



SOUTH AFRICA

300 march over proposed press law

A proposed media bill that could jail journalists for exposing information that officials want kept secret, caused more than 300 people to march in a protest led by Mzilikazi wa Afrika.



RUSSIA

Gunmen storm Parliament in Chechnya

Islamic insurgents including a suicide bomber stormed Chechnya's Parliament, leaving six people dead and 17 injured in one of the most brazen attacks on the provincial capital in months, officials said.



AFGHANISTAN

Government throws out 1.3 million votes

Afghanistan has released full preliminary results from last month's parliamentary election, throwing out more than 20 percent of ballots because of fraud.

TRANSYLVANIA MANIA

Theater students "shadow" cult classic



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Doug Reilly dressed in drag as Doctor Frank-N-Furter during last year's production of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

Life! Editor

Cult classic, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, is returning to the University for a third year of entertainment and will most likely be weirding some people out with its quirky plot.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is the 1975 film adaptation of the British musical stageplay, *The Rocky Horror Show*. The film is a parody of science fiction and B-movie horror films starring Susan Sarandon and Tim Curry.

After *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* flopped at the box office, theaters started putting on impromptu productions where audience members would reenact what was happening on the screen and from there it grew into a Halloween tradition. To add to the quirkiness of the show, shadow casts perform the show at midnight.

"The film is definitely a cult classic. It's a film that makes fun of all those Frankenstein films that involve sacrificing virgins. It pokes fun at classic romantic comedies and sci-fi films all in one," says Fadoua Hanine, a senior BFA performance major starring as Magenta, one of Dr. Frank-N-Furter's minions.

ROCKY, page 6

SHOWTIMES

Friday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 23

- Time: 12:00 a.m., additional showing at 8 p.m. on Saturday
- Where: DM150
- How much: \$5

Collier talks poverty at summit

GABRIEL ARARRÁS

News Director

During the first plenary of the University's second ever geopolitical summit, Dr. Paul Collier took the stage to applause from "just the sort of audience [he] wanted to reach."

Collier is a professor of Economics and director of the Center for the Study of African Economics at Oxford University. He is also the author of the influential book, "The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It", which explores the reasons why impoverished countries fail to progress despite international aid and support.

"Our emphasis on poverty, health and sustainability underscores the fact that we live today in a highly interdependent world," said University President Mark Rosenberg during his opening remarks. "Dr. Collier is a premier analyst of this interdependence, examining the relationship between environment, health, poverty, public policy and border relations."

Collier's presentation took place on Oct. 18 in the Graham Center Ballrooms of the Modesto Maidique Campus and focused on the world's challenges with poverty.

THE BOTTOM BILLION

Collier, who has worked on developing countries ever since he was a student, argues that people tend to think of the poor and developing countries as "everyone except ourselves."

"[That's] no longer a sensible way of looking at the world," said Collier. "The

PLENARY, page 2

College dropouts costing taxpayers billions of dollars

VALENTINA HERRERA

Contributing Writer

Florida students who drop out of college after their first year are costing the nation billions of dollars and taxpayers across states are picking up the tab.

Students who end up dropping out of college before their sophomore year have cost the nation \$9 billion between 2003 and 2008.

According to "Finishing the First Lap: The Cost of First-Year Student Attrition in America's Four-Year Colleges and Universities," the federal government invested \$1.5 billion on grants for students who never returned to school their second year of college.

One of the states that have spent the most money on students who dropped out of college after their first year is Florida with \$308,700,000.

In addition, Federal aid spent on first-year students is \$41,500,000.

"I highly believe that there should be a penalty for those students who received funding from colleges, the state and the government, that end up dropping out of school after their first year," said Lisette Lifschitz, an FIU accounting student.

Mark Schneider, vice President at the American Institute for Research, told *The Huffington Post* that their goal is to focus on how much it would cost them to lose students after their first year of college and go from there.

However, the cost of college students who receive an education and choose to drop out their second year, account for between 2 to 8 percent of states total higher education appropriations.

"We're all about college completion right now, and I agree 100 percent with the college

completion agenda and we need a better-educated adult population and workforce," Schneider said.

According to Robert Lerman, an American University economics professor, it is questionable to try to get individuals to go to a four-year university. He does not think that college is for everyone.

"Getting them to go a second year might waste even more money," Lerman told *The Huffington Post*.

Florida Universities are ranked as one of the top states with the highest number of students who dropout before their sophomore year.

According to the University's Financial Aid Department, 86% of students receive aid. The average amount of aid for grants is \$4,209 and loans \$4,721.

Throughout the state of Florida, universities struggle with a high rate of dropout

students.

The University of Central Florida has a retention rate of 87% of students who return their second year of college, Florida State University with 89% as well as Florida International University with a low 84%.

According to Delio Morato, senior academic adviser at the University's Department of Undergraduate Education, one of the challenges they are facing is trying to get students in the right direction.

"Most students don't return their sophomore year because of a bad GPA," Morato said. "Others are simply undecided about their major and choose to take a break, which in most cases they do not return."

The University Advising Center has come up with a plan to avoid students from dropping out of college.

DROPOUTS, page 2

Collier stresses increased market access for poor nations

PLENARY, page 1

billion at the bottom are diverging from the rest of mankind, missing out on the last 40 years of unprecedented growth and prosperity.”

Collier argues that the real challenge with poverty is to get that “bottom billion” to stop diverging from the rest of mankind and start converging.

“Having a billion people in 50 or 60 countries at the bottom of the world economy continuing to diverge for another half century would be truly alarming,” said Collier.

Collier believes that it is of dire importance that these countries catch up, otherwise they risk falling apart, which would be a “nightmare for everyone.”

“Both compassion and enlightened self-interest should tell us to do something about this because it is unthinkable that in a world of unparalleled economic opportunity a billion people should be living in societies that don’t provide credible homes,” said Collier. “We don’t want any more Afghans or Somalis.”

Collier went into examples of countries that fall into his criteria for the bottom billion; specifically focusing on Haiti, which

he calls “Florida’s bottom billion country.”

“GETTING ON WITH IT”

Haiti, which has had a history of poor governance and economic decline, was left with “massively increased needs” after the Jan. 12 earthquake struck the country, leaving it with even less capacity than it had before.

For Haiti to “get on with it,” Collier argues that a vital matter in its restructuring is to develop places that could be homes and also provide employment.

Thus, jobs, housing and basic services have to be coordinated in new centers.

“In the past, there has been underinvestment and little construction in Haiti,” said Collier. “That means that the skills within the construction center have withered away. [If] you build a building without any skills, it will fall down, so there is a need for skills.”

Coinciding with the enormous needs for construction in Haiti is what Collier calls the “most severe construction America has had in 80 years.”

“And you know who works in the American construction center?” Collier asked the audience. “Disproportionately, the Haitian Diaspora, so there is poten-



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

The second plenary of the geopolitical summit (shown here) focused on health care reform in the United States and beyond. This panel was led by Dr. Len Nichols, a leading health care economist. Check out FIUSM.com for coverage.

tial to use the skilled Haitian Diaspora to provide those skills that will enable the less skilled young people in Haiti to work in the construction sector.”

Another way for Haiti and other poor countries to jumpstart their economy, according to Collier, is for the rich and more developed countries to grant them market access, specifically citing Haiti’s garment industry, which was granted privileged access in the

United States after the earthquake.

“When the Chinese bring garments into America they have to pay tariffs and duties; Haiti does not,” said Collier. “Once America passed the act, the biggest private garment firm in Korea went to Haiti, took a look and committed in the first instance to a big factory that will create 20,000 jobs.”

Once Collier finished his presentation, the stage was opened to a panel of

University professors, which included: Dr. Gail Hollander, associate professor of global and sociocultural studies; Dr. Jean Rahier, director of African Diaspora Studies and associate professor of global and sociocultural studies; and Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, professor of politics and international relations.

Gamarra commented on a report Collier prepared for the United Nations last year, which talks about what Haiti needs in order to get out of

the bottom billion.

“In many ways, what Collier was saying about Haiti is what *Foreign Policy Magazine* would call a failed state,” said Gamarra. “More interesting were the solutions, not the diagnosis. Most of us in the social science have a real difficulty when it comes to what we can do and I think our students are frustrated by our wonderful ability to diagnose but trouble coming to solutions.”

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 25 of *The Beacon*, the article titled “Student cooks learn to run a restaurant from start to finish” said it is \$45 for three guests. It is \$45 is for three events.

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

Impact of humans on ecosystems discussed by faculty during summit

SUMMIT, page 8

building subsidies along the coastlines above the estimated rise in sea level.

Florida Law states that no sea walls are to be built, however, there tends to be a few exceptions. According to Babbitt, some of the main reasons for this law are that it will almost completely block the view of the ocean and will require much maintaining. In layman’s terms this means a lot of unhappy residents, money needed to invest and South Florida may not be one of the top tourism retreats any longer.

However, James Forquean, professor of biological sciences, had a different opinion.

“There will be absolutely no place for the beaches and dunes to migrate if sea walls are built,” Forquean said. “I propose we create a wetland; this would initially cost more than a sea wall but requires no later maintenance.”

Forquean feels that the nega-

tive impact on the natural ecosystems outweigh the positives in this particular case.

Laura Ogden, professor of global and sociocultural studies, states “a new kind of science is needed – one that requires proper leadership and new environmental governments.”

Heidi Scott, English professor, concluded that “nature is a political concept; it is a public dumping ground that needs a literary imagination.”

Some of the attendees felt very passionate about the topic and demanded answers for their much sought after questions.

“How can we stop the destruction of the environment?” Victor, a sociology and anthropology major, asked Babbitt. Victor’s full name was unavailable.

Victor then stated an example of the restart of logging in the Pacific North West, an act in which Babbitt and Clinton chose to reinstate.

“How can we stop the cutting down of thousand year old trees? How are we

going to save our planet?” Victor said.

“Logging on public lands restored over the past quarter century is in fact a story of success,” Babbitt responded. “We regulated, managed, and improved logging from public lands and national forests in this country.”

Babbitt said this was the result of the endangered species act in which the Clinton administration set aside nine million acres of public land.

Rebecca Vega-Thurber, assistant professor of biology, wanted to know what people can do to conserve the environment rather than just keep fixing things as they are destroyed.

Babbitt cited an example of conservation already taking place in South Florida.

“More than half of the water in major cities is used for landscaping,” said Babbitt. “In Florida we do have a governmental regulatory tool, it’s called the South Florida Water Management Industry. We are already beginning to conserve here in South Florida.”

THE BEACON

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University set on improving retention

DROPOUTS, page 1

The program is called Bridge Advisers, which will focus primarily on guiding first year students on the right track.

According to Moreto, the Bridge Advisers program is set to improve retention and undergraduate rates at our university.

“We will find out which students need help, which are undecided about

their major and what their goals and questions are,” said Morato.

Some of the main ideas of the program will include more involvement from the advisors with the students, school spirit and a plan for critical investments.

FOOTBALL: DARRIAN MALLARY

RUNNING AWAY

Mallary adds strength and breaks out for Golden Panthers

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

During a 37-yard run in the second quarter of a win against Western Kentucky on Oct. 9, Darrian Mallary seemed to have a sure touchdown after sweeping down the sideline before getting brought down by a defensive tackle from behind.

Six-foot-five Quanterus Smith caught the five-foot-eight Mallary from behind to prevent the score.

The play drew laughter from the FIU sideline.

"I didn't see it coming," Mallary said. "I thought it was over with so I was just going to jog in the end zone. But when I looked back, I saw someone coming so I was going to get up but he already had me."

Mallary scored on the next play, and went on to finish with a career high 97 yards. He hasn't been getting caught much this season.

The truth is Mallary could have easily jettisoned ahead of Smith if he wanted to. The

elusive running back runs a 4.38 second 40-yard dash, enough to make him among the fastest players on the team. His quickness and athleticism earned him the name "Ooh" when he was a youth player and was able to rely on en route to leading Miami-Dade County in rushing during his senior year in high school at Gulliver Prep.

"Ooh," however, was bottled up during his freshman season and didn't even play in the last two games.

As a freshman at the University, speed wasn't a problem. It was size and inexperience. Just last year, Mallary was struggling to find holes and explode like he is used to.

Mallary was held to just 103 yards on 31 carries, in large part to due a delayed adjustment to the speed of the game and a small frame.

"I worked on my lower body," he said. "I had small legs. I'm strong up top, I just had to get my legs stronger."

Mallary bench pressed 335 pounds, but only could muster

around 200 pounds in the squat as a freshman. Now Mallary squats over 400 pounds, and has gained about 16 pounds from last season, up to over 190 pounds.

The former Gulliver Prep star also had to get used to the college game in regards to timing and being more instinctive in letting his blocks develop.

Head coach Mario Cristobal noticed the difference.

"It's just a different speed of the game," Cristobal said. "Things close a lot quicker. Things that aren't there upon receiving the football all of a sudden appear two steps later. He's learned that and he's playing fast."

Mallary has adjusted and is averaging almost twice as many yards per carry (5.6) than he did in 2009 (3.1). Although he profiles as a shifty running back and not a typical bruiser, he takes noted from his idol, Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis. Mallary talks occasionally with Portis and watches him every chance he gets.

MALLARY, page 4



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Golden Panthers running back Darrian Mallary runs the ball against WKU. Mallary is one of the fastest players on the Panthers.

FANTASY CRUZ

Chris Cooley is biggest fantasy disappointment of season

The NFL is the most competitive professional sports league currently in America.

There is only one team left with a single loss and no wins. The Jets are 5-1, while the Bills are 0-5. As to this equating to fantasy football; every team in the NFL has at least 5 or 6 players that owners can count on from week to week.

Two games on Sunday ended with a 23-20 victory and ironically were both upsets.

In the rematch of last season's first round playoff game the Patriots squeezed out a win against the Ravens. The old guys had fun against each other's both wily veterans Derrick Mason and Deion Branch had 200 yards combined and a touchdown.

Against the Redskins 2 Sunday's ago, Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers was seeing stars after his

concussion in the fourth quarter. This game against the Dolphins he was a star throwing for 313 yards and a touchdown, still managing to lose the game. Greg Jennings had an impressive 133-yard game with a touchdown.

Mike Singletary's style of coaching hypes people up with his in-your-face attitude and charisma. Apparently his methods have not been too successful this season losing his first 4 games.

Avoiding a terrible fate of 0-5, Alex Smith threw the football for nearly 200 yards and 2 touchdowns in the 49ers win against their state rival the Oakland raiders. Frank Gore showed his athletic ability running for 149 yards and no touchdowns surprisingly.

The Titans and Jaguars probably hosted the most boring Monday Night Football game this season.

Both teams offer lackluster offenses that revolve solely on the production of their running backs. The only reason Chris Johnson had over 100 yards rushing was because of a late 35-yard run in between the tackles for a touchdown.

Andy Reid already recently had a QB controversy where Vick was labeled his starter due to a Kevin Kolb concussion.

How the tables have turned on Reid with the same scenario; just reverse now. Kevin Kolb has now won 2 straight, starting for an injured Michael Vick. Kolb threw for 326 yards and 3 touchdowns. Both Dirty Bird receivers Michael Jenkins and Roddy White combined for nearly 200 yards receiving also.

THE TRASH BIN

Chris Cooley (Washington Redskins)- you would think Cooley would have a breakout season now that he has a legit presence at QB. He just

has not pulled through with a successful game yet. His best game offered a 69-yard performance with no touchdowns. It's very strange how Cooley can go from the Redskins go-to receiving option to the least favored in Shanahan's offense. Its not like the Redskins are not scoring. Donovan McNabb just has not found his chemistry with Cooley yet. Trash him.

Shonn Greene (New

York Jets)- how does Greene let a washed up running back just take his starting job. Oh that's right, it's Ladaianlian Tomlinson. Greene has been outplayed and outshined by Tomlinson all season. Other than Greene's 117-yard game, his second highest game rushing the ball was for 57 yards. And Tomlinson is only getting better as the season goes on. Greene needs some versatility in his game. Basura

Donald Driver (Green Bay Packers)- with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, Driver should be seeing the ball quite often. Without Ryan Grant and a steady run game its hard to catch defenses off guard in getting Driver the ball.

Last game against the Dolphins Driver had a measly 3 catches for 31 yards. Grant is not coming back any time soon. Trash

CRUZ, page 4

COMMENTARY



JOEY CRUZ

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Ivory is the real deal; Santana Moss should still not start off lines

CRUZ, page 3

him.

HOT PICKS

Deion Branch (New England Patriots)- Bill Belichick's ingenuity increases with every trade and free agent move he makes. Reunited once again with Tom Brady, Branch looks like he has not left the Patriots since he won a Super Bowl MVP and championship in 2005.

Against the untouchable defense of the Ravens, Branch had nearly 100 yards and touchdown. Brady has not lost chemistry with Branch and their connections will continue throughout

the season.

Ryan Torrain (Washington Redskins)- Torrain has no problem handling the defensive terrains he faces since replacing an injured Clinton Portis. Torrain rushed for 100 yards and 2 touchdowns on Sunday.

As long as Portis is injured, Torrain will continue to receive carries under Mike Shanahan's run it down your throat style of coaching.

Chris Ivory (New Orleans Saints)- The Saints finally played a decent game this season. Ivory had a solid 158-yard game and set up Brees's pass game.

With Julius Jones creeping behind Ivory for a starting job, Ivory has

to consistently have these types of games and I think he will. The Saints finally are gelling and Ivory is one of the reasons why.

SANTANA SCRUTINY

I mean he did have a mediocre game with 77 yards and 8 receptions. He is lucky Chris Cooley isn't getting balls thrown to him.

As much attention as he is receiving from McNabb, the progress is minor and inconsistent from week to week. I said it before and I'll say it again, Santana should not be starting in your line-up.

I would rather start Jags receiver Mike Thomas.

Portis mentors sophomore back

MALLARY, page 3

Although Mallary can't emulate a power running style, he doesn't mind mixing it up in the blocking game, especially with his increased strength.

"That's what I take pride in, because I'm a smaller guy but I'm not afraid to stick my nose in something," he said. "At Gulliver, I was just running. Last year, they were just running through me, so I had to get my legs stronger."

Mallary's production has paired with the rest of FIU's running backs to give Cristobal the best backfield he has had since he arrived in 2007. The Golden Panthers are averaging 153 yards per game, good for fourth in the Sun Belt Conference.

"We are different players. [Darriet Perry] is a pounder. [Kedrick Rhodes] got speed. We play off each other," Mallary said. "At camp time, I was thinking 'It's going to be crazy this year,' but I've been playing football since I was four years old. There's always competition."

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Golden Panthers to begin a five-game road trip

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

FIU will be going on the road this weekend for a two game set against Sun Belt Conference teams from the West division.

The Golden Panthers will face University of Arkansas Little Rock (2-15, 0-7 SBC) on Oct. 22, and Arkansas State (10-9, 4-3 SBC) on Oct. 24, which happens to be a rare Sunday game. These two games will start off a five game road trip that will include teams with a combined conference record 11-24. That won't let the Panthers put their guard down.

"I've told this team from the beginning, we can not take anyone lightly and assume a team is worse than us," Head coach Danijela Tomic said. "We haven't shown that we've been consistent with our play."

"We cant underestimate any team," said libero Angelina Colon, junior, who currently has 188 digs, good for second on the team. "I'm just excited to go there and take care of business. Teams have a tendency of stooping down to the level of the other team if the other team is on a lower level."

When it comes to playing the lower tiered teams of the conference, there has to be a precaution to a possible which junior Sabrina Gonzalez is well aware of. "The way we approach them is as if we were playing Middle Tennessee or

Western Kentucky," Gonzalez said. "They aren't the best teams in the conference, but they can be the underdogs. They definitely could beat us if we don't play to our potential. So we need to come with our poise and our dominance."

UALR seems to be in a rebuilding year, as they went 16-14 a season ago, including a 10-8 conference record. This season they only have 11 players on the team, and 9 of them are either freshman or sophomores. Nevertheless, Tomic still feels that the Panthers can't treat them lightly.

"You never know when a team is gonna have the performance of the year. They're getting better," Tomic said. "That's my former coach, and I talk to her every week. Her teams always fight, and every team that we go to is always going to fight because they're tired of losing to FIU. I know that. Doesn't matter what this season is, what our record is, they want to beat FIU because we have a history with all those teams."

Senior Natalia Valentin

mentioned last week that she feels that this team "will win when it matters." This road trip should count as those moments. The road trip could be the defining point for this team, as to whether they should be considered a top tiered conference team, or a mediocre team that needs to restructure what they've been doing. Angelina Colon feels that this team has the talent to be at the top level and just needs to keep working on it.

"I almost feel that we're a completely different team than when we started," Colon said. "We've developed so much in the short period of time. We're not at the point where we want to be at, we're not satisfied yet, so I'm excited to see how we progress through the rest of the season."

Coming off the tough loss to Western Kentucky, the players feel very confident and focused for the road trip, including Colon.

"I think this weekend we'll take care of business and make sure we beat the teams the way we're supposed to," Colon said.

VOLLEYBALL

UALR

- Time: 8 p.m.
- When: Oct. 22
- Where: UALR

ASU

- Time: 2 p.m.
- When: Oct. 24
- Where: ASU

INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

FRATERNITY			
	W-L-T	PCT	PD
Pi Kappa Phi	4-0-0	1.000	52
Sigma Phi Epsilon	4-0-1	0.800	79
FIJI	3-1-0	0.750	49
Pi Kappa Alpha	3-2-0	0.600	74
Tau Kappa Epsilon	2-0-2	0.500	46
Sigma Alpha Mu	2-2-0	0.500	1
Phi Sigma Kappa	2-2-1	0.400	-19
NPHC All-Stars	2-3-0	0.400	21
Lambda Chi Alpha	1-4-0	0.200	-91
Beta Theta Pi	0-5-0	0.000	-111
Sigma Chi	0-4-0	0.000	-101

*All records up to date as of Oct. 11

SORORITY

	W-L-T	PCT	PD
Alpha Xi Delta	4-0-0	1.000	45
Alpha Omicron Pi	4-1-0	0.800	63
Phi Sigma Sigma	3-1-0	0.750	3
Delta Phi Epsilon	2-3-0	0.400	-12
Sigma Kappa	1-2-1	0.250	-23
Phi Mu	0-3-1	0.000	-36
Sigma Sigma Sigma	0-4-0	0.000	-40

*All records up to date as of Oct. 12

For updated standings, visit fiu.edu/~camprec/



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Ines Medved (left), Andrea Lakovic (middle), and Marija Prsa (right) go for a block against Western Kentucky on Oct. 16.

BEHIND THE AUTHOR

University student publishes novel at 20

ASHLEY MARIE LAPADULA
Contributing Writer

Greisy Padron has a lot on her hands these days. In addition to going to class and having a social life, Padron is the author, editor, and publisher of *How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less*, a full-length novel due for release on



Dec. 25, 2010.

Born in Camaguey, Cuba, she moved to Miami when she was only six years old. By the time she was eight, Padron had developed a desire to write short stories. After graduating from Ferguson High School in 2008, she pursued a degree in English Literature at the University.

Padron says her primary motivation is to “write stories, more specifically about girls and people like myself who want to be entertained and will not settle for a throw away plot.”

She’s taken on the role of editor for her work because she wants to control the editing and distribution portions of her work. Padron feels she needs to be the one to determine her audience, not a publishing company.

She even started an organization for young writers called

Andromeda Literary Group for Teen Authors.

The group is a small press and publisher dedicated to young authors as they publish their work without the representation of a major publisher.

Padron’s role model is Cassandra Claire, an author who wrote many years for an online audience before moving to print. Students will likely catch Padron writing in her preferred spot, the Green Library, which she considers a quiet place to write and let her ideas flow and come together.

Padron started writing *How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less* when she was 19 years-old.

“I did not think I was going to publish it at the time because I had written so many other things before. I decided to edit it and publish it this year in August,” Padron says.

“I did not like how teenagers were being depicted in today’s life. I know teenagers curse but where is everything else? I wanted to portray teenage characters in a slightly more authentic way than a commercial would show.”

How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less is set in a prestigious college. The story follows a boy whose imaginary girlfriend becomes a dangerous hallucination, and he must seduce the real life girl, Elena, who wears the imaginary girl’s face.

The cover for the book was originally drawn by Marlene Freimanis, who allowed Padron to use the art for her first book. It was chosen because the girl on the cover resembles how Padron imagines Elena, specifically the imaginary version of her.

In anticipation of the book’s release this Christmas, she will post four related short stories. *The Companions*, from the point of

view of the four main characters: Adam, Dev, Elena & Miles, will tell the story of what happens before, during and after the events of the novel.

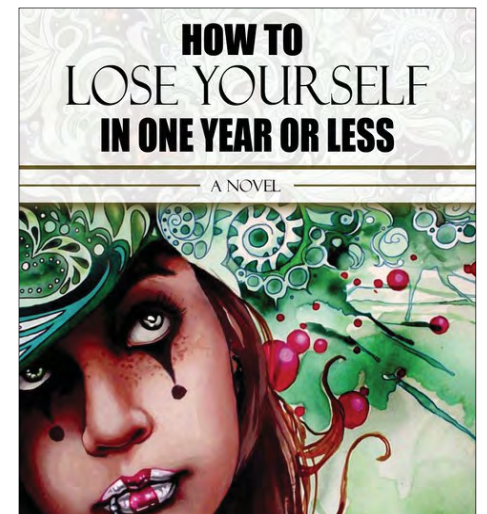
Padron is also currently working on a trilogy that will be published after her first book is released. The trilogy follows a supernatural romance theme.

According to Padron, her work is not intended for children due to the mature content of her writing. Her characters will usually curse, occasionally use/abuse drugs and almost certainly have sex. Something she isn’t afraid to talk about in her work.

Padron doesn’t see her accomplishment as something so out of the ordinary.

“Read a lot, write a lot, there are no limits, no restrictions, no reason to stop doing what you love,” she advises fellow students.

How to Lose Yourself in One Year or Less will be released on Dec. 25, 2010 and will be available through Barnes & Nobles, the Kindle store at Amazon.com, and www.gpadron.com.



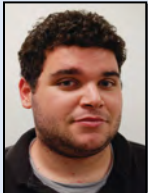
Cover art for *How to Lose Yourself In One Year or Less* designed by Marlene Freimanis.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

iPad proving itself to be more than an

When the iPad was first released I said something to the effect that it was a really feature rich, overpriced eBook reader that didn’t shift any paradigms.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

In hindsight, now that the device is approaching it’s first year on the market, I may have been just a tad harsh.

Lets analyze a few generalizations folks make about the iPad.

THE IPAD IS A DEVICE GEARED TOWARD CONTENT CREATION MORE THAN CONSUMPTION.

In Steve Jobs’ eyes, the iPad is a device that users can create content on. With apps like Sketchpad and Apple’s iWork suite, it seems like that is what he wants to see. The iPad is still not a device to create.

Writing a paper, or a column for that matter, on the iPad is difficult and

demands a lot of resources. The input method is intuitive but nowhere near as accurate as a computer.

The iPad is the ideal device to consume content. Readers such as the popular Reeder and Instapaper apps allow you to consume RSS feeds easily and efficiently.

Magazines and newspapers are also taking advantage of the platform by thinking outside the box a bit in terms of layout.

Publications like *Esquire Magazine* and *Popular Mechanics* are creating some really unique ePubs that offer readers a good mix of multimedia.

The only problem is that now publishers are forced to split their profits with Apple, so there goes the whole “iPad saving journalism” thing. But that’s a whole other column.

My iPad exists to help me digest information, not to create documents, slide shows, or blog posts.

If you want to create beautiful artwork

or a great multimedia presentation, get a computer.

THE IPAD CAN STAND ON IT’S OWN AS A NEW COMPUTING PLATFORM.

The iPad is a new platform for computing, but it most definitely cannot stand on its own.

I think the iPad is a great compliment to a steady home computer, especially for folks who appreciate a more catered, less complicated experience like my Mom, who just wants something that gets her where she needs to go on the Internet.

But just as it compliments a good computer, it also needs it desperately. Much like an iPod or an iPhone, managing an iPad requires a computer with iTunes.

Particularly encumbering for a device whose price is triple that of a netbook, running a full-fledged operating system.

SO WHAT IS THE IPAD THEN?

The iPad is ultimately two, very

important things: a fantastic device for consuming and sharing content and proof of concept that this way to interact with a computer simply works.

By the time you read this, Mac OS X Lion would have been revealed. Rumor is that more and more iOS will be making its way in to the full desktop experience.

I think what we are seeing here is Apple making a move to integrate this type of input method with a more robust computing experience unfettered by governance, or so we think.

If we are truly to see an OS X with more multi-touch and more iOS than I hope Apple’s iron fist stays on my iPhone and doesn’t find its way to my MacBook.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column about all things technological. For more tech news and commentary, check out *FoT!* online at fistfulsoftech.fiusm.com

Acting by numbers

ROCKY, page 1

The plot of the play centers around Janet Weiss and Brad Majors, a newly engaged couple whose car breaks down. In search of a safe haven, they stumble upon Frank-N-Furter's castle. Furter is a transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania.

Robert Alter, a senior BFA performance and design major who plays the doctor, found it hard to explain his character.

"He's an alien transvestite who is bent on controlling and harnessing human life through any means necessary. He's a scientist who creates Frankenstein, the perfect human. He's a man of perfection in a golden Speed-o," said Alter.

When it comes to the extreme and ridiculous plot of the movie, Alter said the film wasn't meant to be taken seriously and that's how the idea for "shadowing" the play came about because it gives audience members a chance to poke fun at the movie.

"The movie is ridiculous. [Shadowing] the movie gets people in the atmosphere and it's a fun way for people to ridicule the movie," said

Alter.

The rehearsal process was a new experience for the theater students. Because the play has the actors on stage mimicking the actors on the screen in the background, the actors had to watch the movie countless times to perfect their mannerisms and lines.

"[Shadowing] allowed us to be out of our bodies, out of our heads and away from a traditional script," said Hanine.

"Watching the movie makes the process easier and harder. It's like acting by numbers, kind of like coloring by numbers. You can do whatever you want, but you're still bound by what they do on the screen. You are creating a genuine reenactment, as close or as loose as possible, depending on what approach you want," Alter added.

The play will be a fun, unconventional thing to do this weekend, especially for on-campus housing students, according to Hanine.

"It's a fun thing to do if you can't get into a club on South Beach and you're interested in seeing a fun show that's out of the norm," said Hanine.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Jaed Coffin, author of *A Chant to Soothe Wild Elephants: A Memoir*, signs freshman Rachel Stevens' book. The book was assigned as required reading for Freshman Experience classes.

REEL TO REEL

Tale as old as time still speaks to modern audiences

There's a scene early in *Beauty and the Beast* where Belle, the daughter of an inventor in a French provincial town, sings of searching for adventure in the great wide somewhere.

COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS

She lays upon a sea of grass that sways slowly in the twilight and takes hold of a dandelion. She blows upon it and it shatters into the wind. The sky appears to have a sherbet tinge.

It almost feels like a panorama from a Terrance Malick film like *Days of Heaven* or late cinematographer Conrad Hall's work on *Road to Perdition*.

And then there is Belle's face, longing for change and romance.

Of course, it was all the work of an artist's hand, not natural lighting on a location set. And it is all the better for it.

It is through animation, after all, that an audience can witness singing tea cups and dancing candlesticks who are far more charming than most flesh and blood characters in films; characters who lead us into a world

that is not just fantasy but a reflection of our own fears and desires.

Belle wants out of her mundane existence in 18th century France. She's expected to marry Gaston, the residential bon vivant/schlep because he's set his sights on her, and of course she's expected to close the books which inspire her imagination.

Her father, the typical absent minded professor, journeys through the woods and is lost only to come upon a castle inhabited not only by talking household items but by a giant Beast who takes him captive.

The prologue to the film explains that the Beast was once a handsome prince, cursed to inhabit his current form for his selfishness and cruelty. He has until the eve of his 21st birthday to love and be loved by a woman to break the spell.

Belle agrees to remain a prisoner of the Beast in exchange for her father's freedom. The servants of the house, cursed to remain in the form of teacups and clocks, watch urgently hoping that she'll be the girl to break the curse.

Cue show-stopping musical numbers like

"Gaston" or "Be Our Guest." The latter is choreographed with the legacy of choreographer Busby Berkley in mind featuring overhead shots of dancing plates and champagne bottles rollicking in the best Broadway tradition. Lumiere, the talking candle stick voiced by Jerry Orbach, channels 1930's French film star Maurice Chevalier at his finest.

The beauty of what the artists at Disney Animation Studios were able to do in the 1990's, particularly with this film, lay in their ability to create a whole new legacy for the studio which for all intents and purposes had refused to change styles and sensibilities during the 1970's and 1980's.

There's a famous story of a young John Lasseter being fired from the studios for proposing to make a full-length movie animated with computer graphics back in 1982. He went on to direct *Toy Story* and be the founder of Pixar.

Of course, the animators of this film would end up using computer effects during the film's title musical number, a sweeping shot of the Beast and Belle gliding across a dance floor as Mrs. Potts, voiced by Angela Lans-

bury, sings on.

This film set up the blue print for the following decade of Disney releases: vast scales, infectious musical numbers and romance.

The townspeople at the climax of the film are at arms, marching towards the Beast's castle to eliminate him. We see the mob in the reflection of a puddle in the woods. Images of the Seven Dwarves play through my mind as I watch that.

The film embraces the best of Disney tradition: haunting images with a definite good and definite evil force pushing the plot along with great imagination.

The definite evil here is not Gaston, however, who's intent on killing the Beast and stealing Belle's heart. The evil is ignorance, the unwillingness to see beyond the exterior of people.

The good at hand here, then, is the willingness to embrace new people and ideals and dreams.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie column. Look for it every Friday.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, OCT. 22

BOOK OF ELI



Presented by SPC-MMC.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

WHICH WAY HOME - MOVIE NIGHT

Presented by Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM Amphitheatre

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop

Topic: Maximizing Campus Resources for Successful Partnerships
WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Panthersuite (third floor)

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



WHEN: 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: DM 150

FIU MEN'S SOCCER



The Golden Panthers host Hartwick College.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Soccer Stadium

HALLOWEEN NIGHT - WAXWORKS

Movie night at the museum. 2-for-1 beers from 6 - 9 p.m.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Wolfsonian 1001 Washington Ave

BBQ POOL PARTY



Second annual rep your flag event.
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Hall Pool

MICHAEL MOORE AT CINEMA PARADISO

The filmmaker will present clips and answer questions at the Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival.
WHEN: 9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15, \$30 VIP
WHERE: Cinema Paradiso 503 Southeast 6th Street Fort Lauderdale

SATURDAY, OCT. 23

THE MONSTER MASQUERADE



For adults 21 and over. Proceeds go to the Zoological Society of Florida. Don't forget to dress up for a chance to win the Best Costume Contest, prizes and much more!
WHEN: 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50 presale (includes open bar, food, entertainment and entrance to haunted house)
WHERE: Miami Metrozoo For more info, visit miamimetrozoo.com

THE MONSTER SPLASH BENEFIT

Free drinks, a makeup artist to get "zombified" live piercing show and live music.
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 presale; \$12 at door
WHERE: AD013 Studio 329 Northeast 59th Terr, Miami, 33137
For more info and to buy tickets, visit monstersplashbenefit.eventbrite.com

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

WHEN: 8 p.m. and 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: DM 150

EDIBLE GARDEN FESTIVAL



Reduce your carbon footprint while learning about composting, gardening and more.
WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$10 kids, free for members
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road.

SUNDAY, OCT. 24

CIRCO DE LOS HORRORES



First time the Spanish show hits the U.S.! "An innovative fusion of horror, comedy and drama."
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$31 to \$99.50 on Ticketmaster
WHERE: James L Knight Center 400 SE 2nd Ave, Miami
For more info, visit circodeloshorrores.com

VILLAGE OF HORRORS



Featuring two haunted houses, panic zones and more!
WHEN: 7 p.m. - midnight
HOW MUCH: \$13 in advance, \$18 at door
WHERE: War Memorial Auditorium 800 NE 8th St., Ft. Lauderdale

SPINNING CLASS

WHEN: 4 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$2
WHERE: MMC Rec Center

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

Wealth redistribution a punishment for success

SHEDWIN ELIASSIN
Contributing Writer

The United States operates as a capitalist country with a free market and limited government, which implies that those who work hard for their wealth should get to keep what they earn.

“Laissez faire” economy, a French term for “let it be,” speaks towards the need for limited government interaction. It promotes the conducting of trade between the two parties involved in the transaction: the buyer and the seller. These two parties must agree on the cost and the quality of the product they are buying without corruption from government interference either promoting the system or demoting it. This makes the system fair.

When one has a grasp on at least this brief definition of how the economy works, it becomes easy to discard this notion that the poor stays poor because the rich take it all. The market allows equal opportunity for all.

Milton Friedman, one of the most influential economists, political commentators and essayist of the century once said, “The most important single central fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit.”

On the subject of wealth distribution, taxing the rich heavily in order to rake in more cash

to assist the lower caste would in fact serve its purpose, that is move the wealth from the top to the bottom.

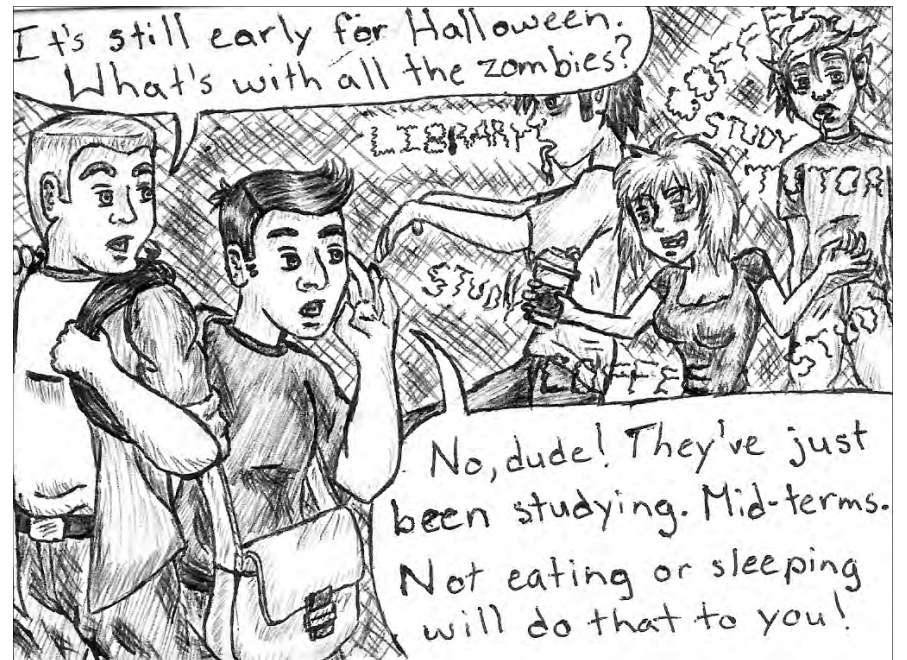
However, it would also hinder economic expansion because of the absence of the “profit motive,” which lies at the center of business ventures. In the long run if the system reaches equilibrium the economy cannot expand without entrepreneurs and everyone will suffer.

In a perfect world, a free market economy is able to bring complete efficiency bringing optimal distribution of a country’s resources. However, since we aren’t living in a perfect world, prices never reach equilibrium, which is necessary to bring optimal distribution of a country’s resources. They are very volatile depending upon the vagaries of the market forces.

This is most certainly not beneficial for those who are living under the poverty line or those included in low income groups who are unable to pay high prices in cases of demand shortage. However, one flaw in the system does not constitute the need for an entire change of the market system.

Apart from the economic consequences of socialist policies, it raises many social concerns as well. This notion of taking from the wealthy, who have worked the system and for the system to accumulate their wealth is theft. Theft in its purest definition is taking without consent, regardless of the fact that it is an elected body

BRAIN DEAD



MELODY ALEMAN/THE BEACON

perpetrating the act “Forced Charity” is not charity, it is theft. With the general populace now depending on the government to provide their bread and butter it causes a tremendous reliance on government, a blatant contradiction to our culture that cherishes freedom. Freedom to accumulate wealth should not be exempted.

Adopting a wealth distribution policy as one that has been the subject of mass speculation and argument could hurdle us towards becoming a socialist nation. I use this dramatization to show trends in history and even today. No commu-

nist nation other than the Soviets has reached the level of success that the United States and we were all there to witness their fall. Even in societies where this socialist practice takes place indeed everyone is equal, equally poor that is.

We cannot really say that these countries are better off than the United States. If adopting wealth distribution made everyone equally wealthy, I’m sure no one would refuse. Nevertheless this is not the case. Why, then, should we distribute the wealth? Why should we punish the success of others?

PERSPECTIVES

Should government make laws to prevent cyber bullying?



“Too many people are getting hurt, too many people are committing suicide. They need to step it up, or else people will keep dying for nothing. That’s government’s role, to make changes when things aren’t right.”

-Frank Hadjez, Senior, Biology



“Cyber bullying has become very effective with teens and other people nowadays and we need to protect them. Some people treat it as minor, but cyber bullying is becoming an effective way for bullies to get to their victim.”

-Keneisha Toomer, Sophomore, Biology



“I feel that there should be some regulations on cyber-bullying, but I also feel people should get a sense of humor. I can understand if it’s something really offensive, but others things you’ve got to let it slide and laugh a little.”

-Marco Alejandro Valencia, Sophomore, Music

-Compiled by Jasmyn Elliott.

Originality killed by constant branding

MARGARET CHEBAT
Contributing Writer

Gone are the days when the clothes and accessories one wore expressed an individual’s character or personality. In today’s society convergence of fashion and modernity have replaced self-expression.

Not only has society altered our ways of expression, but it has also hindered the ways in which people perceive what is necessary and what is not. We have adopted a new lifestyle of living, one which readily and willingly accepts most of the ideals presented to us through advertising.

We have lost our identities as a result of the constant exposure and acceptance of advertising. Facebook, for example, has done an exceptional job in regards to advertising.

Not only is it constantly gaining new members in order to expand itself, it also allows those members to promote and advertise their businesses as well. The rise of consumerism has peaked.

Regardless of where we go or what we do we are constantly bombarded with advertisements. They manipulate the very ways in which society functions, influences our opinions and reinforces our beliefs. One could credit

the widespread use of technology and the people’s need to feel connected to accepted society standards to the evolution or change of society overall.

Advertisers have manipulated society so well that the strategies of advertisers go unnoticed to most individuals. Advertisers have fine-tuned the ways in which they market and sell their products.

Society has evolved from production-oriented to consumer-oriented. Products are marketed in a way to make the consumer feel even more obliged than before to buy the specific product or brand.

The minds of consumers have changed from purchasing only what is necessary to purchasing what they “cannot live without.” The way in which advertisers market a product allows them to plant the idea in the consumers mind that they will not be able to live without the specified product.

This can be seen with the Apple products, such as the iPod touch. Every time Apple launches a new product, people stand in line for hours to simply own the product.

As a result of all that we consume, we have become walking billboards for a great majority of corporations. Nike, Adidas, Apple, Victoria’s Secret, FIU merchandise and Starbucks, to name a

few, are examples of this. Labels are inescapable. Advertisers target every group, social class and culture.

Advertisers have impacted society so immensely that we have reached a point where products have been branded by a specific label.

For example, a tissue is frequently referred to as a Kleenex and a cotton swab as a Q-tip. Many other common products have been affected by this type of branding as well, such as Motrin, Tylenol, Advil and Aleve.

It is impossible to separate labels from the items themselves in today’s society. Advertisers have influenced the masses so reticently that consumers are blinded to the unnecessary purchases they are making on a daily basis.

However, it is not solely the advertisers’ fault. If we allow ourselves to be so strongly persuaded, then we are prohibiting ourselves from making smart and informed decisions. We are allowing others to think for us.

Perhaps it is time that we open our eyes to this issue. It may be in our best interest to use our minds and think about the things that are essential to our own lifestyles.

Maybe then we will be able to break free of the constraints that society inevitably places upon us.

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Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts 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.



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BARBADOS

Barbados opposition picks ex-PM as leader

The opposition Barbados Labor Party has elected Owen Arthur, a former prime minister who led the island from 1994 to 2008, as its new leader on Oct. 19 replacing Mia Mottley.



JAMAICA

Atty to lead probe into Coke case named

Emil George, a prominent lawyer, has been picked to head an inquiry commission that will look into the government's handling of a U.S. extradition request for alleged drug baron Christopher "Dudus" Coke.



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Tax bureau workers accused of fraud scheme

Two employees of the U.S. Virgin Islands' tax bureau are accused of leading a scheme that pilfered as much as \$500,000 from the government using fraudulent tax refund checks.

Monarchs, native plants call campus gardens home

VICTORIA MARICHAL
Contributing Writer

Butterfly gardens around the Biscayne Bay Campus invite butterflies all year round.

The butterfly gardens, achieved by growing host plants that nourish butterfly offspring and nectar plants that adult butterflies like to feed on, are mainly composed of native plants. These are plants that grow naturally in the South Florida environment and because of this require less maintenance thus making the gardens easy to maintain.

In the garden there are a variety of plants such as: beach sunflowers, porterweeds, tick-seeds, black-eyed susans, pentas, moss verbenas, scarlet milkweeds, coonties, blanket-flowers, twinflowers, muhlygrass, mimosas and bromeliads.

The butterfly gardens are a collaboration of ideas from Joseph West, former vice provost and current restaurant management professor; Julissa Castellanos, director of Operations; and Jennifer Grimm, environmental coordinator.

Not many students on campus know where the butterfly gardens are located, but many have seen their effects.

"Butterflies always mean a sign of life

to me, much like ladybugs are to other people," said Michelle Serrano, a junior advertising student "So it makes me happy to see the butterflies on campus."

Students can see the result of the gardens creating habitats for Queen Monarch butterflies and their offspring at the three gardens on campus: one by the gazebo in front of the library, the other next to the flagpole in front of the Wolfe University Center, and the final one is behind Academic Two.

The gardens were funded by various organizations: the Student Government Council at BBC, the office of the Vice Provost, and grants from State Farm and the Munson Foundation. The grant amounts were not available as of press time.

"We hope to create more gardens on campus, but we need to secure more funds and locations," Grimm said.

"It would be great to see more of South Florida's native and innocuous bugs," said Mauricio Vera, junior marketing major.

The gardens are maintained by different organizations: SGC-BBC, freshmen experience classes and volunteers.

Community service hours may be given to qualified clubs or students.



LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA/THE BEACON

A Queen Monarch butterfly at one of the three butterfly gardens located around campus.

"Most of the gardens get worked on once a month, but occasionally we have classes that work in the gardens or have to address needs more often," said Grimm.

Students can help beautify and maintain the gardens on Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 at 3p.m. Butterfly gardeners will meet by the gazebo located in front of the BBC library.

Bruce Babbitt discussed future of Fla. environment

MICHELLE BECKMAN
Contributing Writer

Bruce Babbitt, the former secretary of the interior in the Bill Clinton administration, was the main speaker at the Biscayne Bay Campus' geopolitical summit and brought issues to attendees' attention regarding the drastic rise in sea level that will occur within this century.

The summit, titled "Challenges of Poverty, Health, and Sustainability," was a University-wide event held in tandem at BBC and Modesto Maidique Campus early in the morning of Oct. 19.

"Florida has been heavily and indirectly compromised by the BP oil spill," said Babbitt, who served as secretary of the interior from 1993 to 2001.

"BP should be taxed by the

Federal Law. This mitigation fund should then be used to pay for the necessary adjustments in infrastructure needed to save South Florida's coastlines," said Babbitt.

A topographical map was shown illustrating the outcome from the rise in sea level in South Florida if people choose to do nothing about it. According to Babbitt, Fishers Island and South Beach will be completely submerged and the

collateral damage will be beyond any scientist's expectations.

The Florida Everglades will be hugely impacted as well. Babbitt states that with the help of Florida leaders and residents, land has been purchased reaching all the way up to Okeechobee; this means that the ecosystems and animals living within them will be able to retreat north and most likely adjust to this change.

Babbitt did offer comfort to all who attended the summit by informing them of the available options, such as sea walls and new building codes.

Babbitt's example of a new building code would be Stiltsville, a collection of houses built on stilts in shallow water, in Biscayne Bay.

Babbitt suggested beginning

SUMMIT, page 2

BLEEKER MEETS BISCAYNE

Enjoying the entire weeked in a New York minute

Jane Pauley said it best, "New Yorkers, by reputation, are fast-talking, assertive and easily annoyed; I fit right in."

COLUMNIST



SANDY ZAPATA

The busier most people are the easier it is to deal with change, somewhere down the road the lesson is learned and you can stop and smell the roses, but for right now my pace is based on a New York minute.

I was antsy all week to go out so by Saturday, I dragged out my friend Brenda to the "Third Annual Sunny Isles Beach Jazz Festival."

Located at the Samson Oceanfront Park on Collins Ave., the festival was all-day event. Food and beverage booths were present and to my surprise people of all ages were there: from the very old to the very young.

Musicians like Ed Calle, Oriente and Jesse Jones Jr. all performed. It was a mix of Latin fusion and good old Harlem Jazz.

We had a few drinks, enjoyed the music and even danced with complete strangers. My best dance partner was an 80-year-old man named Henry. We had ourselves a day and night full of Latin lust and laughs. Nothing better than an old man schooling young guys on how

it's supposed to be done!

On most weekends I work at a South Beach club, so dress up and dress little are essential but the same way my friend Henry schooled the young bucks at the jazz festival, tonight, I was about to be schooled by some very curvaceous and good looking MEN!

"Boy Bar" on 1220 Normandy Drive is definitely in a world of its own. My Sunday nights would never be the same. Yes, "Boy Bar" is a gay bar and if you are not open to anything new, do not go!

The experience as a whole was much like in New York. The guys were all fabulous! We talked about shopping, boys and relationships.

I think at this point with my "no-relationship" mentality, I'd rather spend my Sundays with the boys at Boy Bar and avoid all the awkward getting hit on and bad pick-up lines from "normal" bars.

In a New York minute life changes, friends become foes and lovers turn to strangers but if you stop too long and waste away on all the meaningless questions of what, if, and why, you lose out on the good memories.

Bleeker Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published on Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.