



## BENIN

### Flooding caused by heavy rain kills 43

Flooding in the West African nation of Benin has killed 43 people, covered over two-thirds of the country's territory, and left nearly 100,000 people homeless in the last two weeks.



## CHINA

### VP promotion seen as leadership sign

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping was promoted to a key post in the Communist Party's military committee Monday, affirming his path to be the country's leader within three years.



## PHILIPPINES

### Super typhoon knocks out power

The strongest cyclone in four years, Super Typhoon Megi, knocked out communications and power. Evacuations and emergency relief supplies and food have been prepared.

# University celebrates Hispanic heritage

**ANALIA FIESTAS**  
Contributing Writer

With more than sixty percent of its students being Hispanic, the University is giving students the chance to experience their native cultures while celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

According to Lucas Calafell, treasurer of the Student Programming Council, planning for the month's festivities began in February with the hopes of making this year's events the most successful yet.

Students and various club organizations gathered to watch different performances of cultural dances from countries such as Peru, Bolivia and Chile on Oct. 11 to kickoff the month's celebrations.

Samplings of a variety of Latin food such as Cuban pasteles and Colombian empanadas were on hand for the festivities which gave foreign students such as sophomore Fausto Peña, a Dominican Republic native, a taste of her homeland.

"It is nice to know that although many of us are not in our native lands, FIU makes us feel like we are," said Peña.

Latinos Unidos, an annual collaborative

**HERITAGE, page 2**

## HEALTHY CHOICES



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Dailyn Gonzales, an employee of P.O.D. market in the housing quad, stocks the shelves with new varieties of vegetarian and vegan foods as the market is working towards making healthier options available to students.

# Organization helps veterans move on

**VINCENT FERNANDEZ**  
Staff writer

After being a part of the United States Marine Corps for four years and enduring two combat tours in Iraq, former Marine Sergeant and current FIU student Zacory Ruiz has created an organization aimed at providing student veterans the support to get acclimated with their civilian lives once again.

"My time in the Marine Corps as a whole inspired me to start the Future Veteran Leaders of America because I met some of the most capable and intelligent leaders I've ever seen. I knew that if I could get these people to come together as civilians we could really start making a difference," said Ruiz.

The organization's primary focus is to assist veterans in professional endeavors, which Ruiz claims is one of the hardest adjustments many of them will undergo.

"These student-veterans are trying to begin their professional careers but they really aren't connected to each other and they aren't being exposed to the hiring firms that are out there. I wanted to connect this amazing group of leaders," said Ruiz.

Although FVLA has only recently become a full-fledged club this semester, Ruiz already has enthusiastic aspirations in mind.

"We want to get our name out in the commu-

**FVLA, page 2**

# Former NBC Universal president holds open lecture

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
BBC Managing Editor

Jeff Zucker, former president and CEO of NBC Universal and Miami native, chose to keep his lecture short, instead focusing on the question and answer session, which he made "completely open."

The lecture took place on Oct. 14 as part of the University's Wertheim Lecture Series and was titled "Leadership Success in a Changing Media Landscape; A Conversation with Jeff Zucker." During the lecture, Zucker mentioned the responsibilities presented to him upon becoming an executive at the network, forming Hulu and the situation earlier this year between his company, Jay Leno, and Conan O'Brien.

Before his current position, Zucker was president of NBC's "Entertainment, News & Cable Group" and president of NBC Entertainment. In this role, he was responsible for the network's lineup of primetime shows, which included "Friends" at the time, and how to position them against those of other networks.

He said he came up with the idea of "supersizing" their shows.

"We had to fill up two hours of content with four shows," Zucker said. "The only problem is that we only had three good ones."

"Friends," and the other shows it shared Thursday nights with, was made into a 45-minute show from its original 30 minutes.

Zucker tied in his segment on Hulu – an ad-

supported video streaming website that is a partnership between NBC Universal, News Corp., and Walt Disney Co. – with the digital distribution of content, which he said is the "singular issue facing media companies."

"You can't deny this is the way people are consuming content, and you also can't deny that piracy is a huge issue," Zucker said on the objections received from within NBC on the Hulu idea.

He described Hulu and supersizing the primetime shows as "successful threats to the status quo," but said moving Jay Leno to primetime "did not work at all."

"Both Jay's show at [10 p.m.] and Conan's show [at 11:35 p.m.] did not work," Zucker said.

*"We had to fill up two hours of content with four shows. The only problem is that we only had three good ones."*

Jeff Zucker  
Former President of NBC Universal



He also added that a lesson from that experience is to not be afraid of making mistakes and accepting them.

"We weren't afraid to say 'we tried something ... it didn't work and we're going to fix it,'" Zucker said.

Before concluding, Modesto Maidique, president emeritus of the University, presented Zucker with the Wertheim crystal. The crystal is a token of appre-

ciation given to all Wertheim lecturers, according to Silvia Arrastia, events manager for the College of Business.

In a brief interview with Student Media, Zucker said he was impressed with the quality of questions students asked him.

"The questions were sharp," Zucker said. "I hope to be invited again."

Regarding his future after NBC Universal, Zucker said he is interested

but he is still uncertain as to what he will do.

Sanjeev Udhvani, a junior international business major, said although he enjoyed Zucker's lecture what matters most is the University's exposure.

"It's important that FIU gets its name out there," Udhvani said. "Getting people like Zucker here will broaden FIU's social perception."

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## WEIRD NEWS

### Couple's babies born 8/8/8, 9/9/9, 10/10/10

Having a child born on 10/10/10 is pretty cool, but having that birth follow two others on 8/8/08 and 9/9/09 — that's got to be impossible, right?

Well, Chad and Barbie Soper, whose daughter Cearra was born on Oct. 10; whose other daughter Chloe was born on Aug. 8, 2008; and whose son Cameron was born on Sept. 9, 2009.

The family from Rockford, Mich. has attracted national attention since the birth of Cameron, reported MSNBC. The Sopers have stated that there are no plans to aim for a child on 11/11/11.

### Man gets \$650,000 after being kicked in face by stripper

A trip to the strip club turned into a trip to the bank for a Florida man who won a \$650,000 settlement after an exotic dancer kicked him in the face.

Michael Ireland received the settlement after claiming he suffered permanent double vision when a dancer named "Suki" booted him in the eye at the Cheetah Club near West Palm Beach.

Ireland's attorney said their client suffered a punctured eye socket and broken facial bones when the stripper kicked him in the face with a spiked high heel during a lap dance, according to NBCMiami.com.

### Women stabbed during anger-management class

A 19-year-old woman was arrested after allegedly stabbing another woman during an anger-management class, the Seattle Times reported.

The incident occurred Saturday while a video on anger management was being shown. Police said Faribah Maradiaga walked into a classroom at Bellevue College and started complaining about the video. The victim told her "to give it a chance," according to charging documents.

After words were exchanged, Maradiaga pulled out a knife with a 3-inch blade and stabbed the other woman. Maradiaga also is accused of threatening to kill the other woman's family.

— Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

# Student Programming Council holds month full of diverse events

HERATIGE, page 1

effort between the Residence Hall Association and the University staff, aimed to create Latino culture awareness with an Oct. 14 ceremony that included various Hispanic based foods, live entertainment, a performance from Latin fraternities, dances and a speech on the culture's impact in American society in the GC Ballrooms.

"I grew up in an area where Hispanics were a minority," said Edward Proenza, president of the Latinos Unidos organization. "I have been here for four years now and I'm glad I got the experience of sharing common things with people from a different culture."

SPC fused together the month's celebration with their Friday night movie feature by showing *Chronicles of an Escape* on Oct. 15.

The foreign language

film centers on the true story of the Argentinean government's involvement in the 1970s drug war.

"The movie is in Spanish, and that is great. I feel that Hispanic heritage is truly being celebrated by showing a movie in Spanish with English subtitles instead of the other way around," said freshman Kelly Mayorga.

That same day, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences hosted its first National Latino AIDS Awareness Day in front of PG5 Market Station.

The Spanish-inspired "Paella Block Party" provided rapid HIV testing and counseling for interested students as well as informative games and giveaways.

"It is fun to explore different cultures, so students are always encouraged to participate in all the festivities," said Calafell.

The second week of Hispanic heritage festivi-

*"It is nice to know that although many of us are not in our native lands, FIU makes us feel like we are."*

Fausto Peña  
Sophomore

ties began with a focus on the historical significance of Hispanic culture. SPC presented a collection of art pieces, memorabilia and cultural artifacts from the Bolivian and Cuban revolutions in the GC pit.

"I am excited to see all the artifacts that will be on display," said Valerie Torres, a native of Peru. "I want to see if the museum will actually represent our Hispanic countries' history."

SPC Director, Max MacAvoy anticipates that the month's festivities, including the final upcoming events, will be enjoyed by all students.

"I hope all the activities were enjoyable and that students have the desire to relive the experience next year," said MacAvoy.

A free comedy show open to all students will take place on Oct. 20 in the GC Ballrooms.

South Florida comedian Oni Perez and nationally acclaimed comedian Bill Santiago will attempt to rake in the laughs with their Latino inspired humor.

The final SPC-hosted event, "Latin Dance Party," featuring a live performance by Tony Succar, will mark the end to this month's celebration on Oct. 27.

# Zucker very 'open and candid,' students get questions answered

ZUCKER, page 1

During the question and answer portion, Udhmani asked Zucker what will happen to Vivendi after Comcast buys NBC Universal.

"I asked because I'm doing a project on Vivendi," Udhmani said. "He answered it fairly well."

Jeff Zelaya, a senior marketing major, thought Zucker was very candid.

"He brought up the Conan [O'Brien] and [Jay] Leno situation without being asked," Zelaya said.

Zelaya asked Zucker if he had tips for the business students in the auditorium.

"He pretty much gave us information we already kind of knew," Zelaya said.

He added that Zucker's tip was that businessmen and women should get to know every part of their business.

"There are things beyond personal strengths [that we should know,]" Zelaya said.

## THE BEACON

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# Veterans aim to move deep into the community

FVLA, page 1

nity through community service and our members exposed to the business community through networking events, having speakers come and ideally through internships," Ruiz said.

The organization is not only unique to the FIU campus, but to the nation as a whole. What distinguishes FVLA from the other two organizations for veterans on campus, the Veterans Affairs office and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps office, is that FVLA's sole mission is to provide student veterans with opportunities in the job market.

"The biggest challenge that FVLA will face is recruiting the newer students that are also veterans. These students are going to be the reason that this

club will succeed and thrive," said Darienzo Peña, current University student veteran.

FVLA aspires to reach out to the large student veteran population, and show that there are potential career opportunities available to them because of their service to the country.

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus recently confirmed Georgina Cohen as the new Veterans Affairs Coordinator. Cohen has already announced various events that will be coming up in the next few months, and expressed her interest in the establishment of FVLA. Cohen, who is a veteran herself, attended the first FVLA meeting of the semester to relay her excitement about the club.

"I have faith that most of the participating veterans will

have enough consideration and motivation to assist and develop not only themselves but fellow veterans," said Cohen. With the second highest number of student veterans in the country, the University's veteran organizations are aiming to work together.

"[I] plan work to closely with Zacory and use FVLA as a tool to distinguish veterans who have excelled in FIU, and want to help and be involved. Hopefully, with these veterans we can develop relationships with veterans who need guidance," Cohen said.

"FVLA is going to become a great program that is going to be geared toward helping the veterans specifically, because they have gone above and beyond their duties as a citizen, and deserve the focus," said Peña.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: DENVER 1, FIU 0

## FALLING BACK

### Panthers third in conference play after Denver defeat

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team came into this weekend with just one loss in the Sun Belt Conference, and came out with two more.

After losing to North Texas on Friday night, the Golden Panthers (8-7-1, 5-3 SBC) got the privilege of playing the Denver Pioneers on Oct. 17, who were undefeated in the SBC and riding a seven game win streak.

If FIU wanted to keep pace with Denver at the top, they would have to come out with a win in order to not fall too far behind.

They didn't, and their offense was halted in a 1-0 defeat.

The game proved to be one that either team wanted to give up easily, as both teams played extremely tough on the defensive side of the ball for at least the first half of play.

In the first half, both teams were only able to muster up nine shots collectively, FIU with four and Denver with five. The game remained evenly matched, statistically speaking.

The second half is when both the offensively and defensive onslaught Denver unleashed on FIU began to wear the Panthers down.

At the end of regulation, the Golden Panthers were left with just five shots in all, and only one on goal, that coming from

freshman Chelsea Leiva who ended up with a total of three of the five shots on the day.

This was a huge difference from what Denver brought to the net, getting nine shots together, bringing their total to 16, with seven of them being on goal.

Though the stats after regulation were alarmingly in favor of the Pioneers, FIU still had life in them as the game remained a stalemate. This was done by Melanie Raimo's goalkeeping, having piled up six saves in all.

As the game moved on to overtime, the Golden Panthers, who were certainly not wanting to settle for a tie, tried taking the opportunity of overtime like they have various other times this year.

With only 1:03 into extra play, Nichollette DiGiacomo of Denver got the ball off a cross from Cassidy Larson and shot the ball towards the goal. The ball was then deflected off Raimo, leaving Katy Van Lieshout there for the put back and lone goal of the day to end the match right then and there.

The five shots in all tied the lowest amount for FIU this year, the other coming back on Sept. 3 against Fresno State. They now stand alone in the conference in third place, behind the likes of Denver, Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and North

**DENVER, page 4**



KARINA TELLEZ/THE BEACON

Goalkeeper Melanie Raimo's six saves were not enough to earn a win for FIU.

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

## Practice opens with added size in Moore, Frederick

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Sports Director

When Phil Gary Jr. suited up for the Golden Panthers first practice of the season on Oct. 15, the dynamic of the team was noticeably dissimilar.

That can be attributed to the presence of Erick Frederick and Brandon Moore. The 6-foot-10 Moore is eligible after sitting out last season due to NCAA transfer rules, and the 6-foot-8 Frederick will play immediately after transferring from Highland Community College.

The pair will immediately be relied upon to aid the team's putrid play inside a year ago, which ranked second to last in the Sun Belt Conference in rebound margin, getting out boarded by over four rebounds a game.

"They coming along great right now. This is a big step up from what we had last year with our big men," Gary said. "We gained like four of five inches from our big men so it's going to help. I think both of them are going to contribute to both sides. We got Brandon who is a great shot blocker and Erick who is a great post player on the inside and can hurt you outside."

The Golden Panthers were forced to rely on 6-foot-6 Marlon Bright at center last season after Nikola Gacsa suffered a

season ending knee injury. The team was left scrambling for interior offense after former SBC freshman of the year Freddy Asprilla left the school. The team finished last in the SBC in blocked shots.

Head coach Isiah Thomas will attempt to maximize his new post players' impact. The Golden Panthers will also likely add freshman forward Dominique Ferguson by the spring as he clears eligibility cases.

"It helps, but we just got to figure out a way to get those two defensively sound where their not committing a lot of fouls," Thomas said. "You can always do better defensively."

The team is pleased to have a clean slate after a 7-25 season.

"It was great. We still have a lot of work to do but it was a great way to start the season," Gary said. "I mean I know what to expect now. New guys come up to me now and ask questions. I kind of know what to expect from coach and how practice goes."

#### CLEARING THE AIR

After a media buzz in the off season in which Thomas took a gig as a consultant for the New York Knicks and was the object of numerous rumors, Thomas has made sure his team understands that he

**BASKETBALL, page 4**

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## SPORTS REPLAY

## Panthers lose in soccer; dominate in tennis, swimming



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

FIU's Florian Schwertl looks to evade a UAB player in a loss.

#### JOEL DELGADO Asst. Sports Director

With an opportunity to crawl back into the Conference USA contention with a weekend matchup at home, the Golden Panthers (6-6, 1-3 C-USA) were unable to capitalize as they were blanked 2-0 by the visiting University of Alabama Birmingham Blazers (8-4, 2-2 C-USA) on Oct. 16.

A goal in the twelfth minute by Josh Stewart after Golden Panthers keeper Shane Lopez failed to effectively clear the ball out of harm's way after a corner kick gave the Blazers the early lead.

Despite a close scoring chance by Sebastian Frings just minutes later, the Golden Panthers remained scoreless in the half.

The Blazers added an insurance goal at the

beginning of the second half when a handball was called inside the box, leading to a penalty kick opportunity for Babaye Lopez. Lopez was unable to stop the shot and Sodade's eighth goal of the season put the Golden Panthers in a two-goal hole that was too steep to overcome.

Stewart received a red card late in the game to give FIU a one-man advantage in the final minutes of the match, but the Golden Panthers were unable to score.

The loss snapped a two-game skid and ended a chance for FIU to pick up its longest winning streak in Head coach Munga Eketebi's tenure at the helm of the men's soccer program.

FIU now stands in eighth place in the C-USA standings just ahead of last-place Memphis, who

has failed to win a game in conference play this season.

#### TENNIS

The Golden Panthers capped off a successful weekend in the Panther Invitational, picking up four of five victories in singles matches against rival Florida Atlantic on Oct. 17.

Liset Brito defeated Justine Humair in dominating fashion for her second win of the season while Lisa Johnson picked up her third of the season with a win over Madeline Johnson.

Florida Atlantic's struggles continued as Cassie Bergeson and Erika Mrazkova were shot down by Christine Seredni and Maria Spenceley.

Despite taking the first set in her match, Magali Holt was dealt a three-set defeat to FAU's Virginia

Augustin in the only Golden Panther loss of the afternoon.

#### SWIMMING

In their first home meet of the season, the Golden Panthers swimming and diving team cruised to a victory over the North Florida Ospreys by a final score of 177-64.

Freshman Sabrina Beaupre broke the Biscayne Bay Campus pool record for the 1-meter dive with a score of 295.72 and also won in the 3-meter dive, earning a score of 291.45.

Kayla Derr also had an impressive meet, picking up two individual wins in the 100 and 200 freestyle, helping lift FIU in Randy Horner's first home meet as head coach.

In team events, the Golden Panthers also fared well, winning the 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay.

## VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

## Trkulja replaces Rosa adequately

#### RICO ALBARRACIN Staff Writer

Una Trkulja has an intense look on her face. It can be seen whether she is running suicides in practice, warming up during pregames, or spiking the ball for a kill in match, her look is still the same. There is a look on her face, not of intimidation, but of intensity as she plays.

The freshman outside hitter was placed into a role that not many freshmen handle with ease: replacing an All-American. Trkulja has had to play the role of the finisher this year, much like Yarimar Rosa did for four years at the University, and she has stepped up to the challenge.

"The game is not much different than back home in Norway," Trkulja said. "I go out and practice, and play hard every game."

Halfway through the season, Trkulja leads the team with 221 kills and hitting percentage at .320, which is good for sixth best in the Sun Belt Conference, all while adding 128 digs on the defensive side.

Andrea Lakovic, junior middle blocker from Montenegro, knows what it takes to make the transition from the International game to the American game and she likes what she sees from Trkulja.

"She's playing really well. Since her first game, she is playing way better," Lakovic said. "She's working really hard everyday. Since we lost Yari, and Jovana is not eligible to play, she knows it's a bigger pressure on her to work hard and to catch up and she's doing her job."

Coach Danijela Tomic likes what she sees, although she knows that Una is a freshman and will make mistakes.

"Una, as a freshman, we know they need some time to mature. She's done well," Tomic said. "She struggled in the beginning. It's so many new things for freshman when they come here. As we progressed, she started to play better."

Trkulja is in a rare opportunity this year, almost a baptism by fire, as she was pushed into the starting

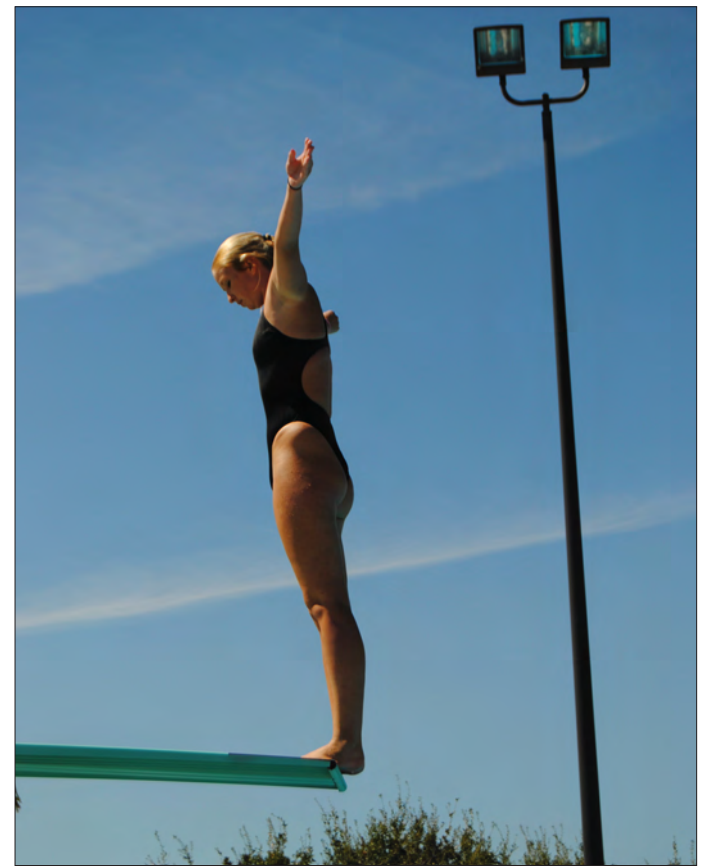
outside hitter position from the moment she arrived. Tomic believes this will help her.

"We don't have Yari anymore, we don't have Jovana, we didn't have Marija," Tomic said. "We didn't have the players we counted on to play that position. Una had to step up and she has delivered. I think this is a great opportunity for her to play this much her freshman year. This is going to make her so much better next year."

#### NOTES

- The Panthers five-set loss to Western Kentucky on Oct. 16 was only the sixth loss that FIU has suffered in five-set matches since 2005.
- Setter Natalia Valentin currently has 764 assists this season, with an average of 10.64 per set, good for third in the Sun Belt conference.
- The combined overall record of their five opponents is 41-64, including a combined conference record of 11-24.

## RECORD DIVE



DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Golden Panther diver Sabrina Beaupre before her dive. Beaupre broke the school record at meet in the 1-meter dive.

## Despite slew of rumors, Thomas insists he is staying

#### BASKETBALL, page 3

will continue to lead the Golden Panthers.

In his second year as a Golden Panthers' coach, Thomas ended up backing off of the Knicks consultant job after conflict of interest issues arose.

"We've been together a year now, so we understand people will say things and we'll deal with them," Thomas said.

Gary said the team is at peace with the situation.

"I mean, coach got such power that

anything he say's, people are going to run with it," Gary said. "He let us know all the time not to listen to what's going on and just listen to his word and he tells us all the time he isn't going anywhere."

#### ON TELEVISION

FIU's game at Denver on Jan. 15 will be broadcast on Fox Sports Network Rocky Mountain. This will be the only regular season meeting between the two teams, with DU winning eight of 14 games in the series' history.

## Panthers seek to enter post-season tournament

#### DENVER, page 3

Texas, and are also on a three game slide.

With only three games left on their schedule, no chance can be had at getting the number one seed come playoff time.

Second place is still feasible, and that is what the Golden Panthers will aim for next.

That would most likely require them to win the rest of the way out, which is not impossible.

There is good news for the Golden Panthers, though.

Their next opponent is last place University of Louisiana Monroe, who has yet to secure a win in conference this season.

No team should be taken lightly, but to end a three game losing streak, it seems like the scheduling gods picked a good time for the Golden Panthers to play the Warhawks.

The game is scheduled for Oct. 21 with a 7 p.m. kickoff.

## UP IN FLAMES

On Oct. 16, psychedelic rock group The Flaming Lips brought their visually spectacular show to Sunset Cove Amphitheater in Boca Raton.

Drawing on their extensive discography while focusing mostly on their last four albums, the group put on a show that featured lasers, disco balls, dancers dressed in *Yo Gabba Gabba* costumes, and a multitude of other details adding to the spectacle.

The show kicked off with lead singer Wayne Coyne walking across the crowd in a plastic bubble and didn't let up for a rollicking two hours.



CHRIS TOWERS / THE BEACON



## SPC Heritage Month brings hispanic comics to stage

**ALFREDO APARICIO**  
Contributing Writer

As per SPC tradition, the committee has organized another comedy show featuring comedians Oni Perez and Bill Santiago.

When searching for a headliner, SPC decided on Bill Santiago, a comedian from Puerto Rico.

Having seen Santiago on Comedy Central, the members of SPC enjoyed Santiago's brand of comedy, which was described as a cross between George Lopez and Carlos Mencia.

"He appeals to the middle class," says Robert Brown, the SPC's programming director, "and many of his jokes center around cultural differences in the Hispanic culture."

Santiago, having worked with The New York Times and the Post as well as having written a book called *Pardon My Spanglish*, was more than willing to participate in the SPC's Hispanic Heritage Month events.

Having won over the crowd the last time he was at the University, Oni Perez was invited back to entertain the student body once more.

Oni Perez is a South Florida comedian best known for his participation in the South Beach Comedy Festival and for being a member of the Miami Comics, a comedy troupe consisting of six South Florida comedians.

His comedic routine took him to the finals of the Lucky 21 contest in Las Vegas, NV.

In choosing the various artists which attend the events, Robert Brown, the director in charge of coordinating the event, says, "It's a very interactive process with the students. We are more about the community and programming for the school."

First, it is decided what type of event people want to see, then with the use of tools such as surveys, which encourage students to voice their opinions about which artist(s) they want to see, SPC goes

back and votes on which they want to bring to the school.

The comedy show took plenty of work, and not all of it was pretty.

"We [SPC] have to come up with the idea, envision what we want to do, what crowd we want to appeal to, book the artist, set up contracts, plan the event, have AV set up the room, all unseen work which makes sure the students attending the events enjoy themselves. Much as they did this semester with the first Dive in Pool event with Iron Man 2, RHA sometimes comes together with SPC to help create events," says Brown.

The comedy show takes place Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms and tickets are available for free with your Panther ID in the Campus Life office in GC 2240.

The month of October marks Hispanic Heritage Month, and the Student Programming Council has dedicated a month full of events to recognizing Hispanic culture.

"Even though it's a Hispanic heritage

event, it is open to everyone. We want to expose our students to the Hispanic culture and teach them about what is out there, the culture and difference between cultural aspects," says Brown.



PANEL PANEL REVIEWS: KNIGHT AND SQUIRE NO. 1 OF 6

# Comic yields jolly theme

The entire DC universe has been going through some major changes.

The evil Max Lord has come back from the dead and is preparing to wipe all the super-powered beings in the world off the map.

Bruce Wayne is lost in time without his memories, and even Superman is planning on taking a road trip through America to reconnect with the normal “working” man

With all this turmoil going on, it might be hard to find a reason to take a distracting, non-sequitor trip to jolly ol’ England where business is running as usual.

The smooth operations over in England are due largely in part thanks to the dynamic duo of the U.K.: Knight and Squire.

Originally created during a minor story arc in a Batman comic as the “Batman and Robin” of England, DC’s newest mini series sheds light on the mysterious duo and their goings on.

Despite being unrelated to most of the current story arcs within the DC universe, readers will find a welcome breath of comedic relief and levity within the pages of Knight and Squire.

From the very first page the reader is thrust into a long set of dialogue that makes absolutely no sense,

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

unless they were born on the east side of the pond.

Large and small allusions are dropped throughout the rest of the book, referencing “Britishisms” such as Paul Mccartney, Monty Python and Winnie the Pooh.

If those don’t seem British enough, take comfort in the fact that I only mentioned the ones that made any sense to me at first glance.

Non-Brits need not despair, the very last page of the book contains a detailed decoder for all the jokes and cultural references littered throughout the pages.

Aside from the clever form of humor, the series seems ready to elaborate on Knight and Squire’s long history in their own little world.

Issue 1 focuses on a monthly get together at a local pub where hero and villain alike can relax, socialize and talk about their day.

Due to age-old magic, provided by none other than Merlin himself, all super powers and weapons are deactivated within the bar.

This illustrates a major difference, as Squire explains to the newest pub goer, between the British superheroes and the Yanks in the colonies who are always knocking over

## LIVING ART



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Artist Xavier Cortada explains his solo exhibition “Sequentia” with students (left to right) Gina Furicchia; sophomore, biology major, and Genesis Perez; senior, biology major on Oct 12.

buildings and the like.

The difference is that the British super-powered world values moderation.

Who better to explain moderation to a bunch of Americans than the British?

Don’t be afraid you’ll be bored to tears, before the issue is over, some dastardly meddler disengages the magic protection of the pub, and all the moderation goes out the window to provide room for a good old fashioned bar-fight.

If you’re a reader who’s

tired of the dramatics on the American side of the DC universe, take a break with Knight and Squire’s limited 6 issue run.

I myself wish DC would practice less moderation with gems like these and commit to an ongoing series, but either way if you’re interested, grab this comic before your local retailer pulls the plug.

Panel Panel is a bi-weekly comics column. Look for it every other Wednesday.



COURTESY OF DCCOMICS.COM

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

#### FARMERS MARKET AND SUSTAINABILITY DAY



Food, smoothies, yoga, and sustainability activities.

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain (along the red wall)

#### YOGA

Join the Yoga Club in a free yoga session. Bring your own towel.

WHEN: 8 - 9 a.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 305

#### A Night of Passion Gone Wrong: Shattering Myths on Sex

Free food, games and giveaways. Sponsored by Voices for Planned Parenthood and funded by CSO.

WHEN: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC Lakeview North Lounge

#### SOLAR STAR PARTY

Safely watch the sun with the Astronomy Club.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Astronomy Pad (in GC Lawn)

CONTACT: Ken at koxsalida@gmail.com

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE COMEDY SHOW



Featuring comedians Bill Santiago and Oni Perez. Hosted by SPC-MMC.

WHEN: 6 - 8:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free, two tickets per Panther ID (tickets available in GC 2240)

WHERE: GC Ballrooms

#### CARIBBEAN POETRY NIGHT

WHEN: 9 - 11 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC Faculty Club

### THURSDAY, OCT. 21

#### BOOK OF ELI



Hosted by SPC-BBC. Raffle of laptop cases and sandals!

WHEN: 3 and 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre

#### BENEFIT JAZZ CONCERT



Hosted by FIU Music. Performances by the Latin Jazz Ensemble and special guests.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$10 students; \$15 faculty/staff/seniors; \$25 general admission

WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall

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

#### A LECTURE BY MIA LEHRER

Presented by FIU Architecture. Lehrer is internationally recognized for her progressive landscape architecture designs.

WHEN: 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: PCA 135

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FORUM

Hosted by SGC-MMC. Voice your opinions and concerns as an international student. Lunch provided to first 20.

WHEN: 1 - 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 150

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER



The Golden Panthers host the ULM Warhawks.

WHEN: 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: FIU Soccer Stadium

## Diversions

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once.

Check your answers on FIUSM.com.

Puzzle Difficulty: Medium

## Humanity has outgrown religion

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  
Staff Writer

Organized religion has solved many of society's problems for thousands of years. With over 80 percent of the planet's population involved in organized religion in some way, there has to be something to it.

But in today's modern society, religion doesn't offer what it did 500 years ago.

In the past, many used religion and their various interpretations of God to explain the meanings of certain phenomena that occurred here on our planet, such as the rising of the sun, rain, and sudden deaths of fellow man to name a few simple examples.

These instances can now be explained rather easily by technological advancements and the scientific processes that they allow. This leaves little room for an all knowing and all powerful being pulling the strings behind the scenes.

Although the applications of science do not rule out the possibility of intelligent design, it does provide a much more logical explanation for worldly events.

Organized religion, in many cases, has provided modern man with a set of rules to abide by to be an ideal citizen. While "thou shall not kill" and "thou shall not steal" may come to mind for some, it is unlikely that guidelines for living such as these have to be passed down and taught by religious figures.

They are necessary for a society to thrive successfully under the presence of religion or otherwise and therefore, will be passed

*"It is a waste of time to limit and stifle one's choices in life while trying to be the perfect candidate for a utopian afterlife that may or may not exist."*

down by the society itself through social reinforcement.

Religion is undoubtedly still something that brings many people together, however. Yet in light of many events that still happen routinely around the world, it seems that religion is more of a cause for bloodshed than brotherhood.

The world is a much smaller place than it was a thousand years ago, and with so many groups of people constantly in contact with each other, disparities will ensue.

With advancements in technology and transportation, the damage, or progress for that matter, that one group can accomplish is compounded and the message is widely spread.

However, when one group feels they must use force and violence to convince the other of their God's superiority, and it is allowed, and sometimes encouraged, by their religion, there is a problem.

That leaves the all too puzzling question of what happens to a person when they die. While it seems it is impossible to answer this question for sure, as there is no hard

evidence supporting any explanation, it may be a waste of time to even attempt to do so.

It is a waste to limit and stifle one's choices in life while trying to be the perfect candidate for a utopian afterlife that may or may not exist. That time is better spent getting the most out of time we have on Earth and trying to make a difference for loved ones and those around you.

While we may ultimately be under the watchful eye of some superior being, it would be selfish to think it exists entirely for us. It may be a better use of time to take logical steps to make goals a reality instead of praying, wishing, or hoping for things to unfold under the care of a Godly figure, which in all honesty, may not provide.

It is a chaotic universe we live in and things may very well happen for no rhyme or reason other than to just happen.

When it comes down to it, it is better to congratulate yourself when things go well, and to blame yourself when they don't. We already have many of the answers we need, or at the very least, the minds to find those answers ourselves when questions arise.

## Pregnancy centers deceptive

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON  
Staff Writer

New York City Council is passing legislation that would mandate "Crisis pregnancy centers" upon arrival to inform women that they do not offer abortion, referral to abortion services, or contraceptives, and only offer non-abortion related options counseling.

It is essential that this bill is passed and replicated on a national level to demonstrate the need to protect pregnant women from being manipulated and duped by anti-choice organizations that politicize women's health.

The ruse of these centers is to manipulate pregnant women seeking options counseling to think they are in a medical clinic, but in reality are in an anti-choice environment that propagates misinformation by non-trained "counselors."

According to the National Abortion Federation, Crisis pregnancy centers, "deceptive tactics extend to their physical appearance as well. CPCs often design their facilities to look like actual health care facilities with a waiting room, a partitioned check-in desk, and an ultrasound machine."

Advertisements on billboards that read, "Pregnant? Scared? We Can Help," lure women into centers where they are offered counseling and free pregnancy tests.

However, in a study conducted by National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, the "counseling" women received could be more accurately described as a bombardment of non-factual "statistics" about the trauma and harm of abortion.

Why are these crisis pregnancy centers so outraged by this proposed legislation? If they have no hidden agenda to guard, what is so problematic and offensive about clarifying the ideology that is inherently part of their business?

According to The Wall Street Journal, Marcy Sarosick, executive director of a Bridge to Life crisis-pregnancy center, said, "I don't think we should be forced to [tell clients we are not a medical clinic]." She also expressed concern that women could "just walk out." These women would presumably "walk out" because the centers are not what they originally thought they were, proving that this legislation is vital to stop the lies.

When calling "Option Line," and inquiring what kind organizations I could be referred to and which services were offered, the operator informed me, that she could refer me to a center to "find out what your concerns are. They won't refer you to an abortion clinic but they will answer your questions."

When I asked if there was a medical doctor at the clinic, I was informed that there was not, just "options counselors". When I pressed further and asked if they were psychologists or trained therapists, I was informed that, "they are people who deal with your situation, everyday."

Intentionally vague, I immediately thought of the danger of vulnerable girls and women seeking abortion services and instead being handled by non-trained therapists.

The potential misinformation and infliction of guilt is not only morally wrong but also detrimental to the women's health; the longer an abortion is delayed, the more risk for complications there is. This legislation is simple and needed; it prevents centers from operating under a façade and illuminates an ideology that denies choice.

## Easy money lending led to crash

NEDA GHOMESHI  
Staff Writer

The infamous recession the United States is currently experiencing was a catastrophe waiting to happen. Honestly, it is one of the worst economic crises that our nation has ever faced.

Much has been written about the many factors that contributed to this tragedy. I believe one factor stands out: the availability of "easy money" to consumers.

Essentially, lenders made funds easily available and extremely cheap.

With interest rates at historic lows for a prolonged period of time, many homeowners and businesses expanded beyond their means without the proper financial qualifications.

Home prices were going up with no end in sight, supported by very low interest rates. The growth was visibly not sustainable, but no one wanted to believe it. Euphoric buyers never stopped to consider if they could actually afford their loans.

People got themselves into massive debt without considering the consequences. To me, was an unprecedented oblivion on the consumer's part.

I am not blaming this recession only on consumers. It should not be denied that many lending institutions took advantage of unsophisticated citizens and lured them into large mortgages.

I simply believe that consumers were the ones signing up for the loans and they should have known better.

The lending and borrowing party came to a sudden crash in 2008 when the money available to support this euphoria dried up. Now, borrowers and lenders are feeling the pain.

With insufficient income to pay their monthly mortgage payments, many homeowners have lost or are in the process of losing their homes. Bankruptcies and foreclosures skyrocketed and created a domino effect which resulted in the failure of many banks which further desta-

bilized the economy.

RealtyTrac, a data firm, estimates that foreclosure filings were about 2.8 million in 2009 and are proceeding at a pace that could exceed 3.9 million by the end of this year.

Although these numbers are terrifying, I don't see why it came as a surprise to borrowers or lenders; way too many mortgages were issued to homeowners who did not have the means of paying off their loan.

The availability of easy money did not stop at the door steps. With a larger home comes more furniture and because most consumers did not have the cash to purchase furniture, more loans were taken out, yet again.

Loans at zero percent interest rates and deferred payment plans were ubiquitous. This enticed consumers to purchase even more without giving consideration to the ability to pay back the debt.

Presently, those consumers are left with huge debts and no prospects for an easy recovery,

just lots of furniture.

Today, able consumers are still paying off their loans while others have lost their homes and many of their possessions to foreclosure and bankruptcy.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "The Federal Housing Administration has been authorized to guarantee up to \$300 billion in refinanced mortgages, provided that lenders agree to write down significantly the amount of the loan."

The FHA program is estimated to help up to 400,000 borrowers.

However, let's be realistic; their help is not going to make a significant difference for our economy since 3.9 million mortgage loans may enter foreclosure by the end of this year.

This borrowing trend continued until the system could no longer bear its weight. An implosion occurred and everything came crashing down. No one should be surprised by this economic turn. I am not.

### VERBATIM

*"[The poorest billion people in the world] are falling behind, some of them are falling apart, and when they fall apart they are a nightmare for everyone. So both compassion and enlightened self-interest should tell us 'do something about this'."*

Dr. Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at Oxford  
Speaking at FIU Geopolitical Summit

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### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts (450 words) in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto: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.



## CHILE

### Chile ponders what to do with capsules

Chilean officials are trying to decide what to do with the three rescue capsules built specially to bring out the 33 miners who were trapped a half-mile underground for 69 days.



## HAITI

### Violence erupts at Haiti prison

Two inmates were shot to death trying to escape from the roof of Haiti's quake-damaged national penitentiary and a third was trampled to death inside during a prison riot Sunday, authorities said.



## MEXICO

### Borough makes world's biggest enchilada

Residents of Iztapalapa cooked up a 230-foot-long (70-meter-long), almost 1½-ton enchilada on Oct. 17. Guinness record official Ralph Hannah announced that it was the world's biggest.

# Meek's College Tour included the University

DEBOARAH SOUVERAIN  
Contributing Writer

The University was the second stop of U.S. Senate candidate Kendrick Meek's College Tour and upon his arrival he had a roundtable discussion with students from various organizations on campus.

The discussion was held on Oct. 18 in room 155 of the Wolfe University Center. In attendance was not only Meek, Democratic nominee in the 2010 Senate elections for the seat vacated by Mel Martinez, but also members of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Black Student Union, and College Democrats at FIU.

In between occasionally alluding to his senatorial race and discussing his campaign platform, Meek briefly discussed issues that pertinent to students on the collegiate level, particularly the negative impact on students who fail to vote in non-Presidential elections.

Meek is currently the Democratic State Representative of Florida's 17th District as well as the democratic nominee.

When SGC-BBC President Christin 'Cici' Battle asked Meek to explain the importance of young voter turnout, he answered saying, "Tuition is a state issue, not a federal issue ... the governor sets the budget of who receives



ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

U.S. Senate candidate Kendrick Meek visits the Wolfe University Center on Oct. 18.

what and when."

Through this example Meek illustrated the direct impact of legislators decisions on college students.

"If young adults don't actively participate in elections it makes it easier for folks to do

things, such as raise tuition," Meek said.

Meek added that failure to vote gives government officials free reign to do as they please, within constitutional boundaries, without any legitimate aversion.

"Cost are so high because young people

don't vote and it's unfortunate that legislators are using this to their advantage," said Michael Santana, president of College Democrats at FIU.

Meek, who scored 100 percent by the National Education Association on public education issues, supported Congress extending Pell grants year-round. The Pell grant is a program that awards need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post baccalaureate students to ease the cost of postsecondary education.

"Hopefully the number will increase to make college more affordable," Meek said.

Congressman Meek also scratched the surface on student loans and his goals to work to make it easier for students to pay back loans.

"He should have went into detail on the Student Loan reform bill, school loans are a big issue for students," said Santana.

Meek's College Tour was kicked off at Florida Memorial University on Oct. 17. Despite frequent campaign references Meek gave students what he called, "a vital key to protecting their interests" and that is to get out and vote. However, that was the only issue he elaborated on.

"I hope my presence here today will inspire students to get out and vote," Meek said.

## THE SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

# Student cooks learn to run a restaurant from start to finish

JONATHAN SZYDLO  
Contributing Writer

Every semester, students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, provide guests with a fully catered gourmet lunch as a graduation requirement through the school's capstone class, Advanced Food Production Management.

For \$18, HTM will provide guests a complete meal or a packaged-deal that serves three guests for \$45.

According to Eddie Suarez, a first year teaching assistant at HTM, the course provides students a chance to run a restaurant from start to finish.

Grouped into six teams of six, students gain experience within each and every aspect of the restaurant industry.

Cooking, managing, serving and sanitation – these future culinary masters leave no stone unturned. Each group is given a two-week span in which to develop and create a menu and dining environment. The lead team is responsible for all the necessary details including: the promotion of the luncheon event with the number of guests being factored into their final grade.

Christiane Carter, an HTM senior, aspires to one day own and be an executive chef of her own Caribbean

flavored, white tablecloth restaurant. Carter gives nothing but praise towards the experience that she is walking away with and attributes the course with allowing her to develop and refine her organizational skills along with her ability to manage and build a team.

Although Carter grew up in South Florida, nothing could have prepared her for the wide range of diversity amongst her peers within this completely hands on course.

However, this diversity has been beneficial not only to Carter, but for the class as a whole. It has allowed for a new perspective and channel

of creativity, teaching the students invaluable lessons in coping with high-pressure situations and allowing for a breakthrough within cultural lines.

This wide array of diversity is one of the highlights of the Advanced Food Production Management course, according to Ruth Barrocas, an HTM senior.

Barrocas describes the course as arguably being the most social course the University has to offer.

"The level of interaction that students have with each other steam rolls through the walls of cultural and ethnic diversity," Barrocas said.

Maurice Blount, an HTM senior, takes the lessons learned within the classroom or kitchen and makes them applicable towards any field.

"This class has taught me to be proactive versus reactive. Instead of waiting for a problem to pop up in order to deal with it, its shown me to be a forward thinker, attack problems before they develop, and all in all, keep my ear to the ground" Blount said.

HTM hosts luncheons every Tuesday and Friday at 11:45 a.m. Reservations must be made and paid for in advance by contacting Rodger Ledesma at (305) 919-4526.

## FOODGASM

# Pizza from scratch: making your own is the best option

GENE KRAVETS  
Contributing Writer

In the U.S. there seems to be a rift in pizza preference. The two main kinds are New York's classic thin crust and Chicago's more substantial, hearty variety: the deep-dish. No matter your preference, good pizza is always a foodgasm.

When good pizza is a challenge to find, you can make your own. Anyone can pop a frozen pizza into the oven, but putting in a little more effort makes a world of difference.

The base of any pizza is the crust. For the

crust, you can make your own dough, buy pre-made pizza dough or buy a ready made pizza crust.

The next crucial part is tomato sauce. Store bought pizza sauce is the easiest option, yet making your own can be very rewarding.

The last essential part of a pizza is the cheese. Mozzarella cheese is the type typically used, but it can be combined with Romano or Parmesan. I find that fresh mozzarella is a great choice.

Start the process by readying the dough, if needed. Roll it out to the desired thickness, which for me is as thin as possible. A little bit of

olive oil drizzled on the dough will help it crisp in the oven.

Next, spoon a thin layer of sauce on top of the dough, leaving some space around the edges. Cover the sauce with your desired amount of cheese. Any other toppings you might want to add go on after, then the pizza goes into a preheated oven of around 400 degrees.

The pizza can be cooked on a pizza stone, if one is available, or on foil with some flour on it so it doesn't stick. The cooking time will depend on the thickness of the pizza, but the crust should look golden brown when it's ready. It can take

anywhere from 5-15 minutes to bake.

For pizza lovers who don't want to go through the trouble of making their own pizza, I can recommend a place. Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza makes a delicious crispy pizza. Although I don't typically go for chain restaurants, going to Anthony's will most often result in a pizza-induced foodgasm.

Happy pizza making and eating. If anyone knows of a good pizza shop, please email me this valuable information at gkrav002@fiu.edu.

*Foodgasm is a bi-weekly column published on Wednesdays.*