



## KENYA

### Potential arrest threat sparks panic

An official with Kenya's largest gay rights organization, Nguru Karugu, says there is panic among its members following remarks made by Kenya's prime minister that homosexuals should be arrested



## RUSSIA

### Plant to destroy chemical weapons opens

Russia will miss a 2012 deadline for destroying all of its chemical weapons, officials said Friday as they inaugurated a major new plant to dispose of them.



## CAMBODIA

### No punishment for fatal stampede

Cambodia's prime minister said Monday that no one will be punished for last week's stampede in which at least 351 revelers died after the swaying of a suspension bridge cause mass panic.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Dr. Oren Baruch Stier and Dr. Aisha Musa (left to right), both professors of Religious Studies, held a panel discussion called "The Cordoba Institute, Park 51, and 'The Ground Zero Mosque': Separating Fact from Fiction" on Nov. 18 in PG5.

# Study reveals cases of sexual misconduct vastly underreported

**LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA**  
Asst. News Director

The U.S. Department of Justice released a study revealing that about one in four college women will be raped or a victim of attempted rape by the time she graduates.

These incidents are also widely under-reported by women between the ages of 16 to 24 because of the prevalence of acquaintance rape in their age group and women's inability to identify when their rights have been violated to begin with.

"The majority of rapes are not by strangers jumping out of the bushes like we sometimes see on TV, that's actually the least common," said Erika Nerette, assistant director of the University's Victim Advocacy Center.

Friends, co-workers, classmates, work colleagues or teammates can commit acquaintance rape.

"Victims just want to forget about the incident, while reporting it means

you have to relive it in a way. Sometimes they blame themselves and shame is involved especially if they had been drinking asking themselves 'Why did I trust this person?' or 'Why did I let him in my place?' Or they don't want to get perpetrator in trouble," said Nerette.

The VAC sees an average of 25 victims of sexual violence a year.

The 2009 VAC Crime Statistics reported a total of 11 of crimes of sexual violence to students for which they provided free and confidential services. Three of those 11 occurred on campus and only two were reported to law enforcement, but in every case the victim knew the perpetrator.

"The other female victims we see could be related to relationship abuse, stalking or other forms of victimization. We occasionally assist male victims of sexual assault as well," said Nerette.

This discrepancy can largely be correlated to 82 percent of the

"at-risk" college-age population, according to the 1996 survey of 4,446 women by the National College Women Sexual Victimization, sponsored by the Department of Justice.

"There is a stigma associated with being a 'victim' and women and men alike are taught to believe that if they are victimized, they may have done something to 'deserve it,' said Jessica Franchi-Alfaro, a University alumna and former VAC peer educator. "Those who have experienced a violent act or felt threatened or intimidated at one point may not be aware of the resources available to them on campus."

Franchi-Alfaro received both her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master of Social Work degree both her bachelor and master's degrees in social work from the University. She currently works at Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center as a Domestic

**RAPE, page 2**

# Nowell helps college students focus on emotional health

**DIEGO PARRA**  
Contributing Writer

A brown desk aligns perfectly with the bookshelf. Every book is neatly organized, illuminated by beams of light shooting in from a half-closed blind.

The office is as subdued and calming as the voice of its occupant, Dr. Cheryl Singleton Nowell, director of the University's Counseling and Psychological Services Center, whose mission is to help parents and students focus on emotional health before, during and after the college transition.

Nowell was born in Canton, Ohio, in a typical middle-class Midwestern African-American family. She was reared with solid Christian values at a time when segregation and lack of opportunities for African-Americans ruled the day.

"My parents stressed education and the value of learning," Nowell said. "They grew up in the South and at that time it was very difficult for African-Americans to go to school, so my parents had to make sacrifices in order to get a high school education and for my father being an African-American male was even dangerous sometimes to go to school."

Nowell's father finished high school in the Navy and her mother struggled to get her high school diploma, but at that time, black educators really wanted their students to learn.

"It's interesting because even though my parents only received a high school education their writing was excellent. Their knowledge in science and geography was outstanding and their speech was exceptional. People



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Dr. Cheryl Nowell in her office located at the University's Psychological Services Center

really learned at that time inside the black school system," Nowell said.

Nowell has three sisters and one brother, all of whom attended college.

"It's fascinating to see the dreams of the 50s and 60s finally materialized," Nowell said. "Now we have the opportunity to be whatever we want and become whatever we choose to be."

Nowell is a graduate in clinical psychology from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Her first college years as a commuter student at one of the university branches near her hometown were very similar to the experience of some of the students at FIU.

Going to work during the day and attending classes during the evening, Nowell had a very collegial experience in a smaller

setting where people really had the opportunity to know each other and enjoy their similarities.

For her bachelor's she had to transfer to the university main campus, about 30 miles away, where she experienced a much larger crowd and a more impersonal environment; very challenging for a young woman coming from a small town.

For her graduate degree, she finally had the experience of living on campus, giving her much more time for study and socialization.

Nowell has been a licensed psychologist in Florida for more than 20 years. The story of how she ended up living and working in Miami could be defined as the search for a warm winter tempered by love.

"I wanted to live one winter with no snow

and I had some friends in Florida and Georgia, so I applied both places and I happened to get hired in Florida," Nowell said.

What she didn't know was that while she was attending a workshop at the Biscayne Bay Campus, she would find a reason to stay.

The workshop was divided into small groups. At the end of the conference she realized that she didn't know how to get back to the highway, so she asked one of the members of her group. Instead of showing her the way back to the highway he invited her for a cup of coffee to avoid the chaotic 5 p.m. traffic.

Afterward, he guided her back to I-95, and later became her husband.

Liane Dornheim, a licensed psychologist at FIU, describes Nowell as a wonderful clinical supervisor. Nowell was Dornheim's manager when she was a pre-doctoral intern. Nowell was the trainer who helped her develop her strengths in neurophysiology for students with disabilities. For Dornheim, Nowell is a very thoughtful leader who always takes care of her employees under any circumstances.

"I was a lowly intern and I had this homeless student living in her car at FIU," Dornheim said. "I gave her \$20 just to make sure she could buy some necessities; therapists are not supposed to get personally involved with their clients."

"The next day I confessed in supervision with Dr. Nowell, getting ready for the scolding. Her only reply was to repay me, because I was an intern," she said

"The Counseling and Psychological

**NOWELL, page 2**

## WEIRD NEWS

### Woman fears her breasts will be re-possessed

A German woman who splashed out on breast implants with a loan from her then boyfriend now fears her assets could be repossessed after she failed to fully reimburse him, the 20-year-old woman told Bild newspaper.

Her ex-boyfriend is demanding that she return the \$5,865 he gave her to pay for her breast enlargement surgery in 2009 or he'll call the police and get the repossessors involved, Bild reported on Wednesday.

But the pair split shortly after she underwent the plastic surgery. The woman said she had transferred 3,000 euros into her ex-boyfriend's account last week.

### Shopowner sells himself winning lottery ticket

A shop owner in western Pennsylvania has sold himself a winning \$1.8 million lottery ticket — and as the seller of the ticket, he'll get an extra \$10,000.

Ron Rea owns Tobacco World stores in Uniontown and Belle Vernon. He bought the winning ticket for the Nov. 18 Match 6 Lotto drawing at the Belle Vernon store.

Rea says he doesn't play the lottery's Daily Number, but he spends about \$20 a day on tickets for games with higher odds. Rea's ticket was worth \$1,782,432. The 68-year-old Rea says the winnings will help him and his wife of 38 years, Rita, build their retirement funds.

### Students Start Competitive Eating Team

Some college students are hungry to learn. Others are just hungry.

A crew of big eaters at the University of Maryland have put their stomachs on the line, founding what could be the nation's first collegiate competitive eating club. The University of Maryland motto is 'Fear the Turtle,'" said Keith Solomon, club founder and president of the competitive eating club team at the University of Maryland. "Our motto is 'Feed the Turtle.'"

Solomon founded the competitive club during his freshman year when he and his friends realized their university meal plans came with an expiration date. And they aren't the type who like letting meals go to waste. Steven did not think that she was a good dancer."

— Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

# Election statutes 'unconstitutional'

VINCENT FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

A grievance filed by former Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Press Secretary Dean Gabriel Williams led the SGC-MMC judiciary to deem the current elections board statutes unconstitutional.

In a press release sent out on Nov. 28, SGC-MMC Associate Justice Michael Foley delivered the opinion of the court explaining that, "This court finds that the Student Elections Board does not constitutionally possess such powers to create and establish laws governing the elections process."

The grievance allowed for the court to finally investigate the elections board statutes which have in the past raised

many issues and concerns about the constitutionality of the rules.

According to the SGC-MMC statutes, the Student Elections Board is allowed to create temporary laws during elections which are fully enforced by the constitution and would not require approval by the senate.

SGC-MMC Attorney General Altanese Phenelus argued that these guidelines "are a necessity due to the fact it allows the Elections Board the ability to make quick decisions under unpredictable situations during the elections cycle." Although this is true, because the laws do not undergo any approval by the senate it allows for awkward situations to arise.

"The fact that its legisla-

tive abilities were temporary does not preclude injustice nor necessarily make elections free and fair. The framers of our governing bodies regarded values higher than efficiency in the drafting of the document," mentioned Foley.

"This ability predisposes a fair and equal elections process and is constitutionally delegated from the President, in its Executive Order powers, to this Board," said Phenelus.

This grievance was elicited due to troubles that arose last year during elections, when the Student Elections Board passed a law preventing for students to campaign together during elections week.

SGC-MMC Senate Speaker William-Jose Velez explained that after this ruling was passed, SGC-MMC Speaker

Pro Tempore Hector Mujica and one other filed a grievance along with Velez against the constitutionality of the law. After the grievance was heard, the former elections board statutes were amended.

Due to the current SGA rules, the grievance filed by Williams would have been retracted, but he submitted it as a concerned student. Now that the court has decided that the current statutes are unconstitutional, the bill will now have to be reviewed by the Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee so they can determine what rules will be constitutional.

Elections week is upcoming after the winter break, and currently there is no person acting as elections board commissioner.

# Victims have trouble recalling rapes

RAPE, page 1

Violence Therapist and with the Safespace Foundation on evenings and weekends as the Program Coordinator for the Women's Empowerment Group.

"There's a lot of guilt and embarrassment associated with rape, and when part of the police's job is to ask questions over and over for the victims to recall step by step what happened, that's hard for them. Also, the exams to collect forensics evidence are very invasive," said Nerette in an interview with Student Media.

The sexual assault count in the University's crime statistics report, in accordance with the 1990 Clery Act, which requires that higher education institutions whose students receive federal financial aid collect and report crime data to the U.S. Department of Education, are accurate, according to Nerette.

Some of the limitations in reports stem from them seeing victims that have been assaulted as long ago as 12 years, two

months or even last night because victims don't always immediately realize they have been victims of rape.

"It happens sometimes, especially in acquaintance rape, if they consent to making out but not to having sex, if they didn't fight back, they get confused and aren't sure whether it was rape, but we know that forced or coerced consent is not consent at all," said Nerette.

The University defines their "sexual misconduct" offense as "any sexual act that occurs, regardless of personal relationship, without the consent of the other person, or that occurs when the other person is unable to give consent," including but not limited to "conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive campus, educational, or working environment for another person [such as] unwanted, unwelcome, inappropriate, or irrelevant sexual or gender-based activities, comments or gestures."

The VAC assists victims of all crimes, primarily sexual assault, dating/

domestic violence and stalking. Other crimes include, but are not limited to abuse, assault, battery, adult survivors of child abuse/sexual abuse, hate crimes, homicide survivors, property crimes, secondary victims, etc. Services are available to students, faculty/staff and university visitors.

The VAC also has a Peer Education program providing one-hour presentations on prevention and awareness to first-year experience classes and any other individuals or organizations requesting a presentation.

"I chose to be a VAC peer educator because I had either witnessed or heard of experiences that friends and family had to endure with regards to victimization.

As a result, I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to educate others.

It was especially important for me to help spread awareness at FIU due to the alarming statistics with reference to dating violence, sexual assault and stalking," said Franchi-Alfaro.

# Nowell recipient of Martin Luther King service award

NOWELL, page 1

Services Center normally provides short-term therapies of eight to 12 hours; however, some clients have severe medical conditions and severe financial problems. They are allowed to continue therapy thanks to Dr. Nowell."

Recently Nowell won a Martin Luther King Service Award for her service helping students at FIU and her involvement in the community over the years. She is part of a community center in Liberty City dedicated to finding scholarships and grants to improve the neighborhood.

Even so, Nowell said her most important accomplishment is how she has been able to transmit her core

values to her sons.

"I didn't do it all, but I am very proud of my sons because they are good people; I like them. They have good values and I just see them becoming good men." Nowell said.

Rowena Ramnath has worked with Nowell for the past seven years and considers her to be a mentor. She describes Nowell as a driven, conscientious, strategic and compassionate professional and as an ideal mother, a devoted wife and an affable friend.

Her employees portray Nowell as an inspirational and innovative individual who motivates them to achieve their goals.

Under her direction, the center has developed a fully online self-help workshop

that includes online mental screenings. While Norwell worked here the American Psychological Association accredited the counseling center's pre-doctoral internship program.

She also launched the biofeedback and de-stress clinics and is responsible for the integration of the Victim Advocacy Center.

"She is understanding and flexible with everyone at the center," said Jose Sandoval, FIU counselor who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders.

"She allows everyone to take on tasks that are meaningful to them and supports their work. I believe that her leadership has helped tremendously in our transition as we merge with the Victim Advocacy Center."

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## FOOTBALL

# Panthers have realized a new 'reality' for the program

**R**eality has begun to settle in. After years of struggles and sweat and tears while suffering the agony of defeat and disappointment, the Golden Panthers finally have something to show for it. And the "reality" of this night is not the same that this team is used to.

### COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

It is something complete new and foreign. But just as exhilarating and profound.

As defensive lineman Jarvis Wilson knocked a last gasp fourth down pass into the air near the line of scrimmage and as it fell harmlessly onto the artificial turf with little time left on the clock, it started to feel real.

And when the clock ran out and the team rushed out onto the field to celebrate with raw emotion, it became as real as it ever gets.

"It's very real," Cristobal said afterward. "This all didn't happen today. This is the result of relentless and endless work. That fight through adversity led to this... years and years of going through hell."

### RISING UP

It took nine seasons, a lot of setbacks and even more heartaches for the Golden Panthers to achieve the euphoria of this moment. And for Cristobal and the rest of his players, this one victory was the vindication of all of those program low points.

For Greg Ellingson, it was his first taste of a championship at any level. For Wesley Carroll, it was an opportunity to go back to a bowl game as an FBS starting quarterback.

And for many on this team, it was their first taste of true success at the collegiate level.

"Emotions are firing everywhere," Ellingson stated, not quite sure of how to respond to the tangible success of the evening. "

In spite of all the setbacks and all the sanctions and all the adversity and anonymity, here they stand with a Sun Belt Conference title and a guaranteed trip to a yet-to-determined bowl destination.

They will have an opportunity to bask in the glow of a national spotlight for one night, a chance to show the nation what FIU can do at a brand new level.

But this is really just the beginning.

There is still work to be done and with more success comes more exposure, and with it comes raised expectations.

The bar will always continually be raised. The team embraces that fact, in fact they relish it.

"When you're on top, everyone's gunning for you," Carroll said. "It's about dealing with that success. We wanted this and it's a great position to be in."

### RIGHT DIRECTION



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Senior linebacker Toronto Smith [middle] is lifted by teammates Caleb Vincent [left] and Greg Hickman [right] after FIU's bowl clinching victory over Arkansas State on Nov. 27.

Now the team is safely ahead of schedule in terms of its progression, defying the odds placed against them and shedding its middle-of-the-pack Sun Belt image, but still has a long ways to go in terms of achieving their long-term goals.

There is little debate now, however, that this team is headed in the right direction and that they are on a course that will allow

them to consistently succeed, especially in the Sun Belt conference.

The attitude is beginning to be altered and we have seen the transformation take place before our very eyes through the course of this season at its different stages, evolving into a team that is able to over-

**DELGADO, page 4**

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL; THANKSGIVING CLASSIC

# FIU defeats Indiana State for Thanksgiving Classic title

**RICO ALBARRACIN**  
Staff Writer

The Panthers went into the Thanksgiving weekend with a purpose and came out victorious.

FIU easily defeated Indiana State University 68-47 in the championship game of the FIU Thanksgiving Classic. This was the sixth championship for FIU in the 16 year history of the Classic.

It was also the first championship for the team since 2005. Sophomore Jerica Coley was named Tournament MVP while averaging 16 points, seven rebounds, and four assists per game. Coley felt her opportunities just came and she took advantage of them.

"That's how I play, and the offense we play it makes it a little easier for me to get those opportunities," Coley said.

Coley was quick to start, scoring nine points in the first 10 minutes of the game. Coley attacked the basket and took advantage of the lack of interior defense. When the defense would collapse on Coley, she would kick it out to junior Rakia Rodgers for two three-pointers to give the Panthers a 22-11 lead.

The Sycamores fought back to slowly get back into the game. Shannon Thomas and Anna Munn found some holes in the Panther defense to help ISU go on a 16-8 run to cut the lead to 30-27 going into halftime.

Although the Sycamores fought back by beating the Panthers to the rebounds with a 25-20 advantage, they only shot 29 percent from the field in the first half. The shooting struggles would continue. Coley felt it was just about being aggressive.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Senior guard Michelle Gonzalez drives against Eastern Kentucky on Nov. 20.

"I just tried to come out and be aggressive. Get as many rebounds as I could because that's what coach emphasized on," Coley said. "Pushed the ball. I figured that we could outrun them and get transition buckets."

Both teams struggled to score points at the beginning of the second half, with the score only being tied at 32 with 5 minutes going by. The Panthers got their offense going with sophomore Finda Mansare, who scored seven consecutive points for FIU to give them a 39-36 lead. The Sycamores could not find a basket, as the Panthers would begin to pull away with a 13-3 run led by Coley and Mansare.

ISU resorted to shooting from three point range to get themselves back into the game yet continued to miss shot after shot. Meanwhile, FIU continued to push the tempo of their offense and score easy baskets to finish the game on a 16-8 run to win 68-47.

Although the rebounding total was close, the Panthers struggled by allowing 19 second chance opportunities. Fortunately for FIU, the Sycamores struggled shooting the ball, hitting 17 percent in the second half and 23 percent for the game. Mansare feels that although there was a win, they can still improve.

"Before each game, our emphasis is on

rebounding and solid defense. That's our coaches philosophy," Mansare said. "If you have a good rebounding team and a good defensive team, you have a better chance to win. We can always be better."

Coley led all scorers with 18 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and four blocks, while Rodgers added 16 points and seven rebounds. Mansare chipped in 13 points while Fanni Hutlassa contributed a game high ten rebounds.

While Jerica Coley gained the Tournament MVP honor, two other Panthers represented FIU (4-2) on the FIU Thanksgiving Classic All Tournament Team. Rakia Rodgers and Michelle Gonzalez joined Ashar Harris (Morehead State), Brenna Bankston (Western Michigan), Taylor Whitley, and Kelsie Cooley (Indiana State) on the team. Rodgers averaged 12.5 points and eight rebounds a game, while Gonzalez put up 13.5 points and 4.5 assists per game.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### THANKSGIVING CLASSIC ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM

Ashar Harris - Morehead State - Sophomore Forward  
Brenna Bankston - Western Michigan - Senior Guard  
Taylor Whitley - Indiana State - Sophomore Guard  
Kelsie Cooley - Indiana State - Senior Forward  
Rakia Rodgers - FIU - Junior Forward  
Michelle Gonzalez - FIU - Senior Guard

All Tournament MVP  
Jerica Coley - FIU - Freshman Guard

## FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

## Cristobal thinks team is ahead of schedule; Thomas reacts

**IGOR MELLO**  
Staff Writer

Mario Cristobal had no idea what kind of obstacles he was inheriting at FIU. A year after he agreed to become the head coach in 2007, Cristobal saw his football program hit with a variety of infractions, violations that was set by the previous regime.

Cristobal was stripped of three scholarships and was placed on a four-year probationary period.

In just his fourth season as a head coach, Cristobal is at the top of the Sun Belt Conference.

His Golden Panthers have clinched a bowl berth and at least a share of the conference title after defeating Arkansas State 31-24 on Nov. 27.

This will mark the first time that FIU are playing a postseason game in school's history.

"My wife can tell you...the day I accepted this job, I said [to her], 'I'll see

you in five years.'," said Cristobal. "And that was before we found out about the sanctions, the lost scholarships, things that probably double our timeline and instead four years later and ahead of schedule, we find ourselves in this particular seat right now."

Cristobal's teams have showed a flash of brilliance.

In just his second year after taking over a Golden Panther team that finished 0-12, Cristobal won five games. But after going 3-9 in 2009, Cristobal bounced back to lead FIU in to a historic season.

"Without a question, we are the greatest story in the country this year, in my humble opinion," Cristobal said.

Despite being ahead of schedule, Cristobal credits seniors such as linebacker Toronto Smith for overcoming the obstacles along the years and using them to become leaders of the team.

"Toronto Smith going out there against Penn State in Happy Valley four years ago and having to take on a pile of two or three-

hundred pound offensive lineman smacking him in the side of the head," said Cristobal. "[That] helped him in the goal-line stand last week [against Louisiana-Lafayette], it helped him become a tremendous team leader in this off-season. The lessons are countless. The most satisfying thing is just sitting back and watching or guys just take it all in. I've seen what they have been through."

#### ISIAH THOMAS ON FIU FOOTBALL

Cristobal's success has even spread through the men's basketball team.

Isiah Thomas, a hall-of-famer and current coach of the hoops team acknowledges the hard work that Cristobal has put in.

"I'm happy for Mario," Thomas said. "I'm happy for all the Panther football players. They've worked extremely hard. Having a winning attitude around the school, having that winning formula around the school, definitely bodes well for the community and what we're trying to accomplish at FIU."

#### FIU CAN WIN SUN BELT OUTRIGHT ON SENIOR NIGHT

But despite clinching a bowl berth, Cristobal's job is not done. With a win against Middle Tennessee State University at Senior Night on Dec. 4, the Golden Panthers will be outright champions of the Sun Belt Conference.

"I think that when you win, you coach that much harder. I'm a firm believer in that," said Cristobal, who learned this from his Columbus high school coach Dennis Lavelle. "That son of a gun. Whenever we won a game and our guys would feel pretty good about ourselves, that's when he did his hardest coaching, which made us a good team."

A victory against MTSU would also guarantee FIU a chance to play in either R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl or the GoDaddy.com Bowl, diminishing the possibility of playing in the Little Caesars Bowl in Detroit on Dec. 26.

## MIAMI HEAT

## Heat search for answers as detractors celebrate

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Sports Writer

When it comes to the Miami Heat, it almost seems like there's no choice between loving 'em or hating 'em.

Most hate 'em.

Booing, sure, that's a given. Happens in every arena in the league, even sometimes their own. Hawkers of "Beat The Heat" T-shirts in Orlando were busy when Miami visited there last week. In Philadelphia, Dwyane Wade got jeered more loudly than ever, getting no love in the city where it's allegedly brotherly. And the only time LeBron James draws applause on the road is when something goes wrong.

Which, to the delight of many in the NBA, is happening far more often than anyone expected.

"I want them to lose all their games," Dallas owner Mark Cuban said.

Hey, they're coming close.

A team that expected magnificence is getting mediocrity instead — a 9-8 record entering Monday's game against Washington. The Heat began the day in sixth place in the Eastern Conference, a half-game ahead of the New York Knicks. If the Heat had that record in the West, they'd be barely hanging on to the final playoff spot.

And this week, James goes back to Cleveland for the first time as a visiting player. For as harshly as the Heat have been received until now, Thursday's trip to a city scorned by its longtime hero might prove downright venomous.

"If you lose, no one's going to be

happy, nor should they be," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Well, actually, plenty of people are happy about it — the rest of the NBA, for starters.

From the moment that James made his decision on July 8 to play for Miami, the Heat knew this was coming. They knew they would carry the biggest bulls-eye in the NBA, even though the Los Angeles Lakers are the defending champions and the Boston Celtics are the reigning kings of the Eastern Conference.

Taking hits from across the league, that's one thing.

Taking hits from one another, that's the latest issue.

James bumped Spoelstra during a time-out in Dallas on Saturday night, a shoulder-to-shoulder bump that may have been unintentional, may have been out of frustration, may have been intended to send a message. James reached back instantly, almost as if making an apology, but no matter — by the time that quarter was over, the play was already on YouTube and the Twitterverse was buzzing that the two-time NBA MVP just hit his coach.

"A perfect case of overspeculation on this team," Spoelstra said.

Yes, but to that fire, the Heat added plenty of fuel.

After that game, the Heat held a players-only meeting for 40 minutes. And on Monday, Spoelstra was hardly getting votes of confidence from players like Wade, who said no one — not coaches, not players — should feel good about the state of things in the Heat world.

## Team finally responds to pressure and can advance

**DELGADO, page 3**

come its own mistakes.

No longer does the team's psyche collapse when things went wrong and a response was needed but never delivered. The Golden Panthers being out-manned and out-matched in conference play are a thing of the past.

Finally, the Golden Panthers have the ability to close out games and fans are no longer waiting for that seemingly signature FIU meltdown.

"We know that it's not a matter of reacting, but a matter of responding," Cristobal said of the team's ability to come up with big time plays in clutch situations. "We kept finding ways to respond."

#### PULLING THROUGH

The victory was culmination of all the things that have gone right for the

Golden Panthers, a sign of the things that are to follow.

With the stakes higher than they have ever been, the Golden Panthers rose to the occasion and despite being met with great resistance by a tough Arkansas State team, withstood and came back despite being down with less than three minutes remaining in the game.

T.Y. Hilton making a clutch reception on fourth down to keep the eventual game-winning drive alive, Wayne Times reaching into the end zone to put the Golden Panthers ahead by a touchdown late in the fourth, and the defense making critical stops with the Red Wolves on the move led to a complete team effort.

Now the team can focus on bigger and better things.

And now they can put to rest the painful first chapter of their existence and start writing a brand new one.

"When you go through stretches where you're not playing up to your capability, there's always something wrong," Wade said. "There's always a problem. There's always a big problem. It's not anything we're concerned with."

Wade said he didn't see the James-Spoelstra interaction during that time-out, which came during a horrific start to the second half by Miami.

"If there was a bump, it was just two guys walking at the same time, just happened to bump each other," Wade said.

There's been no shortage of bumps in

the road, though, for the Heat this season.

And given the star power Miami has with James, Wade and Bosh — not to mention a Hall of Famer like Pat Riley overseeing the franchise — everything the Heat say and do gets analyzed like no other team in the league experiences.

"It's just crazy," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said, looking incredulously around Orlando's press room. "You play the Heat and it's like double the crowd in here. My God, it's like they're the only team in the league."

For their part, the Heat don't necessarily enjoy that feeling either.

# PANTHER

# SPORTS TALK LIVE

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 10AM TO 11AM

95.3, 96.9, 88.1 FIU STUDENT RADIO  
STREAMING LIVE AT FIUSM.COM

## PULSING ART

# Pulse art festival brings contemporary art to the public

**KATHY PAZ**  
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again! No, not the holiday season. Three words: Art Basel Week. Art Basel Miami Beach is the largest art festival in the country, held annually in December since 2002.

While the main event takes place in the South Beach Convention Center, various exhibitions, shows and events are hosted all week long throughout the city. The Wynwood District, the Miami Design District and Downtown Miami are just some of the areas that participate in the phenomena.

The festival grows yearly, drawing thousands of enthusiasts and collectors alike. And the best part? Most events are free and open to the public.

Though not complimentary (admission runs at \$10 for students), the PULSE Contemporary Art Festival is sure to be one of the highlights of Art Basel.

As the leading art fair in the country dedicated solely to contemporary art, PULSE is held annually in both New York and Miami.

The goal at hand is to bridge the gap between

main and alternative fairs and provide participating galleries with a platform to present new works to a strong and growing audience of collectors, art professionals and art lovers.

Running from December 2-5, PULSE is taking place at The Ice Palace, located at 1400 North Miami Avenue in the Media and Entertainment District.

As the sixth installment of the fair, this year's PULSE has a lot to live up to.

This task will fall at the hands of a new director, Cornell DeWitt.

In an initial press release, DeWitt said, "I am thrilled at the opportunity to direct a fair as consistently exciting as PULSE. Each year, we further refine what makes it great: an outstanding presentation of art from leading galleries around the world, in an intimate and vibrant environment. This year, we are particularly excited about the new galleries that we are bringing to the Miami market, while we also introduce more diversity in our cultural programming. We are proud of our status as an essential component of the global art market and the Miami cultural

community." PULSE will incorporate over 80 of the leading and emerging international galleries.

The 2010 fair will also introduce a new focus: the culture and city of Miami, an emphasis on the experience of visitors, culinary partnership and social opportunities.

Confirmed exhibitors range from galleries in major cities of the United States, like New York and San Francisco, to international ones located in areas such as Germany and Spain.

Aside from the fair, PULSE is also responsible for hosting various special projects.

According to the festival's website, "PULSE's signature program of large-scale sculptures, installations and performances features works throughout the main building, garden and plaza areas. The program offers exhibitors and independent artists alike an opportunity to present works that are otherwise incompatible with a traditional booth layout such as performances, installations or large-scale works."

Calder Brannock of "Camper Contemporary", for instance, created and

curates a mobile gallery set up inside a fully functioning 1967 Yellowstone camper.

Another example of this is "Wall," a choreographic experiment presented and conducted by Shannon Gillen & Guests.

It will be presented in part with a sound installation by Brian Whitman. Multiple daily showings held throughout the festival run about 30 minutes.

PULSE is sure to enhance the experience of visitors by welcoming them to input their personal

perspective on the contemporary art scene.

The fair kicks off is on Thursday and runs until

Sunday. Check <http://www.pulse-art.com/miami> for more information.

### PULSE CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL

- Time: 1 p.m.- 7 p.m. on Thursday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday
- Where: The Ice Palace, North Miami
- How Much: \$10 for students



"Espacio Liquido Booth" from last year's Pulse Art Festival. Pulse takes place simultaneously with Art Basel in Miami Beach.

### CLOSE UP



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Photographs from students' travels abroad are hung on the walls of the piano room in GC. Filip Panovski, a freshman studying computer science, admires photographs that were in the Annual International Photo Contest.

### POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

## Christmas songs don't spread Christmas cheer

As my family sits around me decorating a Christmas tree, I can't get into the Christmas spirit. There's nothing wrong with our specific brand of Christmas preparation. It's largely what you'd expect.

#### COLUMNIST



CHRIS TOWERS

Stockings are hung by the staircase with care; Delicate ornaments are being gingerly placed upon the branches of the 8-foot Fir tree; A cherub sits atop the top of the tree, and everyone is working together to make everything as festive as possible.

Except for me.

Take note, Bill O'Reilly. I am on a war against Christmas,

and it's nothing personal meant towards Jesus of Nazareth.

Rather, there is a murderous rage burning inside of me, and I have Mariah Carey, Paul McCartney, \*Nsync, and Bing Crosby to thank. And Bob Geldof.

Especially Bob Geldof.

If I karate kick the angel off the crown of the tree and set fire to the stockings, I hope I'll be able to get out of serious jail time by claiming temporary insanity, caused by a collection of 80's pop singers bemoaning the meteorological conditions in Africa, noting that "the only water flowing is the bitter sting of tears" and that "there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas."

# Group's glam-rock fourth effort reaches for return to arenas

## CHRISTMAS, page 5

You can call me a Grinch, but there are very few subject areas that bring out worse in performers and songwriters than Christmas; Children may be the only topic that consistently produces worse music as inspiration.

Perhaps the worst example is Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime," the culmination of his indulgence in every horrible 80's impulse that came through his head.

From the obligatory sleigh bells (Oh, how I loathe sleigh bells...) to the delayed synthesizer lead, it marked arguably the low point of a regrettable decade from the former Beatle, though one sadly must use "arguably" because of that horrible mullet he sported and the Ovation acoustic electric guitar he was fond of.

Worse than the songs specifically written as quick cash ins on the season, destined to be included on every "Now! That's What I Call Christmas" collection until the sun burns out, are the songs that have been no

connection to Christmas beyond that some station's programming director thought they would work in the rotation and some vague connection to winter.

The only gift Santa has brought so far this season has been the death of 93 Rock, "South Florida's Pure Rock Station", but even that only led to the birth of the all Christmas songs station. Frosty The Snowman has risen from the ashes of Bubba the Love Sponge.

If you listen to this station long enough, you'll likely hear Jewel's "Hands", which was originally co-opted as a post-9/11 tribute song and which has now apparently become a Christmas standard, complete with a new orchestral arrangement and bell accompaniment.

"Hands" doesn't have even the most fleeting references to Christmas, and yet there it is nestled up next to Rudolph and Noel.

I'm not trying to defend the song's artistic merits or criticize anyone for reinterpreting as banal and devoid of meaning a song as this one, but it's amazing how seemingly

anything can be turned into a holiday carol as long as it expresses no original emotion or thoughts and cannot possibly offend anyone's sensibilities.

Jewel is, clearly, perfect for this new era of Christmas music.

As the holidays approach, maybe Msrs. Crosby, McCartney, Bono and Geldof and their little yodeling elf can melt my icy heart, but if you see the smoldering ruins of a Christmas tree on 7th street, you'll know I couldn't make it through the season. I snapped.

But I'll get off. My lawyer will play "All I Want For Christmas Is You."

There's not a jury in the land that wouldn't acquit me.

### MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE- DANGER DAYS: THE TRUE LIVES OF THE FABULOUS KILLJOYS (RELEASED NOV. 19, REPRISE RECORDS)

Everything about this band seems to belie the music they make.

Their fans are largely unsmiling and

overly serious, for a long time they wore goth inspired makeup and often make references murder, blood, and death.

But this is glam-rock inspired pop music at it's absolute finest.

There's some kind of vague post-apocalyptic theme going on here, but understanding it is not important to enjoying the album, especially with hooks and choruses as gigantic and catchy as on songs like "Bullet-proof Heart" and "S/C/A/R/E/C/R/O/W".

With 2006's *The Black Parade*, they established themselves as one of the best mainstream rock bands going, and this album does nothing to change that.

They're playing the relatively tiny Revolution club in 2011 as their star has dimmed some, but this is music better suited for the rafters of an arena.

They'll get back there before long.

*Pop and Circumstance is a bi-weekly column on all things related to music. Look for it every other Wednesday. Reviewers are not compensated for favorable reviews.*

## PANEL PANEL

# Universe switching comic provides best of both worlds

Thanks to Vertigo comics, readers can find another misunderstood teenager as the hero of a story. Within the first three pages of the very first issue, Joe in *Joe the Barbarian* is shown to be quiet, unassuming and misunderstood.

### COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

His mother scolds him for wanting to spend his time in the graveyard where his father is buried and bullies make it impossible for Joe to have any alone time, something Joe seems to prefer

While these may seem like boring trivialities that do not belong in a comic book meant for entertainment, they are actually very important pieces of the mundane world Joe lives in. The most useful information readers discern from these quiet parts of the story is that Joe has Type 1 Diabetes and his low blood sugar causes him to stumble into his home and pass out on his bed in the attic.

Then Joe, with the reader in tow, is transported to a strange new land full of magic, evil warlords and heroic soldiers.

At first, the cause of it all seems to obviously be hallucinations due to Joe's low blood sugar.

But after he falls out of bed and crawls from his room in search of the kitchen so he can get a soda, Joe also falls off a mountain and into the path of a giant warrior rat that insists that Joe's dream is real.

Constantly switching back and forth between Joe's dark apartment and the twilight of a dense forest, the art spares no expense in either scene. Though it has a rough and sketchy quality, artist Sean

Murphy manages to provide detail in both of Joe's worlds. This detail is emphasized within the parallel journeys Joe travels.

While he stumbles into the bathroom to rinse his face in the tub, he also relaxes under a waterfall with his newfound comrades.

At first, one may accuse *Joe the Barbarian* of having a weak plot that is unable to last 8 whole issues, but thanks to the writer, Grant Morrison, readers are dragged into the lush and exciting world that Joe finds himself in.

In addition to the fun and adventure, the seem-

ingly simple idea of the series is elaborated on.

By the fifth issue, one begins to question whether Joe is really just hallucinating or if he is actually traveling through a new universe.

While in the past Morrison's work has left many readers confused with over-tangled and hard to understand plots, *Joe the Barbarian* manages to make the most of the chaos. Murphy's art is a big part of the draw as he makes every page worth looking at.

Together they produce a fantasy adventure that belongs among classics such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

With the series finale coming soon with issue number eight and a hardcover collection of the entire run arriving in February, fans of the genre should be more than happy to add this book to their collections.

*Panel Panel is a bi-weekly column on comic books. Look for it every other Wednesday. Reviewers are not compensated for favorable reviews.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERTIGO COMICS

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1

#### ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Organic, local produce, smoothies, yoga and more!  
WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Along the red wall behind the Green Library

#### FINALS OASIS

Hosted by Active Minds at FIU. Foods, games and relaxation!  
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Panther Suite

#### FREE YOGA

Join the Yoga Club for an hour of yoga during the farmers market, followed by Spanish yoga!  
WHEN: 1 and 2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Lawn by GC Central Fountain

#### PANTHER WONDERLAND

Pep rally honoring the graduating Fall athletes and promoting the last home football game of the semester!  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID.  
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms, BBC

#### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN JEOPARDY

Categories include food, geography, music and history. If interested in participating, contact [malokafu@gmail.com](mailto:malokafu@gmail.com).  
WHEN: 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: DM 358

#### WORLD AIDS DAY

Presented by Black Student Association.  
WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 150

### THURSDAY, DEC. 2

#### AN EASTERN EUROPEAN CELEBRATION



FIU Chamber Music concert, presented by FIU Music.  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10 students; \$15 faculty/staff/seniors; \$25 general admission  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

#### STUDENT RECITAL SERIES

Presented by FIU Music. Chamber Music including the FIU Flute and Brass Choirs.  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

#### WRITERS ON THE BAY READING SERIES

Tracy Smith, author of "Duende", will read from her published works.  
WHEN: 8 - 9:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: FIU BBC Bookstore

#### MASTERS' MYSTERY ART SHOW



Buy or just look at artworks from mysterious artists. The artist's name is revealed after the purchase.  
WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public  
WHERE: Ritz-Carlton South Beach, One Lincoln Road

#### BOLLYWOOD MOVIE NIGHT

Henna tattoos and a screening of "3 Idiots."  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: WUC Theatre, BBC

## Diversions

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](http://FIUSM.com)  
Puzzle Difficulty: **Easy**

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## Airline search procedures a dehumanizing experience

PAOLO RAMOS  
Staff Writer

As the peak of the holiday season is fast approaching, the number of passengers flying is sure to greatly increase. However, this season is also likely to see an increase in the number of angry travelers as a result of new screening measures being conducted by the Transportation Security Association.

The TSA, which conducts passenger screening for the majority of airports in the United States, has implemented the use of full-body scanners and enhanced pat-downs as extra security measures. This has resulted in widespread public backlash, and with good reason. These new security measures are an obscene invasion of the privacy of American citizens and a counterproductive method to solving the issues involved with airport security.

The new procedure being enacted by the TSA uses x-ray and radiation technology to capture a person's naked form in great detail. The TSA alleges that these images are not retained in any way, yet, just recently a Florida Federal courthouse using the scanners saved 35,000 images, which have since gone viral on the Internet. It seems as if the privacy that is promised by the TSA is compromised at best and non-existent at worse.

The possible health risks that the scanners pose are also another issue that the TSA has not effectively tackled. X-ray radiation has the potential to develop carcinogens. The full extent of the effects of the scanners has yet to be determined and the risk level is unknown. To put passengers at such risk seems like a steep price to pay for potentially ineffective security methods.

The TSA, though not expressively, offers passengers the option to opt out of the body scan, thereby requiring them to submit to the enhanced pat-down which, in some ways, is even more invasive than the body scanners.

An enhanced pat-down consists of a TSA agent laying his or her hands on every reachable surface of a person's body. This used to consist of officials using the back of their hands, but now it is acceptable to use palms to search a person, including the breast and genital areas. Children and the elderly are not exempt from this.

In any other situation, this kind of contact would be labeled as sexual assault and, in this case, is justified by federal support.

This brings into question the priorities of the U.S. government, which is essentially sacrificing the civil liberties of Americans and detracting from the quality of travel for airline passengers.

Those travelling over the holidays must be prepared to encounter strong minded and sometimes aggressive treatment at the airport. They can also expect no answers from TSA officials, as they are adamant about keeping their intentions hidden.

This is a tumultuous time for passengers, and the policies and risks should be understood by all to ensure that travel time is not drastically compromised.

At least one thing can be assured, and that is that air travel, for now, is being regarded as a top priority regardless of the indecent policies enacted by the TSA.

## Four Loko a dangerous combination, must be banned for sake of health

KAYLA MCGREGOR  
Staff Writer

Four Loko, a popular alcoholic beverage amongst college students and young people all over, is now banned in the United States. The "Four" in its name comes from the drink's four main ingredients: caffeine, alcohol, Guarana, and Taurine.

Its nickname, "black out in a can," although taken as a joke, is a warning about the dangerous mix. Four Loko and other caffeinated alcoholic beverages should remain banned and every last one should be ripped from the shelves. Products like it put our youth in grave danger, promote binge drinking and, in some cases, lead to death.

The effects of Four Loko can be deadly. One 16-ounce can of Four Loko contains as much alcohol as three cans of beer and as much caffeine as three cups of coffee, according to [usaliveheadlines.com](http://usaliveheadlines.com). This dangerous mix is the root of the drink's prohibition.

According to CNN.com, the caffeine in the beverage masks the effects of the alcohol, leaving drinkers unaware of how intoxicated they are. Combining large amounts of caffeine and alcohol produces "a wide-awake drunk," said Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien, an associate professor of emergency medicine at Wake Forest University's medical school in North Carolina. But, since caffeine's effect wears off faster than alcohol's, she said, drinkers are left with

*"I don't understand why a company would create a beverage as dangerous as Four Loko and not expect serious problems to arise."*

"much more alcohol than [he or she] would have been able to tolerate -- and that leads to blackouts." Also, drinking Four Loko can pose a higher risk of alcohol poisoning because people cannot sense they are past their limit until it is too late.

According to CNN.com, controversy over the drink exploded in October, when nine underage students at Central Washington University were hospitalized after drinking Four Loko, both on its own and mixed with other drinks. Students at the party had blood alcohol levels that ranged from 0.12 percent to 0.35 percent after consuming cans of the drink, and other students mixed the drink with additional alcohol. The legal limit is .08 percent.

The beverage comes in eight flavors and is marketed to young people, mainly college students. It is an abomination that it is marketed as an energy drink when alcohol is a depressant. Sure, the caffeine provides consumers with an initial boost, but when that boost wears off one feels the effects of

consuming large amounts of alcohol, and it feels as though one was hit by a tidal wave.

The FDA has halted the production of caffeinated alcoholic beverages until companies can prove that the mix poses no health risks.

Phusion Projects of Chicago, the company that makes Four Loko, has agreed to drop caffeine and two of the other main ingredients from their drink due to stricter regulation.

However, that doesn't mean the cans that remain on the shelves aren't fair game. Every can should be pulled from every shelf so that Four Lokos can no longer cause harm to anyone.

I don't understand why a company would create a beverage as dangerous as Four Loko and not expect serious problems to arise. I am glad the production of such drinks has been halted and it should remain that way until companies decide to remove the caffeine so that it may be declared safe for public consumption.

## Clickers enhance class participation

NEDA GHOMESHI  
Staff Writer

Electronic projectors have replaced white boards; some of my professors even use computer-generated animations during their lectures. A more recent addition to this roster of technological advances is clickers. The use of clickers is gaining popularity in the education system across the United States.

A clicker is an electronic device that looks like a television remote with less buttons and a far less entertaining purpose.

I think that more professors at FIU should incorporate the use of clickers in their lectures because clickers enhance student engagement and ultimately provide for a lively discussion. Professors utilize clickers to take attendance, encourage participation and randomly question students. Some FIU professors have adapted to this new tech-

nology, but not at a pace that is commensurate with the potential clickers offer.

The function of a clicker is simple: the user makes a letter selection on the clicker and, along with others' selections, it is received by a sensor and

**Essentially, the use of a clicker can enhance a student's understanding of the material being taught by increasing classroom focus.**

processed on a computer at the front of the room and instantly translated into colorful graphs.

Essentially, the use of a clicker can enhance a student's understanding of the material being taught by increasing the classroom focus. With clickers, students are required

to pay attention in order to adequately answer the questions that are being asked during a lecture.

To me, clickers increase attentiveness and participation, because every student has the opportunity to express his or her opinion and understanding on the subject. Clickers also provide immediate feedback, which I believe is beneficial for students and teachers. I think that student engagement is the primary and the most difficult goal of a lecturer. Clickers enable professors to amend or adjust their lecture on specific topics based on the students' grasp of the material.

Until now, professors could not measure a student's understanding during a lecture. With clickers, professors are able to frequently post questions as they present their material and instantly determine whether their students understand it.

With this instant feedback, a professor can modify his or

her lecture to focus on areas with which the class appears to have difficulty. They can also elaborate on a subject before a test is given, which will improve test scores. Neil Sheflin, an associate professor of economics at Rutgers, called clickers "the greatest educational innovation since chalk." This new device is immensely beneficial for professors.

It has great benefits for students, too. The anonymity associated with these clickers provides a mechanism for introverted students to participate and stay engaged. This is a great advantage for shy students; they no longer have to worry about their peer's reactions to their questions or comments.

With more engagement come more ideas and participation, resulting in a better learning environment for all. Clickers provide this added benefit. They are an active learning approach and only good things can result from it.

### VERBATIM

*"The rich are always going to say that, you know, 'Just give us more money, and we'll go out and spend more, and then it will all trickle down to the rest of you.' But that has not worked the last 10 years, and I hope the American public is catching on."*

Warren Buffet, billionaire  
on American economic policy

### DISCLAIMER

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### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto: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.

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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### Protestors demand more education money

With the government spending only 2 percent of GDP on schools although the law requires 4 percent, hundreds of protestors clutching yellow umbrellas demanded more spending on education.



## HAITI

### Election chaos has Haiti on edge of turmoil

Within the first few hours of the election, ballot boxes were ripped to pieces, protestors were on the streets and allegations of fraud and polling-place disorganization nearly brought the election to a halt.



## VENEZUELA

### Chavez vows to expedite socialist initiative

President Hugo Chavez is vowing to accelerate his drive to turn Venezuela into a socialist state and urging his supporters to become "true revolutionaries" as they prepare for crucial political battles ahead.

## SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, ARTS, AND SOCIETY

# Florida Keys used to examine herbivores' effects on ecosystems

LAUREN KHALAF  
Contributing Writer

A three-hour drive separates Deron Burkepile with an ecosystem that allows him to examine how certain herbivores influence certain ecosystems - the Florida Keys.

Burkepile, a marine science professor at the School of Environment, Arts and Society, is conducting research on marine ecology, herbivore ecology, chemical ecology and African savanna ecology.

According to Burkepile, inside the Florida Keys there are coral reefs and seaweed competing against one another. Fish feed off coral reefs and seaweed, and while seaweed is the primary food for fish, they also grow more rapidly than coral reefs.

If the fish in the ecosystem continue to be removed, it will result in a rapid growth of seaweed. Once it's understood which fish belong in which niche, the fish's preservation can be ensured.

"Corals are in poor condition and have little algae living inside them because of climate change," Burkepile said. "When the seawater temperature is warm the coral gets unhappy, spits out the algae, and its color turns to white. The color of coral represents algae loss."

According to Burkepile, we're losing much of our coral reefs due to poor health. With the decline of coral reefs some of the most diverse locations in the world may be in danger in turn causing a decline in tourism.

"Coral reefs get stressed and are more vulnerable to die when they lose algae," Burkepile said.

If coral is lost, fish are lost. If fish are lost,

much of our protein one of our sources of protein will be lost.

"Over fishing is a problem," Burkepile said. "Some of the most important herbivores are the most sought after. People want more bang for their buck when it comes to putting protein on the plate." Similar to what Burkepile studies on the reef, he studies in South Africa. The process is the same, but the ecosystems are very different. In South Africa the research is directed on how herbivores impact the Savanna ecosystem.

"Different herbivores do different things in the ecosystem, we're trying to find out how different size groups affect the ecosystem. For example, elephants and rhinos versus warthogs," Burkepile said.

One way Burkepile and his researchers are conducting this study is by putting up fences around certain areas to have power over which herbivores can get into which areas.

Burkepile visits Africa every March to stay caught up on his on going research.

Burkepile sees training graduates and undergraduates as a significant aspect in his lab research. Helping him conduct the research are three graduate students and two undergraduate students.

"It's great working with a big team, different people notice different patterns. The goal is to get them to come up with their own idea, to have their own research and to grow as scientists," Burkepile said.

Burkepile's research has been published and has proven how different fish species can support the health of corals.

The goal of the research is to identify which species are imperative to which areas

## HOLIDAY CHEER



JESSICA PEREZ/THE BEACON

In anticipation of the upcoming holidays, Tanha Dil, president of Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus (second from left), and other students paint the windows on the north side of the Wolfe University Center on Nov. 29.

and to ensure their protection. As well as to find out more about the harmful chemicals that seaweed generate in order to keep fish from eating them. With his findings, Burkepile plans to alert marine conservation and protection to help protect our ecosystem.

## FOODGASM

# A valuable lesson when it comes to cooking: KISS

KISS, keep it simple stupid, is an acronym I have been taught many times in reference to writing.

The idea is to avoid unnecessary complexity by keeping things simple. This concept works when applied to food as well.

For the recent break we had for Thanksgiving I traveled back home to Philadelphia. While there I had to visit my favorite restaurant since childhood. This is where I was reminded

how good food can taste when prepared simply.

My favorite place to eat since childhood is called Sakura Japanese Steakhouse. Sakura has been owned by Ewa, who is also the only chef at the restaurant, for almost 40 years. The restaurant is a little hibachi style place, which is a flat top grill with seating around it.

Ewa does not concentrate on flare and showmanship, only making a simple combination of

fresh ingredients, cooked perfectly, into a delicious meal. A perfect example of how simplicity can be so good.

What does this mean for readers?

I suggest you give simplicity a chance in food. While it is nice to have intricate items too, food that isn't elaborate can be even better.

Limiting complexity allows for the main ingredient to shine through.

Foods like sushi exemplify this concept perfectly. Some people put tons of different

ingredients into a roll, and I am sure there are limitless concoctions of fantastic tasting rolls, but can any of them live up to the taste of a piece of fresh raw fish laid on top of a clump of rice?

I argue not.

Instead of providing a specific recipe I will instead be as generic as possible so you can apply this methodology to anything you want.

The basis of keeping your food simple is not masking the taste of the main ingredient.

Try to serve whatever you're cooking in a way

that will only bring out it's original flavor, instead of changing it.

This means avoiding potent sauces and seasonings, and staying away from complex cooking techniques.

However for this to work successfully, the initial ingredient has to be of great quality.

So whatever you choose to cook simplistically, make sure it's of the highest quality possible.

If call to action is too open ended, you can find a recipe involving a small amount of ingredients and a few basic steps, and try

it using the best quality ingredients you can find.

The results might simply amaze you.

### Foodgasm

- Starting in Spring 2011, Foodgasm will be published every other

### On the

- On the Prowl will be moved to the Life! section.