



VENEZUELA

Chavez expects all militia to be armed

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that members of the country's civilian militia, The Bolivarian Militia, should be issued weapons to be armed and ready at all times.



JAPAN

Japan issues travel warning for citizens

Japan has issued a travel alert for citizens living or traveling Europe, warning them of possible terrorist attack by al-Qaeda. This similar warnings from American and British authorities.



RUSSIA

Former mayor announces political move

The former mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, who was fired by Russia's president said in an interview published Monday that he plans to form his own political movement.

Recent teen suicides set focus on discrimination

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Last week, five young men from various regions across the country, different backgrounds and educations, ranging from 13 to 19 years old, had one thing in common—they committed suicide as a result of harassment for being gay.

This recent chain of gay teen suicides brings the safety and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual students on campuses nationwide, including FIU, into question.

According to the most recent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-Friendly Campus Climate Index, a nationally recognized assessment tool, FIU students gave the University one and a half stars out of five in regards to LGBT campus safety.

The University was given a composite score of two and a half stars out of five. There are a number of growing organizations and key individuals working to shatter these low figures and improve the overall experience of LGBT students at the University.

"For the university as a whole, there are a lot of things, which have not been done yet, but are in the process of happening. As far as creating different methods of dealing with harassment, and different methods of dealing with advocacy so that even before harassment, people are aware," said Daniel Anzueto, Coordinator of Student Programs at the Honors College and former president of Stonewall 2 BBC.

Anzueto believes that the University has grown considerably supportive of the LGBT community over the past five years, but understands that on a national plane, there is so much that needs to be done to ensure that bullying does not drive these students to make tragic decisions.

"There are a lot of other places that are not as friendly to the LGBT community, which causes many students to change schools, to remain closeted, and sometimes, horribly, to decide to commit suicide," said Anzueto.

By providing more resources and outlets for LGBT students on campus, the University's administrative advocates hope to create a sense of inclusion for these individuals on campus. More resources would alleviate pent up frustration associated with coming out or living with heterosexual roommates.

Both at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses, Graduate Assistants, Bridgette Wynn and Camille Perkins, are working for the Multicultural Programs and Services Office to focus on LGBT initiatives.

"I want to be able to expand this office so that students not only have this office but also a safe space for them on campus. So that when they walk through the door, they can be who they are, without worrying about harassment," said Wynn.

Wynn claims that it would be impossible to get a strong visibility of harassment,

LGBT, page 2

FORWARD MARCH



GLORIA BAILON/THE BEACON

Students Jose Pavon, Franz Flores, Jeff Buck and Victoria Acosta, all a part of the University's Army ROTC club, march in the Honors College Convocation on Sept. 28.

British policies discussed at roundtable

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

On Sept. 30 the School of International and Public Affairs and its European Studies Program presented a roundtable event discussing the impact of the British elections on the European Union which featured Miami's British Consul General, Kevin McGurgan, as a panelist.

McGurgan was appointed to Miami in December 2009 and his curriculum includes being the deputy head of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan and deputy head of the Iraq Policy Unit.

He also worked for the United Nations in New York on multilateral sanctions for regimes and has been stationed in Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The event took place at the Green Library and focused on

Britain's involvement in the EU and the challenges ahead, taking into account the UK's first coalition government since 1945, led by Prime Minister David Cameron of the Conservative party.

The discussion focused mainly on the coalition government, the economy and the Euro common currency zone.

The roundtable discussion began with a presentation by Dr. Nicol C. Rae, Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Politics and International Relations.

Rae discussed the historical context of Britain's involvement with the European continent and later the European Union.

McGurgan believes that international affairs and diplomacy are changing in Britain, with a greater concern toward

the rest of Europe, as EU decisions affect the British public.

"For the first time British ministers are speaking other languages," said McGurgan.

The coalition between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats was the key topic of discussion, being that it is extremely unusual in British politics.

The last of its kind in times of peace occurred in the 1930s, when it was struck by the Great Depression and

Britain searched for a way to combat unemployment rates by combining the efforts of Liberals and Conservatives.

Regarding Britain's position on adopting the EU's common currency, McGurgan said: "we are not going to join the Euro, but we want it to do well."

"Some countries should have left the Euro and gone back to their original currencies and

devalue them, instead of having a generation of debt," said Dr. Michael J. Greary, panelist, Fullbright Fellow at the Catholic University of America and lecturer of history at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

McGurgan also placed emphasis on the issue of global warming, expressing the United Kingdom's support for a better environment.

"We were in favor of the reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20 percent," McGurgan said.

Emphasis was also placed on future challenges, including the EU's constant debate on whether it should expand to include Turkey and the Balkan countries.

"Enlargement has helped to spread democracy from the Iberian Peninsula to Eastern Europe," said McGurgan. "[Prime Minister] Cameron is in favor of Turkish membership."



MCGURGAN

Campaign finance limits on ballot

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Associated Press

Public campaign financing became a hot topic during this record-spending election, so it's only fitting Florida voters will have the final say on the issue.

Amendment 1 on the Nov. 2 ballot would repeal a state constitutional provision that requires public financing of campaigns for governor, chief financial officer, attorney general and agriculture commissioner for candidates who agree to spending limits.

Supporters of Amendment 1 argue public campaign funding is a welfare system for candidates and the money would be better spent on the state's needs. Opponents say getting rid of the system would give wealthier candidates an unfair advantage.

CAMPAIGNS, page 2

WEIRD NEWS

Illiterate clown triumphs in election

Francisco Everardo Oliveira Silva, better known by his clown name Tiririca, is ahead of second-placed candidate in Brazil's presidential and congressional elections, according to MSNBC.

Tiririca usually appears in public wearing a blond wig, a red hat and a gaudy outfit. He survived an attempt by public prosecutors to bar him from running because of evidence that he is illiterate.

St. Paul man charged with locking girlfriend in dog kennel

St. Paul authorities report that Luke Brandon Scot locked his girlfriend in a dog kennel, according to MSNBC.

According to a criminal complaint, the woman arrived to Scott's home and told him she was breaking up with him. He became upset, locked the door, and punched her in the face.

Scott forced her into a large dog kennel and kept her there for a short time.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 18 of The Beacon, the article from the "At The Bay" section titled "Overcoming excused the topic for latest roundtable" incorrectly states that "Some Protect the Ego by Working on their Excuses Early" is the topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable on Oct. 5. It is in fact the topic of the Nov. 9 Tuesday Times Roundtable. The topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable is "Who's Driving this Bus, Anyway?! Agenda-Setting in the Age of the Endless News Cycle" and is moderated by Moses Shumow. The Nov. 9 Tuesday Times Roundtable is moderated by Maureen Walter.

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

Alliance aims for positive change

LGBT, page 1

ment issues involving FIU students largely because the University is a commuter school and student life is not generally centered on campus.

It is the hope of both Wynn and Perkins that new programs and events can increase student and faculty participation and education in LGBT initiatives, including Safe Zone training.

Safe Zone training is a nationally recognized training program for administrators, faculty and students.

The main purpose of the Safe Zone program is to visibly mark people and places that are "safe" for LGBT students through a sticker with FIU's golden panther trademark accompanied by a rainbow triangle with the

text "safe zone."

"It's an opportunity to be educated on something that people may not be aware of. That's a really big [part] of making Safe Zone something that the University supports, which they do, and making the university aware of it. It's our goal to get this to be a required training for all new hires at FIU," said Anzueto.

"As far as our programs coming up, we want to make it more student-based. We want students to be a part of things," stressed Wynn.

This emphasis on student involvement has come from the steadily growing organization amongst activists for the LGBT initiative.

Stonewall Pride Alliance, Stonewall 2 BBC, Stonewall Legal Alliance, Delta Lambda Phi, and the

upcoming GLBT Advocacy group are all supportive organizations that aim to "cover all aspects of student life on campus and bettering the situation of LGBT students," said Stonewall Pride Alliance President, Giovanni Correale.

He has been working diligently to organize the infrastructure of Stonewall Pride Alliance, and gathered executive officers that "are strong and able to move things forward."

"We're uniting the three bodies and, at the same time, are searching for members who are considered strong individuals in other committees to then represent their body so that we can all go together, and show the student support for positive change for LGBT issues," said Correale.

Public financing called into question

CAMPAIGNS, page 1

Nothing amped-up the debate more than Rick Scott's unprecedented spending spree to win the Republican nomination for governor — the multimillionaire businessman spent more than \$50 million of his own money to defeat Attorney General Bill McCollum, who says he had no choice but to accept public funds.

"So what happens if you don't have that kind of money? That's where public funding is important," said House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands of Weston, who voted against the measure being put on the ballot.

The federal government has public financing for presidential campaigns and Florida is one of 16 states that have full or partial public financing. The Sunshine State has had public financing for statewide campaigns for more than 20

years, and voters put it in the constitution in 1998.

The campaign financing program gave statewide candidates more than \$11 million in taxpayer money during the 2006 elections, when Gov. Charlie Crist was elected. Crist himself got \$3.3 million for his campaign.

Public financing has become a partisan issue in the Florida Legislature, with most Republicans opposing it and most Democrats supporting it. But candidates from both parties generally take the money, with the notable exception being former Republican Gov. Jeb Bush.

As for the federal program,

then-presidential candidate Barack Obama initially said he would accept public money, but then declined it on his way to shattering fundraising records. Had he accepted the money, Obama would have been limited in how much he raised and spent. Republican John McCain accepted public money and was outspent by hundreds of millions of dollars. The proposed amendment passed the Florida House 80-34 last year on a largely party line vote. The Senate voted 29-11. At least 60 percent of voters must approve the amendment for it to pass.

"If we are making a choice between (funding) educa-

tion, health care or campaigns, it's a no-brainer," said state Sen. Mike Haridopolos, R-Melbourne and one of the sponsors of the amendment. "Anyone running for statewide office will be able to find enough resources without using taxpayer money."

Although Amendment 1 was put on the ballot long before the campaign season, the Republican gubernatorial primary pushed the debate into the forefront.

Under state law, for every dollar Scott put in of his own money above \$24.9 million, the state would give McCollum's campaign an equal amount.

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FOOTBALL

Despite tough losses, Panthers poised for Sun Belt Conference

It's over. The seemingly never-ending winter that was the Golden Panther non-conference schedule has finally reached its merciful conclusion as the team returns home with a disheartening defeat against Pittsburgh in which the team simply had nothing left to throw.



COMMENTARY
JOEL DELGADO With every team, with the exception of this weekend's opponent Western Kentucky, having already begun their Sun Belt Conference schedules, the Golden Panthers will have an opportunity to get back on track.

Up until the final quarter of play, the Golden Panthers had made the Pitt faithful very uncomfortable and had incited considerable emotion from Dave Wannstedt, who at times was fuming up and down the sidelines with more anger and frustration than he had ever shown as head coach for the Miami Dolphins.

During the second quarter, in which FIU had successfully taken the lead and seemed to quiet the Panther attack, boos filled the air on a couple of occasions as fans began to wonder which Panthers were the better team, if only for several minutes.

Ray Graham scorched the defense with three touchdown runs and finished with a total of 277 yards rushing, the most ever given up by an FIU defense, to help make the final score as lopsided as it was.

Needless to say, giving up 28 points in the fourth quarter is not how you want to finish a tough road stretch and ended the

first part of the schedule with a resounding thud.

BENDING WITHOUT BREAKING

While the disappointment certainly lingers around the program after going toe-to-toe with opponents predicted to have their way with them and having those games slip away in the final minutes, it appears that the team enters the most important portion of its schedule relatively healthy and ready to make a run in the Sun Belt Conference.

And that will be very significant since the Golden Panthers cannot afford to have many of its players in critical positions sidelined for an extended period of time. Especially now. Especially when each of the final eight games of the season carry significant weight.

Western Kentucky, which also struggled through a tough conference schedule and will stumble into South Florida with a 0-4 record similar to FIU's will be a welcome sight when they take the field and line up against this Golden Panther team.

The visit from the Hilltoppers, whom FIU has had considerable success against in recent meetings, will be a test to see how much fallout will plague the Golden Panthers after that battering defeat at Pitt.

RAISING THE BAR

While measured optimism has grown in recent weeks as a result of the squad's performance so far this season, the results have yet to turn positive which has caused a certain sense of unrest and impatience among desperate onlookers.

Now with a more familiar slew of



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

The 2010 Golden Panthers have made strides statistically when compared to last season, but do not have a win to show for it. The conference race will determine 2010's success.

opponents lined up, the Golden Panthers will be squaring off against teams of a similar caliber and there is now a reason to believe that this team that was predicted to finish sixth prior to the opening kickoff may have an outside chance of making a run for a Sun Belt title.

But first impressions are everything, and if FIU is going to make a case for itself it will have to be during the next four games before they take on conference powers Troy and Middle Tennessee,

building a winning mentality and momentum before the final stretch of the season will be critical. And the first brick in that effort begins this weekend against the Hilltoppers.

It's a game that the Golden Panthers can neither afford to overlook because if they are unable to finish in this game, they will find themselves in a considerable hole.

A hole that may prove extremely difficult to climb out of.

VOLLEYBALL: WKU 3, FIU 0

Panthers downed easily by Western Kentucky

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

After FIU dropped a match to one Sun Belt Conference foe, another loss does not make it easier. And after starting the season with two wins to open conference play, the team's Sun-Belt Conference record is even at 2-2.

The Golden Panthers (8-8, 2-2 SBC) dropped a straight set loss at Western Kentucky (15-4, 4-0 SBC) with a score of 25-14, 25-20, 25-14 on Oct. 2.

Although the Golden Panthers struggled in the match, the team did have a few bright spots offensively in Sabrina Gonzalez, who led the Panthers with 13 kills, while Natalia Valentin put up 21 assists.

On the defensive side, Chanel Araujo led the team with 11 digs, while Una Trkulja had two blocks.

Not all looked good for the Panthers, as they committed 20 errors and only had a .084 hitting percentage, never having the lead throughout the entire match.

The Lady Toppers were led by Melanie Stutsman, who recorded eight kills along with 30 assists and seven digs. Lindsay Williams led the Lady Toppers with 13 kills.

In the first set, the Lady Toppers were able to get all over the Golden Panthers while jumping out to a 21-10 lead. The Panthers tried to fight back but eventually dropped the set 25-14.

The second set saw the FIU make a push to make it a 21-19 deficit, but the Panthers could only manage one more point, as Western Kentucky never looked back, as they finished the set 25-20.

The third set brought no luck for FIU, as the closest the Panthers were in the set was trailing 2-1. The Lady Toppers went on a 9-3 run.

While trying to established a comeback, FIU was able to cut the score to 19-12. The Lady Toppers went on a 6-2 run to finish the Panthers 25-14.

Western Kentucky Coach Travis Hudson told WBKO.com he felt pleased with the win.

"(Defeating FIU) says we're growing," Hudson said. "It says we're getting better. It says we're going to be a factor at the end."

The game was FIU's first loss to WKU since 2008.

The Panthers will look to put an end to their losing streak when they host Florida Atlantic on Oct. 8, which begins a three game home stand.

MEN'S SOCCER: MARSHALL 2, FIU 0

Marshall hands Panthers first conference loss

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

There was no shortage of opportunities on Oct. 2 in West Virginia as the Golden Panthers (4-4-0, 0-1 C-USA) and Marshall (7-2-2, 2-1 C-USA) combined for 30 shots on goal.

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, they could not finish on any of their chances and lost the game 2-0.

"We didn't capitalize, and when you don't capitalize, your not focused. We just weren't focused today," head coach Munga Eketebi said after the loss.

Michael Muehseler and Sebastian Frings led the way on shots each having two shots on goal in the contest.

They both came short to Marshall's goalkeeper Daniel Withrow, who made two great saves toward the end of the first half.

Early in the second half, the Golden Panthers dominated possession of the ball but constant counterattacks kept FIU's shots at a minimal.

Although possession was favoring the Golden Panthers, they got out shot 10-6 through out the half.

Nicholas Chase and Carlo Schmid led the way in the second half as each

had three shots on goal. Around the 50-minute mark, Marhsall's Sammy Boateng capitalized off a throw in on a set piece.

He notched the goal in the far left corner, breaking the scoring deadlock 1-0.

As the Golden Panthers continued to pressure Marshall, the counterattacks kept coming and gave Marshall its third corner of the match.

Off another set piece attack, Travis Brent headed the final goal to put the Panthers away for the night.

"We didn't mark our men, although our defense and our team played well creating opportunities they didn't finish," Eketebi said. "This sport is all about finishing and we didn't finish the game."

Golden Panthers goalkeeper Shane Lopez had seven saves in the game.

Thundering Herd goalie Daniel Winthrow had just two saves in his fifth shutout of the season.

The team has now lost back-to-back games after starting their six game road trip with wins against Jacksonville and Stetson.

The Golden Panthers will continue their road trip as they take on the University of Central Florida's on Oct. 5 and FAU on Oct. 9.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Forward Chelsea Leiva scored her fourth game winner of the season vs. South Alabama. The freshman has six goals in 12 games for the Golden Panthers.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: FIU 1, USA 0

Shutout keeps streak alive

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team went into the state of Alabama this weekend with two wins in the conference, and came out with two more.

The Golden Panthers took care of business, and just two days after the were able to beat Troy, they came through and beat South Alabama 1-0 on Oct. 3 to increase their record to 4-0 in the conference and 7-4-1 altogether.

The Golden Panthers started the game fast as freshman Chelsea Leiva put the ball in the back of the South Alabama net herself with a 35 left footer 19 minutes into the game. This was Chelsea's sixth goal of the year, as well as her fourth game winner.

The defense in the game was yet again a great one, as

South Alabama was only able to manage three shots on goal in the game. This allowed the Panthers to ultimately post their fourth shutout in a row, which is only one away from tying a school record.

More chances to score mean better chances to score. The Golden Panthers turned in 19 shots on goal for the day. Mayara de Fonseca Bordin out shot South Alabama by herself with five shots.

The Panthers were also able to limit South Alabama to only one corner kick for the game, compared to the Panthers' seven. On top of that, both of South Alabama's leaders in goals, Kasey Crowe and Kristyn Thacker had no shots on goal at all.

However, the Panthers were unable to get a comfortable lead to put the game away for good, but thanks to a great defense, still secured

the win.


"The first 30 minutes today, outside of our finishing, was a class in attacking and ball possession," Head coach Thomas Chestnutt said after the game.


FIU is now tied for first place in the conference with the Denver Pioneers.

The Panthers will try to continue both their shutout streak and winning streak at home on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. as they play Western Kentucky University (6-4-3) who are 3-1 in the conference, with their only loss coming from Denver.

After WKU, FIU will go head to head against Middle Tennessee on Oct. 10 at 1 p.m., a team that beat FIU last year, the only conference team to do so. Middle Tennessee currently holds a 2-1 record in the conference with a combined record of 5-7.

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RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay ready for sixth year of fundraising for a cause

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

Relay for Life is an overnight walkathon that helps raise awareness and money for The American Cancer Society.

Relay brings to light the courage of survivors who have overcome a difficult part of their lives as well as drawing attention to the plight of those who are currently struggling with cancer.

People from all over South Florida volunteer their time and walk for the cause while organizations across campus find creative ways to raise money by selling all kinds of food, goods and games.

From Phi Mu Alpha serenading ladies with Mo-Town tunes to Lambda Chi Alpha's own club tent, these innovative ideas to raise money not only help build a sense of

unity within the University and between volunteers, but also aid in funding to find a cure.

Now in its sixth year, Relay for Life will be starting off the 2010-11 year with its annual Kick-Off Party.

Heartfelt stories, unforgettable experiences, and a night to kick start a season full of fun pre-events are in store for attendees.

Facts about the cause and the disease will also be discussed.

A special guest-speaker from the American Cancer Society will also be chiming in on how the money is being used.

Those interested in starting a team will be allowed to sign up for just \$100.

Expect food, giveaways and a night of entertainment at the event.

Cailun McCarty, a veteran

volunteer, says, "We are always trying to improve Relay and our pre-events. So you can expect them to be bigger and better."

Last year's "Around the World" theme brought students, faculty, and members of the community together to circle around themed laps.

Every cycle was themed by city per lap; whether it was New Orleans Mardi Gras or Scottish Kilts, students dressed in wild fashions and costumes.

The theme was also the basis of many fundraisers as clubs found ways to support the cause from selling Cuban pork and yuca to American food.

Performances throughout the night kept the overnight festivities awake with student singers and even a stroll showcase by Multi-Cultural Greek organizations.

Although the event was all in good fun, the lighted candles remained lit throughout the night to show why FIU was there: to fight against cancer.

The school succeeded in raising up to \$70,000.

This year, the Relay for Life committee plans to raise \$85,000 to benefit the cause.

And with last year being FIU's best turn out yet, this year is sure to turn up the volume with a great theme to be named at the kick-off party.

The party kicks off Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 at 6pm in GC 243.

For more information follow Relay for Life on Facebook.com/FIURelay, Twitter.com/FIURelay, Youtube.com/FIURelay, and RelayforLife.org/fiusouthfl. You can also email Relay at FIURelayForLife@gmail.com or visit GC 2210.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO



CHRIS ADAMS/BEACON FILE PHOTO



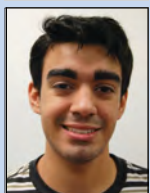
VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

PANEL PANEL

Marvel's short-run comic gives readers touching story

With five Wednesdays in the month of September, Marvel comics tried to pull off something small, concise and with an average pay off.

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

What they didn't account for was the heartwarming and relatable story they produced that garnered a large response from not only myself, but all readers in general.

Dennis Sykes is an extraordinarily average man. He lives in the suburbs with his wife and adopted daughter and works as a loan approver for a generic bank in New York.

Unlike most super hero characters, Dennis' decision to change his life comes before he is granted any special powers or capabilities.

While passing by an EMT getting mugged, Dennis all of a sudden decides that he is sick of being average in a world of

flying marvels and chooses to step up and do something heroic.

Sadly, his choice ends up with the muggers dumping an entire trash bin filled with biomedical waste down his throat.

The Fantastic Four's member, The Thing, steps in to save poor Dennis and brings him to Mr. Fantastic, the Marvel universe's genius scientists, to make sure he doesn't die from the incident.

Mr. Fantastic discovers that not only is Dennis alive, but he has also gained amazing matter-altering powers.

One would usually assume that at the time of this discovery, Dennis would become a super hero and fight crime for the greater good.

But Mr. Fantastic then explains the second condition Dennis contracted from the fateful event: a terminal case of cancer.

From there, the reader follows Dennis through his last month of life while he tries to help his community with his new powers,

reconnect and strengthen the bonds in his family, travel to the farthest side of the world in an attempt to find a cure, and even save the entire universe in deep space.

Throughout the five issues, the reader sees Dennis at his best.

Reading a character that is not preparing for death, but instead living every day to the fullest is uplifting and inspirational.

This is where the comic manages to provide more than just another stereotypical hero that fights crime, but someone who has a believable purpose to their life, no matter how short it may be.

Every issue guest stars another Marvel hero that helps identify Dennis in some way or the other.

This helps keep the story grounded in the rest of the Marvel continuity and every one of the cameos adds to the book without taking the spotlight off of the main character.

Just as important as the superheroes in the story are the average people, such as Dennis'

family.

In between his space-faring adventures, Dennis spends time with his daughter teaching her about a love for community and friendship.

He discusses life without his wife and how much he will miss her.

Throughout the series, the reader sees a realistic portrayal of a family dealing with a loss, and I doubt, with all the people in the world with similar conditions, that it falls on deaf ears.

The series ended this past September, yet all five issues are still sitting on stands at your local comic shop.

I would highly recommend a book like this. It is one that showcases not only some of the colorful characters in the Marvel universe, but gives them a purpose that any human can relate to.

Panel Panel is a column on comics. Look for it every other Wednesday.

Alum's documentary reveals life with disabilities

ALFREDO APARICIO
Contributing Writer

FIU alum, John Hasselbach, always had a passion for filmmaking.

After establishing the first film club at FIU, providing various activities such as workshops and a place to showcase upcoming films made by students, Hasselbach transferred to UM where he received his Bachelor of Science in Communications, with a major in motion pictures and a minor in theatre.

There is just one thing that sets John Hasselbach apart from the average student: he has Attention Deficient Disorder, ADD.

His disability, however, has not prevented him from achieving his goals. He made his first film and began his journey into independent filmmaking.

What originally began as a look into the life of those suffering from paralysis, quickly, and in part from the suggestion of Dr. Beverly Trott, became an in depth look at the lives of those living with disabilities.

The documentary, titled *My Story*, produced and directed by Hasselbach,

managed to provide an uplifting message of hope while dealing with the everyday frustrations of living with a disability.

The stories ranged from those who were born with their disability to those whose disability was caused by someone else's split-second decision.

Jaime Montenegro was a player on the FIU basketball team as well as an excellent student.

A month away from graduation, Montenegro left the Engineering Building and was involved in a car accident. His car was hit by someone running a red light and flipped over four times before landing upside down. Montenegro spent the next four months in the hospital, missing his graduation.

His paralysis didn't stop him though, in fact, it only gave him the strength to move forward.

His story had a happy ending: a year later in 1998, Montenegro received his Bachelor's in electrical engineering and now teaches at FIU.

Other stories consisted of those who were born with their disabilities but strived to put

their best foot forward.

One of the youngest to be interviewed was Allen D. Rubenfeld who suffered from Amnesia to the point where he had to put post-its all over his room to remember certain details, record his voice to remember what he had to do or already did and always have a notepad handy.

His story is still a day by day process in which remembering even little details could be the hardest struggle. As he put it, "It's like watching a movie and then skipping over parts without realizing it."

Dr. Beverly Trott, whose disabilities range from ADHD, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, to being unable to distinguish her left from her right took a more comical route when speaking about her disability. "If I would ever get a GPS," said Trott, "I'll probably have to program it to say 'right' and 'other right.'"

Another story, much like Jaime Montenegro's, happened to Kathryn Trionfo who, at 16, was involved in a car accident that paralyzed her.

In the weeks following the accident,

Trionfo "cried enough to fill an Olympic sized pool," according to her story in the film.

Her disability, she later realized, would not stop her. She later became Assistant Director of the Division of Student Affairs at the Biscayne Bay Campus of FIU.

Her advice to those with disabilities is to see the positives of a disability and not the negatives.

In regards to what happened to her, Trionfo said, "Just when you figure out life, life happens."

As for John Hasselbach, his credits include working as a Production Assistant for 20th Century Fox in L.A., small TV roles on shows like *CSI* as well as big productions such as *Stuck on You* with Matt Damon. He now works as a cameraman for Channel 17 WLRN, and has a few ideas in mind for his next project.

In regards to *My Story*, its message was clear: disabilities exist in all forms and are caused by a variety of reasons.

The film shows it is how one deals with struggles that demonstrates the strength of a person.

Diversions

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers in Friday's issue.

Puzzle Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Sudoku answers
from 9/29/10

Keep playing
every week!

CHECKMATE



DAVID BARRIOS/THE BEACON

Grand Master Chess player Renier Gonzalez takes on multiple opponents in the Graham Center Pit on Oct 4. This event was hosted by the Porter Davis Gameroom.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6

FIU GOLDEN IDOL FINALS



Find out who the Golden Idol is!

WHEN: 8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC Ballrooms

GO GREEN WORKSHOP

Hosted by CSO.

WHEN: 3 - 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 314

FRENCH MUSIC FESTIVAL - VIVE LA FRANCE!

Presented by FIU Music.

WHEN: 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET

Local produce, smoothies, yoga and more!

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain, along the red wall

POT LUCK: DINNER AND A MOVIE



Hosted by Conscious Eaters. Bring a dish (preferably vegetarian) and your own reusable dishware to reduce wastes. After the potluck, the movie "The Garden" will be shown..

WHEN: 6:30 - 10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: DM Acoustics Pit

BBC CAREER FAIR

Professional attire. Bring Panther ID!

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

THURSDAY, OCT. 7

A LECTURE BY MICHEL-ANGELO SABATINO



Presented by FIU Architecture.

WHEN: 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: PCA 135

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL



Opening day of the festival! Showing of *Italians*.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$10

WHERE: Regal Cinemas South Beach

1120 Lincoln Road.

For more info, visit www.cinemaitaly.com

ENGAGE Workshop

Topic: Motivating Your Organization

WHEN: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: WUC 155

FRENCH MUSIC FESTIVAL



Presented by FIU Music. With Kathleen Wilson: soprano.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/seniors; \$15 general

WHERE: Frost Art Museum

FINE ARTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Learn about the goings on in FIU's art community!

WHEN: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 343

YOUR SKILLS. OUR JOBS.
US PEACE CORPS

FIU SENIORS should apply now for assignments beginning in summer 2011

APPLY ONLINE and check website for events at FIU

www.peacecorps.gov

FIU Campus Rep: 305.348.1006

11200 SW 8th ECS 157



Public education needs restructuring

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

With each passing day, the world is becoming more competitive. As students, our competition no longer lies within our University or even our borders: it is worldwide.

We are now facing competition from all corners of the world, which continues to grow while the public education offered in the United States remains depressingly stagnant.

A confluence of factors are affecting the country's inability to effectively compete in this world. Primarily, the public education in other nations surpasses the public education offered in the U.S.

As a nation, we are seeing the negative consequences of our current public education as compared to what students in other countries experience. The level of math and science taught in our classes is inferior to what a Chinese student experiences.

For example, there are only 180 school days in the U.S., compared to the 251 in China. At the age of 18, an average Chinese student will have gone through 17 years of education compared to the 12 years for an average U.S. student. No wonder Chinese students start to learn college level materials in high school.

This analysis is not limited to China and applies to European and other countries as well. This is a dramatic disadvantage that will cripple the U.S. if not addressed soon.

“If the U.S. does not improve its education system fast, the students will fall further behind in the world and perhaps to the point of irrelevance.”

The U.S. needs to take away days from summers and add days to its school calendar. The additional school days will allow students to learn more and, with time, catch up to its global competitors.

Most nations force their students to learn subjects like math, reading and science at an early age. In the U.S., these subjects are briefly taught. This lack of focus on fundamentals leaves U.S. students unprepared for their future endeavors. The U.S. ranks 25 out of the 30 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in mathematics.

We are not just behind in math. For example, Finland has the highest rate of teen literacy in the world. Unfortunately, one in every seven Americans cannot even read.

These are some of the reasons as to why the public education system in the U.S. needs to aggressively catch up with the rest of the world. There is no excusable reason as to why the U.S. is not as the same level as its top competitors.

Students from other countries are

successfully earning a proper education that is putting them ahead of U.S. students.

During an *NBC* interview, President Barack Obama said, “Students in China, India and other fast-growing countries are already leaving U.S. students in the dust. They have caught up and now in some cases have surpassed us.”

Obama's statement supports the current reality that international students from China, India, Finland and other countries are taking U.S. jobs.

The Council of Scientific Society Presidents estimates that by 2011, over 90 percent of all physical scientists and engineers in the world will be Asians working in Asia. The U.S. should view this analysis as a threat.

The U.S. needs to revamp its public education system dramatically and quickly in order to slow this trend if there is any hope to reverse it. If the U.S. does not improve its education system fast, the students will fall further behind in the world and perhaps to the point of irrelevance.

Definition of family challenged due to morality, not legality

MELANIE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines “family” as “a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head.” America's definition, however, seemed to be much more on the fence.

A survey conducted this year, as well as 2003 and 2006, tracked the changes in the viewpoint of everyday Americans regarding the definition of family.

Brain Powell, the head of the study, found that while the percentage of America willing to consider a same-sex couples as a family has risen over the time of the study as a result of our culture's growing acceptance, there still remains a healthy portion of Americans who are more willing to acknowledge their dogs and cats as part of their definition of family before same-sex couples living together under one roof, with or without children.

For the sake of legal procedures such as lawsuits, taxes and inheritance to name a few, I personally believe that legally married couples, heterosexual or same-sex, living together and sharing property and name with or without children constitute as a family.

I tailor my definition mostly to the predefined and well-defined standards because while individuals living together or living with loving pets feels like a family, the legal definition of family should be the only one to apply when it comes to legal situations.

With Florida finding the legislature preventing same-sex couples to legally adopt as unconstitutional, the ‘family issue’ has remained in the forefront of the public conscience. But, as cases are going to court all over the country, it becomes more apparent to me that the issue at heart isn't the wholesome definition of a family. Rather, it's a cover for the touchier issue of homosexuality itself in our evolving society.

I found one of the larger focuses of the issues attempting to define family dealt with children and the influence a legal and local definition of family has on them.

While many agree that children are not necessary to define a family, to claim that same-sex parents with children are not a family calls into question whether each case is being taken into specific consideration on the capability of the individuals, or if the legislature is tenting the issue entirely by indirectly claiming that same-sex couples are not fit to be parents solely because they are homosexual.

Under the guise of family dynamics, there is really another non-issue people don't want to discuss.

The definition of family may vary, but more polar are the opinions and morals of the individuals tailoring the definitions to their own views regarding homosexuality. Instead, it has become more a war between old traditions and the new, changing norms.

Those sympathetic to the gay cause, those who define family in its broadest sense, risk social disdain or being labeled homosexual themselves. Those opposed to it, for whatever personal reasons, find themselves being called bigots or narrow-minded.

If the bottom line issue were to be addressed once and for all, however, then maybe the ‘family issue’ can be left to the family.

Gay blood ban ignorant, intolerant

BRANDON THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

While on campus, you may see signs that are encouraging you to take some time out of your day to donate blood and save lives. Unfortunately if you are a homosexual man you are not allowed to have the chance to save a life because you are prejudged and are believed to have HIV or AIDS.

There has been a ban on homosexual men donating blood dating back to the 1980s because at the time there was no way of testing for HIV and AIDS. There is now an accurate way of testing for HIV and AIDS. Therefore, the ban should be lifted.

The thing that boggles my mind the most about this whole issue is that blood centers like the Community Blood Centers of South Florida, Inc. and Florida's Blood Centers are begging people to donate blood, but when a gay male approaches to donate they are quickly turned away.

For centers to be in desperate need of blood, it seems like they

are highly discriminatory of the blood they want to receive.

If these centers are afraid of the risk of receiving blood that may contain HIV or AIDS, they should simply ask that they provide recent documentation that they are HIV and AIDS negative.

Another alternative is that they could perform an HIV test on-site, seeing as though they already test inquiring blood donors to see if their iron level is acceptable. A rapid HIV test only takes 20 minutes, and the test is performed with either blood or oral fluid.

These centers are ignorant because they are making it seem like only men can have HIV or AIDS, when women can actually be infected as well. In 2007 more than 278,000 women are infected with HIV or AIDS in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HIV and AIDS does not only affect homosexual men. It also affects heterosexual men and women and homosexual women. The fact that they only target homosexual men clearly shows

discrimination.

Solely focusing on homosexual men leaves a blind side open for HIV and AIDS to slip in. Allowing heterosexual men, women and homosexual women to donate blood without the thought that they

Ignorance is not acceptable when it comes to the issue of saving lives and discriminating against others.

may be infected is ludicrous. The center is forgetting about all the other possibilities for these deadly viruses and diseases to slip in.

If homosexual men want to perform a great deed for society and donate blood they are forced to lie in order to so. Being forced to lie in order to save a life is not fair, but many do so because they would like to donate.

If gay men have no evidence

of HIV or AIDS infection, or any other harmful diseases they should be able to donate blood. The fact that they are being turned away because they are homosexual disgusts me.

Ignorance is not acceptable when it comes to the issue of saving lives and discriminating against others. Homosexual men should have the right to donate blood and not be turned away if they don't have any harmful diseases.

In order for everyone to have a fair opportunity to donate and for the center to be sure if the blood they are receiving is clean, they should test everyone for HIV, AIDS and other diseases. This solution will provide closure for both parties as well as provide inquiring blood donors of their statuses.

According to *Givelife2.org*, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed daily. These centers should remember that beggars can't be choosers, and if these men want to donate their blood they should be allowed to do so.

VERBATIM

“Sesame Street will not be brought to you by the number 34 or the letter D.”

Russell Brand, fiance of singer Katy Perry, whose performance on the show won't be aired due to complaints over her outfit showing cleavage.

DISCLAIMER

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts (450 words) in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



PERU

Lima to have first female mayor ever

A victory by Susana Villaran, human rights advocate and former minister of social development and women's affairs, would give the left control of Peru's coastal capital for the first time in nearly three decades.



GUATEMALA

Drug suspect wanted in US captured

Police captured Mauro Ramirez Barrios, a suspected drug trafficker wanted in the U.S. for cocaine smuggling, and seized nearly \$2 million in cash his brother was carrying in two bags, authorities said on Oct. 3.



CUBA

More Cuban prisoners to go free

Elizardo Sanchez, head of the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation, revealed the names of nine inmates offered early release by the government in exchange for accepting exile.

Dock being revamped for student studies

BRIAN CORREIA
Contributing Writer

The School of Environment and Society at Biscayne Bay Campus is in the process of revamping the boat dock along the water bank to provide students further hands on learning for their on-campus studies.

All larger universities in Florida received an undisclosed amount of funds, based on their student enrollment numbers and staff sizes, from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to utilize for new building infrastructures.

The University is utilizing these funds for exactly what they were originally intended: to stimulate the construction industry and build further infrastructures to enhance the learning environment for students, according to Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences and director of marine sciences.

"We have heard that [the] University of Florida did not use the funds as instructed by the Federal Government, but rather used the money to pay for salaries

to help offset budget cuts in the recent years," said Trexler. "Their goal is to compensate teachers for their services to the students which will bring more students to their campus thus generating more revenue for the school in future years."

The University has already hired an architect, Mark Cruz, which developed the blueprints for the upcoming project and has already been awarded the necessary permit from Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management. The next step of the project is to engage the University's purchasing department to release an invitation to bid to external vendors to perform the work.

The goal for BBC is to build the boat ramp in order to take full advantage of all the additional resources offered to students by being located along the bay.

"Many of the renovations going on in the Marine Sciences building, boat dock and boat ramp are possible because the facilities at BBC are so conveniently located along Biscayne Bay," Trexler said.

PRESIDENTIAL FOOTBALL



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Having a conversation during Panther Power's Oct. 4 pep rally are (from left to right) Colt Anderson and Greg Ellingson, tight end and wide receiver for the Golden Panthers; Christin 'Cici' Battle, Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus president and Shana Kaplan, SGC-BBC comptroller.

Another initiative, still in the discussion stages, is to build a boat yard behind the maintenance facilities at BBC to secure the five boats in the event of a natural disaster.

"The major concern right now is when the next hurricane hits South Florida [it] will result in a costly destruction to the University's current boats used by biological science students and faculty," Trexler said.

Once the plans for the boat yard

have been finalized, the next stages, similar to the ramp renovations, will include: hiring an architect to come in to design the blue prints and then a construction company to complete the project.

Marine sciences, biology, chemistry and earth and environment are the disciplines that will have full use of the boat ramp and yard to complete their learning objectives once the renovations are completed.

Both initiatives are expected to complete by the end of the Fall Semester since the school must utilize all of the ARRA funds before Spring 2011.

"These renovations are an important step and will ultimately encourage the students to study the environment around BBC," Trexler said. "More importantly, it will make it extremely easy for students and faculty alike to work in the environment."

FOODGASM

Vietnamese soup: a picker-upper for gloomy days

GENE KRAVETS
Contributing Writer

On a stormy day, when the sun's rays are not present to warm my soul, I default to an alternative source: soup.

One particular variety of soup has won over my loyal devotion. In fact, it has become a sort of addiction. It's flavors are tantalizing. Consuming it involves an almost ceremonial procedure. And upon finish, this bowl of pleasure leaves you with a warm, fuzzy feeling and undoubtedly satisfied.

Although it's more of a whole meal than just a soup, the magnificent dish I'm talking about is pho, a Vietnamese noodle dish served in a large bowl with broth, thinly sliced meat and an assortment of herbs and vegetables.

Beef is the traditional meat used for pho, but sometimes chicken and seafood can serve as alternates.

Finding a pho restaurant is the

first step. Most Vietnamese restaurants have pho on the menu, however certain places specialize in pho.

Little Saigon in North Miami Beach at 16725 North Miami Avenue serves pho, while Pho 78 in Hollywood at 2430 North University Drive and in Pembroke Pines at 7849 Pines Boulevard specializes in the dish, but also has other vietnamese dishes.

The next step is ordering. Typically there will be a numbered menu of pho varieties to choose from. The only difference between the varieties is the cuts of meat that are added to the soup.

If you are unfamiliar with the names of different cuts, I recommend going with the eye-round, and/or brisket or flank.

Eating pho can be a little bit intimidating to a first-timer, but adventurous eaters can go for tripe and tendon in their pho.

Once you order, the steaming hot pho should be brought out in less than a few minutes with a plate of veggies

to customize the flavor of your broth.

Bean sprouts, herbs and jalapenos are thrown into the bowl and there are also a few types of sauces that are always on the table.

The red one is called Sriracha, which you can add if you want more spice. The thick black sauce is called hoisin, which you can add if you want more sweetness.

The not so thick liquid black one, which will smell bad, is called fish sauce, which you should add a little bit of if your pho is bland. Limes can also be squeezed into the broth.

Once you have customized the pho to your liking, it's time to eat. The two utensils you should use are the ladle spoon and the chopsticks.

The most popular method to consume pho is by holding each utensil in a different hand while alternating between eating the noodles with the chopsticks and the broth with the spoon.

The savory flavor of the pho can leave you desiring something sweet to

balance your palette. Vietnamese iced coffee is a delicious treat that people tend to enjoy after a bowl of pho.

The iced coffee is an interesting experience itself. When the iced coffee is brought out it is not yet ready to drink.

The coffee cup only has condensed milk in the bottom, which is like a thick sweet cream, and a device on top called a drip filter that brews the coffee right into the cup. If the cup is clear you can watch your fresh coffee drip into it.

Once the coffee is finished drip-

ping you will stir it to combine the condensed milk and it will turn a lighter brown color.

Then after transferring your coffee into a glass of ice that also comes with the coffee, you can enjoy this delicious treat.

Pho has become a passion of mine. Out of the many people to whom I've introduced it to the vast majority have also come to love it.

It is filling and a great picker-upper for a gloomy day. So next time you have the blues, or just an empty stomach, why not grab a pho.

WHERE TO FIND PHO

Little Saigon

- 16725 North Miami Ave.
North Miami Beach

Pho 78

- 2430 N. University Dr.
Hollywood