



CHINA

Defendant loses HIV jobs bias case

A court ruled on Nov. 12 against the defendant in the country's first lawsuit over employment discrimination against people who are HIV-positive, the man's lawyer said.



IRAQ

Obama lauds inclusive govt amid frictions

President Barack Obama praised Iraqi moves to form an "inclusive" government on Nov. 12, but the two-day old deal was already looking fragile after Sunni lawmakers walked out of parliament.



SOUTH KOREA

G-20 refuses push on China's currency

Leaders of 20 major economies refused to back a U.S. push to make China boost its currency's value, keeping alive a dispute that fears of a global trade.

Faculty concerned over smoke regulation

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With all University campuses going smoke-free on Jan 1, 2011, the FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida want to make sure their privileges don't go up in smoke.

In a letter delivered by hand to University President Mark Rosenberg, Kathleen Wilson, president of UFF-FIU, wants two questions answered: the authorization of reasonable smoking breaks during the workday; and the clarification of the disciplinary action for those who are caught using tobacco products on campus.

"We look forward to President Rosenberg's response as to when we can meet with representatives from the University and begin to bargain over the impact of the smoke-free campus policy," said Wilson in an interview with Student Media.

The University Board of Trustees gave the final approval for the tobacco ban at their Sept. 24 meeting, with all voting yes except Student Government Association at Modesto Maidique Campus President Helena Ramirez and Trustee Cesar Alvarez, who abstained.

UFF-FIU, page 2

WITHIN THEIR GRASP



THOMAS GRANING/AP IMAGES

T.Y. Hilton runs the ball as Troy defensive end Jonathan Massaquoi is blocked by Cedric Mack during the second half of a 52-35 win at Troy, Nov. 13. Hilton joined teammates Darriet Perry and Darian Malary in running over 100 yards.

Midterm election youth vote goes down

NATALIA LOPEZ
Staff Writer

While a new study from Harvard's Institute of Politics shows that 60 percent of young voters between the ages of 18 and 29 are concerned they won't be able to meet their bills and obligations in the current economy, the youth vote during the mid-term elections went down an 18 percent in comparison to the 2008 elections.

CBS News reported that only nine percent of voting youth cast their ballots for their preferred candidates during these midterm elections.

"It's a selfish world," said Ana Bush, a sophomore studying at FIU. "If people feel like it doesn't have any effect on them directly, they don't care and ignorance is bliss."

Senior Alexandra Montesino thought otherwise, attributing the declining amount of votes to a lack of information.

"I believe that the main reason the youth isn't voting is because they are uninformed especially at the state level," she explained.

"They don't know or understand what's

ELECTIONS, page 2

Batman executive producer hosts lecture in ballrooms

DAVID BARRIOS
FIUSM.com Editor

Ever since he was eight years old, Michael Uslan has always wanted to be a part of the creative team behind *Batman*.

Uslan, 59, is credited as executive producer on every film in the franchise from 1989's *Batman* to 2008's *The Dark Knight*, along with several animated incarnations.

Uslan spoke to an audience of hundreds in the Graham Center Ballrooms on November 10 about his various life experiences including bringing the caped crusader onto the silver screen.

"You're looking at the ultimate comic book geek. I was that guy that every Wednesday was at the comic book shop, picking up comics. By the time I was 14 years old and the girls found out that I was reading comic books, I was used to call 'date challenged'," said Uslan.

By the time he graduated high school, Uslan was the owner of over 30,000 comics.

While enrolled at Indiana University in the 1970's, Uslan proposed the first ever accredited course on comic books. Uslan

described how he convinced a skeptical dean within the university to approve the course by asking the dean to describe the story of Moses.

"The Hebrew people were being persecuted, their first born being slain. A Hebrew couple put their infant son in a basket and sent him down the Nile. He's discovered by an Egyptian Family, then grows up to become a great hero to his people," recounted Uslan.

Uslan then recounted asking the dean to describe the origin of Superman.

"The planet Krypton was about to blow up. A scientist and his wife put his infant son on a rocket ship and send him to earth. There he's discovered by the Kent's who raise them as his own," said Uslan.

Uslan would soon get approval and later gain media attention for the course, eventually working at D.C. Comics and writing for the *Batman* comic series. He would soon shift his focus towards pushing for the production of a "dark, serious *Batman* movie."

During his lecture Uslan expressed disappointment for the 1966 television series starring Adam West and Burt Ward, which was a comedic interpretation of the comics.

"I'm here to tell students that a blue collar kid with no connections and no money was able to make his dreams come true."

Michael Uslan
Producer of *Batman: Dark Night Rising*



"I made a vow. Somehow, I will wipe out from the collective consciousness of the world culture three little words: pow, zap and wham," Uslan said.

The process of producing a new *Batman* movie would take over ten years for Uslan, who would assemble the money to purchase the screen rights for *Batman* in 1979 and then spend much of the following decade searching for a Hollywood studio and producer to tackle the project.

It would culminate with the popular success of the 1989 film, *Batman* and subsequent sequels.

"*Batman* has no superpowers. His greatest superpower is his humanity. His rouges

gallery of villains is untouchable. And in my heart of hearts, when I was eight years old, if I studied really hard and if I worked out really hard and if my Dad bought me a cool car that I could be this guy," said Uslan.

He concluded the evening with a question and answers session, prefacing the session by asking the audience not to ask for specific information about the next *Batman* film, *The Dark Knight Rises*, currently in pre-production. Afterwards, he was available for autographs.

"I'm here to tell students that a blue collar kid with no connections anywhere and no money was able to make his dreams come true. And how that happened," said Uslan.

Reasonably timed smoking breaks a concern for faculty

UFF-FIU, page 1

Wilson, who represents more than 940 faculty members in UFF's FIU chapter, presented the letter to the president a month later on Oct. 25. Since then, the union has received responses from the upper administration and both sides are attempting to set up a meeting to address the two main concerns through the bargaining process.

The smoking ban had not been vetted in a comprehensive way to the UFF-FIU nor were they given an opportunity to have "any meaningful input into the decision," Wilson said to Student Media.

"The Board of Trustees has the right to implement that policy without bargaining with us but we have a right to bargain over the impact of the policy over

the people we represent," said Professor Lorna Veraldi, chief negotiator for UFF-FIU and journalism professor at the University who helped write the letter to the president.

Since the regulation will prohibit smoking anywhere at any time on all University property, the UFF-FIU argued in its letter that teaching and other scheduled activities "must be scheduled so as to permit reasonable breaks during the workday for employees to leave campus to smoke."

Such breaks would need to allow for "reasonable amounts of time to drive to non-campus property and to find parking upon a return to campus," the letter said.

While Rosa Jones, vice-president of student affairs, stated during the BOT meeting that the steering

committee in charge of facilitating the transition will take an educational approach to the smoking ban for the first six to eight months, the UFF-FIU felt that the specific punishment for faculty must be immediately addressed.

"It is not clear from the policy what would be the potential disciplinary consequences, if any, of either a first violation or repeated violations of the Policy. 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," according to Wilson's letter.

The steering committee

has recently created a separate committee that is to address the issue of sanctions.

Social enforcement will be the preferred method for the first six to eight months, after which a period of "positive reinforcement" will follow. The committee would then address what kinds of consequences are appropriate for University members who fail to abide by the regulation.

"I don't think that the University or the trustees have thought about what this will mean to someone who is found smoking on University property," said Veraldi, who admitted she is not a smoker. "One of our big concerns is what does this mean to our employees. So if a faculty member or librarian is found smoking in their vehicle in the parking garage, will they

be subject to discipline? Could they be fired? Could they have pay taken away?"

UFF-FIU representatives hope to reach an agreement in the next two weeks so that faculty becomes aware of the sanctions before the campus turns smoke-free on January 1st, 2011.

"I know that the University has said and that they're sincere that they want this to be a positive policy rather than a punitive one and that they're offering ways to stop smoking tobacco," said Veraldi. "But I think that we have to recognize that this is a campus where people are commuting here on very tight schedule and there are people who have chosen to smoke. There will be consequences for that and they have to know what those are."

Support for President Obama down amongst students

ELECTIONS, page 2

going on," agreed C.J. Calabrese, a junior studying at FIU. "I didn't vote because I was working, but I wanted to though."

"I didn't vote because all politicians are full of s---," affirmed Danny Goldman, an FIU alumnus.

President Barack Obama has explained on different media outlets that he is aware that he must cater to all age groups, especially those that are going to determine the future of the United States of America, the youth. A new Associated Press-mtvU poll found that college students have cooled in their support for Obama.

"It was clear that the Democrats would not be able to spark the same kind of interest, organization, and turnout as in November 2008," explained Dr. Eduardo A. Gamarra, a professor in the University's Political and International Relations Department. "That effort was enormous and reproducing it will be enormously difficult even in future presidential campaigns."

Senior Danny Gonzalez explained that

some young students didn't vote this election period for this simple reason: "the youth does not care and it wasn't as 'cool' to vote as it was last year."

FIU junior student Alba Guzman confirmed that she did vote. "I feel that's my duty as a citizen," she explained.

Obama's latest pitch at the White House Rose Garden included the proposition to make the college tax credit permanent.

This has been one of his latest attempts to appeal to young, college students.

The President has also appeared at different university rallies including Maryland and Wisconsin.

He even appeared on a live telecast produced by MTV, BET and CMT called "A Conversation with President Obama," where he addressed questions from the audience at the youth town hall center.

There, Obama addressed questions concerning a number of topics including the economic downfall, education, health care and the issue of bipartisanship.

"Everything always pertains to Medicare and healthcare which is an elderly problem," explained Bush.

She feels this is the main reason why a large amount of students are not interested in politics.

At the youth town hall, President Obama explained that throughout elections people emphasize differences.

"Although I am a proud Democrat," he said, "I'm a prouder American and I think all of us believe, regardless of our party affiliations, that this is a critical time where we have to solve big problems."

Montesino explained this is the main reason why she voted: "Because we need

changes to be implemented to boost our economy and lower the unemployment rate."

"I find it important for someone who is trying to make a difference in the world through his or her career to have an input on who our political leaders are," said Bush.

Now that mid-term elections are over, Obama declared that he hopes people start emphasizing on what everyone has in common in terms of political views, instead of emphasizing the differences.

THE BEACON



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Title: Same-Sex Marriage in a Global Frame

Moderator:



Laurie Shrage
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FOOTBALL: FIU 52, TROY 35

Panthers rank first in Sun Belt after trouncing Troy

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

For the first time in its young history, the Golden Panthers have sole possession of first place in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Golden Panthers stunned the four-time defending conference champions on the road with one of their best offensive performances of all-time.

FIU (4-5, 4-1 SBC) up-ended Troy (5-4, 4-2 SBC) 52-35 on their homecoming night. It was the first time in its history that the Golden Panthers have defeat the Trojans of Troy.

"Maybe they'll stop picking us for homecoming [games] from now on," said running back Darriet Perry.

It all began with a simple third down screen pass to Darian Mallary from Wesley Carroll. The sophomore running back did the rest, taking the screen pass 55 yards for a touchdown to give the Golden Panthers an early 7-0 lead. It was the longest catch in Mallary's career.

After a 33-yard run by Troy's Shawn Southward tied things up, FIU started a second quarter output of historical proportions.

The Golden Panthers scored a record 31 points in the second quarter, the most points ever scored in a second quarter by a Golden Panther team. It was also the most points Troy has ever given up under their head coach Larry Blakeney.

T.Y. Hilton had another memorable performance. The junior wide receiver took a play-action snap out of the wildcat formation 80 yards for a touchdown to ignite FIU's offensive output in the second quarter. The 80-yard burst was Hilton longest of his career.

"They play some man [coverage]...If you give him some space, he's very much like Jernigan," said Cristobal.

Hilton also tacked another 61-yard run on a reverse for a touchdown. It was also Hilton's 25th touchdown of his career, breaking the record for most career touchdowns in school history. Hilton also had two receptions for 75 yards.

"It sure feels good, especially [breaking this record] with this group of guys. It's great to see it pay off," said Hilton.

The offense rushed for a combined 448 yards

against Troy, the most rushing yards recorded in school history.

FIU also scored four touchdowns on the ground, tied for most rushing touchdowns in school history as well. Hilton (158 yards) Mallary (118 yards) and Perry (186 yards) are the first trio of players to rush over 100 yards since 2003 for FIU.

"We saw it on film that they had a lot of gaps on defense that we could take advantage of," Perry said.

Carroll, who engineered all of FIU's scoring drives, threw for 220 yards, completing eight of 15 passes for two touchdowns and a lone interception.

"The game ball has got to go to the offensive lineman. They got after it from the very beginning," said Carroll. "It just shows how far this team has come."

Despite allowing 35 points, Cristobal's defense forced Troy to four turnovers, which included two interceptions from Trojans' quarterback Corey Robinson.

"The past has humbled me. It makes you appreciate things that you have now," said red-shirt senior safety Ashlyn Parker. "When we get turnovers, it motivates the offense and it motivates the defense."

Cristobal received a rewarding Gatorade shower during the last moments of the game. The head coach was not pleased.

"It was completely uncalled for. Luckily there is film and we'll be able to find the person who did that and we'll return the favor," Cristobal said jokingly.

If the Golden Panthers win two out of their last three games, they'll be crowned Sun Belt champions.

"We're excited but the moment this plane lands in Miami, the focus will be turned to ULL," Cristobal said.

DID NOT MAKE THE TRIP

Running backs Jeremiah Harden and Khedrick Rhodes did not make the trip. Harden injured his toe and Rhodes has a lower body injury. Their status for next week is still day-to-day.

Jeremy Jermin and Larvez Mars did not travel to Alabama as well.

VOLLEYBALL: FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 0

Seniors get final home win

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

On a night where seniors Natalia Valentin and Ines Medved were being honored for their play at FIU, the Panthers gave them a performance to remember.

FIU swept the University of South Alabama on Nov. 13 in convincing fashion (25-12, 25-12, 25-20) to lock in the third seed for the Panthers in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

"I think this the best game yet," junior Sabrina Gonzalez said. "Coach even said it. I feel that every aspect of the game, we were on point and everyone did their job."

The team set a school record

with a hitting percentage of .494, breaking their previous record of .486 which was set in 2006 against Troy.

The Panthers (19-10, 12-4 SBC) got to work early, with freshman Una Trkulja setting the pace for FIU to take an 18-9 lead. The Jaguars (11-20, 6-10 SBC) struggled defensively to match the intensity of the Panthers, who were attacking and clicking on all cylinders. South Alabama would not do much, as FIU cruised to a 25-12 set win.

The second set seemed like deja vu, as FIU once again jumped out to a 18-7 lead. The Panthers were led offensively in the set by sophomore Jovana Bjelica and Gonzalez with five

blocks a piece.

The third set was more of a struggle for the Panthers, as the Jaguars rose up to FIU's level of play. While holding the lead for the first time in the match, 12-11, the Jaguars once again struggled to play solid defense as the Panthers went on a 9-2 run to gain a 20-14 lead. Ultimately the set closed 25-16, allowing the team's seniors to have the final point at home.

"I think we played all together. I think this the best game we've played all season," Valentin said. "We all clicked and we never let down. We played as a team and I'm proud of my girls."

For the full recap, check out fiusm.com

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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 89, FMU 73

Wright, Frederick lead FIU to season opening victory



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

FIU power forward Eric Frederick goes up for a layup against FMU.

JONATHAN RAMOS Sports Director

DeJuan Wright and Eric Frederick have been waiting long enough. After transferring from junior college this summer, the two new Golden Panthers were finally on the court together for a regular season game.

And they made the most of it in a blowout win over Florida Memorial on Nov. 12, a final score of 89-73.

"Me and DeJuan, all summer, that was all we've been talking about," Frederick said. "We were texting each other like 'you ready?' all summer. I think we are so used to each other now, that we all meeting up at FIU now and its easy for us to gel together on the court."

Wright had 21 points and 14 rebounds as Frederick put together another double-double with 16 points and 10 boards.

Wright came off the bench for FIU, but led the team in minutes with 27.

The 6-foot-3 guard was hitting the glass all night, a big reason why FIU, who was the worst rebounding team in the Sun Belt Conference last season, edged FMU (0-1) in rebounds for the game by one.

"My will, you know," Wright

said. "[FIU Assistant Coach William 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 also got loose for an alley-opp dunk in the game, a display of athletic ability the team did not have in abundance a year ago.

"I'm reckless, really," Wright said. "I tell Phil [Gary], Jeremy [Allen] and our guards that I like to get out on the wings, and whenever I'm on the wing I look for it because I know I'm able to get up there and throw it down. When I see that opportunity, I lick my lips."

Wright and the rest of the team employed a disruptive defensive disposition from the beginning of the game.

The Golden Panthers (1-0) held FMU to 42 percent shooting and forced 18 turnovers on the game. FIU had 10 steals on the game, led by Wright's four.

"It was a good win for us," Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. "Anytime you open up and get a win, you are happy with it. I thought we had some good moments in the game and we had some not so good moments in the game. The last five minutes, we

didn't play as well as I wanted us to play, but we had a unit out there that hadn't practiced much together. We were kind of small out there, but still there were some things that we needed to execute that we didn't quite execute."

The Golden Panthers were never in any real trouble, however, as they carried a 43-27 lead into halftime and saw their advantage balloon to as high as 31 points in the second half when they took a 62-31 lead with 13:49 left.

If there was anything FIU struggled with during the game, it was free throw shooting, where the team was only 59 percent. However, FMU posted an even worse clip from the stripe, meaning FIU was never in serious danger of losing the game.

In addition, the Golden Panthers were 8-for-18 from 3-point territory.

Marvin Roberts finished third on the team in scoring with 14 points as Phil Gary added 12 for FIU.

Florida Memorial was led by guard Antwan Baggs, who dropped 14 points in defeat. Last seasons leading scorer, George Gray, was kept in check all night and limited to three points om 0-of-5 shooting.

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Comic book fan becomes Batman producer

DAVID BARRIOS
FIUSM.com Editor

Michael Uslan, executive producer of the Batman film franchise, lectured to an audience in the GC Ballrooms on Nov. 10. Before the lecture, Uslan sat down and spoke with The Beacon and discussed his opin-

ions on comic book films, his favorite Batman artists/writers and his thoughts on the importance of comics.

The Beacon: Why do you feel that comic books are so important?

Michael Uslan: Number 1 is that, inarguably, comic books are in fact our modern day mythology and folklore

If you strip them bare, you've got warriors against demons and monsters. It is part of heroic fantasy that goes back to Odysseus and Beowulf.

TB: How do you explain the draw that the public has towards comics?

MU: My contention for my proposed college course on comics was simple: that

the ancient gods of Greece and Rome still exist, only today they wear spandex and capes. As I note in my lecture, the Greeks called him Hermes and the Romans called him Mercury, but I call him the Flash. The Greeks called him Poseidon and the Romans called him Neptune. I call him Aquaman. It's that heroic storytelling tradition that manifests itself in the pages of comic books.

It's become a truly indigenous American art form, as indigenous as jazz. There's an appreciation for it now that there wasn't a few decades ago.

TB: Comics tend to change tone and ideas with time. What was being done by Dick Sprag and Bob Kane in the 1940s and 1950s is not what Frank Miller and Alan Moore would be doing in the 1980s. Which artists and writers would be your favorites?

MU: I love reading the 1939 issues of *Detective Comics*, before Robin, and seeing Batman the original way he was created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger and shortly thereafter with input from Jerry Robinson.

The lone creature of the night, stalking the shadows. And then the emergence of the costumed super villain, the Joker, who I consider to be the greatest super villain ever created.

Another period I love is when Julius Schwartz was

able to convince the powers that be at DC to let Batman return to those lone, dark, serious roots of his. Then Denny O'Neil and Neil Adams came in to facilitate that. They restored order and identity to Batman after the "pow-zap and wham" era of the 1960s.

I loved Frank Miller's deconstruction of Batman for his *The Dark Knight Returns* graphic novel. People look to the movies and look to the cartoons and sometimes forget that it's the writers, pencilers, inkers and people who are in the trenches of the comic books world who week after week for seventy years have managed to find interesting ways to bring readers back.

TB: Christopher Nolan's film *The Dark Knight* tackled certain contemporary issues including terrorism and government surveillance. What would you say to critics who feel that the most recent Batman films are "too serious?"

MU: I don't think that there's a character in literature who has an origin story that's more primal and universal than Bruce Wayne does. Just like good mythology, it tends to transcend borders and languages.

People react to the journey of the young boy when he makes a lifelong commitment to get the guys who murdered his parents. He's marching through hell for the

rest of his life.

When the genius, Chris Nolan, brought Bruce Wayne to the world in a realistic and convincing manner, people were able to believe in his journey and that, in this crazy world we live in today, this could happen. Critics, after seeing *The Dark Knight*, were often referring to it, thematically, as the most important post-9/11 film and what happened is that people who would never have dreamed of watching a comic book movie flocked to the theaters.

TB: What is, ultimately, the biggest challenge of translating comics onto the screen?

MU: It's very simple, but it's been a struggle for Hollywood to grasp this over the decades. The wrong way to bring comic book characters is to have merchandising and Happy Meals be the tail that wags the dog.

You can't simply take characters and concepts and violate their integrity in an attempt to cater to toy companies and merchandisers.

You have to find filmmakers who have a passion and a certain talent, who have a vision while respecting the integrity of the characters. Of course, just because Batman is gritty and dark does not mean that Spiderman and Superman should follow in the same direction. You have to respect the origin of the story.



SAGE GEE/THE BEACON

Uslan spoke in the GC Ballrooms on how he went from comic fan to executive producer.

FASHION FINDS

Cold front launches search for the perfect pair of boots

Thanks to our two-day cold front last week, all I had on my mind were boots, pumpkin pies and Christmas carols.

COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

Being the compulsive shopper that I am, I went on a hunt for the perfect boot to get in the fall/winter mindset.

My mission was to find a boot I could wear in our ever-changing Miami winter climate.

I've always wanted a pair of beautiful, cognac-colored riding boots, but I've never had the guts to spend my money on them, and I haven't been very successful convincing my mom to get them for me either.

They were at the top of my shopping list and, as usual, I couldn't find anything that looked good and was in my budget. I was giving my cheap self some wiggle room and thinking of it as a birthday present to myself. My price limit was \$200 and I still couldn't find anything I thought was worth the money.

I used Nordstrom as my starting point and beelined straight for the Frye boots.

Frye is pricey but well worth it because they have trendy styles made from good quality mate-

rials, a very rare thing. They range from \$279 to \$450, and I was sticking to my price point, so that was a bust.

Next to Frye boots at Nordstrom, everything looked cheap and sub-par. And that's because I didn't even go near the Tory Burch boots. I might have cried and gone into a deep depression if I had.

I was tired that day and decided to quit my shopping expedition.

I ventured out to the online shopping world. I don't usually like to shop online because there's nothing more enjoyable than a big department store or bargain shopping. It's the whole trying-on process that's exciting and the suspense of a store having an item you fell in love with in your size.

I checked out Piperlime.com as a launching point. The site is easy to use but the prices are regular price so I just use it to get ideas and head to Amazon.com and Marshall's to find the shoes or at least something similar.

My top contenders are "Rhonda" by Corso Como and the "Halima" by Lauren by Ralph Lauren. Both have the straight and sleek appeal of a classic riding boot and the beautiful cognac color that I dream about.

I'm not all about embellishments on boots,

so these are perfect. The price is decent as well, coming in at just under \$200.

As for other boot styles, I'm a fan of the bootie style. It's cute and great for nights out but isn't complimentary to all legs. Over-the-knee boots are amazing if you're brave, but remember you're going to run the risk of looking like a streetwalker.

I don't recommend wearing boots with

shorts. It's a contradicting thing to do and the person always ends up looking like they were confused when they got dressed in the morning.

And lastly, please don't wear Ugg boots.

Fashion Finds is a weekly fashion column. Find it every Monday. Reviewers do not receive free goods or compensation for favorable reviews.

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PRESS START

'Kinect' with your inner dork to have a great time

When Microsoft displayed their motion device, Kinect, at this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, the collective eyebrows of gamers and reporters were raised.



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE

This was especially true as a little girl played a virtual tiger cub named Skittles in a demo of "Kinectimals".

Perhaps the skepticism and doubt were too premature because Kinect is a genuinely entertaining device and has the potential to be a very welcome evolution of motion controls made mainstream by Nintendo's Wii. If you have the room, of course.

Let's get one thing out of the way: you will look like a dork playing Kinect. The arm flailing, jumping around and general interaction with nothing in front of you will cause those around you to snicker, so self-conscious people beware.

Kinect's an interesting machine in how it works. It showers the room with an array of infrared lights, which is what helps it detect your movements and distance.

There's a drawback to this, however. Because of how the array works, the unit requires there be six to eight feet of free space between you and it, meaning you'll need a big room to use Kinect effec-

tively. It will not work well in a dorm.

With the time I spent with Kinect, I got to try a few games and experience how the unit works with "Dance Central," "Kinect Adventures" and "Sonic Free Riders."

"Kinect Adventures" is your standard compilation of mini-games to ease people into using the machine. Games include surfing on a raft down rapids and jumping around on a rickety mine cart track to collect coins.

During the game, the system prompts players with a camera icon and a count-down. When the timer runs out, the unit takes a picture of you playing the game which can be posted to Facebook if you choose.

Other games involve plugging leaks in an underwater tube with your body as well as a game where you pop balloons with a pin, requiring the player to move closer and farther from the unit.

"Dance Central" was a little more involved in that players have to pull off dance moves seen on the screen. It offers more than 650 dance moves to songs like Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" and Snoop Dogg's "Drop It Like It's Hot."

By no means should anyone ever actually try to dance like this outside the game.

That said, the game was still rather fun and really gets the body moving. One of the game modes even keeps an estimation on how many

calories a person is burning just by playing.

Another game mode spikes up the difficulty by mixing four songs together and changing up moves you perform without warning.

If anything, this one will work pretty well at parties because of how entertaining it is and how people watching will no doubt enjoy the show players are putting on.

Last and certainly least is Sega's latest flogging of their Sonic brand, "Sonic Free Riders." Sonic and friends have once again hopped on airboards in a race to see who's best. This title feels sloppy as I had to constantly recalibrate the camera to help the game pick up when I was trying to turn, done by leaning forward or backward.

Admittedly, I didn't give this too much play because dealing with the camera adjustments got too frustrating. Hopefully, Sega can patch the game to correct the problem.

Overall, Kinect is a neat device if you're willing to drop the \$150 price of entry. The system has potential if developers can embrace the technology. While you look like a fool playing the device, you'll likely not care after a while because you're having too much fun.

SCORE: 8/10

Press Start is a weekly video game column. Look for it every Monday. The reviewer is not compensated for positive scores.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOV. 15

MEET THE AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING



The Secret Confessions of Anne Shakespeare by Arliss Ryan. Presented by SPC and FIU Alternative Theatre.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK KICK OFF

Music, food, and more!
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Square at BBC

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Learn about the University's study abroad programs and what they have to offer.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Graham Center Pit

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Bring your used or unwanted electronics, batteries, lightbulbs, to the Betty Chapman Plaza (in front of GC at MMC) and the Office of Sustainability will take care of the rest.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Betty Chapman Plaza in front of GC

FIU BASKETBALL



The Golden Panthers host Barry University.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

FILM: LA CÉRÉMONIE

Hosted by the French Club. Part of Int'l Education Week.
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

TUESDAY, NOV. 16

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Articles available at goglobal.fiu.edu. Lunch provided.
This week's topic: MMC - "Same-Sex Marriage in a Global Frame"
WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150

BBC - "Does World Opinion or the Law of Nations Matter to Americans?"
WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 159

STUDY ABROAD MEET & GREET

Free games and food. For all those interested in or who have been abroad!
WHEN: 5 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Game Room

SUNSET YOGA

Hosted by the Yoga Club.
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Organic Garden

WIND AND PERCUSSION ART SERIES



Presented by FIU Music. FIU Symphonic Band.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/seniors; \$15 general admission
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

CREATIVE CORNER

Hosted by StudentsWRITE. Share your written works with fellow students! The theme will be Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day.
WHEN: 6 - 8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Bookstore - MMC

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

China made a scapegoat, distraction

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

With politics being as polarized as they are, it is always nice to see a rare bit of bipartisanship in Congress. It's just a shame that what united the two parties was an ill-conceived and ultimately unhelpful attack on China.

There is no doubt that, lately, China is a byword for American decline and economic insecurity.

From our politicians to public interest groups, the consensus among policy makers seems to be that China is either a direct cause for all this country's ills or a rapidly rising competitor whose gain is automatically our loss.

This sentiment, however, like the tariffs and China bashing that it predicates, is dangerously distracting and unhelpful.

Prior to adjourning for the midterm elections, Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at retaliating against China for undervaluing its currency. This would likely translate into higher tariffs on Chinese exports.

In any case, the House is hardly alone in its concerns about

China. United States Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner pressured the International Monetary Fund, which oversees the global financial system, to urge China to take on a "more flexible, more market-oriented exchange-rate management" system. This is basically a fancy way of telling China to stop keeping its currency cheap.

The idea is that if Chinese exports become more expensive, domestic producers of similar goods can finally compete in an even-playing field, providing jobs and invigorating the economy. If only it was that simple.

To be sure, China isn't innocent. Its government does, indeed, keep the cost of its currency artificially low in order to keep its vital exports cheap and the country globally competitive. From a self-interested, strategic perspective, this tactic makes sense, whatever harm it may do to other manufacturers.

Certainly, such cheap exports do cause some damage to domestic production – up to a point. There is no denying that manufacturing has declined precipitously in this country and it is certainly true that most of what we once made is now being

Like it or not, globalization is a reality that we must adapt to, not resist. We should focus less on foreign scapegoats and more on supporting policies that will strengthen industry at home.

built in China.

But Chinese dominance in manufacturing is a by-product of our decline, not the cause of it. After all, manufacturing has been weak for decades, long before China's rise began in the 1990s; they merely sped up the process. Forcing the Chinese to make their goods more expensive, or slapping on tariffs to that effect, won't suddenly revitalize our economy. At best, it will just shift the problem somewhere else. Vietnam, Bangladesh, the Philippines and a slew of other nations all have plenty of cheap labor and even cheaper currency.

We should also take a lesson from history. Back when Japan was in China's place and U.S. manufacturing was just beginning to decline, we pressured them to raise their cheap currency too. Obviously, it didn't work,

since industrial activity remains in decline to this day.

At the end of the day, the problem with manufacturing is a domestic issue that requires a domestic solution. It is unrealistic and unfeasible to expect other countries to change their ways for our sake.

Like it or not, globalization is a reality that we must adapt to, not resist. We should focus less on foreign scapegoats and more on supporting policies that will strengthen industry at home – more investment in infrastructure and green technology, support for job training programs and incentives for companies to keep jobs in the U.S., to name a few ideas.

We need to tap into the innovation that has long made us the world's most dynamic economy rather than distract ourselves with petty trade wars.

Big Brother: keep fingers out of Happy Meal

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

"The happiest part of my Happy Meal is my toy. I look forward to my delicious burger with fries and I am always anxious to receive my toy."

That's what my seven-year-old cousin says every time he orders fast food. The government now wants to take that away from him and millions of children. What one eats is a personal decision and the government should not legislate it.

Worse yet, the government should not take the toy that comes with a kid's meal hostage to enforce a new law on nutrition.

The San Francisco, Calif. Board of Supervisors banned most McDonald's Happy Meals with toys.

The ordinance requires McDonald's and other fast-food restaurants with toys to comply with new nutritional standards.

Under the law, McDonald's

and other fast-food restaurants will have until Dec. 2011 to improve their meals' nutrition and fall under a calorie limit.

If they do not comply with the new nutritional standards, they will not be permitted to offer toys with their meals.

Depriving children of a toy because of nutritional factors is unfair. What one eats is a personal decision. The toys McDonald's and other fast food restaurants give their customers is part of the experience. Without the toy, the experience is ruined.

This is outrageous. If I want a delicious happy meal and a toy to play with after, the government shouldn't be allowed to stop me.

McDonald's should not have to change its menu to please the government. Customers are pleased and that is all that truly matters. I am not alone with this opinion.

According to Danya Proud, McDonald's spokeswoman, "This not what our customers want, nor is it something

they asked for. Parents tell us it's their right and responsibility, not the government's, to choose what's right for their children."

What children eat should be their parents' decision and not the government's. This ban on fast-food restaurants makes a mockery of parenting in the United States.

The reasoning behind this ban can be admirable but doesn't make it acceptable. It's not a secret that the child obesity rate in this nation is outrageously high.

According to the Center for Disease Control, "Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. The prevalence of obesity among children aged 6 to 11 years increased from 6.5 percent in 1980 to 19.6 percent in 2008. The prevalence of obesity among adolescents aged 12 to 19 years increased from 5 percent to 18.1 percent."

I agree that something needs to be done to stop this increasing rate. However, I

disagree with this approach to fight childhood obesity. This is too strong of an approach.

To help lower the rate of childhood obesity, parents and children should be educated about proper nutrition and the risks associated with such a disease. Solely depriving children of their toy is not going to contribute to the reduction of child obesity rates and is only going to make customers upset and bitter. Parents should decide what their children eat, not the government.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

Cheeseburger Happy Meal with small fries and soda

- Calories: 640
- Fat (g): 24
- Percent daily intake based on a 2000 calorie diet: 32

THE BEACON | Editorial

University student parking unable to meet demand

University President Mark B. Rosenberg's 2,000 student per year growth plan was surpassed with 4,000 more students enrolling this fall. However, this unprecedented growth has made the already difficult student parking situation nearly impossible.

The current parking space to student ratio is dismal. With 26,760 registered student decals and 9,964 available student parking spaces, the ratio figures there are about 2,500 parking spaces for every 7,000 registered student drivers. Once the amount of unregistered student drivers are factored in, one can see how the ratio becomes even more discouraging. It has gotten to the point that students are willing to risk getting a ticket in order to find suitable parking.

"That's happened a lot of times, where I have to pay for parking. I've actually gotten a [\$25] ticket for parking in the wrong spot. It had taken me half an hour to look for parking," said Jean-Marc Legros, senior, accounting.

Students are left with little recourse other than to hover around like a buzzard or risk parking off campus where they are subject to being towed.

Failing to do so leaves The Beacon with the notion that the University is either oblivious to this problem or doesn't care. After all, they have a plethora of administrative parking spaces.

With 442 administrative parking spaces and 478 registered decals, it would seem that the administration parking spaces would be full. However, when The Beacon investigated, a great number of these spots were routinely empty throughout the day.

Evidently, the \$945.99 price tag hasn't reduced demand below supply, so what accounts for their constant non-use?

"I just don't understand how fair it is to have students lined up in their cars waiting for others to leave, while there are empty administration spots just one floor below. They need to figure something out there," said Veronica Salazaar, senior, advertising.

The construction of Parking Garage 5 provided some relief, but this is limited to only 1,500 student parking spaces. Even if the University continued to build parking garages of comparable size at the rate of one garage per year, it still wouldn't fully accommodate the growing student population, especially if the projected annual 2,000 student growth is routinely surpassed as it was this semester.

Although the University's Green Ride program or public transportation may appear to be viable alternatives, the effects of these programs are limited. Regarding the Green Ride program, it is a difficult task to find students that share a similar schedule and live in the same area to make this an effective option for most. In fact, the spaces dedicated to the Green Ride program are also regularly empty, along with the spaces dedicated to the car wash services.

Furthermore, the public transportation system in Miami is notorious for its inefficiency, as getting to the University using this system could take several hours on the city bus schedule-if the bus decides to show up at all.

In reality, the University is a commuter school, ergo the University should have addressed the student parking demand many semesters ago. Instead, students are suffering the consequences of their complacency.

With the Green Ride and the car wash programs being untouched, the University must reevaluate the need for these spaces and convert them into spaces for students.

When the University inevitably expands, they must take into consideration the consequences of this growth and plan accordingly so that problems such as these don't appear to such a degree in the future.

VERBATIM

"We are not discouraged. We are certainly not defeated. In fact, we are emboldened."

Stephen Gutwillig, in support of legalization for marijuana, speaking after the state's Proposition 19 failed.

PUBLIC REASON

A radio show gathering opinions and generating discussion every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. on Radiate FM, 95.3 in Miami, 88.1 in Homestead, 96.9 in North Miami and streaming live on FIUSM.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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



BRAZIL

Literacy of clown elected to Congress tested

The Sao Paulo Electoral Court held a closed-door exam for the clown turned congressman-elect on Nov. 11 to determine if he meets a constitutional mandate that federal lawmakers be literate.



HAITI

Some US rebuilding money finally sent

The first portion of U.S. reconstruction money for Haiti is on its way more than seven months after it was promised to help the country rebuild from the Jan. 12 earthquake.



NICARAGUA

VP: No border zone troop withdrawal

Nicaragua's vice president said on Nov. 10 he is not planning to comply with a diplomatic deadline to withdraw troops from a border zone with Costa Rica, as tensions flared over a two-century-old territorial dispute.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT ARTS AND SOCIETY

Wet lab in Marine Science building being expanded

BRIAN CORREIA
Staff Writer

The School of Environment, Arts and Society at the Biscayne Bay Campus has ventured into a project to increase student hands-on research specifically for marine science majors. The project will mark the completion of the original objective and vision of the Marine Sciences building.

Within the Marine Sciences Building there has always been an aquarium room, referred to as a "wet lab," used primarily by students to study coral reefs. However, this year the school has budgeted funds to adequately complete the upgrade of the facilities within that building.

According to Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences, the aquarium rooms have always existed at BBC and the Modesto Maidique Campus. However, with the move from MMC to BBC for several biological science professors this year, it has been proven that there's a need for this expansion.

The "wet labs" consist of a system of complex aquariums geared to provide students with a sophisticated level of training to assist them with their on-campus learning objectives.

"We have always had wet labs at BBC. But now we are excited to be expanding the labs, meeting students needs, that will be able to adequately control water temperatures," Trexler said.

The labs will hold different types of fish and invertebrate based on the temperature required for their survival within an ecosystem. The labs will also have



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

Top left: Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences (left), and Liz Huselid, senior marine biology major (right), in one of the wet labs in the Marine Sciences building. Top right: The second wet lab, next door to the first, is currently in construction. Bottom right: Fish tanks waiting to be used for experiments once Trexler finishes moving his lab from the Modesto Maidique Campus to Biscayne Bay.



their own built-in condensers and refrigeration units.

At this time, the expansion is currently within the construction phase and the project is expected to be completed by the beginning of the spring semester.

The second aquarium area, outside the Marine Sciences Building and closer to the loading docks, consist of three rows of smaller aquariums. These new

"wet labs" will be primarily used to house fresh-water fish and other invertebrate.

"The outdoor labs will be an additional resource for students studying marine sciences," Trexler said. "One new project, primarily for graduate students, includes studying large-mouth bass fish and the effects of their prey."

A student proposed another

experiment which includes looking at the genetic difference of non-Florida native fish and studying the effects of their diet quality.

"By working on this project, students will be able to learn more about growth and development and determine if there's a difference in the genetic make-up between native versus introduced fish," Trexler said.

All the aquariums and the learning modules at the school are being created to offer students the opportunity to bring research questions into a controlled environment.

"Technology is important and it always has its price. As long the money spent ultimately benefits the students, that's a positive thing," said Christine Leblanc, freshman biology major.

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Nativism, its effects on US policies will be discussed

JOHANNA SANCHEZ
Contributing Writer

Nativism is a policy of favoring native inhabitants as opposed to immigrants, and it is quickly spreading through American politics.

This way of thinking, according to *The New York Times* article chosen for this week's TTR, goes against what the authors of the Federalist Papers thought. They sought the law of nations as a high priority to view the opinions and laws of other countries.

Charles Macdonald, professor of international relations, will be moderating

this week's roundtable titled "Does World Opinion or The Law of Nations Matter to Americans?"

Macdonald chose "A Respect for World Opinion," a *New York Times* editorial that explores how nativism is spreading throughout the United States, around which to base the discussion.

"In the op-ed piece, it indicated the Declaration of Independence itself was an appeal to the 'opinions of mankind,'" Macdonald said. "I think that this is important because with the current xenophobic attitude of some of the politicians we should become more sensitive to other states and opinions to

the world around us."

Harvard Law School, where Elena Kagan was dean, required every first year student to take international law.

Republican Sen. Jon Kyl in *The New York Times* article said, "I'm troubled by it because it suggests that you could turn to foreign law to get good ideas."

The U.S. can help shape its image if it takes interest in other countries because this will impact how others see the U.S. ideals and legal system, according to the *Times* article.

In the past decisions have been made based on how other countries view certain issues, according to the article.

In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court prohibited the execution of those mentally retarded, due to the fact that it is looked down upon around the world.

"Students who plan on traveling overseas need to be aware of this problem. How Americans are seen is very significant in how Americans are treated," Macdonald said.

The TTR on "Does World Opinion or The Law of Nations Matter to Americans?" will take place on Nov. 16 at 12:30 p.m. in room 159 of the Wolfe University Center.

All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to join and a free lunch is provided.