



PAKISTAN

Sen. Kerry says resolution near in Pakistan

U.S. Sen. John Kerry said on Feb. 16 he is hopeful the bitter dispute over Raymond Davis, an American embassy worker detained in Pakistan, will be resolved "in the next few days."



LEBANON

Leader warns of possible border conflict

Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, told his guerilla group to be prepared to invade northern Israel, a day after Israel's defense minister warned the tense border could erupt into violence.



LIBYA

Anti-government protests spread to Libya

Egypt-inspired unrest spread against Libya's longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi, with riot police clashing with protesters in Benghazi and marchers setting fire to security headquarters.

Music festival brings week of performances

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

The New Music Miami International Society of Contemporary Music Festival Series hopes to mirror the diversity found at FIU through its variety of collaborations and performances in a week-long celebration.

Since its inception, the festival has developed and expanded significantly each year. The FIU New Music Ensemble, FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts Ensemble, the NODUS Ensemble and FIU Symphony Orchestra will be performing at WPAC at a festival performance on Feb. 19.

The orchestra and various ensembles participate in the festival as a chance to showcase student work while also attracting collaborations from international composers.

The New Music Ensemble focuses on contemporary chamber with experimental and electronic sounds. The NODUS Ensemble, founded by Program Director and Professor Orlando Garcia, is the contemporary professional chamber music ensemble currently residing at the University. The group's dynamic varies from concert to concert,



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Members of FLEA perform at the Frost Art Museum at the CARTA Arts Preview on Sept. 30.

depending on the material being presented.

The New Music Miami ISCM Festival, a rather significant part of the school's program, began almost two decades ago under

the name of May in Miami Music Festival.

In conjunction with the FIU Composition faculty, it hosts Forums and Master courses with a small group of students selected

by a competitive process.

The festival generally lasts a week and features nightly concerts consisting of performances of students' works by the New World Symphony and the FIU Artists faculty members.

In 2002, the "ISCM" component was added to the festival's name, the modification reflecting FIU's status as an associated chapter of the International Society for Contemporary Music.

The Feb. 19 performance will incorporate the Greater Miami Youth Symphony featuring the composer and performer Pauline Oliveros. What has brought her the most fame during the last four decades of her career is her unique concept of incorporating all environmental sounds into musical performance.

Her work includes a mixture of techniques that delve into areas of improvisation, ritual, meditation and electronic music. One of Oliveros' innovations includes a re-tuned accordion.

In addition, the concert will include pieces by composers Jacob Cooper, Guillaume Cote and Jordan Nobles will also be included in it. The show is set to

ISCM, page 6

Change in shuttle ticket cash policy

CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Contributing Writer

An increase in ticket sale earnings from hundreds of dollars to thousands of dollars has stemmed a change in policy in how Golden Panther Express tickets are purchased.

With that much money changing hands, administration in the Graham Center became worried about both the safety of the students working there as well as the potential theft of money.

Starting Feb. 15, the main office in the GC will no longer be accepting cash for Golden Panther Express tickets.

Students, faculty and staff will instead have to pay with their PantherCard.

"It's about the security of the students working there who are handling the money," said Ruth Hamilton, executive director of the Graham Center, on the change in policy.

She also stated that the change in policy is also in adherence with the University's paperless plan, which coordinates itself with the University's plan

GPE, page 2

University alumna competing for Miss Nicaragua title

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

With the date of the Miss Nicaragua 2011 pageant looming, 26-year-old FIU alumna Priscilla Suzetie Ferrufino is closer than ever to her hope of wearing the crown.

The native-born Nicaraguan has only competed once before in the Miss Hispanidad pageant in Miami in 2004 where she made it to the top five.

Unhappy with the pageant system in the United States, Ferrufino moved to back to her native country last December in the hopes of entering the Miss Nicaragua pageant in 2011.

Her decision to move back to the Central American country came from her belief that U.S. pageants were based more on popularity and less on talent.

Ferrufino graduated from FIU in 2007 with degrees in anthropology and sociology. It took several years for her to work and raise the money she needed to leave her family in Miami to enter the Nicaragua pageant.

"It has always been her dream," said Ferrufino's sister Melissa Del Toro, who is currently majoring in business administration and entrepreneurship at FIU.

Included in the final 14 girls chosen, Ferrufino has made it past the initial elimination for the televised pageant on Feb. 26.

If she makes it to the final five, Ferrufino will be asked questions about her goals as the potential Miss Nicaragua.

She has expressed that her greatest goal as the potential winner of Miss Nicaragua would be to act on her platform to responsibly develop tourism in her home country.

"A lot of my platform is based on my final paper that I had to write in order to graduate, which was to find a business to eliminate poverty in my country. I based all of my anthropological research based on that question," said Ferrufino.

The current problems that Nicaragua faces truly concern Ferrufino.

Most of the Nicaraguan population live on less than a dollar a day, and one of the ways to bring income to the lower classes would be to increase tourism.

Ferrufino credits Quinta Esperanza Verde, a coffee farm that has been recognized internationally for its achievements, as a source of inspiration.

Quinta Esperanza Verde, which

is located in San Ramon, Matagalpa in Nicaragua is an organic coffee farm that offers eco-tours and gives back 20 percent of their profits to the community.

When looking for ways to develop tourism, Ferrufino believes this farm is a healthy model for the rest of the nation.

"It's really amazing and it's something the nation can benefit from. One of the best things we have is our environment; volcanoes, mountains and beaches."

If she wins the crown, the title would grant Ferrufino the access to politicians and businesses that could further her goal.

"What I love is being able to do something I love for my country and my people. I want to make a difference and set a good example for younger generations," said Ferrufino.

The winner of Miss Nicaragua will be eligible to go on and compete in the Miss Universe pageant.

"We've never had a Miss Nicaragua be crowned Miss Universe. The furthest was in 2007 when the girl made it to the top ten. We don't know what it is to be Miss Universe

FERRUFINO, page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRISCILLA FERRUFINO

Priscilla Ferrufino is a competitor in the 2011 Miss Nicaragua pageant. Ferrufino applied her FIU degrees in anthropology and sociology to her pageant platform.

NEWS FLASH

Lara Logan Suffered ‘Brutal’ Sexual Assault In Egypt

On Feb. 11, the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak stepped down, CBS correspondent Lara Logan was covering the jubilation in Tahrir Square for a 60 MINUTES story when she and her team were surrounded by a mob of more than 200 people.

Logan suffered a brutal and sustained sexual assault and beating before being saved by a group of women and an estimated 20 Egyptian soldiers. She reconnected with the CBS team, returned to the United States on the first flight the next morning. She is currently in the hospital recovering.

Borders Files For Bankruptcy, To Close Stores

Borders Group Inc, the second-largest U.S. bookstore chain, filed for bankruptcy protection, after sharp sales declines that made it impossible to manage its crushing debt load, and it plans to close nearly one-third of its stores.

Its inability to garner significant online business and its absence from the growing digital books market have made it difficult for Borders to compete with larger rival Barnes & Noble Inc and Amazon.com Inc.

Borders Group President Mike Edward said in a statement that the chain “does not have the capital resources it needs to be a viable competitor.”

IBM Challenge continues as Watson takes a huge lead

Round two of the Jeopardy! IBM Challenge continued Tuesday night as past champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter returned to face off against the trivia-spouting supercomputer, Watson.

The first round ended with Rutter and Watson tied at \$5,000 and Jennings trailing at \$2,000. Tuesday night’s showdown played out very differently as the IBM creation pulled far ahead of its meatbag competitors over the course of the episode.

Despite making a few flubs on key questions, a high bid Daily Double and the Final Jeopardy question in particular, Watson ended the second of three rounds with \$35,734.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Alumn expected in final five by press

FERRUFINO, page 1

because we’ve never been exposed, just participated. [If I won Miss Universe] I could attract the attention of a bigger market, which could attract more tourists to Nicaragua and leave [the nation] in a good position,” said Ferrufino.

Currently staying with family in Nicaragua’s capital, Managua, Ferrufino has support around the globe from her family members.

Her mother, father and sister, Del Toro, live in Miami, while other family members live in California and Canada.

“Everyone is very supporting and everyone wants her to win. We may not be there with her, but we’re supporting her. The only hard part is missing her,” said Del Toro.

Ferrufino has also begun to attract the support of the Nicaraguan public.

The local Nicaraguan press in Managua has predicted that she will make it to the top five.

Because she is close to the 27-year-old age cut off for the competition, this is Ferrufino’s last chance to win the crown.

“I’m almost aged out at this point and this is my last attempt. If all goes well I will be doing this for a year. If not, this is my last pageant,” said Ferrufino.

Ferrufino hopes that those who choose to follow in her footsteps and participate in pageants look past stereotypes often associated with them.

“The misconception is that women in beauty pageants are pretty but not to be taken seriously because no one considers them to be intelligent. Women who want to do this should prepare themselves. It goes far beyond the glamour; it becomes your responsibility and your life.”

Ferrufino’s best advice to future pageant competitors is to complete their education, have life experience and be self-assured.

“That’s when you know you’re ready to be here for other people.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRISCILLA FERRUFINO

Ferrufino tries to fight the misconceptions about pageants by saying that it is a huge responsibility. “Women who want to do this should prepare themselves,” Ferrufino said.

Policy only affects Graham Center

GPE, page 1

to make all purchases available via PantherCard.

After signing a new contract with banking giant Wells Fargo, the University plans to make the purchase of any goods on campus, potentially off-campus as well, much easier.

“Instead of having to carry around cash and scrambling for loose change, students merely

have to swipe their PantherCard,” Hamilton said.

To which Parking and Transportation hopes to have a PantherCard system up and running in their buses by summer.

This way, students will no longer have to worry

about carrying around tickets.

So far this new policy will only affect GC as the info desk in the Wolfe University Center, on the Biscayne Bay Campus, will still be accepting cash for GPE tickets, as will the

Parking and Transportation offices on both campuses.

Those looking to activate their PantherCard can do so at the PantherCard Offices located in room 1210 of GC at the Modesto Maidique Campus and WUC 143 on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

PANTHER CARD OFFICE HOURS

MMC Campus-GC 1210

- Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed

BBC Campus-WUC 143

- Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: Closed

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BASEBALL

CLEARED FOR HISTORY

Wittels addresses the media for first time since allegations

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

Strictly Baseball ahead of Super Saturday.

The Golden Panthers were hoping to keep the conversation focused on opening weekend during a midweek press conference on Feb. 16.

Athletic Director Pete Garcia cleared Wittels to play on Fri. in an opening statement to the media.

"Here you're innocent till proven guilty," Garcia said. "Therefore, Garret Wittels will be playing on Friday and this weekend."

He continued, asking the media to keep questions focused on what will be happening on the diamond this season.

"As far as questions, you can ask whatever questions you want," Garcia continued. "And we can answer whatever questions we want. We are here to answer questions about baseball and baseball only."

Regardless, many questions during the session were geared towards the allegations Wittels is facing rather than what will be happening on the field.

Questions came early and often towards the FIU infielder, who mostly dodged questions aimed at his legal

matters as Athletics personnel asked repeatedly for questions to remain focused on baseball.

STAYING OPTIMISTIC

When questions did turn to baseball, head coach Turtle Thomas was optimistic ahead of the season-opening series this Fri. against Southeastern Louisiana.

"We've got a very veteran ball club coming back," Thomas said. "Twenty returning players, nine hitters, and 11 pitchers. Our hitters lead the Sun Belt Conference with a .337 batting average."

The Sun Belt championship isn't the only thing on the line this season for the Golden Panthers. Wittels currently holds a 56-game hitting streak, which is two shy of the hit streak record set by Robin Ventura.

If things go according to plan, Wittels will be able to break the record on Feb. 20 during the series finale against visiting Southeastern Louisiana.

"I'm ready to go this season," Wittels said. "I'm here for whatever my team needs me to do."

When asked about his hit streak and the Sun Belt preseason Player of the Year award given to him last week, the sophomore did not give



IGOR MELLO/THE BEACON

Garret Wittels feilds questions from the media on Feb. 16

much thought to the hype.

"I'm ready to go," Wittels repeated. "Preseason awards don't matter to me. I'm here, I've been waiting a long time for Friday to come."

Visit our web site for more content, including exclusive uncut video of the press conference.

www.FIUSM.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Heated rivalry continues at home

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

Revenge will be in the air on Feb. 19 when FIU (4-9 SBC, 9-16) takes on rival FAU (10-3 SBC, 18-9) at the U.S Century Bank Arena.

This will be a rematch of a game played two weeks ago that saw the Golden Panthers leading the entire game except for the last 4.2 seconds, when Raymond Taylor put in the game winning layup to end any idea of an upset victory.

For some, that game is nothing more than just one of eight losses in the last nine games.

"Every loss hurts, that was a close game that we should have won but we just got to come here Saturday and make up for it and were looking forward to it," said DeJuan Wright. "I don't think this game is going to be any bigger than the next game, right now it's just about winning games."

Others still have it in the back of their minds, and will use it as motivation this

time around

"We still kind of have a sour taste in our mouth because we had them up by 15 at one point and let them come back," said Dominique Ferguson. "Just sitting in the locker room after that game was unrealistic. I didn't even believe that we lost."

No matter what the approach is, the rivalry has heated up even more this year. Whether it's from the controversial comments of FAU coach Mike Jarvis on FIU's method of acquiring players, to the now prevalent rumors swirling around the internet from FAU fans about the game, the importance of this game has definitely turned up a notch.

What is sure to put a fire under any player are the rumors circulating that FAU fans plan on making the drive to Miami dressed in red in hopes of outnumbering the white out that FIU fans will have for the game. They also say that they will rush the court "when", not "if", they win.

"That's like someone coming in your house, in your living room, and putting

their feet on your table," said Phil Taylor, who had a team high 16 points against FAU. "Once I talk to my teammates and let them know that's how those guys feel I doubt we're going to let that happen. Especially on our home court."

The loss against FAU was nothing unusual for the Golden Panthers. The biggest problem of all this season has been not being able to finish teams off. Besides the last game they played against Middle Tennessee where they lost by 12, all the rest have been tight all the way up until the end when they continue to give their opponents the game. Rebounds, turnovers, and free throws have been haunting them all season.

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www.FIUSM.com

Hostile atmosphere Athletics' creation

As I walked into the press conference, the tension in the room was evident. There was a single thought on just about everyone's mind: How was Wittels handling the pressure?

The baseball team held a press conference on Wednesday to discuss the upcoming season and the possibility of Wittels breaking Robin Ventura's consecutive hit streak. All the while, ignoring the elephant in the room: Wittels' allegations of sexual assault.

Leading into the press conference, the athletics department took on an ugly image, as they tried to turn the media into an adversary. Making it seem as though the media was out to get Wittels. As a result, they turned the tables on themselves.

First, holding off the decision on whether or not to suspend Wittels minutes before the press conference on Wednesday. Was the decision that hard to make? The university chose to let Wittels play, which seemed to be what they would've done for any player chasing a record.

Second, the athletic department threatening members of the media that they will get their credentials revoked if they asked any questions regarding the incident. Then, after it was clear that the media would call their bluff, they flip-flopped on their threat.

What happened to the stance on ending the conference early and removing media credentials? I don't understand why the athletic department would threaten the people they need to become a major program. FIU needs the media to help get them where they want to go. Whether it be ESPN or a college newspaper, the school is not in a position to choose whom to give access to.

It became evident that they needed the media, as FIU opened up the questions to anything. Whether the players chose to answer the questions is a different case. The entire press conference turned into a media circus. Did the athletic department really think they could stop media outlets from asking questions about the allegations?

When the questions were fired, it became relentless. The athletic department instigated the media circus. Telling media members they can't ask a certain question, and then threatening their coverage, would only spark a controversy.

It looked like Pete Garcia, athletic director at the university, may have quickly regretted giving free reign on the questions as the barrage of queries about the allegations ensued. At one point, Garcia appeared to be uncomfortable. He motioned to a media relations staff member in a way that would appear that he was trying to have the conference stopped due to the firestorm that had been created.

As journalists, our job is to be insistent. We antagonize so that we can get information. It is not our fault that we are trying to cover a news story.

I didn't want to know about how Wittels trained in the off-season. I didn't want to know about what Wittels' superstitions are. Most of the media didn't want to know either. We wanted to know how Wittels was dealing with the pressure of juggling the accusations along with the streak.

Wittels handled the press conference well. He said the right things and probably handled the questions like any 21-year old would.

Given the situation, it would have become a circus anyway. The athletic department put themselves into a situation where they could not turn back. They went down a path that did not help them save face. The athletic department tried to protect one of their own, along with their image, and they failed.

The athletic department should have played this a different way. Allow access to the players and coaches. Don't threaten the media, who is your only source of getting your name out. Let the press conference come along and let Wittels answer any questions with, "no comment."

Hopefully the university learned a lesson from how they handled this, and in the case of a future incident, the athletic department will be better equipped to handle it in a professional manner. This time, they did not.

COMMENTARY



RICO ALBARRACIN



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OVER THE MOON



Lambda Chi Alpha held their first annual Crescent Girl pageant. The event had a moon theme. Left: Demaris Garcia being crowned Ms. Crescent 2011. Top Right: Gina Aguerro answers questions on Lambda Chi's history. Bottom Right: Kristen Babich makes a sandwich as her talent. All photos by Linda Lee.

Festival brings art and food to the streets of the Grove

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Celebrating its 48th anniversary, the Coconut Grove Arts Festivals will hit South Bayshore Drive for a weekend of color.

Taking place throughout Presidents' Day weekend, this year's fair has a lot to live up to. In 2010, Sunshine Artist Magazine ranked it among the top three fine arts festivals in the nation.

During past years, attendance has soared to over 100,000 and millions of dollars of art have been sold.

Having received over 1,200 applicants, the Festival will feature and showcase the work of over 300 artists from across the nation including some of hometown status.

In addition to more traditional media such as painting, photography and sculptures, artists in the 2011 line-up expands to include the contempo-

rary canvases including fiber, glass, metalwork and wood.

"Our arts festival brings the most talented and creative artists from all over the world to Coconut Grove," said Monty Trainer, president of the Arts Festival.

"South Floridians have a great appreciation of the arts, and every year we are proud to welcome artists who exhibit for the first time."

The CGAF officially kicks off on Feb. 19 with an exclusive Palette Breakfast event at the Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove.

Though it carries a \$100 price tag to attend, a reservation includes VIP credentials for admission and access to the Hospitality area throughout the entire fair.

A guest of honor at the Breakfast is Guy Harvey, the famous marine wildlife artist and the man behind this year's poster.

Known for his depictions

of sea creatures in their natural setting, Harvey is as much a painter as he is a conservation advocate.

"With Biscayne Bay serving as its backdrop, it would seem only natural that the Festival select an artist who represents the true South Floridian spirit and champions the inspirational beauty of the place we call home," said Trainer.

As if the task of adding color to transform the streets of the Grove into an artistic playground wasn't enough, the Coconut Grove Arts Festival further expands its itinerary by including culinary, music and performance art components.

The Culinary Pavilion Showcase will provide fair-goers with the opportunity to view demonstrations aimed at highlighting certain foods and providing nutritional and preparation tips.

Chefs participating include Christopher

Cramer, Ron Duprat and Carmen Trigueros.

As far as performing and musical arts go, expect to see a lot of local talent present.

The Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association, a nonprofit organization, make the Coconut Grove Arts Festival possible.

Since its creation, it has awarded over \$100,000 to local, art students.

Other proceeds are put towards a building fund that the Association hopes will one day serve as a permanent home to the CGAF.

The Festival runs for three days starting Saturday along the streets of McFarlane Road, South Bayshore Drive and Pan American Drive.

Special events and entertainment vary from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily with admission at \$10 per person.

Residents in the 33133 zip code will receive a special discount on presentation of residency proof.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

The Grove Arts Festival offers activities for people of all ages. Entrance to the festival is \$10 and is open from Friday to Sunday.

FISTFULS OF TECH

Major mobile carriers hit or miss on 4G coverage

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Having observed the mobile carrier industry for some time now, the idea of “4G” service has been the most notable and amusing kerfuffle to befall this industry.

The 4G wave sweeping over the nation comes in many flavors but all share the same goal, to make your phone’s Internet connection faster, or as fast as your home’s connection.

As far as the larger trend goes this is definitely the right direction; there aren’t too many people that will argue why you shouldn’t have faster speeds on your mobile device.

As mobile computing takes the mainstream we have to keep in mind that the connection, specifically the networks behind them, have to keep up.

Honestly, Verizon Wireless and Sprint really have it together when it comes to keeping up.

Sprint was the first out of the gate with their WiMax service that they deployed in 2010. Coupled with competitive pricing and a slow and steady roll out have yielded them a pretty sturdy yet still growing network.

Verizon Wireless also rolled out its new 4G Long-Term Evolution network early this year across all major cities. According to a spokesman for the company, LTE service is available from the Keys to Jacksonville and expects to finish deployment in the state by 2013.

The big, red carrier provided a solid and reliable 4G network right from the beginning, which I have to say I was pretty impressed with. Shadowing even Sprint, it’s clear that Verizon will be the carrier for the next decade. But I think it was part preparation and part luck.

The reason I describe 4G as a kerfuffle, the

word that popped up on my “word of the day” app this morning, is because it not only has it had a positive impact on mobile computing but it acts as a magnifying glass, shining a focused beam of sunlight on the weaker carriers, like AT&T.

AT&T and T-Mobile have taken an interesting approach when it comes to 4G services. Instead of investing in and deploying reliable LTE networks, they just went ahead and rebranded their existing networks as 4G.

I expect this sort of behavior from T-Mobile, who is the small fish in the big pond and needs to compete however they can. But AT&T? Come on.

The Wall Street Journal reported on this very move where they quoted AT&T Mobility CEO Ralph de la Vega as equating “4G” as an increase in speed, not a change of networks.

It’s clear that AT&T is just deceiving customers at this point. HSPA plus, the

network upgrade AT&T utilizes and LTE are very different infrastructures. LTE blows away HSPA plus any day of the week.

In a recent review of the AT&T’s Motorola Atrix, Engadget noted that the 4G-branded device was pulling in speeds of about 1.5 mbps, with the occasional spike to 2.2 mbps. They compared the device with an iPhone 4, which is not HSPA plus, and it pulled in 2 to 3 mbps in the same spots.

Another question this raises is what happens when AT&T begins deployment of its own LTE network towards the end of the year? Will it be 4.5G? 5G?

AT&T is not T-Mobile. They have money and need to start spending some in order to catch up on the already lengthy lead that Verizon has on it.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.

Award-winning musician to perform

ISCM, page 1

start at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$10 for FIU students (\$15 for FIU faculty).

Rounding off the weekend are a few other performances. On Sunday, the FIU School of Music presents “Piano Fantasies” at Biscayne Bay Campus. Taking place at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, prize-winning students from the Keyboard Studies Program will be performing a selection of works.

Tickets are \$20 and included in the cost is access to a reception following the concert.

Also taking place on Sunday is the Faculty Recital Series performance. The event will showcase Professor Rafael Padron, award-winning guitarist.

Born in Cuba, Padron has taught classical guitar nationally and internationally and has been featured in multiple festivals. He has performed

as both a soloist and with orchestras in various countries including Cuba, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Japan, Spain and the United States of America.

Padron has also won competitions such as Best Interpretation of Latin American Music in Havana and Diploma of Honor at the International Classical Guitar Competition in Chile.

He will perform music by Mertz, Tarrega, Barrios, Mangore and Brouwer at the FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The FIU School of Music has a lot in store for the 2011 season.

In addition to The New Music Miami ISCM Festival hosting a number of other concerts, there are numerous recitals and showcases highlighting the talent of the students and faculty. Details about the other events held at the Wertheim can be found on the School’s website.

ALL THE SINGLE LADIES



BLANCA MORALES/THE BEACON

Who needs a boyfriend on Valentine’s Day? Members of Phi Sigma Sigma celebrate being relationship-free by setting up a picnic outside of Green Library. Roxanne Castano, Melody Peres, Antonella Castello, and Daphne Saba (counter-clockwise).

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, FEB. 18

KAYAK AFTER DARK

WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Kayak Launch

BASEBALL OPENER

VS. Louisiana
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: MMC

SPC MOVIE:
THE TWILIGHT SAGA:
ECLIPSE

WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC DM 100

BILLIARDS NIGHT

WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 155 Billiards Room

SAVE A CHILD’S HEART

WHEN: All day
WHERE: Inside GC and by the Green Library Breezeway

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC
AT THE ALLIANCE
FRANÇAISE

The New Music Ensemble performs under the direction of Jason Calloway.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Alliance Francaise, French Cultural Institute

VALENTINES, WHITE
DAY, ORIGAMI

Learn about March 14 White day! And how these days of romance are celebrated in Japan, as you try some romantic origami.
WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 343

FIU NEW MUSIC MIAMI ISCM FESTIVAL



Enjoy performances by the FIU NODUS Ensemble, the FIU Symphony Orchestra, the FIU Electronic Arts Ensemble - FLEA, and the Greater Miami Youth Symphony featuring composer Pauline Oliveros.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$25 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

JOBSITE TOUR

WHEN: 9-11 a.m.
WHERE: Central Concrete Supermix, Inc

SATURDAY, FEB. 19

SUPER SATURDAY

-FIU Baseball VS. SELU
WHEN: 1 p.m.
-FIU Softball Felsberg Tournament
WHEN: 4 & 6 p.m.
-FIU Women’s Basketball VS. FAU
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
-FIU Men’s Basketball VS. FAU
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: U.S Century Bank Arena

COCONUT GROVE ARTS FESTIVAL



WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 for adults, \$5 for Grove residents, and free for children under 12
WHERE: Downtown Coconut Grove Area

SUNDAY, FEB. 20

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT BISCAYNE BAY SERIES: “MUSIC BY JEWISH COMPOSERS”



WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$30 for reserve seating, Pre-concert reception 3pm
WHERE: BBC Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre

SIGMA STUDY SESSIONS

WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Graham Center, in front of Bustelo and Burger King

PRESTIGE CULTURAL SERIES

WHEN: 4 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES: RAFAEL PADRON, GUITAR



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

COCONUT GROVE ARTS FESTIVAL



WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 for adults, \$5 for Grove residents, and free for children under 12
WHERE: Downtown Coconut Grove Area

Professor tardiness insulting to students

CRISTINA MIRALLES
Contributing Writer

An important part of any work ethic is punctuality. One place where I think professionals should be punctual is at colleges and universities. Here at the University, I have seen many professors that walk into their class rooms about 10 to 15 minutes late and then complain when some of their students occasionally walk in late.

Tardiness is not only annoying, but disrespectful. Professors find it wrong for a student to walk in during their lecture, but I find it disrespectful for a professor to keep their students waiting. I believe that they think they have all the power, so they do not care if they have us waiting.

Having lack of respect and being tardy shows me that the teacher has no interest in what they do. If there is one thing I cannot stand, is when I am sitting in a room ready to learn, and then I only get 45 minutes of lecture time instead of the full hour and 15 minutes. I pay for my courses and I expect to get my money's worth.

I have a professor this semester

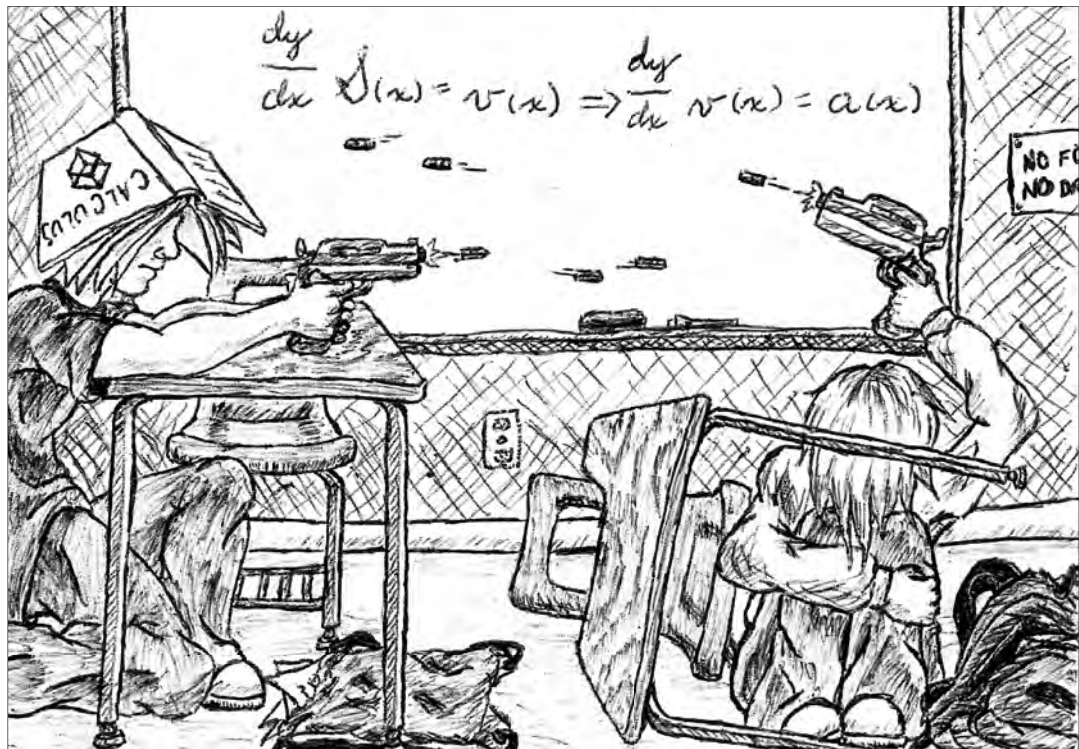
that usually arrives late, and that angers me. I always show up to class early, sometimes up to 15 minutes before class begins, and not once have I seen my teacher there. Last time I checked, according to her syllabus, one thing she does not tolerate is tardiness.

I have kept track of how late she comes in each time. The latest she has walked in was 12 minutes after class is supposed to begin. After coming in late, she still has to put up her Power Point and figure out why the projector is not working correctly.

Several students experience this dilemma themselves. Matthew Wittingham, junior, journalism said, "Multiple professors in the school of journalism have accused us of not caring for their classes by showing up late. However, they respond the following class session by showing up 10 minutes late and lecturing for only 30. It is an odd phenomenon that occurs for the sheer fact that it is hypocritical of them to do so."

If a teacher shows up late to class, then he or she should not complain about students occasionally being tardy. I have had

STATE BILL 234 AT WORK



teachers who are punctual, and if they did show up late a couple times, they were generous with tardiness.

I think that professors should always arrive on time. They should be there a few minutes before to prepare for their lecture. If a student is late, then it is their responsibility to push themselves to arrive at the proper time next class.

"The common image is that the professor [should show up] early so that we may have the full period to learn, not be lectured on etiquette from someone who doesn't know it themselves," said Wittingham.

In any job, employees, including their employers, are supposed to arrive on time. Arriving late more than once could result in being fired. The same thing goes

for professors in any college or university. If their boss receives many complaints from students, it could result in having evaluations of that professor and they could soon be fired.

Tardiness and disrespect are intolerable in any work situation. Whether you work in an office or at a university, you should follow all the rules, in which being late is definitely not one of them.

Sensibility needed in proposing protective legislation

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

In the wake of the shooting of Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the country has been privy to the pain of a community and the uniting of both political parties under a common cause. Unfortunately, we have also seen knee-jerk reactionary policies being thrown to the House Floor for consideration.

According to a Jan. 9 report on CNN.com, Democratic Representative Robert Brady of Pennsylvania "said he will introduce legislation making it a federal crime for a person to use language or symbols that could be perceived as threatening or inciting violence against a Member of Congress or federal official."

What is frightening about this proposed legislation is its vagueness. Referring to anything that could be "perceived" as threatening against any federal official leaves a lot of room for subjectivity in what would be tried as a federal offense. This proposed law is attempting to regulate words as opposed to actions, which is a dangerous precedent to set.

The problem comes from the growing trend for reactionary measures as opposed to proactive ones. Something awful happened and, theoretically, those in a position of power need to do something now to ensure the public knows that something is being done to keep it from happening again.

This is the same rhetoric that occurs after every shooting or assassination attempt,

and it is not a justification for attempting to push legislation through without taking into consideration its long term effects on the public and our freedoms.

I am not against ensuring that our elected officials stay safe. Local police and security details are just some of the options already available to our public officials for their protection. There are plenty of things that can be done to make sure a tragedy like this does not happen again.

I cannot deny that something needs to be done to keep us safe, but there is a need for level-headedness and a need for treading lightly. It is always tempting to go for the most comprehensive plan, the thing that will definitely work, but these kinds of policies can quickly escalate out

of control and leave the very people you are trying to protect powerless.

In lieu of reactionary policy that could very easily compromise our basic freedoms, the government should be looking to legislate gun sales or some sort of system to catch potential murderers before they happen.

We cannot lose our rights and freedoms until we give them away. These policies, with their emphasis on a subjective assessment of what is "threatening," is moving in that way.

I am not saying we should not do something, I am suggesting we make sure what we do now is not going to hurt us down the line by setting up policies that could potentially attempt to legislate how we think or what we say.

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BRAZIL

Suspected vigilante police arrested in Brazil

Authorities said they have arrested nearly 20 police officers suspected of taking part in a death squad that allegedly murdered and tortured innocent women and children.



HAITI

Clinton, candidates discuss reconstruction

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton on Feb. 15 discussed the future of efforts to rebuild earthquake-torn Haiti with the two candidates who meet next month in a presidential runoff delayed by political crisis.



VENEZUELA

Chavez foes boycott congress session over speaker

Dozens of opposition lawmakers boycotted a special congressional session honoring 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar on Feb. 15, saying the guest speaker did not share their democratic values.

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

aB students wash cars to reach Jamaican shores

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Staff Writer

For many college students, the beaches of Jamaica represent the perfect spring break vacation. But for alternativeBreaks, the real fun begins inland.

Instead of enjoying a Red Stripe as the waves crash onto the shore, members of alternativeBreaks help the local community emerge from their impoverished conditions.

For the rest of February, students participating in alternativeBreaks will throw a carwash in front of Academic Two, said Anastasia Strachan, a junior and nursing student and site leader for alternativeBreaks,

“We’re here washing cars, as a fundraiser for alternativeBreaks. We’re going to Jamaica, in the Blue Mountains outside of Kingston, to work in the impoverished community there as our spring break service project,” said Andrew Altemann, a junior hospitality management major and alternativeBreak site leader. “We’re just trying to raise enough money so that we can get there and, hopefully, back as well.”

Altemann and Strachan are the site leaders for alternativeBreaks’ service trip to the Blue Mountain region of Jamaica this coming spring break from March 12 to 19.

“It’s similar to Habitat for Humanity, but we’re not going to be doing as much building,” Altemann said. “A



LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

AlternativeBreaks members Anastasia Strachan, junior nursing major (left), and Andrew Altemann junior hospitality major (right), working at a car wash to raise funds for a humanitarian trip to Jamaica on Feb. 1.

lot of it is healthcare related or, since they have a small community there, even trying to get businesses to grow. [The majority] of it is upkeep with schools and buildings, and that sort of thing.”

The alternativeBreaks Jamaica group will be involved in multiple projects while on the island. They will be working on career service programs including, but not limited to, resume writing, interview skills and etiquette, and how to conduct a job search.

They will also be assisting

the women of the community by setting up different exercise regimens and work out classes to promote healthier lifestyles as a part of their healthcare education program, along with a third project that will mostly consist of the beautification of the community through some light construction and upkeep of community facilities, such as community centers, school, and shops.

“[Strachan] may be doing some work in the clinic, as she is a nursing major. Our itinerary

has yet to be finalized, so nobody really knows the precise details of our work, but that’s what we know thus far,” added Altemann in an e-mail.

AlternativeBreaks began in 1994 as a group of friends interested in taking a road trip with the intentions of changing the world. Now, 15 years later, alternativeBreaks consists of more than 300 student members performing community service projects locally, domestically, and internationally.

With the belief, as the

alternativeBreaks website describes, “Cost shouldn’t prevent any student from participating,” alternativeBreaks offers programs at a fee of \$150 for domestic trips and a fee maxed at \$350 for international projects. This commitment to low costs however, has put some alternativeBreak projects at risk due to its dependence on donations.

AlternativeBreaks regularly checks in with groups as a means of monitoring their fundraising progress. If groups are off track, alternatives are presented, such as switching project sites, shortening the length of the project, or looking at ways to reduce project expenses.

However, if a group does not meet their fundraising goals, the trip is cancelled.

“This year so far, university wide, we’ve had one trip canceled and two teams merged to one team/trip to combine their efforts,” said Ana Perez, director of Alternative Spring Break at BBC.

With a target goal of raising \$2,000, and nearly \$500 raised in the past two weeks, this group of nine participants has their hands full in the upcoming month.

The alternativeBreaks Jamaica group will host their carwashes on Tuesdays for the remainder of February from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in front of Academic Two. For more information, or to make a donation to alternativeBreaks, visit www2.fiu.edu/~abreak/.

IMPROMPTU

Hazelnuts rejoice: Sister Hazel will rock Revolution Live

Gainesville based rock alternative band, Sister Hazel performs at Revolution Live this Friday, Feb. 18.

Combining elements of folk rock and rock ‘n’ roll, the band strays away from the grunge and dark feel to focus on more optimistic music.

Just from the name of the band, you can tell the story of their music. Sister Hazel Williams was a nun in a Gainesville church that accepted children during the 1970s and 80s to stay warm in her shelter. The idea of unconditional concern is what drove the members to take on the name for their group.

In 1994 the group released their self-titled album with their independent record label, Croakin’ Poets. Upon releasing their second album, “...Somewhere more familiar” and selling 30,000 copies, the band signed with Universal Records in 1997.

The label re-released their album later in

the year and their hit single “All For You” reached number 11 on the Billboard 100 charts.

Universal gave the band members the opportunity to work with producers who worked with top chart bands like Cheap Trick, Guns N’ Roses, and 3 Doors Down. But in 2003, the band split from Universal and continued with their own independent label releasing five more albums.

Fame came to the band not just through their intelligent way of expressing themselves through music, but even Ford Motor Company used the band as the face of the company’s new Sync Technology program. Sister Hazel also appeared in movies like “The Wedding Planner,” “American Wedding,” and “10 Things I Hate About You.”

Sister Hazel really captures their fans, or “hazelnuts” as some followers call

themselves, in an upbeat spirit switching from electric to acoustic within their songs.

The band brings that added country flavor that many people may not be so used to.

One example that really exemplifies their diversity can be shown in a recent album “Release.” Lead guitarist/vocalist and songwriter Ken Block took a step back and encouraged each of his band mates to write at least two songs in the album.

In Block’s titled song, “Take A Bow,” he shines using instruments like banjos and cellos. The folk guitar stands out above all, using melodic tunes and energetic riffs.

The ability to bring that diversity of various songwriters really gets us, the listeners, to hear about different hardships, love, and faith.

“The songwriter is the person who decides what road we’re going to go down,” said guitarist Ryan Newell.

Recently releasing their 12-song album “Heartland Highway” in October 2010, the

band tours about 100 times a year and still actively participates in charitable work. So to involve yourself in something different from Swing music or Hip Hop be sure to check them out this weekend.

Impromptu is a bi-weekly column on local musicians performing locally. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.

SISTER HAZEL

- Time: 8 p.m.
- When: Feb. 18
- Where: Revolution Live, 200 W Broward Blvd Fort. Lauderdale, Fla.
- How much: \$30



YAZMINE GRANTHON