigan), and No. 77 Lucia Batta, 6-1, 6-3 (UNLV).

She now has a record of 7-3 on the season. This is the seventh time in her career that she has won this award and she is also ranked No. 98 nationally.



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Maria Spenceley [above] helped FIU pick up its fifth straight win with a singles victory over Kinsey Casey.

FIU Stadium can become a key host site for soccer in the region

SOCCKER, page 3

cate that atmosphere again this summer, hosting two Gold Cup matches on Jun. 12. Having the Gold Cup return to "The Cage" is not only good for the university itself, but also for the entire South Florida soccer community.

The matchups are nowhere near as appealing as the United States and Canada squaring off against each other in Detroit or Mexico and Costa Rica clashing in Chicago. But with a sizable community of Jamaicans and Hondurans in the region, FIU Stadium should be buzzing with just as much fervor as it was in 2009, when the multi-purpose facility was nearly filled to capacity with adrenaline-charged soccer fanatics cheering on their native teams.

It is sure to be a special night for soccer not only for fans of the countries involved in this summer's games them-

selves, but also for FIU and the local soccer community. It's a great event for Miami to start proving.

But FIU needs to do more.

"SOCCER U"

The school should be doing more to promote itself as a 'soccer university,' bolstering its once prominent collegiate program to where it was in the 1980s and 90s, when the program was competing for national championships and sending players that would become successful and well-respected members of the national and international soccer community.

The same year the school hosted its first Gold Cup, FIU came heartbreakingly close to luring a Major League Soccer bid for an expansion franchise that would have poured a substantial amount of investment and consistent national exposure to the campus.

After the bid, one that

was spear-headed by a local billionaire and FC Barcelona, fizzled away and shattered the hopes of thousands of soccer fans awaiting the return of Division 1 soccer to South Florida.

Since then, FIU has dropped the ball on channeling the potential energy and enthusiasm of what could be the most fervent soccer fan base in North America.

The Gold Cup is a good start, but it is nowhere near enough.

TIMELY SPARK

This Gold Cup should act as a catalyst for FIU to renew its efforts to establish itself as the go-to location for the largest events beautiful game. No more passiveness. No more idly sitting by waiting for the next Gold Cup to make its way around.

It's time to team up with local soccer leaders and members of the international

soccer community to bring attractive events to FIU that will make the school synonymous with big-time soccer.

Not to mention the thriving youth soccer community that has been growing rapidly over the last decade and has turned local clubs and high school teams into some of the best in the nation.

There are thousands of Miamians who hold allegiances with national teams from their home countries throughout the western hemisphere. Tapping into those communities and hosting international 'friendlies' regularly would have them flocking into Modesto Maidique Campus with regular ease while at the same time uniting a soccer community that has been fragmented for decades without an identity.

These multiple groups provide a solid pool for FIU to tap into and market to.

This summer's double-header Gold Cup match will be the first soccer match held at the stadium since it served as one of the home venues for the local lower division soccer club in 2009. Having one night of international matches every couple of years and even fewer soccer events in general will not be enough to fulfill the potential FIU Stadium holds as a perennial soccer facility.

Honduras hopes to win Gold Cup for first time since 1981

GOLD CUP, page 3

place finish in the 1993 Gold Cup.

Guatemala will be making their eighth Gold Cup appearance, second to only Mexico in tournament appearances, having last won the tournament in 1967. Their last appearance was in 2007, where Guatemala fell short to Canada 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

Jamaica leads the head-to-head matchup against Guatemala, having defeated "La Azul y Blanco" eight times with three draws, respectively.

Honduras and Grenada, who will play in the second tap at FIU Stadium, have faced off against each other before. It will be a rematch of their 2009 Gold Cup game, where Honduras routed the "Spice Boys" 4-0 in Group B.

It'll be Grenada's second appearance in the continental tournament. The "Spice Boys" have lost all three matches, failing to score a goal and were outscored 0-10 during their 2009 campaign.

Honduras has not won the Gold Cup since 1981, but had one of their best tournaments in nearly a decade in 2009 where "Loa Catrachos" placed third in 2009.

The winner of Group B will play to clinch a quarterfinal spot in June 19 in Washington, D.C. The runner-up of Group B will play in Jun. 18 in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Mexico will look to defend their 2009 title in Group A as they'll pair up against El Salvador, Costa Rica and Cuba. The U.S. Men's National team, winners of three of the last five Gold Cups, will play in Group C against Canada, Panama and Guadalupe.

U.S.'s second group match against Panama on Jun. 11, will be held 280 miles north of FIU Stadium, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

A limited weeklong pre-sale is underway until Mar. 16. Fans can call the FIU Stadium box office for further information. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Mar. 16 on CONCACAF's website, www.goldcup.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMER JOBS

Recreation Camp Counselors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/13/11-8/05/11 for children ages 5-14. WSI/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/11-9/11) Exp. Desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.

A NOVEL NIGHT

Departments pay tribute to author

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen, the 19th century English novelist, could be one of the most pervasive female writers of all time.

Austen's works still inspire today, as countless novels and films based on or influenced by her writing flood popular culture.

The University's theatre program paid tribute to the author by presenting John Jory's adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel "Pride and Prejudice" last week.

In a collaborative effort, the English and Theatre Departments presented Austen-Mania, an interactive event that explored the world, culture and literature of Jane Austen's works.

Austen-Mania took place on March 7 in the GC Ballrooms at 7 p.m.

The event featured work of students in the theatre department as actors and costume designers.

Acting students from the show "Pride and Prejudice" paraded around the room in costume and interacted with students in character.

"As a fan of Austen's works, it was so enjoyable to see people dressed up and acting like they belonged to that time period. All the characters I imagined in 'Pride and Prejudice' were brought to life and that was magical," said Brooke Wertman, a junior sociology major.

The first annual Austen-Mania included activities galore.

Scriver's Sentimental Station allowed students to write a letter with pen and ink on stationery.

The Bonnet Making station invited students to fashion their own bonnets out of paper and trimmings.

Sketches of clothing and accessories by students were featured as guidance and inspiration.

Students who did make a bonnet were encouraged to enter the bonnet judging contest later in the evening.

The judges were Marilyn R. Skow, theater chair, and Marina Pareja, department costumer and designer for the play.

For their efforts, three winners won a pair of tickets to "Pride and Prejudice" and a Jane Austen action figure.

The Silhouette Station provided the opportunity for students to take home a portrait of themselves in the style of the 19th century as a souvenir of their travels through time.

The last two stations charged a small fee of five dollars each, with all funds going to a scholarship to a student within the theatre department.

During the event, actors from the department would intermittently do readings from Austen's works.

The cast members were also invited to read letters aloud they had written to other characters in the show. Professor Phillip Church, the director of the show "Pride and Prejudice," explained that this kind of work really allowed the actors to get into the minds of the characters they embody.

In addition, the event featured guest speaker Arnie Perlstein. Perlstein, an independent scholar, discussed his thesis on the "Shadow Character" in Austen's writings.

"I thought [his presentation] was interesting because I had never thought of Austen's characters that way," said Tiffany Torres, a senior studying English and linguistics.

Nineteenth century music was performed by faculty members Kathleen Wilson, Jose Lopez and Marcia

Littley.

Before the bonnet judging, which was the last event, a dance exhibition showcased actors from "Pride and Prejudice" performing a number from the play followed by an instructional session where students were invited to dance with cast members.

"Dancing was my favorite part of the night because I got to dance with Mr. Darcy," said Torres.

The evening was an enchanting tribute to a writer who encapsulated social commentary, comedy and romance into each and every one of her memorable works that are still beloved by readers everywhere.

"This is the first time we've hosted Austen-Mania, but we hope to carry this event into the next year," said Church.



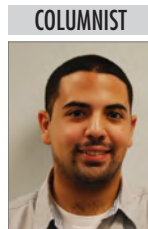
ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Top: Sketches pinned on a board by the bonnet making station serve as inspiration. Bottom: Theatre majors Alex Machado and Michelle Antelo, perform a reading from "Mansfield Park."

Blu-Ray edition of "Bambi" reveals movie's lasting magic

Phrases like "Twitterpated," or lines like "If you can't say something nice... don't say nothing at all," are still part of the cultural lexicon almost seventy years after the release of "Bambi" in 1942.

At its heart, "Bambi" is a work defined by its images and mood; thick forests, rolling fog clouds, intense flames and an incredible attention to detail that comes to life in the newest Blu-Ray release of the film.



DAVID BARRIOS

From the first moments of the film, an audacious panning shot of the forest, there is an authenticity to the artwork. A mist covers the forest, the morning still and gray as the stream flows gently. Brush and tree trunks fly by as an owl finishes its nightly ritual.

Disney and his staff allowed the space to unfold for over three minutes before we meet the titular fawn who we'll follow from birth to manhood. This was just two years after the release of "Fantasia," with the studio surviving on the profits of "Dumbo," a far more widely appealing work.

"Bambi" is easily the most ambitious work to come from the Walt Disney Studio, save perhaps for "Fantasia." Both eschew dialogue for story-telling purposes, and concern themselves with blending images and music into an experience.

"Fantasia," for all of its advances in using abstract images, is still a series of short films. I bring up this comparison because certain details in the earlier film, particularly the panning shots of the forest of autumn leaves falling to earth, are mirrored in both works.

You can also see the advances made by the roster of artists with Disney in the short time between the release of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in 1937, and "Bambi" in 1942. Look at the deer drawn for the earlier film. They are cartoons of deer with no focus on their structure or anatomy. Bambi is not so much a cartoon as he is a deer with human features and attributes; factors that are vital to making the film work. Bambi has the locomotion of a real deer but the face of a child. It is the drive to achieve the perfect balance between the natural and the cartoonish.

Animator Marc Davis, responsible for designing the character of Bambi, famously

resorted to studying babies to base the newborn fawn's look of curiosity at the woods that he inhabits on their expressions.

Thumper, an impetuous young rabbit, tries to teach Bambi how to jump over a log. The deer tries but stumbles. The look of embarrassment on his face is palpable. It speaks to the sense of disappointment all kids have when they have a minor failure.

He tries again and belly flops onto the log. He keeps trying, learning how to control his legs. A lesson is learned: if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

The film unfolds as a series of parables and discoveries as the fawn watches the seasons progress, meets new friends and grows up.

Many would be lulled by the quiet wilderness shots or the peaceful Frank Churchill/Edward Plumb score, reliant on choirs and strings. It only makes the occasional violence that occurs, such as loud gunshots, stir the audience further. The beautiful landscape of the clearing where Bambi's mother takes her child to graze turns to a few shades of brown and yellow, accentuating his fear of the human hunters who've come onto the

land.

The shooting of Bambi's mother is still one of the most shocking and traumatic moments in cinema. Committed off-screen, neither Bambi nor the audience ever glimpses her corpse. When told that she won't be coming back to him, Bambi sheds a single tear and follows his new guardian away. He glances back for a moment, leaving childhood behind.

The reason this film resonates so deeply resides in its seeming universality. The discovery of both light and darkness in the world, life and death, shows a duality that seems more in keeping with Terrance Malik's "The Thin Red Line." That Disney trusted the audience with such a small, yet profound work, is shocking. It is simple yet complex, direct yet all encompassing. It's the circle of life before "The Lion King" even coined the term.

"Bambi" was released from the Disney Vault on Blu-Ray and DVD on March 1.

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on films. Look for it every Friday.

Disney a popular choice for students on break

BREAK, page 1

“Last year, my family, ex-boyfriend and I went to Magic Kingdom in Disneyworld and stayed at the Pop Century Hotel in the 70’s building,” says Samantha Garcia, 19, a sophomore, public relations and advertising major.

This year, because her parents will be taking a trip with her little brother to Orlando for a baseball tournament, Garcia will take the opportunity to go down to Key West for the week with some friends.

“I’m taking this week as a chance to relax and enjoy not having school or

work,” Garcia said. During the trip, Garcia will take chance to visit the house of one of her favorite writers, Ernest Hemingway. “It’s about enjoying yourself and having fun,” she said.

Another student, Krystell Gutierrez, 20, a sophomore, an education major with a specialty in English, will enjoy her week by spending some time at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando with her boyfriend and some friends.

“It’s still a slight maybe but either way this year my parents are busy either with work or school so we won’t have the chance to do what we normally do,” she said.

Gutierrez’s tradition consisted of going to Marco Island with her siblings and parents.

“When we were all in high school we would go on spring break at the same time and we would go down to Marco Island and watch movies and enjoy the pool,” Gutierrez said.

“I never went to the beach though; it always freaks me out to be in something else’s ecosystem.”

When in Marco Island, Gutierrez took the opportunity to buy some nick knacks from souvenir shops and take a much-needed break from all the school work.

“If I have no homework I try to enjoy my time as much as possible.”

Spring Break offers many distractions yet for some life goes on unchanged.

Diana Hernandez, 18, a freshman, advertising major, takes spring as a chance to make cash at her job in Bath & Body Works and just doing a little bit of everything.

On her list of plans, Hernandez will enjoy going to the Seminole Casino for a friend’s birthday as well as going out to eat, see some movies and going clubbing.

“I like to rest but I don’t want to be locked up in my house,” said Hernandez, “I want to party!”

Dance event to raise money for Haiti

MGM, page 8

Historically prevalent in African-American fraternities and sororities, the art form of stepping has in recent years seeped into the interests of other cultures; however, sticking to tradition, only members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, a collaborative organization of nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, will participate in the competition.

Collectively referred to as “The Divine Nine,” the only organization in NPHC that will not be present is Kappa Alpha Psi, who will be away at a conference.

“It’s difficult to get all nine organizations to participate; it is always a challenge. At FISS eight of nine [organizations] competed, but nonetheless the show is always very enjoyable,” Nemorin said.

Fraternities and sororities from the University are prohibited from participating in the event because it is an invitational step show.

African-American fraternities and sororities began stepping on college campuses in the 1940s.

Stepping is a combination of choreographed, synchronized and syncopated movements including stomping, clapping, chanting and singing that often incorporates contemporary rap and hip-hop.

Contestants are given 13 to 15 minutes to showcase their stepping talents, and are judged by a panel who are looking for originality, precision and difficulty of performance, to name a few.

In the months leading up to the Step competition, BSU held two events to build a buzz for the show. On Jan. 31, BSU hosted the “Rep yo’ City” Party in Chili’s Too on MMC, and on Feb. 17 there was a “stroll off” at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The competition will also serve as a platform to bring awareness to the support needed in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake that took roughly 300,000 lives.

“The Hope for Haiti Relief program is a program FIU has established to help aid in the crisis that occurred in Haiti. For every dollar we raise at the step show [FIU] will find a donor to match it,” Nemorin said.

Cloud raises questions of reliability

One of the key innovations on the Internet today is the trend of people moving toward the cloud, a metaphor for storing information on the Internet rather than locally on a hard drive. But the cloud can turn dark at a moment’s notice.

On Feb. 27, over 500,000 Gmail users logged in to their accounts to find that they had been completely reset, showing users inboxes filled with “Welcome to Gmail” emails rather than possibly years of correspondence and attachments.

As a loyal and obsessive Google Apps user, this scares the hell out of me. My inboxes are filled with important emails and information, including chat logs, attachments and years worth of emails that can come in handy.

Every year, with every new online innovation, we as users take one step closer to relying on the Internet to be the primary repository for our information.

But I think users really don’t know how much they rely on the cloud. Our Facebook account does more than just like and comment. In reality it is a storehouse for our personal information and the most detailed list of contacts you can find.

This idea is supported by most mobile devices today, which tie Facebook accounts to contact lists elim-

inating the need for the “NEED NUMBERS PLZ” Facebook groups.

Students on campus that use Google Apps as their main productivity program instead of Microsoft Office, are using a powerful, web-based system to manage their work.

But as the semesters whiz by, adding papers, notes and other documents, you realize that we are trusting a faceless server with our prized work.

People need to understand that when we make our shift to the cloud, and as that shift becomes more and more necessary, we trade a few things for convenience and ubiquity.

As inhabitants of the almighty cloud we sacrifice the power to dictate our own security.

When I hear sob stories about someone losing their data after their hard drive crashed I don’t have pity for them, they have no excuse. In that instance the user has the power and the ability to back up their information.

Users who walk in to their local electronics store are bombarded by cheap, portable hard drives, which work seamlessly with the built in back-up software that ships with Windows 7 and Apple OS X.

On top of that, the name of the game when it comes to back up is redundancy; how many different

places your information is backed up.

For example, all my information is primarily backed up on a hard drive that sits on my desk. Aside from this, I keep a mirrored pocket hard drive in my office desk that I plug in to and update once a week as well as using some light cloud storage for important documents I keep with me at all times.

With a single cloud storage solution the average user can’t create that redundancy; they simply fork over their information and hope for the best.

Fret not cloud inhabitants, there are a few options for you.

If you use Google Apps and social media often, and take pride in the banal statements you tweet throughout the day, then services like Backupify are for you.

The folks at Backupify specialize in backing up your social graph and Google Apps accounts. Their free entry-level package backs up five different accounts and gives users 2 GB of storage. They also offer a 20 GB plan for \$4.99 per month and an unlimited storage option for \$19.99 per month.

For cloud storage to be taken seriously, providers like Google need to be more transparent when it comes to how they manage people’s information and the levels of reliability they can offer.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MAR. 11

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



They will be collecting items to take on our 2011 spring medical mission trip to Haiti.

WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE BY JON JORY



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$12 seniors, FIU faculty and staff, \$15 general admission
WHERE: WPAC Main Stage

HANDS ON HAITI MEETING

WHEN: 3-4 p.m.
WHERE: FIU South GC 305

NEW MUSIC MIAMI ISCM FESTIVAL CONCERT



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Spanish Cultural Center

SPC MOVIE: HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PT 1



WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: FIU Wolfsonian

SHUT UP N’ DANCE!

WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sushi Samba

SATURDAY, MAR. 12

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE

WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

BSU MIAMI GREEK MADNESS STEP SHOW



WHEN: 7-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for FIU students
WHERE: U.S Century Bank Aren U.S Century Bank Arena

ST. PATRICK’S DAY FESTIVAL



WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park

SALTED GETS DEEP



WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
WHERE: Club Play

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE BY JON JORY



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$12 seniors, FIU faculty and staff, \$15 general admission
WHERE: WPAC Main Stage

7TH ANNUAL GET WET POOL PARTY

WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25-\$40
WHERE: Surfcomber Hotel

SUNDAY, MAR. 13

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE

WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE BASS MUSEUM OF ART



WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Concert free with paid admission to museum
WHERE: Bass Museum

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE BY JON JORY



WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$12 seniors, FIU faculty and staff, \$15 general admission
WHERE: WPAC Main Stage

SIGMA STUDY SESSIONS

A place for students to come and complete their work or study for any upcoming tests, quizzes, etc.
WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Graham Center, in front of Bustelo and Burger King

HARLEM GLOBE-TROTTERS VS. WASHINGTON GENERALS



WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20 and up
WHERE: American Airlines Arena

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

Contact Us

Jasmyn Elliott
Opinion Editor
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OPINION

Friday, March 11, 2011

www.fiusm.com

The Beacon - 7

Extracurricular activities enhance education

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

With the University being a commuter campus, most students travel to campus to take a few classes, and then return home. This common scenario does little to depict a fulfilling college experience.

When students come to campus just for class, it becomes very difficult to meet new people, participate in meaningful activities and get the most from a time that is supposed to be one of the best in your life. The University hosts many extracurricular activities that can do a great deal to enhance the college experience for many students.

Spending a little extra time on campus does not have to mean studying for an exam or completing an assignment. There are many opportunities for students to complete their college experience by engaging in a variety of activities, including sports teams, profes-

sional development groups, leadership positions, student media, fraternities and sororities or getting a an on-campus job.

These options provide a great way to meet new people interested in similar things, make a difference for your school or make some money on the side while being on campus. Getting more involved is a great way to help your university in some way, with the added benefit of having fun and meeting new people.

The Student Government Association and the Student Programming Council always has a say in major events while environmental groups frequently visit the nature preserve and greenhouse on campus. Student media produces the University's student newspaper and coordinates Radiate FM, the University's student radio station and various fundraising groups are always finding ways to raise money for worthy causes.

The fact that the majority of students drive

to and from campus could be the reason why it may be difficult for some to feel at home and meet new people. From firsthand experience,

From firsthand experience, finding others who are interested in similar things can do wonders to make going to college much more enjoyable.

rience, finding others who are interested in similar things can do wonders to make going to college much more enjoyable.

There are many career-related groups that can give insight to the field they are related

to. These groups are a great way for students to gain some real-world experience while still in college and even develop new opportunities and connections that may prove useful after graduation. Furthermore, participation in these organizations also look great on a resumé.

Although some students at the University may have responsibilities at home or may have an off-campus job, extracurricular activities will mostly benefit students who want more things to do besides just going to class. A good place to start looking for interesting groups to join is in the Graham Center, mostly during the opening weeks of a semester. It is a good idea to apply early, because often space can be limited and it may take a few weeks to get into a particular group.

In any case, joining an organization can only enhance a college experience that many students may find lacking.

Popular spring break locale an unsafe choice

NATASHA CAPLAN
Contributing Writer

With over 10,000 collegians making a run for the border, Mexico has become a central Spring Break location. Although it may seem like the perfect getaway for a weary student, it may not be the best time to go.

In the last five years, over 200 Americans have been killed in Mexico, and despite tourism slowly rising, the country is still in disarray. Aside from the dangers of Mexico, it is cheaper to visit a number of closer beaches, make homemade margaritas and have an equally tropical adventure.

Even though warnings for vacationing in Mexico are not new, United States officials and security experts are taking an increased urgent tone this Spring Break season in light of recent attacks on U.S. citizens in Mexico, including the shooting of two American immigration officers last month. Security conditions have deteriorated in Mexico and drug violence and prostitution is moving beyond traditional border city party areas into coastal resort towns like Cancun and Acapulco. Crimes targeting tourists like theft, rape and kidnapping are on the rise in port cities where growing cartel influence has rendered local law enforcement

corrupt and ineffectual.

Furthermore, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, Mexico's two most deadly drug cartels have joined together and have fielded more than 100,000 foot soldiers. An army this size rivals Mexico's armed forces and threatens to turn the country into a narco-state of hysteria. U.S. officials say the consequences of such a pact would be grave for this weakening country. The worst areas to be affected by this violence are the border cities, such as Juarez and Tijuana.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw recently cited violence near the border as a reason for Texas college students to avoid traveling to Mexico, saying in a written statement on March 1, "Drug violence has not discriminated - innocent bystanders and people who may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time are among the casualties. Our safety message is simple: avoid traveling to Mexico during spring break and stay alive."

It is advised for students by many colleges to steer clear of areas of prostitution and drug-dealing, where Americans have been kidnapped and other innocents have been caught up in indiscriminate violence between Mexico's clashing drug cartels.

With that said, we have

incredible beaches in Florida. A student can drive for under an hour to a few hours to get to a similar scenic beach destination. Miami is an obvious, convenient and beautiful choice, but may not be distant enough to feel like a vacation, even though someone could drive to the beach and back and not waste money on hotels.

Don't just think Daytona Beach, or Ft. Lauderdale, either. There are many options for the sunshine-loving student. The west coast has some of the top beaches in the country, such as Siesta Key in Sarasota, which has the whitest and softest quartz crystal sand in the world. Not going to the "usual" places can be the getaway the tired college student truly needs and with some of these hidden gems, a pleasant Spring Break story is just waiting to happen.

Whether it is Mexico, Florida or some other destination of choice, it is important for anyone who goes out of town during Spring Break to know the area where they are going, if they can afford it and to venture safely with trusted friends. Mexico is not the only tropical paradise. Miami is a hot vacation destination, literally and figuratively. It's much safer and cheaper to pack a cooler, grab a guitar, put on an over-sized hat and head out to the beach right in our own backyard.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Raise your voice for change

From the very beginning, our country has had the belief that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Our unwavering conviction that it is the people who should hold power over the government, and not the other way around, is one of the ideologies that makes our country so very unique. The earliest Americans believed in this ideal so strongly that they were willing to go to war with the most powerful empire in the world at the time to make it a reality.

The rest is history, 234 years of it to be exact. Thankfully, even after gaining our independence this belief of ours has not diminished and has helped to ensure that our government stays true to its most fundamental principles. Before our now hallowed Constitution could be adopted, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote The Federalist Papers to assure the American people that a powerful system of checks and balances was embedded within the Constitution's very core to ensure that the government did not overreach its authority.

With the breadth and depth of today's government, it is easy to forget that we still live in a republic and that our elected officials are representatives of our collective views. We seem to think that it's only powerful lobbyists and multinational corporations who can influence our government's decisions, but history tells us a different story.

It was a ragtag group of poorly supplied farmers that ultimately banded together to defeat the most powerful military force the world had ever known to

win our independence. Our country has seen slaves overcome seemingly insurmountable oppression to gain their right to become citizens. When women were severely underrepresented, they led a suffrage movement which resulted in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting any US citizen to be denied the right to vote based on sex. The underdogs of the civil rights movement in the 20th century shattered longstanding barriers due to racism and discrimination that have forever changed our nation for the better.

The power of the people is the power of the United States, and it is time for us to exercise that power. Our nation faces a dire economic situation; we cannot continue on the fiscal path we are currently on. Yet in order to secure our continued success we must have an educated population, and so budget cuts of our education system cannot be allowed to pass.

No area of investment sees greater returns than the education of our future creators of wealth. We must collectively raise our voices and defend these areas of funding to ensure that we can remain globally competitive.

An important way that you can help is by contacting your Congressmen and Senators. Raise your voices and be heard. Let them know that the governed do not consent to cutting areas of education funding. Help ensure that the American tradition of a government "of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

-Zacory Ruiz

Intern, FIU Office of Federal Relations

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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 (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (550 words maximum) to opinion@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.



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COLOMBIA

22 abducted oil workers freed

Colombian authorities say suspected leftist rebels have released 22 of 23 Colombian contractors abducted while doing exploratory work in a remote jungle region for the Canadian oil company Talisman.



MEXICO

Assailants torch 3 government offices

Authorities in southern Mexico say assailants doused three government offices with gasoline and set them ablaze. Guerrero state police say no one was in the offices



GUATEMALA

Presidential first lady to try presidential bid

Guatemala's first lady, Sandra Torres de Colom, says she will enter the race to succeed her husband, President Alvaro Colom.

Campus community opines on designated protest area

BRITNEY C. VALDES
Contributing Writer

The designated protest area on campus is one-of-a-kind among state institutions, even within the University itself.

Most institutions in Florida, including large schools such as the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida, permit entire campus grounds for demonstration. Even the Modesto Maidique Campus has no designated area. As long as those protesting have the proper permit and signatures from the necessary departments and offices, any ground is acceptable ground.

"A designated protest spot has become fairly routine for universities to have, so that the rights of free speech on behalf of those that want to speak and those that want to protest those speeches can both be heard," said Steven Moll, vice provost of Biscayne Bay Campus.

However, "fairly" is the keyword in Moll's above statement.

According to Moll, the decision to create a free-speech zone on campus was made prior to his coming into office, which was January 2011.

Moll was unable to provide the names of the individuals responsible for the decision making.

Still, at BBC the designated protest area is bound to the open space around the flag pole on the north side of the



NED CHANDLER/THE BEACON

Students walking past the designated protest area around the flagpole on the north side of the Wolfe University Center on March 9. The area is the only place to protest on campus.

Wolfe University Center.

"These zones are a type of what is known as 'time, place and manner' restrictions that allow for regulation of speech as long as those regulations are 'content neutral,' meaning administrators can't target speech based on whether they like or dislike the message," said Frederick Blevens professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Jovania Smalls, a junior liberal

studies major, disagreed with the idea of having a designated area in which to protest.

"It defeats the purpose of protesting because if you want to protest toward a target area then your words are laying on deaf ears," Smalls said. "They won't see you if your protest area is away from them."

Ariel Krone, a senior hospitality major, agreed with Smalls.

"Being given the freedom to

protest on campus is great, but I don't believe it's effective to have a designated area," Krone said.

Moll argued the issue of safety if any protest should occur.

"Having a contained area allows the security the ability to protect those people who are protesting, as their right to protest should be protected," Moll said.

The designated area is open to the community as much as it is avail-

able for any golden panther; therefore, the decision was concentrated on the student's right to learn and the professor's right to teach without disruption.

"Designated protest areas at busy campuses can make sense, in terms of safety of students, faculty and staff, as well as not interfering with the normal functioning of a busy university," said Juliet Pinto, a professor in SJMC who teaches Mass Communication Law and Ethics. "That said, there have been criticisms of such 'free speech zones' in the past and a lot will depend on how the designated protest area is handled during actual protests."

From another perspective, Blevens added, "I'm not sure the zones at FIU are necessary or even relevant. There is so much 'open space' on both campuses that disruptions of the education mission are highly unlikely."

As the decision stands, the University population maintains mixed emotions; some for and some against, but nonetheless, everyone spoken to for this story agree our first amendment right is being upheld.

"If protesting is going to be a limited and regulated thing, then I think it's good that our school is promoting and enabling students to have an area where it is safe," said Carmela Zumbado, a sophomore Journalism major.

FOODGASM

These recipes are worth trying over the long break

Spring break starts next week and the season starts, officially, next month. I associate spring with fresh vegetables and both of the dishes I'll share with you in this column happen to be vegetarian.

Not long ago, I got over a two-week long bout with enteritis, an inflammation of the small intestine, during which I could not eat any real food without experiencing immense pain.

One day, after work and experiencing the pain my doctor mentioned, I felt ravenous and quickly thought of something to make using the limited items I had on hand: a portabella mushroom cap, a potato, and some garlic.

Garlic mashed potatoes to go with the big mushroom sounded almost as wonderful as it turned out to be. Keep in mind anything would have been delicious at that point, after eating only rice cakes for two weeks straight.

But there was pure indulgence in every juicy bite of mushroom and creamy garlicky mouthful of potatoes, both bursting with

robust flavor. While I thought of that combination out of urge more than creativity, the next meal was thought up under different circumstances.

I was in the shower, contemplating food ingredients I don't normally use.

My mind was concentrated on subtle flavors, and leeks, a vegetable similar to onions and garlic, just popped into my head. Shallots soon followed suit, and I imagined how the two flavors could marry in a slightly creamy pasta sauce.

The flavors and aromas I foresaw were a mellowed saccharine, begging to varnish fresh pasta. The sauce I created from this idea exceeded my expectation.

The most important aspect of making it was delicately cooking the vegetables to allow their juices to slowly ooze out. In the past I made the mistake, when making similar items, of using high heat to speed up the process. I stress taking your time, and cooking the ingredients over low heat to let their flavors fully develop.

Full recipes at fiusm.com.

Foodgasm is a bi-weekly column on cooking and enjoying food. Kravets is a hospitality major.

Greeks to go mad with stepping this weekend

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Staff Writer

The chants and screams of fraternities and sororities across the state of Florida will come together under one roof on March 11 in search of one goal: to be crowned the winner of Miami Greek Madness.

The Black Student Union and Student Government Association will host Miami Greek Madness, the first invitational step show held at the University.

The show will take place this Saturday, March 12 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on the Modesto Maidique Campus. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the event begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are free for University students and can be picked up at the Campus Life office at MMC or the information desk at BBC. Students must present their ticket as well as their Panther ID in order to enter the arena.

For non-University members, tickets are \$15. Students are advised to pick-up their tickets as soon as possible, as of Tuesday, 250 tickets have been distributed.

Felisha Monet, radio personality at WEDR-FM 99 Jamz, will host the event alongside Kyle of B.E.T.'s reality show "College Hill." DJ Griot, also from 99 Jamz, will provide the

music for the show.

The event is modeled after larger productions such as the Florida Invitational Step Show at the University of Florida, the largest student run invitational step show on the east coast, and the Sprite Step Off, the most largest scale national step competition in history.

According to Dalourny Nemorin, senior international relations major and step show director, since BSU became a council in March 2009, there has been a desire to host an invitational step show that could grow to compete with FISS.

"[FIU] is not as big and we're younger than UF, the goal is to create the tradition and one day become as big as the one at UF," Nemorin said.

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MIAMI GREEK MADNESS

- Time: 6:15 p.m.
- When: March 3
- Where: U.S. Century Bank arena at MMC



GENE KRAVETS