



BELARUS

Belarus says Germany, Poland tried coup

Sovietskaya Belarus, the official organ of President Alexander Lukashenko's administration, accused Poland Germany of trying to overthrow the leader. Both countries denied the claim.



SPAIN

Spain wants to put Demjanjuk on trial

A Spanish judge has indicted John Demjanjuk, a 90-year-old former Ohio autoworker, on charges of being an accessory to genocide while serving as Nazi concentration camp guard.



ITALY

Italy's Berlusconi in prostitution probe

Prosecutors are investigating whether Premier Silvio Berlusconi had sex with an underage prostitute and then abused his power in trying to cover up the encounters with the girl.

Students bridge technological divide

OMAR GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Choosing classes, managing financial aid, contacting professors and even homework assignments would be close to impossible without access to technology.

Along with the other adjustments that the transition to college life can bring, a new study published by the University of Oregon shows those without technological experience lack the preparation needed for success.

The study written by Joanna Goode, professor of education, and featured in the journal *New Media and Society*, finds that one's academic performance would, if not suffer, become inferior to that of students who have had technology at their disposal.

The research looked at computer technology knowledge of 500 undergraduate students and how skills they brought from high school impacted their early college coursework.

"Computer technology and Internet access are keys to success in college, but students often leave high school with very little skill," said Goode in an interview with University of Oregon news.

"Once you walk onto campus, you can't enroll in classes, you can't get financial aid, you can't get onto Blackboard, you can't answer e-mails. If you have no technology knowledge, you will not even survive the first week at most university campuses."

The study found that the average high school education

revolves around the instruction and discretion of the teacher.

Meaning that this type of environment is not conducive to extensive outside research.

Anais Alexandre, a senior and psychology major, did not find much need for technology in high school.

Her interaction with computers came only to type assignments in comparison to what she uses now.

"I can say that technology, in college, is integral to my academic performance," said Alexandre.

The study suggests that the transition between the high school and college lifestyle has reportedly distinguished a "digital divide" between students who have and understand technology and those that do not.

Edgardo McGorty, a freshman and geology major, had a rough transition into the demands of technologically enhanced courses, especially after being accustomed to physically writing all of this coursework in high school.

"[Internet access] is literally crucial, especially in my honors courses. A good third of the class is entirely online ... and I myself was set back tragically because I did not know that."

Now, he realizes the ability to send, receive, and update important documents on his personal computer or those available on campus, to be much more convenient than his high school notebooks.

Patricia Morales, a theater management major, believes that technology has had a posi-

MOMENT OF SILENCE



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

On Wed. Jan 12, FIU's Haitian Student Organization and the Division of Human Resources celebrated and commemorated the first year anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti.

tive impact on her academic performance.

"My laptop is my everything. I think a lot of us can agree we would be nothing without our computers in college," said Morales.

Goode says, the problems identified in the study likely have gotten worse and need to be addressed.

At FIU, there are several opportunities provided by University Technology Services to bridge the

digital divide.

Through eTraining, UTS offers faculty, staff, and students online narrated QuickTime screen movie training and tutorials on more than 120 software applications.

Training for Moodle and even Blackboard orientation is offered for any students who are unfamiliar with these websites.

The divide is not as clearly defined at FIU, given extensive measures to provide students with

technology.

Not only can students use computers on campus to conduct research and print assignments, they have the option of renting laptops, cameras, DVDs, and other equipment.

The services also benefit students who have devices of their own by offering free copies of otherwise costly programs such as

TECH, page 2

Roundtable series returns, past sessions now

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

The Tuesday Times Roundtable will be returning to the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses with the Spring 2011 series and for the first time ever past TTR sessions will be available for free download on Apple's iTunesU.

The TTR is a weekly series of open group discussions of New York Times articles on global current events sponsored by the University's Office of Global Learning Initiatives, The New York Times and the Student Government Association.

The roundtables are held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. and are moderated by faculty members who encourage those in attendance to engage in discussions on a variety of topics that deal with global issues, events and trends. A free lunch is also provided to

those who attend.

Some topics of the TTR MMC spring 2011 series include: U.S. immigration policies, international adoptions after natural disasters, the state of the economy and the repeal of "Don't ask, Don't tell."

At BBC, students and faculty attending the TTR will hear on topics which include: WikiLeaks and the value of information in a global world, the benefits of higher education and literacy in the 21st century.

With the roundtables now available on iTunesU, the perspectives and opinions of University faculty and students will be broadcasted for the entire world to listen.

They are available free of charge at Florida International University's iTunesU page.

The MMC TTR will take place every Tuesday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Ziff Education Building, room 150. The BBC TTR series occurs during the same time in

the Wolfe University Center, room 159.

A free lunch is provided at both campuses

and students who attend are eligible to receive CSO points.

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE AT MMC

Jan. 18 - Sarah Clegg-Crawford: Can Civility Survive the Age of Technology?

Jan. 25 - Sadiq Abdullahi: Rethinking Global Education in the 21st Century

Feb. 8 - Rev. Paul Massingill: Is Pure Altruism Possible?

Feb. 15 - Mariam Willis: Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Feb. 22 - Abuzar Kabir: The Complex Immigration Policies of the U.S.

ZEB 150 at 12:30 p.m.

WEIRD NEWS

This Dog Is a Woman's Best Friend, Housekeeper and

The phrase "working like a dog" has never been more literal than in the town of Coventry where a 4-year-old dog named Sandie does the shopping, washing, and even paying for groceries for her disabled owner, Sue Line.

Line, 61, who was paralyzed from the waist down 40 years ago.

According to the Daily Mail, Sandie helps out on trips to the supermarket—putting all of her shopping in a bag, and even taking money from her owner's purse to pay.

Sandie also loads the washing machine, separating Line's dirty clothes into dark and light loads.

Outfoxed! Prey manages to shoot hunter

A wounded fox shot its would-be killer in Belarus by pulling the trigger on the hunter's gun as the pair scuffled after the man tried to finish the animal off with the butt of the rifle.

The unnamed hunter, who had approached the fox after wounding it from a distance, was in hospital with a leg wound, while the fox made its escape.

"The animal fiercely resisted and in the struggle accidentally pulled the trigger with its paw," one prosecutor was quoted as saying.

Fox hunting is popular in the picturesque farming region of northwestern Belarus that borders Poland.

Woman has 1/11/11 baby at 11:11 a.m.

Tyler Ashton Marx's lucky number is going to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Leslie Marx was born at 11:11 a.m. on Jan. 11, 2011, at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center in Meridian, Idaho.

Jared Marx is serving in Iraq and watched his son's birth over the Internet. Leslie Marx tells KTVB-TV that Tyler was born just as the clock switched to 11:11 a.m. But Tyler Marx isn't the only one in the family with a memorable birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2009 — 9/9/09.

A Minnesota couple's daughter was born Tuesday with one less one. Amy Zeller and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the world at 1:11 a.m.

—Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Technology vital to college experience

TECH, page 1

the Microsoft Office Suite, Photoshop, and McAfee anti-virus software.

Vital services like Panthersoft can also be

accessed through kiosks around campus, allowing students to register for classes or view their financial aid status.

While Morales also thinks that the abundance

of technology can be distracting, it has helped her develop relationships with her professors and allows her to work on assignments at any time or place.

"All of my peers use

technology to complete assignments, every single one of them. Being a college student involves being married to the essentials—your phone and computer."

Students dislike Bay Vista conditions

BAY VISTA, page 8

student residence hall," Wassenaar said. "In today's context, residence halls are very different living design solutions for students."

Ekpo and many of the students agree the 1983 standards used to build Bay Vista are unsuitable today and consequently are at the center of their housing discomfort.

"They made it so you cannot open the windows," Ekpo said. "If you are cooking and something is burning, you have to open the door which lets the bugs in and I am not big on bugs."

Public relations senior Lucia Pineda is also not big on bugs.

"The first day I got there, the room was very dirty," she said. "The bathroom and room floor were covered with stains and mold and there were cockroaches in the building."

Pineda said because the conditions were so poor, she and two of her friends moved off campus. She said the apartments on the first floor flood on a regular basis causing water to come in contact with some electrical circuits, which, in one instance, caused severe electrical shock to one of her friends.

The building should be

demolished and a new one built, she said.

Between the time Bay Vista was built and now, one modern and four ultra-modern housing facilities have been built at MMC: the University Park Apartments were built in 1985, Panther Hall in 1995, University Park Towers in 2000, Everglades Hall in 2002 and Lakeview Village in 2006.

In addition, Wassenaar said planning is under way for another phase of expansion that will add another 1,200 beds to the MMC housing capacity.

That addition will give MMC approximately 4,200 beds in comparison to the approximately 375 at BBC.

Many of the Bay Vista students said these facts speak to the disrespect the authorities display for the BBC, but Wassenaar disagrees.

"We are in the process of developing new facilities for BBC housing," he said. "But until the debt for the BBC housing building is retired in 2016 and as the president's new enrollment plan is better detailed and we understand how it is going to impact the true demand for on-campus housing at BBC in terms of the type of students we will be recruiting, we won't be able to devise a housing solution to replace the Bay Vista."

Until then, students like hospitality management senior Chrystal Gonzales will have to continue living with conditions she considers uncomfortable.

"Right now a part of the ceiling in my bathroom has fallen down for more than a week and it is still not repaired despite many follow ups," she said.

Meanwhile, for journalism senior Matara Thomas and Danny Portnoy, hospitality management junior, their most pressing problem is the surprise visits from the residential assistants and maintenance personnel to their rooms.

"There is no privacy," Portnoy said. "The RAs, maintenance personnel and everybody else come into our rooms whenever they want to. But I think the time they come should be scheduled so we know when they are coming."

In addition, the students said amenities at BBC are lacking in comparison to those at the MMC.

"The amenities are limited," Thomas said. "For example, there was once a computer lab open to all housing residents, but since the beginning of Fall 2010 semester, it's been closed and turned into a study room."

The students pointed out the UP Towers complex, for instance, has multiple green

areas, gazebos, luxury swimming pool, five social lounges, two multipurpose lounges, Wi-Fi lounges, vending areas and other amenities, many of which are missing or limited at Bay Vista.

Wassenaar said that is comparing apples to oranges, but many of the students said the difference in residential rent at the campuses pales in comparison to the significant differences in amenities.

For Catherine Bondie, biology senior, the many amenities at MMC housing keep her living there.

"I have lived here since my freshman years," she said. "Obviously I love and enjoy living here. The gym is amazing and the pool is very nice."

"If you put in a work order, the maintenance men come pretty fast actually. I am surprised, but they do. And I have never seen any bugs or pests around here."

Some of the students said if it were not for the convenience of living near their classrooms, they would move off campus.

However, Wassenaar said he looks forward to the day when all of the University's housing inventories will reflect the modern residence standards present in most of the housing solutions at MMC.

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FOOTBALL

Collins departure sparks search for new coordinator

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

The man who turned the Golden Panthers defense from practically the worst in the Football Bowl Subdivision to the best in the Sun Belt in the span of one year has left the University.

Geoff Collins is one-and-done.

The defensive coordinator has signed an agreement to become the co-defensive coordinator at Mississippi State University alongside with Chris Wilson, who was promoted after the departure of Manny Diaz. Collins will also take over as the linebackers coach for the Bulldogs.

"Geoff has shown the type of immediate impact he can bring to a defense by what he did at Florida International last season," said Bulldog head coach Dan Mullen, according a press release by MSU. "He's a smart young coach that has great experience, and he'll bring the same kind of aggressive attitude and philosophy that we expect from our defense at Mississippi State."

The Panthers will miss Collins' defense. Last season Collins led a defense that became the best in the Sun Belt in total defense, scoring defense, pass efficiency defense and turnover margin. This all came after the Panthers ranked 119th nationally in total defense the year prior to his arrival.

Head coach Mario Cristobal was unavailable for comment, but



KRISTI CAMARA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Geoff Collins [center] helped turn the Golden Panthers into the top defensive unit in the Sun Belt.

did speak with the Miami Herald.

"FIU football appreciates Geoff's contributions to the football program and we wish him the best in his new appointment," Cristobal said in an interview with the Miami Herald.

SEARCH FOR A DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

According to the report, Cristobal may be looking at candidates within the program, but also expects to interview many external candidates as well. The Sun Belt Coach of the Year expects to find a replacement quickly.

According to the Miami Herald, as of Jan. 16, Cristobal will have interviewed eight candidates for the position.

The school has not yet released the list of candidates.

There may only be two possible candidates if Cristobal, in fact, does select a coordinator within the program.

JEFF POPOVICH, ASSISTANT COACH-SECONDARY

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers drop OT contest in Denver

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers got some bad news before their game against the Denver Pioneers even started, as second leading scorer and rebounder DeJuan Wright was deemed unable to play in the game due to a high fever. Wright would have been a huge key to the outcome of the game, not only for his scoring and defense.

In the end, free throws were in the key to the game as FIU shot just 55 percent from the line in a thrilling 79-70 overtime loss to the Pioneers on Jan.15.

"That's our energy guy, we know when he's out there he's hustling and giving energy and that's something you can't teach, so we definitely missed him tonight," Phil Gary said.

He more than made up for Wright's absence, scoring a team-high 22 points on the night.

The first half of play featured both teams exchanging baskets back and forth the whole time

MEN'S, page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coley, Rodgers lead Golden Panthers to road win

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After suffering a loss to North Texas, FIU had to fight back and overcome an offensively talented Denver Pioneers team to pull off a minor upset.

FIU (7-12, 2-3 SBC) overcame 18 lead changes to beat Denver (11-7, 3-2 SBC) on Saturday night 71-63. Junior Rakia Rodgers and freshman Jerica Coley both led the Panthers with 23 points each. Coley added eight rebounds along with a career-best 12-for-14 from the free throw. Senior Michelle Gonzalez had a season-high-tying 18 points, six points and five assists.

FIU started the game off strong, as they took an early 5-0 lead in the opening minutes. Denver fought back to gain a 14-13 lead with 10:45 left in the first half. The Panthers would turn on their offense to go on a 10-2 run, which was finished off with a Rodgers' three-pointer.

Denver would make another

comeback, as the Pioneers put on an 8-0 to take a 24-23 lead with 4:35 left in the half. The Pioneers tried to take the lead into halftime until Coley and Gonzalez made jumpers to give the Panthers a 32-31 lead into the break.

The second half started off like a see-saw, back and forth between both teams as the lead happen to change eight times within the first 10 minutes of the second half. Denver managed to gain their biggest lead in the game, as they lead 54-50.

It would be the last lead the Pioneers would have, as the Panthers went on a 16-0 over the next eight minutes of the game. Jerica Coley was able to give the Panthers an extra cushion by going 5-for-6 from the free throw line to finish the game 71-63.

The FIU Panthers will look to build on the win when they come back home to U.S. Century Bank Arena to host UALR (11-5, 5-0

SBC) on Jan 19. The Lady Trojans are currently riding an eight game winning streak, including an undefeated record in conference play. The Panthers will have their hands full with Chastity Reed, the 6'1" forward who is currently averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game.

The Trojans also have an outside threat with Janette Merriex, who is shooting .313 percent from three-point range. FIU will have to control the paint and slow down Reed for a key victory in conference play.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU vs. UALR

- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- When: 01/19/11
- Where: Miami, FL



REBECCA VILLAFANE/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Michelle Gonzalez [above] had 18 points in road victory.

Poor free throw shooting hurts FIU down the stretch

MEN'S, page 3

through. After a quick 5-0 start for the Pioneers, FIU answered back and tied it back up at 5-5, and it would remain close the rest of the way through.

The biggest lead was grabbed by Denver with 5:43 left in the opening half when they jumped out to a 28-20 lead. The Golden Panthers (8-8, 3-2 SBC) mounted a small comeback again and at one time came within a point of tying it back up before the half ended. Both teams went into the locker room with the score 36-31 in favor of Denver (9-9, 5-0 SBC).

The second half went just as the first did, with both teams going back in forth in scoring and always staying within a few points of each other. What almost was a

huge turning point in the game was when Denver's second leading scorer on the night, Chris Udofia, got his fourth foul with around seven minutes left. FIU was unable to draw another foul to have him exit the game early, which would have been a big advantage.

Finally, with 4:03 remaining in regulation, the Golden Panthers took their first and only lead of the game when Gary put a layup in to make the score 59-58. The lead could have been bigger, and could have come much quicker and often if the Golden Panthers had a little more accuracy from the charity strike.

With 32 seconds left and FIU down by three, Gary blew by his defender to put it in the layup.

After a quick foul where Denver converted just

one free throw, Gary yet again made a huge play. The senior point guard drove right down the lane, drawing Eric Frederick's defender toward him so that he could dish the ball off to Frederick for the easy layup to knot the game up at 65-65 with only six seconds in the game to go.

Chase Hallam of Denver had an opportunity to win the game at the buzzer, when he got to the hoop uncontested and missed the layup, which sent the game into overtime.

"We needed to come up with a steal or come up with a stop and we were able to do that," stated Coach Isiah Thomas. "Coming down on the other end we were able to convert our field goals and foul shots."

In their first overtime game of the year, the Golden

Panthers did not fare well at all and were outscored 14-5 in the five minute period. Denver was able to control the tempo and knock down key shots to put the game away.

The Golden Panthers ended the game shooting a dismal 20-36 from the charity strike, which ended up being a huge difference in the game.

"If we converted from the foul line tonight it's a victory going away, but if you don't convert from the foul line then the other team wins the basketball game," Thomas said after the game.

With the loss, FIU dropped to 1-7 on the road and will be glad to come back to the comforts of home as they play three of their next four games at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.



REBECCA VILLAFANE/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Phil Gary [above] tallied a team-high 22 points in loss.

Replacement may come from within coaching staff

COLLINS, page 3

Jeff Popovich has led the Panthers for four seasons as the secondary coach. Despite not having any experience as a defensive coordinator, Popovich worked at the University of Miami, prior to his current job at FIU, where he served as a defensive graduate assistant.

Last season, Popovich's secondary was ranked first defensive pass efficiency in the Sun Belt. Opponents struggled to throw the ball against his secondary. Opposing quarterbacks had a 54.5 completion percentage while throwing 15 interceptions, also tops in the Sun Belt.

CEDRIC CALHOUN, ASSISTANT COACH-DEFENSIVE LINE

Cedric Calhoun is currently the defensive line coach at FIU, which is Calhoun's first division-I gig. Prior to that, Calhoun

served four seasons at Dartmouth College as the linebackers coach.

In his first season at FIU, Calhoun's defensive line recorded 33 sacks, which ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference.

His line also ranked fourth in the conference for rushing defense, allowing only an average of 168.7 yards rushing.

Last summer Calhoun also served as an intern for the Philadelphia Eagles.

SWIMMING & DIVING

FIU finishes second against UM, Central Connecticut

MALCOLM SHIELDS Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned to action at the Bay Vista Aquatics Complex on Jan. 15 against the University of Miami and Central Connecticut State University in a dual meet.

The week prior, the Golden Panthers finished second at the FIU Invita-

tional with a score of 806 points.

The squad would wind up finishing second in head-to-head competition against both schools.

Coach Randy Horner would have liked to have seen more events go their way.

"We compete hard in the head to head duals," Horner said. "We definitely feel like today we could have been more competitive. We lost a lot of close races and that kind of defined our day."

The action began with the 400-yard medley relay. FIU's relay team of Danielle Sneur, Erin Pavlick, Yesica Rojas and Kariann Stevens began the relay solidly in third, only behind two Miami relay teams.

Rojas swam a strong third leg to keep the Golden Panthers close but the relay team would end up finishing fourth with a time of 4:02.14.

In the 200-yard freestyle, sophomore Kayla Derr continued to build on an solid season as she swam one of her best times of the season as she finished second overall in the event with a time of 1:55.62, just .49 hundredths of a second off of her season best of 1:55.13, which was set at the FIU Invitational.

Junior Vicnan Torres also had a good result in the 200 free, finishing fourth with a time of 1:57.75, just .74 hundredths of a second off of her best time this

season of 1:57.01, which was set against Tulane on Nov. 13.

In the 200-yard butterfly, freshman Melissa Moreno swam a great race at the start but came up just short as she finished second to Central Connecticut State's Katie Lang.

Moreno's time of 2:08.80 was just .59 hundredths of a second behind Lang.

In the 100-yard freestyle, junior Mariangela Macchiavello and Derr swam to third and fourth place finishes, respectively.

After the meet, Coach Horner pressed the importance of finishing events strong to his team.

"It's something we need to work on," Horner said. That's something that's inside the athlete; the ability to finish close races but there were a lot of good times today... We have something to build on."

NEW SEASON BEST TIMES

In the 200-yard IM, junior Elly James set a season best time of 2:17.35, topping her season best of 2:17.36 set against the University of North Florida on Oct. 16.

Erin Pavlick also improved her individual time in the 200-yard breaststroke. She finished fourth in the event with a time of 2:27.25, a season new best time by .04 hundredths of a second.

For more on this story go to FIUSM.com



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IN STITCHES

Fashion a form of expression for art student

Ashley Gardner, a visual arts student, may be the only girl at the university with a fox fur stole. Posture and poise come naturally to the former ballerina whose fashion philosophy is a mix of everything.

"I always get the term unique, which I think is funny because it's a nice way of saying 'you dress weird'." Gardner said of others' comments on her own personal style. She describes her own style as eclectic and draws inspiration from vintage to modern.

Gardner began to develop a taste for fashion when she started attending public school in the ninth grade.

Before then, she wore traditional school uniforms. Fashion became her way of expressing herself after a long stint practicing ballet. Her favorite designers include Gareth Pugh, the late Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood, John Galiano and Giles Deacon showing a flair for the extravagant.

"I really like the street style of it. Vivienne Westwood came up with the designs for the Sex Pistols. She takes the classic English tartans and punks it up a bit," Gardner said.

Taking cues from books and magazines, Gardner dresses in a mix of vintage with more modern trends.

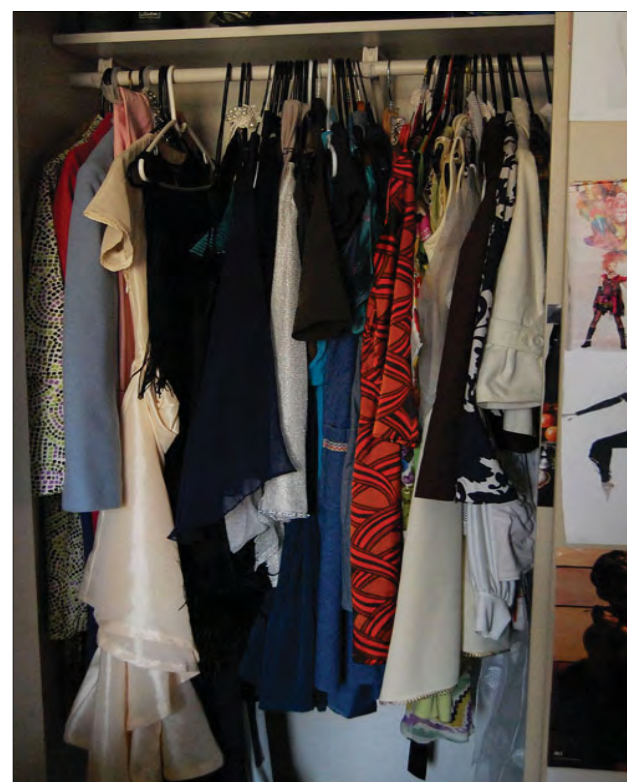
She paired a classic collared blouse with velvet detailing with black leggings that had cut outs. On her feet she wore heeled black

GARDNER, page 6

COLUMNIST



ESRA ERDOGAN



African & African Diaspora Studies

School of International and Public Affairs

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Information Session: January 20th, 3:15PM-4:30PM in LC 309

This is a five-week program (one week in Miami, at Florida International University FIU, two weeks in Senegal and two weeks in The Gambia). This program has been designed to provide students with an introduction to West African cultures and traditions along with an exploration of the growing centrality of tourism—and particularly of “cultural and heritage tourism”—as the largest sector of the global economy. In the classroom, students will learn about West Africa’s most important ethnic groups (the Wolof, Mandinka, Fulani, etc.) and will explore questions related to the politics and aesthetics of constructing difference in globalized tourism formations in West Africa, the role of corporations, nation-states, non-governmental agencies, and social movements in shaping cultural and heritage tourism, and what anthropologists have called “sites of memory.”

Contact Information: Phone: 305-348-6860, email: jmusoba@fiu.edu, Website: Africana.fiu.edu, click on Study Abroad



Reality show comes to Dance Marathon

ALEX MACIEL
Staff Writer

Every year FIU holds a dance marathon for those who share the desire to have a good time and help others. It's an added bonus that someone from this group of people will get to bear the title of FIU's favorite dancer.

Since its inception in 1998, FIU's Dance Marathon has raised over \$850,000; last year's total was \$160,000. All of the proceeds directly benefit the children at Miami Children's Hospital for the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

"Donating to the Hospital is a great cause. Many of the families that we help cannot afford to cover the costs for more serious conditions," said Mari Campuzano, coordinator for the Center of Leadership & Service.

The help to plan and support the event comes from the Children's Miracle Network. They help direct the proceeds to the Miami Children's Hospital.

The special events that coincide with the Dance Marathon include Golden Idol, which took place in the fall with Gaby Yidi crowned the winner. As well as the Mr. and Miss DM, a pageant held with a male and female winner who were judged based on their performance. The pageant took place Jan. 18 in the Graham Center pit.

The last and final pre-event leading up to Dance Marathon takes a cue from a popular dance competition show and brings it to campus. So You Think You Can Dance is a dance contest with two stages of competition.

One is at the high school level and the other is exclusively for university students. In this event, students and members from the community will compete against each other to hold the title of FIU's favorite dancer.

The So You Think You Can Dance competition includes the recruitment of potential competitors around campus and an extensive audition process all the while collecting donations for

the cause. A donation can will be passed around the audience at the time of the performance. Audience members have the option of donating to the cause on behalf of their favorite performer. Everyone will also have the option of donating at the door.

The finale will take place in the GC ballrooms and will feature the top 10 dancers selected from the audition process. Part of the event includes the "Viewer's Choice," which is where the audience can choose and vote for their favorite dancer. Through this, one person will be named winner. FIU students receive free entry while others will have to pay a \$10 admission fee. However, everyone is welcome.

"Every year the competition grows, not only in numbers, but also in interest. Although Greek

Life hosts the event, it is not only the Greek community but a mixture of people," said Campuzano.

A winner is chosen annually. This includes last year's champion, Jen Sada.

"FIU's So You Think You Can Dance was a great experience that gave me the opportunity to share my true passion of dance with the FIU community. I was proud to be a part of it, and being able to raise money for charity," said Sada.

Not only is it a good cause, but the participants also are truly excited to dance and perform.

Campuzano referred to the So You Think You Can Dance event as "the most significant one out of the entire Dance Marathon."

So You Think You Can Dance will take place on Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. Make sure to come out to support or make a donation.



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

2008's So You Think You Can dance winner, Stephanie Lozano.

Vintage shopping an alternate to couture

GARDNER, page 5

booties with a white capped toe. An interesting detail was her jewelry: she wore vampy pieces on her hands that Anne Rice would certainly approve of.

When asked where she gets her clothes, Gardner said, "Because I can't afford John Galliano, I make a lot of my clothes and I do a lot of vintage shopping as well. I invest more in my shoes than anything. Her collared shirt with the velvet bow was three dollars at a thrift store. Her closet is brimming with interesting pieces, old and new. Some she even designed and made herself.

"Even if I were waking up and had nothing to do that day, I would get dressed up and go to the grocery store. I definitely get dressed for myself," Gardner said about her reason for dressing the way she does.

Gardner's talent for picking out vintage clothes and pairing them with inexpensive, trendy pieces prove that you don't have to wear couture to be fashionable. You just have to be yourself.

In Stitches is bi-weekly column profiling campus fashion. Look for it every other Wednesday. You can read more In Stitches online at InStitches.fiusm.com. Photos by Esra Erdogan.

THE KING'S SPEECH



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Junior Carolina Banegas watches a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the opening reception for the MLK: Worlds Ahead event at the Frost Art Museum on Wednesday Jan 12.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

SWIM BBQ & SWIM MEET

Vs. FAU
WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for FIU students
WHERE: BBC Rec Pool

MLK YOUTH FORUM & PEACE WALK



WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballroom

CSO CLUB FAIR



WHEN: 10-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Registration deadline.
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: RC103

SYTYCD FINALS

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

FIU'S DANCE MARATHON'S "SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE"



It's that time of year again! Dance Marathon will be hosting its annual "So You Think You Can Dance" competition!

WHEN: 8-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

MORNING YOGA

WHEN: 8-9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: TBD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MEDICAL SCHOOL VISIT



Hosted by Alpha Epsilon Delta.
WHEN: 6:30-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

ISET 2011 CONFERENCE



ISET and the Leipzig International Course (LINC) will present live case demonstrations on both sides of the Atlantic that feature next-generation technology and variations on applications of approved technologies with an emphasis on new approaches.

WHEN: All Day
WHERE: Fontainebleu Miami Beach

GHOST TOUR: VOICES FROM THE PAST



This is where the Coconut Grove-based League of Paranormal Investigators play recordings of disembodied voices captured in August 2010.

HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Deering Estate at Cutler

THE SOCIAL NETWORK



Presented by SPC-BBC.
WHEN: 3 & 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theatre

ACTIVE MINDS FIRST MEETING

WHEN: 4:45-5:45 p.m.
WHERE: GC 314

Diversions

		5	3			8	
						2	
1				9		5	4
		9		6			7
7		2	5		1	9	8
	8			2		4	
6		3		8			7
	9						
	1				5	6	

Puzzle by websudoku.com

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers on FIUSM.com
Puzzle Difficulty: Hard

Negligent gun laws a factor in shooting

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

The complexities of the Tucson, Ariz. massacre committed by Jared Loughner in an attempt to assassinate Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has created a plethora of debates. The discussion about the role of venomous political rhetoric and the poignant discussions about the challenges of mental illnesses as well as the often inaccessible care that is direly necessary are, indeed, important points.

However, the factual point that transcends speculation and intellectual debate is this: it is not a mere tragic coincidence that a massacre that left six people dead and 13 others wounded was in a state that has careless and negligent gun laws.

A brief look into Loughner's behavioral history shows a spiral into what appears to be insanity. Former teachers and friends have described Loughner as mentally disturbed and deranged. Paranoid thoughts, the seemingly total inability to differentiate reality and fantasy and instances of disruptive behavior paint the picture of a mentally ill young man who is incapable of taking responsibility for his vile actions.

I think it is important not to be so blindsided by the rage and sadness we feel collectively, that we ignore the fact that incompetent, reckless gun laws largely contributed to this tragedy.

It would be shortsighted not to examine factors that could contribute to something

“It is not a mere tragic coincidence that a massacre that left six people dead and 13 others wounded was in a state that has careless and negligent gun laws.”

like this happening again. According to ABC News, Loughner legally purchased the gun after passing an instant background check at Sportman's Warehouse. The fact that there are instantaneous background checks for potential purchasers of guns would be laughable if it wasn't so terrifying. Whether a more thorough look into Loughner's past would have prevented this tragedy is relevant, as it serves as an example of the limitations of these background checks.

Furthermore, the lack of specificity of who is barred from buying guns holds potentially harmful ramifications. According to the New Republic, "Federal law prohibits the sale or transfer of guns to several categories of people, including felons, illegal immigrants, and drug abusers." These categories are simply too vague and undiscerning.

According to The Wall Street Journal, it is federally illegal to sell guns to any person "declared mentally unfit." To be deemed mentally unfit seems to be quite an ordeal that

includes a court's decision. The New Republic articulately states a critical view, "Gun lobbyists are correct when they note that the vast majority of gun owners do not kill. Likewise, mental health professionals are correct when they note that the vast majority of unstable people do not kill either. The combination of these two types of people, however, can be lethal."

Expounding on the definition of "mentally ill" in regard to gun ownership is a pivotal part of the process to make citizens safer from gun violence. Arizona's gun laws are not just liberal; they create an environment that is a downright free for all for potential gun violence.

I came across a headline by The Guardian that read, "Jared Lee Loughner: What drove him to kill?" After a brief look into his behavioral history, the question should not be what made Loughner commit murder. The question should be: What wildly inappropriate laws allowed a mentally disturbed man to legally purchase a gun that led to this tragic massacre?

Senate's lack of term limits a major disservice

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Current U.S. law dictates that senators and representatives in Congress can serve an unlimited number of terms. After stepping down, they can turn around and campaign, be reelected and serve for three-fourths of their lives with no one thinking it is strange.

This lack of term limits, however, allows for a monopoly of the Senate, not necessarily by a particular party, but by certain decision makers. The point of our bicameral system is to ensure that there is an intrinsic system of checks and balances within the legislative branch of the government. It is a little difficult to argue we have balance if what we actually have is senators and representatives keeping their seats for an unlimited number of terms.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd served as a representative and a senator, a party whip, majority leader, minority leader and the president pro-tempore. The only reason he stepped down was because he died in office. As of June 28, 2010, the top 25 longest-serving senators have served over 33 years in office. Our current senators range between 39 and 86 years of age. Only 10 of our current senators are under the age of 50.

This practice also serves to block minorities and younger generations from having a voice in the nation's policies. Since its inception, the Senate has only hosted six African-American senators, five Asian-Americans, seven Hispanic-Americans and three Native-Americans. There have only been 39 female senators in the Senate's history. For a country that supposedly prides itself on being a melting pot, the numbers seem to point out the hypocrisy.

By not limiting the number of terms senators can serve, we, the people, are not being accurately represented. In Fla. and Calif., where a considerable amount of the population is Hispanic, we cannot be fully represented if barely any Hispanic-Americans are voted into the task of legislating. An entire generation of potential senators is being kept from assuming power by the plain fact that out of 100 seats, most are held by senators who are being allowed to die in office because voters keep putting them there.

The appeal to voting for older, more experienced senators is obvious: they have already been through a lot and are, therefore, more likely to be prepared for any eventuality. They have the benefit of years, and voters already know how they are likely to represent them. In this case, however, the benefits seem to outweigh the cons. There is something to be said for experience, yes, but there is also something to be said for a fresh approach.

In addition, adding term limits will prevent these senators from being reelected, but they are not being kicked off the Hill. Nothing stops them from serving as advisors or counselors. More diverse senators will allow Congress to function to its true potential as a representative body.

In our country, considering the factors that amount to distress, we cannot afford to have the same people who have been there for 40 years sitting in office. The world has changed and continues to change exponentially. We need to change our senators with it.

Politicians willfully drawing battle lines

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Politics is one thing, along with religion, that one should not talk about with mixed company- or at least, that is the adage. The idea is that such discussions will lead to hostility.

Some claim the recent attack in Tucson, Ariz. resulting in the deaths of six people, and the injury of 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Gifford, was a result of the heated political rhetoric that this country has been experiencing in the last few years.

In this country, we tend to demonize the opposition. In doing so, we not only miss opportunities to discuss issues and possible solutions, but also draw battle lines. While most people are sane, or at least capable of restraining themselves, there will always be a percentage who will be stoked into violence.

I am not saying that we should place responsibility on pundits and other influential people and organizations for the actions of the deranged. However, they knowingly contribute to feelings of anger, hostility and even hatred so

they can create an us versus them mentality. This leads to demonizing of the opposition, making them an enemy. It simply becomes a matter of time until a minority of these inflamed individuals become violent.

Within 72 hours after the Health Care Bill passed last March, 10 Representatives of Congress received threats for supporting the health care bill. Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York not only had a brick thrown into her window but also received a threatening phone call referencing snipers. What was Sarah Palin's response to the Health Care Bill being passed? "Common-sense Conservatives and Lovers of America: Don't retreat. Instead RELOAD!"

Rep. Steve Israel of New York said it best when he tweeted back "Reload? Is your choice of words inciteful or ignorant?" Personally, much to the annoyance of my liberal friends, I do not believe Sarah Palin to be an idiot. This can only lead me to believe she was being inciteful.

Whatever excuses political actors may make for their words, the message they are sending is

clear: "Whoever isn't with us is not only against us, but is our enemy." Even when political actors aren't as openly inciteful, such as the aforementioned Palin Tweet, it appears they are careful not to alienate some of their more rabid supporters, who tend to contribute

Whatever excuses political actors may make for their words, the message they are sending is clear: "Whoever isn't with us is not only against us, but is our enemy."

the most financially or at the polls. Unfortunately, this allows these supporters to boil over and when they do people can get hurt.

However, because political actors can claim there is not a direct connection between their words and the actions of the deranged, they can wash away whatever guilt or culpability they may have and enjoy this additional support at primaries and with donations.

When politicians use the politics of fear, which tends to arouse hostile emotions, is it all that surprising when a small percentage turns to violence?

If not outright responsible for the creation of images depicting President Obama as Hitler politicians offer an implied endorsement or an obviously forced and hollow renunciation.

Recently, the demeanor of Congressmen is only further fueling hostility. Jumping up and calling Obama a liar as did Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, or asking Jesus for helping against our President as did a member of the Birther Movement, reinforces the battle lines and maintains an air of hostility.

These actions are moving us further away from any chance of civility and any hope of actually discussing the issues. These actions perpetuate a political environment that is less about solutions and more about creating targets to hit. While my examples certainly focus on Republicans, both parties are to blame.

It is well past time that we recognize the need for civility and be satisfied with nothing less.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) in to opinion@fiusm.com. 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.

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

VERBATIM

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



HAITI

President unhappily receives election report

Rene Preval officially received the report of an international team trying to solve an electoral deadlock, but he was unhappy with their recommendation his preferred candidate be cut from the presidential runoff vote.



NICARAGUA

3 federal judges probes in drug case

Three federal judges have been suspended and put under investigation for ordering the release of ten alleged drug traffickers. The judges had three days to present a report explaining why they dismissed the cases.



GUYANA

Guyana recognizes a Palestinian state

Guyana has recognized Palestinian statehood, joining a string of other South American nations in a push for Palestinians and Israelis to negotiate a peace deal.

BAY VISTA HOUSING

Housing conditions worse than expected

W. EARLE SIMPSON
Staff Writer

In the Spring 2010 semester, Patience Ekpo transferred from the University of North Texas to FIU to study for her master's in global strategic communications. When she arrived at the University, she accepted housing accommodation at the University Park Apartments at Modesto Maidique Campus where she shared a one-bedroom-double with a roommate she considered untidy and disrespectful.

In Fall 2010, to avoid sharing facilities, Ekpo opted to live in a one-bedroom- single at the Bay Vista Housing, but when she moved in, she said she got the shock of her life.

"Housing here is very crusty and run down," Ekpo said. "They should invest more money into improving the facilities. "When I lived at the University Park Apartments, I complained the rent was too high for the poor facilities we got there, but Bay Vista housing has got nothing on

UPA."

Ekpo is one of the many students living at Bay Vista who said they are unhappy with the living conditions there. Of the 15 Bay Vista students interviewed for this story, 12 of them, or 86 percent, expressed dissatisfaction with issues such as dilapidated buildings, unrepaired ceilings, broken toilets, mold infestation, untimely work order responses and pest infestation. Three hundred students live at the Bay Vista housing complex.

Ekpo who did her undergraduate studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said while at Rutgers, she lived in a modern housing facility. She said compared to that facility, the Bay Vista housing condition is appalling.

"This place is ghetto," she said. "My shower sucks. I can never get the right temperature. I waste my time in the shower almost on a daily basis playing with the temperature settings. I can never get it either not too hot or not too cold. Most of the time, it is too hot and I get burned.

BISCAYNE SOCIAL

Students encounter new experiences while hypnotized

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Contributing Writer

Hypnosis is not a hoax. Skeptical?

So was an initial crowd of about 90 in attendance for Sailesh's, self-proclaimed Hypnotist Extraordinaire, performance at the Wolfe University Center Theater on Jan. 13. The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted it as part of its "Week of Welcome" events held across both University campuses last week.

Some were skeptics. Some were believers. Some came to laugh at what they thought would be cheap parlor tricks, while others were just curious as to what entertainment the University had to offer.

"I'm looking to explore the university more and find out what type of events they have," said Raj Naidu, a civil engineering graduate student. "I'm on a budget too, so I'm looking for all forms of alternate entertainment



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Hypnotist Sailesh (standing) appears to be handling a venomous snake in the presence of his hypnotized volunteers during a show which the Student Programming Council presented on Jan. 13 in the Wolfe University Center Theater.

in Miami."

Eva Pentifere, a junior biology major, was amongst the skeptics in attendance.

"I want to see if this really works. I've never seen this done in person, but I've seen it on TV," said Pentifere. As the show kicked off, Sailesh

HUMAN KNOT



NED CHANDLER/THE BEACON

As part of their Week of Welcome events, the Student Programming Council held a logo launch party on Jan. 11, which featured contortionist Alakazam, "the Human Knot," tied himself into a knot and squeezed through a tennis racket.

"Also, my toilet does not work. For one week, it flushes all day every day. I should not have to sit there and listen to my toilet flushing 24 hours for a week because housing is stupid. "This building is so old and crusty, they should just knock it down and build another dorm," Ekpo said

Bay Vista was the first University housing facility and the only one built at BBC. It was built in 1983 under the administration of then University president Gregory B. Wolfe, according to James Wassenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services.

Wassenaar said because the president did not have a housing professional on staff at that time, he opted for a private developer who conceived a structure with design standards typical to those of a Holiday Inn motel.

"It really was not conceived as a

BAY VISTA, page 2

had his randomly chosen volunteers on stage. He delivered a five-minute guide towards achieving a meditative state, allowing him access to the volunteers' subconscious as they fell into a deep sleep. And with the final command of "sleep," they were under the suggestive power of Sailesh for the remainder of the evening.

Volunteers were put through a series of situations in which they were under the impression that they were in extreme cold, switched genders, were on a mission to Mars, relived their prom dance but while embracing another volunteer of the same sex, and even sat on stage with the impression that they were watching X-rated movies starring themselves.

Janiel Vargas, a senior Political Science major, although skeptical, was one of the first to fall into the hypnotic trance. "Physically, I was up on that stage and seated in my chair. But psychologically, emotionally and mentally, I couldn't do much to snap out of it. After tonight's experience,

it would be safe to say that I am definitely a believer," said Vargas.

JC Remedios, a senior double majoring in Liberal Studies and Psychology, was "one of the quick ones to fall."

"I was scared the whole time [of Sailesh making] me do something that I would regret and couldn't hold back, said Remedios. "Being an openly gay person, there were points in the show that I was afraid that what if the other straight would do, or what his reaction would be and whether or not it would be hostile."

From the minute Sailesh stepped onto the stage until he released the volunteers from their hypnotic trance, the audience was on the edge of their seats in disbelief.

"I walked into this as a complete skeptic and now there is no denying the truth behind it," said Remedios.

Biscayne Social is a weekly column run on Wednesday covering events at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Reviews are up to the columnists' discretion.