



GERMANY

10 alleged Somali pirates go on trial

The country's first piracy trial in hundreds of years got off to a shaky start, with the court struggling to get information from 10 Somali men and youth charged with hijacking a German container ship.



PHILIPPINES

Woman insists father died in massacre

Journalist Reynaldo Momay's daughter still has no body to prove her father was the 58th victim in the massacre a year ago. Her evidence is both scant and horrifying: his denture dug from a mass grave.



CHINA

Teen protests in Beijing for peace park

A 13-year-old American boy campaigning to turn the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea into a peace park tried to get the Chinese president's attention, staging a brief protest.

Report sheds light on need to control costs of artificial lighting

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

After examining a recent report on University lighting, FIU Faculty Senate members are seeking to address the issue of controlling artificial light pollution across campus property, due to its financial and environmental effects.

James Webb, Arts and Sciences senator and physics professor, brought the matter to the attention of the Faculty Senate's Nature Preserve and Environment Committee, stating that he was "struck that the report rarely mentions efficiency and it seemed to not be worried about where there was excess light, only where there was too little light."

"The lighting study was done towards safety, which is great. But not toward saving light or reducing light pollution," said Webb in an interview with Student Media. "So I'm communicating with facilities management and the administration about what steps we can take to make the lighting better, still be safe but pollute less and save money at the same time."

The executive summary completed by civil engineering company, PBS&J, gave an over-

view of the site visits to the three main University campuses, which assessed the existing exterior lighting along interior roads, walkways and surface parking lots.

Measuring the lighting levels at each location, the company concluded that none of the interior roads or pedestrian walkways at the Modesto Maidique Campus met the minimum required illumination, while only 30% at the Biscayne Bay Campus meeting the requirements.

They recommended for the University to, instead of adding additional luminaries to supplement the lighting levels, provide brand new light-emitting diode (LED) type luminaries; which has an estimated cost of \$8,140,000.

"It disturbs me that the PBS&J report is only focused on adding more light fixtures to get from .3 foot-candles to one foot candle where the illumination is below Dade County or FIU coding," said Webb in his written report to the committee. "They fail to discuss where the lighting is excessive and over code (wasted). They do not discuss efficiently shielding and directing existing light fixtures to

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A PASSAGE TO INDIA



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Laya Raglama (left), a graduate student in civil engineering, attended Friday's "Passage to India" event hosted by the International Student Club. The event featured a buffet of Indian food and entertainment.

Hoffman discusses Israeli affairs

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

While working as a reporter with The Miami Herald, Gil Hoffman began fostering a great interest in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I would come home from work and read about it for hours and hours. I said to myself, 'I've got to be a part of it. I've got to be a part

of all the excitement in Israel," said Hoffman.

Hoffman, now chief political analyst for the Jerusalem Post, spoke to an audience of over forty people on Friday, Nov. 19.

Hoffman, 33, discussed his opinions about the current state of affairs between Israel and Iran during his lecture, titled "Peace Politics and Plutonium: An insider's look at the

efforts to prevent a nuclear Iran and advance Middle East peace."

He first discussed challenges facing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration including attempts to continue negotiations with the Palestinian Authority along with domestic issues such as social divides between

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Professor highly involved with Haiti, adopts young girl

YAREMI FARINAS
Contributing Writer

Dr. Pilar Martin looked over the crowd of children in the Haitian orphanage and noticed one little girl sitting by herself on the other side of the room.

Martin, a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine and School of Public Health, became curious about the one-year-old girl because she was not like any of the other orphans.

"All of the children, when you go to the orphanage, they are always coming to you and she never came," said Martin, who serves as a primary physician at Rose-Mina de Diegue Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"She was always sitting there and it caught my attention because it was different. I started holding her and I noticed she could not walk at all."

The relationship grew between Martin and the young girl, Kashina. In 2009, Martin, 51, decided to adopt Kashina.

Since 2006, Martin has been working as a doctor in monthly visits to Haiti. She shares her passion of public health with other students at FIU by giving them the opportunity to join her



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Dr. Pilar Martin looking over documents in her office.

on trips to Haiti.

"Dr. Martin is definitely a role model. She has been able to do so much, with so little, and in such a short amount of time because of who she is," said Micheal Melchoir, a 26-year-old

FIU student who is pursuing a doctorate in public health.

"She is able to attract the right people to help her accomplish her goals and is able to convince others that her goals are worth seeing

through," he said.

At an early age, Martin, who speaks English, Spanish and Creole, knew she wanted to do something with medicine, even though her father wanted her to be a dentist. It was while she was working in a village in Spain, her native country, when she discovered exactly what she wanted to achieve.

Martin realized that she wasn't doing as much as she wanted while working in the village, so she became interested in a different approach to medicine.

"I wouldn't be able to live only to just be in the clinic and without the public health approach," Martin said.

After earning a doctorate in medicine in Spain, Martin completed a master's in public health in England in 1992.

Teaching public health at the University takes up most of Martin's time, which slows the progress of her project in Haiti.

Her project consists of providing services in Haiti for those in need, but she generally concentrates in the Rose-Mina de Diegue Orphanage.

Services include primary healthcare,

MARTIN, page 2

WEIRD NEWS

Undertakers offer coffins for gay market

Two undertakers in Cologne are trying to tap into the gay market by selling coffins adorned with images of male nudes. The piece in their display window, costing \$2,300, is a coffin decorated with images of mostly naked, muscular young men in athletic poses inspired by Italian Renaissance paintings.

"We believe you should be able to have a coffin that lets you embark on your last journey in a way that reflects how you lived your life," undertaker Thomas Brandl told Reuters on Thursday.

Brandl and his business partner Michael Koenigsfeld, said they had branched out satisfy the increasing number of special requests they received.

Fake doc carried out breast exams

A woman posed as a physician and duped at least two other women into undergoing breast exams at her hands in Boise-area nightclubs, according to police.

Kristina Ross was charged with two felony counts of practicing medicine without a license.

Police said Ross introduced herself to victims as a plastic surgeon named Berlyn Aussieahshowna, a name that turned out to be bogus.

The two women told officers they believed Ross was a physician because of her apparent medical knowledge, and they agreed to undergo what they thought were breast exams, which happened at the bars.

Man shoots TV over Bristol Palin's "Dancing" success

A Wisconsin man angry at the success of Bristol Palin on "Dancing with the Stars" blasted his TV with a shotgun as she waltzed her way into the program's finals. Steven Cowan's violent outburst came amid a heated debate over Palin's survival on the TV dance competition show despite weeks of low scores.

Critics say the 20 year-old is benefiting from the popularity of her politician mother, Sarah Palin.

Cowan's wife Janice told police "Steven was upset that a political figure's daughter was on this show when Steven did not think that she was a good dancer."

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Hoffman outlines Iran prevention

HOFFMAN, page 1

different sects of Judaism.

"With those divides, sometimes I say 'Thank God for Ahmadinejad'. He unites the people of Israel. Unites them in fear but unites them none the less," said Hoffman.

Hoffman claimed that Iran's ongoing nuclear enrichment programs and the leadership by Iranian president Mahmud Ahmadinejad would pose a threat to Israel.

"It's scary having a president of Iran who denies the holocaust and wants to make a new one by obtaining the nuclear capability that Hitler never did. He writes 'Death to Israel' on missiles that are

being fitted to carry nuclear payloads," said Hoffman.

"Netanyahu has what I call a messiah complex. He believes that he has come back into power to save the world from a nuclear Iran," said Hoffman.

According to Hoffman, there are four methods to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear capability: political, diplomatic, economic and military. Hoffman claims that the controversial 2009 elections in Iran sealed off any political change within Iran. He also stated that Iran's refusal to cease their nuclear programs shows the failure of the diplomatic approach.

United Nation's based

sanctions against Iran, Hoffman feels, are working at crippling Iran's economy and could prove to force Iran to make concessions about their programs.

Hoffman also discussed President Barack Obama's relations with Israel in regards to Iran's developing nuclear programs.

"Obama is already halfway through his first, maybe only term. He has to start thinking about how he'll be remembered," said Hoffman. "If Iran gets the bomb on his watch, that's one of the things people will be remembering along with the economy. But if he succeeds on preventing the nuclearisation of Iran, then

that's what people are going to remember for the good."

Hoffman has been covering Israeli politics since 2000, when he helped cover the elections between Netanyahu and former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. He currently writes a popular column for the Jerusalem Post while also serving as an analyst on such networks as CNN and Al-Jazeera.

"I basically have two full time jobs. One is following around Mr. Netanyahu and the other Israeli politicians. The other is following around my two kids, aged four and two. It's basically the same job. My kids are very mature for their age. I can't say the same for the politicians," said Hoffman.

Light pollution a concern for faculty

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achieve the proper lawful illumination or address any conservation issues."

While light pollution reduces the ability of astronomers on campus to make their night observations, it is said to take a toll on the local wildlife. Insects such as moths, which play vital roles within the environmental system, can have their internal cycles thrown off balance because of too much artificial lighting.

"I come from an ecology and natural resources background. There are a huge

number of papers out there that show the devastation of urban lighting on native plants and animals like amphibians, who's migrations, calls and breeding systems are tied to day and night cycles," said Heinen, who added that there are effects to humans as well in that too much artificial lighting alters brain chemistry.

Because his committee is primarily focused on the FIU Nature Preserve, Heinen recently handed over the issue to the Ad Hoc Building and Environment Committee, which covers all of campus.

John Stuart, who heads the committee, has begun to discuss the matter with the faculty representatives, as far as figuring out who in administration they should make their prospective recommendations to.

"I fully understand that we can't just turn off the lights after 6pm like a grammar school can but when I saw that plan I was horrified because they found every little area where the lighting is too dim, but they didn't even focus on the areas where the lighting is too much. And that's where you can start looking at the savings," said Heinen."

Haitian orphanage project gives hope

MARTIN, page 1

medical referrals and providing basic needs, which include toys, clothing, baby formula and other supplies. Her goal is to keep the children healthy and happy.

Alina Perez-Stable, the

program manager at the FIU College of Medicine, calls the Haitian orphanage project "God's work."

Martin says she learns from the Haitian children because even though they do not have anything, they are always smiling.

"We learn from people that don't have anything because we need so many things to be happy," Martin said.

Besides teaching at FIU and assisting in Haiti, Martin is the executive director of International Health Connections, which hopes to raise enough money to open a community center in Haiti with a primary health clinic.

The organization will have to raise \$40,000 in order to achieve this goal. On Sundays, Martin dedicates a few hours to work on future projects in Haiti.

One Haitian American student, Suzie Carisma, 53, describes Martin as a "very dedicated professional, full of compassion for those in needs."

Providing medical care in Haiti grew beyond the walls of the Rose-Mina de Diegue orphanage after the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince in January.

Martin and two public health students, Melchoir and Brian Kunkle, 34, flew to Santo Domingo on Jan. 19

and then took an 11-hour bus drive to the capital of Haiti.

They treated survivors in roadside camps, tent camps and at the Hospital la Paix.

She remembers seeing children that were nearly blind because of the lack of vitamin A. The trio saw about 400 people in three days.

"Pilar has an unwavering

We learn from people that don't have anything because we need so many things to be happy.

Dr. Pilar Martin
Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Medicine and School of Public Health

commitment to the Haitian community. After the January earthquake, Pilar was determined to get to Haiti and she did. That's commitment," said Stable, who has worked with Martin for a year and a half.

In order to disconnect themselves from the depression in Haiti, they would watch and listen to a local band called Ram and appreciate the beautiful art that Haiti has to offer.

After returning from Haiti, Martin struggled to get back into her daily routine.

"The adjustment is difficult because it's a conflict," Martin said. "It's a conflict to feel so powerless and to think what can I do to contribute more."

Kunkle, who is working on a doctorate in environmental health, had similar emotions.

"That's what is tough, coming back and you go there for a week or something to do some work, but then you come back here and feel like you didn't do enough," Kunkle said.

Helping in Haiti gave Martin the opportunity to meet Kashina, her newly adopted daughter. Martin was debating for several years on adopting because her two boys are already grown, but she always wanted a girl.

"She calls me foreign mama," Martin said. Her fellow students have had the chance to meet and get to know Kashina.

Kashina should be arriving at her new home before the end of the year.

"Kashina is the long lost daughter of Dr. Martin," Melchoir said. "They both share the same energy and wit, always keeping us on our toes while she stays with us in Haiti."

"Having grown up with children of all ages, she is well versed and immediately befriends others."

THE BEACON

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FOOTBALL: TORONTO SMITH

Smith's senior season going according to plan

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

When the Golden Panthers climbed to first place in the Sun Belt Conference standings after defeating Troy on Nov. 13, captain Toronto Smith needed someone to talk to. The linebacker wanted advice on how to handle an opportunity like this.

So Smith called former FIU linebacker Scott Bryant.

"I told him that we're on top of the Sun Belt right now but I want people to take us seriously," Smith said. "I want people still to be hungry."

"Just remind them that we've been here before," Bryant said. "We've won four games in a season before. It doesn't mean anything if you don't continue to win and get a bowl berth."

Smith talks to Bryant over the phone at least twice week for advice. Smith, like Bryant, was once the captain of the defense. Bryant graduated in 2009, passing the torch to Smith.

"Even now, it's hard to be a captain when you have follow the footsteps of Scotty Bryant. All of us looked up to Scotty Bryant because he always did things right. He has to be the hardest worker I've ever met in my life, so I just try to be like him. I still call him for advice sometimes in certain situations as one of the leaders of this FIU defense," Smith said.

Smith is an integral part of the trans-fusion of this defense, helping the Golden Panthers bounce back from being ranked last in the Sun Belt conference in total defense in 2009 (ranked 119th in the nation in 2009), to being ranked tops in the conference and 55th in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Part of the reason for such a turnaround was that Smith started to put the blame on

his shoulders.

"I learned to take accountability. I don't make as many excuses as I would have as a freshman. In high school, I used to make a lot of excuses but coach made me realize that excuses don't end. No matter how good the excuse is, it won't get anything done," Smith said.

JUICE

Smith also received help from first-year defensive coordinator Geoff Collins, who brought a new culture to this defense. He gave Smith and the rest of the defense juice.

Smith had no clue what the significance of the term "juice" meant when Collins first brought the term into the locker room.

"Juice? What does he mean by juice?" Smith asked. "When we got there on the field, he demonstrated it through his coaching and we mimic it through our playing. That's how we realized what juice was. We know what juice is and we know to bring it every day because if you're not going to bring it, it's not going to be a good practice."

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

Smith is listed at 5-foot-10, 223 pounds. As arguably the smallest linebacker on the team, Smith has had one of the biggest seasons of the group. The senior linebacker racked up 66 tackles through nine games this season, good for second in the team and ninth in the conference.

He also leads the team with ten tackles for losses, which is fifth best in the SBC. Smith credits his lineman for his success.

"Yeah, I'm a little undersized, but when you have the great defensive lineman that we have taking care of business up front, size doesn't really matter," Smith said.

Smith hopes that his size does not scare



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Senior linebacker Toronto Smith has been with the program since Mario Cristobal was named coach in 2007. Now entrenched as a leader, Smith is going out with a bang.

scouts away from his desire of becoming a professional football player. According to Smith, his goal is to bulk up during the off-season and gain at least 15 pounds.

"Hopefully I can get a shot at the league. If not, [I'll] work nine to five," said Smith, who has an interest in marketing, in case his dreams of pro football do not pan out.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Smith has one of the most unique names on the squad. The senior linebacker does not know why his parents chose to name him after the city of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

"I never really asked [how I got my name]. My granddad's name is John. How do you get John Smith, then Toronto Smith?" asked Smith. "I'm cool with it. I don't want to be named John Smith, that's kind of boring. Toronto Smith? Nobody will forget that."

Because of the distinctive name, Smith wants to visit the place he was named after once his collegiate career is over.

"I've never been to Canada in my life. I definitely want to go there after school is over. Everybody is telling me that there are lots of places there. I definitely want to take a trip up there before I die," Smith said.

FOOTBALL

Golden Panthers on the verge of making program history

The stakes keep getting higher and higher and each looming matchup gains greater importance with each passing week.

The Red Wolves are the next, and potentially final, step towards making program history and reaching a milestone that has been fleeting since the team's inception almost ten years ago: bowl eligibility and a conference title.

It took a difficult and often times disappointing and heart-breaking non-conference schedule and a tough and miserable loss to arch nemesis Florida Atlantic University, but the Golden Panthers overcame that and now they are on the brink.

These are uncharted waters

for this team and every Golden Panther squad before it and no one really knows what to expect.

The excitement is there with people seriously contemplating calling up their travel agents and saving up for a potential weekend vacation in New Orleans, but understandably beneath the surface lies a sort of fear.

A fear that things will fall apart in the final moments; that some sort of unforeseen disaster will take place that effectively place all hopes and dreams of Sun Belt glory up in flames.

But so far, that hasn't happened. Not when things appeared to be turning for the worst at homecoming against Louisiana-Monroe. Not in front of a scarlet sea of enthusiastic fans in Troy, one of the most difficult places for a Sun Belt team to enter and come out with a victory. And

not this past weekend against a nothing-to-lose mindset employed by the Ragin' Cajuns in the Bayou.

This team has proven to be talented enough to overcome its own mistakes and has developed the mental fortitude over the past several weeks to overcome miscues and make the kind of stand necessary to be a champion.

For the first time, Mario Cristobal has assembled a team that is truly capable of going toe-to-toe with an opponent and having that extra edge.

That is how the Golden Panthers ended up at this point. And that is what they need to do this weekend to pick up one more win.

Despite being outgained on the ground and through the air, FIU never wavered and remained in control of the game thanks in large part to an inspired performance turned

in by what has turned into the best defense in the Sun Belt.

Big plays from unexpected players such as a interception return for a touchdown by wide-receiver-turned-defensive-back Junior Mertile and two goal line stands when the Ragin' Cajuns were knocking on the door helped lift the offense over the top.

The defense also recorded seven sacks, setting a new single-season record for the program.

Amistake-free performance by Wesley Carroll, completing 16 of his 19 attempts with a touchdown pass, along with a solid run game led by Darian Mallary and Darriet Perry with his three scores on the ground put Louisiana-Lafayette out of commission and out of reach as they responded swiftly to any attempt by the resilient Cajuns to spark a comeback.

This team did everything necessary to pick up a win for

the night with committing a single turnover and outside of a blocked punt that put Louisiana-Lafayette right outside the goal line, played a fundamentally sound football game.

The traces of immaturity and growing pains appear to be dissolving and are almost unrecognizable.

With three consecutive wins and a 5-1 conference record, the results are finally beginning to show for a program that has been waiting for a breakthrough for quite some time.

Now anything less than a conference title at this stage would be considered a grave disappointment. The raised expectations present a double-edged sword that has high-stakes, high-reward implications.

And it is vital to the future of the program for this team to seize the moment now rather than later.

The biggest obstacle in their upcoming showdown with the Red Wolves of Arkansas State is not their high-powered pass offense led by quarterback Ryan Aplin and his 19 touchdown tosses. It isn't their ability to score at will, second in the Sun Belt with an average of 30 points a game.

The largest challenge facing Golden Panthers are themselves.

If they run the ball at will and are able to establish a solid presence on the offensive lines, they'll win.

If they stuff the run game and put constant pressure on the quarterback, they'll win.

If they execute the way they have been executing over the past several weeks, they'll win.

The Golden Panthers need to execute correctly just one more time and that time is now.

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NOTEBOOK

Free throw shooting lags for the Golden Panthers



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DeJuan Wright dunks against Utah Valley, Nov. 20.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

Following the team's third win in four games to open the season over Utah Valley, FIU Head Coach Isiah Thomas, as most coaches would, pointed out that his team still has improvements to do.

There are a few notable issues, but it can be argued that nothing needs as much focus as free-throw shooting for the Panthers.

"We still have a lot of work to do," Thomas said after his team shot 13-of-24 from the stripe against UVU. "Our foul shooting definitely has to get better."

FIU is eighth in the Sun Belt Conference in free-throw shooting out of 12 teams, making just 63 percent of their attempts. The Sun Belt Conference's leader in efficiency from the charity stripe is Denver, who makes nearly 80 percent of its shots at the line.

The Panthers three leaders in free-

throw attempts, Phil Gary, Marvin Roberts and DeJuan Wright, are all shooting under 70 percent.

Guard Jeremy Allen leads the team so far with perfect percentage, but he has only taken four foul shots.

CRASHING THE BOARDS

With added bulk in the paint this season in Brandon Moore and Eric Frederick, the Panthers rebounding was expected to improve. But the main source of the improvement, is coming from an unlikely source.

Wright, who is listed at 6-foot-3, is grabbing 10 rebounds per game through four contests, often leaping over opponent's post players to snatch the ball off the glass. The athletic wing was praised by FSU head coach Leonard Hamilton after the teams loss to the Seminoles on Nov. 18. Wright played at Ferris State and Gillette College over the last few years, before committing to FIU with two years remaining of eligibility.

Assistant Coach William Eddie has

coached Wright in separate instances since middle school, always preaching that facet of the game.

"My will, you know," Wright said. "Coach Eddie always taught me since sixth and seventh grade to rebound, rebound, rebound because I've always been kind of gifted athletically so I really pride myself on rebounding the ball."

Wright is tied for first in the SBC in rebounding and is also getting a block a game.

GARY STILL OUT

Point guard Phil Gary sat out the game vs. Utah Valley with a concussion he sustained against FSU. The senior is undergoing tests everyday, according to Thomas, and his status for the team's next game against Chattanooga on Nov. 27 is in question.

If Gary is not available, the start would go to junior Martavis Kee, who scored 11 points in replacement of Gary vs. UVU.

VOLLEYBALL

Team members honored by SBC

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

At the annual Sun Belt Conference Championship gala, senior Natalia Valentin and junior Andrea Lakovic were both selected to the All-SBC First Team.

Valentin earned her second consecutive All-SBC First Team honor and her third straight All-SBC honor after she gained All-SBC Second Team in 2008. Valentin was selected as the Preseason Player of the Year for the SBC.

On the year, Valentin leads FIU in assists with 1,198 and came in second on

the team with 305 digs. She also had 15 double-doubles on the year, which also led the Panthers.

Valentin will leave FIU as the all-time leading assists leader at the school, with 4,341 career assists and second all-time in digs with 1087. Along with her school records, Valentin also ranks second all-time in the SBC in assists per set, with an average of 11.2.

Lakovic gained her first All-SBC First Team honor for her growth on the offensive game. Lakovic led the Panthers in both blocks (94) and kills (331).

The middle blockers also ranks third all-time in FIU history in all blocking

categories, with 288 total blocks, 259 block assists and tied for third in solo blocks with 29.

Along with Lakovic, junior Angelina Colon, junior Sabrina Gonzalez, senior Ines Medved, and redshirt freshman Marija Prsa also earned SBC Academic Honor Roll. Sophomores Chanel Araujo and Jovana Bjelica were named to the SBC Commissioner's List for having a GPA of 3.5 or better.

After the tournament, Natalia Valentin earned a spot on the All-SBC Tournament Team for her play in her first two games. It was her third consecutive year selected to the team.

MIAMI HEAT

Heat weigh options sans Haslem

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

The biggest outcome for the Miami Heat on Monday might not be a win or loss against the Indiana Pacers.

It'll be the word on how long Udonis Haslem is sidelined.

Miami's backup power forward, co-captain and leading rebounder will miss several weeks because of a torn ligament in his left foot, and the Heat have already reviewed an "exhausting" number of scenarios regarding exactly how long Haslem will be out while recovering.

The final word is expected later Monday after Haslem meets with a specialist, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. Surgery is an option.

In the short term, the Heat plan to give

more minutes to Juwan Howard at the spot backing up Chris Bosh. LeBron James and James Jones will be used at that position as well in certain situations, Spoelstra said.

Spoelstra said he and Heat president Pat Riley spoke Sunday about all options, including adding another player, but the indication after Miami's shootaround practice Monday morning was that no significant roster changes are imminent.

"We feel like we have enough," Spoelstra said. "We are losing a big component of our defense and our rebounding, and that has been a concern in our five losses, but we went over it today. And if we want to make a collective change in our rebounding and controlling that paint area ... individually guys have to make a change. We have to have some career-high rebounding numbers as we move forward

from each individual."

Other players who have had torn foot ligaments are typically out for at least six weeks, though it's unknown what level of tear Haslem has.

Haslem averaged 8.0 points and 8.2 rebounds through the season's first 13 games.

Haslem is considered by teammates to be not only Miami's toughest player, but the primary locker-room leader as well.

"His toughness, not disrespecting anybody on the team, is going to be tough to replace," point guard Carlos Arroyo said. "He's such a tough guy and what he brings is something special every night. But we have the guys to do it. We understand it's going to take everybody to continue to work on those details that he provides for us. Rebounding, loose balls, charges."

SUN BELT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

SBC STANDINGS

	SBC RECORD	PCT	STREAK
FIU	5-1	.833	W3
Troy	4-2	.667	L1
Louisiana-Monroe	4-3	.571	W1
Arkansas State	4-3	.571	L1
Florida Atlantic	3-3	.500	W1
Middle Tennessee	3-3	.500	W1
North Texas	3-5	.375	L1
Western Kentucky	2-5	.286	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	2-5	.286	L4

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	Rush	Pass	Plays	Yards	TD
Troy	10	1470	2849	768	4319	38
Arkansas State	11	1635	2898	796	4533	43
FIU	10	1913	2114	705	4027	33
North Texas	11	2128	1916	752	4044	28
Middle Tennessee	10	1741	1910	720	3651	29
Louisiana-Lafayette	11	159	2670	783	3829	30
Louisiana-Monroe	11	1262	2556	793	3818	29
Western Kentucky	11	1919	1641	732	3560	30
Florida Atlantic	10	1013	1992	600	3005	22

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	Rush	Pass	Plays	Yards	TD
FIU	10	1615	2068	675	3683	33
Western Kentucky	11	1951	2120	687	4071	46
Louisiana-Monroe	11	1861	2301	737	4162	42
Florida Atlantic	10	1997	1891	714	3888	29
North Texas	11	1846	2438	721	4284	37
Middle Tennessee	10	2033	1910	769	3943	35
Louisiana-Lafayette	11	1770	2678	731	4448	47
Troy	10	1794	2588	726	4382	43
Arkansas State	11	2362	2496	819	4858	42

PANTHER

SPORTS TALK LIVE

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 10AM TO 11AM

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

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Thanksgiving traditions paves way for the holiday season

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Contributing Writer

While elementary schools everywhere have paper turkeys and pilgrim hats adorning the walls, students at the University are just as excited to get away from the stress of upcoming exams and enjoy the short break.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, many students are preparing to go home to reunite with family and friends. Thanksgiving is well known as a hectic time to travel. If you are planning to travel over the next couple of days to meet with your friends and family back home, you should know that patience will be a necessary carry-on.

According to AAA Regional President, Brad Roeber, AAA projected that the number of Americans traveling for the holiday will be approximately 42

million.

On a brighter note, the smell of turkey, stuffing, gravy and cranberries always provides the assurance that dinner will be ready soon.

Thanksgiving is a traditional American holiday where families all over the United States take the time to sit down for dinner. Whether you are involved with the 18-hour preparation of the turkey or warming the couch for the football game, we should all remember that the day is not about the food or the football. Claudia Camas, a psychology major, says Thanksgiving is about remembering to give thanks for all that we have.

“I love getting together with my family for Thanksgiving because it reminds me of how special they are to me,” says Camas.

Anna Rodriguez, a sophomore, adds, “Traditionally, my parents use my grand-

mother’s pumpkin pie recipe. This recipe has been passed down our family for quite a few years and it sure does make a delicious pie for dessert. I hope this mouth watering dessert will not run out as quickly as it did last year.” Remembering what really brings us together around the Thanksgiving table,” she adds.

“I wish that Thanksgiving were less about a forced feeling of thankfulness and more about genuinely feeling grateful for what we have.”

Other students share similar family traditions, whether it is making a traditional recipe or helping out in the kitchen. Some students also put up their Christmas trees right after dinner to continue the holiday spirit.

Other families finish dinner quickly and head out to the malls to stand in line for Black Friday deals.

Giovanni Hernandez, a junior majoring

in business, says, “In my family, my mother and grandmothers each have their own role in preparing something for our dinner... I usually find myself helping my father and grandfather pull down the large tables from the attic. Although it might seem easier than getting the turkey to taste just right, I think getting 30 chairs down from the attic is a bit overwhelming and tiring.”

Students living on campus that aren’t travelling back home can still have a taste of the holidays.

The Residential Hall Association will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday, November 23rd at the FIU Stadium Club at approximately 7:30 p.m. They will be accepting canned goods and nonperishable food for Joshua’s Heart Foundation, however, it is not mandatory to bring anything to the event, and it is free for students.

Attelus has gained cooking experience all over town

CHEF, page 8

When he was 20, Attelus followed his parents, who’d left his home country when he was in grade school, to the United States to find work as a cook.

His first couple of years as a cook in Miami saw him whetting his chops at typical dining restaurants like PF Chang’s and the Olive Garden as a pantry and sauté cook. This served as a great entry into the world of a chef and motivated Attelus to

soak up as much knowledge as he could to earn a better living.

“When I came to the United States, I started as a pantry cook, then the grill cook, and sauté cook,” Attelus said. “I was always looking to better myself to make more money.”

Attelus spent years in the kitchens of Miami restaurants honing his skills and eventually developing a reputation as a great cook, dedicated to his job and not afraid of hard work.

His main stomping ground became Gourmet Diner, a mid-scale restaurant located on Biscayne Boulevard that specializes in French cuisine – buttery escargot, chateaubriand, loin of lamb in herb crust, and creamy seafood au gratin. Attelus spent four years working his way up from dicing vegetables to lead cook.

Frank Dormeus, head chef at the diner, said Attelus was a great cook and a great guy to work with.

“He was a good hard worker, never took a break,” Dormeus said. “If he had not left, I would have promoted him.”

When he left Gourmet Diner, Attelus came to BBC to work as a sous chef, assistant to the head chef. Almost every restaurant he worked in offered different dishes, which gave him a versatile background in cuisines and cultures. At BBC, he was able to combine the many skills he’s learned through the years and put them to the test.

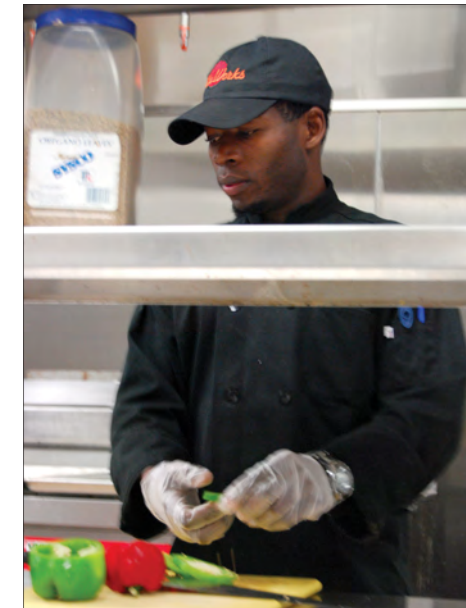
“I cook with love and patience, the same way I cook for myself at home,” he said. “I like good food so I cook the same for other people.”

When he isn’t working on being a chef, he’s working on being the next pop gospel superstar.

Attelus, who taught himself how to play guitar, keyboard and drums, said he’s been singing about as long as he’s been cooking.

“I’ve been singing solo performances in church for years,” he said. “I have traveled to New York, Boston, and Orlando among other places to perform for gospel crowds.”

In 2007, he released an independently recorded album titled, “Levangil la se di fe” (Gospel is on Fire). His Broward home has



a private studio where Attelus composes his own beats and records his own music.

“I want to be the next Kirk Franklin,” Attelus said of the multi-platinum selling gospel artist.

And when he isn’t pursuing his dream as a gospel artist, he’s a family man.

His wife Stephana Attelus said at home he is a jokester who is of course creative in the kitchen. The couple, who met at church eight years ago, married last year. Stephana said although Attelus is a very serious, career driven guy, he is much calmer at home.

“When it comes to his music and his job as a chef there is no relaxing, he gets straight down to business,” Stephna said. “At home, he is more of a joker who loves to dance in the mirror.”

Roberto Laboy, who has been Attelus’ assistant chef for several months, said Attelus is one of those bosses who gets along with everyone at the job.

“He’s a hard worker, professional and very organized,” Laboy said. “I’ve had a lot of jobs in my 20 years as a chef and he is one of the best bosses I’ve worked for.”

This story is a class project from Professor Fred Blevin’s Advanced News Writing course, JOU 3300.

GREEN THUMB



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Kenneth G. Furton, received an award last Friday morning for his efforts in supporting the FIU Organic Garden. The event was the second annual Thanksgiving Lunch hosted by the Agroecology program and the Garden Club.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Steakhouse defies humble exterior with good prices

For the most part, I can go months on end without even glancing at a hamburger. However, every now and then I simply crave a really good steak. However, with my budget, satisfying this craving can prove difficult.



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

Last week, I caught a lucky break.

My mom and I had one of those moments and thus, we decided to satiate our craving at Brasa Nova, 9610 SW 8th ST.

This place may look small and humble, especially with its drive-thru option, however, upon going inside one is met with a modern, upscale dining room complete with friendly service, a

full bar and a live guitarist nice enough to sing “Happy Birthday” upon request.

My mom and I agree: this would be the perfect spot for a date.

The majority of the menu is surprisingly affordable with a wide variety of daily entrees not exceeding \$15. However, this was our splurge night.

Upon glancing at the menu, I saw several great options, including skirt steak and filet mignon. Still, old habits die hard and I ended up with fish on my plate, namely grilled snapper with shrimp in Creole sauce with mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables.

Overall the snapper, with its light garlic notes and delicate texture, was pretty close to perfect. The large portion was filling and

the tomato-based sauce was flavorful without being acidic.

My quest for steak wasn’t completely lost, as I was able to try several bites of the 10-ounce New York strip steak. Once again, I was highly impressed. The steak didn’t have that burnt taste that I have come to associate with grilling.

Instead, it was tender and juicy to the point that eating it with steak sauce would have been a sin. It was the perfect complement to the creamy mashed potatoes that were served with it.

Brasa Nova also has a short but notable dessert menu.

Sadly, I was unable to try their balcarce, a meringue tart filled with peaches and dulce de leche.

Instead, I had to settle for my second, more familiar choice: tiramisu. The thin layers of airy sponge cake held up well to the thick layers of coffee-infused custard and were delicious enough to help me forget most of my disappointment.

My only disappointment is that Brasa Nova was painfully empty. I suppose this gem of a restaurant has yet to be fully appreciated, at least for dinner.

With its affordable ambiance and high-quality food, I truly hope that Brasa Nova finally gets the customers it deserves.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly food column. Reviewers are not compensated for favorable reviews.

HEALTHY BITES

Calorie reduction is all about about tricking your brain

Trying to lose weight can be impossible for some, and diets are restricting and their effects are only temporary.



DANIELLE HAMO

To lose weight and keep it off you must create a healthy lifestyle and permanent changes you can live with. The following are a few tips to help you cut the amount of calories you consume without even noticing.

Doing this will help you lose weight and maintain that weight loss. Remember, any changes you make in your life style shouldn’t be so drastic you can’t stick with them or they will only be temporary. Any small change counts. You can begin by trying the following tips.

1. SMALLER PLATES

Switching your usual dinner plate for an appetizer-sized plate tricks your eyes and results in consuming less food yet

feeling equally full. We use the size of the plate to dictate our serving size instead of listening to our bodies to know when we are full. Try using a smaller plate at your next meal and cut out calories without any effort.

2. EAT SLOWLY

It takes our brain 20 minutes to receive the message that we are full. By eating slowly and giving your body more time to tell you it’s full you will consume less food. Savor your meals, sit at a table and try to aim for no less than 30 minutes to eat your food. Most Americans finish their food within 10 to 15 minutes; that simply doesn’t give us enough time to know when to stop. This results in consuming extra food and calories that we wouldn’t have if we had eaten slower.

3. FOCUS ON YOUR FOOD

Avoid distractions during a meal such as watching television. This results in “mindless eating” which leads to consuming larger quantities of food. While eating, sit at a table and savor every bite. If you want a snack while watching television go for something like carrot sticks, and stay away from that large bag of chips.

4. PORTION YOUR SNACKS

Avoid eating out of large packaging

when snacking as doing so will lead to eating larger quantities of food. A study conducted showed that when moviegoers were given a larger bucket of popcorn they ate 53% more than the people who received a medium sized bucket. Always buy portion controlled snacks such as 100-Calorie packs or portion out your large size chips, nuts or cookies into smaller bags. When you are in the mood for a snack, grab just a portion and enjoy it away from the kitchen.

5. GLASS SHAPE COUNTS

When drinking anything other than water you can trick your eyes into drinking less by drinking out of a tall, slender glass rather than a wide, short glass. Our eyes think there is more in the tall glass which results in drinking less and consuming fewer calories.

For more great tips read *Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think* by Brian Wansink, PH.D. An Oprah favorite, this book explains how visual cues result in eating more food. The book also gives great tips on how to shed pounds mindlessly by tricking ourselves into consuming fewer calories.

Healthy Bites is a bi-weekly health column.

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

Puzzle Difficulty: Evil

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



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

YOGA AT FARMERS MARKET

Join the Yoga Club for some free yoga during the weekly farmer’s market.
 WHEN: 1 p.m. in English, 2 p.m. in Spanish
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Lawn by the Central Fountain

RELAY FOR LIFE POTLUCK FUNDRAISER

Hosted by the Engineering Student Committee. Food and entertainment!
 WHEN: 4 - 6:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$5
 WHERE: Panther Pit, second floor of Engineering Center 10555 W. Flagler St.

TURANDOT - OPERA



G. Puccini’s opera about a Chinese princess who will marry only the man who answers her three riddles.
 WHEN: 8 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Starting at \$25
 WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House at the Adrienne Arsht Center

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

KOOZA



Cirque du Soleil is back in town! FIU students/faculty/staff get a 15 percent discount for the showing at 8 p.m.
 WHEN: 8 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$76.50
 WHERE: Bicentennial Park

THANKSGIVING AT THE BILTMORE



All-you-can eat buffet! Thanksgiving Champagne Brunch.
 WHEN: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$85 for adults; \$37.50 kids 5-11
 WHERE: Biltmore Hotel 1200 Anastasia Ave.

ITALIAN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving food – Italian style! Menu includes three courses including cranberries and sausage and a warm apple brioche.
 WHEN: 4 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$70
 WHERE: Quattro Gastronomia Italiana 1014 Lincoln Rd

THANKSGIVING DINNER CRUISE



Hop aboard the Biscayne Lady as it cruises through the Bay. For more info, visit islandqueencruises.com.
 WHEN: Boarding begins at 5:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$65 adults, \$35 children
 WHERE: Bayside Marketplace

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

END OF SEMESTER BBQ



Join the Biology GSA and AMSA for an end-of-the-semester barbecue! Free and open to all FIU students.
 WHEN: 12 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: By the loading dock, first floor of ECS Building.

WE ROCK HIP HOP



Featuring P. Diddy and DJ Irie! Must be 21 and over.
 WHEN: 11 p.m. - 5 a.m.
 HOW MUCH: \$25
 WHERE: Mansion 1235 Washington Ave.

MIAMI HEAT VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

The Heat host the 76ers.
 WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Tickets start at \$15
 WHERE: American Airlines Arena

LUMPY SUE ACOUSTIC MUSIC FEST



Relax the day after Thanksgiving and enjoy some free folk music! Raffle tickets proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity.
 WHEN: 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Greynolds Park 17530 W. Dixie Hwy, N. Miami Beach
www.lumpysue.org

Write to calendar@fiusm.com to have your event featured!

Breast cancer, abortion link a bogus scare tactic

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

Though there is extensive medical research completely refuting the propaganda that abortion can increase the risk of breast cancer, anti-choice organizations continue to cling to their claims, blatantly spinning facts to support their anti-abortion crusade.

The "research" these anti-choice organizations rely on is antiquated and largely based on self-reported cases and personal interviews, which led to the publishing of literature declaring a link between abortion and breast cancer. However, according to the Feminist Women's Health Center, the 30-year-old Swedish study that disproved this claim was based on a study of more than 49,000 women and was not based on personal interviews.

This solid research was a huge factor that led the National Cancer Institute to state that women who had abortions, even more than one, were not at an increased risk of developing breast cancer. However, it seems anti-choice organizations like the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer and Optionline have intentionally disregarded this research.

Simon Caldwell writes, "There has been an 80 percent increase in the rate of breast cancer since 1971, when in the wake of the Abortion Act, the number of abortions rose from 18,000 to nearly 200,000 a year." Caldwell knows very well that it is logical that women would have been less likely to report having an abortion whilst it was illegal, thus making it nearly impossible to make a factual point about the seemingly sudden surge in breast cancer cases after abortion became legal.

Despite Optionline's claim that "Carrying a pregnancy to full term gives a measure of protection against breast cancer," it is pivotal to point out the citation is from the 1970s, making this claim decidedly outdated and intentionally misleading. The National Cancer Institute's website adamantly states there is no link between abortion and breast cancer: "In February 2003, the [NCI] convened a workshop of over 100 of the world's leading experts who study pregnancy and breast cancer risk. They concluded that having an abortion or miscarriage does not increase a woman's subsequent risk of developing breast cancer." This scare tactic is particularly immoral. It speaks volumes about these organizations very foundations; in their desire to propel an anti-abortion agenda, they will tell women anything to discourage abortion.

The Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer's website states, "The abortion-breast cancer research has been suppressed for many years, in part because the political climate in the United States is extremely antagonistic toward this message." If the political climate in the U.S. is indeed antagonistic toward this message, it very well should be. Antagonism toward tactics that dissuade abortion by distorting the truth should be decried and should seek to promote and protect women's health must reflect the strong scientific research that there is no link.

The propagation of misinformation to women exploring their pregnancy options isn't just anti-choice; it's anti-woman and incongruent with the sanctity of women's health and their inviolable right to choose.

Undue use of Adderall by college students an unfair mental advantage

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

Athletes have steroids, those with depression have Prozac and those who wish to do it all have Adderall.

Adderall is a central nervous system stimulant prescription drug that enhances one's mental performance. It was developed to help bring some desperately needed focus to those with Attention Deficit Disorder, ADD, or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, ADHD. This medication can provide significant unhealthy and dangerous mental enhancement if taken by those who do not suffer from ADD or ADHD.

Today, some college students without the disorder are admitting to using Adderall to enhance their academic performance. I am legitimately concerned with the casual and frequent use of Adderall amongst college students. It's an addictive, unhealthy and harmful drug.

Not only is Adderall a mental enhancer, it is also highly addictive. According to Cory Debusse, a contributing writer for Yahoo News, "The dangerous downside of Adderall is that students who gain positive results from the drug often become dependent on it. Whether it is a dangerous chemical addiction or a psychological dependence, it makes students believe they cannot succeed without Adderall." Students do not realize the potential harm they are inflicting on themselves.

I do not think that it is morally right for a college student to take Adderall solely to

enhance his academic performance. It unjustly and undeservingly puts them ahead of their competition.

For students with ADD or ADHD, Adderall just serves to make them average; they are able to focus at a normal level and things become less distracting. However, for students without ADD or ADHD, it serves to make them above average, sometimes substantially, as they gain

This disparity is unfair for the studious, healthy and moral students who wisely choose not to illegally abuse drugs.

increased capacity to focus for hours without any distractions. Although the immediate results of Adderall seem appealing, the long-term dangerous effects need to be considered. Students need to be concerned about the legality of this drug, too. Adderall is an illegal substance if taken by one without a disorder.

Unlike the topic of steroids amongst athletes, which has made its way into the limelight, the growing use of Adderall amongst college students has been kept on the down

low. This casual use of Adderall by college students is worrisome because it injects chemical enhancement into academic competition. When a student is on the drug, his performance is exceptional. When a student is off the drug, he feels as if he can not function. This disparity is unfair for the studious, healthy and moral students who wisely choose not to illegally abuse drugs. This competitive edge through the illegal use of a mental enhancement drug is unfair.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 percent of college students reported having used Adderall for non-medical reasons in 2006 and 2007. This percentage is evidence that too many students are abusing this drug.

Let's be realistic - as college students, we are easily distracted. While I am studying or working on a paper, I constantly find myself on Facebook, glancing at my e-mails, checking the news and surfing the Web. Adderall brings back the focus.

Along with being a highly addictive drug, Adderall also possesses other staggering side effects. Adderall is a stimulant, which automatically makes it hard on the heart. This highly dangerous drug can lead to a heart attack, high blood pressure and even death.

Adderall should be discouraged and its use should be closely monitored. It is a hazardous, addictive and unhealthy drug. We are a society that places great value on personal accomplishments, and the use of Adderall takes away the "personal" in a personal accomplishment.

Unappreciated campus a valuable asset

NATASHA KAPLAN
Contributing Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus is vastly unappreciated at Florida International University. Many people know and applaud the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, and all it entails, without the blink of an eye. Somehow, the BBC goes unnoticed when there are so many useful treasures to experience on this scenic landscape.

While both campuses are an integral part of FIU, the MMC gets much more praise and notoriety. This is not only an injustice for the Bay, but a miscalculation for students and faculty alike. The BBC deserves to be better appreciated. There are significant and positive points about the campus that include amicable people, campus resources and a lack of overcrowding. All of which have gone unnoticed and need to be taken into consideration.

First and foremost, one of the undervalued factors is the incredible people at BBC. Faculty and

students at the North Miami campus seem welcome every person with friendly hospitality. People actually say "hello" in passing, while on the Maidique Campus, it's a miracle if you don't get trampled by rushing students, much less receive a grin or a greeting. Everything seems paced slower, and perhaps that's why people seem willing to engage in conversation and usually make you feel as if they will lend a hand with anything you may need.

When you go to any office on the Bay, there aren't massive waiting lines and the customer service seems fresh and authentic with friendly smiles.

Another major factor BBC is undervalued for is the campus itself. It's on a stunning location right on the water, making people feel as if they are on a tropical island. The fact that the campus is on the water enables many activities that are not comparable to the main campus.

Boating, fishing and the kaja-

king club are all great attributes to the Bay. The view alone is worth the walk or run around the campus.

Walking around BBC is a scenic experience. There are many creatures like squirrels, blue crabs and egrets to scope out, hide lunches from and photograph.

Another unnoticed feature to the BBC is the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center, able to accommodate up to 500 people for various events.

Although it's a smaller campus than the MMC, it's exactly that home-like appeal that makes BBC so welcoming. It only takes around 15 minutes to walk around the buildings, making any individual feel like he is in a small and detailed community.

Finally, there is the undeniable lack of overcrowding, which is such a pleasure to see. At the MMC, there is always traffic, a hoard of people coming at you from all directions, building after endless building and an impossible search for a parking spot.

When at Maidique's parking garages, one usually has to wait in line for a space.

At BBC, that is never the case, for it always has ample parking for everyone. It's not just the parking, but the feeling of keeping your own personal bubble intact, with the right amount of people around to prevent overwhelming.

With a 200-acre campus including a natural mangrove preserve, direct access to the bay, incredible customer service at the library, an aquatic center and the Kovens Center, it's easy to see the value of the campus. Aside from all the facts, it's truly the experience of being in such a wonderful place that really makes a difference.

From students to faculty, and even visitors, there are a myriad of experiences that include slow walks, friendly faces, calming waters and an occasional squirrel trying to hop into your car that make the BBC a beautiful campus that we should learn to appreciate more.

VERBATIM

"People keep seeming to get on planes with bombs...we are in treacherous times and, no, it's not comfortable, and it's not the way I would like to live, but if it's going to keep me from getting blown out of the sky, you can check anything you want and if you feel something you like and squeeze it, what am I going to do?"

-Whoopi Goldberg, actress, defending TSA pat-downs on *The View*

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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. *The Beacon* welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com



BRAZIL

President-elect's guerilla past described

Military records indicate that President-elect Dilma Rousseff once oversaw a cache of weapons and ammunition for militants who opposed Brazil's 1964-1985 military regime, a major newspaper reported.



HAITI

Cholera protests ebb but anger remains

Protests over the cholera epidemic faded on Nov. 19 but young men burned tires threw rocks at police near government buildings amid surging anger over a disease that has killed more than 1,100 people so far.



VENEZUELA

Chavez demands action against opposition

Hugo Chavez stepped up threats against Globovision, Venezuela's only remaining opposition-aligned television channel, calling its owner a fugitive criminal and accused him of conspiring against his government.

Campus chef committed to quality, developing new recipes

TASHIEKA WEATHERSPOON
Contributing Writer

On a Friday afternoon, a group of students and faculty members on the Biscayne Bay Campus stand in single file at Grille Works. Burgers and chicken patties line the glass panel as cooks bustle back and forth to fill orders shouted to them by the cashier. A basket of dinner rolls sits squarely behind a small sign that says Hot Meal of the Day: barbecue ribs, garlic mashed potatoes and dinner rolls.

A faculty member points to the hot meal pot and Chef Denex Attelus, the mastermind behind the recipe, lifts the pot to indicate the meal is finished. The rolls are remnants of a meal long gone before midafternoon. The faculty member taps the glass panel in disappointment and walks off.

Burgers and chicken patties just aren't the same.

The hot meals of the day are some of Attelus's signature dishes. He said his meals go so fast because of the flavoring of his food.

"When people eat something that is good they are always going to come back for more," Attelus said. "If I come back that means it



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Denex Attelus, head chef at the Biscayne Bay Campus cafeteria, was promoted in June and since then has introduced two new dishes to the menu: the pesto crispy chicken and blackened Cajun fish.

is good."

This June, after working four years as an assistant chef at BBC, Attelus was promoted to head chef. Attelus said he has a hands-on approach with a commitment to

cooking good quality food.

"I could say that I'm the type of person that likes things done the proper way," Attelus said. "If my staff is doing something wrong, I show them how to do it the proper

way with respect.

"I make sure the recipe is followed and the portioning is correct."

Another goal for Attelus as chef is to develop new recipes.

In the fall semester, he introduced

the pesto crispy chicken and blackened Cajun fish. In October he debuted the barbecue glazed chicken.

"I want to make new specials and new recipes every couple of months for the students," he said.

Food Services Director Martha Eva said Attelus's dedication hasn't slowed since his promotion in June.

"He is committed and he is serious about his job and he isn't afraid to take risks," Eva said. "New recipes, new menus, he's not afraid to bring in new ideas."

After 20 years of cooking and studying foods of all kinds, it's no wonder why the hot meal of the day is such a hit on campus.

For Attelus, food has always been a part of life.

Reared alone by his grandmother in Haiti, Attelus said he taught himself how to cook as a young child by watching his grandmother and others in the kitchen.

His love of cooking grew and from a young age he knew he wanted to be a chef.

"Some things are just in your spirit," Attelus said. "I taught myself how to cook because cooking is in my spirit."

CHEF, page 5

International students voiced their concerns during focus group

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

When Montle Siya returned to the U.S. to attend graduate school at FIU, she expected an experience just as welcoming as her undergrad experience at Johnson & Wales University.

Instead, during an international student focus group held on Nov. 19, Siya described her arrival as "an inhospitable, horrid ordeal."

Siya came to Rhode Island from her home in Africa to attend Johnson and Wales as an undergrad, a student host from Kenya greeted her, received three nights complimentary stay, and had an overall hands-on, transition to an unfamiliar place.

Angeline Simbisai Mubau, director of international relations for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, hosted the focus group in order to get ideas and views on what students want changed and how they think the college can help.

Siya recounted her frustration.

"I felt like I was dropped in an ocean. I was crying like a baby," Siya said to a room of about 25 students.

Before leaving Botswana, the mother of three felt comfortable about coming to the University because the application and administration process was efficient.

Her confidence and ease ended there.

The information packet Siya received was a disappointing array of expensive hotel rates and transportation options in which she'd also pay for out of pocket, she said.

Once Siya arrived in Miami and found transportation from the airport, the first ques-

tion the driver asked, "Which campus are you going to?" The hospitality grad student wasn't even aware the University had more than one campus.

Siya made the trip two days early so she'd have time to acclimate, but once at BBC, Housing told her she'd have to pay for those days in addition to her already-paid semester's rent.

"After two days of flying from Africa, that's the last thing you want," Siya said.

Mubau, a hospitality student as well, related to Siya's story as she reminisced about her arrival from Zimbabwe this past August.

Mubau was assigned a peer mentor at orientation, but never saw or heard from the mentor again. Left to fend for herself, she walked herself to a dirty dorm room and didn't meet her resident adviser for a week.

"If we call ourselves FIU, the international part should be a priority," Mubau said.

Siya agreed, and said the word "international" in "FIU" helped her choose it for graduate school.

Siya then told of another first hand international-student horror story.

In the middle of a semester, Siya got a call from the International Student and Scholar Services office and was informed she was "out of status," which she translated to one word: deportation.

After many stressful calls, Siya discovered that someone in administration had cancelled a class she was registered for, thus adjusting her status.

Siya was also billed for the class again, and said she had a hard time getting someone to

listen to her unique situation.

"The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing," Siya said.

Nancy Hernandez, director of ISSS at BBC, said Siya was called without ISSS having solid information about her status because once the office gets an alert, they want the student to be informed immediately.

Christin 'Cici' Battle, SGC-BBC president, stressed multiple times if students have department problems, SGA will help.

"Come to SGA and we will point you in the right direction," Battle said.

Participants also criticized the employment clause that limits them to only work on campus.

"In red, bold letters, applications might say: international students need not apply," Siya said.

Mubau added the University requires international student employees to be on financial aid. "So if you're not on financial aid you can't work on campus, but you still can't work off campus," she said.

German-born Aveah Marks is not considered an international student because she moved to the U.S. when she was around 5-years-old, but attended the focus group to support her international colleagues.

"I want to be involved in the local-global change," Marks said.

She suggested to the group the University should hold international/domestic team building events to ease the division between the two student types.

Marks said she is wary to approach foreign students, fearing they might not be respon-

sive to her attempts to strike up a random conversation.

Even so, the hospitality senior bonded with the group as they found international and American students share some of the same issues.

Marks said her first experience at the University was lousy, and she was left crying because of frustrations with admissions, from what she dubs a "department communication problem."

Battle said Human Resources is making plans to address the customer service issue with service trainings.

SGC-BBC is also organizing a program called "Secret Panther," in which SGC-BBC members will give feedback on employee interactions, and rewards for exceptional service, Battle said.

Throughout the discussion was a collective reassurance the University is a great school minus these fundamental issues.

Marks complimented the University's annual Food and Wine event, while another student said the school needs to play up its strength: diversity.

The focus group attendee gave an example of a school event in which she saw people dance to African music, Caribbean music, and even the cha-cha slide.

Other complaints were that careless international students still have to pay a parking fee, and their home country flag isn't flown on campus.

Siya looked into having a Botswana flag flown, but was told that if she supplied the flag, then maybe someone could put it up.