



HAITI

Post-election violence erupts

Protesters demanding cancellation of Haiti's weekend presidential election clashed with U.N. peacekeepers Tuesday, the United Nations mission and Haitian radio reported.



MOLDOVA

European alliance ahead in elections

Moldova's governing pro-Europe alliance was leading the opposition Communists, election results, but the coalition was just short of winning enough legislative seats to end a year-long political deadlock.



RUSSIA

Call for new arms treaty ratification

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is warning that his country will find it necessary to build up its nuclear forces, if the United States doesn't ratify a new arms reduction, called new START, treaty.

SEASON FINALE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Darriet Perry, Wesley Carroll and TY Hilton [left to right] are poised to break an array of different school records on Dec. 4 in preparation for postseason bowl trip.

Attendance could factor into bowl destination decision

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

With a share of the Sun Belt Conference already in possession, FIU will look to gain the conference title outright with a win over Middle Tennessee State University.

The Golden Panthers will have to do it in front of Alison Comeaux and possibly Paul Valteau, members of the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl executive committee.

According to Valteau, a former bowl chairman, attendance will play a factor in to what Sun Belt

school will be selected to play in New Orleans.

"We're looking for an exciting team, a team that can draw people, and once they are there can put on a good show," said Valteau on Nov. 20 during FIU's impressive 38-17 victory on the road against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Although FIU Stadium can hold 20,000 spectators, they have not been able to sell out a game yet this season. According to attendance records, FIU has an attendance average of 16,524 in their first four games.

FOOTBALL, page 4

FIU VS. MTSU

- When: 6 p.m. Dec. 4
- Where: FIU Stadium
- Radio: Radiate FM(95.3, 96.9, 88.1); FIUSM.com

Intern retreat rife with allegations of underage drinking

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Underage members of the Student Government Council from the Modesto Maidique Campus brought alcoholic beverages for underage interns at this year's intern retreat held at the Embassy Suites hotel in Boca Raton.

Among the key officials implicated in the incident were SGC-MMC Vice-President Nick Autiello and former SGC-MMC Intern Coordinator Laura Farinas.

Sara Conklin, the former SGC-MMC Director of Governmental Relations, arrived at her room in the Embassy Suites which she was sharing with Farinas and two other female council members. There she found several SGC-MMC senators and council members drinking alcohol with interns, many of who are underage.

By this time, Assistant Director of Campus Life Jose Toscano had left the premises of the hotel because of a family emergency, leaving Assistant Director of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus Rafael Zapata in charge.

Zapata told Student Media that he was not aware of any drinking taking place.

According to Conklin, she inquired as to whom the alcohol belonged to; Autiello told her it was his. It was at this point that Conklin confronted Autiello and Farinas, asking them to stop drinking and leave the room.

Autiello denied these allegations in an interview with Student Media.

To no avail, Conklin met with SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Hector Mujica, SGC-MMC Senate Speaker William Velez and several others to discuss what they should do.

After deliberating, they decided that their best option would be to leave the hotel all together.

"Once we saw the drinking with interns was happening we didn't want to be part of it," said Velez. "We noticed that even after we told them no, they still came back and we wanted to avoid the situation [so] we decided to leave the hotel."

Velez, along with Conklin, Mujica and five others left the hotel to go to a restaurant located nearby and stayed there for approximately two hours. When they returned to the room where

the drinking was taking place originally, they found that not much had changed.

From there they left to one of the other rooms being rented out by SGA.

"We stayed there hoping that they would finish," said Conklin, who returned hours later to her original room to find it empty.

The following Monday, Oct. 25, rumors circulated about what had actually happened during the retreat. According to Conklin and Velez, two members of SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez's cabinet informed her about the weekend's activities.

"As far as the mood and the atmosphere, there was definitely concern. They were visibly upset," said Conklin, referring to Ramirez and Toscano.

Conklin also met with Ramirez separately to tell her side of the story.

"I was mostly embarrassed that they were drinking with interns because of what it makes the organization look like," Conklin said.

According to Conklin, Mujica, and Velez, both Autiello and Farinas were "repeatedly asked to resign" but refused to do so. Farinas

did resign on Nov. 18, however the details of her resignation have not been made public.

Ramirez refused to comment on the resignation.

Autiello told Student Media that this allegation is false. Student Media reached out to Farinas but she would not respond to emails despite several attempts.

According to Velez and Conklin, several meetings took place after Ramirez found out to discuss possible consequences.

"Toscano simply told us during our first 'fact finding' meeting that the punishments could range from dock of pay, request to resign, removal for those in the cabinet, vote censure or being referred to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office, which could lead to academic misconduct that would permanently taint our personal academic record," said Mujica.

While Conklin, Mujica, Velez and others did not participate in the drinking, they were instead being punished for leaving the hotel—

SGA, page 2

WORLDS AHEAD



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

On Oct. 12, the Agroecology club welcomed visitors from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to the FIU organic garden. The Vice-Chancellor, along with two Deans from TANU, arrived to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with our University. Dean Douglas Wartzok, the University provost, attended the event to sign the MOU. The MOU is an international agreement between FIU and TANU that will aim to facilitate academic interaction between professionals and students of both universities.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 41 of *The Beacon*, the name of the writer of the article titled “Student lives his life barefoot” is misspelled. It is Stephanie Londono, not Stephanie Londo.

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

Punishments ‘unreasonable’

SGA, page 1

an action that Toscano deemed a “liability,” in case something were to happen to the students who left the hotel.

“We were being punished for leaving the hotel, which according to the Campus Life Administration is against policy,” said Mujica. “I, as well as the other council members that left, were unaware that we would be violating policy by leaving the hotel, especially since we did it to avoid a potentially larger problem.”

Both Mujica and Velez have not found where this rule against leaving the hotel is written. Student Media has not been able to verify it as well. It is standard procedure for students to be asked to sign a waiver form when they go on a University sponsored trip, however, Conklin, Mujica and Velez never signed the form. Instead of driving up on the University bus, they chose to drive up and attend on their own accord.

Student Media received a copy of the waiver form required for attending the SGA Intern Retreat, but found no line, which specifically states that those attending are forbidden from leaving the SGA Intern Retreat in Boca Raton.

According to Conklin, those students who left the revelers in their room were informed that their pay would be cut.

“Two people including myself were very upset and went to speak to [Toscano],” said Conklin. “I told him that was impossible for me because I needed that money for my rent.”

According to Director of Campus Life Eric Arneson, Ramirez counseled with Toscano to figure out what steps to take in regards to punishment. However, the punishments handed out to cabinet members would ultimately be her decision.

“Helena is the person who in the end makes decision with cabinet members,” said

Arneson. “With elected officials you have two options: come to an informal agreement, or proceed with a formal impeachment. There is no power to fire them because they are elected officials.”

After the meeting with cabinet members, Ramirez and Toscano also met with Mujica and Velez separately. According to Mujica and Velez, they were asked to resign from their positions.

Both Ramirez and Toscano declined to comment on that matter.

“I wholeheartedly refused to accept that option and told President Ramirez and Adviser Toscano that the punishment was unreasonable and that if we had to be punished for leaving the hotel we should get the same punishment as the other council members that left, which was docked pay,” said Mujica in a statement to Student Media.

While a decision to cut pay was made, according to Arneson, Toscano had to make sure that it was legitimate and actually legal to do so.

“Human resources recommended that we not do that,” said Arneson. “They said, ‘If people are working the same hours you need to pay them the same.’”

Both Mujica and Velez did not accept the requests to resign because they did not find it to be fair and that need be, they would take the matter to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

“If my actions on that night compromised my position as Speaker and the work that I had done or wanted to do, I would gladly step down,” said Velez. “In no way did I think that was the case.”

Initially, several of the council members involved in this incident believed that the advice being given to them by Toscano was for their benefit. But Conklin and Mujica felt as if they were being pressured to either resign or get their pay cut.

They also felt they were being mislead and given incor-

rect information.

“When he told us that this could get out to Student Conduct and we could get punished for what we did by them and it would be much worse than what he would do, I thought it was coming from his heart,” said Conklin.

“I do believe that the options presented were not for anyone’s benefit but more so to reach some sort of compromise on a punishment for what had occurred,” said Mujica.

Toscano denied that any students were pressured into making a decision.

“I can see where people might have felt that they had been misled because at one point open communications had stopped,” Toscano told Student Media.

Conklin eventually resigned on Nov. 17, citing this incident and the need to work more hours as the reason for her resignation in an interview with Student Media.

According to Arneson, anyone whose name is linked to potential violations would be immediately referred to Student Conduct, which would then determine culpability, after which all information regarding the violation and the person are confidential.

The only person allowed to discuss the case publicly would be the person directly involved.

According to the SGA Constitution, anyone referred to Student Conduct would be automatically forced to resign, Arneson said.

Student Media asked Autiello whether he had been referred to Student Conduct. He said this was “irrelevant.”

“The actions he committed from what I’ve heard and how he’s responded I think his integrity has been compromised and that he should not serve as vice president,” said Velez. “It’s not the behavior you would expect of a person in that position.”

Jorge Valens and Philippe Buteau contributed to this story.

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Protestors gather to defend preserve

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Students from various campus organizations demonstrated their affection for the University's Ecosystem Preserve by marching from the Farmer's Market outside the Green Library to Primera Casa.

The fifth floor of PC was the target of the march, as it houses the offices of University President Mark Rosenberg and Provost Douglas Wartzok.

The march was sparked by rumors that the preserve might be torn down to add more space for the University expansion. According to Ryan Vogel, Manager of the nature preserve, an environmental conservator was sent to inspect the preserve and perform a preliminary audit with the purpose of figuring out what part would be the best to tear down.

Student Media reached out to President Rosenberg's office but, as of press time, he was not available for comment.

In order to get awareness out, Vogel spoke to the presidents of various University organizations and informed them of the news in order to start a movement to protect the preserve. Organizations present at the march included Students for Environmental Action, the Yoga Club, the Garden Club, the Meditation Club and the Conscious Eaters' Club.

"More than a thousand students utilize the preserve for their studies, more than twenty-five classes need the preserve for the successful completion of their course, and many science professors do important work in it," added Vogel.

Aside from organization members, students that were not affiliated with a club were welcomed to part in the



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Students signs were laid in the grass by the protesters after the march was stopped by university police.

protest when they discovered its purpose.

"I was so shocked when I found out what FIU is trying to do. I never thought FIU was capable of doing something like that," said freshman Shirley Silva.

Supporters of the march made their way to the presidential offices at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1 and were greatly disappointed when members of the University's Public Safety stopped them and asked them to leave. However, some refused and went on to the offices on the fifth floor of PC, only to find that the President and Provost were not there.

Although the protesters were not

able to meet with any of them, they are not giving up and are planning on taking action in the near future.

"FIU has been planning this out for about a month, but we are going to do everything we can to prevent it," said Market Secretary and SEA Representative, Sean McMahon.

Some of these plans include passing out petitions throughout the University for students to sign, getting the Student Government Association involved and trying to contact local political representatives.

"FIU will be laughed at if the preserve is actually demolished and will not be 'worlds ahead' without its outdoor natural preserve," said Vogel.

NEWS FLASH

Cyber Monday Sales Surpass \$1B

Online sales on Cyber Monday—the Monday following Thanksgiving—surpassed \$1 billion for the first time, and nearly half those sales came from work computers. The overall figure is up 16 percent from last year and goes nicely with record online sales on Black Friday, as well.

The day also marked the heaviest online spending day in history. Though it is growing quickly, online spending makes up only 8 to 10 percent of total holiday spending.

Even after a report showed that America's confidence in the economy is the highest in five months, shoppers are still holding out for bargains

Jobless Benefits Cutoff Begins for 2 Million Americans

Nearly 2 million Americans start to lose their extended unemployment benefits today, leaving people without jobs struggling to hold on to their housing and feed their families while facing a somber holiday season.

During the high-profile Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting Tuesday night in Manhattan, about 40 out-of-work New Yorkers marched in protest, according to MSNBC.

Congress failed to extend the jobless benefits Tuesday night, and unless lawmakers decide otherwise, December will see about 2 million people cut off by Christmas, according to the AP. Out-of-work Americans have come to rely on the benefits, which had been extended up to 99 weeks for some, for basic needs.

—Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Tragedies plague family

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

While most of the University is looking forward to the end of the semester, students are working to prevent one student's break from being tragically different than the rest.

Freshman Andy Oquendo was driving a 2008 white Scion on Nov. 19 with his younger brother, Joey, 13, and an unknown passenger, when he suddenly lost control of the car. Traveling at a high speed on Sunset Drive and 148 Avenue, the car hit a tree and spun into a Cadillac.

Oquendo was ejected upon impact from the vehicle, which caught fire and exploded. The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue later found Joey, and the other passenger dead inside the car. Since being airlifted to Ryder Trauma Center, Andy has remained in critical condition.

Two weeks have passed since the accident and news of Oquendo's condition and tragic family history has just begun to circulate the University's hallways.

Shortly before losing her husband to cancer in January,

Oquendo's mother, Nilsa Oquendo, lost her daughter in a 2007 car accident.

Despite what might be expected, friends of the family say that Oquendo's mother remains faithful that her son can persevere through his condition.

"She feels that he has three people up there looking down on him and making sure that he'll pull through," said Angie LaPiana, sophomore and political science major.

LaPiana, along with other University students, are aiming to gather support and donations from the local and University community for Nilsa, who is currently on sick leave from her job.

"We want to present a united front to show support for his mother, and show that the University loves and cares about Andy," said Dilia Olivo, sophomore and biomedical engineering major.

As a graduate of John A. Ferguson Sr. High, friends and teachers still recognize Oquendo as an active and charismatic member of TV production at school.

"Andy's been my right hand for everything technical. I could always count on him,

even after he graduated. What student graduates high school and still volunteers his hours to help a teacher?" said Nancy Ozon, TV production teacher at Ferguson.

Both LaPiana and Olivo met Oquendo in high school, where Olivo says, "He wasn't just any person, he was everyone's friend."

His popularity at Ferguson, along with the story of his family's loss, propelled Sophomore Kristen Hidalgo to create a web page to take direct donations for the family's hospital bills and funeral costs, along with the support of local businesses like Smoothie King and the University's Greek societies.

In an effort to promote student support, LaPiana has announced on the "Fundraiser for Andy and Joe Oquendo" Facebook page, that the FIU House will host a benefit on Dec. 3 where guests can expect music, food, raffles, and giveaways.

In this time of giving, Olivo encourages any donation to the family, "anything you can give could help save his life."

To donate, visit helpoquendofamily.blogspot.com

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BASKETBALL

Arroyo and Bell still share court at career junction

In the first quarter of a Nov. 9 matchup between the Miami Heat and Utah Jazz, Carlos Arroyo scored the Heat's first field goal of the game, draining an open jumper off a pass from All-Star Chris Bosh. Later in the first half, Arroyo took a dish from LeBron James in the left corner and nailed a three-pointer.

He ended the game with ten points, typical for Arroyo thus far on the young season, one in which he has found himself starting on the most scrutinized sports team in history while benefiting from his team's bevy of talent to hold a career high in field goal percentage.

The Heat suffered a disappointing loss to the Jazz that night, an over-publicized early season defeat. It's taken getting used to though, as publicity has been the norm since Bosh and James joined the Heat last offseason to pair with another star, Dwyane Wade, drawing nearly every emotion out of the public through its unprecedented



ANN HIESNFELT & JAKE DEMPSEY/THE AP

Heat guard Carlos Arroyo embraces Dwyane Wade [LEFT] and Raja Bell attacks the basket in a game this season. [RIGHT]

media coverage. Interest, joy, anger, fascination and surprise are there, but never indifference.

Every night that stars like Bosh, James and Wade are announced under the brightest of lights, there is

Carlos Arroyo of Florida International University, obscurely sharing the stage with them as the starting point guard. So obscure is the latter that ESPN announcers on the team's nationally televised home

contest against the Phoenix Suns on Nov. 17 bantered about where FIU is located during the broadcast.

Roughly 20 minutes down the road would be the answer to where Arroyo played college basketball,

where the Golden Panthers haven't had a winning season since Arroyo starred at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Asked if someone told him ten years ago that he would be starting on one of the better teams in

the league, Arroyo laughed and like most professional athletes, confidently stated he wouldn't.

"My dream was to be a part of this league since I was a kid," Arroyo said. "That's the only dream I had, I couldn't bet against that. It was my desire to make it and I sacrificed a lot of things to be able to be here today. I busted my butt to earn everything I got."

That dream didn't come without its troubles, however.

"Who doesn't," he said when prodded about issues during his time at FIU, where he was recruited to play for Shakey Rodriguez out of his native Puerto Rico.

An article by the Miami New Times published in 2000 stated that Arroyo's grades dropped and he had an altercation with a team manager on a road trip, a subject that Arroyo sharply asked me to change. Of course, Arroyo was facing a transition in his life. Far from being the Miami Heat's starting point guard, Arroyo was in the process of adjusting to the American college lifestyle.

"My freshman and soph-

ARROYO, page 5

FIU's offense on the verge of shattering record books

FOOTBALL, page 1

"I think the crowd does matter...it can play [a role] as a 12th player sometimes. It is important to get that crowd there to get hype on fourth downs or for a goal line stand. It's a tremendous feeling," said senior linebacker Jarvis Wilson.

While FIU has already clinched a bowl berth a week before the end of the season, Middle Tennessee's season will be on the line this Saturday. If the Golden Panthers fall to MTSU, the Blue Raiders will become the third bowl eligible team in the conference.

According to Billy Ferrante, the teams playing in the New Orleans Bowl can be announced as early as after the FIU-MTSU game and as late as the morning of Dec. 5.

SENIOR NIGHT

Cristobal's seniors will suit up in blue and gold for the last time as a Golden Panther. The 2010 senior class was the first recruiting

class for Cristobal as a head coach. It will be the first time the first class of seniors that he will graduate.

"You blink and all of the sudden four years are gone and they're graduating which is kind of crazy," Cristobal said.

According to Cristobal, because of what his team has accomplished this season, this senior class will be one of his most memorable classes to date as a coach, head or assistant.

"It has to be [one of the most memorable senior classes.] We walked in to the doors of FIU late December right before New Year's Day. We had about two and a half weeks to put a [recruiting] class together. We had a very small window get to know these guys," said Cristobal. "We had to see if the mentality was there for them to come and take on one of the biggest projects maybe in Division I-A history."

The feeling of playing that last game of your collegiate career at home has yet to sink in for senior center

Brad Serini.

"I guess it really hasn't hit me yet," Serini said. "But it's going to be exciting."

Serini has mixed feelings about his last night at FIU Stadium.

"I don't want it to end. I do love college but I am [also] looking forward to it at the same time," said Serini. "I'll be fine. I'll be more worried about my parents than me. I know my dad will be crying."

RECORD BREAKING SEASON

The Golden Panthers (6-5, 6-1 SBC) are on the verge of having the best season offensively in school's history, which may be a contributing reason for their sudden success this season.

Quarterback Wesley Carroll is only 151 yards and two touchdowns away from setting the single-season school record for passing yards and passing touchdowns. The redshirt junior has a completion percentage of 60.7, just barely ahead of the school's record of 60.4

percent.

Although the running backs have already shattered the single-game rushing record and single-season rushing mark against Troy this season, another rushing record could break this Saturday. Dariet Perry has scored 12 rushing touchdowns this season, only one touchdown shy of breaking the single-season record.

Wide receiver and return specialist T.Y. Hilton, who already broke the record for most touchdowns scored in a career this season, has a shot at breaking some more statistical records.

With two games left in the season (which includes a bowl game), Hilton is three touchdowns and 12 receptions away from breaking the single-season mark. He's also 205 receiving yards away from becoming FIU's all-time leader in receiving yards. According to Cristobal, these records have helped shape an identity to the offense this season.

"Things like that would be nice, but it's certainly not

a major part of the equation. It does speak volumes of the progress of the offense," Cristobal said.

SCOUTING MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Cristobal's defense will have to stop the preseason Sun Belt player of the year in quarterback Dwight Dasher.

Despite missing his first four games because of a suspension, Dasher has not produced numbers similar to his 2009 season. Dasher has thrown for 1,144 yards, only reaching the end zone through the air five times, throwing 13 interceptions.

Dasher, however, has shown signs of brilliance this season. On the ground, he has rushed for 396 yards and scored seven rushing touchdowns.

According to Wilson, it will take a team effort from the defense to contain a player with the caliber of Dasher.

"I don't think one person can stop a player like that. I think it takes a whole team. A concept that we approach is 'Un Cerebro', that's the

whole team, one brain, one function. It's going to take everybody to swarm in to the ball. I think if we do that... we'll be alright," Wilson said.

The Blue Raiders kept their season alive with a 38-14 victory over Florida Atlantic.

Middle Tennessee's offense rushed for 287 yards on 55 carries last week.

MTSU Linebacker Darin Davis earned Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week for his two-interception performance against FAU.

Cristobal and his offensive unit are aware of what Davis can do to his offense.

"Not only does he understand the running game, but he does a nice job in terms of his own drop and his coverage responsibilities. He found a way to get near the football and when he got his hand on it he took one back and took another one down close to the end zone. I changed the game for them," Cristobal said.

The Blue Raiders defense is ranked fourth overall in the SBC.

In the midst of productive careers, players earn steady roles on contending teams

ARROYO, page 4

omore year, I was going through growing pains a lot trying to learn the culture down here and how the living was," he said. "Just being able to be myself and grow as a man and travel so much playing basketball. I never went through anything like that. It was a hard experience but I enjoyed every minute of it."

There was much more positivity surrounding Arroyo than the opposite in his time at FIU. The 30-year-old NBA veteran averaged 16 points and nearly five assists as a four-year letterman for the Panthers. As a freshman in 1997-98, the former FIU homecoming king was a part of the program's best season ever, a 21-8 campaign.

Since then, Arroyo has bounced around the league, even to the Israeli Basketball Super League, earning a starting gig for the 2003-04 season with the Jazz before settling down for a bit in Miami. A legend in his country, Arroyo led Puerto Rico to

excited Bell, who was antsy to leave the locker room after the game to see his family, said he was glad to see his former teammate and even mentioned being excited to see where the program is currently headed under Isiah Thomas.

"It was good. Always good to see my man," Bell said. "We just wrapped a bit, his wife's pregnant and I think they're expecting, so we just talked about that. Just said it was good to see him and stuff."

Arroyo added: "It's great," he said. "Obviously you're playing against somebody that you've known a long time, been to school with him and everything. Families are great friends and we have a great friendship on and off the court. I truly value our friendship and what we've done since back in the day's in school and now in the league."

The two occasionally get together for a golf game or some chatter in between their busy schedules, but it's a rare occurrence during the season. Like Arroyo, Bell has found himself at a comfortable place

"It's great. Obviously you're playing against somebody that you've known a long time, been to school with him and everything... I truly value our friendship and what we've done since back in the day's in school and now in the league."

—Carlos Arroyo on Raja Bell

run in the 2004 Olympic Basketball Tournament, including a victory over the United States, a career highlight that will be hard to top.

"It's part of the game," Arroyo said of his career excursions. "It's part of how my career has been. You're lucky in this league if you stay with one team for so many years, it's unheard of. There are a lot of guys coming in and out every year. You have to truly have an understanding of how privileged you are to play in this league."

Even more privileged is Arroyo, however, for playing in the same city where he played the game in college.

"It's a blessing. It's truly a blessing," he said. "It's something that I can't explain. I think it's something that every NBA player wishes they could have."

On this particular night, Arroyo was joined on the court by his former FIU teammate and the only other Golden Panther to play the game at the highest level, Raja Bell. Ironically, Bell has also shared some of the best moments of his career with the Jazz, who he's playing with for the second time in his career.

HALFTIME

Bell, like Arroyo, went undrafted out of FIU before finding a niche in the NBA. Bell has become the type of player that was recruited by Kobe Bryant to join the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in the offseason, before choosing to resign with the Jazz after finding success in Utah in 2003-04, alongside Arroyo in the same backcourt. Bell has gained a reputation in the league as a defensive bug, and a three-point threat, a quality role player who has taken part in a few deep playoff runs in stops with Dallas and Phoenix.

Bell embraced Arroyo before the game, where the two exchanged a few words. An

BY THE NUMBERS

2010 NBA Season Statistics



Carlos Arroyo
 • PTS: 7.1
 • Reb: 2.0
 • Ast: 1.8



Raja Bell
 • PTS: 8.2
 • Reb: 2.7
 • Ast: 1.1

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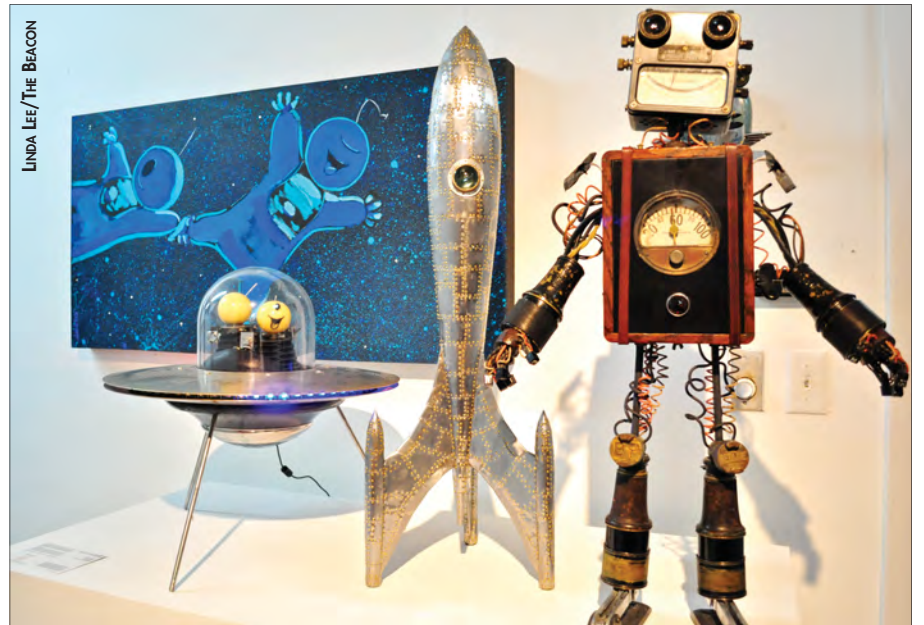
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BASEL INVASION



Photos of Bakehouse Art Complex's preview art show which coincides with Art Basel and opened on Nov. 29. Art Basel officially starts on Dec. 2.

Art Basel brings culture and exhibits to city

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

During the first week of December, Miami is the place to be in the art world.

Whether you're a connoisseur, a jack of all trades or purely an enthusiast, Art Basel Week is your ultimate getaway.

To put it simply, Art Basel Miami Beach is one of the largest and most well known art fairs in the United States.

The festival, a sister to the prestigious Switzerland show of the same name, has been held annually since 2002 and has substantially grown in size each year.

While the main event takes place in the Miami Beach Convention Center, various exhibitions, shows and experiences are hosted all week long throughout the city in areas like Wynwood and the Design District.

Art Basel Miami Beach provides a program that features selections from the top galleries in the world, events that incorporate music, film and architecture along with various parties.

According to the Art Basel website, this year will include presentations by over 250 of the leading art galleries in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa with works by over 2000 artists of the 20th and

21st century. Specific areas of the Convention Center, located on 1901 Convention Center Drive, have been reserved for performance art, public art projects and video art. Doors open daily at noon, and one-day student tickets run for \$22 while evening tickets (only valid after 4 p.m.) are \$20.

In addition to the programming at the Convention Center, Oceanfront at Collins Park, located between 21st and 22nd Street, will be hosting free events nightly that are open to the public.

Open from 6:00 p.m. until midnight, this diverse and interactive environment will be paying homage to the artistic experiments of Detroit, Mexico City, Berlin and Glasgow. Furthermore, the area will be stocked with a bar and various food trucks each night.

Friday spotlights Berlin and includes a lecture titled "Concrete Society" by Isa Melsheimer and Arno Brandhuber on ideological clashes, architectural destruction and beautiful objects.

There will also be a performance called "Mixed Reality: Aids-3D" and a live DJ set with Broken Hearts Club. Saturday repeats these efforts with the focus shifted to Glasgow.

There will be film screenings of Corin Sworn's "After School Special" and Torsten Laushmann's "Skipping over Damaged

Areas."

There will also be various performances that night including Stephen Sutcliffe, Sue Tompkins's "Hallo Welcome to Keith Street," Rob Churm's "Improvising Around Songs on a Customized Guitar" and Cara Tolmie's "The End is a Tumultuous Noise."

Other free events happening this week include Ricardo Zulueta's exhibition "Domesticated Homosapiens in Traditional Costume Circa 21st Century."

On display until December 15th at the University of Miami's Wynwood Project Space, the exhibition contains photographs of unlikely magazine personas in their underwear.

A jab at mainstream advertisement, Zulueta stated he, "picked all different types of people from all walks of life, big, small, tall, all races, and basically dressed them up in some form of fashion accessory that excludes and marginalizes certain people."

I'm kind of mocking consumerism and the whole luxury industry that's advertising these products as a way of achieving success."

On December 5th, the Frost Art Museum will be closing out the week with the sponsored "Breakfast in the Park," an event that has become tradition. In addition to a complimentary breakfast and a guided tour of "The



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Sculpture Park" and exhibitions upstairs, guests will also be treated to a guest lecture.

This year's presenter is Enrique Martínez Celaya. An artist of many mediums, his portfolio contains paintings, photography, sculptures and poetry. Celaya has created projects for Germany's Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig, the Miami Art Museum and the Berliner Philharmonie.

As well as being featured in many permanent collections within prestigious institutions, he was also recently added to the Frost. In his works, Celaya aims to find the connection between science and the subconscious.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Motion-sensing Kinect technology boasts potential

With Microsoft Kinect flying off store shelves, I am beginning to think of the possibilities that this technology can serve outside the living room.

The Kinect gaming system, released by Microsoft earlier this quarter, uses a full range of optical sensors shooting a dizzying array of infra-red light to track your movements in a slew of video games; eliminating the need for a controller.

Aside from the quality of the games, which place you in practical

situations like piloting a white water raft or petting a fake tiger, which I named "Peter Frampton," the technology itself outweighs any silly game they release for it.

Kinect is very accurate in tracking movements to the point where it is actually frightening. It can even recognize faces with a large amount of accuracy for a consumer minded product. The application of this technology is endless.

Think of the Kinectified PC. This type of technology serves as proof of concept for a whole new type of input method. In this case the tired example of the computers in Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report* have the chance of becoming real.

Just as users interact with the

Xbox menu using hand and body gestures, so can the user interact with their computers.

But aside from input methods for PCs and mobile devices, Microsoft has a pretty interesting piece of technology that can be applied to almost anything.

The military can strap Kinect modules on hummers, F-16s or even a sort of large robot in order to not only make them self aware and able to see but also completely badass.

I guess the only problem with that is Kinect needs between 6 to 8 feet of empty space in front of it in order to function properly. So it would have to be careful if a terrorist jumped on its back and threw a thick blanket over its face. Also, jets with

this technology would have to be even more wary of Bruce Willis, who proved in *Live Free or Die Hard* that a New York cop can destroy an advanced fighter jet.

But wait, why stop at the military? How would Kinect work if it were applied to the home?

Imagine, if you will, a home with Kinect eyes looking at you, watching you eat, sleep and even make love? Walking inside your home, you'd be prompted with a personalized greeting due to its robust ability to recognize facial features. Perhaps you can even have your home voiced by a celebrity like Jude Law or Renee Zellweger?

This could even come in handy if burglars tried to break in to your

home. However, hope that no more than two burglars come inside, otherwise your self-aware Kinect home will be too frazzled to tell what's going on and won't be able to contact the police.

Microsoft's Kinect is a pretty interesting piece of technology that really has pushed video gaming forward. It proves that console innovation isn't the only thing that can change the way we play games.

However, the Kinect is still young. With a few software updates though, I am sure it'll start trickling down to other products soon.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology. Look for it every Friday.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

REEL TO REEL

Movie doesn't hold up under multiple viewings

The more I watch Christopher Nolan's *Inception*, the more I'm convinced that Leonardo DiCaprio is basically channeling his role as Teddy Daniels in Martin Scorsese's *Shutter Island*, a far more satisfying and thought provoking film that still clings to me a year after watching it.

There's no foul in DiCaprio doing this. Bogart spent half a decade playing variations of his role as Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon* in such movies as *Casablanca* and *The Big Sleep*. Didn't hurt him much.

However, I can't help but note several parallels between both films. It's not just that both main characters are haunted by major psychological demons.

DiCaprio has a trusty sidekick in both films (Mark Ruffalo in *Shutter Island* and Joseph Gordon Levitt in *Inception*) that doesn't add much to the story. Rather, they're a soundboard for DiCaprio to talk to.

Then you've got the crazy wives, (Michelle Williams, *Shutter Island*; Marion Cotillard, *Inception*) and a pair of eerily similar screams of shock that DiCaprio gives in both films. In *Shutter Island*, his wife has killed their children. In *Inception*, his wife has jumped off of a building. It's the same scream.

Inception is purportedly about dreams, but in all honesty Nolan's film is as much about dreams as Tony Scott's *Unstoppable* is about trains.

It's an exercise in style

and intelligently muscular action scenes, which Nolan excels at. Wally Pheister's cinematography, as always, is impeccably clean and modernistic. Lee Smith still cuts a movie better than most editors out there.

The plot is fairly straightforward: Dom Cobb (DiCaprio) and his associates (Levitt and Tom Hardy among others) are corporate mercenaries who make their living by breaking into people's dreams and stealing intellectual property.

Approached by a powerful billionaire named Saito (Ken Watanabe), Dom's team is given the challenge of inserting an idea into a subject's mind in such a manner that the subject believes it's their own. Originality is key in this process called "Inception." It has never been done.

Nolan's strongest suit in this film is creating a world and laying down the rules that define it: pain inflicted in a dream can cause physical trauma though if you die in a dream you'll wake up.

There are dreams within dreams and different layers of consciousness.

Ariadne (Ellen Page) is recruited as the team's "architect" who designs the dream levels the team will inhabit. DiCaprio explains to her that she shouldn't design levels straight from her memories of the world and that the subconscious of the subjects they're raiding can become aware of intruders.

In the case of their newest target, Robert Fischer Jr. (Cillian Murphy), the subconscious will manifest itself as highly armed gunmen.

Cue chases, gunfights, whole cities folding onto themselves like they were set on a door hinge, gravity defying action sequences and all the cool stuff we were exposed to during the advertising campaign.

Much has been made of the film's complex narrative including the last hour

of the film as the cast falls deeper and deeper into the dreams of Fischer and the dreams hosted by members of the group.

It's a finely tuned puzzle, unnecessarily complex yet an original concept, as we try to track who's dream we're in. Each dream is a set up for a new set piece: an urban car chase, a hotel gun fight in zero gravity and an assault on a base that's straight out of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (Nolan's favorite Bond

movie.)

This is not Akira Kurosawa's *Dreams*. It's just a slightly retooled way to present a heist film.

Dom wants to go home to his kids. He's been in forced exile for years.

Saito explains that if he takes the job, he can find a way to let Dom go home. Of course Dom wants in.

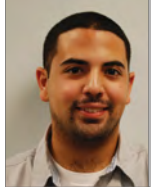
Each member of the team has a specialty. Eames (Hardy) is the "forger" a specialist in taking information and creating characters

in dreams. He bickers with Arthur (Gordon-Levitt) for half of the film. Typical heist movie behavior.

It's fun. When it premiered last summer, it was also quite unpredictable. Watching it again for the upcoming bluray release, I'm left a little disappointed. Still, it beats watching *Going The Distance*.

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

COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS

Target Wednesday After Hours December 8, 2010 / 6-9pm The Frost Art Museum

How to get a job / 5pm
FIU Students join us for an interactive workshop on **How to get a job**. FIU's Career Services department will teach students the Do's and Don'ts of looking for a job.

Danse Macabre / 6pm
Don't miss the performance by local band Danse Macabre for an evening of soft rock at The Museum.

NOWHERE and FIU Art Education Master's Exhibition opening
The Bachelors of Fine Arts students at FIU's School of Art & Art History and the Art Education Master's students present a series of works produced during their tenure at FIU.

Guest Speaker Sara Simonson, Managing Director of Art 21
Sara Simonson will discuss *Art 21* the independent nonprofit organization dedicated to illuminating the creative process of today's visual artists through the production of documentary media and educational resources, including its Peabody Award-winning primetime national series for PBS, *Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century*.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Florida International University
10975 SW 17th St., Miami, FL 33199
t: 305.348.2890 f: 305.348.2762
e: artinfo@fiu.edu w: thefrost.fiu.edu
Museum Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm / Sun: 12pm-5pm / Mon: Closed

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

GET HIM TO THE GREEK



SPC-MMC presents Friday night movies.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students
WHERE: GC 140

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH



International selection of top galleries in 20th, 21st Century art.
WHEN: 12 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$22 (one day) for students with ID, groups of 10 or more; \$36 one-day pass
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Golden Panthers host CSU Bakersfield.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

STUDENT RECITAL SERIES



The Keyboard Studies program students will perform.
WHEN: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

YOGA

Join the Yoga Club for a free session of yoga in the kripalu tradition.
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Organic Garden

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

FIU FOOTBALL



The Sun Belt Conference Champions host the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders in the final game of the season.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: FIU Football Stadium

MAST ACADEMY BIKE-A-THON AT KEY BISCAYNE

MAST Academy will be hosting a 25-mile bike ride through Key Biscayne. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. For more info and to register, visit mastbike.blogspot.com.
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students
WHERE: Meeting place is MAST Academy, 3979 Rickenbacker Causeway

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

International selection of top galleries in 20th, 21st Century art.
WHEN: 12 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$22 (one day) for students with ID, groups of 10 or more; \$36 one-day pass
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr.

BUZZ BAKE SALE



Featuring Switchfoot, SickPuppies, Hawthorne Heights, Finger Eleven, Chevelle and more!
WHEN: Gates open at 10 a.m.; first band begins playing at 10:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30 (excluding taxes, fees). Tickets can be purchased at livenation.com
WHERE: Cruzan Amphitheater, West Palm Beach, Fla.
More info: buzz103.radio.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

BREAKFAST IN THE PARK



In celebration of Art Basel Miami Beach, featuring guest speaker/sculpturer Enrique Martínez Celaya. Complimentary outdoor breakfast and guided tours of the sculpture park and the Frost Museum.
WHEN: 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Golden Panthers host University of Central Florida.
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

International selection of top galleries in 20th, 21st Century art.
WHEN: 12 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$22 (one day) for students with ID, groups of 10 or more; \$36 one-day pass
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr.

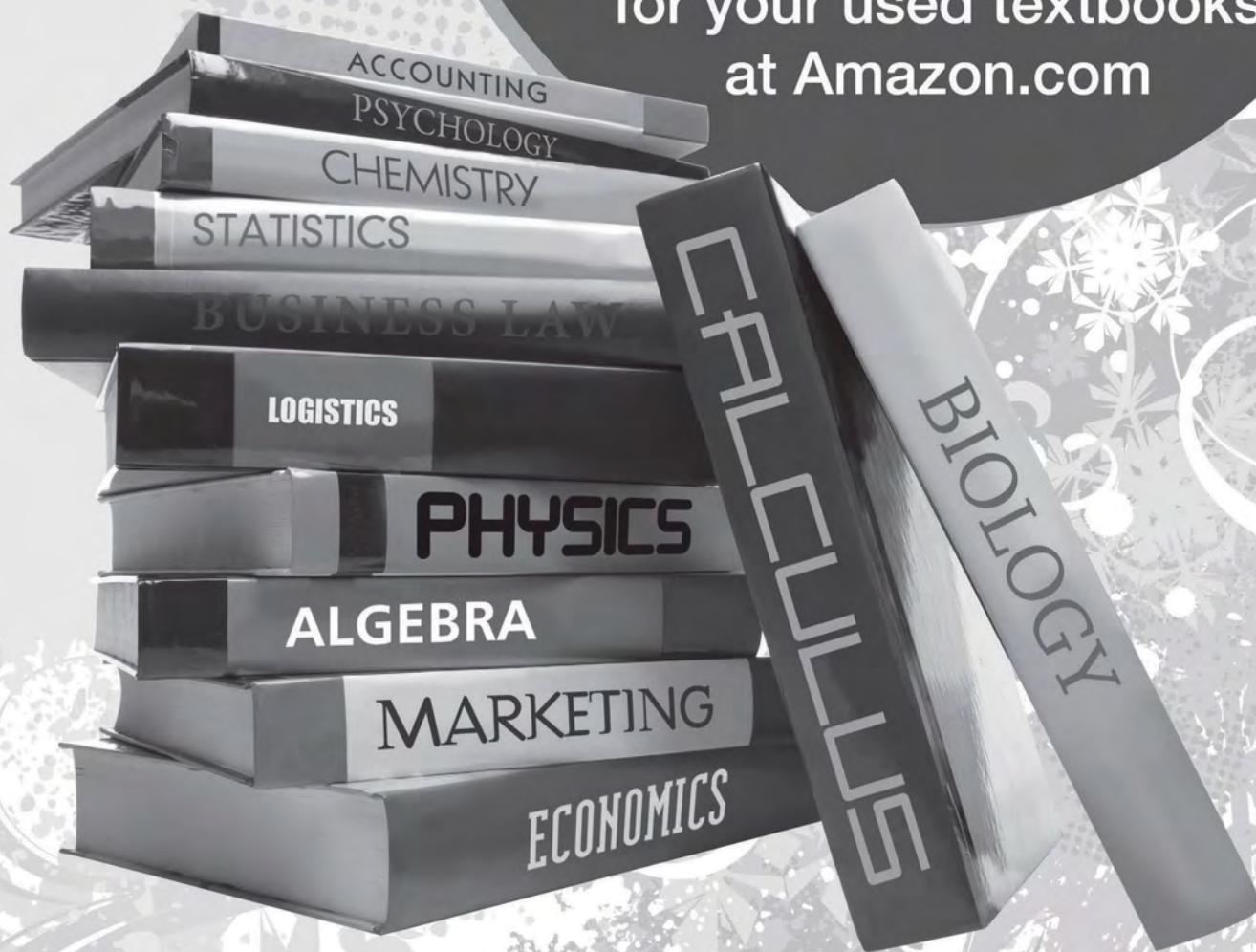
ART BASIL FARMERS MARKET



Featuring organic fruits, body products, vegan treats, yoga, sustainable clothes & accessories, eco-friendly designers & artists, and more!
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5; free for kids
WHERE: Casa Wynwood 2135 NW 1 Court Miami

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United Nations refuses to accept responsibility

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

There is substantial evidence that the Nepalese peacekeepers brought cholera with them to Haiti, a nation that remained completely untouched by the disease until now. Yet, the United Nations evades questions about the source and outright denies any faults in their public health protocol in regards to their sewage management.

Should the U.N. continue to ignore the evidence brought forth, the already shaky foundations of the strained relationship between citizens and peacekeepers will continue to be rocky and volatile at best, and completely destructive and useless at worst.

On Nov. 1, the United States Center for Disease Control documented that the cholera stain was synonymous with the cholera strains found in South Asia. It isn't presumptuous to think the Nepalese peacekeepers brought it with them.

In fact this hypothesis is quite logical and agrees with John Mekalanos, an expert on cholera and chairman of Harvard University's microbiology department. He states, "The organism that is causing the disease is very uncharacteristic of (Haiti and the Caribbean), and is quite characteristic of the region from where the soldiers in the base came. I don't see there is any way to avoid the conclusion that an unfortunate and

presumably accidental introduction of the organism occurred."

MSNBC reports that, "The Nepalese troops were not tested for cholera before their deployment if they did not present symptoms. But health officials say 75 percent of people infected with cholera bacteria do not show symptoms and can still pass on the disease for weeks."

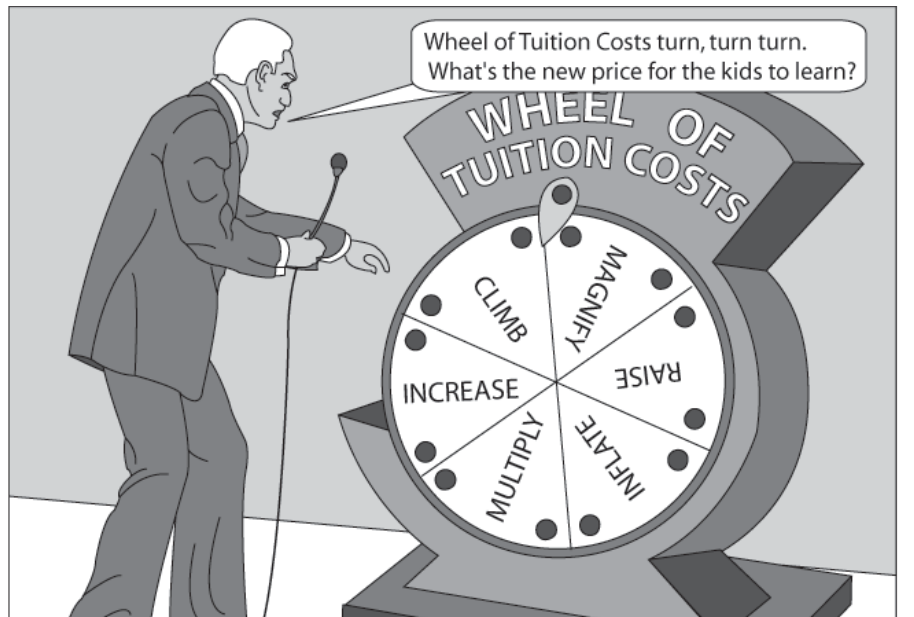
Furthermore, there was documented sanitation problems at the base were the Nepalese troops lived beside the Artibonite River, where the cholera epidemic first appeared. According to the Associated Press, "When the AP visited on Oct. 27, a tank was clearly overflowing. The back of the base smelled like a toilet had exploded. Reeking, dark liquid flowed out of a broken pipe, toward the river."

Despite the obvious link of strains, the lack of testing and the seemingly obvious transgressions against public health protocol, there seems to be a lack of urgency to release an explicit statement from the U.N. detailing its own shortcomings and failures.

Despite the pressure to acknowledge and prove a link, The Associated Press quoted The World Health Organization, stating that the source of cholera was "not a priority."

This type of dismissive response is unacceptable. Part of the public health response must encompass accountability despite potential public embarrassment and global

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MELODY ALEMAN/THE BEACON

ridicule. Perhaps the W.H.O. is correct in that determining the source will not ease the sorrow of this tragedy but it certainly should still be top priority. This isn't a slight faux pas, this is a U.N. egregious breach of public health protocol and it is disrespectful to the deceased to not acknowledge that the island may not have been ravaged by this epidemic had the U.N. tested its soldiers prior to deployment.

It is absolutely necessary to encourage Haitians to act peacefully and cooperate with medical efforts seeking to combat this deadly epidemic. But the global community cannot expect a collective comfort and peace

among the Haitian masses when outside organizations may have brought in the very disease they are attempting to fight.

It is understood that all citizens have a communal protectiveness and defensiveness toward heavily armed outsiders. However in the precarious state Haiti is in, the island teeters on utter disgust and resentment towards these outsiders and total dependence for any hope of reconstruction and stability.

The U.N. will be paramount in stabilizing this country, but without taking responsibility for an epidemic that is killing masses of people, the organization's credibility is ruined.

Republicans, big business inseparable

CHRIS CABRAL
Staff Writer

After a nearly century-long long love affair, the Republican Party and big business were finally married in the fall of 2010. The G.O.P. occasionally strayed to flirt with moderation, and had a fling with Teddy Roosevelt-style progressivism, but decided it was time to settle down.

Big business, for its part, went on plenty of dates with the Democrats, even going so far as to convince an equally amorous Democratic President to repeal restrictive banking regulations in the late 1990s. In the end, it was Republicans' undying love of business that ultimately brought them together.

As the Republican Party stands in control of the United States House of Representative and many state governments, the American people can be confident that the G.O.P. will stand by their man.

In recent years, the Republican Party hasn't shied away from flaunting its devotion in public. In 2009-10, when the new health care reform laws pushed by Democrats put limits on big business, requiring insurance companies

to cover those with pre-existing conditions and spend 80 cents of every dollar on medical expenses rather than administrative costs, the G.O.P. leaped to their lover's defense. They aggressively attacked the legislation, railing against "socialism," that most ubiquitous of evils they seem to see everywhere.

When B.P. was forced by President Barack Obama's administration to pay out \$20 billion in compensation for damage caused by the Gulf Oil spill, Republican Congressman Joe Barton publicly apologized to B.P. He chastised Democrats for what he saw as a "shakedown" of a poor, down-on-its-luck corporation.

When the financial services industry engaged in a series of risky practices that helped cause a recession, thanks in part to the repeal of banking regulations banning such behavior, the G.O.P. continued to remain loyal, calling for even less regulation. The G.O.P. insisted that the fault couldn't possibly have been with the banking industry because, as a business, it could do no wrong.

Whether cold-heartedly denying coverage to the sick or carelessly spilling oil into the Gulf of Mexico,

big business has had its share of public failures. Yet, with each catastrophe caused by a lack of oversight, Republicans trust in business seems to only grow stronger. Now, more than ever, the G.O.P. insists that regulations must be repealed and that corporations and businesses should be trusted to operate without restraint.

This may seem irrational, but Republicans assert they really believe this. Perhaps love is affecting their judgment-or maybe its something else.

Business interests spent mightily to get Republicans elected in the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme court decision. Corporate spending easily dwarfed that of labor unions, who have been going steady with the Democrats since the 1930s. Perhaps it is money, and not simple romantic naiveté, that drives the Republican Party's devotion.

Or maybe, just maybe this love is true. Republicans might believe business can be trusted without regulations and restraints, and that all will be well in the end.

Like many long-lasting and unhealthy relationships, perhaps this marriage is built on trust: blind, unflinching, completely irrational trust.

PERSPECTIVES

Should Four Loko be banned?



"I don't think it should be banned. I think if people drink responsibly and they know what they're drinking, then it's fine. I understand that they say the alcohol with the caffeine mixed in creates a problem, but if you're an adult, then you should have the choice."

-Kendra Lee, Junior, Psychology



"I'm not sure if it should be banned. I think people should be made more aware of what's in it how it affects them. I don't think it should be banned, but people should be more aware of what they're drinking."

-Eric Vazquez, Freshman, Biology



"I think it should be banned to a limit, be more restricted in how many one could buy at one time. You can drink it without going overboard and drink four of them at one time, but some kids get out of control."

-Molly Weeks, Freshman

-Compiled by Jasmyn Elliott

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. The word count is 400-600 words. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for size, grammar, and clarity. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

VERBATIM

"There is no such thing as failure, only feedback."

Minakawa's children support his continued quest for education

AUDIT, page 12

Germany to FIU, Minakawa said here is "more rigid, not so liberal."

Germany, he said, students are not told when to take exams; instead, they take them when they feel they are ready. Minakawa's three children support him in continuing his education. His son Gerard, 36, is "extremely happy" about it.

"My father is studying and continuing to nourish his mind with new ideas and the energy of youth," Gerard said.

Leticia Minakawa has audited classes such as Art History alongside her husband, but she decided recently to take a break.

Gerard described both of his parents as curious people who ask a lot of questions.

Even though he admires that they audit classes, he might take a different approach when he grows older.

"I will definitely keep studying whenever I can, though perhaps my idea of school has more to do with grasping life by the horns," Gerard said.

Bazos has gotten to know several of the auditors over the years she has been in charge of the program.

She noticed that women would use auditing to pick up men in the past, but more often than not the reason that senior citizens audit is deeper.

"They don't want to stay home at the condo," Bazos said. "They want to keep their minds going."

This story is a class project from Professor Fred Blevens' Advanced News Writing course, JOU 3300.

DEEP MEDITATION



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Students meditating at a Yoga at the Bay session which the Student Alumni Association and the Wellness Center organized. It was the first time ever these two organizations worked together to organize an event.

Cagni Park in North Miami good for family fun

BLEEKER, page 12

(gossiped), while the younger kids ran around and got dirty, and the rest of us stuck somewhere in the

middle, did a little of both.

Cagni Park has the typical basketball courts and playgrounds you find at most South Florida parks but it also has an ice skating

rink!

I remember at one point in my life, I was a pro at skating.

Every weekend at Play-land Ice Skating Rink in

Rye, NY, with my cousins and friends, that was the "cool" place to be.

I love being a kid again and as much as my family can annoy me they can

also bring me right back to where I need to be.

The semester is almost over as is 2010, so enjoy what's left of it with no regrets!

Bleeker Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published on Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.

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JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.



ARGENTINA

House holds 1st-ever abortion debate

Federal police arrested alleged leader of drug cartel, La Familia, that offered to disband if the Mexican government proves it can protect citizens from other criminals.



CUBA

Leaked documents discuss Cuban spies

A key committee of Argentine legislators is launching a first-ever debate on legalizing abortion in the largely Roman Catholic country.



MEXICO

Alleged leader of La Familia gang arrested

Cuban intelligence agents have deep involvement in Venezuela and enjoy direct access to President Hugo Chavez, the U.S. Embassy said in a 2006 diplomatic cable that was classified as secret.

Continued education a focus for unorthodox student

JESSICA SALGADO
Contributing Writer

Roberto Minakawa is not your typical University student. Minakawa attends classes like everyone else, but does not have to take exams or write papers.

He pays his way, but nowhere near the amount of tuition.

Minakawa is a 73-year-old retired doctor who audits classes.

By auditing classes, Minakawa simply listens to lectures without receiving academic credit.

He has finished three semesters at the Biscayne Bay Campus, where he took Ecology of South Florida and Consumer Economics in the fall.

“The economy is bad, so that’s why I’m studying that now,” Minakawa said.

Minakawa was born and grew up in La Paz, Bolivia, where his parents emigrated from Japan in 1927.

He stayed in Bolivia until he graduated high school, and then attended medical school at the University of Freiburg in Germany to become an orthopedic surgeon.

He graduated in 1964, and

YOGA BY THE BAY



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

The Student Alumni Association and the Wellness Center at Biscayne Bay Campus worked together for the first time ever to organize a Yoga by the Bay session on Dec 1.

completed his residency in a number of hospitals in New York.

“New York is more exciting for young people,” Minakawa said, explaining his reasons for leaving.

He moved around a lot, practicing in Virginia and Pennsylvania, but mostly in New Jersey.

Aside from performing surgeries, Minakawa also taught in a public health hospital for four years.

However, due to illness, he could not operate anymore and retired at 65.

Minakawa moved to Aventura about five years ago with his wife, Leticia. A friend introduced them to auditing classes at the University.

Being an auditor only requires students to be at least 60 years old, a Florida resident and to get the professors’ approval.

As for the cost, they must pay \$10

for a student ID every year and the parking fee, if applicable.

With the student ID, they are able to attend events and use the facilities just like any other student.

According to Enrollment Officer Georgia Bazos, there were 38 auditors enrolled in the fall at BBC.

However, according to Bazos, the number of auditors has dropped lately because of the growth in online courses and the reduction in classes offered at BBC.

The university does not keep track of the number of auditors enrolled at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Although auditing classes is basically defined as a pastime, Minakawa does not falter in attendance.

When comparing university life in

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Post-election violence in Haitian town

JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press

Protesters demanding cancellation of Haiti’s weekend presidential election clashed with U.N. peacekeepers Tuesday, the United Nations mission and Haitian radio reported.

Radio Kiskeya said at least 15 people had been injured in two days of demonstrations north of the capital.

U.N. police sent reinforcements Tuesday but had no reports of injuries, police spokesman Jean-Francois Vezina said.

Rampant disorganization and allegations of fraud hang over Sunday’s critical vote for president, a third of the Senate and all of the lower house.

The winner of the presidential race will have to deal with Haiti’s crushing poverty, a cholera epidemic that has killed more than 1,700 people

and post-earthquake reconstruction — including overseeing billions of promised aid dollars from the United States and other nations.

Violent protests that caused several deaths occurred across northern Haiti before the election, fed by suspicions shared by public health experts that the cholera epidemic was caused by a contingent of U.N. peacekeepers.

While votes were still being cast Sunday, nearly all the major presidential candidates alleged government-backed hopeful Jude Celestin was benefiting from fraud and called for the election to be canceled. On Monday, however, leading contenders Mirlande Manigat and Michel Martelly backtracked and said the vote should stand.

Radio Kiskeya said that most of the people protesting Tuesday in St. Marc were supporters of Manigat.

A powerful senator also led pro-Manigat protests farther north in

Gonaives.

Martelly told supporters in a Tuesday address: “We will win this battle. Stay mobilized.”

Haiti’s provisional electoral council said problems were limited and called the election a success.

Organization of American States observers acknowledged many voters had been disenfranchised by disorganization, intimidation and violence but called the vote valid.

But a delegation of U.S. Congress members led by Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina voiced “serious concerns” about the election.

“We urge the U.S. government, the OAS and the UN to give full consideration to the charges of fraud and abuse and to await the result of any investigation before passing judgment on the conduct of Haiti’s elections,” the legislators said in a statement Tuesday.

BLEEKER MEETS BISCAYNE

Advice for the upcoming holidays: enjoy the indoors

I love long holiday weekends, but most of all I enjoy the back-to-back holiday season that starts with Thanksgiving and ends with the start of a new year.

With the hustle and bustle of people coming and going, I think this is the main reason why I associate the holidays so much with home.

COLUMNIST



SANDY ZAPATA

The fast paced movement, the chaos, loud conversations, music blasting, the massive amounts of family and friends that stay at your house and of course...the cool holiday air.

Well minus the cold air in Miami, everything else still applies.

Finals are coming up, which by the way, good luck everyone! And shortly after we’ll be done for the 2010 calendar year.

With that in mind, I fell into the holiday spirit and started to think of the people and things I was most grateful to have in my life.

Since money is tight, one night the girls and a few unexpected guy friends, decided to have a night in, “Game Night.”

It turned out to be a typical Latin house party.

Seven girls, four guys, a wii, taboo, an ipod and some good old Dominican drinks to rule the night, I, if not all of us were sucked into a Bronx kind of night.

Growing up in New York was always interesting and when you’re a pre-teen or teenager, the parties you attend aren’t high class, upper west side events.

No, our parties consisted of an old fashioned stereo system, small living rooms, moms cooking and everyone from the neighborhood cramming in your house.

To this day, nothing compares. What started off as a mildly quite night turned out to be the most fun I’ve had in a very long time.

This is my theory: if you’re in good company with no awkward or strange attachments to anyone, and you have good music, the night is bound to be memorable.

And it was. The majority of freshmen and sophomore college students are underage anyways, so the Miami club scene isn’t much of a place you can go.

My suggestion: stay in!

But if you are of legal drinking age and want to add to the party, Flannigan’s on 13205 Biscayne Blvd., open until about 1 a.m., you can split the money between all of your friends and buy a bottle for the night.

Save on gas, entrance, parking and stay local while probably having a better night than you would in South Beach.

A few days after, the family and I took a trip to Cagni Park, on 13498 NE 8th Ave in North Miami, for some BBQ and unexpected indoor fun.

The old people sat around and *chismosiaron*

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