



BAHRAIN

Clashes in Bahrain before planned protest

Bahrain's security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets on Feb. 14 at thousands of anti-government protesters heeding calls to unite in a major rally.



ISRAEL

Jewish leader makes secret visit to Syria

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' visit to Syria could signal improved relations with West.



SERBIA

Serbian Prime Minister sacks his deputy

Mirko Cvetkovic, Serbia's prime minister, said on Feb. 14 he is sacking a key coalition partner in a move that could lead to the government's collapse and early elections.

Senate fills positions left vacant

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

While many leadership positions were left open due to resignations, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus was able to fill many of those key positions, including the Senate Speaker Pro Tempore and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

After serving as Speaker of the SGC-MMC Senate since the summer of 2010, William-Jose Velez resigned from his position as Senate Speaker and Senator of the College of Engineering and Computing so Velez could focus fully towards his academics. Due to a line of succession set in place by SGC-MMC in case this situation would arise, the speaker pro tempore would become the active senate speaker.

With Hector Mujica moving to senate speaker, the speaker pro tempore seat became available, leaving the SGC-MMC senate to choose among four candidates in a special election: College of Education Senator Samir Patel, Lower Division Senator Patrick O'Keefe, Housing Senator

SGC-MMC, page 2

BUILD-A-GIRAFFE



BIANCA MORALES/THE BEACON

Sophomore Lelany Barea made a stuffed giraffe for her niece Kayla at SPCs Build-A-Bear GC pit event in honor of Valentine's Day. SPC has successfully organized this event for two years now.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama outlines budget

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Staff

President Barack Obama is sending Congress a \$3.73 trillion spending blueprint that pledges \$1.1 trillion in deficit savings over the next decade through spending cuts and tax increases.

Obama's new budget projects that the deficit for the current year will surge to an all-time high of \$1.65 trillion. That reflects a sizable tax-cut agreement reached with Republicans in December. For 2012, the administration sees the imbalance declining to \$1.1 trillion, giving the country a record four straight years of \$1 trillion-plus deficits.

Jacob Lew, Obama's budget director, said that the president's spending proposal was a balanced package of spending cuts and "shared sacrifice" that would bring the deficits under control. Appearing on ABC's "Good Morning

BUDGET, page 2

University starts ramping up recycling efforts, awareness

RONNIE FIGUEROA
Contributing Writer

One way Florida International University is staying "Worlds Ahead" is through its revamped recycling efforts.

Since taking control of the University's recycling program four years ago, staff within FIU Custodial Services has seen a steady rise in recycling and anticipates further reductions in the current 7 million pounds of waste the university dumps each year.

In the past 12 months, the University has recycled 29 percent of its total waste output, a seven percent increase from the previous 12 months. By comparison, the university was recycling less than 19 percent of its total waste in the beginning of 2008.

Joost Nuninga, assistant director of University Custodial Services, attributes the growing figures to an increase in awareness within the university community.

"People are thinking more green now than they were several years ago," he says.

He credits the commitment of student organizations, increased funding and administrative

involvement.

While public buildings are mandated to recycle at least three items, FIU currently recycles paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, used oil and tires, light bulbs, wooden pallets, ink cartridges and other items.

In 2008, then-Gov. Charlie Crist signed an energy bill mandating state agencies to recycle 75 percent of their waste stream by 2020. Nuninga said the university goal is to reach 50 percent within the next five years.

For a university constantly cutting costs due to budget cuts, recycling could provide needed relief.

"It's still cheaper to recycle," Nuninga says. "It is financially sound for the university to invest in this."

The current waste removal contract with its contractor, Waste Management, costs FIU slightly more than \$508,000 for the year. It's an average of \$64 per ton for non-recycled waste. Recycling, however, costs \$35 per ton. The school also makes \$10 for every ton of paper it recycles.

"Priority No. 1 is placing more bins around campus," Nuninga says.

Ryan Vogel, a senior majoring in parks management and environmental studies, identified spaces throughout

the Graham Center he felt could use recycling bins. His suggestions led to seven new bins.

But he sees a troubling discrepancy in recycling trends among the different campuses. Initiatives are

concentrated more throughout the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"There is no student organization to pressure administration to make changes," Vogel says of the lack of Biscayne Bay Campus-based envi-

ronmental organizations. "There is very little student initiative for environmental causes."

He notes that the major envi-

RECYCLING, page 2

A PORTRAIT OF LOVE



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Juniors Roberto Jimenez (left), a business administration major, and Gretel Vigo (right), a nursing major, have their caricature drawn by an artist for the A Parisian Valentine's Day activities hosted by FIU Alumni Association. Jimenez and Vigo met their freshman year at FIU and have been together since.

WEIRD NEWS

Illinois Woman, 61, Gives Birth to Own Grandson

An Illinois woman has given birth to her own grandson. Kristine Casey, 61, agreed to act as a surrogate for daughter Sara Connell after Connell spent years trying to have a baby without success.

Connell and her husband, Bill, are the biological parents of the boy, Finnean Lee Connell. Through vitro fertilization Casey carried and gave birth to the child.

Connell told the Tribune that she held her mother's hand as Finnean was born through a Cesarean section.

Kiss me not-so quick: Lovers seek world record

A kiss is still a kiss — even if it goes on for more than a day. Fourteen couples gathered at a Thai beach resort to try to break the world record for kissing, attempting to spend more than 32 hours locked lip-to-lip.

The marathon kicked off at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, with each couple given a space of 1 square meter (yard) in which they had to spend the time kissing, without leaving except for bathroom breaks.

Any break in the lip lock resulted in disqualification.

32 Percent of Russians say the Sun Revolves Around Earth

Does the sun revolve around Earth? Is radioactivity a human invention? Did humans ever live side by side with dinosaurs? A surprising number of people in Russia answered those and other questions with a resounding “yes.”

A survey published this week by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center targeted scientific superstitions among Russian citizens and was released as Russia's president, Dmitry Medvedev, announced that Russia should develop its own space exploration agenda.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Election board members confirmed

SGC-MMC, page 1

Carlos Rodriguez and Finance Committee Chair Cristina Loreto.

Citing her experience as finance chair, Cristina Loreto emerged as the best person to fill the position of speaker pro tempore in lieu of looming University budget deliberations.

“I am looking forward to representing the viewpoints of the student body as we move into budget deliberations for the 2011-2012 academic school year,” said Loreto. “I am committed to utilizing all the tools at my disposal to ensure that the University Wide Council appropriates the budget fairly and with consideration to all facets of student life here at FIU.”

With Loreto moving to speaker pro tempore, the position of chair of the

Finance Committee was left vacant. Although Loreto can no longer serve as chair of the Finance Committee, she will remain on the committee as a general member.

During the special election held for the vacant finance chair position, the only two candidates nominated were Senator At-large Daniel Gonzalez and Lower Division Senator Patrick O’Keefe.

After their presentations and debate by members of the senate, it was decided that O’Keefe would become the new Finance Committee Chair.

“Senator O’Keefe has proven invaluable to the progress that [the] Senate has made thus far this academic school year,” said Loreto about O’Keefe’s confirmation. “I am certain that he will bring these attributes to the Finance Committee as its

new Chair, building upon the progress that I made as we end the senate’s tenure.”

After all special elections ended, the senate moved to confirm new members for seats left open after previous meetings.

Three candidates were presented for the open College of Business Administration chair, which was left vacant after Kevin Gonzalez became SGC-MMC Comptroller.

Eventually, Francisco Perez was selected to fill the position, due to having “very pointed short-term plans,” keeping in mind that senators only have three more months to be in session.

Finally, as the meeting wound down, two candidates were brought forth to the senate to be confirmed as new members of the SGC-MMC Student Elections Board.

The first to present was Ed Proenza, who is currently the

president of Residence Hall Association. Due to RHA being one of the largest voting constituencies for SGA elections, the senate questioned whether Proenza becoming a member of the student elections board was a conflict of interest and whether or not he was a valid candidate for the position.

Senate leadership assured that the problem had already been reviewed and no conflict of interest existed in this case. Proenza also assured that their would be no problems on his part.

After Proenza was confirmed, Muffy Barbaran was brought forth and the senate gladly confirmed the enthusiastic candidate.

Vincent Fernandez works as a Beat Writer, covering the Student Government Association at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Nature Preserve status ‘up in the air’

RECYCLING, page 1

ronmental organizations — Students for Environmental Actions, Emerging Green Builders and Intellectual Decisions for Environmental Awareness Solutions — are all based in MMC and concentrate their efforts there.

Nuninga says he’s also noticed the discrepancy and vows to place more bins around BBC, Broward Pines Center and the Engineering Center. In the last few years, the university received more than 400 bins as donations from corporate sponsors like Carnival Cruise Lines and Pepsi.

During Earth Week last year, President Rosenberg

announced the creation of the FIU Sustainability Committee, comprised of 18 members equally made up of staff, faculty and students, charged with finding ways to reduce the University’s carbon footprint.

“Living green isn’t something you do one week of the year or when it’s convenient; it’s a way of life for our University,” Rosenberg said in a video.

As Vogel is finding out, the demand for convenient parking is forcing the University to make environmental compromises.

With the goal of having 60,000 students enrolled in the university by the year 2020, creating more parking garages

is necessary. As manager of FIU’s nature preserve, a nine-acre area complete with organic gardens, a pond, and two main trails, Vogel is constantly fighting to keep the preserve from becoming another parking garage.

“The preserve is safe until 2015, but after that it’s up in the air,” he says.

Biology, environmental science, education, and art and photography students frequent the preserve. Safeguarding it from the construction of new dormitories and parking can only succeed if everyone buys into the concept, but Vogel remains skeptical.

“Students at FIU haven’t gotten into the culture,” he says

of environmental thinking.

For the past two years FIU has participated in RecycleMania, a competition where hundreds of colleges and universities compete to see who recycles the most. After seeing disappointing results in the first year it competed, Vogel was pleased to see that FIU ranked among the top in the state of Florida this past year.

“What we can change starts with FIU,” Vogel says.

Ronnie Figueroa, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

THE BEACON

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Cuts to fall short of plans

BUDGET, page 1

America,” Lew said that Obama’s budget would “stand the test that we live within our means and we invest in the future.”

Senior administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of the formal release of the budget, said that Obama would achieve two-thirds of his projected \$1.1 trillion in deficit savings through spending cuts including a five-year freeze on many domestic programs.

The other one-third of the savings would come from tax increases, including limiting tax deductions for high income taxpayers, a proposal Obama put forward last year only

to have it rejected in Congress.

The Obama budget recommendation, which is certain to be changed by Congress, would spend \$3.73 trillion in the 2012 budget year, which begins Oct. 1, a reduction of 2.4 percent from what Obama projects will be spent in the current budget year.

The Obama plan would fall far short of the \$4 trillion in deficit cuts recommended in a December report by his blue-ribbon deficit commission. That panel said that real progress on the deficit cannot be made without tackling the government’s big three entitlement programs — Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security — and defense spending.

Obama concentrated his cuts in the one-tenth of the budget that covers most domestic agencies, projecting \$400 billion in savings from a five-year freeze in this area. Some programs would not just see spending frozen at 2010 spending levels but would be targeted for sizable cuts.

Republicans, who took control of the House in the November elections and picked up seats in the Senate in part because of voter anger over the soaring deficits, called Obama’s efforts too timid.

They want spending frozen at 2008 levels before efforts to fight a deep recession boosted spending in the past two years.

SOFTBALL

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

FIU closes out Combat Classic with victory

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers broke up a scoreless tie in the bottom of the sixth inning to defeat the University of North Florida Ospreys by the score of 3-0 to give head coach Beth Torina her 100th career win as a head coach.

Both teams struggled to sustain any form of offense as FIU's Jenn Gniadek (1-2) pitched a complete game - a two-hit shutout to help keep the Ospreys in check. Gniadek also recorded a season high ten strikeouts in the win.

UNF's Cortney Radke (0-4) pitched six innings giving up five hits and surrendering the three runs in her outing that helped FIU to its second victory of the season.

The Golden Panthers had a scoring chance in the fourth inning when Brie Rojas reached on a walk. After she advanced to second on a wild pitch by Radke, catcher Jenny Welch reached first base on another walk from the Osprey starter.

With two outs in the inning, Rachael Slowik came to the plate with an opportunity to drive in Rojas from second, but she fouled out to the catcher to end the inning.

The Golden Panthers finally



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Jessy Alfonso [above] prepares to hit an incoming pitch in FIU's shutout win over North Florida.

broke through against Radke in the sixth inning, who at that point had only given up one hit in the pitching duel.

Jessy Alfonso led off the inning with a walk, but was thrown out at second by catcher Jackie Reese. Kayla Burri was able to compen-

sate with a double to right center and Ashley McCain followed with a single of her own, advancing Burri to third. After Rojas walked, which loaded the bases, Jenny Welch broke up the tie with a single back up the middle to drive in a run.

With the bases still loaded, Patty

Zavala capped off her 2-for-3 day with a single to right field to score both Rojas and McClain, giving the Golden Panthers a 3-0 lead heading into the top of the seventh inning.

Gniadek closed the door on UNF as she only had one base runner, who reached by being hit by

a pitch. Gniadek struck out Lauren Pollock and Alyson Bailey to end the game.

The Golden Panthers completed the 2011 Combat Classic with two wins in five games over the weekend.

WEEKEND NOTES

Pitcher Jenn Gniadek has been busy over the weekend, appearing in four of the five ballgames for FIU and currently holds 3.50 ERA on the season.

On the offensive side of the ball, catcher Jenny Welch and outfielder Ashley McClain lead the team with batting averages of .400 and .375, respectively.

FIU recorded errorless games against Ohio State and North Florida and compiled at least 10 hits against Memphis and DePaul, a good sign for an offense looking to get off to a fast start.

Welch's home run against Ohio State in the opening game was déjà vu for her.

She hit a home run in the first game last year against Southern Illinois in last year's Combat Classic.

"That was kind of exciting because last year I did the same thing, so it's kind of weird," Welch said after the game on Friday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MTSU deals Golden Panthers another road defeat

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers lost for the second time this year against Middle Tennessee by a score of 80-68 as they got outrebounded 33 to 17 with Phil Taylor putting in 21 points off the bench on Feb. 12.

The rebounding proved to be the biggest difference in the latest defeat and it was due in large part to being undersized against the Blue Raiders big men.

Eric Frederick did not play due to a coach's decision and Brandon Moore only played seven minutes as the team was left with only one true big man in freshmen Dominique Ferguson, who would only grabbed three rebounds.

"We got to recruit better rebounders and bigger players," Coach Isiah Thomas said. "We just got to keep getting better and wait till they get a little older and a little stronger and wait for another class to support them."

The first five minutes set the stage for the rest of the game when MTSU started out on a 10-0 run over FIU that forced them to have to fight back to keep in the game quickly. They closed

the deficit within two points with 11:54 to go when the Blue Raiders went on another run.

The Golden Panthers kept closing the gap throughout the first half but were never able to take the lead and went into the locker room at halftime down 34-26.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers (9-16, 4-9 SBC) never went on any runs that allowed them to come back into the game as they kept on exchanging baskets with Middle Tennessee (14-12, 9-4 SBC). Every time they came closer, the Golden Panthers would be unable to push it any further and fall right back to being down by double digits again.

They battled back one last time late in the game with 1:54 left when they found themselves down 68-61, but they were soon forced to send MTSU to the line where they made their free throws when it mattered most and never let FIU get a chance at the comeback upset.

On offense, the Golden Panthers relied heavily on Taylor, who came off the bench in a big way, putting up 21 points in just 29 minutes of action. The next



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

DeJuan Wright [center] finished with 10 points in a game where the Golden Panthers struggled to rebound.

closest player for the Golden Panthers was DeJuan Wright, who finished the game with 10 points on the night.

"I just go with the flow of the game and take what the defense gives me, they gave me some open shots I knocked them down,

and that's how I was as able to do it tonight," said Taylor.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Streak snapped at five in road loss

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers went into Murfreesboro, TN riding a five-game winning streak and a chance to sweep Middle Tennessee in the season series. Instead, FIU left Tennessee with their streak broken and while losing ground in the Sun Belt Conference race for good tournament seeding.

Middle Tennessee beat their SBC opponent 66-52 on Feb 12 as FIU struggled to get their offense going, helping the Blue Raiders clinch the top seed in the East division.

Redshirt junior Fanni Hutlassa led the Golden Panthers with 18 points and 10 rebounds for her second double-double of the season while senior Michelle Gonzalez added 11 points and five assists. Freshman Jerica Coley added seven points, nine rebounds, and three steals in the loss.

Both the Golden Panthers and the Blue Raiders began the game strong offensively, as MTSU held a 7-6 early in the first half. Middle Tennessee would go on a 14-2 run to take hold of the game and as the first half progressed, FIU saw their deficit grow by as much as 20 points as the Blue Raiders held a 35-15 lead with minutes left until halftime.

Hutlassa was able to cut into the lead as she scored eight of the game's next 10 points, but MTSU

would score the final eight of the half, including a three-pointer by Anne Marie Lanning, to give the Blue Raiders a commanding 45-23 lead at halftime.

FIU would look to power themselves back into the game when Hutlassa hit a three-pointer to start the second half. The Blue Raiders would quickly respond with a 9-0 run, giving MTSU a comfortable 53-26 lead, more than double the points the Golden Panthers had.

FIU would look to finish the game strong, outscoring the Blue Raiders 26-13 in the final minutes to lessen the damage of the loss, but MTSU would come away with a 66-52 victory.

Ebony Rowe led the charge for the Blue Raiders with 22 points and 13 rebounds, leading the Blue Raiders past an FIU team that struggled in many areas of the game. The Golden Panthers failed to control the painted area, second chance opportunities, and regularly gave up points off of turnovers. In all three categories, FIU gave up 28, 17, and 20 respectively.

Things haven't been and will not get any easier for the Golden Panthers after the loss of senior Elisa Carey for the remainder of the season due to re-aggravating a knee injury she suffered in the off season. Along with Carey, Rakia Rodgers has not played in six games since she is currently out with an ankle injury



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Elisa Carey [right] goes for a rebound vs. MTSU on Jan. 29.

she suffered on Jan. 22 against South Alabama.

The Golden Panthers will have time to rest, not playing again until Feb 19 when they will be at home

to host South Florida rival Florida Atlantic. This will be a tough test for the Golden Panthers, a litmus test for how well prepared they are for the conference tournament.

Freshmen forced to play more minutes

MEN'S, page 3

FIU was forced to play in major foul trouble this game as four of their starting five players got four fouls or more including Wright, who fouled out.

This required the younger players on the team to play together without any real senior leadership on the floor on some occasions.

"We played our freshmen a lot with Taylor, Ferguson even Richaud Pack," said Thomas. "I didn't have a whole lot of seniors out on the floor and I think all the young kids are getting valuable experience by learning how to play in tough situations. Even though we're losing a lot of close games, the minutes that they're getting on the floor are valuable."

FIU will now come home to take on their rivals FAU on Feb. 19 in a rematch of the one-point loss they suffered against them back on Feb. 5 in Boca Raton.

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Arts & Sciences

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Professor encourages to 'follow your bliss'

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

Wayne E. Robinson Jr., a professor in the Department of Theater, was drawn to theater as a child.

He pursued his dream and attended Phillips Academy, Northwestern University, The National Theatre Conservatory and the American Conservatory Theater.

In these institutions he developed both teaching and working experience. He then moved to California where he applied for multiple teaching positions and was presented with the opportunity to become a member of the University's faculty, which he said he gladly accepted.

Robinson chose acting for a few reasons.

"I did not come from a family with a background in the arts, but I immediately became drawn to musical theater as a young man," he said.

After he pursued acting, he realized that theater was a wonderful way to examine human nature and life overall.

"The best way to get a profound experience in the theater is to feel as if everyone is part of the same experience," he said. Apart from working at FIU, Robinson is an actor and director when it does not conflict with his schedule at the University.

His overall career includes acting



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Professor Wayne takes his lesson outside as he teaches a theater movement class in the WPAC Atrium.

and directing in over 50 productions, which have taken him from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Robinson is no stranger to moving from place to place, when he was a young boy his father was in the Air Force which caused his family to be continuously on the move. After living in many states, he immediately felt at home in Miami, Florida, he said, "this is the place I was destined to be in."

Robinson believes you should always "follow your bliss." This motto has been replicated in his

students genuine pursuit of happiness. After being part of the FIU faculty since the Fall term of 1994, Robinson has had a positive influence on his students.

Students described their experience in his class as being "entertaining and motivating." Students have also said that he strives to develop a strong bond within the classroom, which in turn makes the class engaging. Most, if not all students, say that they would take him again and recommend him to all undergraduates who are thinking

about taking one of his courses.

"I think Professor Robinson showed me how great theatre really could be. Now that I have taken his class, I have a better appreciation and understanding of it all," said theater student Danny Gomez.

Professor Robinson has been recognized for his work, in fact, he recently received an award in 2009 for his Excellence in Directing "Electricidad."

Putting on a stage production is strenuous and time-consuming but Robinson said, "I do not see it as a

job, just something I love to do."

The primary goal of the theatre program is to give an intensive theatre guidance through classes and productions which are managed with professional theatre discipline and the highest possible quality work.

Apart from all the work that goes into the curriculum, theatre majors are also required to take part in all the major productions presented while the student is enrolled in the theatre program. Plays are selected to offer students the opportunity to work with a wide range of styles and periods, from contemporary to classical, straight drama, and musicals.

The department presents a main stage season of four shows each year, as well as Second Stage and Student Theatre Lab productions. The New Plays Festival attributes work written, directed, and performed by students within the department.

Professor Robinson says he hopes to one day develop a graduate program for the department. He said he loves what he does and is immensely passionate about theatre.

"I want to continue to do what I am doing, and compel students to do what I love," he said.

He is a firm believer that although relatively unconventional, theatre can lead to a successful and rewarding future.

FASHION FINDS: GRAMMY'S EDITION

Grammy Awards lets stars unleash their quirky style

Out of all the awards shows, the Grammy's is the one where the stars of the music industry get to unleash their crazy sides and it's perfectly acceptable.

Lady Gaga was dressed as an egg and hatched on stage. Does it get kookier than that?

LEA MICHELE: The only thing I think of when I see Michele is, "Oh, hi. I'm Lea Michele and I try way too hard." Nothing about her Emilio Pucci worked on the petite actress. It was overwhelming and did not suit her bubbly persona. If the dress didn't have the ruffles cutting across the skirt, I might have liked it a little better. I will give her props on her accessory choices. Michele wore jewelry by Lorraine Schwartz and Christian Louboutin shoes and they complemented the dress well. It was pretty cute too that she wore berry-colored lipstick as an homage to her Glee character, Rachel Berry.

KATY PERRY: No matter what Katy Perry says or does I will love her. She is bubblegum pop and if "Teenage Dream" does not make you bob your head and make you just a teensy bit giddy, you have no heart. Perry, her husband Russell Brand and her grandma all wore custom-made Giorgio Armani outfits. Perry's dress was exactly what the Grammy's are about. It was whimsical and fit her great. The Swarovski crystal-encrusted bodice and feather wings made the dress look like it was from a Victoria's Secret runway and it was just so fun! Her performance outfit was also great because it bottled up what Perry's music is. The sparkled design

paired with glitter tights was fun and flirtatious. Perry's outfit choices for the night were just an expression of what she sells herself as: fun.

GWYNETH PALTROW: The Oscar winner has somehow weaseled her way into music. She performed "Forget You" with Cee Lo Green and creepy and colorful puppets in a skintight jumpsuit that shows off her incredible body. The real show stopper was her amazing multi colored Christian Louboutin shoes. I wouldn't know how to incorporate those into my wardrobe but I would put them in

a glass box and make a shrine for them in my room.

EVA LONGORIA: I just don't understand why she was there. Longoria can't be taller than a preteen and the Ashi Studio dress she chose was so overwhelming for her petite frame. Her bottom half was great. It was short and cute and her Brian Atwood pumps were beautiful. If it wasn't for the ruffled bodice, the dress could have worked.

NICOLE KIDMAN: Though the dress wasn't stunning, it was unlike anything she's ever worn. She really did look beautiful and youthful. Her Jean Paul Gaultier gown was straight from the runway and she paired it with Fred Leighton jewelry. I'm glad she chose a natural looking hairstyle but it didn't compete with the grandness of the dress. The same goes for her soft and clean makeup. The combination of her makeup, hair and outfit reminded everyone that she has one of Hollywood's most beautiful faces. Nothing to do with her dress, but I couldn't

help swooning over how cute she looked as she danced and sang along with Katy Perry.

RIHANNA: On anyone else, Rihanna's risqué dress would have looked like a high-paid hooker's dress. The dress alternated ruffles with sheer panels. It was a completely scandalous dress but my initial thought was "It's Rihanna. She can so wear that." Someone from her team should have been more conscious of her dress

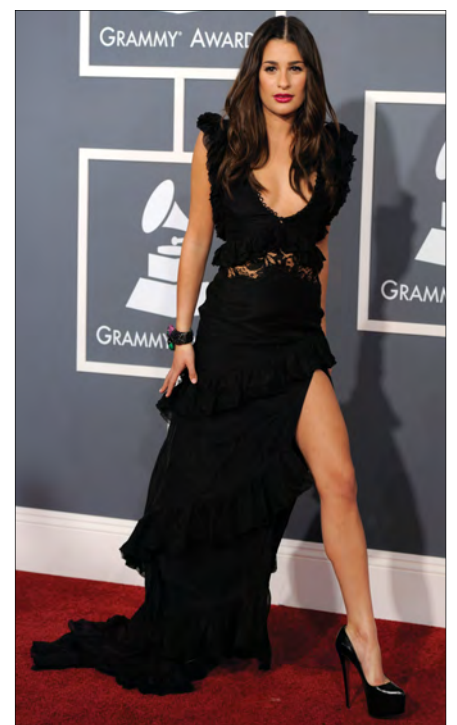
and made sure the ruffles were covering her lady bits better. The majority of the time her flower petal nipple covers were exposed and it all became a guessing game. It's not a perverted thing, but she was completely exposed. Who would not look?

Fashion Finds is a weekly style column. Look for it every Monday.

BEST: KATY PERRY



WORST: LEA MICHELE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

AESTHETICALLY PLEASING



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshman Manuel Mendez works on a project for his sculpture class taught by professor Ralph Buckley.

Miss FIU believes she was crowned 'to make a difference'

PEREZ, page 8

with no time wasted took her first step to what would become a plethora of social involvement at FIU.

Bronwen Bares, assistant director for the Center of Leadership and Service and full time staff member of the Women's Center at MMC, was Perez's Freshman Experience teacher who promoted the Academy of Leaders in her class, which

sparked Perez's interest.

"Ever since I met [Perez] she really stood out as someone who had a lot of potential," says Bares

It was after this weekend retreat that Perez says, that Sunday when she came back home she was super excited and told her mom she wanted to join everything on campus.

"I don't think I would be who I really am without the Academy of Leaders" says Perez.

Now holding the crown and an

open window of opportunities to network, Perez plans on building up her platform for a high school program equivalent to aB to influence and mentor younger students for a brighter future.

Perez's future goals are to attend the Peace Corps or Teach for America, and with graduation scheduled for Fall 2011, that future is closely at hand.

"I was put here to make a difference in peoples' lives," Perez said.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE 101/EXHIBIT SERIES



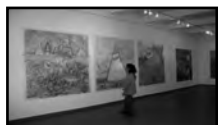
This program features chamber music for winds.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: 101/Exhibit Art Gallerie

MEET & MINGLE WITH CLIVE KING



WHEN: 6-8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

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

BATE-PAPO

WHEN: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC Piano Room in GC

SPRING 2011 CAREER FAIR

The Career Fair is one of the biggest career-related events in this region!

WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free to FIU students and alumni only

WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION

Hosted by the BSU.

WHEN: 7-10 p.m.

WHERE: MMC TBA

BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Organic garden

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



WHEN: 6:30-8 p.m.

WHERE: BBC WC 130

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

FIU CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES: "MUSIC OF THE 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES"



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

PROFESSIONAL PHOTO SESSION FOR MLGSO MEMBERS

Do you need a professional picture for your web site or resume? Come and take your picture!

WHEN: 1-2 p.m.

WHERE: MMC GC 305

LEADERSHIP TOOLS WORKSHOP

WHEN: 4-5 p.m.

WHERE: MMC GC 316

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

WHEN: All day

WHERE: Inside GC and by the Green Library Breezeway

BATE-PAPO

WHEN: 5:45-6:45 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC Piano Room in GC

INTERMEDIATE MOONLIGHT YOGA



WHEN: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Organic garden

SOA LECTURE SERIES DAVID RUBIN



WHEN: 5-6:15 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC PCA 135

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

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Grammy's show what is popular isn't always worthy

Feeling validated by pop culture is a silly thing to want.

I try to avoid cliché feelings of betrayal or acceptance by mass, consumer culture.

"I can't believe Ke\$ha is so popular! What is wrong with people?"

COLUMNIST



CHRIS TOWERS

I've always found that such an odd thought process. What does it matter to me that Ke\$ha has hit single after hit single? My opinion on her music is negative, but ultimately irrelevant, (I find her music stupid, shallow and uncreative, for what it's worth), but if she makes someone else happy, well, what should I care?

Music doesn't exist in a fixed economy. Does anyone really believe that if it weren't for artists like Ke\$ha, bands like LCD Soundsystem and Deerhunter would be millionaires, filling the radio with ubiquitous singles?

Frankly, the "artistic" and "commercial" sides of pop music exist in their own separate states, only infrequently intersecting on rare occasions, such as when the Decemberists, a critically acclaimed indie rock band, nabbed the number one spot on the billboard album charts by selling 94,000 copies of their sixth studio album, "The King is Dead."

With the exception of some "guilty pleasures" (a term I hate, but one which works in this context well enough) like Taylor Swift or My Chemical Romance, my taste does not often align with the general populace.

And I'm OK with that. It's not, necessarily, something I wear as a badge of pride. But it's not something I generally worry about.

Music taste is a personal thing that is almost impossible to explain to another person, as it's as ineffable as any subjective argument.

With all of that said, it's still nice, every once in a while, to get the feeling like you're in on what everyone else is.

So when the Arcade Fire's 2010 album, "The Suburbs," improbably beat out Eminem, Katy Perry, Lady Antebellum and Lady Gaga for the Album of the Year Grammy on Sunday night, it was something of a moment of celebration and validation.

On Twitter, Kanye West's reaction probably summed it up for many the best: "Arcade Fire!!!!!!!! There is hope!!! I feel like we all won when something like this happens! F***ING AWESOME!"

The Industry picked the good

guys. They made the right choice, not based on units moved, or ring tones sold, but on the art itself.

Of course, this sentiment is beyond silly to think. The selection of Arcade Fire is every bit as political and cynical as any other choice, and to pretend it was not is naïve.

And quite frankly, as much as I like the band and the album, it probably wasn't the best album I heard last year. It was certainly in the discussion.

But, even then, it's music. There is no "right choice."

If you were selecting an album purely based on its aesthetic quality, a process I'm sure we could all agree would be the most pure option, coming to a conclusion that any consensus of people could agree on would be impossible. It's the nature of the art form, more than, arguably, any other type of art, since it is the least tangible of them all.

So, no, "good" music did not win this year, just like the year Taylor Swift won, "bad" music did not win. These are lazy thought processes that do no good.

Of course, doesn't everyone like being validated? Chalk it up to the last vestiges of that awkward pubescent need to be accepted, though one could argue that need never really goes away.

The desire to place Arcade Fire's win in the context of an "Us vs. Them" dichotomy is understandable.

But does the fact that two million other people bought an album make that album sound different? Of course not. The validation exists for the consumer, but it doesn't affect the art itself, which is all that matters.

So, the celebration is understandable, but at the end of the day, it exists only in an immature "Ha, I told you so," kind of way that is ultimately counterproductive.

I know for myself, whatever validation I felt for one of my favorite bands being rewarded in this way didn't match how I felt seeing how joyous the members of the band were at winning. Ultimately, those are the only people for whom the award really makes a difference.

Their fans can feel that validation as well, but as far as the "Us vs. Them" aspect of it, I'll leave that to others. Sure, it's nice to feel like a part of a club.

But if you don't enjoy for deeply personal reasons (that sometimes even you can't describe) what's the point? All that matters is what it means to you.

Pop and Circumstance is a bi-weekly music column. Look for it every other Wednesday.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

GUNS ON CAMPUS?

Proposed bill has low risk

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Imagine that an argument breaks out in class because a fellow student does not agree with what your professor is saying. Suddenly, the student reaches into his backpack and withdraws a handgun, waving it at the professor in order to emphasize his point. Now, imagine that one of Florida's senators has introduced legislation that would make this legal.

Fortunately, Senator Greg Evers' proposed amendment to the Florida constitution does not actually allow this. The Student Government Association recently published their opposition to this proposed Senate resolution, however, I do not think this is necessary.

Senate Resolution 234 is actually an amendment to make Florida an open-carry state, meaning that if you have a concealed weapon and the license that goes along with it, you may, within certain parameters, wear it openly. Only seven states and the District of Columbia have bans on openly carrying weapons and this proposal would remove Florida from this list.

While there are always

problems inherent in changing weaponry laws, I do not think this resolution merits the hubbub it has been receiving. Ultimately, what is being changed is the fact that people who are already licensed to carry concealed weapons will be able to wear them on their belts.

If nothing else, this would be better for safety as those who are openly armed are not seen as "soft targets," and as such are less likely to be victims of violent acts or school shootings.

The main contention mentioned in the SGA's opposition is that the resolution changes the definition of a school to exclude universities and colleges. This change allows for concealed weapons to be carried onto a university campus, something the SGA purports would "present a grave safety concern to the Student Body."

Our safety as students is paramount, yet it is difficult to argue that legal adults with concealed weapons licenses should be able to carry their weapons into a supermarket or a crowded shopping mall, but not a university. With regards to the law, there is no real difference between these places. If we are allowing weapons into pretty much

every other crowded, potentially dangerous environment, nothing makes universities different, except for the fact the adults there are technically referred to as "students."

Of the 107 school shootings that have occurred since 1966, only approximately 25 have occurred in colleges or universities. Of these, less than 10 occurred with what are classified as concealable weapons.

This is not to downplay the tragedy, but to put the SGA's contention into perspective. The majority of school shootings in the past 40 years have occurred in high schools, places where the carrying of weaponry will still be prohibited as per the new resolution.

While I do not think we should make it easier for people to acquire weapons or allow them into places where there is the potential for a violent altercation, this resolution does none of these.

I am of the opinion that even if I choose not to exercise my right to bear arms, I do not want anyone or any law curtailing that right. If people are going to be carrying weapons on campus, I would rather they carry them openly than hidden away.

Proposed bill an unsafe gamble

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

A new Senate Bill is causing controversy at the University and has the Student Government Association in firm disagreement.

Senate Bill 234 aims to make it easier to carry concealed weapons on campus with a license and reduce penalties for not having a license for your concealed weapon. It is in no way a safer option to start allowing students to carry weapons on campus and potentially take the law into their own hands.

Allowing easier access to weapons on campus will increase the number of university shootings such as the University of Arizona shooting in 2002 and the shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 2007.

Although university shootings are relatively uncommon, looser regulations on hand guns and the ease of transporting a weapon on campus that the bill provides can only lead to more frequent occurrences.

One factor that may have prevented countless university shootings is the student getting caught with the weapon before having

a chance to use it. If this bill passes, it will become lawful for any student to have a weapon on them at anytime, as long as they have a license.

Along with violent assault, other crime rates can be expected to go up if weapons are allowed on university campuses. Theft, sexual assault and vigilantism can all be expected to happen more often with looser gun restrictions.

A student is much more likely to take the law into his own hands if he has a legal weapon in his possession, and more weapons on campus would also make it easier for criminals to commit theft and sexual assault, which are already common on college campuses. From 2007 to 2009 there were seven sexual assaults, 16 aggravated assaults, and 392 total thefts reported to the authorities at the University alone, according to police.fiu.edu.

In addition to decriminalizing weapon possession on campus, the new bill reduces the penalty to carrying a weapon without a license to only \$25. This "consequence" would hardly deter any criminal from illegally carrying his weapon and can only encourage more

weapons. It is currently a misdemeanor to carry a gun without a license in Florida.

The University's Student Government Association has already voiced their disagreement with the pending bill by publishing a resolution in opposition to the bill. SGA clearly sees the negative impact and increased violence that lesser restrictions on weapons would bring and encourage rejection of the bill.

SGA Senate Speaker Hector Mujica stated, "There is strong opposition to Florida Senate Bill 234," and has met with University administrators and the Senate Speakers of the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida, who have expressed similar opposition.

Instead of looser gun restrictions, universities should have more police activity to make campus residents feel safer. This would reduce the need for the self-protection concealed weapons offer.

It is difficult to understand why some members of the United States' Senate would propose allowing concealed weapons in universities, but safety should not be an issue in a place of higher learning with proper public safety.

THE POLITICK

Political sex scandal a lesson in reputation, hypocrisy

Spring is around the corner, the State of the Union address went off with out a hitch (unless you are Republican, but that is a conversation for another time), the smell of daisies and revolution is in the air and there is a fresh political sex scandal that has led to the shameful resignation of yet another United States congressman.

As of Feb. 9th, 2011, Representative Christopher Lee of New York's 26th District tenured his resignation from the United States House of Representatives. Lee allegedly replied to a woman's Craigslist personal advertisement, (you can already see where this is going) and sent lewd photos of himself to her. While the woman in question has yet to be named, what

is clear is that Lee used his name and personal email address and a series of weak lies to begin a correspondence with the woman.

Now, to Lee's credit, he did attempt to cover up a couple of facts about himself. He responded by saying that he was a 39-year-old divorced lobbyist. In his fantasy life, his wife is out of the picture, he is seven years younger and he lives the fast life of a lobbyist with a kid, because if there is anyone you can trust, it is a divorced single parent lobbyist working in Capitol Hill.

Given our politicians' recent propensity for scandalous affairs, this one is pretty tame. There is no secret family, no love child, no gay affair, no sex tapes, no prostitutes and no molested pages and aides, just some good old-fashioned lying and attempts to deceive and cheat on his wife.

According to the emails and a photo leaked

by the woman in question to news and gossip website Gawker, Lee complained about people who lie on Craigslist, and apparently has a penchant for sending half-nude photos of himself to total strangers while missing out on the irony of his quotes and the consequences of his deplorable actions.

In June 2009, Lee wrote an opinion piece about why he supported the Student Internet Safety Act, a bill that aims to educate young people about the dangers of the Internet. Lee wrote: "Responding to what may seem like a friendly email or an appealing marketing offer can have serious consequences. Private information and images can so easily be transmitted to friends and strangers alike." I suppose hindsight is always 20/20, but to be fair, the bill did not cover the dangers of lying to your wife.

With the advent of the 24-hour news

cycle, the Internet, camera phones and newspapers, there really is no way to hide an affair. What politicians need to learn is control and restraint. While many wonder how the tame affairs of Lee have made it to such notoriety, he got busted without actually doing anything, or anyone, for that matter. It is the simple fact that he lied and got caught in the most public of forums, the Internet, and that is what made this story important.

While Lee is no Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's prime minister who is currently accused of soliciting an underage prostitute and bailing her out of jail, he is still a disgrace to the American people. If we cannot trust a politician to be faithful to his family, then how can we trust him to be faithful to the American people?

The Politick is a political op-ed column. Look for it every other Wednesday.

COLUMNIST



IVAN FLORES

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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 (500 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 (500 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.



CHILE

Aftershocks rock traumatized quake zone

Another strong earthquake has shaken central Chile, part of a wave of aftershocks that have been rocking the same area that suffered so much destruction almost a year ago from a disastrous magnitude-8.8 quake.



COLOMBIA

4th captive freed by Colombian rebels

Colombian rebels released a fourth captive on Feb. 13 but a planned handover of two others did not occur. The government said the men were not at the location designated for helicopter retrieval by the International Red Cross.



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Cruise-ship drug dealing alleged

Steven Barry Krumholz, 51-year-old man from California, was arrested on suspicion of selling drugs to fellow passengers on board the Allure of the Seas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, said a spokesman on Feb. 11.

Tough time in Miss FIU's past inspires her present

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

There aren't many people who can walk into a room and completely change the mood.

Ana Perez does that and so much more.

The 20-year-old journalism major may sound familiar because she is the president of Panther Power at the Biscayne Bay Campus, director of Alternative Spring Break at BBC, Lead Team facilitator and a Campus Life and Orientation peer advisor and peer mentor for a year.

Her platform for Miss FIU is to extend Alternative Breaks to local high schools so that younger students will have a chance to feel its experience through direct service, global learning, self-esteem building and team building, as stated in her pageant application.

One of the main reasons for this platform is because in her junior year of high school she moved away to Arizona and was faced with a tough time in her life, she said.

"I thought I was going to drop



PHOTOS BY NED CHANDLER/THE BEACON

Top: Ana Perez performing her talent for judges at the Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant on Feb. 4. Right: Perez being crowned Miss FIU 2011 by Overall Director Maribel Chaluja (left) and Miss FIU 2010 Stephanie Jimenez (right).

out of school" said Perez.

Her problems inspired her to create a program through which teenagers could learn valuable life skills.

"I got lucky because I've always been strong willed and I had help from a professor that would stay with me and talk to

me," said Perez. "I started thinking to myself what if there was something in school to help kids through rough times then a lot more of them would stay in school."

Perez moved back to Miami and with no time wasted took her

PEREZ, page 6



SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, ARTS AND SOCIETY

Director sees more programs, building in SEAS' future

BRIAN CORREIA
Staff Writer

"Five to 10 years from now, I see FIU as a national leader for solving environmental problems, both locally and around the world," said Dr. Michael Heithaus, School of Environment and Society Director.

Central Ohio born and raised, Heithaus was the son of two Biology Professors at smaller local universities. He longed to be a Biologist all his life and never imagined his career going in any other direction.

"I never wanted to be anything other than a Biologist, but never imagined I would be a Director of an entire School," Heithaus said.

Heithaus did his Undergraduate studies at Oberlin College in Central Ohio and then went on to attain his PHD at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada.

"I choose SFU because it was the school that would allow me to further research why dolphins chose certain habitats," Heithaus said. "I also got to learn more about the effects of tiger sharks in their ecosystem."

After completing his education, Heithaus got recruited to start a show on National Geographic called "Critter Cam."

Working on 'Critter Cam' gave him the opportunity to travel around the world, specifically to Western Australia, where he got to further his research endeavors in the hands-on approach directly in the ecosystem.

While he was working for National Geographic, the position at FIU was



JESSICA PEREZ/THE BEACON

Michael Heithaus, director of the School of Environment, Arts, and Society, reviewing e-mails in his office on Feb. 9. Heithaus has been the director of SEAS since 2009 and wants the school to eventually have its own building but still be a part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

brought to his attention. Heithaus originally applied for the position of Assistant Marine Biology Professor.

"I learned a lot working for National Geographic, but I wanted an Academic position where I could bring students into the ecosystem for a more hands-on learning and understanding of environmental issues," Heithaus said.

In 2009, Heithaus was asked to be the Director for the School of Environment, Arts and Society at FIU by Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Society.

One of the short-term goals Heithaus

envisioned for SEAS is to create more degree programs within the school. The additional degree programs will be based on the three core disciplines of Natural Science, Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Students need all three pillars in order to solve the environmental issues of today," Heithaus said. "They also need to understand all issues surrounding the ecosystem and help other people to understand and care about the problems before resolutions can be thought of."

Two of the long-term goals that Heithaus envisioned for SEAS are to create innovative educational programs and to maximize the posi-

tive impact of research.

Maximizing the impact of research consists of three main components: provide the tools necessary for research, create links to decision makers and the public to maximize the impact and to teach younger students and community members to become more engaged in their environmental issues.

"I feel that SEAS is completely aligned with University President Mark Rosenberg's strategy plan," Heithaus said. "The environment is one of the major pillars of the plan."

In order to remain aligned with Rosenberg's strategy plan, Heithaus has a few things in mind for SEAS in the near future: Develop FIU's first PHD program in the Environment and Society, help every student to have an understanding of all environmental issues, expand the Biscayne Bay Campus more by adding an additional building and provide excellent course work and additional hands-on training for students.

"We definitely will need a new building at BBC, if we are going to grow SEAS any further," Heithaus said.

Even with a new building needed by SEAS, Heithaus does not want to split up the Arts and Sciences program at FIU.

"I am a firm believer of collaboration between all programs and SEAS," Heithaus said. "I don't want to put up barriers between any of the schools, but would rather build a strong group to provide only the best services to all students and faculty."