



CUBA

Church names more Cuba prisoners

The Catholic Church announced the names of five more Cuban inmates who have accepted exile in Spain in return for freedom, though none are among 52 political prisoners jailed in a 2003.



HAITI

Cholera outbreak kills 135

At least 135 people have died in a suspected cholera outbreak, and aid groups are rushing in medicine and other supplies Friday to combat Haiti's deadliest health problem since its devastating



TAWAIN

7 dead, 25 missing after typhoon hits

A powerful typhoon caused massive mud- and rockslides that killed 7 people and trapped vehicles on a highway, where one bus carrying 19 Chinese tourists was missing.

Members of Student Government rack up costs during trip

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Student Government Association members traveled to Washington D.C. recently as part of a trip to lobby members of congress for funding and support of University initiatives in a trip totaling \$2,137.35, possibly leaving students to foot the bill.

Student Governing Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Helena Ramirez, Vice President Nicholas Autiello, Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez, and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Christin "Cici" Battle all traveled to Washington D.C. on Sept. 30 per the request of the University's Governmental Relations office.

"This trip to Washington D.C.

is out of the norm for [SGC-MMC] because they have historically traveled to Washington D.C. only once in March," said Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life and adviser to SGA.

After the trip, Autiello submitted a total of \$1,700.95 for reimbursement from the University. This included airfare, the hotel stay, and various meals. Gonzalez expensed a total of \$353.40, which also included several meals and airfare. Ramirez only expensed three meals, which totaled \$83.00 and did not submit reimbursement for airfare.

Each airplane ticket for the Washington, D.C. trip cost \$226.40.

The reimbursement of these

SGA, page 2

AY, QUE COMICO!



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

The Student Programming Council presented Bill Santiago, a comedian famous for his latino parodies. SPC brought Santiago to the University as a part of Hispanic Heritage month. He performed on Oct. 20 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

University looking to reach students on smoking ban

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With the campus-wide smoking ban set to begin on Jan. 1, 2011, the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Steering Committee met on Oct. 8 to discuss ways to disseminate the information and reach out to University students.

"We're not telling people that you have to quit your tobacco habit, we're just saying that when you're on campus you cannot use tobacco products," said Mariella Gabaroni, assistant

director of University Health Services and chair of the Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Steering Committee. "However, if you do want to quit, we have sessions and programs available so that you can manage that habit."

During the meeting, Gabaroni lead the discussion and emphasized that the committee must make a point of clarifying, to the University community, the focus of their educational plan.

"When you think of an educational plan, you think that we're just going to be educating

people about the harms of tobacco," Gabaroni said. "But what we're talking about is what happens when you first leave tobacco, the effects of second and third-hand smoke, and a huge [emphasis] about the education on the new regulation that is coming to the University community on January 2011."

She also mentioned that they will focus on sharing information to the public about what to expect when trying to quit, how to manage a smoking habit while on campus for those who don't want to quit, and the different resources

available both on and off-campus.

The committee has already launched one-on-one consultations, a website in the health services site and sporadic university-wide emails. Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Official Panthers Partners has also begun meeting with the deans of the schools and colleges; with recent visits to the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, and Journalism and Mass Communication.

"Now that the regulation has passed, we

SMOKE-BAN, page 2

Obama's approval rating among college students drops

LAUREN ROVIRA
Contributing Writer

In 2009, college students nationwide held a 60% approval rating of President Barack Obama's actions in office -- a number which has dropped significantly.

An Associated Press poll conducted last month which surveyed 2,027 randomly selected undergraduate students ages 18-24 showed that currently 44% of students support President Obama and 27% are unhappy with his overall performance.

"I feel there was a lot of hype about him, but he has failed to make significant change," said Juan Ledesma, a junior at the University.

A general loss of fervor for the "change" campaign has ensued among many students.

"He had us riding on his hope and change bandwagon, but he didn't pull through," said Nick Hart, a junior majoring in psychology. "There's been no change, just more of the same."

Frustration with Obama's handling of the



SUSAN WALSH/AP PHOTO

President Barack Obama at a rally at the University of Washington in Seattle, on Oct. 21.

economy, the progression of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, social reform befitting this generation's openness, health reform, importunate

unemployment and the continuing existence of Guantanamo Bay, has dimmed collegiate approval for President Obama.

"I think Obama ran on a platform of radical change. For mitigating reasons he's not been able to deliver... I disapprove of his actions on the war," said Brian Bonilla, a freshman at the university. "He declares it 'over,' but says he wants to maintain troops overseas."

The declining percentage of student support also comes from the feeling that Obama has unsuccessfully procured his ends despite his administration holding a mostly democratic Congress.

"Yes, he has to deal with Congress, but he was holding a majority. I don't get it," said William Sanchez, a political science major.

Maximilian Staedtler, an international student from Germany majoring in international business, also expressed his disappointment.

"He's off track. He'll lose many seats, but this might make him focus more on obtaining his prior goals," said Staedtler.

However, the effect of dismayed students not going out to vote in the upcoming midterm

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Healthier FIU Carnival part of educational plan

SMOKE-BAN, page 1

want to give them information about all of the services offered by [UHS] and also how we can get this information to their students,” said Daniel Estape, a member of STOPP and a public health masters student.

One of the ideas within the educational plan that was discussed was the structure of a Healthier FIU Carnival, which will be modeled after The Great American Smokeout, an annual nation-wide event held on the third Thursday of November that encourages Americans to quit tobacco smoking.

First held in 1977 by the

American Cancer Society, the event challenges people to stop smoking cigarettes for 24 hours while hoping that their decision to not smoke will last for the rest of their lives. Still in its planning phase, the committee hopes to incorporate games, t-shirts and activities that will better inform the students about the regulation as well as other health initiatives throughout the University.

While the enforcement aspect was to be specifically addressed by a different committee, the steering committee members still debated the plan and the fact that sanctions, for smokers who continue to smoke on campus,

are to be fully launched after the six to eight month period of Jan. 1. John Stuart, a faculty member at the School of Architecture and faculty fellow at the Office of the Provost, felt that however the committee decides to approach the issue, the University community must become informed as soon as possible.

“I think information and giving people that information is the job of this committee, and of this initiative and this University,” Stuart said. “We should not be in the business of making statements that provide a mystery as far as where we stand because we are about truth.”

Support for Obama dwindles, faithful remain

OBAMA, page 1

elections may not take such a considerable toll on the party’s dominance of Congress.

“People that don’t vote, just don’t vote,” said Kathryn Depalo, an undergraduate adviser in the Politics and International Relations department.

Michael Santana, president of the College Democrats at the University explained: “This is a midterm election not a presidential [election]...yes democrats will lose numerous seats, maybe even the house, but not the Senate.”

College Democrats Vice

President Donovan Dawson reaffirmed that there may be negative setbacks in the midterm elections, and went on to describe the general air of resentment as a product of pessimism.

“I think that many people who supported the President have become cynical and may have abandoned him because he hasn’t been able to enact the changes that he promised as fast as he would like to,” Dawson said.

On campus, there still remain those that are faithful in the current administration.

“He said he’d reform healthcare, and remove troops from Iraq and he did. He’s

more or less kept his word,” Oliver Ljustina, biology major, said.

Obama, however, remains popular among college students despite the overall waning enthusiasm from the AP poll and upcoming midterm elections will determine the sway of political power in the legislative branch.

“Many fail to realize that although the Presidency is a powerful position, its only one branch of government that must co-exist with the other two in order to ensure the preservation of our republic,” Dawson said.

Expenses still pending review, hotel costs total \$1,283

SGA, page 1

expenses is still pending review by Toscano. The University’s Procurement Card policy, which is how the University pays for travel related expenses, only pays for hotel stays and airfare.

While lobbying in the nation’s capital, Ramirez and the rest of the SGA members that went stayed at the Mayflower Renaissance, a four star hotel which cost a total of \$1283.80 for four nights.

Though, according to Autiello, certain discounts were given to them when booking the stay, the lodging itself cost an average of \$320.95 per night.

In a press conference on Oct. 22, Autiello said, “Helena and I conducted our own

research and could not find any cheaper hotels.” However, Toscano told *Student Media*: “no research was conducted towards finding money efficient hotels.”

Student Media conducted its own research and found much cheaper alternatives within five miles of the Mayflower for as low as \$199 per night.

During the group’s time in Washington D.C., SGA members lobbied local representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, and Lincoln and Mario Diaz-Balart; all of whom have offices located in Miami.

According to a press release sent out on Sept. 30, Ramirez, Autiello, Gonzalez,

and Battle were lobbying for several projects including \$4 million in funding for a “Mass Scale Biosensor Threat Diagnostic for In-Theater Defense Utilization.”

The press release added that this project will help in “developing devices that can detect non-specific, unknown toxicants using nano-scaled based biosensor devices.” This is a project intended for the United States Department of Defense.

Another project, the “Green Technologies Research Incubator, was requested by the School of Environment and Society and seeks to “augment existing research facilities and make instrumentation investments to spur technological advancement and economic

development in sustainable technologies.”

Historically, SGC-BBC is tasked with traveling nationally due to Battle being a member of the United States Student Association, which requires her to travel nationally throughout the year, Toscano told *Student Media*.

SGC-MMC is supposed to travel locally for the Florida Student Association, which holds their events in different states. Also, SGC-MMC is tasked with attending many SGA related events such as Rally in Tally, he added.

Because of these duties, the SGC-BBC has a traveling

budget that is \$4,000 higher than SGC-MMC’s, totaling at \$18,000 a year.

“As far as urgency of that trip, it’s important as our legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them,” Autiello said.



Title: Sex Trafficking at Home and Abroad

Moderator:



Carleen Vincent-Robinson

Instructor, School of International and Public Affairs Department of Criminal Justice



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VOLLEYBALL

STEPPING UP

Gonzalez's dedication makes her an all-star threat

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Sabrina Gonzalez is special in that she gets playing time on the team as a freshman despite only having three years of experience.

A Miami native, Gonzalez played volleyball at Miami Sunset Senior High, where she was a three-sport star, earning honors throughout her high school career in volleyball, track and field, and basketball.

With a resume like that, it's no surprise Head Coach Danijela Tomic recruited her for the program. Tomic not only loves her talent, but the work ethic that she shows day in and day out.

"Sabrina works hard everyday, from day one," Tomic said. "She comes into the gym, she does extra work. In the office, my assistants give her a DVD and she watches the games."

It's the little things that the public does not get to see on a daily basis that Gonzalez emphasizes. She studies game film. She is constantly pushing herself. When the practices finish, after the players head to the locker room, you'll see Gonzalez talking with the assis-

tant coaches to get insight on how to improve on her game.

"Those things pay off. That's what we want everybody on the team to understand," Tomic said. "She's come a long way because of her hard work and how coachable she is. She is like a sponge... She made huge progress from her freshman year, from the beginning to the end."

All this praise has come at a price for Gonzalez. After a freshman season where she led the Panthers in total blocks with 133, Gonzalez spent her sophomore season dealing with an ankle injury that started as a sprain and ended up as a stress fracture.

She is currently battling an abdominal strain suffered during the home match against Western Kentucky on Oct. 16. That doesn't stop her from fighting through the pain and continue playing. Angelina Colon has seen that fight.

"Sabrina is a very special athlete," Colon said. "That's one thing that's very important for an athlete; to overcome pain. She has been able to do that in a way that I've never seen anyone else do. She truly is an amazing athlete."

Gonzalez came into this

season with a role to play as a leader and also as an offensive threat. Before this season, Sabrina was only known for her defense. It was after her injury-riddled season that she worked on getting better in other aspects of the game.

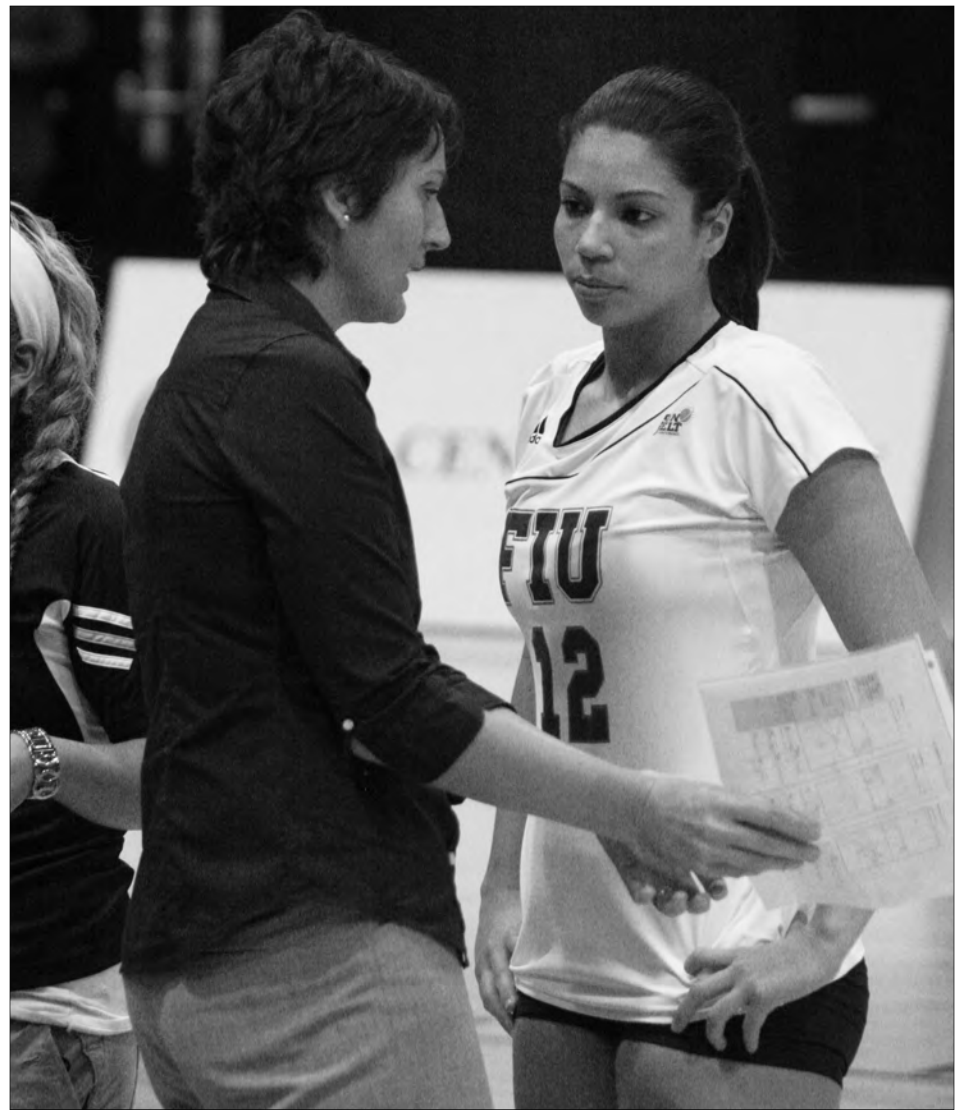
"Since I was limited, I worked on setting, and serving, and passing, and coming into the preseason I could see the difference just by working on those few things," Gonzalez said.

"She worked hard," Tomic added. "She had to heal first from the injury, so we worked on her passing game because she couldn't jump or do anything else at that time."

Once she had recovered from the injury and had put in the work on her fundamentals, she began to train and condition herself for the season, which she knew would be big for her.

The work paid off, as she has shown to be a more complete player this season. She blocks with focus and has put together an offensive game that the team has benefited from. With 169 kills and 37 total blocks so far at the halfway point of the

GONZALEZ, page 4



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Head Coach Danijela Tomic [left] discusses strategies with Sabrina Gonzalez [right] in the game against Florida Atlantic University on Oct. 8

WOMEN'S SOCCER: FIU 5, ULM 0

Golden Panthers blank ULM on Senior Night

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers' last home game of the season ended on a perfect note, as they went on to score the most goals they have all year, in an impressive 5-0 shutout victory.

The University of Louisiana Monroe (2-15-1, 0-9 Sun Belt Conference), who has not won a game in conference play, proved to be no easy task in the first half for the Panthers.

The game started out pretty quickly, as April Perry put in a rocket 20 yards out from the top right of the box to give FIU (9-7-1, 6-3 SBC) the early lead only 13 minutes into the match. The rest of the half would remain scoreless, as ULM held FIU to just seven shots in all.

The second half is what brought the offensive explosion that the Golden Panthers had been looking for ever since they went on their three game losing streak.

Just like the first half, with just under thirteen minutes in, freshman Chelsea Leiva drove the ball in, fought off the defender and right when the goalie came in shot it through the net to put her team up 2-0.

They were not finished yet, as eight minutes

later, another freshman, this time Nicole DiPerna, took the pass from Perry and helped FIU to grab a comfortable lead of 3-0.

Not even a minute after, ULM made a mental mistake and scored on their own goal, which then had FIU up 4-0, and with 26 minutes to go in the game, it seemed it was inevitable that the game was over. It wasn't, at least for FIU that is, because two minutes later Chelsea Leiva dropped in to score her second goal of the night and ninth goal of the year off a pass from senior Mayara Bordin.

"The first goal I took it my first tough forward and I saw that the goalie was already low so I tipped it over her head and it went into the back of the net. The second goal I got a great ball from Mayara and then I just took a touch diagonal and put it back the other way," said Leiva on her two goals. "After every goal I told them (the seniors on the team) that it was for them."

Mayara Bordin, Kaley Durance, Cassandra Sorzano, and Linn Thune make up the Golden Panthers' senior class. This was a very important and emotional night for all of them, and picking up an impressive victory was not only a

SOCCER, page 4

SPORTS REPLAY

FIU receives mideason All-Sun Belt recognition

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

With the season now halfway over, the Golden Panthers are enjoying a week off from regular season play and also received some national recognition.

Eleven members of the Golden Panthers were named as Phil Steele Midseason All-Sun Belt selections and three of them were named to the first team.

T.Y. Hilton represents the FIU offense on the first team as a wide receiver, and is joined by defensive backs Anthony Gaitor and Jonathan Cyprien as first team selections. Cyprien is the FIU leader in tackles with 56 while Gaitor leads the Golden Panthers with two interceptions and three sacks.

Hilton was also on the

second team, this time as a kick return specialist. Fellow wide out Greg Ellingson, who leads the team in receiving touchdowns (2) and receiving yards (340), along with center Brad Serini were named to the second team.

The offensive line, which has opened up the running and passing game this season, received further recognition with Cedric Mack and JUCO transfer Caylin Hauptmann were delegated to the third team.

Jack Griffin, who has proven to be a more-than-capable replacement for departed kicker Dustin Rivest, was also named to the third team after going 5-for-6 in the field goal department this season and has not missed an attempt since the season opener against Rutgers.

Jarvis Wilson and Winston Fraser round out the defensive representation for the Golden Panthers as third team selections as well.

At home games, University students are used to approaching FIU Stadium with their Student IDs in hand, and being allowed entrance to football games for free. At Florida Atlantic on Oct. 30, Students can follow the same routine.

The FIU Athletics department will award students with one free ticket at the Oct. 30 game as long as they have a valid Student ID. Students will have to show up at Gate D of Lockhart Stadium at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the game in order to receive them. According to a release, tickets will be at disposal up

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Seniors honored at final home game



KARINA TELLEZ/THE BEACON

[From left] Kaley Durrance, Linn Thune, Mayara Bordin, and Cassandra Sorzano hold up their old jerseys on Oct. 21

SOCCKER, page 3

great send off, but also ended a three-game losing streak.

The game allowed for other players to take a break and others to play, such as goalkeeper Paula Zuluaga filling in for Melanie Raimo for a total of 32 minutes.

“Don’t stop. Work hard, especially during conditioning, and to always be there for each other,” Leiva said, quoting advice seniors gave her during her first collegiate

season with the team.

“I wanted to leave this field on a good note and it’s just a pleasure to play with these girls,” Mayara said. “It’s just really sad to think that I’ll never step on this field again to play. I will never forget everything that I’ve gone through.”

Thune added: “It was awesome, my parents were here and all my friends and it was nice.”

In the end, the four seniors were rewarded for all their efforts during their

time at FIU.

“They’ve come a long way and have seen the change here at FIU, and it’s been largely part of all their hard work that they’ve put in the last four years,” Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt said. “We just want to thank them for everything.”

The Golden Panthers face Louisiana on Oct. 24 at 1 p.m., and end the regular season at rival Florida Atlantic on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. The conference tournament schedule has yet to be determined.

Gonzalez’s skills refine with time

GONZALEZ, page 3

season, you can’t truly appreciate her play unless you see it in person.

She is quick for her 5’11” frame, moving around with hustle and poise, protecting and attacking the net, almost like a post player would in basketball. Her development was helped by the emergence of Andrea Lakovic, another junior middle blocker, who pushed her to play better.

“Andrea and her are pushing each other, which is great,” Tomic said. “Andrea is playing better and better, and

that’s a competition you want to see. Teammates who play against each other everyday, who play the same position, are pushing each other to be better.”

This play has come as no surprise to coach Tomic, who has told Gonzalez what she sees as the potential for her.

“She has blossomed this year,” Tomic said. “If she continues like this, she’ll be one of the top players. I told her after her freshman year, if you continue to develop like this, you’ll be one of the best middle blockers in the Sun Belt. She’s showing that.”

Golden Panthers win in exhibition

REPLAY, page 3

until the end of the first half of play.

BASEBALL

The Golden Panthers played their only exhibition game of the season on

Oct. 20 against the visiting Ontario Blue Jays and took care of business with a dominating 11-1 victory.

A 16-hit offensive performance helped life the team to an easy win led by newcomer Joel Capote, who went 3-for-5 with a double on the night.

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ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

French festival begins month-long revelry

NATALIE LEVY
Staff Writer

The University's month-long "French Music Festival" kicked off on October 6th with its goal of exposing the South Florida student body to a culture rarely represented in Miami.

"I'm the one who was kind of the instigator behind it," quipped Robert Dundas, Chair

of the Marketing Committee for the School of Music and Associate Professor for Voice, "everyone liked the American theme last year and that was a big success, we wanted to make sure the big concert organ [in the Wertheim Auditorium] was used and the French repertoire."

His colleague, Kathleen Wilson, Associate Director for the School of Music, had a similar take, "It really came about by coincidence.

Many of the groups were doing French music and so it was very easy to culturally market it that way."

The Festival, which began with the "Vive le France" Faculty Convocation, boasts a huge variety of events all performed and organized by FIU School of Music students, faculty and colleagues.

"I have had to work very closely with all my colleagues. I rely very much on them, on

their imaginations, on their terrific ideas. For me its fun putting things together like this because there's such a great repertoire here", Dundas said of the process of setting up the kick-off convocation.

Wilson, who was featured at the Frost Art Museum with her own spot-light recital, said, "Hundreds of hours went into this! All the

FRENCH, page 6

FASHION FINDS

Goodbye dear J. Crew

Ever strolled through a J.Crew store and whimpered because you don't have the funds to buy a \$248 beaded cardigan? I do, every single time. That's why we're breaking up.

COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

As ridiculous as breaking up with a store sounds, it's true. I can no longer dish out the kind of money I used to at J.Crew.

J.Crew is one of the leading brands keeping the preppy look alive. They do a marvelous job of marketing the line in a way that gives the prepper a vibe an edge.

"To me, it's a way of styling. Classic things mixed a certain way—especially special color combinations—look very preppy... Maybe that little cargo jacket that we would have shown ten years ago with a polo shirt

we're now showing with a little sequin top and high heels. And the thing about preppy is it can be alienating to some people," said Jenna Lyons, the president of J.Crew in an interview with *Style.com*.

Their mix of classic chinos with a new twist, like the sequined khaki shorts they came out with last spring, make my heart melt.

I love J.Crew because everything mixes and matches. I hate J.Crew because it's just so expensive.

It may not be on the same level as couture designer prices, but it's still pricey. They try to get away with being affordable, but it's only affordable to people who dish out \$800 for a pair of Yves Saint Laurent pumps.

In fact, I'd rather be able to afford J.Crew over couture because I wouldn't look like I'm trying too hard to walk in caged

CREW, page 6

SWEET TRANSVESTITE



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

The cast of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* performs on Oct. 21. The cult classic production is performed with the 1975 film playing in the background.

French Music Festival ends at the end of the month

FRENCH, page 5

groups and all the ensembles and all the work they do; for musicians a 5-minute piece takes more than 200 hours to put together. That's just the nature of the kind of thing we do."

In fact, by far the most impressive aspect of the French Music Festival are the sheer man-hours spent rehearsing for and coordinating each individual event.

"Everyone is rehearsing during regular class periods, the faculty will rehearse after or on week-ends. All the members of the faculty are performers so something like this just adds in to their regular preparation period," said Dundas.

This year's festivities, headed by the October 6th convocation, have been in the school's plans since last spring.

"Our students have been practicing since last August," added Wilson.

Most of the Festival's events, including "French Music Festival: Amernet String Quartet in Concert" and "From the Belle Epoque to the Crazy Years!" (Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.), and concerts profiling musician Franz Liszt (on Oct. 27 and 28) are offered to students for \$5 and to the general public for \$10-\$15.

"We're kind of like a big family, a big community. We spend lots and lots of hours together," said Wilson. "We have a wonderful faculty. I really enjoy working with such high level musicians."

For more information on the French Music Festival or any of FIU School of Music events visit: www.Music.FIU.edu or contact the School of music at (305) 348 - 2896.



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Dr. John Augenblick conducts his peers during the Faculty Convocation as part of the French Music Festival.

PRESS START REVIEWS: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 4: EPISODE 1

Return to roots effort falls short of initial expectations

The last 12 years have been rough for Sega's one-time mega mascot.

COLUMNIST



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE

The brand has been run into the ground by poorly designed games, the death of the Sega Dreamcast, and a general loss in public appeal. To try and restore the series' past glory, Sega's taking a step into the way-back machine to channel what made the character an iconic bit of '90s pop culture.

Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode I returns the brand to a simpler time, where running, loop-de-loops and robots made from fuzzy woodland creatures were the norm.

The story is no more pressing

than just Sonic taking on series arch-nemesis, Dr. Robotnik. The evil scientist is after Sonic using machines that hark back to the original trilogy, but revamped to offer new tricks.

The idea of retrograding isn't as extreme as in Capcom's *Mega Man 9*, where the game went so far as to fully resemble and sound like a game on the Nintendo Entertainment System. Instead, it modernizes the feel of the game with paint-like colorful backgrounds and environments.

Since the game is a simple platformer, requiring players to jump across platforms, roll through loops and corkscrews, and navigate jumping puzzles, there's really not much to say about the gameplay other than what's there is a mix of fun and flawed.

Immediately, Sonic controls like a loaded shopping cart in that he feels slow to start into a run but drops at a dime in mid-air. This makes timing some jumps a little tricky at first since it feels like the character is being weighed down by a 20-ton anvil. To help, Sega gave Sonic a new move in midair that gives him a small boost in speed and can give an added push for players unsure about their jumps.

Sadly, because of the sloppy state of the game's physics programming, odd shenanigans happen that often take the player out of the experience. In one stage, I walked—not ran—up a very tall vertical wall and still cleared it. I'm pretty sure that's not how momentum works.

Despite these problems, the levels themselves are quite entertaining and will certainly please

players with who just want a fun game to play. Sonic can swing across vines, light up dark caves and detonate dynamite with a torch, and in one of the game's more trippy segments, run through the sky on a deck of poker cards.

The levels are themed after older stages in the series, though each stage has its own little gimmick to set it apart. Not all of them work so brilliantly. One such stage requires the player to aim cannons to guide Sonic across the level, usually with rings or arrows to guide the way. The poor air physics make this a chore to do and the heavy reliance on the cannons makes the level a bit of a bore.

The game's soundtrack is hit or miss, some of the synth-loaded tracks sounding good, others getting grating by how short they are when

they loop back to the start.

The Wii and iPhone versions suffer out of the bunch. Because of Nintendo's size restrictions, the Wii version has poor quality music and a grainy image quality while the iPhone, even with two exclusive levels, is much more difficult to control and has graphical and audio quality worse than the Wii version.

What Sonic 4 does well, it does in strides. Issues at the very core of the gameplay however keep it from becoming a great game. For those that can put up with them, a short but entertaining game lies ahead. I would recommend waiting for the price to drop too, as \$15, \$10 on iPhone, is steep for a download title.

Press Start is a weekly column on video games. Look for it every Monday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, OCT. 25

FROM THE BELLE EPOQUE TO THE CRAZY YEARS



Presented by FIU Music, part of "French Music Festival" Enjoy some classic operettas from the FIU Opera Theater.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/seniors; \$15 general admission
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall

GRAD SCHOOL FAIR

Meet with representatives from more than 30 grad schools.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Around GC Pit

HOPES FOR CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

General meeting.
WHEN: 3 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 279A

ACADEMIC SUCCESS WITH ANDY MASTERS, M.A.

Greek Life speaker.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE



Weekly meetings. Mingle with fellow Harry Potter fans.

WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: VH 131

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Medical School presentation. Food and refreshments provided.
WHEN: 6:30 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE



Discuss New York Times articles with fellow students.

MMC

Topic: Sex Trafficking: At Home and Abroad
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

BBC

Topic: Hip Hop Hope for Haiti
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WUC 159

BEING AN EFFECTIVE TEAM MEMBER

Lecture.
WHEN: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 220

Want your event featured? Write to [calendar@fiusm.com!](mailto:calendar@fiusm.com)

GOODBYE STRESS

Weekly meditation by the Preksha Meditation Club.

WHEN: 2 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

HALLOWEEN NIGHT



Hosted by the International Students Club. Food and drinks provided!

WHEN: 6 - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 143

CREATIVE CORNER

In the spirit of Halloween, the theme will be scary stories and spooky poems. If you don't have anything to share, enjoy some works from fellow students.

WHEN: 6 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Bookstore Cafe

J. Crew's abusive prices lead to an abrupt break-up

CREW, page 5

heels.

Their cheapest option for a tee is around \$30 and it's the most basic tee shirt you'll ever find. The nicer, embellished ones can run up to \$78.

Another thing that makes me sad about J.Crew is that there is no substitute for them. No one cuts a cardigan or pants the way they do.

Looking through their catalog or website is a great place for getting ideas, in theory. But then it sets in that you can't get their stuff. It makes a bargain shopper like me very, very sad.

The store in Dadeland Mall is small and boutique-like, so it has a real intimate feel. I'm really torn about this store. It's so beautiful, but just not in the realm of possibilities for my measly bank account.

Lyons revamped the line to take it from a boring Vineyard Vines knock-off to the wardrobe staple mecca they are now. Everyone who shops from the store or just admires the line should check out her monthly "Jenna's Picks" newsletter on the

website.

"I want people to trust 'Jenna's Picks,' and I think they respond to it because they're looking for help editing. There's so much noise, so many things to look at now," said Lyons.

Lyons gives fans a look at how she works the line's style into her everyday life. Last month she showed us what was inside her purse.

Everything is beautiful and overpriced, including a rhinestone-encrusted pair of tweezers. It's totally ridiculous, but I'm totally jealous.

This is where our relationship becomes abusive. Why would you try to sell me a pair of Tweezerman tweezers for \$75 just because it has cheesy rhinestones? Not fair.

So, for now, I'll end my rant. I really wish it didn't have to be this way. You're out of my shopping realm, J. Crew, no matter how much I wish to be there.

Fashion Finds is a weekly style column. Reviewers do not receive any goods in return for favorable reviews.

Partisanship thwarts sensible taxes

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

There are few topics that arouse as much uproar from Americans as taxes, and today's polarized and hyperbolic political climate guarantees even more controversy than usual. With midterm elections looming, both parties are looking to capitalize on the passionate issue of taxation, particularly the Bush-era tax cuts that are due to expire by Jan. 2011.

The tax cuts were enacted under former president George H.W. Bush in 2001, and accelerated by another act in 2003. Their expiration will basically raise taxes to what they were a decade ago. I, along with most economists, feel a middle-ground approach to them is in order. But, in this era of strict partisanship, combined with cynicism towards "academic elites," I'm not sure a balanced approach is feasible.

President Barack Obama and the Democrats favor retaining the tax cuts for any household that makes less than \$250,000, raising taxes on only on the richest two percent of the population. The Republicans, however prefer to maintain the tax cuts for everyone, including the wealthy.

Once again, Democrats are accused of targeting the rich to win votes, while Republicans are branded as defenders of the wealthy at the expense of the poor. Furthermore, the GOP is being charged with hypocrisy for demanding more tax cuts even as they drum up concern about the deficit, which would be

"One can only hope that once the hype and bravado of the midterms are over, each party will find more cause for tackling the deficit and less for swagger."

worsened by a total extension.

In a more respectable political climate, a more serious debate based on economic data should be the basis of a decision. Taxes are just too easy a topic to exploit.

Republicans have retorted that a tax hike now would threaten a weak recovery. They've also taken to utilizing the perception that the Obama administration is anti-business, and may, if not already, emphasize the tax cut debate as proof of this.

Ultimately, both parties are overstating their case. While extending the cuts for all but the richest will indeed save us billions of dollars - \$34 billion by next year - it won't fix the deficit. Astonishingly, that \$34 billion will only cover about nine days' worth of deficit. Even though the total amount saved over the next decade could amount to a whopping \$700 billion, massive government spending will have to be curtailed for even that number to make a difference.

The Republican fear that restoring taxes will kill a recovery isn't all that accurate. Previous tax hikes on the rich didn't have a destabilizing effect on the economy. In fact, during former president Bill Clinton's admin-

istration, taxes on the wealthy were raised without negative consequences. Rather, the economy boomed.

The fact is, Democrats need to address the need for lower spending, while Republicans must accept the necessary evil of raising taxes. A little of each will have to be to get the budget and public debt in order. Extending the tax cuts for now seems most prudent, but they should be phased out in the short term so as not to "shock" the economy, or deprive the deficit of well needed revenue.

I'm maintaining some cautious optimism. Despite their posturing, both parties have shown potential for compromise. Moderate Republicans are open to extending the cuts for another year and even John Boehner, the House minority leader, conceded to following Obama's plan if it came down to it. Both parties also seem to be hedging their bets that a report by a newly created deficit commission, due by December 1st, may lead to progress on a plan.

One can only hope that once the hype and bravado of the midterms are over, each party will find more cause for tackling the deficit and less for swagger.

National Climate fuels hatred for gays

BROOKE MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

The recent reports of the four suicides committed by children under the age of eighteen after being taunted endlessly for being gay has been deemed by the media as an "epidemic" seemingly spurred by eerie coincidence. However, the reality is these suicides are a manifestation of the dehumanization that is inflicted on homosexuals on a national level.

The speculation as to why these bullies drove these kids to suicide is only a small part of the much bigger issue of marginalization on a federal level to the point of ostracism and dehumanization.

The "kids are cruel" argument is a cop-out and a dangerous answer to a question that is begging our nation's attention: Why are teenagers, in this supposed period of modernity and equality, being driven to suicide because of their sexual orientation?

If society continues to perpetuate this "separate but equal"

nonsense that is propagated by our government, churches and media, we must not be so shocked that teenagers, with little hope of their future being any less isolated, are driven to suicide.

As comedian Sarah Silverman stated, "When you tell gay Americans that they can't serve their country openly or marry the person that they love, you're telling that to kids too. So don't be shocked and wonder where all these bullies are coming from that are torturing young kids and driving them to kill themselves because they're different. They learned it from watching you."

I feel you can apply this mantra to a national level. The bullies learned it from watching you.

It speaks absolute volumes about our culture's collective cognitive dissonance that while feeling the sorrow and acknowledging the particularly chilling idea of a child killing oneself, we remain somewhat oblivious to the connection between laws that marginalize homosexuals

and homosexual teen suicide.

When any minority is marginalized and not given equal rights, they are being dehumanized by the state. This dehumanization of homosexuals is in part what contributed to these suicides and the heinous tortures of three homosexual men in the Bronx.

We cannot be certain that there were not a myriad of other factors that contributed to these suicides, but society must dig deeper than labeling these tragedies as hate crimes. We must ask, as a whole, what is making this nation such a conducive environment for such devastating hatred and gay-bashing?

When Carl P. Paladino, candidate for New York governor makes statements like, "I don't want them [children] brainwashed into thinking that homosexuality is an equally valid and successful option. It isn't," I don't think we can really say the national climate is an encouraging one for children and teenagers struggling with their sexual identity.

When Christine O'Donnell

the Republican senate candidate for Delaware says homosexuality is an "identity disorder," there is little wonder as to why younger generations of bullies are taunting teenagers and children literally to death.

For 18-year-old Tyler, who killed himself after his roommate videotaped him having sex with another man, for 13-year-old Asher in Texas who shot himself in the head, for 15-year-old Billy in Indiana, and for Seth, 13-year-old in Minnesota who hung himself, all after being tormented by classmates for being gay, sympathy is easy.

For the two teenagers and the 30-year-old man in the Bronx, who were bound, stripped, severely beaten and sodomized with various objects, outrage is easy.

Actually questioning the national climate that is perpetuating the idea that being homosexual is inherently wrong, thus creating an environment susceptible to these crimes and suicides, is far more complex and necessary.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Useless trips drain student funds with little results

An unscheduled trip led members of Student Government to spend \$2,137.35 in student money on travel expenses.

The trip was made by SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez, Vice President Nick Autiello, Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Christin "Ci Ci" Battle, at the recommendation of members of the University's Office of Governmental Relations in Washington, D.C. They also made the recommendation for them to stay at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel.

The four-star hotel ended up costing members of the executive branch a total of \$1,283.80 for a four night stay. Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life and SGC-MMC adviser, told Student Media that "no research was conducted towards finding money efficient hotels."

Autiello on the other hand, told members of *The Beacon* during a SGC-MMC press conference on Oct. 22 that both he and Ramirez did their own research on hotels in the area and that the Renaissance Mayflower was their cheapest option.

However, *The Beacon* searched for hotels located around the area of the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel and found several alternatives which cost up to \$220 less than what members of SGC-MMC's executive branch spent per night.

It is unacceptable that members of the Student Government Association - who are responsible for millions of dollars of student money - would go on such a trip, or any for that matter, without doing prior research. It took a simple five-minute Google search for *The Beacon* to find less expensive hotels.

The Beacon also questions the need for the trip in the first place.

According to Toscano, the trip is "out of the norm," because members of the SGC-BBC are typically the ones who lobby projects for the University on a nation-wide scale, while SGC-MMC typically lobbies for the University on a state level.

Toscano also added that typically, SGC-MMC makes a single, scheduled trip to Washington D.C. in March. Furthermore, the urgency behind going to Washington, D.C. to lobby for these projects is seemingly non-existent.

The projects that members of the Executive Cabinet lobbied while on their trip included \$4 million dollars for a "Mass Scale Biosensor Threat Diagnostic for In-Theater Defense Utilization," \$3 million dollars for a "FIU/Jackson North Hospital Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Facility" and \$2 million for a "Forensic Science Center of Excellence Focusing on National Security."

"As far as urgency of that trip, it's important as our legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them," Autiello told Student Media.

As Autiello said, they are "our legislators," which means that they hold office in the state of Florida -- which makes the trip to Washington, D.C. even more unnecessary. Instead of rushing up to the nation's capitol, SGA could have saved themselves and the student body thousands of dollars by waiting for those members of congress to be back in their home state.

The Beacon believes it is important for SGA's executive branches to not forget the priorities that the student body has set for them, for instance, not spending student money for unnecessary and costly trips.

VERBATIM

"My dog is black, unemployed, lazy, can't speak English and has no frigging clue who his Daddy is... My dog gets his first check Friday."

Governor Bob McDonnell. VA, Republican on the eligibility requirements of welfare

DISCLAIMER

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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

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.



CUBA

Church announces release of more prisoners

The Roman Catholic Church announced the names of five more Cuban inmates who have accepted exile in Spain in return for freedom, none are among 52 political prisoners jailed in a 2003 roundup of dissidents.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

126 students fall ill after free meals

Officials say 126 students were sickened on Oct. 21 after eating free school breakfasts despite the Dominican government's efforts to resolve past problems with tainted school food.



HAITI

Cholera outbreak feared in rural Haiti

At least 135 people have died in a suspected cholera outbreak, and aid groups are rushing in medicine and other supplies on Oct. 22 to combat Haiti's deadliest health problem since its devastating earthquake.

Students voice opinions of Haiti's nearing elections

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Contributing Writer

Haiti's upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections are the most important elections to occur in the country since the first free democratic elections in 1990.

On the brink of what President Barack Obama refers to as "one of the largest relief efforts in history," Haiti is in dire need of a strong leader to effectively begin the reconstruction of the country.

Promised roughly \$5.3 billion in aid, expectations are high.

"My issue is that the country is being flooded with money from international countries for reconstruction and Haiti has a history of embezzlement. I'm afraid the person who wins the seat will maldistribute the funds," said Dalourmy Nemorin, a senior international relations major.

General elections were scheduled to occur on Feb. 28; however, after the earthquake exacerbated political and social instability in the country, presidential and parliamentary elections were postponed until Nov. 28.

In Haiti's bicameral National Assembly, 11 of 30 senate seats are up for election;

the 99 seats of the Chamber of Deputies are up for grabs as well.

Haiti's Electoral Provisional Committee, handpicked by President Rene Preval, has come under scrutiny by US lawmakers after barring candidates from 14 political parties from participating in the election, including Haiti's largest party, Lavalas Family.

On Aug. 20, the CEP approved 19 of the 34 Candidates eligible to run for office.

From these 19 hopefuls Haitians have favored a first lady, a world-renowned Haitian musician and a former Haitian presidential candidate.

Mirlande Manigat, a National Progressive Democrat, has 23 percent of support from Haitian citizens and is currently the leading candidate in the race to the top.

Manigat, a university scholar who spent years in exile is the wife of former President Leslie Manigat, is campaigning on a platform of jobs, education and social programs.

The former first lady simply pledges action in her platform and like many

of the Presidential candidates she has made no point to offer any ideologies to her constituents.

Charles-Henri Baker, referred

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Haiti's future discussed this week, plagiarism causes debate

TREMAINE STEED
CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Beacon Staff

With contemporary issues continue to rise globally, discussions for solutions can seem inevitable or therapeutic.

"I want this to be an open forum, expressing opinions on politics, celebrities and what it means for us when we cast a vote," said moderator Julissa Castellanos, director of operations for the office of the Vice Provost Biscayne Bay.

The topic for the upcoming TTR discussion on Oct. 26, "Hip Hop for Haiti," discusses the recent appeal musical artist Wyclef Jean filed against Haiti's council decision to rule him ineligible for the upcoming presidential election.

The ruling was due to residential requirements that according to the Haitian council, Jean has not met, being that he moved to the United States as a child.

Originally, Jean accepted defeat as he respectfully acknowledged the decision; however, later he and his lawyers decided to respectfully challenge the ruling just a weekend after announcing

it on his twitter page.

Although Jean may seem like a reasonable candidate, basing his generosity toward Haiti with organizations such as Yele, a creole word meaning "scream, and being native of the country, does his "celebrity" set him as an automatic candidate? Are his concerns really for the betterment of Haiti? And does the traumatic earthquake that destroyed the Haitian nation give lead way for him to be elected?

"I think it is something positive, being someone famous that the youth looks up too, I feel that celebrities should use their fame for something positive, and that will be discussed during the roundtable" Castellanos said.

All of these questions will be discussed as students gain more insight on the issue.

"A way of expressing opinions on celebrities, we can be limited and say that this generally effect the Haitian community or only those who follow the music industry, all of this will be discussed, as I do hope to learn from the students myself," Castellanos said.

Though how this week's discussion will turnout is still unclear, last week's discussion

to as "The Hope of Haiti," is behind Manigat in the polls with 17.3 percent of voting intentions. Baker is running under the Respe Haiti party.

Baker is looking to instill hope in the hearts of a people disillusioned with its leaders.

World-renowned Haitian musician Michel Martelly, "Sweet Micky," is currently in third place in pre-election polls. Martelly's campaign focuses on "change" and sustainable development, affiliated with *Response Peyizan*, or the People's Response

Party.

Martelly is the president of the Foundation Rose et Blanc, created by his wife Sophia and himself, to help the poor and disenfranchised of the country.

This being the basis for choosing him as the Good Will Haitian Ambassador for the Protection of the Environment by the current Haitian Government.

"Its one thing to be an activist and I know Sweet Mickey has done a lot for Haiti in that respect, but transitioning

to politics and considering the history of Haiti knowing of the corruption and coups I don't know if he's ready for that," said Edward Servius a sophomore finance major.

The upcoming elections have stirred great debate among the international community as well as in the United States.

Eyes around the world are watching to see how the Elections pan out and how the new Parliament and President will govern the nation's post-quake reconstruction.

NEW MULTIMEDIA LAB



ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, E.W. Scripps President and CEO Richard A. Boehne and Scripps Howard Foundation President and CEO Mike Phillips cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new Scripps Multimedia Lab in Academic Two 255.