



TURKEY

PM slams Kurdish party for rebel ties

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's prime minister, accused the country's leading pro-Kurdish party of serving as a "spokesman" for an Kurdish rebel group that is fighting for autonomy.



LIBYA

Foreigners evacuated from Libyan port

Thousands of foreign workers are being evacuated from Libya, as Europe, the United States and the United Nations donate more than \$30 million to help the chaotic exodus.



LIBYA

Fate depends on loyalty of Gadhafi forces

Moammar Gadhafi is safe for now, holed up in the Libyan capital surrounded by followers and militiamen. Rebels hold a large swath of the east and a string of towns nearer the capital.

Survey finds colleges looking at students' social media presence

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Students may need to monitor their Facebook pages a bit closer.

According to a recent survey, more than 80 percent of college admissions officers consider social media presence when recruiting students.

While the Kaplan survey would suggest that the majority of universities use social media to screen potential students, FIU is among the smaller percentage of schools that does not take students' Facebook pages under consideration for admission.

"We're all on Facebook. If you search any of our officers on Facebook, you'll probably find them. However, FIU does not take social media into consideration when admitting students into the University," said Undergraduate Admissions Associate Director, Barry Tailor.

According to Tailor, the Florida Board of Government Regulations has certain components required for

college admissions, social media is not one of them.

Although the University does not use Facebook to screen for admissions, it does use the social media site for student outreach.

The Undergraduate Office of Admissions currently has a Facebook page available for all students to ask questions about the university, the admissions process and any other general concerns that may arise.

Though the University's Graduate Admissions Office does not use Facebook yet, it has noted that other colleges use it as a recruiting tool.

"We have not utilized social media yet, but I know our colleagues at the College of Business use Facebook as a recruiting tool. However, they do not use Facebook to investigate the students once they have applied to the college," said Graduate Admissions Associate Director, Allison McComb.

The Kaplan survey notes that Facebook is not a definite component for admission, but it is becoming

SPRING IS HERE



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Football Head Coach Mario Cristobal is interviewed by several local news teams on March 3 at the team's first spring practice.

something that universities are looking into.

Allison Otis, a former Harvard University interviewer, suggests that social media can actually make an admissions officer prejudiced against

a student without consciously realizing it.

"Students need a social life. Personally, I do have pictures of myself partying and dancing at clubs. If colleges turn away from my appli-

cation because of my social life, then I wouldn't want to be admitted into their college anyway," said freshman, Kelly Mayorga.

KAPLAN, page 2

Holocaust survivor recalls experiences during lecture

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Hedy Epstein's parents were anti-Zionists.

Her family resided in a village on the edge of the

Black Forest in Germany. Of all the Jewish children in the village, she was the only one to not be a member of the local Zionist group.

"My parents did not allow it. I didn't under-

stand fully as a child what anti-Zionism is, but I knew is that my parents were anti-Zionists and that I was going to be one too," said Epstein.

Epstein, eight years old

at the time, would become a victim of Nazi oppression. Later in life, she would chose to become an advocate against alleged human rights violations in the region her parents chose to shun.

Epstein, 85, lectured to FIU students on Wednesday, March 3 as part of a lecture series hosted by the Students for Justice in Palestine for Israeli Apartheid Week. During the hour-long lecture, Epstein primarily focused on her work as a pro-Palestinian advocate while also discussing her experiences as child in Nazi Germany.

As a member of the International Solidarity Movement, a pro-Palestinian group that practices non-violence, Epstein has traveled to the region five times since 2003. During her trips, she claims to have witnessed violence committed by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian citizens.

During one trip, while at

an Israeli checkpoint, she claims to have seen Israeli Defense Forces firing into a crowd she was in.

"At first, I thought they were shooting into the air, trying to get us to go away. But they were shooting directly at us. The first person who was critically injured, his aorta severed, was a young Israeli who had just been discharged from the military two weeks earlier," said Epstein.

On another trip, Epstein was detained by security at Ben Gurion Airport for several hours and subjected to a full strip and cavity search. After five hours, Epstein was allowed to leave.

"I was so sick and furious," said Epstein.

Epstein also discussed some of the discrimination she received while living in Nazi Germany, including her math teacher who was a member of the Schutzstaffel and wore his uniform to school daily.

"One day he pointed at

me and said 'Get out, you dirty Jew.' And that was my last day of school in Germany," said Epstein.

She would flee the Nazi regime along with 10,000 other children as part of the Kindertransport, settling in England before the Second World War broke out. All but two of her family members were killed during the ensuing genocide.

Epstein had mixed feelings about the establishment of the state of Israel when she first heard the news in 1948.

"On one hand, I was very glad that there was a place for Jews to go to who perhaps chose to or could not go back to the places where they originally came from. On the other hand, remembering my parent's ardent anti-Zionism, I was afraid somewhere down the road no good would come of it," explained Epstein.

Her thoughts on Israel

EPSTEIN, page 2



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Shahd Kseibi, sophomore, talking to guest speaker Hedy Epstein about one of the children's drawings.

NEWS FLASH

Unemployment Rate Falls In February

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has finally reported a promising sign of growth in the American economy and labor market.

In February, 192,000 jobs were added to the U.S. economy. While this headline number is encouraging, February's job growth was not, economists point out, good enough to make a significant dent in the unemployment rate, which remained relatively unchanged, falling to 8.9 percent from 9 percent.

All of last year we averaged at 100,000 a month, and that's not enough to even keep up with population growth. The question now is are we returning to job growth at the level that could really start to improve things."

Former mayor sentenced for pharmaceutical drug sales

A well-known Miami-Dade lawyer who pleaded guilty to selling tens of millions in pharmaceutical drugs without prescriptions on an Internet site serving buyers across the country was sentenced to 40 months by a federal judge in California on Thursday.

Robert Smoley, a former mayor of North Bay Village, admitted he and others distributed in excess of \$48 million worth of drugs through his company, United Mail Pharmacy Services.

Federal agents say the 59-year-old attorney set up an elaborate distribution network from a warehouse in Florida, where he and others shipped drugs after taking orders over the Internet and call centers in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Human rights violations discussed, some audience members disagree

EPSTEIN, page 1

would "remain on the backburner," until March 1982 when she heard about the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps during the Lebanon invasion.

"I [needed] to find out what was all that about, who was responsible; who was adversely affected by that and what happened between 1948 and

1982," said Epstein. "As I learned more and understood more, I became increasingly disturbed."

Some members of the audience criticized Epstein's stance.

"I understand why she is here and she certainly can empathize with suffering. She largely ignored the whole situation at hand. She lacked a command of knowledge about the issues. There is also information that

is missing," said Rebecca Sterling, president of FIU Shalom.

SJP defended their decision to bring in Epstein, however.

"We just wanted to bring to attention the many human rights violations currently happening against Palestinians. We also wanted to show that this isn't a religious issue. We are strictly a human rights group," said Mnar Muhareb, president of SJP.

Social media checked by employers

KAPLAN, page 1

Other students such as Juan Simth, share the same sentiments as Mayorga.

Simth believes that it is wrong for admission officers to investigate students on Facebook because college admission should be based on academic records and application essays, not about what students do when they are not at school.

"Doing this is so wrong, that I don't even believe they do it," concluded Simth.

The Editor for StudentAdvisor.com, Dean Tsouvalas, recently wrote a blog post stating that there has been at least one known case in which an admissions officer has rejected a strong applicant because of the content of his or her social networking profile.

"I wish more students were able to see that whatever they post is up for everyone to see. I think it's right for admission officers to look at Facebook or any other social network if they're looking for further information about the student," said Freshman Juan Valderrama.

While there are critics for this recruitment method, some students feel that whatever is posted on Facebook is in the public domain, and should contribute to a student's college admission.

"If you put something on the Internet, it's no longer personal. There is always ways to get into Facebooks that are on private. Personally, I don't even curse on Facebook or put pictures of me drinking—even though I'm over 21—because I don't know if a future employer will search me up," said John Llombort, senior.

College admission offices are not the only services

that are implementing social media sites into their recruitment process

"It should be known that a lot of employers search for further investigation on the applicants they're considering. However, this tends to occur during the final hiring processes, when it's almost a fact that the person will be chosen," said Kyra Spence, assistant director at Career Services.

According to Spence, employers look to Facebook for patterns of behavior. Potential employers can look at posts and pictures to see whether a student displays responsible or irresponsible

behavior.

A student's references about past employers or other professional connections can also affect an employer's decision.

"Negative comments about previous jobs would definitely turn employers away from the applicant. However, professional connections with different companies would turn them toward the applicant," said Spence.

Whether college admission officers and employers consider Facebook for selection purposes or not, the University's admission office advises students to maintain clean online profiles.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 22 of *The Beacon*, the 2011 FIU TV Schedule stated that the Sept. 9 FIU vs. Louisville game will be aired on ESPN 2, but it will actually air on ESPN. Also, the name on the mugshot on page 4 was incorrectly stated as Ashley McClain. The correct name is Jerica Coley.

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

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC)

Moderator & Theme

Sarah Clegg-Crawford , Student Conduct <i>Can Civility Survive the Age of Technology?</i>
Sadiq Abdullahi , College of Education <i>Rethinking Global Education</i>
Pallab Mozumder , Earth and Environment <i>To Be Announced</i>
Rev. Paul Massingill , FIU-MDC Wesley <i>Is Pure Altruism Possible?</i>
Mariam Willis , Architecture & The Arts <i>The Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell</i>
Abuzar Kabir , Chemistry & Biochemistry <i>The Complex Immigration Policies of the U.S.</i>
Steve Schwartz , University Advancement <i>To Be Announced</i>
Divina Grossman , Vice President of Engagement <i>Deaths in Childbirth: Preventive Care & Policy</i>
Michael Brillman , History <i>To Be Announced</i>
Laura Boudon , College of Medicine <i>International Adoptions after Natural Disasters</i>
Alan Gummerson , Economics <i>The State of the Economy</i>
Cem Karayalcin , Economics <i>Debt and Unemployment</i>
Marc Weinstein , College of Education <i>Do Straight "A" Students Live Longer?</i>

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FOOTBALL

Golden Panthers hit the field for spring practice

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers will embark on a month-long journey where they will strive to take this football program, a program that shattered most of the school record books last season, to the next level.

The Sun Belt champions are back on the gridiron for the launch of spring practice.

Mario Cristobal's crew took the field on March 3-5 to begin their title defense. The weekend practices ended with a spring scrimmage on March 5. Practice will be held nearly three to four times a week, leading up to the annual Blue vs. Gold spring game, which has been tentatively set for April 2.

"It looked like a padded practice, so that's a good sign," Cristobal said.

Although the atmosphere may be the same at FIU Stadium during these workouts, a couple of things feel different.

With the loss of Geoff Collins, who took a co-defensive coordinator position at Mississippi State, the Golden Panthers will try to maintain the top scoring defense and total defense in the Sun Belt with the addition of Todd Orlando.

"When you have success, you try to build upon it," Orlando said. "I did my research on the 2010 defense and I was mindful of the stuff that they did and the success they had with it and then bringing the stuff that I'm accustomed to and continue to talk about it."

According to Orlando, he credits

this team's past success on the players as he looks to keep improving.

"The kids are hungry for success," Orlando said. "Most of the time when you have success with it, it's the players that continue the success, not someone coming in there and coaching them a certain way."

Most of the faces that fans here at FIU have grown accustomed to are now gone.

Orlando will try to continue what Collins' defense accomplished here in 2010 without the likes of linebacker Toronto Smith and cornerback Anthony Gaitor. Smith nearly led the team with tackles last season, recording 91, good enough to rank second on the team. Gaitor recorded two interceptions last season, including a 54-yard return that nearly led FIU to its first win over a Bowl Championship Series school.

In fact, Orlando will only have seven starters returning, which makes spring practice important for the coaching staff in terms of finding new roles.

"We're always looking to improve. We have identified things by position," said Cristobal. "Some of them are schematics which we really cannot talk about it."

That's where the four new additions to the defense come in.

Tevin Blanchard, Jordan Hunt, Richard Leonard and Elijah Maxey all took part of the spring workouts for the first time as a Golden Panther. Blanchard, a defensive back, and Hunt, a linebacker are both junior college transfers and could play a role in filling in the void



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

The team participates in warm-up drills prior to their first spring practice on Mar. 3 at FIU Stadium.

left by Anthony Gaitor and Toronto Smith. Leonard and Maxey are both freshmen working out with the team for the first time.

Offensively, the only new face for the spring is Blaine Dalton, who transferred from Missouri after being arrested in 2009 on the suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Dalton, a quarterback, also spent time at Fort Scott CC. in Kansas.

"He's very practical about his life and doing things the right way," Cristobal said, regarding Dalton's life after Missouri. "One thing about college football is that sometimes guys come in highly touted but we're always going to be much more

concerned about how they adapt and how they play."

NO LONGER ON THE TEAM

Dudley LaPorte, who was a redshirt senior last season, has been declared ineligible to play on a collegiate level. LaPorte suffered a season ending injury in 2009 and missed a few games last year due to injury. Before he got hurt in 2009, LaPorte caught a 14-yard touchdown pass against Louisiana-Monroe. It would end up being LaPorte's lone touchdown reception as a Golden Panther.

Also, defensive Khambrel McGee and linebacker Aaron Davis are

no longer with the team. Cristobal declined to comment on the reason for their departure.

"They're no longer with the team," Cristobal said.

SPRING GAME DATE CHANGE

Blue vs. Gold Game

- Time: 10:30 a.m.
- When: 04/02/11
- Where: FIU Stadium

TENNIS

Maisak takes deciding match in win over UNLV



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Lisa Johnson [above] and Rita Maisak were the only doubles team that won for FIU. Both played an important role in the Golden Panthers comeback win over UNLV on Mar. 5 in Fresno, California.

BRANDON WISE
Contributing Writer

Following another solid victory over Eastern Michigan, the Golden Panthers continued to stay hot with 4-3 win over the University of Nevada Las Vegas March 5. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au was very excited about how the girls performed.

"The girls played extremely well today," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "They battled hard out there and earned every point."

The Panthers overcame an early deficit in the doubles portion of the day, starting out down 1-0. The team of Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak were the only team that was victorious.

After that, the Panthers came out strong in the singles portion. Senior Liset Brito, ranked number 98 nationally, defeated Lucia Batta, ranked number 77 nationally, in straight sets (6-1, 6-3). Senior Maria Spenceley defeated Adrienn Hidvegi with a three set tie break (6-3, 6-7, 7-5). Christine Serendi also picked up a solid victory in her match (6-2, 6-4).

With the match tied, it came down to sophomore Rita Maisak against Jana Albers. The match came down to

a third-set tiebreaker, which Maisak won (7-5, 5-7, 7-6).

"I feel that we are doing things right," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "They pushed us to earn the win today, but I still felt like we were the better team."

It was definitely a match that could have taken the Golden Panthers out of their comfort zone, seeing as the game was being played in Fresno, CA, but Coach Applebaum-Dall'au would not let it be an excuse.

"I was not about to let the girls use that as an excuse if we lost," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "It is still tennis. I didn't change anything from our routine of preparation for this match. We just had to go out and execute and we did."

With the win today, the Golden Panthers improve to 5-5 on the season and have now won four straight matches. This was also the Panthers first road win of the season. It is a huge step in the right direction for the team.

The team has definitely seemed to hit their stride at the right time of the year, seeing as this is when most of the conference matchups will start to be played.

BASEBALL

Late scores lifts FIU to wins over Seton Hall

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers came out finding their rhythm in the second game of a three-game series against Seton Hall on Mar. 5 and won a close 4-3 game against the Pirates and giving Turtle Thomas his 100th victory as the head coach of FIU.

With no hits in the first inning and Seton Hall ace Joe DiRocco moved up from Sunday to start, things wouldn't be easy for FIU's high-powered offense.

"DiRocco is one the best pitchers out there in college ball," Thomas said. "We figured him out eventually and our bullpen has been playing well."

But Rudy Flores turned things around for the Golden Panthers with his second homerun of the season, driving a fly ball deep to left field gave FIU an early one run lead in the second inning.

"Honestly I wasn't trying to hit homerun, I was just trying to get on base but it felt amazing to get that run," Flores said.

Iosmel Leon was hit by pitch later on in the inning to load the bases for leadoff hitter Pablo Bermudez to try and make something happen. Bermudez was able to, hitting a

bouncing ground ball into center field bringing in two runs for FIU (10-2).

The Pirates would quiet the Golden Panther offense for the next several innings, allowing Seton Hall to rally back into the game.

With runners on base, Connor Delepine and Chris Selden would bring in two runs to make it a one-run game in the fourth.

After another dry inning, the Huskies would find their way back on to the scoreboard in the top of the sixth to tie the game.

The game turned into another pitching duel on Saturday night between both bullpens battling into the later innings.

D.J. Swatscheno came in for FIU in the eighth and the lefty would come on to get three straight strikeouts.

Now that another close game was at hand, Seton Hall closer Ryan Harvey would come on for the Pirates, but he would commit a balk with the bases loaded to bring in Jabari Henry would come home to give the Golden Panthers the late one run lead.

"DiRocco is one the best pitchers out there in college ball," coach Turtle Thomas continued. "We figured him out eventually and our bullpen has been playing we have a lot of right handed and left handed throwers."

Bryam Garcia would get the

honors to close the game one more time. Garcia would come out pitching heat getting the one strike out needed to close the game for FIU (10-2).

FIU 4, SETON HALL 2

FIU (9-2) would open up their series with the Seton Pirates a day earlier with a 4-2 win on Mar. 5.

Getting things started early for the Golden Panthers was Jeremy Patton, who brought in two runs for the Golden Panthers off a deep ball into leftfield. Patton exposed the left field gap to bring in Yoandy Barroso and leadoff hitter Pablo Bermudez and give FIU the early two-run lead in the second inning.

Phil Haig started the night for the Golden Panthers. Haig would have some issues early on, giving up a run in the top of the third inning.

Haig walked the Pirate's catcher Frank Esposito bringing Zach Granite home for the solo run.

Haig continued to have a few hick ups in the fourth inning, giving up a solo home run to Connor Delepine to tie the game for the Pirates.

However, Haig would overcome adversity and bounce back, pitching 6 1-3 innings on the nights getting seven strikeouts, holding the Pirates offense to only five hits and keeping them from taking the lead.



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Garrett Wittels congratulates Rudy Flores after his solo homer on Mar. 5.

Jose Velazquez would make his second appearance for FIU allowing only one hit and getting two strikeouts in an inning and a half of work and would end up picking up the win

Visit our web site for the rest of this story and other web exclusive content,

www.FIUSM.com

SOFTBALL

Five-game winning streak snapped on road trip

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (10-9) traveled to Clearwater, FL to participate in the USF Under-armor Invitational. The tournament was the second of three consecutive road tournaments and FIU would once again depend on clutch hits to pull out win.

The five-game winning streak would vault their season record over the .500 mark for the first time this season.

FIU 4, WESTERN MICHIGAN 3

The Golden Panthers got off to an early start at the plate on Friday as Brie Rojas would drive in the game's first run on an RBI single that scored Erika Arcuri from third base. Patty Zavala would induce a bases loaded walk by Broncos pitcher Kayla Houston to stake FIU to

an early 2-0 lead.

The Broncos would tie up the game in the bottom half of the first inning with consecutive RBI hits by Gracie Barstad and Tara Buchanan off of FIU pitcher Mariah Dawson.

The Broncos would take a 3-2 lead after a single by Lexi Jager in the third inning, but the Golden Panthers would tie the game in the top of the seventh to force the game into extra innings.

FIU would score in the top of the eighth inning to take a 4-3 lead and Dawson would finish off the Broncos in the bottom half of the inning to seal the win.

FIU 1, LOYOLA MARYMOUNT 0

FIU would be locked into a pitchers duel between starting pitcher Ashley McClain and the Lions starting pitcher Stevie Goldstein.

Through the first six innings, neither pitcher

surrendered a run. McClain would pitch a complete game allowing no runs and seven hits to the Lions. Goldstein would pitch 6 2-3 innings, giving up nine hits and the game's lone run.

Leadoff hitter Jessy Alfonso would deliver the game-winning RBI in the bottom of the seventh to give the Golden Panthers a walk-off win.

FIU 1, COLUMBIA 0

Through the first four innings, Dawson for FIU and Columbia pitcher Maggie Johnson would match each other pitch for pitch as both pitchers kept the game scoreless.

Columbia would have chances to score in the fourth and fifth innings, but clutch defensive plays by left fielder Arcuri and first basemen Rachael Slowik would snuff out scoring threats for the Lions.

FIU would score in the fifth inning on a throwing error by first basemen Morgan Cook trying to throw out Beth Peller at third after recording an out on a groundball by Alfonso.

Dawson would pitch a complete game shutout for FIU, striking out nine in the win.

The win would also extend the Golden Panthers win streak to five in a row.

QUINNIPIAC 6, FIU 1

The Bobcats would score in the bottom of the second inning on a wild pitch by FIU's pitcher Jenn Gniadek, scoring Jordan Paolucci from third base. With two outs, Christy Cabrera would single, driving in two runs to give Quinnipiac a 3-0 lead.

Gniadek would settle down, allowing no runs until the sixth inning. Bobcats starting pitcher Heather Schwartzburg would keep the Golden Panthers off balance at the plate, only surrendering two hits over the first five innings.

Arcuri would begin the top of the sixth inning with a double for FIU and a wild pitch by Schwartzburg would help advance Arcuri to third. With two outs, McClain would single to drive in Arcuri to cut Quinnipiac's lead to 3-1.

Quinnipiac would score three runs in the bottom half of the inning to extend their lead to 6-1 and Schwartzburg would go on to pitch a complete game for the Bobcats, striking out eleven to snap the FIU win streak.

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All applications are due by 5 p.m. on March 11

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE

Pride and Prejudice is a play based on the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen. The play follows the main character Elizabeth Bennet as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education and marriage in her aristocratic society of early 19th century England. 1. Jair Bula plays the mysterious Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy in the theater department's production of *Pride and Prejudice* which opened on Mar. 3. 2. Fadoua Hanine plays Elizabeth Bennet in the iconic Jane Austen tale. 3. Mr. Darcy (Bula) and Mr. Bingley (Robert Alter) act out a scene. 4. Mrs. Gardiner, Elizabeth's aunt, is played by Victoria Collado. She's joined onstage by Dana Chavez as Jane Bennet and Fadoua Hanine as Elizabeth Bennet. 5. Katherine Paez plays Kitty, the second youngest Bennet sister. 6. Elizabeth 'Lizzy' Bennet and Mr. Darcy have an intense conversation.

Nutrition counselor offers easy eating advice

MANDAL, page 8

Michelle Chapple, an accountant for Campus Life and Orientation at BBC has recently gone to Mandal for her nutrition counseling. Chapple is a part of the New Year Get Fit program at BBC and heard about Mandal through an email regarding the program. The program began on Jan. 21 and up until the first week of February Chapple hadn't taken the program seriously.

Coincidentally, Chapple and Mandal both have thyroid problems. Mandal educated Chapple on why it was so important to take her thyroid medicine and which foods to avoid because of thyroid issues. After her meeting with Mandal, Chapple started picking up more classes at the gym and went straight to the super market to

purchase the foods Mandal suggested.

"Immediately after meeting with [Mandal] I went to a group lunch here at our food court and I ordered fish and a fruit snack," said Chapple. "Everyone I was with [asked me] 'What's wrong with you?' and I [said] 'I just left the nutritionist and I'm going to eat right.' It would be in vain to have sat with her and then ran and gone back to my old ways"

Chapple has always wanted to see a nutritionist and as a new staff member at BBC she is taking advantage of the amenities the university provides. Mandal provided Chapple with plenty of print outs including a 2,000 calorie menu, a specific breakfast, lunch and dinner outlined with the foods Chapple enjoys eating and various other helpful tips in regards to portion control and the food pyramid.

Since Chapple has met with Mandal she can tell a difference, and she'll be finding out the exact difference on Feb. 18, as well as every Friday until the program ends.

Nutrition counselors have been available at BBC since 2008. When Mandal started, a previous intern was just finishing up. "New interns inquire past interns for help. Interns create a folder and a book to pass on to the next one," said Warren Shaw, assistant director of the recreation center.

The internship program is loosely structured. Previous interns have held presentations on topics such as hydration, acids and supplements. Mandal will intern during the wellness expo and the New Year Get Fit program.

"The program has been more aggressive since social media has gotten bigger," Shaw said. "New Year Get Fit is kind of

like the show 'Biggest Loser.'"

The New Year Get Fit program will give Mandal a chance to work with the wellness center.

"We are working together on the New Year Get Fit Campaign being run by the Rec Center," said Erin Freeman, senior health educator.

Once Mandal finishes her internship program she will be eligible to take the registered dietitian exam and become a registered dietitian.

Mandal hopes to practice in the United States for the time being. In the future, she plans to go back to India to help her people become more aware of health.

Lauren Khalaf, a journalism student, produced this story in the JOURNAL 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

Women's studies association hosts empowering events

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

The Women's Studies Student Association, WSSA, is an organization designed for understanding the lives, problems and voices of women at the University and within the community.

The organization aims to make a positive difference in society, especially in the lives of women.

One of the primary goals of this student organization is to "raise awareness, host events, and volunteer in hopes of assisting our community in creating a more just, safe and equi-

table place," says Lupe Juarez, president of WSSA.

Recently, Women's Studies students, Christi Navarro (WSGSA) and Lupe Juarez (WSSA) were interviewed on "La Ley," a popular program airing on GenTV. They discussed their experience in the College Bride's Walk Against Domestic Violence, giving audiences the opportunity to be in the minds of those who have been affected by domestic violence.

Christi Navarro detailed the importance of having an event "on a college level so that students at this age can get involved and see what's

going on with domestic violence."

Dozens of women dressed in white wedding gowns gathered in North Miami to march for this cause. A united effort was made to bring continued awareness to the ongoing problem of violent behavior. Currently, WSSA is planning a community service project with FIU's Victim Advocacy Center for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Apart from going out into the community, Juarez has also participated in events that involve students from all over campus but still keep the women's studies vision strong.

"In the past, we have collaborated

with SGA to host *The Hijabi Monologues*, we've held a midwife and natural birth panel, we have visited a natural birth center and we have volunteered for Lodge House, among other things," said Juarez.

In addition, the Women's Studies Student Association hosts movie nights twice a month with a professor from the department. Every film depicts a topic which either addresses women's issues or was directed by a woman.

Throughout the upcoming weeks, WSSA is hosting their 2011 Conference: Women Who Lead. The conference will take place on Friday, Mar.

25 on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and on Tuesday, Mar. 8 on the Biscayne Bay Campus. Women Who Lead is a day-long conference designed to further enhance the leadership development of female students at the University. One of its purposes is to develop the student body's awareness of the scope of women's leadership in our society.

The conference is sponsored by SGA and is free to all students. The Lunch with Women Leaders session is offered at \$7 for students. The cost of the entire conference for FIU alumni is \$20 and \$25 for other community members.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011

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

TEA CEREMONY AND PREKSHA MEDITATION



WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom

GRAD SKELLAR

WHEN: 7:30-10 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Chili's Too!

NYC DEEP OPENING PARTY



WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Jazid

AN EVENING OF SUFI LOVE POETRY

WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 243

EXILE: THE BURDEN OF JOYS AND INHERITANCE

Students join Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Milbauer in an in-depth introduction regarding Exile.
WHEN: 6:30-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC West ballroom

BOBBY FISHER AGAINST THE WORLD



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Regal Cinemas

POST GRAD INFO SESSION FOR SCHOOL COUNSELING MAJORS

WHEN: 5:30-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC ZEB 212

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011

WELLNESS EXPO

Presented by Preksha Meditation and Wellness Center
WHEN: 3-6 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5- p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

AESTHETICS AND VALUES 2011 EXHIBITION OPENING

WHEN: 9-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

MOVIE NIGHT "BLADE RUNNER"



WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: MMC DM164

WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: THE FIU SYMPHONIC BAND



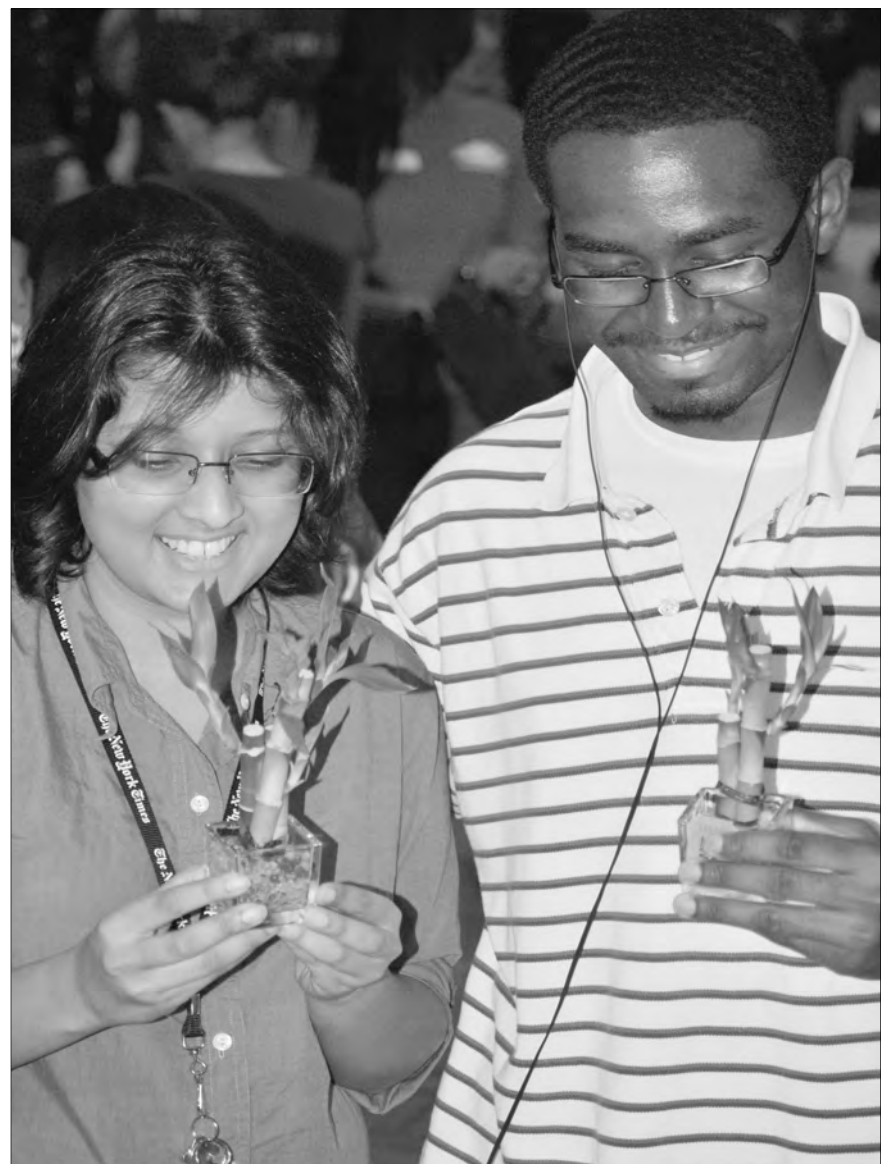
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students, \$10 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$15 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDIES

WHEN: 7:30-8:15 a.m.
WHERE: ROTC Trailer next to W10A

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

D.I.Y.



BLANCA MORALES/THE BEACON

Neha Upadhyay, a graduate student in public health (left), and Michekaard Lafontant, a junior in biomedical engineering (right), compare their self-made bamboo plants at SPC's Make Your Own Bamboo Plant event on Feb. 28 in the GC Pit.

ECON WITH NEDA

Increased gas prices affect overall economy

The escalating violence in Libya and the ensuing instability in the Middle East and North Africa has resulted in a surge in crude oil prices over the last week and volatility in global financial markets. According to *Bloomberg Businessweek*, oil rose to a 29 month high reaching above \$100. All of this turmoil adds to the uncertainty investors face, and no investor likes uncertainty.

Libya is the world's 12th largest oil exporter. According to the International Energy Agency, the country produces about 1.6 million barrels of crude oil per day, which amounts to about 2 percent of the global oil demand. Due to all of the non-stop protesting currently occurring in Libya, it is not a shocker that we are paying 10 percent more at the gas station.

The Washington Post reports: "Analysts estimate that \$100 a barrel oil could slow U.S. economic growth by 0.2 or 0.3 of a percentage point." Higher gas prices affect both personal and business transportation. As a result of higher gas prices, many other products will see

price increases as well.

With higher transportation costs, employers may not have as much funding to dedicate to new hires, which will result in less hiring and higher unemployment. This decrease in new hires will adversely

Just because gas prices are too high does not mean that Americans are going to stay home. Instead, they cut their other spending.

affect the United States' economy, which is still on the fragile path to recovery.

The Labor Department reported that the jobless rate fell to 8.9 percent from 9 percent in January. This is an improvement for the U.S., but still a disappointment. In my Feb. 7, 2011 column, I said, "Revoluting against the government and the act of protesting is like the flu - highly contagious... that is detrimental for both the Middle East and the world economy."

These political uprisings began in Tunisia with the Jasmine Revolution, and extended to Egypt and continued to Jordan, Yemen and Bahrain. We are seeing the aftermath: higher gas prices, amongst other possible future outcomes. The uprisings should cause awareness for investors both domestically and internationally.

Temporarily high gas prices do not affect the economy too much; however, after a long period of time of consistently high gas prices, economic growth begins to slow down. Generally speaking, when gas prices go up, every other commodity goes up in price too.

Here is the problem: just because gas prices are too high does not mean that Americans are going to stay home. Instead, they cut their other spending, such as eating out and shopping. All of these cuts negatively affect our slow, but growing, economy.

Everything happening on the other side of the world is affecting our home. North Africa and the Middle East are home to the largest oil producers in the world and export a quarter of the world's oil. Higher gas prices in our country is just the beginning.

Econ with Neda is an economics op-ed column. Look for it every other Monday.

COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

THE BEACON | Editorial

Education funding cuts an unfortunate obligation

Governor Rick Scott of Florida has just released his first budget proposal in which he plans to shrink Florida's spending by \$4.6 billion, \$709 million of which coming from education funding. Though education is important, *The Beacon* realizes that across-the-board cuts are necessary to get out of this budget crisis.

Every sector is suffering from the same fate, and no one is spared from these budget cuts. The biggest reductions in Scott's plan include eliminating 1690 jobs from the Department of Corrections, an 8,700 employee reduction in the state government workforce, tax cuts worth \$4 billion, a \$4 billion Medicaid reform and, most notably, a 10 percent cut in education spending.

However, we must urge Scott and legislators that quality education on all levels, from kindergarten to college, should be a priority. It only serves to create an innovative workforce than can contribute heavily to the state economy.

State Senator Eleanor Sobel told *The Miami Herald* that she fears that cuts in the education budget would have long-term negative impact on job growth which would hurt students and the educational environment. Sobel also said that a strong educational system would attract business.

"If you're cutting money at that level, you're not going to attract the kind of business that we want to have," she said.

Ultimately, Scott is not targeting education. Every sector in the state is going to be affected by the new budget proposal. Our job now, as students and educators is to try to think of ways to maintain the state's education at the same level, if not higher. All schools can improve the performance of their students if we put more emphasis on rewarding excellent teaching and by putting less emphasis on paying teachers based on seniority.

Steve Sauls, vice president for governmental relations, argues that an investment in public university is part of what makes us strong and what lays the ground work for our economic future.

"The budget could have been worse. He didn't propose a cut to our base. There are some increases that are normal every year, like 'new space' when we open up a new building. But we're trying to be positive and are working with the legislature closely," he said.

According to Sauls, the University is in a good position. They have developed a three-year plan and made some tough decisions while anticipating tight revenue.

On Feb. 11, University President Mark Rosenberg sent out a university-wide email shortly after Scott's budget proposal was announced, stating that the proposed budget contains no direct cuts to universities recurring base budgets, but it fails to propose a funding source to replace federal stimulus dollars that will disappear in the 2011-2012 budget.

These are tough economic times. It is time for fiscal responsibility, and part of that responsibility is to understand that when it comes to balancing the state budget, across-the-board cuts are a necessity.

Yes, our education system should be a top priority for legislators, but that should not save it from these much-needed cuts. It is time to think of innovative ways to improve the system with the money we are given.

Online course fees excessive, unfair

KELLY MALAMBRI Contributing Writer

It is a well-known fact that convenience comes with a price, but the University's online course fees take that truth to new extremes.

Without offering any proper justification for such high fees, the University charges students taking online courses \$66.33 per credit hour, most commonly resulting in a \$199 fee since the majority of classes taken are three credit hours. The high fees for online courses are nothing short of absurd, and must be either eliminated or greatly reduced.

In reference to online course fees, the University has stated on its official website, "If we did not charge extra fees, we would not be able to offer these courses at all. Therefore, to cover the costs of offering these special courses, the tuition for them will carry a premium above regular tuition."

However, I personally have used the Blackboard system at Valencia College for online

courses without paying a dime more than I would have for a class on campus. Other public Florida universities like the University of Central Florida do not charge more, whereas those that do, like Florida State University, only charge \$18 extra per credit hour.

These facts only add to the invalidity of the University's explanation. Charging an average student in a three credit hour course \$199 is not necessary to offer online courses, and University students should not stand for it.

After calling Financial Services to ask what the money from online fees was used for and being told they did not have an answer, my call was transferred to Student Services, the Registrar and finally back to Financial Services, who then told me to contact the online department. In an online chat help session, the Online Services department repeated word for word the explanation the official website provides as quoted before.

This simple explanation,

which is all the University has to offer, is an insult to students' intelligence. It is not justifiable in the loosest interpretation of the word.

Increasing the dollar amount of the technology fee students are required to pay at the beginning of each

Realistically, these fees are not affordable for students, and the reason for implementing them offered by the University is far from legitimate.

semester could easily lighten this \$199 burden. Although some may argue online course fees are not used by all students, neither are student health services or parking, which all students must pay for.

Furthermore, many classes taught on campus use the Blackboard or Moodle system

and all of their features, however students pay no more than normal tuition for these classes. Obviously, the online course fees should be more evenly distributed between students, especially those taking courses on campus that are web-enhanced. The solution seems simple.

As noted in earlier *Beacon* articles, the University relies on money from the government, which is many times awarded based off the usage of classrooms throughout the day. It seems plausible that these charges may have been put in place to appease governmental standards by pushing students away from online classes and keeping students physically in classrooms.

Realistically, these fees are not affordable for students, and the reason for implementing them offered by the University is far from legitimate.

University students deserve to have these fees greatly reduced and pay closer to what the average student does throughout the state of Florida for online courses.

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 (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 (550 words maximum) in 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.



MEXICO

Worrisome rise in Mexico heroin trade to US

A U.N. anti-narcotics agency cited a worrisome rise in shipments of increasingly pure Mexican heroin to the United States, and said in a report Mexican cartels are an increasing threat in Central America.



VENEZUELA

Chavez discusses mediation with Gadhafi

Hugo Chavez, who forged close ties with Moammar Gadhafi and refused to condemn his crackdown on protesters, has spoken with the Libyan leader about creating a bloc of friendly countries to help mediate.



CUBA

Detained US contractor goes on trial in Cuba

U.S. officials made clear no meaningful rapprochement between the two countries is possible while Alan Gross remains in jail. Gross is a Maryland native in jail on charges he sought to undermine Cuba's government.

Busy students and staff lose track of time and nutrition

LAUREN KHALAF
Contributing Writer

Faculty members have no time to go out and get food, during registration – payment time especially. Students come in and inquire about their classes being paid and financial aid disbursement and the faculty lose their lunch breaks.

“Payment time comes, they get super busy and stressed so they become unhealthy and stressed, and that makes it hard for your body to lose weight. It’s hard to burn fat when you’re stressed,” said Priyanka Mandal, nutrition counselor at the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center.

“Students are busy with classes, they don’t have time to cook. I’d like to be able to advise them on healthy snacking,” Mandal said.

Mandal is an undergraduate student and was fulfilling her internship requirement at the BBC Rec Center as a nutrition counselor. Her goal is to improve the eating habits of students and staff at the BBC.

There are three parts to Mandal’s internship requirement: community nutritionist, clinical dietitian and food service.

As a community dietician, Mandal offered her nutrition-counseling services for free for six weeks, which ended March 3.

As a nutrition counselor, Mandal educated the BBC community on topics such as weight management, general healthy eating and wellness, vegetarian and vegan nutrition, sports nutrition, heart healthy diet and disease prevention, healthy food preparation, portion control and portion and serving sizes, calorie counting, meal planning and how to read and understand food labels.

Mandal, an international student from India, is in the U.S. on a student visa. There is little awareness for healthy foods in India, according to Mandal.

“When I came here I didn’t know what the

American diet consisted of. Americans need more of a variety, not just burgers and hot dogs,” Mandal said.

It becomes obvious Mandal has found a way to relate to students when she brings up the similarity of coming from another country to study at the University.

“The students in student housing come here from all over the globe and are all alone in a new environment. It’s a new country and new food,” Mandal said.

Mandal started her studies in public health and soon realized her passion for the nutritional side of health. As she became more aware of the possibilities of healthy food, she became more aware of the food she consumed.

“I cook healthy food; my courses have changed my lifestyle a lot. Previously, I knew about calories, carbohydrates and sugars but now I know the scientific aspect of food,” Mandal said.

Mandal learns a lot from newspapers and magazines.

“I find recipes out of the American Institute for Cancer Research,” Mandal said.

Mandal is tried various ways to inform BBC students and staff of her services. She mentioned newsletters, workshops, seminars and expos.

“It’s our duty to make [students] aware of what options they have,” Mandal.

The idea is for faculty and students who want to better their nutrition to come to Mandal with their wants and needs. Once Mandal learned the desires of the client, she conducted research on diet and fitness plans that would supply the best results for that person.

When Mandal isn’t indoors researching diet and fitness plans, she’s researching outside.

“With each person I learn more. When it’s on the field, I’m utilizing not only science but common sense,” Mandal said.

Mandal was a counselor at BBC since Jan. 17. However, she had already gotten through some consultations by the time of this

FRESH FRUIT



LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

Lissett Munoz, from the Brother’s Farmers Markets, works the produce stand on the north side of the Wolfe University Center on March 2. The farmer’s market is tentatively planned to be on campus once a month.

interview.

“Ever since [Mandal] joined our facility, I’ve seen an increase of members in the gym interested in not just fitness but nutrition as well,”

said freshman Enrico Mattei, employee at the front desk of the Recreation Center.

MANDAL, page 6

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

Dynamic comedic duo comes back to the University

CRISTINA MIRALLES
Staff Writer

A Pair of Nuts graduated from the University over a decade ago and are now returning for the first time to get a chuckle and more out of students.

Yamil Pierda and Johnny Trabanco are Emmy Award-winning comics who met at the University in 1998 at a comedy improv, and have been performing together ever since.

They call themselves “A Pair of Nuts!” They were featured as a Hot Comedy Act 2011, by Campus Activities Magazine and their work has gained them a lot of fame through social media sites like YouTube, MySpace, Funny

or Die and College Humor.

Their work has won them a lot of acclaim, especially after being featured on Comedy Central’s “Tosh.0,” “Last Call with Carson Daly,” VH1, BET, Discovery Channel and MegaTV. These pair of nuts have gotten millions of views on their famous videos such as, “The Law Offices of Facmee & Diez,” “Gayo” and “Duel.”

Not only have they performed at colleges nationwide, they have blown away crowds at top comedy clubs in the U.S. and performed at military bases that all ended in standing ovations. The duo was also invited to perform at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival and the Los Angeles Improv Comedy

Festival where they won Best South Florida performance.

These two are also known for bringing a new and fresh style of comedy to the Spanish market, where they worked with some of the biggest names in television: Wilmer Valderrama from “That 70’s Show,” Tony Plana from “Ugly Betty,” and Steven Bauner from “Scarface.”

Their style of comedy is quite different and has been compared to a modern day Abbott & Costello, Laurel & Hardy, and a throwback to old school comedy, according to their website, www.nutscomedy.com.

They say that their comedy shows are award-winning multimedia sketches that are unique

and able to adjust to any environment, whether it is a college or private event.

Pierda was born in Havana, Cuba and came to Miami in 1980. He started his comedy career in 1997 while he was still attending college at the University. Alone, Pierda has made appearances on “Last Comic Standing,” “Boston Legal” and “Burn Notice.”

On the other hand, his partner in crime, Trabanco, was born right here in Miami into a Cuban family. He has been performing comedy since 1998.

Trabanco performed at several stand-up comedy competitions in South Florida.

He also took the top prize in the first ever Miami Improv

Comedy Derby and the Annual Miami Improv Turkey Contest. Trabanco has also gotten the opportunity to perform with other comics like, Doug Benson, Christian Finnegan and Jo Koy.

A PAIR OF NUTS

- Time: 7 p.m.
- When: 03/09/11
- Where: WUC theater