

FANS OF THE ARTS



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Graduate student Qi Qiu [right], who is studying foreign language education, admires the work of Qin Feng in the exhibition West Wind East Water. For more coverage, turn to page five for an article by Marcy Diaz.

SPORTS

Kendall Berry murder suspect may walk free

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The case of Kendall Berry's murder could be dismissed without even going to trial.

Quentin Wyche, 24, stabbed Berry with a pair of scissors outside the Recreation Center on the Modesto Maidique Campus two years ago on March, 25 2010. However, Wyche's defense attorney David Peckins is arguing Wyche was defending himself.

Student Media called Peckins for an interview but he did not want to comment until Judge Milton Hirsch has made a decision but he spoke to CBS Miami on the Jan. 23 hearing day.

"He just happened to thrust himself against the scissor that the defendant had



QUENTIN WYCHE

taken out apparently from his book bag when he was being chased down by this football team," Peckins said to CBS Miami.

Wyche's defense attorneys are using former Gov. Jeb Bush's "Stand Your Ground Law," which passed in 2005, as the basis of their self-defense argument.

The law, filed under chapter 776 of the Florida Statutes,

SEE WYCHE, PAGE 4

LECTURE

SPC series features architectural history scholar

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On the evening of Jan. 26, Assistant Professor David Rifkind knew just what to say.

Rifkind, the keynote speaker for the Student Programming Council lecture, "What Would You Say?" spent time deliberating about the "uncertain" future with a number of students gathered in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

This is the second year that SPC allowed the student body to vote upon the lecturer.

Students were given the opportunity to select a professor that they felt they would want to lecture to them.

On the same day last year, English professor Kenneth Claus spoke about "hyperactivity as an art form."

Rifkind is an assistant professor for the architecture department at the University who teaches architectural history and theory.

A graduate of Columbia University, he completed his dissertation on the relationship between fascist politics and



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

David Rifkind, assistant professor of architectural history and theory, was voted by students to be this year's "What Would You Say?" keynote speaker.

modern architecture in 2007.

His challenge was to answer to the question, "If you had the opportunity to talk to students

during a presentation, what would you say?"

His response focused on four points: "urgency, uncertainty,

purpose and paradox."

He explained that personal and professional success in the future would depend mainly on those factors.

"It's no longer enough to just be good enough at what you do," he said to the audience. "You have to be above and beyond to succeed."

Rifkind suggested that one needs to find a purpose in life.

They must look for something that they are passionate about, and work hard and quickly at achieving the goals related to that purpose.

When asked what his final goal in life is, Rifkind had a difficult time answering the question because according to him, there are too many options to pick from.

However, he responded with, "I would like change. If I can somehow better the world and bring positive change to make our future less divided, I'll be satisfied."

Students present at the meeting expressed their satisfaction with the event and the professor's words.

"The lecture was so philosophical. It was simply great. It made us think a lot about the future," said Ryan Holmes, sophomore and architecture major.

"The lecture was so philosophical. It was simply great. It made us think a lot about the future."

Ryan Holmes,
Sophomore
Architecture major

Rifkind gave students his perspective on life and shared personal advice.

He concluded by reminding all those present to not just follow what someone says because they look up to them, but to follow their own beliefs and ideas so that no opportunity passes them by.

Rifkind is currently continuing

SEE RIFKIND, PAGE 2

COMING UP | News

Check out Wednesday's issue for coverage of the discontinuation of summer financial aid by the federal Pell Grant program.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Hispanics in focus as GOP race intensifies in Fla.

More than a million Hispanic voters are the prize as Republican presidential rivals Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich campaign hard in Florida after a feisty, final debate that served to heighten political tensions with the state's GOP primary just days away.

Romney was the aggressor Thursday night in the second debate in four days, pressing Gingrich to apologize for an ad labeling him as anti-immigrant and calling the idea "repulsive."

Both men arranged for appearances Friday in Miami with the Hispanic Leadership Network.

NATIONAL

US stock futures fall slightly after 4Q GDP report

U.S. stock futures are mostly down with a report showing that the economy grew at a slower pace than economists had expected.

Dow Jones industrial futures are down 21 points to 12,696.3. The broader S&P 500 futures are down 1 point at 1,314. The Nasdaq composite is up less than a point at 2,454.

The Commerce Department said Friday that the economy grew at a modest 2.8 percent in the final three months of last year. While that is the fastest growth in 2011, economists expected 3 percent growth.

Consumer products maker Procter & Gamble Co. cut its earnings outlook and Ford Motor Co. fell short of Wall Street expectations.

WORLD

Women, children killed in violence-torn Syria city

Fresh violence erupted Friday in the besieged Syrian city of Homs, a day after armed forces loyal to President Bashar Assad barraged residential buildings with mortars and machine-gun fire, killing at least 30 people including a family of women and children, activists said Friday.

The violence began Thursday, but important details were only emerging a day later. Video posted online by activists showed the bodies of five small children, five women of varying ages and a man, all bloodied and piled on beds in what appeared to be an apartment after a building was hit in the Karm el-Zaytoun neighborhood of the city. A narrator said an entire family had been "slaughtered."

— Compiled by Lauren Rovira

ENGLISH

Professor wins national fellowship

ROBERT MARTINEZ
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A \$50,000 check, plaque and pin later, Campbell McGrath, creative writing graduate professor, received the U.S. Artist Knight Fellowship Award late last year.

A group of 52 artists were selected through an evaluation conducted by a panel of experts from the Knight Foundation.

Among these artists was McGrath, who published several books of poems, wrote a play and libretto, translated the play "The Wasps" by Aristophanes for the Penn Greek Drama Series and collaborated with John Stuart, professor of architecture at the University, on a video/poetry piece called "14 Views of Miami."

"My wife and I were flown out to Santa Monica, California for a ceremony where other acclaimed artists were celebrated for their art," he said in an interview with Student Media. "The event was hosted by Tim Robbins, which was pretty neat, and I got to mingle with all the various other artists and it reminded me that art is different for many other people."

McGrath was inspired to write by his love of reading as a child.

"The seed of writing poetry came with my love of reading. Before every writer was a writer, they were readers," said McGrath, "In junior high school if [teachers] gave me the option to write a short story or write a book report, I jumped at writing the stories, because I thought it was fun and I kept doing it and ended up here."

McGrath feels that the building blocks of writing poetry come from real observation.

"We see the world around us, but then it goes into our heads as memory, and we digest it," he said.

When asked what other art

mediums he pursued, he mentioned painting and music while in college.

McGrath poked fun at himself for not having any good talent in those mediums.

But his biggest issue was that in those forms, he didn't have the control he had when writing poetry.

"With music and film you have all this expensive equipment and software. [In] painting, you need a canvas and paint. With poetry, I can

mean more to me than my own," said McGrath. "It's like being a parent, you are happier when your kid wins little league than you are with your own accomplishments."

"For that teaching is a rewarding past time; I know that I helped make the world a better place," he said.

Blanco received his master's in fine arts at the end of 1997, and was in one of Campbell's first classes.

"I had an incredibly gifted artist

People think of poetry as those lines you see in greeting cards, or violets are blue, roses are red. No, that's not poetry at all; if you want to say you are happy or sad, show me with your sentences.



Campbell McGrath
Creative writing professor

be all those things," he said, "I can paint an image with my poems or write about music and all you need is a pen, notebook, yourself and time. That flexibility is what I love about poetry more than anything else."

When teaching his creative writing graduate students he emphasizes abstraction in their work.

"People think of poetry as those lines you see in greeting cards, or violets are blue, roses are red. No that's not poetry at all; if you want to say you are happy or sad, show me with your sentences. Convince me your world is real, then convince me of your emotions," McGrath said.

One of McGrath's former students, Richard Blanco, also achieved success in the world of creative writing.

Blanco is an engineer by trade, but has written three books of poetry, "City of Fires," "Directions to the Beach of the Dead" and "Nowhere but here."

"My students' achievements

who was also an incredibly gifted teacher," said Blanco, "Many artists can't teach, and many teachers are poor artists, but I was fortunate enough to have both, and he inspires me to do more, and be better."

He added that one of the pieces written in the class became the first poem in Blanco's first book.

"My first creative writing class [with McGrath] was by far my favorite because of the first assignment we had which was to write a poem about America," he said of the poem, "and while I was born in Cuba, and raised in Spain and Miami, my America was very different than his."

While Blanco believes Campbell is a fluid artist, he also considers him very practical.

"He taught us that there are no difficult poems only difficult writers," Blanco said. "And that we must be able to enjoy ourselves and have fun with each and every poem."

THE BEACON

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Rifkind talks about the uncertainty of the future

RIFKIND, PAGE 1

a research project in Africa that deals with urbanism and architecture in Ethiopia during the Italian occupation from 1936 to 1941.

A practicing architect, Rifkind and his wife are building a house in South Miami, which is set to act as "a model of environmental and social sustainability."

With the hope of

continuing his teaching at the University, Rifkind is applying for a longer term at FIU.

"I don't know whether I'll be here or not next year, but my intention is to stay here," he said. Rifkind's students would also like him to stay.

"He makes us look at the world in a different way. He has introduced us to conceptual theories. When

I look at a building now, I don't just see a building anymore. I see much more," said sophomore and architecture major, Edgardo Betancourt.

Thais Mathias, a sophomore architecture major said, "For him, this is not work. He doesn't come to FIU just for a paycheck. You can tell he cares. He loves what he does, he loves teaching us."



studentmedia
at florida international university

BASKETBALL

HOLY COLEY



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Coley (center) scored a 36 points, tying her career high, in the Panthers 60-56 victory over the Hilltoppers on Jan. 28.

Second half scoring burst leads to victory

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Down 15 points with 12:42 to go in the game, Head Coach Cindy Russo pulled her squad together in a timeout, hoping to keep them from completely falling apart.

"The things they were doing to us were kind of new," Russo said. "We're just a work in progress in terms of learning things."

After that timeout, the Panthers came flying back to life, outscoring the Hilltoppers 39-20 to end the game. Sophomore guard Jerica Coley tied her career high in the Panthers 60-56 victory over Western Kentucky. She also became the 23rd Panther to ever reach the 1,000-point mark for her career.

Heading into the game, Coley was averaging 24.3 points per game. Following a career high tying performance, her average is up to 24.9, still behind Elena Delle Donne of Delaware.

"We started getting open on the weak side," Coley

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



FINAL FROM SATURDAY

WESTERN KENTUCKY	56
PANTHERS	60



Jerica Coley is still second in the nation with 24.9 points per game, only behind Elena Delle Donne who has scored 28.7 points per game this season. Coley is also second in the nation in total points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



FINAL FROM SATURDAY

WESTERN KENTUCKY	61
PANTHERS	51

BY THE NUMBERS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1,023

Jerica Coley's career points. Coley added 36 to her total in the victory over Western Kentucky, where she eclipsed the 1,000 point mark for her career.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

20

Turnovers committed by FIU in Saturday's 61-51 loss to Western Kentucky. Eight different Panthers turned the ball over at least once.

ISIAH: "THIS IS A BAFFLING TEAM"

Comeback effort falls short against Hilltoppers

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The Panthers were in desperate need of a conference win on Jan. 28 against Western Kentucky. FIU did not make the situation easier for themselves. Down as much as 15 points in the second half, the Panthers struggled for most of the game shooting from the field.

In the final six minutes, DeJuan Wright put the Panthers on his back, but it was not enough as the Hilltoppers captured a 61-51 victory at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Wright finished as the leading scorer for FIU, with a double-double, 24 points and 14 rebounds. Dominique Ferguson followed with seven points for the Panthers.

"It was a good game for him," Thomas said of

Wright. "He was the one with a decent rhythm." "This is a baffling team," Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. "I don't know. The team practiced hard. For some reason we are not playing well at home."

Late in the second half, Wright led the Panthers on a 7-2 run to trim the deficit to 49-42 with less than five minutes remaining in the second half. The Hilltoppers, who were led by TJ Price and Jamal Crook, were able to stem the Panthers offensive tide as the Hilltoppers offensive execution and free-throw shooting sealed the win.

For extended minutes in the second half reserve guard Deric Hill played critical minutes in place of Phil Taylor. "Deric came in and gave us a spark," Thomas said.

SEE MEN'S, PAGE 4



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Phil Taylor scored just three points in the Panther's 61-51 loss to Western Kentucky on Jan. 28.

COACHING

Russo enjoys success for over 30 years

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Head Coach Cindy Russo, never set out to be the ninth winningest coach in basketball history. She also never set out to stay at FIU for over 30 years. She just knew that she wanted to be in South Florida.

"I was never a goal setter. I never thought to myself 'Okay, I'm going to go out there today and break all these records,'" Russo said. "I just go out there everyday and try to do the best I can and give it all I can."

Russo came to FIU in 1977, coming over from Old Dominion, her alma mater. Since arriving in '77, Russo brought the program from the basement of college basketball all the way to its highest peak.

In 1993, her Panthers went 25-4 and reached its first ever NCAA Tournament. The following year, the Panthers were ranked as high as 16th in the nation before the season began. She has fond memories of that season.

"We went into those games expecting to win," Russo said. "I look back now and say 'Oh did we?' We just expected to win those games."

Russo is a member of an elite group, that only 34 coaches can say they are members of in the history of the game.

She has accrued over 600 wins in her career as



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Cindy Russo, center, has won 648 games in her career at FIU, ninth most in Division I women's basketball history.

a coach, all with FIU. She has also had 17 season where her team won at least 20-games.

"The grass was never really greener, I didn't want to go parallel," Russo said. "All of a sudden, I look back and 'wow', I'm 33 years into this. I don't want to leave now."

Coaches cannot coach forever, but there is no way she is ready to leave just

yet.

"I've got at least four years after this one," Russo said. "I'd like to think that I can go out on my own time." This year's team is well-aware of their coach's success, some choosing to come to FIU just because of it.

"I like the connection part," Carmen Miloglav, junior guard, said. "Some coaches just do their job

on the court and leave, but she's not one of them. She will call us a lot before the games, trying to calm us down."

Russo has also been able to coach one of the top talents in the nation this year, Jerica Coley.

"[Coley] is the best player I have ever coached," Russo said. "You tell her to do something and she says 'Okay' and goes out there

and does it. She is very coachable."

Coley chose to come to FIU because of the experience that Russo had along with the atmosphere of the program.

"I knew she had a lot of experience and that she coached a few players that had done good things in basketball," Coley, the second-leading scorer in the nation, said.

"The staff was very inviting, just the atmosphere that the coaches had was very positive and part of the reason why I came here."

Fanni Hutlassa, a redshirt senior, has been around Russo the most out of anyone on the team. She knows that Russo knows what she's doing.

"I've been here for five years and I know her pretty well," Hutlassa said. "She's an all around coach, taking care of school, basketball and our health. As a coach, she's been here for 30 something years and she has a lot of experience. For a really serious game, she is going to have her coaches, us and herself very prepared."

Coaching has become so competitive that Russo has noticed a lot of changes through the years with the level of stress that all coaches display on the sidelines.

"You flip on the television to watch a game, and every coach is not having fun during a game," Russo said. "They are just majorly stressed out and I can tell you, I am too. You see your coaches and players more than anyone else in your life."

Russo also wants her coaches to know that time with family is more important.

"I'm constantly saying to [the staff], 'stay home today, stay home with your children.' They are all just so dedicated and want to win."

Trial for murder of Berry set to resume Feb. 13

WYCHE, PAGE 1

details several conditions which deadly force is permitted.

"A person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat if he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the imminent commission

of a forcible felony," according to 776.012 of the statutes.

During the hearing, witnesses said Berry with his friends and teammates behind him, picked the fight with Wyche.

The prosecution is arguing Wyche knew exactly what he wanted to do when pulled the pair of scissors from his backpack and the trial should proceed.

Student Media called prose-

cutor Abbe Rifkin from the State Attorney's office but she was unavailable for comment as of press time.

"This is someone who brought a knife to a fist fight, and someone is dead because of it," Rifkin said to CBS Miami.

Hirsch has given Wyche's defense two weeks to present to him all witness statements as hearsay evidence. Then the judge

will decide whether Wyche will be released or if the case will go to trial.

Hearsay evidence is when someone relates not what they know but what they have heard from others.

During summer 2011, Peckins also tried to get the case dismissed on the basis the summer made it difficult to get a hold of witnesses as most of them were home for

the summer.

Hirsch ruled on April 5, 2011 Wyche would be held without bond – set at \$25,000 – before his trial for second-degree murder. The judge found Wyche to be a "substantial" risk to the community if released early.

Wyche's next hearing is set for Feb. 13 at 9.m. in room 2-5 of the Richard Gerstein Justice building.

Despite 19 turnovers by the Panthers, team comes out with win

WOMEN'S, PAGE 4

said. "After that, we caught their defense shifting. Then everybody started making shots."

The Panthers started off the night as bad as possible. After one half of play, the Panthers had almost as

many turnovers (13) as points (15). The second half was a completely different story.

"We put a little pressure on them and they didn't like that," Russo said. "We settled down and handled pressure a little better."

Starting out with a full

court press in the second half, the Panthers forced three straight turnovers on the Hilltoppers that all resulted in points. Fanni Hutlassa came on strong in the second half, at one point converting on two straight three-point attempts.

"It was time to wake

up," Hutlassa said. "We know we are the better team, and we didn't want to lose this game."

Despite committing 19 turnovers in the game, the Panthers shot 52% in the second half and pulled down 30 rebounds, 16 on the offensive side.

Low shooting percentage leads to loss at home

MEN'S, PAGE 3

In the final minutes, starters Ferguson, Allen and Taylor were on the bench for FIU (5-15, 2-6 SBC). "We had low energy," Wright said. "[We] did not have enough effort to win this game."

After three consecutive games shooting over 40 percent from the field, the Panthers shot 32.1 percent

against Western Kentucky (7-15, 3-6 SBC). "They played a lot of man," Ferguson said. "I missed a lot of point blank shots."

The one constant for FIU was its defense. The Panthers held the Hilltoppers to 27.6 percent shooting from the field.

"Defensively, when you play this well, you should win this game," Thomas said.

ARTS BEAT

Eco-themed After Hours opened spring season



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshman Joely Carpio interacts with Annette Turillo's installation piece.

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On Jan. 26, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum set into motion the first Target Wednesday of the spring season: Arts and The Environment.

Guests were treated with a great selection of art, food and music when the doors opened at 5:00 p.m.

At the heart of the Frost's first floor was a welcoming circle of four booths representing various eco-friendly organizations affiliated with the University. The

Department of Landscape Architecture, the Office of University Sustainability, the Agroecology Program, the Department of Earth and the Environment, and the School of Environment, Arts and Society all came with brochures in hand and ready to raise awareness about saving the planet.

Thelma Velez, the representative for the Department of Earth and Environment and former president of Organic Garden Club, said:

"The choices we make now can ripple through and make a difference for the only resources we have. Education is key."

An opening presentation by Jack Haime, president of the organization Bioplanet, was the first event of the evening.

Established four years ago in Mexico, Bioplanet is a nonprofit organization that educates people on beneficial actions for the environment.

They have already rooted their organization in Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, and of course, the U.S. Currently, they are working on community projects like the one in Haiti where 120 families are working to reforest their barren lands.

SEE ECO, PAGE 6

IN THE NEXT ROOM (The Vibrator Play)



Top: [From left to right] In a scene from the play, Junior Albert Campillo played Dr. Daldry. The role of Mrs. Givings was played by Senior Michelle Antelo, and Senior Alexander Machado played Dr. Givings. **Bottom:** A final look at Machado and Antelo, as the Givings, closed "In The Next Room" (The Vibrator Play). The play ran from Jan. 27 through the Jan. 29.



PHOTOS BY ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

The Department of Theatre debuted the first production of the semester, "In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)," written by Sarah Ruhl and directed by guest director Jesus Quintero. The play explores themes of sexual repression, the oppression of women and the difficulty of marriage. Turn to page six for a full review by Alfredo Aparicio.

TOP 5: APPS FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

1



Move over, Facebook! Twitter is the No. 1 app on campus. For those who tweet like there is no tomorrow, this app is ideal to keep your followers updated when you are on the go.

2

Need help getting somewhere? Google Maps will come to the



rescue, getting to your destinations successfully.

3



This application is perfect for when you leave your MP3 player at home. With Pandora, one can simply make a station based on a favorite artist and get a variety of the music of that genre. Pandora is a great way to explore new music that fits your personal taste.

There are some apps you just cannot live without. These are the top five apps for smartphones that you voted for. Look for next week's poll at www.facebook.com/fiusmlife.

COMPILED BY: VANESSA PAREDES

4



Ever hear a tune and wish you could know the source? Well, there is an app for that. Shazam lets you record a clip of any song and will identify the artist, song name, and give you information on how to purchase the music right on your smartphone.

5



If you are not quite sure where to get dinner or drinks, Yelp is the perfect go-to app where you can find user-generated reviews for any establishment. Staff, prices and ambiance are all commented on.

REVIEW IT

Women need more than a vibrator

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By its title alone, you might think “In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)” is simply a vulgar dramatization of the early beginnings of a sex toy, which was originally used to cure hysteria in women.

In reality, “In the Next Room,” written by Sarah Ruhl and directed by guest director Jesus Quintero, explores themes of sexual repression, trials and tribulations of marriage, and the oppression exerted on women through surprisingly human characters and grounded story lines, making for a very enjoyable two hours.

The play tells the story of various crumbling marriages and how they were affected when they came into contact with the “vibrator” at the dawn of the age of electricity circa the 1880s.

Senior Amanda Sparhawk’s stage design, which is the first thing the audience sees, is an elaborate and faithful representation of the time.

By combining the main sets (a doctor’s office and a living room), Sparhawk places both spheres in close proximity to each other and manages to make the action flow freely from one space to the other.

The open office space gives the audience a close

look at what exactly is going on when Dr. Givings, played to perfection by senior theater major Alexander Machado, is doing his “experiments,” but also maintains a closed-off feeling so that a minimal amount of privacy is achieved.

At the center of the action are Dr. Givings and his wife, Mrs. Givings, played by Michelle Antelo, a senior theater major, whose less-than-perfect marriage is starting to crack, as she cannot breast-feed her child.

On top of that, his insistence in performing experiments on hysterical women (even without admitting to himself that his own wife may be hysterical), is awakening Mrs. Givings curiosity to the sexual shortcomings of her own bedroom.

In this endeavor, “In the Next Room” is surprisingly realistic. While the “vibrator” is comical and interesting to watch, it is how these characters react to one another that brings together all the different threads of the play.

Antelo is, by far, the standout performance of the play. Mrs. Givings is far from easy and requires a deep concentration and dominance of character.

Her internal conscious is constantly working to untwine itself, and she jumps from humor to dramatics and back—sometimes in the same sentence.

However, Victoria Collado, a senior perfor-

mance major, who brought to life Mrs. Daldry, is not far behind.

While she is mostly confined to the humorous aspects of the play, her climatic quarrel with Annie, Dr. Givings’ assistant, is one of the play’s highlights.

Antelo and Collado together on stage was the best, considering they play off of each other’s comedic talents so well; the jokes are fresh and insightful, and ultimately keep the audience laughing as more serious themes come into play.

Annie, for the most part, is silent, but “silence is golden.” Caitlin Wiggins, a senior performance major, gives Annie the extra push needed to bring the background character to the foreground.

While she is mostly absent from the main conflict and drama, her brief scenes—full of mouth-twitching, eye-rolling criticisms—serve to shed light on who she is and how she has come to work for a man who has no control over his life and is obsessed with electricity, to such degree that he actively praises a photo of Thomas Edison hanging on his office wall.

The mad scientist routine of Dr. Givings can get old fast, yet he is a misunderstood man, wanting to find the truth behind the sickness of women (and men), and seemingly scared to explore a free sexual relationship

with his wife.

In this, I applaud the cast, including the minor characters, because it is no easy task to talk about sexual intercourse and relationships, let alone act out an orgasm for a crowded theater—but they do it.

At various times, I wondered how they could do it, considering that even a male character, Leo Irving, played by Lucas Hood, a theater major, had to act out at least two scenes with the infamous vibrator, giving him the inspiration to paint the wet nurse of the Givings, Elizabeth, played by Krystal Joseph, a senior theater major.

Aside from a beautiful singing voice, Joseph plays uncomfortable well, considering Leo is trying to paint her breast-feeding for half the play.

Dr. Daldry, the husband of the eccentric Mrs. Daldry, is ushered in and out the play to announce rapid fire one-liners full of sexual innuendos that always managed to get a rise out of the audience.

At the finale, the audience ultimately realizes that this play is about everything but the “vibrator,” although it does serve to propel much of the action forward.

“In the Next Room” is more about how human relationships are difficult and trying, but the love gained from them is more rewarding than the instant gratification of an electric machine.

Environmental works featured in Frost exhibit

ECO, PAGE 5

They are also working on their Million TREES Miami campaign, which is a community centered effort to plant a million trees by 2020.

The Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery, which can be found on the second floor of the museum, displayed Metropole/Colony: Africa and Italy.

The exhibit included maps, memorabilia, posters and paintings of the influence African colonization had on Italian culture. “We want to bring this collection to students—all students—whatever their major. We hope to have something in our collection that will inspire and educate them,” said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian.

“We want to bring this collection to students — all students—whatever their major. We hope to have something in our collection that will inspire and educate them.”
Cathy Leff,
Director
The Wolfsonian-FIU

Featured artists Maria Thereza Negreiros, Annette Turillo and Qin Feng displayed their own works for the evening on the third floor. Many of these works continued the art and the environment theme.

At the early age of nine, Negreiros found her love for art. Her inspiration was her surroundings in the forest of Brazil, and her love continued to grow not only for art, but for the place she came from.

“A Thought for the Planet” by Turillo brought an interesting twist to the normal gallery experience. With a mix of media, modern art and a public writing station equipped with stationary paper and colored pencils, Turillo’s display was very original.

Melissa Ussa, a junior, described it as “interactive, engaging to connect with the artist, and expressive about the only earth we have.”

Feng, a self-taught artist, began painting at the age of 14. He learned through experience and was motivated by philosophy and the Chinese language.

He has an ability to create different combinations of harsh, soft and precise brush strokes in the same medium.

“I do not start with an idea when I paint,” Feng said, “but let the movement of my brush to express its own message.”

The Frost will be hosting the next Target Wednesday on Feb. 22 between 6 and 9 p.m., which will feature ARTWORKS!, an art therapy collaboration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

30

MONDAY

BSU GAME NIGHT
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to students
WHERE: BBC WUC 221

FEDERALIST SOCIETY PRESENTS: PROF. RICK DUNCAN
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM INFO SESSION
WHEN: 4-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC PC 113

MIAMI HEAT VS. NEW ORLEANS HORNETS
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10-\$400
WHERE: American Airlines Arena

MIAMI SAXOPHONE QUARTET
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5-\$15
WHERE: Gusman Concert Hall

REMBRANDT’S EROTIC SECRETS
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: World Erotic Art Museum

31

TUESDAY

INTERVIEWSTREAM WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS
WHEN: 9:30-10:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: RSVP in CBA Career Link is required.
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE: TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS FACE QUESTION OF VALUE
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: MMC GC 150

EAT, THINK, AND BE MERRY SCIENCE CAFE
WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Luna Star Cafe in North Miami

THEOPHILUS LONDON
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Grand Central

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NATIONAL

Hillary Clinton: the perfect vice presidential candidate

NEDA GHOMESHI
Opinion Editor
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After a successful term as secretary of state, it is time for Hillary Clinton to assume the role of vice president. For this election, President Barack Obama should ask Clinton to run alongside him.

As secretary of state, Clinton has made significant, positive changes, such as taking out Osama bin Laden, skillfully managing the Arab Spring and pulling troops out of Iraq. In Nov. 2011, Clinton's visit was the first time in more than 50 years that a United States official traveled to Myanmar.

As the vice presidential candidate, she will be able to focus voters' attention on foreign policy accomplishments and distract them from the nation's economic failures.

Not only will she assist Obama in winning the Democratic party, but with her success as secretary of state, she has the potential to persuade Republicans too.

The New York Times columnist Bill Keller says, "Swapping Biden for the popular secretary of state is the best way for President Obama to ensure re-election." The U.S. needs Obama to win the 2012 elections.

Clinton was Obama's competitor during the primaries in 2008. Many times, she beat Obama. For the 2008 primaries, she won 28 states. More specifically, she earned 50 percent of the votes in the Florida primaries, while Obama earned 33 percent. Advocates of Clinton during the 2008 primaries will stick by her side during the 2012 elections.

In addition to her qualifications for the position, Clinton is an articulate campaigner, which was illustrated throughout the debates in 2008.

During a primary debate in April 2008 against Obama, Clinton said, "I think year after year, for, now, 35 years, I have a proven record of results... [I have a] passion for empowering people, for giving people the feeling that they can make a better future for themselves." Her words have the ability to captivate her audience, which is a key political tool.

“
In addition to her qualifications for the position, Clinton is an articulate campaigner.
”

If Obama selects Clinton as his vice presidential candidate, Clinton accepts the ticket and Obama-Clinton win the 2012 election, Clinton will be the first female vice president in U.S. history. This fact alone will encourage female voters at the polls.

Clinton has been a first lady, a New York senator and a secretary of state. It is time for her to assume the position of a vice president.

UNIVERSITY

Essay would add personality to application process

ESRA ERDOGAN
Life! Editor
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The University's admission process contained the most minimal application I had to submit during my senior year of high school. I was secretly glad that I didn't have to write another essay about the greatest lesson I had ever learned, but I remember being a little troubled that, to the admissions office at the University, I was nothing more than a name and an SAT score.

FIU accepted me without knowing a single thing about me, or the thousands of other students that are accepted to the University every round of applications.

The application to FIU is simple. There are a few forms to submit, which ask for a short summary of achievements, in addition to requests for high school transcripts, test scores, proof of residency and so forth.

Unlike the other major state schools, like University of Florida, Florida State University and University of Central Florida, ours is completely void of an essay.

The lack of personality in the application by way of a personal essay or a detailed list of extracurricular activities and achievements

reveals the University for what it really is: a business.

It's no secret that we, as students, are our school's cash cows. However, as an incoming freshman who was drunk off the lofty ideal of academia, I wished it wasn't that way.

“
A personal essay written by an applicant can convey so much more than numbers.
”

I wanted the school to care about me and my personality, and I wanted to be assured that my qualities as a person would add to the well-being of the University.

This cannot be achieved through a form

that does little to tell an admissions officer who I am or the quality of writing that I am capable of.

Students need to feel that they have earned their admission to the University. The acceptance rate to the University is 39.5 percent according to U.S. News, which is astronomically low when compared to other public universities in Florida.

UF's acceptance rate is 43.22 percent, USF's is 44.56 percent and FSU's is a high 59.52 percent. Based on that factor alone, students should feel a sense of accomplishment when receiving their acceptance to the University.

Part of that accomplishment should come from knowing someone in the admissions office read their essay and decided they were good enough, not just because of test scores and grades, but because their character merited it.

The most important reason that our application should have an essay portion is so the admissions office can use it to determine whether an applicant's writing skills are up to the University's standards.

We know that our writing skills will be tested throughout our careers as undergraduates just by looking at the Undergraduate Core

Curriculum, where all students are required to take two humanities with writing courses.

An essay on the application won't determine whether a student is capable of passing these courses, but it will allow an admissions officer to see the level of sophistication a student is capable of. This could, over time, improve the overall quality of students attending the University.

As our school grows, we have to accept that there will be a lack of personal interaction between the University's faculty and staff and students. This makes it all the more important that the application has an essay.

A personal essay written by an applicant can convey so much more than numbers and lists as seen in the current application. An essay shows admissions officers important qualities like creativity, morals and introspection.

By measuring applicants through a personal essay in addition to their application, freshmen will be proud to announce that they are attending FIU in the fall.

This pride will motivate students to do better, and not only will the University benefit from unique and intelligent individuals, but years later those students will become alumni who succeed in their communities with FIU at the top of their resumes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Influence of PACs

Americans should be very concerned about the influence that Super PACs, or Political Action Committees, are having on our elections.

Though theoretically required to be transparent about their funds, and technically prohibited from coordinating with candidates, there is very little actual oversight of their activities, leaving the public in the dark about who is disproportionately influence our democratic practice. If this is allowed to be normalized, it will have an eroding influence on representation.

-Romney Manassa
FIU Alum



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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SUPREME COURT

Question of what is indecent enters the debate, again

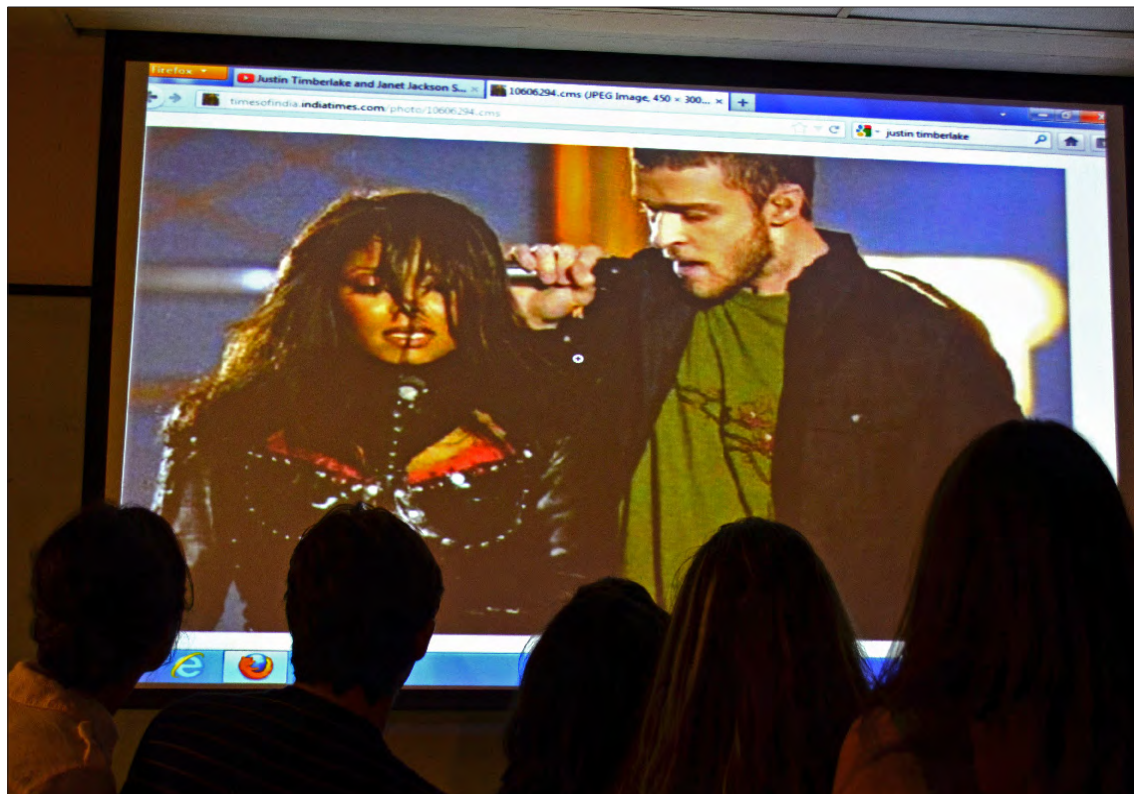
ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer
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A survey taken in 2005 by parents.org showed that 54 percent of kids have a TV in their bedrooms. With programming just a push of a button away, the survey also showed that while parents weren't watching over their shoulder, 44 percent of children would change the channel to something else, while 25 percent would end up watching MTV.

But 62 percent of these same children said that TV shows and movies depict violence and sex frequently and often influences them to think differently on those topics.

These findings have manifested themselves in a Supreme Court case presenting an argument on whether the Federal Communications Commission should tighten its grip on the major networks' incidences containing these profanities.

The focal point of the case circled around the ABC network. The FCC fined the network \$27,500 for each channel that aired an episode of "NYPD Blue" depicting a woman's buttocks and breast; the FCC called it



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

In light of a recent episode of NYPD Blue, the questions of what is and isn't indecent is once again being debated in the country's highest court. The Federal Communications Committee recently fined ABC \$27,000 for every airing of NYPD Blue's nude depiction of the female body.

indecent.

The lawyer representing ABC, Seth Waxman, humored the court by pointing to a statue of Lady Justice at the top of the court building showing her

breast, suggesting there was not a difference.

The networks argue that this is an intrusion on freedom of speech and expression, while the Supreme Court suggests that

the scenes depicted on television today are not as offensive as they may have been a generation ago.

Political science professor Rebecca Salokar believes there should be standards.

"The right of freedom of speech is not absolute, there are times where networks take their shows and programs over the top," Salokar said. "However, it starts in the households, where parents should be aware of what their children are watching and regulate what their children are able to see and not to see."

One of the toughest issues parents face is the fragmentation of media today.

"It's difficult to find a middle ground, especially being an advocate of free speech and as a parent," said Allan Richards, associate dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and YouTube have made some content easily accessible by children across the nation, making it extremely difficult to limit what children watch.

"In today's world because of economic conditions, parents may not be there to monitor their kids. I think the door has already been open for descriptive language and images to be portrayed, especially with today's generation, but there have to be standards set so those things don't eventually break the ceilings," Richards said.

TOURISM

Gaming industry's effect on local economy still up in the air

JOEL DEGADO
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With Miami-Dade desperate for an economic boost, the county may be ready to roll the dice on casino resorts.

A bill that would expand casino gambling in Florida is currently making its way through the Florida state Legislature and would allow for "destination" casinos to be built throughout South Florida.

If passed, it would open the door for the casino-operating Genting Group to proceed on plans to build \$3.8 billion casino resort where *The Miami Herald* building on Biscayne Bay currently stands. The group bought the 13.9-acre waterfront property from the McClatchy Co. for \$236 million last year.

Proponents for the plans argue that the casino resort will provide much-needed jobs for Miami-Dade County and will attract a new wave of tourism to South Beach.

"Many local governments and casinos appear to work reasonably well together to contribute to the economic base of their community," said Michelle Yoo, a visiting assistant professor from the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. "Casinos generally stimulate economic growth and development in earnings, employment and by per capita income."

Yoo, who received an M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and also worked at the Venetian as a marketing analyst in Las Vegas, also noted that the

Overall, FIU can play an important role in various areas as the effects are broadly expansive and reach recipients of public assistance.

Michelle Yoo,

Visiting Assistant Professor

Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

casino resort would potentially generate additional tax revenue for local community infrastructure, education and other social needs.

"Las Vegas and Atlantic City are examples of generally positive outcomes," Yoo said.

"Given the long-run payoffs of relatively high investment in education, infrastructure, and redevelopment of casino operations, there is much indication that the long-run economic impacts will be positive even in smaller communities."

Others, however, are not so enthusiastic about the prospects.

"It will impair the other gaming activities in the area, such as the Indian casinos, the race tracks and Jai-Alai," said Jorge Salazar-Carrillo, a professor from the Department of Economics. "Gaming cities are usually low-wage cities that employ a lot of labor. It is not going to be as helpful as some other alternatives for the county."

Will Miami become the Las Vegas of the southeast? Salazar-Carrillo is not convinced.

"Gaming is not going to be a big part

of the economy," he said. "It will not even remotely be like Las Vegas."

Salazar-Carrillo, who is part of the Social and Economic Development Council that advises the Miami-Dade County Commission on economic matters, suggests that the county should be expanding its base with more industrial and technological economic activities that would provide the kind of employment and activities that would require the payment of higher salaries.

The casinos, he said, would be a step backwards.

"Tourism and trade are the economic base of the county," Salazar-Carrillo added. "But from that base, then we can build other production activities such as transportation and technology, that would provide an expansion of employment at a higher level of pay for university graduates."

With the uncertainty surrounding the nationaleconomy, especially for recent college graduates, the county is looking for options to improve the local economy. Whether the new casino resorts are the answer is still not a sure bet for local skept-

tics, who site crime, traffic and draining on public resources as potential problems.

"What we have to provide for students are higher paying jobs and these are not high-paying jobs," Salazar-Carrillo said. "Many university graduates are leaving the county because they don't find enough of those jobs."

Despite the lack of proximity and direct connection between Modesto Maidique Campus and the proposed site of the casino resort, the University may find ways to benefit in terms of opportunities for assisting local government in certain areas of the project.

"Overall, FIU can play an important role in various areas as the effects are broadly expansive and reach recipients of public assistance," said Yoo. "It is expected that there will be diverse opportunities for FIU to assist the government involvement for casino regulation and operation."

The local population is split on whether or not the plans are a good idea with 44 percent support, 46 percent opposition and 10 percent undecided according to a recent poll conducted by Bendixen and Amandi International.

Senior psychology major Tyler Lutz does not gamble, but says he does not have a problem with having a casino resort in the area if it would help boost the economy.

"It's a good profit machine," Lutz said. "It is a good idea and those that have trouble with gambling should find other ways to avoid it. You wouldn't take alcohol out of a grocery store because there is an alcoholic that lives near by would you?"



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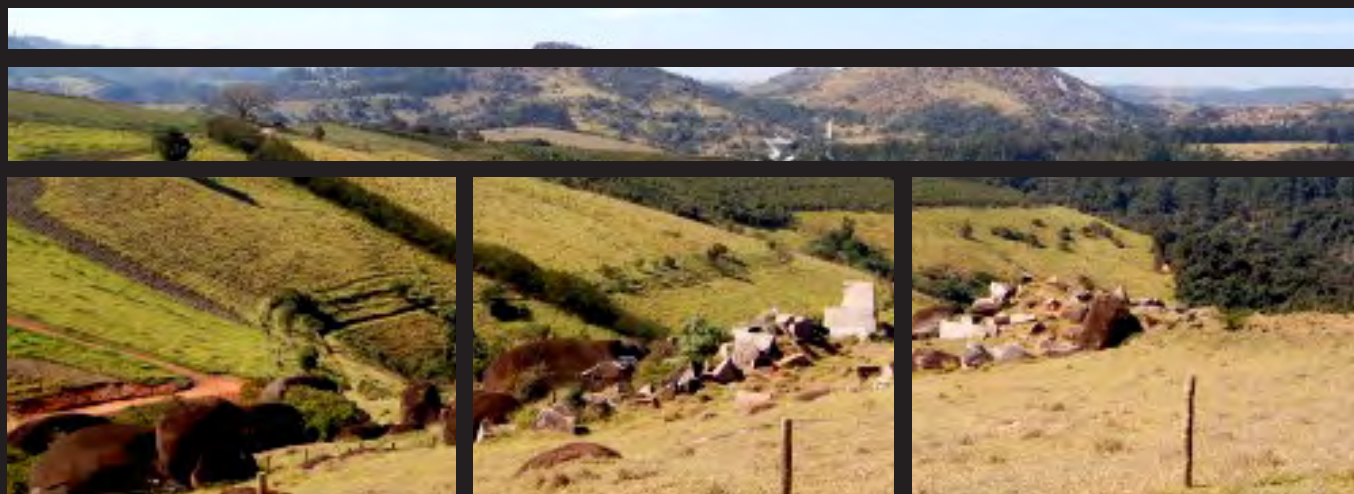


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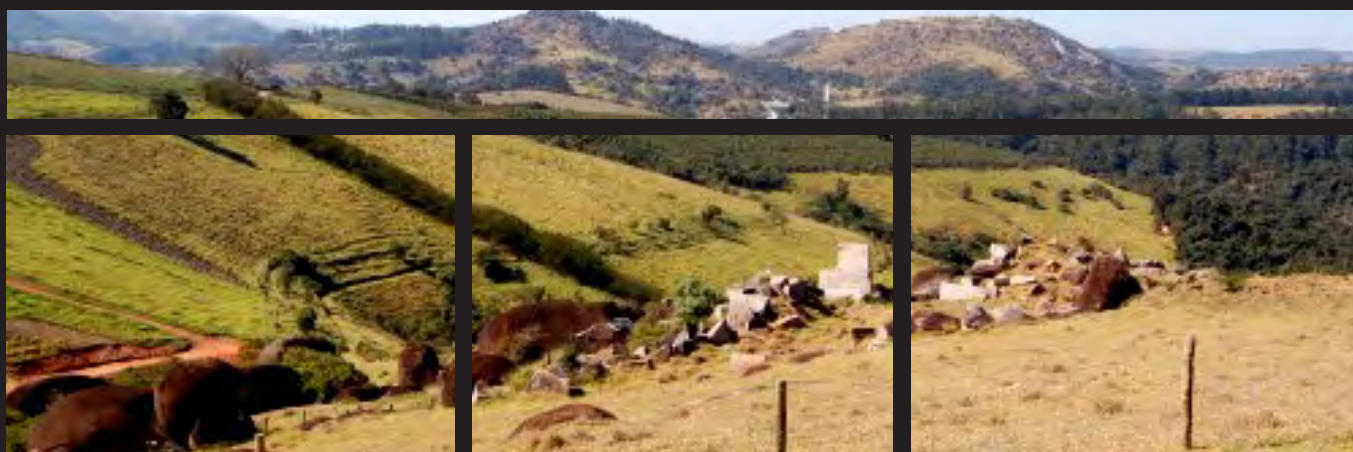


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