



CHINA

Church objects to Vatican bishop

China's government-backed Catholic church will proceed with the ordination of a bishop who does not have the pope's approval, despite objections raised by the Vatican.



HAITI

Violent cholera protests spread to capital

Haitians angry over the cholera epidemic ignored exhortations from health workers to stop violence that is disrupting treatment efforts, and authorities feared more unrest in the capital Friday.



THAILAND

2,000 fetuses found at Buddhist temple

Thai police investigated a strong smell from a Buddhist temple have found more than 2,000 fetuses hidden in the complex's morgue that appear to have come from illegal abortion clinics.

Campuses and states nationwide banning controversial energy drink

NATALIA LOPEZ
Staff Writer

Four Loko, a controversial drink also known as "blackout in a can," has led several campuses and states to completely ban the caffeinated alcoholic beverage.

Recently, in anticipation of a Food and Drug Administration ban on the beverage, the makers of Four Loko have decided to remove the drink's caffeine ingredient.

"The addition of the caffeine impairs the ability of the drinker to tell when they're drunk," explained Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien to *The New York Times*.

The drink has been banned at two campuses so far, Ramapo College in New Jersey and Central Washington University. Nine students have been hospitalized after repeated consumption at an off-campus Central Washington University party.

According to *The Associated Press*, the students were taken to the hospital with blood-alcohol levels that ranged from 0.12 percent to a life threatening 0.35 percent. They

also reported that the students had been mixing drinks such as vodka, rum and beer with Four Loko.

"I only drink one Four Loko a night," said Yari Triay, junior who went on to explain she typically mixes the beverage with other drinks. "Those nights, I blacked out."

After noticing the large amount of students that were mixing alcoholic beverages with caffeine, Chris Hunter, Jason Freeman and Jeff Wright came up with the idea of Four Loko in the year 2005. Hunter, Freeman and Wright are Ohio State University graduates.

The name Four Loko was derived from the four active ingredients in the drink: caffeine, taurine, guarana and alcohol. The drink sells for less than three dollars and is available in ten different flavors including: grape, fruit punch and citrus.

One Four Loko has the same amount of caffeine as about two cups of coffee, the same amount of alcohol as six light beers and contains 660 calories, which is the same as a McDonald's cheese-



PAUL SAKUMA/AP IMAGES

burger Happy Meal. It has already been banned in Washington, Michigan, Utah and Oklahoma.

After several hospitalizations and at least one heart attack, Florida state officials are trying to ban the drink from being sold.

and Light and Ocean Bank sponsored their teams. "Both teams were in the corporate division, and thus we got first and second place in that division; all together there were nine teams in that division," said Aziz Klebleyev.

Not only does Klebleyev believe it is a mentally relaxing and fun event, but also one that

inspires teamwork. "We had to work hard, but each of us also had to listen to one another," said Klebleyev. "Seeing lot's of paddles in front of you coming in and out of water at the same time and feeling yourself part of that coordinated movement actually was like a meditation."

While Klebleyev felt the activity was more relaxing than anything, other students like Phillip Ho, were a bit more nervous and concerned. "I can't say what the other participants were thinking, but I am pretty sure it was that," said Ho, a first time participant in the event. "We all hoped that we would finish the race, and that nothing embarrassing would happen, like the boat flipping or sinking, which did happen once during the competition."

Aside from being a culturally oriented program that involves a great deal of practice, hard work and dedication, President of the FIU Chinese Club, Carol Wang, believes the event helped the students participating to form a closer relationship with each

Professor wins research award

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

School of Computing and Information Sciences Associate Professor, Vagelis Hristidis, won a Google Research Award in the amount of \$70,000.

Although SCIS has never received an award of this kind before, it is not the first time Hristidis has been recognized for his work. Since coming to the University in 2004, Hristidis has received the Excellence in Research Award from the University in 2006 and was published in *Discovery on Electronic Health Records* in 2009.

In an effort to deepen a connection between Google and universities, the Google Research Award

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Chinese club takes home first and second place in race

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

Winning first and second place in the worldwide Dragon Boat Race this past Saturday, the FIU Chinese Club proved that hard work mixed with teamwork and some laid-back fun leads to success.

The Dragon Boat Festival originated in China as the result of an intriguing legend. According to student and club member, Rebekah Lyew-Ayee, the boat races began as a way to honor Qu Yuan, a Chinese war hero who served during the Warring States (475 to 221 BC).

"He was a wise and erudite man who was exiled due to his constant fight against corruption; even in exile, he did not give up however," said Lyew-Ayee.

According to the legend, he taught and wrote about his ideas and fought for his mother country. At the eve of discovering that Chu State had been defeated during the war however, he chose to end his life by drowning himself in Milou River.

People's reaction to his death



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FIU CHINESE CLUB

Members of the FIU Chinese Club's rowing during the Miami Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race competition.

was so strong that they looked for a way to honor him. The Dragon Boat Race is the event that commemorates his death. The festival usually occurs on the 5th day of the 5th month on the Chinese Lunar calendar.

"On the day of the festival they throw the zongzi (sticky rice) into the water to keep the fishes from eating Qu Yuan," said Lyew-Ayee.

"The dragon boats are search party though it seems it turned into a sport of who paddle their boat fastest. Also it shows and promotes team work among the people and how they can unite and accomplish something as one."

The FIU Chinese team won first and second place in the "D" Division at the Miami Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race. Florida Power

and Light and Ocean Bank sponsored their teams.

"Both teams were in the corporate division, and thus we got first and second place in that division; all together there were nine teams in that division," said Aziz Klebleyev.

Not only does Klebleyev believe it is a mentally relaxing and fun event, but also one that

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Drink known to give users a 'delayed drunk feeling'

LOKO, page 1

In addition to these four states, *The Huffington Post* reported that Governor Paterson and the New York State Liquor Authority have banned the drink in the state of New York.

Four Loko is known to give drinkers a "delayed drunk feeling." The caffeine prevents the drinker from feeling the full effect of the alcohol. Once it wears off though, the effects are sudden.

"My words slurred, I was off balance, but I do remember the whole night,"

explained Kristie Mechoso, senior.

Because of the mix of caffeine and alcohol, Four Loko induces the "wide awake and drunk" effect.

After drinking a Four Loko, University alumni Olman Quesada explained that he was drunk, but felt energized.

"The next day I felt drained," he said. "I don't want to experience it again."

Even after the national debate of whether or not to ban this drank, some students claim that it isn't the drink, but the amount

you drink.

Michelle Travieso, senior, claims to have been aware of the potential health risks.

"It is not hazardous in moderation," she said. "One is enough."

Travieso also claims to have experienced a loss in appetite the next day.

"I was at a BBQ the next day and had no appetite whatsoever," explained Travieso.

Some students, however, would rather not take that risk.

"I'll stick to my beer," said Quesada.

Competition helps club members become closer

RACE, page 2

other. "I made lots of friends that I wouldn't have met if it were not for Chinese Club," said Wang. "By being a participant in the Miami Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race I also got to participate in a sport that isn't conventional."

The boat race was not without its moments of disaster. According to Wang, the very last race for the professional boat race teams, which train about three times a week, had the team's boat sinking in the water, and prior to that almost crashing into another boat.

"We saw the boat coming toward the spectators on the shore and realized that it was gradually sinking lower and lower into the water, said Wang. "All of a sudden, one of the rowers jumped off the boat and the

whole boat flipped over. I clearly remembered how the steersman for that same boat was bragging earlier in the day about her record of how not one of her boats have ever sunk into the water."

For most of the students involved in the race the satisfaction of winning and receiving a trophy was priceless.

"The best moment was after our second race when we passed the finishing line and realized that all the other teams were behind. That just felt great," stated Aziz Klebleyev.

Crossing the finish line and realizing they had done their best and won left some of the participants incredulous.

"It was a little surreal," said Ripley Lupine. "I didn't really have any winning expectations before the actual race day and I certainly didn't expect our winning of two trophies."

Project to help facilitate more effective database searches

GOOGLE, page 2

programs identify exceptional full-time faculty pursuing research in areas of mutual interest.

Hristidis' project, the Collaborative Adaptive Data Sharing Platform, is a next-generation data-sharing platform where the system interacts with the user at data insertion and querying to effectively annotate and match the shared data.

According to his website, the goal of the project is to create a system that is capable of learning and recommending annotations for new documents and integrating struc-

tured and keyword queries for retrieval.

Hristidis' research focused on working out how to facilitate more effective searches on databases, particularly in emergencies. This database would guide users to search in a more precise manner.

"Our system will guide users to uniform terminologies. For example, kindergarten will equate with preschool," said Hristidis.

The system is meant to be tailored to specific communities or domains with their own databases. Hristidis accepted his award along with collaborator Panagiotis Ipeiritis of the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University.

Two of Hristidis' Ph.D students, Eduardo Ruiz and Amanda Crick, have been working with the both professors on the CADS project, holding weekly progress meetings aiming to advance a submission for publication in the coming months. The database is currently at the research stage, but they hope to have a working model in six months.

"The main problem with the database is finding those similar words and guiding users to those words when doing searches," said Hristidis.

According to the Hristidis, the majority of the Google grant will go to pay for Ruiz and Crick's monthly stipends and tuition. The project is also funded with grants from government agencies, one being Homeland

Security. Ruiz helps users by assigning relevant words while Crick is working on the searching aspect of the project.

There are no plans to patent the work that Hristidis and his team have done, because it is their hope that everyone has open access to CADS.

One of the project's main objectives is to be available for the public on a national level.

"This research has a lot of potential," said Ruiz. "When looking for relevant problems, the solutions come naturally."

The award came as both a surprise and an honor to Hristidis and the CADS research team.

"Knowing you have impact is good encouragement and makes you want to

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 37 of *The Beacon*, the article titled "Grievances filed against senators for unexcused absences" incorrectly states that Student Government senators must give reports every meetings. The article also states that the "Meet Your Dean" event is a requirement. It is not.

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

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FOOTBALL: FIU 38, ULL 17

Panthers rank first in Sun Belt after trouncing Troy



BRAD KEMP/AP PHOTO

FIU wide receiver T.Y. Hilton [above] evades Louisiana defenders. Hilton was on the receiving end of a 49-yard reception that set up a first half touchdown for FIU.

IGOR MELLO Staff Writer

In the week prior to FIU's last road game the week prior to FIU's last road game against University of Louisiana-Lafayette, red-shirt sophomore receiver Junior Mertile was asked to switch position and play defensive back.

Cristobal's sudden roster change paid dividends as Mertile took back an interception 26 yards for a touchdown. That touchdown helped lead the Golden Panthers to a 38-17 victory over the Ragin' Cajuns.

"During the open week he played some corner just to try him out and it was really good. We put him there this week and he meshed well and played some defense," said defensive coordinator Geoff Collins.

Collins assigned safety Ash Parker to shadow Mertile at corner.

"We had Ash Parker go to his side most of the time and before every play Junior [Mertile] would look at Ash [Parker], Ash would tell him what to do. [After the interception] everyone was happy for him," Collins said.

According to Cristobal, Mertile will likely play defense throughout the remainder of the season. Cristobal however, did not count him at possibly lining up in the wildcat formation.

"I'm both [an offensive minded player and a defensive minded player]. It doesn't matter where they put me at. I'm going to do my thing," Mertile said.

With the win, FIU is now one game away from clinching the Sun Belt Conference and also earning a bowl-berth for the first time in school history.

The Golden Panthers offense started slow and went three and out after getting pinned down at their own two-yard line.

The Golden Panthers were pinned down at the one-yard line in their first two opening drives. In the first drive, Carroll's offense was held to a three and out.

Their second drive was a completely different.

Carroll orchestrated the longest drive of the season and possibly the longest drive in school history. The redshirt junior drove the Golden Panthers 99 yards down the field, which was capped off by a six-yard play-action pass for a touchdown to Jonathan Faucher to take an early lead.

After nailing a field goal to cut FIU's lead to 7-3 in the second quarter, the Cajuns (2-9, 2-5 SBC) held the Golden Panthers (5-5, 5-1 SBC) to a three and out. The fourth down punt by Josh Brisk was blocked by Cajun receiver Vernon Wolfe at the FIU 41-yard line. Wolfe bobbled the recovery all the way down to the FIU two-yard line, as free safety Lionel Stokes fell on the football.

Geoff Collins' defensive unit rose to the occasion as the Cajuns had a chance to steal the lead at the two-yard line.

The defense shut down four consecutive quarterback sneaks up the middle with Gautier. On fourth and goal at the goal line, Gautier ran into his own receiver, Marlin Miller, who was in motion. Joshua Forney took advantage and stopped Gautier short of the end zone.

"It was big for our defense. We had to dig down deep and get a stop. It took all eleven guys on the team to come up and get that stop. It was a momentum changing play because they had just blocked a punt," said Forney.

The Golden Panthers came out of the locker room in the third quarter with quick four-play drive, highlighted by a 49-yard bomb from Carroll to T.Y. Hilton. That deep pass led to a five-yard scamper by Darriert Perry, which gave the Golden Panthers a 14-3 lead at the time.

Perry wound up scoring three touchdowns on 20 carries for 77 yards on the ground.

SACK RECORD BROKEN

Geoff Collins' defense tacked up seven sacks in the game, breaking the single-season sack record of 24 sacks in a season. Jarvis Wilson, Wiston Fraser, Jose Cheeseborough and Tourek Williams each had a sack.

The Golden Panthers now have 29 sacks, with two games remaining this season.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 65, UTAH VALLEY 62

Frederick leads way with 18 points as defense holds



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FIU Center Brandon Moore goes up for a dunk.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

With FIU's starting point guard Phil Gary not prepared to suit up against Utah Valley, Head Coach Isiah Thomas had a decision to make.

He decided to start Martavis Kee at point guard. And it worked.

"Phil had got hurt during the FSU game, coach called me right after the game and told me to be ready because he was going to put me in the starting lineup," Kee said.

"Basically, last night I watched film, put some new sets into the offense and just kind of stayed at the point guard position because I was playing more of the wing."

Kee scored 11 points on an efficient 5-of-9 shooting clip, and added three assists and two steals in 33 minutes, providing just enough at the point to get by the Wolverines 65-62 on Nov. 20 at the U.S Century Bank Arena.

To prepare for the game, Kee looked to Gary for help. The senior point guard was not ready to go after sustaining a concussion in the teams loss to Florida State a few day's before on a crushing screen from Chris Singleton. Kee stepped in and played his best game in an Panthers uniform.

"I was on the phone with Phil, he was telling me the sets as far as spacing, timing, coming off the screen, the split when you pass it to the high post," Kee said. "He's a senior, and I look to him for

advice."

"I always played point guard, just the fact that Phil is so little, there is really no other position he can play. He say's he's [Six-foot tall] but he's really like [five-foot-nine]," Kee laughed.

"It was just a matter that coach gave me the opportunity. Like I said, it's going to be a process and I can learn some tips from Phil. Next year when he's gone I'm pretty sure I have to step up and take that role."

PULLING OUT THE STOPS

Kee managed the game on offense, but FIU's defense was arguably the main factor in the Panthers close victory, which was not an indication of how the game went, with FIU leading by as much as 17 points during moments in the first half.

Defensively, FIU held Utah Valley to 38 percent shooting, including a 27 percent finish in the first half.

"It's good to get a win, but we didn't play as well as we would have liked to have played. We still have a lot of work to do. Our foul-shooting has to get better," Thomas said.

"We were 13-of-24 from the foul line tonight. I thought they did a good job of getting to the foul line for most of the game, and at one point in time I think they only had like 11 field goals, but they were able to get to the line and convert from the line to stay in the game."

CHANGING ROLES

Forward Eric Frederick led the Panthers (3-1) in scoring with 18

points on 7-of-10 shooting off the bench. Frederick, who started the team's first three games this year, sat out on a coaches decision.

"He did well and responded off the bench," Thomas said.

Frederick was pleased with his performance, and acknowledged that he needed to adjust his approach to the game.

"I came off the bench today, because the game against FSU, I had a attitude," Frederick said.

"Coach didn't like that too much so he made me come off the bench today and just told me to keep my head and play hard. That's what I did, I couldn't keep my head down because my team needed me."

Frederick also grabbed six rebounds and made two 3-pointers.

"I just thought I would come into this game and do everything the right way," Frederick said.

"So coach wouldn't have to get on me after every timeout or something like that. I just decided it was time to step up and be a man. I'm not in junior college anymore and I was babied back then. I can't do it now."

FIU shot 50 percent as a team, partly making up for being out-rebounded 34 to 29.

The Panthers shot 6-for-20 from 3-point territory as well. The team is now 3-1 for the first time since 2008-09. Isiah Williams led Utah Valley (0-2) in scoring with 14 points.

Jordan Swarbrick dropped 11 points on 3-of-6 shooting, while Geddes Robinson added 10 for the Wolverines in defeat.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

| FIU | FG | FT | REB | A | TO | PTS | MIN |
|------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Kee, Martavis | 5-9 | 0-2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 33 |
| Roberts, Marvin | 1-5 | 1-2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 19 |
| Wright, DeJuan | 2-4 | 0-0 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 33 |
| Moore, Brandon | 3-4 | 1-2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 21 |
| Allen, Jeremy | 1-2 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Weaver, Stephon | 0-4 | 3-4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 21 |
| Russel, Tremayne | 2-2 | 4-6 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 21 |
| Frederick, Eric | 7-10 | 2-3 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 25 |
| Team Totals | 23-46 | 13-24 | 29 | 10 | 20 | 65 | 200 |

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 59, EASTERN KENTUCKY 52

Krajacic boosts Panthers off bench in home opener

RICCO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Trailing 32-16 at the half, the Panthers realized they had to do something to at least cut into the deficit. Coach Russo then made a move that would affect the outcome of the game: putting in Maja Krajacic.

FIU overcame a 16-point deficit to defeat Eastern Kentucky 59-52 to win their home opening matchup. Without Elisa Carey, who is scheduled to return in mid-December from a knee injury, the Panthers struggled with interior defense.

The turning point came with 3:41 left in the first half, Russo put in senior Maja Krajacic and she became a defensive presence inside as the Colonels struggled to score points from that point forward.

In the first half, the Panthers (2-2) struggled as they fell behind 9-4. Poor shooting would eventually lead to 25-14 lead for the Colonels (1-2).

Sophomore Alex Jones helped push the lead for Eastern Kentucky with 11 points and seven rebounds. The Colonels continued to push their lead to 32-16, as the Panthers could not get out of a shooting funk.

In addition to their shooting troubles FIU was going through, Eastern Kentucky was able to penetrate to the basket at will.

Although the perimeter defense for the Panthers was strong, senior

Reese Bass was able to attack the basket, along with Jones. Freshman Jerica Coley struggled from three point range, missing 3 of her first 3 point shots.

After a critical timeout with 3:41 left in the first half, The Panthers would go on a 8-3 run to cut the lead down to 35-24. When asked about what happened in the first half, Russo had no explanation.

"I wish I knew. I think that they maybe underestimated the other team," Russo said.

"We started out in the zone and we blew some coverage. We're still forming. We're still a work in progress without Elisa. It was great job coming back from a 16 point deficit. We accomplished a lot but we shouldn't of been in that position in the first place."

BIG RUN

The 8-3 run at the end of the first was the turning point of the game. The Panthers came out to a 13-4 run, which was led by junior Fanni Hutlassa's five points and senior Michelle Gonzalez's critical three to cut the lead down to two, 39-37.

The scoring became harder to come by, as both teams struggled to points on the board. The Colonels were able to get the scoring down and held a one point lead with a 44-43 lead.

It was at this point that Gonzalez took the ball to the basket and hit a

critical running layup to give the Panthers their first lead of the game.

HELP OFF THE BENCH

A key factor to the run that FIU put up was the presence of senior Maja Krajacic on the inside, who was able to grab four rebounds and block three shots.

"She had an incredible impact in this game," Russo said. "Jones didn't know how to score on her. She did a great job. She scored key baskets, grabbed some nice rebounds, blocks shots. She was the turning point in this game."

"I would give her the game ball. She changed the whole game," Gonzalez said.

Krajacic, meanwhile, felt that she was just a contributor.

"We got ourselves together," Krajacic said. "We realized that the other team was not better than us. We practiced hard and we were gonna show it on the court."

The biggest contribution came from four players for the Panthers. Gonzalez played a complete game and had 10 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Hutlassa added contributed 12 points and eight rebounds. Freshman Jerica Coley added 14 points of her own, while junior guard Rakia Rodgers rounded out the group with 13 points, seven rebounds and a game-high three steals.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Maja Krajacic goes up for a lay up in the second half.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

| FIU | FG | FT | REB | A | TO | PTS | MIN |
|--------------------|-------|------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Gonzalez, Michelle | 3-11 | 2-4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 40 |
| Hutlassa, Fanni | 5-6 | 1-2 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 24 |
| Rodgers, Rakia | 5-14 | 2-3 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 38 |
| Mansare, Finda | 0-5 | 0-0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Milojlav, Carmen | 2-4 | 0-0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 24 |
| Coley, Jerica | 6-14 | 0-0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 31 |
| Durrant, Arielle | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Krajacic, Maja | 3-4 | 0-2 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 22 |
| Team Totals | 24-59 | 5-11 | 38 | 15 | 15 | 59 | 200 |

GOLDEN GIRL



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Freshman Gabriella Yidi performs at this year's Golden Idol, where she won first place. Yidi can be seen performing at the Mr. and Mrs. Dance Marathon event on Nov. 23.

Freshman wins Golden Idol, performs at charity event

ALEX MACIEL
Staff Writer

We may not know who this year's American Idol is yet, but we do know this year's Golden Idol.

Gabriella Yidi, a freshman at Florida International University, was deemed the winner of the FIU Golden Idol competition.

According to Yidi, "[Winning] was a complete shock, seeing so many other great singers, and me being only a freshman. I went into the auditions with no expectation of actually winning."

Even though she is humble, Yidi has the experience to back

it up. She has taken voice lessons for six years. She plans to minor in music and in her spare time she teaches herself piano and plays the guitar. Yidi is also very proud of her change from an alto to a soprano - a move from a lower to a higher pitched singing voice.

She thanks her private voice coach, Jocelyn Melnikov. According to Yidi, Melnikov has not only inspired her but has also shown support throughout all her musical performances.

Yidi admitted, "Ever since I was a little girl it has always been my dream to be an actress on Broadway."

Luckily the perks that come with winning the Golden Idol title include performance opportunities among which is the honor of singing the national anthem before a football game.

Yidi was also requested as one of the performers at a fund-raiser that took place on Nov. 13. The Soria family set up the whole fund-raiser in their own backyard. All of the proceeds from the night were split between the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Coral Reef High School's Choir Program. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is a national, voluntary health agency aimed at

curing leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. The contribution to the choir program is to compensate for a lack of funding and to provide an artistic outlet for Coral Reef vocalists.

Lucy Soria, the owner of the house, said, "It is great to donate to these causes. My son is an alumni of Coral Reef and we have always supported the music program."

The night began with a quartet of young vocalists from Coral Reef and ended with our Golden Idol.

In the few short songs before her performance, Yidi prepared her music and practiced with duet

partner, Ray Soria.

"It is great working with Gaby. We have only recently met one another, but she's obviously a lot better than me," Soria laughed.

While waiting off stage, Yidi joked, "This is the arts: waiting and drinking warm water."

Yidi performed Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion's rendition of "The Prayer."

Yidi hopes to participate in more performances, but was satisfied with the causes she helped.

"In the end, all you can do is put your heart and soul into what you love and hope for the best," said Yidi.

FASHION FINDS

T-shirts you should never wear to school

I'm a huge fan of t-shirts. I love them because they're easy to wear with anything.

COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

Dressed up or down, a white or black v-neck t-shirt is the most valuable item in my closet. I live in them and make sure to grab a new one every time I go to the stores.

What I'd like to know is why people choose to take my beloved tees and destroy them with ridiculous graphics. So, here's my list of tees you should never wear.

1. VOTE FOR PEDRO TEES

It's just dumb. It might have been funny or cool when *Napoleon Dynamite* came out six years ago, but now it's not. The tees have outlasted the popularity of the movie and it hurts my eyes when I see these tees. I'm pretty bitter about this one.



COURTESY OF FOXSHOP.COM

2. CROP TOPS

I thought midriff-baring tees were a thing

of the past, but they've made a big comeback over the past few months. My main problem with this style is when girls who don't feel comfortable baring their stomach wear a cami underneath.

The look is way too *Flashdance* for anyone to appreciate and it wreaks havoc on proportions. It will look better if you just don't wear a cami at all and show your stomach. A little obnoxious, I'll admit, but I might just be jealous of someone's abs and I'm taking it out on the top.

3. ED HARDY, AFFLICTION AND CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER



COURTESY OF EDHARDY.COM

For guys, it is the easiest way to show someone you're a douche. I'm not even sure how these shirts became popular. They are shirts for



COURTESY OF ASOS.COM

shirts look cheap but run for \$75-90. Ladies, if a guy wearing these shirts flirts with you, run. He probably fist pumps.

4. WEARING NOVELTY TEES, WHEN YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE TEE IS ABOUT

I'm only saying this because I see it all the time. I'll see plenty of girls wearing Pink Floyd and The Ramones tees when I know they can't sing a single line of any of their songs. It's cool when you wear a band or comic tee when you are a fan or super nerd that's obsessed. I'm all for expressing your love of a band, movie or character— but don't wear it just because you think the shirt looks cool.

5. PAJAMA TEES



COURTESY OF VICTORIASECRET.COM



COURTESY OF RAMONESWORLD.

I think PINK by Victoria's Secret is really cute for going to sleep but not for going to school. The baggy sweatpants with "PINK" sprawled

across the tush aren't appropriate either.

6. TEES SUPPORTING OTHER UNIVERSITIES

You go to FIU, show your pride. If you aren't happy with that, get over it. Don't wear another school's tee just because you want to support another Miami school but didn't want to spend \$38,000 a year on tuition.



COURTESY OF MIAMI.EDU/BOOKSTORE

7. TEES THAT TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BODILY FUNCTIONS

These tees might be funny if you're a 12-year-old boy, but in college I don't want to know how you get a seat in the back of a bus by farting thanks to your t-shirt's comic strip design.

Fashion finds is a weekly column on style.

Look for it every Monday.



COURTESY OF CAFEPRESS.COM

Comedian crosses the pond to perform in comedy show

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

Every month students laugh out loud as SPC hosts their comedy shows. Known for bringing in acts like Jo Koy and Gabriel Iglesias, this month the SPC has scheduled British Comedy Award nominee, Jim Tavaré, to perform.

Since hitting the stage for season six of NBC's *Last Comic Standing* in 2008, Jim Tavaré has become one of

comedy's major forces. Most recently, he's performed all over the country, showcasing his act on about sixty stages alongside the other finalists.

Tavaré is a breakout newcomer in the U.S. having already worked with major Hollywood acts like Ricky Gervais. He even landed a spot in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* as Tom the innkeeper of The Leaky Cauldron.

Originally a bass player,

Tavaré used his knowledge of the instrument to inspire one of his earlier acts: a six-part series of ten-minute short films that hit the BBC airwaves and garnered high ratings from British television audiences.

His show, *Masterclass*, was performed at the Edinburgh Festival and won him a nomination for the Perrier Awards. Shortly after, he was invited to Montreal's *Just for Laughs* Festival. His stint on the stage attracted interest from NBC

executives who wrote an episode of the long running comedy series, *Wings*, based on his act.

This led to Tavaré writing his own sketch comedy show alongside Ricky Gervais. Soon after, the British comedian performed three times at the Royal Variety Command Performance. Tavaré has also performed for the Royal

Family, performing by special request at Prince Charles' private Christmas party.

Tavaré was later invited to join the cast of Steve Coogan's sketch comedy company in 2001. The show was composed of 30 sketches and won the very prestigious BAFTA—the British equivalent to an Academy Award.

After touring with *Last*

Comic Standing, Tavaré is in the process of establishing a growing film career with an upcoming role in Detrich McClure's *Dirty South*.

Having performed in several big name festivals and comedy stages, Tavaré will hit the GC Ballroom stage on Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Tickets are free with a valid FIU student I.D.



COURTESY OF JIMTAVARE.COM

Jim Tavaré, famous for incorporating music into his routines, will be performing on Nov. 22.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOV. 22

JIM TAVARE COMEDY SHOW



Presented by SPC-MMC. Jim Tavaré, finalist in *Last Comic Standing* and also the innkeeper in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban!*

WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students with Panther ID. (Pick them up in GC 2240)

WHERE: GC Ballrooms

ODE TO ST. CECILIA



Collegium Musicum presented by FIU Music.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/seniors; \$15 general admission
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

BSU THANKSGIVING UNION

WHEN: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

SAMPOORNA YOGA



Join the Yoga Club for a free hour of sampoorna style yoga.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

Lecture: Funding Opportunities in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Guest speaker Christian Meissner, Ph.D. of the National Science Foundation.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 140

TUESDAY, NOV. 23

ORCHESTRA BENEFIT CONCERT



FIU Music presents "Symphonies side by side."

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students; \$15 faculty/staff/seniors; \$25 general admission
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Join the Residence Hall Association for a dinner catered by Boston Market! Attire is semi-formal. Bring two to three cans of goods for charity.

WHEN: 7:30 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Stadium Club

Want your event featured? Write to calendar@fiusm.com!

RHYTHM FLOW YOGA

Relax with the Yoga Club for an hour of free yoga under a banyan tree. Bring your own mat or towel.

WHEN: 3 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Organic Garden

ELOKUVA FESTIVAALI



SPC-BBC presents a student art/film festival, featuring student artwork and performance by ASIA and SPEAK.

WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WUC Theatre, BBC

TANGO CLASS



WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10/class
WHERE: GC Pit

ASK VICKI

Social networking and body images affects students

Dear Vicki,

Lately I have been feeling really down on myself when I look in the mirror. I'm really unhappy with the way I look and I feel like I will never be beautiful in the way I want to. It's hard for me to feel happy when I am not happy with my body. What do I do?

Signed,
Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

It sounds like you are putting a lot of pressure on yourself. College is a perfect time for you to explore who you are and how you want to contribute to the world. But it's hard to explore the other parts of your identity when all you see is your body.

COLUMNIST



VICKI BURNS

This is a time to engage in different activities and in different relationships (friendships and romantic) to help you see how much you have to contribute. Furthermore, the FIU Counseling Center is now offering an 8-week online program called "Student Bodies." This program is open to women who struggle with body image problems. This is a brand new program and it is free to you as a female student. If you're interested, just give the Counseling Center a call at 305-348-2434.

Probably one of the most important yet difficult things for us to do is have compassion for ourselves. I know it's hard to be kind to yourself when you feel like you aren't reaching the standards you (and society) have imposed.

But just remember- you are doing the best you can with what you've got at this very moment. Taking some of the intense pressure off of yourself will allow you to feel good about the positive steps you do take and will help keep you motivated to keep moving.

WHY FACEBOOK NEEDS A DISLIKE BUTTON

Although Facebook has become a popular and enjoyable way to keep in contact with your friends and family, you may not realize ways in which Facebook could negatively affect you.

You may not be casting yourself in the

most positive light on Facebook. One study found that out of 200 Facebook profiles, 53% contained pictures involving alcohol use, 42% had comments about alcohol, 25% had semi-nude or provocative pictures, 20% had information about sexual activities and 50% contained profanity.

Social networking sites, like Facebook, can be used by employers to screen job applicants. Interestingly, 63% of employers who did use social networking sites mentioned they did not hire applicants based on what they found.

The way we portray ourselves can affect our relationships. People begin to have more superficial relationships with a larger amount of people. People end up feeling like they are socializing, yet it is at a distance and not very intimate.

Facebook increases the likelihood that you or your boy/girlfriend may become jealous by making it more likely that you will have contact with past sexual partners and your current partner will have access to this information.

Actually seeing your partner interacting in some way with their previous partners may be more likely to trigger jealousy. People who are usually jealous are likely to find that Facebook increases their jealousy.

In addition, the time spent on Facebook increases the likelihood that a person might experience jealousy over their partner's interactions with past partners. Lastly, the information seen on a person's Facebook page can easily be misinterpreted and taken out of context, and this can lead to more jealousy and arguments.

The point is, your Facebook account is your internet identity and it will follow you in the years to come. It reflects who you are and what you represent. Would you be comfortable with your parents or your kids seeing your Facebook account in the future? If the answer is no, you may want to take a second glance at that edit button.

Vicki Burns is a pre-doctoral intern at the FIU Counseling and Psychological Services who will be graduating from University of Miami with a PhD in Counseling Psychology. Once she completes her internship at FIU, Vicki plans on working as a psychologist and a professor with college students struggling with various difficulties.

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U.S. reality not as bleak as some believe

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

There's no denying that the public mood in this country has lately been one of unbridled pessimism. This is not too surprising given the circumstances: A recession that pervades our everyday lives, a persistent unemployment rate, an unfathomable public debt, deadlocked and aloof politicians and a general sense that America is on its last legs as a world power.

Add all the usual societal troubles about crime, education, national security, immigration and the fact that we're too divided to face them, let alone find solutions, and it seems reasonable for us to despair.

Still, I remain optimistic. To me, this is a natural reaction to the worst recession in almost a century. Look back and you'll find similar episodes of gloom in the late 1960s, the 1970s and the early 1980s. In part, it's just a phase.

Despite all the daunting problems we face, we Americans are being far more pessimistic than we should be. We're underestimating this country's many strengths while overemphasizing its problems. Worst of all, we're perpetuating a cycle of cynicism and apathy that only allows these challenges to become worse.

The United States still is, by all measures, the wealthiest, most productive and most innovative country in the world. Our country still remains a magnet to millions of people

“It's an odd mix of being too informed about the negative and unimportant, and not as informed about the bigger picture or deeper issues.”

across the globe, and our universities continue to be top-notch. Even our political system, in spite of its polarization, remains one of the most vibrant and developed in the West.

Yet, we remain collectively despondent, as if all accomplishment has melted away in the last few years of economic stagnation. Clearly, this entrenched pessimism stems from other sources.

Living in a free and open society means being exposed to all sorts of things, including the negative. It's not that times have gotten worse, but that we're most aware of the problems that past generations, or non-democratic societies, would otherwise be unaware of.

That is where mass media and technology come in. Our era is officially known as the Information Age for a reason. We're saturated with raw data like never before. In conjunction with our open society is an unprecedented development in telecommunications and social networking that keeps us constantly filled with everything from the barely newsworthy to the vitally important.

Everyone, from world leaders all the way down to anonymous bloggers and dema-

gogues, could throw ideas in the mix, further muddying the waters and leaving us feeling more uncertain – and thus more hopeless.

It doesn't help that humans are drawn to negative news in the first place. While this morbid phenomenon is not unique to Americans, it's being amplified by the 24-hour news cycle and a society obsessed with the gossip-worthy than the news-worthy. It's an odd mix of being too informed about the negative and unimportant and not as informed about the bigger picture or deeper issues.

As with any societal problem, there really is no quick fix. We as Americans simply need to learn to adapt to the information age and not allow everything we see and hear weigh in on us all at once. We need to look at the problems, but also the solutions. We need to acknowledge the flaws and tribulations that we face, but also acknowledge our triumphs and accomplishments. In short, we need to be level-headed.

The average American is a political and ideological moderate who just wants to live a comfortable life. We shouldn't allow ourselves to succumb to the glumness, fear and apathy.

Sharing music online should be free, allowed

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

With recent advancements in media technology, there are many new ways to enjoy the latest music, videos and video games. Many industries have expanded the ways their products reach consumers by using digital mediums.

However, piracy is replacing traditional means of distributing music and the music industry is having a hard time keeping up. Piracy, or illegal file sharing, may turn out to be an asset for the music industry, should it choose to evolve and embrace it.

Many people have decided that music or, more accurately, the compact disk, is no longer worth purchasing.

For the past decade, the music industry has been fighting hard to hold on to the golden business model of the 1960s and 1970s, when consumers had no other option but to go to a store and purchase music by physical means. Instead, it is seeing a trend of falling profits that will not let up.

Intimidation campaigns and misinformation have not deterred the masses from illegally downloading their favorite songs from an abundance of file sharing programs and websites.

Record labels have even fined teenagers thousands of dollars and shut down file backup websites that are completely in accordance

Independent and small time musicians actually benefit from file sharing because they are getting free exposure to more fans.

with the law to discourage file sharing. Yet, it would seem that file sharing is here to stay and fighting it is futile.

The music industry has the option to either cling to an outdated business model until it runs dry, or it can use file sharing to its advantage and build a new profitable industry around it.

The business model has

existed for decades in television. People can watch TV programs for free and anyone who works in the industry is paid by third-party advertisers who make the commercials.

The same system can be applied to a music file sharing website where people download music for free while being exposed to ads and advertisement videos.

Currently, YouTube uses a similar system that, with only a few tweaks, could be used to legally upload and download music while still turning profit. Having to sit through a short advertisement is a small price to pay for free and unlimited music downloads.

Furthermore, the popularity of iTunes shows that the ease of downloading single songs for a small price is appealing, but having the songs available for free would increase the user base of digital downloading significantly.

Those who are against sharing music files claim they have the best interests of the artists in mind. But it is not the musicians who take the biggest hit when a

CD is downloaded illegally.

According to Bandzoogle.com, the average musician can receive as little as 8 to 12 percent of CD profits while the major record label keeps the rest. Most musicians make the majority of their profits from live shows and merchandise sales, neither of which can be pirated, and directly support the musician, not the record label.

Meanwhile, independent and small-time musicians actually benefit from file sharing because they are getting free exposure to more fans that they otherwise wouldn't see.

Ultimately, the current music industry is outdated and insincere. File sharing is once again freeing music from the chains of capitalism.

When mega corporations are no longer in control of deciding what music we will listen to, real talent will emerge and rise to the top, and no longer will “popular” music be force-fed to the masses. Change is already in full swing in the music industry and it is up to the industry itself to adapt and survive, or fail.

THE BEACON | Editorial Effects of smoking ban questioned by faculty

The University-wide smoking and tobacco ban, set to take effect Jan. 1, 2011, has received criticism for its vague enforcement and consequences to students. However, in this discussion, it seems as if the faculty has been left out of the equation entirely.

In a letter addressed to University President Mark B. Rosenberg, Kathleen Wilson, president of the University's chapter of the United Faculty of Florida wants to know whether or not they will be able to have reasonable smoking breaks during the workday, and what the consequences will be for faculty caught smoking on campus.

Seeing as the regulation will prohibit smoking anywhere on University property, the UFF-FIU argued in their letter that smoking breaks must be taken into consideration when scheduling classes, giving faculty enough time to go off University property and then find parking upon their return to campus.

The Beacon feels that this is further proof of the lack of foresight regarding this policy. Keep in mind that faculty members adhere to a schedule that may include teaching multiple classes during the day in addition to maintaining office hours, along with other commitments. If faculty members must leave campus for a cigarette break, they risk being late for class or neglecting their office hours, which will ultimately affect the students.

Another thing the University hasn't thought about is the punishment a faculty member will receive if caught smoking on campus. As a state university, it would be illegal for a faculty member's pay to be taken away, and firing somebody over a cigarette would be rather ridiculous. The only thing we are left with is disciplinary action, but what does that exactly entail?

The policy is unclear when it comes to the possible disciplinary consequences, if any. According to Wilson's letter, “Before the policy is implemented, clear procedures need to be articulated, in keeping with the principles of progressive discipline, due process, and protection of activities that fall outside the scope of employment set forth in the BOT-UFF Policy on Disciplinary Action and Job Abandonment”.

The Beacon has said in previous editorials that the University cannot expect a regulation without explicit details regarding enforcement and punishment to be taken seriously by students and faculty.

Granted, biting the hand that feeds them by disobeying this policy would be unwise, but without any concrete plan for enforcement or punishment doing so seems like a viable and, to faculty smokers, desirable option.

The University is trying to make a positive change by making it a healthier environment and have been very sincere about the policy since the beginning, but they have ignored the repercussions and what the policy will truly mean to a University mostly made up of commuters who are on a very tight schedule.

Smoking is a very personal choice; it's something people opt to do to release the stress of everyday life. The lives of college students and professor can be very stressful, taking their release away and threatening them with vague consequences is not only unfair but it is also very wrong. It leaves them with two choices: to quit smoking entirely, which is proven to be quite difficult, or rearrange their daily routine to accommodate driving somewhere away from campus to smoke a cigarette.

VERBATIM

“So I think there's reason to be concerned, reason to deal with this problem. We're not dealing with it the right way, we're doing the wrong thing, and groping people at the airport doesn't solve our problems.”

-Texas Representative Ron Paul
introducing legislation to reform TSA search procedures

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts (450 words) in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



BRAZIL

Police dismantle human-trafficking ring

Federal police claim to have dismantled and arrested 12 people involved with an international human-trafficking ring that provided fake passports to Brazilians wanting to migrate illegally to the United States.



CUBA

Fidel says happy with direction of Cuba

Fidel Castro, in his most explicit remarks to date, recently declared his content with the direction Cuba is taking under the leadership of Raul, mostly attributed to the country's sweeping economic changes.



MEXICO

11 alleged gang members by Mexican troops

A gunbattle between Mexican soldiers and drug cartel gunmen near the border with Texas killed 11 alleged gang members and prompted the U.S. to reinforce security at international crossings, officials said.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Mario Diament uses words in a variety of fashions

ELSA NARANJO
Contributing Writer

Chance and luck played significant roles the night Journalism Professor Mario Diament's, first play was being scouted for a possible move to a much larger and more prestigious theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Very few patrons turned out that Friday night. Among those absent was the owner of the big theater, who was hoping to see the play before making his decision to move it to his venue.

The next day, the big theater owner showed up for the performance and the smaller theater was packed. The café next door lent chairs to accommodate the overflow crowd.

Diament's luck had changed and Sunday's show was equally successful and the show moved to the bigger theater.

Since that fateful start, Diament has written 11 plays. The playwright also has been a journalist for 52 years and for the last 17 years has taught at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he currently teaches a master's class in Spanish, as well as journalism writing and editing courses.

"I became a professor by chance," Diament said. "I was invited to do research on the Spanish media in the United States for nine months. When we were done they invited me to stay and teach. In a way I was already a teacher as an editor."

During a workshop, where

Diament was one of three professors teaching other Latin American journalists how to be a "stronger journalist," Diament's best friend and colleague, Mercedes Vigon, saw his ability to teach.

"He was able to identify and work with them at the same time without making it difficult to understand," Vigon said. "I always thought it was amazing how he created something with so much intellect from one simple event"

Advertising major Silk-Jazmyne Hindus said Diament is "not the norm."

"He teaches in an open form," Hindus said. "He gives direction after the assignment is due because he wants to see where we will go with it."

That same randomness helped Diament frame a book.

After spending a weekend teaching in Mexico, Diament was changing planes in Texas. Between flights, he moved to a quieter area of the airport to read a book. When he went back to the gate, he was surprised to find his plane left an hour earlier and was stranded.

From this experience, Diament wrote a book, "Martin Eidan," the story about a man who finds himself in a place where no one knows who he is. Realizing he could be anyone he wants to be and decides to change his destiny.

"[Diament] has a fun sense of humor," Vigon said.

Just like his plays and books, Diament has traveled around the world. He became a correspondent in Israel and Egypt for an Argentine newspaper during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. During that year, he

TRESPASSING



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Mohammad Qureshi, assistant dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (left), expresses his frustration at staff from a production company shooting a T-Mobile commercial after they cut through cables near the Carnival Student Center construction area on Nov. 17.

interviewed a Bedouin, a nomadic Arab of the desert, in Israel and found it interesting that stealing a wife carries a lesser punishment than stealing a camel.

Diament also had his coffee read, a Middle East custom of telling your future.

"They said I was going to have money, lots of money, but I don't see it," he said. "Maybe it's later in my future."

His interest in journalism began in his home country of Argentina. His father used to read him newspaper stories about exotic places.

"It is a great profession because you get paid to travel and write about what you see," Diament said.

At only 16 years old, he was published by chance in the newspaper, on the anniversary of the death of American composer and pianist George Gershwin and Diament wrote a story the paper published. Writing never came

natural to him, he said, but being an avid reader helped.

"Those of us who have to work harder to become better writers become better because the drive is there," Diament said.

A monthly Argentine magazine once asked Diament to interview Jorge Luis Borges, an Argentine writer.

The interview lasted more than four hours. Borges was very pleased because, being blind, he had little interaction with other people.

The encounter brought Diament to write the play "Blind Date," which won the 2004 Curtain Up Award for best new work.

Diament is married to Simone Diament, who translates his plays to English and has been doing so for most of their 30-year marriage.

"It's challenging and wonderful to bring his characters to life into English," Simone said. "The wonderful part about it is I know

exactly what he means" when she translates something funny in Spanish to be just as funny in English.

His daughter, Michelle Diament, is an avid reader of his plays.

"The more he writes and the more he lives, the better he gets," Michelle said. "I can see him in the plays and I can see him in the characters from the way they talk to the way the jokes are written."

Out of all the titles he carries in his professional life, Diament considers himself first a writer. "Playwriting, journalism and teaching are for me like communicating vessels, feeding each other, and complementing each other," he said.

"I will keep being a journalist and playwright for as long as I can."

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

Though not cancelled, planned lounge still pending

TASHEIKA WEATHERSPOON
Contributing Writer

For those who are eagerly awaiting the opening of the student lounge promised to Biscayne Bay Campus students in January, your wait is being postponed.

Greg Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center and Student Affairs, said the project is delayed and is currently in the pre-construction phase at this time.

"Construction has not started, only partial interior demolition of the footprint of

the project has occurred," Olson wrote in an email to *The Beacon*. "A date of completion has not been issued."

The delay is because the kitchen needs to be gutted out and the floor needs to be redone, said Christin 'Cici' Battle, president of the Student Government Council at BBC.

"It's a problem that they didn't know before, but there will still be a student lounge," said Battle.

Back in January it was determined that the former cafeteria on the second floor in the

Wolfe Center would serve as a multipurpose room that clubs and organizations could hold meetings at and students could lounge and do homework in between classes.

Students could bring games and consoles to hook up to TVs. Battle was even pushing to include a pool table and foosball table in the lounge once construction was completed.

Currently, there is no formal student lounge for BBC students. Not since seven or eight years ago when the student life office was a game room has the BBC had a

student lounge. But because the old lounge was revenue based and didn't make money, it was closed down.

Nevertheless, Battle assures that the project is not cancelled.

"Construction is expected to start at the end of fall semester and will be completed by the end of spring semester," said Battle.

Details about the cost of the project and construction are not known.

Sylvia Berenguer, the facilities manager in charge of construction was unavailable for comment.