A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 24, Issue 3 www.fiusm.com Friday, August 27, 2010



Torture museum moves into Miami Freedom Tower, Page 5



# Poll finds most expect no change in Cuba

NICOLAS SARAVIA Staff Writer

Fidel Castro's reappearance has been generating a global media buzz, indicating perhaps that the tough old days of the Cuban government are not yet gone. However, the recent release of political prisoners might hint otherwise. These events have lead many in the Cuban-American community to reconsider their opinions.

The latest Cuba/US Transition Poll by FIU's Institute for Public Opinion Research, conducted in 2008, showed that 29% of interviewees think that a major political change in Cuba is likely to occur in two to five years. Since 2008, both Cuba and the US have seen new presidents and policies, which have brought mixed feelings among the exiled community. Yet, when comparing recent results with the 1993 version of the poll, conservatism seems to be fading.

"Most Cuban-Americans in the poll believe that change is unlikely to occur in the near future. Fidel's reappearance suggests that they are correct," said Eduardo Gamarra, professor at the University's Department of Politics and International Relations.

Since Raul Castro assumed the role of head of government in Cuba, his older brother Fidel has maintained an extremely low profile. However, since July, the former leader has appeared on the island's government-run news

CUBA, page 2



# Plagiarism cases at FIU hit lowest rate since 2003

**ZORAIDA PASTOR**Contributing Writer

With plagiarism cases still appearing throughout FIU, professors have resorted to new technology and harsher discipline in order to decrease the issue.

The closing of the last academic year marked the lowest rate of plagiarism cases, 51 in total, at FIU since 2003.

These rates come just two years after the University had the highest plagiarism outbreak with a total of 85 cases according to the office of the interim Vice Provost, Michael Ciccazzo.

"A percentage of students don't know how to use outside sources, claiming they didn't know how to cite, some students wait till the last minute and panic," stated former vice Provost Kenneth Johnson, now FIU associate professor of English.

Richard Olson, professor of Department of Politics and International Relations, states, "two things are going on regarding plagiarism; a lot of students try to work and take too many classes and by the end of the semester the pressure of deadlines tempts the student to plagiarize.

And two, a lot of technology has made it easier

than it has ever been."

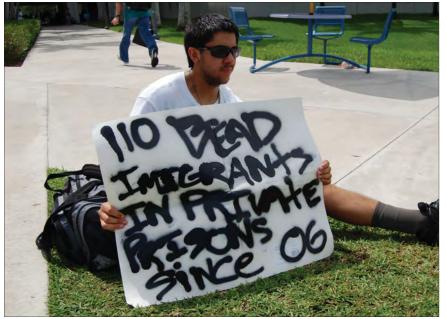
Johnson suggests that another contributing factor may be the culture and access that has made it too easy to plagiarize. It is just too easy to "cut and paste," Johnson states.

Other professors throughout the University such as Brian Peterson, Associate professor of history at FIU, suggest that students should already be aware of what plagiarism is through introductory English courses.

"By the time I see students, they've been told what plagiarism is, because they have

PLAGIARISM, page 2

# FREEDOM OF SPEECH



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Junior Javier Laguna, a CSO representative for the ACLU, protests unregulated private prisons. Laguna helped establish the ACLU chapter at FIU and is a psychology major.

# **NEWS FLASH**

# NATION

## 550 million eggs recalled

Eggs from the two Iowa farms at the heart of a salmonella scare could possibly be making into shopping markets across the country. According to MSNBC.com. the producers responsible for a recall of some 550 million potentially tainted eggs have found another outlet for the inventory that just keeps coming. They'll turn them into liquid eggs used in everything from cookies and cakes to egg substitutes and pet food. Patricia El-Hinnawy, a spokeswoman for the federal Food and Drug Administration, confirmed Wednesday that Wright County Eggs and Hillandale Farms will send ongoing supplies of eggs from laying hens to so-called "breaking plants" to be processed and sold. FDA and animal science experts say the eggs will be pasteurized, a process that indisputably kills the salmonella bacteria responsible for infections that have sickened at least 1,300 people.

# WORLD

## 72 migrants killed at ranch

According to Mexican government officials, 72 migrants were found dead at a ranch near the U.S. border. MSNBC.com has reported that the deaths may be linked to the Zetas drug cartel. Navy Vice Adm. Jose Luis Vergara says a wounded survivor reports that gunmen who identified themselves as Zetas kidnapped him and other migrants and took them to the ranch in San Fernando, a town south of Brownsville, Texas. Vergara said Wednesday that investigators believe the migrants were from Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and Honduras. It is still unclear why the victims were killed. Wednesday that investigators believe the migrants were from Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador and Honduras. It is still unclear why the victims were killed.

- Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

# BEACON &

### EDITORIAL BOARD

JORGE VALENS

PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF
CHRIS TOWERS

News Director

Gabriel Arrarás

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

LIFE! EDITOR

Adriana Rodriguez

Sports Director

Jonathan Ramos

OPINION EDITOR

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ

PHOTO EDITOR

ESRA ERDOGAN

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Modesto Maidique Campus: GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM (305) 348-2709 news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM (305) 919-4722 bbc@fiusm.com

> Editor-in-Chief: (305) 348-1580 jorge.valens@fiusm.com

> Advertising: (305) 348-6994 advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

# Poll finds that 55% oppose embargo

CUBA, page 1

agency, GRANMA, and has released a book containing his memoirs.

An event that has recently sparked much interest is the liberation of political dissidents by the Cuban government, which could be a step toward cooperation with democratic countries. According to the Miami Herald, Havana has accepted a petition by the Roman Catholic Church, releasing 26 prisoners out of the 52 sentenced in March of 2003.

Most of the freed men have been granted political asylum by Spain. This situation has analysts in the US and Europe believing that it is time for the modification, or even elimination, of the American embargo on Cuba.

"Support for lifting the embargo has grown over the years. After 51 years it is probably time to try something else," said Gamarra

The poll also indicated that 55% of the Cuban-Americans interviewed opposed the US embargo of Cuba, which was put into effect during the Kennedy administration. This contrasts with the 1993 version of the poll, in which 85% favored tightening the trade embargo against the island.

Last year, travel restrictions were reduced to allow Cuban-Americans to visit their relatives living in the island. A section of Congress and administration officials have reported the possibility of expanding traveling privileges to include American academia.

"The travel policies to Cuba were too strict during the Bush administration, and even though they have loosened up, I would like go on any popular commercial flight website and be able to book a flight to Cuba" said Marielys Dominguez, a FIU sophomore and 1999 émigré.

According to the 2008 Poll, 66% of

those interviewed did not favor the travel restrictions of the time. While in 1993, 60% opposed unrestricted travel for Cuban-Americans to visit family members in the island.

"Cubans that have immigrated to the US since 1980s tend to be more open in regards to the embargo and travel restrictions. Every year, there are less of those that came in the 1960s, which were more conservative, and with 20,000 Cubans coming in each year, the trend has been changing" said Hugh Gladwin, Director of the Institute for Public Opinion Research at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

As suggested by the polls, the public opinion changed drastically from 1993 to 2008. Yet, the recent happenings in Havana could have an effect on people's views regarding the future of the island nation and its relationship with the US, and the rest of the democratic world.

# Professors turn to anti-plagiarism tools

## PLAGIARISM, page 1

been through various English courses," said Peterson.

More and more professors have begun to use turnitin. com.

"It has become much more than a plagiarism tool. It allows for communication between faculty members," said Dr. William K. Beesting, honors fellow and assistant dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Turnitin.com provides professors with the numerical percentage of plagiarism that an entry contains.

A lot of students try to work and take too many classes and by the end of the semester the pressure of deadlines tempts the student to plagiarize

Richard Olson Political Science Professor

According to Peterson, the final product the professor receives is almost always

clean of plagiarism, all in an effort to "stamp out plagiarism," according to Peterson.



FIU has two resolutions for students who are caught plagiarizing: informal and formal.

A formal resolution may place a hold on the student's ability to register for classes, while the charges are reviewed by the Vice Provost.

A student who plagiarizes runs the risk of expulsion, suspension, disciplinary probation, failing or reduction of class grade, restriction and loss of privileges of FIU's facility, and restitution.

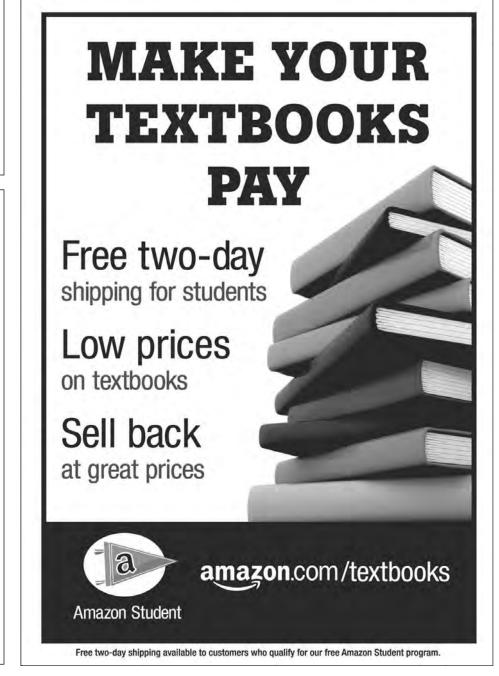
These consequences would require the student to pay back the University for damages, service to either the community or the University.

A student may also be asked to seek professional counseling or to take a specifically assigned class. The University may also choose to seek another appropriate disciplinary action.

An informal resolution is worked out between a student and a professor; the decision is ultimately up to the professor's discretion.

However, if a student and professor reach an informal resolution, expulsion, suspension or disciplinary probation will not occur.

The minimum sanction for a student found guilty of academic misuse, plagiarism is failure of the class and probation from a future forgiveness policy application, according to the FIU code of academic integrity.



# **SPORTS**

The Beacon – 3 www.fiusm.com Friday, August 27, 2010

**VOLLEYBALL** 

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME

# Golden Panthers to be tested at FSU Invitational

JOEL DELGADO

Asst. Sports Director

Many questions have been swirling around the squad taking the court this season for the Golden Panthers as they prepare for a season without Yarimar Rosa at the point.

Some of those questions will be put to the test as the FIU volleyball team travels upstate to kick off its season in the Florida State Invitational.

"We've done the best we could in the last two weeks of practice and it has been a successful preseason," FIU Head Coach Danijela Tomic said. "We feel good heading into the season."

The first match will pit the Golden Panthers with the New Mexico State Aggies today at 12 p.m. and will come back to play shortly afterwards against Florida A&M Rattlers at 7 p.m.

The Aggies, who received 14 votes in the AVCA Division I Coaches Top 25 Preseason Poll, finished 20-9 last season and 13-3 in the Western Athletic Conference. FIU defeated FAMU in three sets in their lone meeting in 2009 at the Radisson-UCF last season.

But the biggest test for this new-look team playing in the post-Yarimar Rosa era will be when FIU takes on Florida State on Aug. 28. Last season, the Seminoles defeated the Golden Panthers in the U.S. Century Bank Arena in four sets in the FIU/UM Invitational. Despite winning the first set, FIU dropped the match to then-No.22 ranked FSU.

This time around, the Seminoles are ranked No. 15 in the country and are coming off a season where the defending ACC champs made it all the way to the

Elite 8 in the NCAA Tournament.

But with the season fast approaching, Tomic was not concentrating her thoughts necessarily on the matches themselves, but on aspects of the game closer to home.

"We're not focusing on FSU or New Mexico or State or FAMU. We're focusing on what we need to do," Tomic said. "We will play the kind of volleyball we have always played with a fast-paced defense that goes after the ball."

Another obstacle that the team will have to face and overcome is lacking the luxury of depth in the lineup, relying heavily on starters to remain healthy and productive throughout the course of the season

"Depth is going to be a factor throughout the entire season," Tomic said. "My philosophy is that we have to deal with what we have and put ourselves in the best position to win. We still have a lot of work to be done and we can improve in just about every area."

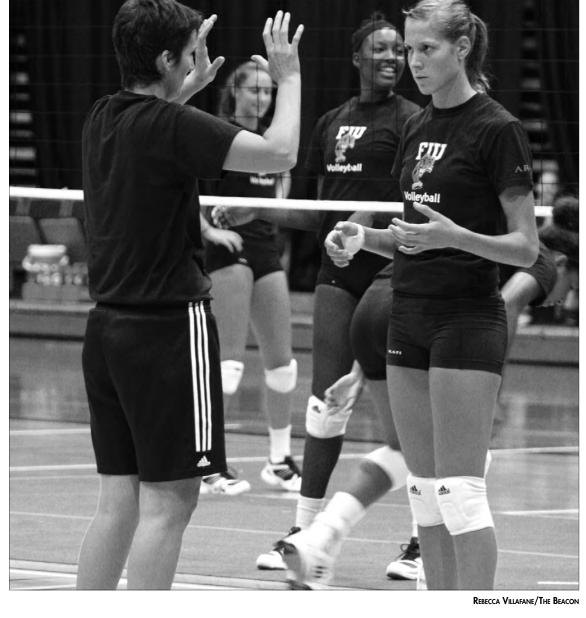
Regardless, the feeling around practices is that the team is eager to get into the swing of the season and get into game-time situations.

"The girls are tired of playing against each other," Tomic said.
"I'm excited to get on the road and have our team tested during actual competition."

### FRESHMEN IMPACT

Jessica Gehrke and Una Trkulja will immediately be able to make their mark as they debut as starters in during the opening weekend.

Both Gehrke and Trkulja are members of a freshmen class that has been regarded as one of the strongest classes in the program's



Coach Danijela Tomic [left] will be relying on the contributions of freshmen this season, including Una Trkulja [right] who will be in the starting lineup when the season begins in the Florida State Invitational.

history, and a unit that will be relied on heavily as the team looks to regroup and compete for a Sun Belt Conference championship.

Ines Medved, who played mostly in a supporting role during the team's 2009 campaign, will be called in to start for the Golden

0Panthers in her senior season.

"Both [Gehrke and Trkulja] have been improving as training camp has progressed and have been very coachable," Tomic said. "They fill the needs that we have as a team."

Nothing is set in stone as

Tomic indicated that the lineup may fluctuate as the season progresses.

"Things can change pretty quickly during the season like it did last year," Tomic said. "You never really know what is going to happen."

WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Golden Panthers look for first win of season at home

### **JONATHAN RAMOS**

Sports Director

When the Golden Panthers take the field at home for the first time this season against Delaware State on Aug. 27 at FIU Soccer Stadium, they will probably have as good a chance to win as any other contest this year. The Hornets (1-2) had a horrid 1-14-2 record in 2009. FIU, on the other hand, won the Sun Belt conference regular season title in 2009 and expect to be in the thick of the conference standings despite a few letdowns early in the season.

FIU lost its first two games of 2010 at Southern Methodist and Arkansas, each by a score 1-0. Against SMU, the Golden Panthers had six shots on goal while the Mustangs had just four, but SMU scored a late unintended goal to cap a win. The team will look for its first

score of the season against the hornets, who are coming off a 7-0 home loss to Delaware.

"The team fought hard in both games this weekend and created quality opportunities," head coach Thomas Chestnutt told fiusports. com. "It was encouraging to see the strength of the team on the road against two strong opponents that were both playing their first games of the season."

Chestutt and the players were unavailable for comment after practice on Aug. 24.

## NET MINDER

Junior goalkeeper Melanie Raimo, who had nine saves vs. Arkansas, is expected to start ahead of last season's conference freshman of the year Kaitlyn Savage again against Delaware State. Savage is still recovering from an unspecified leg injury and her status is unclear. Savage, who beat out Raimo for the starting gig early last season, was doing drills on the side during the team's practice session on Aug. 24.

## **NEW COACH**

Chestnutt has added Ameera Abdullah to his staff as a graduate assistant for the 2010-11 season, as announced on Aug. 24. Abdullah last was the head coach of the Gainesville Soccer Alliance, guiding a U-10 team to an undefeated campaign.

The former University of Florida star was an assistant at St. Francis Catholic High in Gainesville before that.

At Florida, Abdullah was a NSCAA All-American in 2008 and 2006 and was named a Soccer America MVP as a senior. She is entrenched as the Gators seventh all-time scoring leader, with career totals of 25 goals and 18 assists en route to 68 points.

### TRY OUTS

FIU will hold walk-on tryouts at FIU Soccer Stadium on Monday, Aug. 30 at 3:15 p.m. According to the athletic department, everyone interested in walking on must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours and have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5. More details can be found at fiusports.com.

## FIU VS. DELAWARE STATE

- What: FIU vs. Delaware State
- When: Friday, Aug. 27
- Time: 7 p.m.
- Where: FIU Soccer Stadium

# Times, Martinez impress coaching staff as season nears

**SPORTS** 

**IGOR MELLO** Staff Writer

After fall training camp ended and the first week of regular season practice has been completed, FIU head coach Mario Cristobal has taken notice of the possibilities of different lineups that he can used to line up alongside T.Y. Hilton.

Senior receiver Ariel Martinez and sophomore Wayne Times have impressed Cristobal the most at their position during camp. But he is not ready to give that second receiver role out just yet.

"You can consider them almost co-starters," said Cristobal when using three, four or five wide receiver formations. "You can feel good about starting either one of those guys."

Times had 19 receptions for 234 yards and reached the end zone only once last season, while Martinez had six catches for 76 yards, contributing mostly on special teams in 2009.

Greg Ellingson, who started seven out of 12 games last season, still has plenty to prove to the staff.

"I think he still has

some ways to go, but he is improving," said Cristobal.

Ellingson was the most productive receiver on the team outside of T.Y. Hilton. He was second on the team with 34 receptions, 528 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

#### **CYPRIEN AT HIS BEST**

Cristobal has like what he has seen from the secondary, especially from safety Jonathan Cyprien.

"Cyprien has been playing the best football he has been playing since he has been here," said Cristobal.

If healthy, this could be the first full season that Cyprien will start alongside Ash Parker at safety. As a freshman, Cyprien wasn't able to team up with Parker last season at safety because Parker suffered a second season-ending injury of his collegiate career.

Whether Cyprien plays strong or free safety is not a concern. In fact, with Geoff Collins' new schemes, playing both sides at safety may be expected from the two safeties.

"The scheme will be much better...we can talk to each other and just switch up so that the quarterback won't recognize [us]," said Cyprien.

Despite only having one interception and one fumble recovery last season, Cyprien wants to eventually prove that he is the best defensive player in the Sun Belt conference.

#### **LAPORTE HEALING**

Tight end Dudley LaPorte participated in seven on seven drills despite wearing an orange practice jersey. Cristobal expects him to be at, "full-go" by the end of the

Jonathan Faucher, another tight end, also wore the orange jersey. He is limited and did not participate in full contact drills. He is expected back by next practice.

"Keeping him in an orange jersey away from contact, just to make sure that ankle is stable," said Cristobal.

Sophomore linebacker Larvez "Pooh Bear" Mars, who injured his ankle, may not be recovering as fast as previously expected.

"We were hoping for it to heal a little quicker," said Cristobal

Cristobal said Mars' status for the season opener against on Sept. 11 is unclear.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Wayne Times [right] is working to take a more prominent role alongside T.Y. Hilton [left].

FLORIDA MARLINS

# Financial documents show Marlins made large profits

**STEVEN WINE** AP Sports Writer

The Florida Marlins made big profits with baseball's smallest player payroll in 2008-09, and team president David Samson says the income was needed to ensure being able to borrow money for a new ballpark.

Team financial statements acquired by Deadspin.com show the Marlins netted \$49 million during the two seasons, with operating income of \$37.8 million in 2008 and \$11.1 million in 2009. Samson didn't dispute the figures during a conference call Monday.

"It was critical for us as a team to make sure we had enough money to put into the ballpark," he said.

The Marlins had the lowest player payroll in the major leagues both seasons: \$22 million in 2008 and \$37 million in 2009.

Last winter they reached an agreement with the players' union to increase spending in the wake of complaints team payroll had been so small as to violate baseball's revenue sharing provisions.

Under owner Jeffrey Loria, the franchise has always claimed payroll matches revenue. In explaining the 2008-09 profits, Samson said there was another part of the equation: the need to borrow money for ballpark financing.

"We had to show that we were a healthy company that was not overleveraged, having too much debt," he said.

"The information that is now public basically confirms everything that we have said over the years in terms of how we have operated the team with an eye toward one thing, and that was making sure that baseball would be secure in South Florida, and we would be able to contribute what was required in order to consummate a stadium transaction."

The Marlins' profits in 2008 came after they traded All-Star slugger Miguel Cabrera following the 2007 season, one of many cost-cutting moves under Loria.

"We could have had Cabrera and no ballpark," Samson said.

Florida's new home is expected to open in 2012.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$609 million, with the Marlins paying more than \$120 million.

While Samson said the financial statements support what he has said in the past, he said he was disappointed the numbers had been made public.

When asked why, he said: "It's just that we're a private company. ... 'Disappointed' is the exact word. Not angry. Not putting our head in the sand. Not denying it. Not kicking and screaming like petulant children. Disappointed."

Samson said the leaking of the documents was a crime.

"It will be followed up intensely by Major League Baseball and its member clubs," he said.

The Marlins' financial statements became public one day after The Associated Press reported that the cellar-dwelling Pittsburgh Pirates made nearly \$29.4 million in 2007 and 2008, according to team documents.





### Student Day / 12-3pm

Target Wednesday After Hours kicks off its second season with a full day of events. Students join us for a special welcome back bash. FIU students enjoy a free BBQ and tons of giveaways from Target, Career Services, Athletics, Alumni Association and Student Government. Music, food, and games take place on the Avenue of the Arts right in front of The Museum's doors.

### Faculty Exhibition Opening Reception / 6-9pm

Then join us in the evening for our first Target Wednesday of the season with two new faculty exhibitions: After History by Jacek Kolasinski and DEMONS nature/nurture by Kathy Dambach.

Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum's exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events please visit http://thefrost.fiu.edu

















The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University 10975 SW 17th Street | Miami, Florida | 33199 http://thefrost.fiu.edu | 305.348.2890

Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.



The Beacon – 5 www.fiusm.com Friday, August 27, 2010

# Medieval tools in Torture Museum exhibit

MARIA MURRIEL Staff Writer

A human skeleton in a heavy iron cage, a wax model of a naked man cuffed upside down by the wrists and ankles screams as he is skinned by a hunched figure, his face in panic. All this awaits patrons at the Museum of Torture.

European torture artifacts dating as far back as the 1500s have made their way over from Italy's Museo Medieval to make up "Instruments of Torture through the Ages."

Housed by the Freedom Tower, an adjunct of Miami Dade College's downtown Wolfson Campus, the exhibit is free to MDC students and open every day from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The exhibition rooms are set up in dark colors: black panels, red accents.

It's a cold three-section display of machines, chairs, instruments, and imprisonment materials ranging from the popular stocks to iron maidens and breast-ripping tongs, and ending in a wax recreation of the Spanish Inquisition.

In the first room, a wax woman sits unclothed atop a pointed wooden pyramid with heavy bags hanging from her feet and her hands, which are tied behind her back.

Next to her is a wind apparatus that fuels the burning of the soles of men's feet while they are tied to wooden planks. Around them, behind glass panes, are black and rusty metal cutters and pincers used to cut off tongues and limbs.

Deeper into that main room, a rotting corpse hangs inside a body-tight cage modeled to restrict movement. Next to him is a hooded reaper looming over an axe; he is the executioner.

These things are centuries old. They have shed human blood from the time of the Renaissance and even a little before.

They've survived in private collections mostly around Italy and carry with them a silent mourning of the souls they slowly, brutally and most painfully ripped from hundreds of thousands of people. The cold iron, now without use, is the same in all the instruments from the pincers to the torture chairs and body saws: rough, porous and unyielding.

By far, the most gruesome section is the small side room with the chastity belts and chains with spikes used by religious men voluntarily for penance.

An interrogation chair covered in small even thorns and a heavy iron maiden stand at each end of the room, ominous, chilling.

The instruments of sexual torture held in a corner of the room seem almost unbelievable, especially for the time at which they were used. The one shaped like a pear was introduced into a prisoner's orifices, be it the mouth, vagina or anus, and then opened into four blades, deep within the subject's tissue.

The descriptions of each torture station

state that, amazingly, some of these methods are still in use today.

What's more, some of the torture methods on display have in fact been used by U.S. authorities in recent years.

Amnesty International, a co-producer of the "Instruments of Torture," has scheduled events and lectures alongside MDC throughout the exhibit's run. From April 2, when it first opened to the public, to Aug. 29, AI is sticking to their mission of working to stop these barbaric acts from happening in today's world, and in the future.

As a human rights organization, their

take on the torture museum is one of prevention through remembrance. They've compiled a showcase of pain, terror and perturbing, spine-crushing medieval practices to demonstrate the extent of human rage and hatred and its results, in hopes that it will educate people on tolerance today.

Jhonatan Larrocha, an MDC student and museum-goer said, as he left the exhibit, "People are sick."

Exactly what Amnesty International tries to replicate.

This weekend is your last chance to catch the exhibit. It closes



# Pool party gets students excited for school year

### **HEAT STROKE**, page 1

Garcia's main aim during this event is to motivate students in attendance to have as much school spirit as her and her committee through leading by example.

"I want my fellow FIU Golden Panthers to get excited not only about the new school year beginning, but to also get pumped in anticipation of the football season. My excitement over this event stems from my un-ending school spirit," said Garcia.

While the success of this event has been facilitated by Panther Rage for the past five years, this year they look forward to an all-time attendance high compared to last year's pool party. In part due to a collaboration with Athletics, they recognized that, as a part of SGC-MMC, Panther Rage would have a marketing strategy designed to engage the student body as both organizations eager to increase attendance at athletic events.

"There are a few factors that ensure increased success this year, including increased visibility through SGC-MMC, the increase of students living on campus during the fall 2010 semester, the level of commitment that the members of the Committee have displayed in planning the event, the marketing strategy employed, and most importantly, the increased participation of the Department of Athletics," said Panther Rage Coordinator Daniel Fernandez.

Recently, Panther Rage transitioned from a governing council to a committee within SGC-MMC. They now have an increased access to resources for the planning and execution of their spirited events in order to make their goal of the development and advancement of school spirit to be realized.

"I can honestly say that while the journey has been difficult, it has been rewarding. I have seen Panther Rage become not only more efficient in the planning and execution of events, but a more solid, focused organization with pointed objectives," said Fernandez.

Panther Rage Marketing Coordinator Oliver Diaz-Neda stresses that while football is often the sport with the most attention, the purpose of this event is to celebrate the level of athleticism present at the University.

"Most of our athletic teams participate in their relative sports at the highest divisions. Even more, most of our athletes are not only accomplished sportsmen and women, but accomplished scholars as well. We will all be in attendance at the Heat Stroke Pool Party to celebrate athleticism at FIU at its finest hour," said Diaz-Neda

The Fifth Annual Heat Stroke Pool Party presented by the Panther Rage Committee of the Student Government Council will take place on Aug. 28 in the Housing Quad Pool at MMC from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

# 5TH ANNUAL HEAT STROKE

## **Pool Party**

- Time: 12:00 p.m.
- When: 08/28/10
- Where: Housing Quad Pool- MMC

# **WEEK OF WELCOME**



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Comedian Arvin Mitchell performs in GL 100 on Aug. 24 as part of Week of Welcome events.

#### 0

# British actor Elba discusses new film role and heritage

**STEVE MESA**Staff Writer

Ever since his breakout role as Stringer Bell on *The Wire*, British actor Idris Elba has played a variety of characters from Beyonce Knowles' husband in *Obsessed* to Oscar-winner Denzel Washington's drugdealing rival in *American Gangster*.

In *Takers*, Elba stars alongside Paul Walker, Chris Brown and Hayden Christensen as the leader of a notorious group of criminals that execute perfectly planned bank heists that keeps police baffled and the criminals out of jail.

When the group attempts another robbery with extremely high stakes, the crew may find their plans interrupted by a veteran detective (Matt Dillon) who is determined to solve the case of their previous robbery.

Elba was in town for the film's press tour and *The Beacon* sat down with the actor.

Elba first got involved with *Takers* when he was given a first look at script given to him by producer Will Packer, in which Elba really liked the script.

Elba and Packer have collaborated on many films together like *This Christmas* 

and *Obsessed*. Elba first collaborated with producer Will Packer in 2005 with his role in *The Gospel*.

"I was very fortunate to get the role of Reverend Frank in *The Gospel*, which could have gone to any number of actors," Elba says. "He gave me a shot."

Elba says that he likes to collaborate with Packer because he is a force to reckon with and that he likes to challenge himself and the filmmakers he works with.

Elba has been using a standard American accent to play characters in American-produced films such as *The Losers* and *The Reaping*.

Even though he says it did not make a difference to him as an actor to use his native British accent in *Takers*, he says that it is nice to represent his culture in an American film.

"It was my choice to use my accent or not," Elba says. "It was originally written as an American and it was a choice that made the film have a more international feel."

Aside from with the cast members who play his motley crew of criminals, Elba was able to work with British Oscar-nominated actress Marianne Jean-Baptiste, who plays his sister Naomi.

"She brought what I wanted to see in this character, which is the Afro-Caribbean experience for those who are of Afro-Caribbean descent in England that has never been put on television or on films much," Elba says. "While she is Jamaican and I am West African, we understand we are from in London and it was great doing it."

Not only is Elba just an actor, but he also happens to be Anti-Crime Ambassador for the Prince's Trust, which is Prince Charles' personal foundation.

"Basically what we do is bring awareness to the situation that is happening in England and in London, where kids as young as twelve are in gangs and there are tons of criminal activities," Elba says. "What I want to do is bring that awareness to certain groups around the world that not only includes police and governing bodies, but parent association groups. Every now and again, I go to the streets and speak with kids about crime. When I was doing Luther, I invited some of the kids to come on the set to see me work."

Elba has two upcoming films that include a movie that he produced called *Legacy* in which he plays a tortured Black Ops operative returning home after a botched mission.

Next summer, he will appear as Heimdall in the Marvel comic book adaptation, *Thor*. Elba will also be the second actor to play James Patterson's Dr. Alex Cross, a role originated by Oscar-winner Morgan Freeman in previous Patterson adaptations, *Kiss the Girls* and *Along Came a Spider*.



ROB LOUD/AP IMAGES

FISTFULS OF TECH

# New set-top boxes will bring death knell to cable TV

With the rumors of a refreshed Apple "iTV" on the horizon and a confirmed Google TV on the way, we might be witnessing something pretty interesting: the death of cable

television.



COLUMNIST

JORGE VALENS

Let's get one thing clear: cable television should die.

It's an archaic and closed system that has been gouging customers with premium channels and \$10 pay-perview movies for decades.

Online streaming services like Netflix and Hulu didn't

spell the end for our dark cable lords until they were able to make the leap from the computer screen to the television.

Something about watching *The Office* hunched over a 15" screen just turned the average user away.

But when Netflix, and soon Hulu's new subscription service, began popping up on gaming consoles and Blu-ray players, they allowed people to actually sit back, relax and actually watch TV.

But video game consoles and Blu-ray players aren't enough.

In order to kill cable, they'll need something more; they'll need hardware.

Google and Apple powered set-top boxes are just what they need.

Not only do these boxes bring a full Internet experience, but they will be a much valued and a more reasonably priced alternative to the expensive world of cable.

Google TV will arrive this fall for a rumored price of about \$300 and plans to mesh together your TV, digital video recorder, and the Internet.

The service will also come pre-loaded in certain televisions and be available through Dish Network, who no doubt realized the doom this product would bring them and decided to succumb to the beast and hope for mercy.

The iTV, however, is playing for keeps as

The box is rumored to be packing a slightly retooled version of iOS 4, the very same oper-

ating system in the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad.

By leveraging iOS 4, the iTV would offer consumers over 200,000 applications right from the start.

Not only do Netflix and Hulu have applications on the Apple App Store already, but network TV channels like ABC already have applications on the store that allow users to stream their content.

The biggest strength iTV could have is not access to the App Store or iOS4, but pricing.

Various sources are saying that the company will price the iTV at \$99, making it extremely competitive against its higher-priced competition.

A shoot-out between Google and Apple over who dominates our television is inevitable.

Both companies see vast potential in untapped advertising revenues and both see it as an opportunity to grow their respective mantras; Apple's being "please buy our stuff" and Google's being "please use the Internet so we can be richer."

In this fight however, I am going to have to place my bets on Apple.

The closed "walled garden" that is iOS 4 and the App Store are the ideal business platform for cable companies and content providers

They like control and Apple can give it to

Developing an app is easy and, if it pans out like I think it will, you'll soon be seeing not just cable companies creating apps that stream content, but movie studios and media organizations as well.

Though there is still a chance that users can get taken advantage of in this system, it give them a little more control as well.

Subscribing to services a la carte will allow them to save more money and get only what they need, rather than a vast wasteland of 1,000 channels for \$130 a month.

So as Google and Apple wage a battle for yet another brightly lit screen in your home, cable TV will ride off in to the sunset, slumped over on its horse.

# WEEKEND EVENTS!

SATURDAY, AUG. 28

## FRIDAY, AUG. 27

#### PANTHER CAMP REUNION

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: GC 243

### PEPSI FLOAT PARTY

WHEN: 2 p.m.- 4p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: PG 5

### OPEN MIC NIGHT

WHEN: 8 p.m.- 11 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Chili's Too

## FREE POOL

WHEN: 12 p.m.-HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: GC Game Room

# FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: A BICYCLE COUNTRY

WHEN: 8:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: \$10 WHERE :Performing Arts Center

# TRAVIE MC COY & WILL. I.AM

WHEN: Midnight WHERE: LIV at the Fontainebleu

#### PECULIAR PLAYMATES: CURIOUS SCULPTURAL ARTWORKS

HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Bear+Bird Boutique and Gallery

#### GAMESTOP TOURNA-MENT

WHEN: 2p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: GC Pit

#### FIU THEATRE PRES-ENTS: A BICYCLE COUNTRY

WHEN: 8:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: \$10 WHERE :Performing Arts

#### **HEAT STROKE PARTY** Annual Pool Party

WHEN: 12 p.m.- 6 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Housing Quad Pool

# ERAS DEL TANGO

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: \$36-\$48 WHERE: Colony Theater

### **GET SOME**

WHEN: 10:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: \$10 WHERE: Electric Pickle

# SUNDAY, AUG. 29

# **GANGSTER'S PARADISE** Ends today!

WHEN: All day HOW MUCH: \$5-\$8 WHERE: Historical Museum of South Florida

#### RHYTHM SUNDAYS SERIES

WHEN: 12 p.m.- 3p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Bal Harbour Shops

# SCENE OF THE CRIME Film screening on crime in

Miami WHEN: 2:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Historical Museum of South Florida

## TORTURE MUSEUM

WHEN: All day HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: Freedom Tower

## REDWOODS

WHEN: 4p.m. HOW MUCH: \$10 WHERE: Wolfsonian- FIU

#### FIU THEATRE PRES-ENTS: A BICYCLE COUNTRY

WHEN: 8:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: \$10 WHERE :Performing Arts Center

# OPINION

Friday, August 27, 2010 The Beacon – 7

SAY WHAT?

# Do you agree with the smoking ban?

# Will the social enforcement policy of the smoking ban be effective?



I don't support it because it's someone's right. They smoke outside anyway, so they should have the right to smoke. I don't think [social enforcement] will work because

it's kind of hypocritical. I mean, how would you feel if you were doing something completely legal and, even though it's against the rules here, someone came up to you and told you to stop as your peer. I don't think anyone would want to do that to somebody else.

-David Kinne, Sophomore, **Business Management** 



I am for it because a lot of people are getting secondhand smoke, and that's not fair on somebody who works out and takes care of themselves and then you have

someone smoking their lungs out. I feel like this should happen across campuses in the nation.

I would tell them to [put out their cigarettes]. That would give me the authority to say "Hey, you're giving me cancer!" -Jackelyn Valladares, Senior, Ethnic Studies



Honestly, I kind of do [support the smoking ban] because I don't like the smell of smokers on campus, but I believe that other people who smoke will be very annoyed by

that.I would feel awkward. If they put somebody in charge to enforce that, it's their own issue, but I think it would be a problem for students to walk around saying "Hey, stop smoking." It would be nice if people would stop smoking on campus, but I'm not really sure if people will feel comfortable to tell others to stop

-Alejandra Fernandez-Bara, Senior Psychology

-Compiled by Jasmyn Elliott. To see the full "Say What?" video, visit the Opinion section on FIUSM.com.

# Misogyny in Southern Asia must end

**SANAH FAROKE** 

Contributing Writer

Many women endure harsh brutality all over the world, but it has been brought to my attention that women have suffered the most cruel and shocking "punishments" for minor crimes in Southern

Countries like Pakistan and Iran have gone against the international norm of human rights, promoting harsh punishments, for adultery and homosexuality, Additionally, they are guilty of placing restrictions on freedom of speech, the press and meting out unequal treatment according to religious background and gender. Furthermore, many of these human rights violations going unnoticed and undocumented.

Recently, 18 year-old Bibi Aisha ran away from her home in Afghanistan because she was allegedly abused by her in-laws. They hunted her down and, with the Taliban's approval, sliced off her nose and both of her ears because, according to them, she had shamed his family by escaping. Aisha has since been sent to California to have reconstructive surgery.

According to the Taliban it was a just punishment, but Aisha is not a tomato to be sliced and diced. For men there, women like Aisha might as well be. Women are carelessly traded, shared, beaten up, bruised, squashed and receive no form of rights, which I believe is the

They hunted her down and, with the Taliban's approval, sliced off her nose and both of her ears because, according to them, she had shamed his family...

worst form of punishment.

There are other ridiculous punishments like death by stoning, which occurs when man or women is charged with adultery. However, this form of punishment has since become a blood sport, a form of entertainment.

Recently an Iranian woman named Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani had an "affair" with another man and was sentenced to stoning. However, her husband is deceased.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran denied all allegations regarding the case, but her story has made headlines.

While Ashtiani isn't going to be stoned, Mina Ahadi, a human rights activist said in an interview for the Daily News, "I estimate that at least 40 to 50 other women are waiting for the same destiny in [Southern Asia] right now."

My father, a practicing Muslim, has spoken highly of Arabic culture and the Qu'ran, but I can never see how anyone who worships Allah or reads the Qur'an could allow such punishments to happen to people, especially women.

Mohammed, the prophet himself, abrogated the act of stoning in the Qu'ran, so how anyone can chant Allah's name while stoning someone in the process is beyond

During the United Nations Fourth World Conference on women, Hillary Clinton said, "Women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights once and for all," yet across Southern Asia, Clinton's statement isn't reinforced.

Even though there may be some laws protecting women's and human rights in certain countries, they need to be enforced in every nation. Otherwise, the light for women to ever become equal to men in these countries will continue to diminish.

As a female, as an Asian, as a human, punishments" like these have definitely become a slap to my face, a black eye, a chopped-off nose, a death sentence. Even so, I know that the hope for women in Southern Asia and around the world will

# Wyclef Jean needs more to be a leader

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

BBC Managing Editor

Wyclef Jean is arguably Haiti's most vocal supporter. However, to truly support the country, he shouldn't have put his name on the ballot for the Nov. 28 elections.

Jean, who was born in Haiti but left at age nine with his parents to Brooklyn, NY, announced on Aug. 5 that he will run for president of Haiti and started his electoral campaign on Aug. 12. His application for candidacy his failure to meet residency requirements.

In an interview with The Guardian Jean said that his manifesto will focus on four policy pillars: education, job creation, agriculture and security.

These are pillars that anyone would want supporting their country, but without any specifics from the Grammywinning hip hop star, it's hard

to say why he would have been any more successful with Haiti's top job than any of the other candidates.

In the same article, Jean said he had already "assembled a team of political advisers."

Most politicians also have advisors. However, there's a perceived difference between senator-turned-president hiring advisers, and a singerturned-president doing the

I think Jean's advisers would have done more planhas since been blocked due to ning and created more initiatives than the advisers of a more experienced candidate.

Although Jean lacks political experience, he was quick to point out his connections.

"But when you think of the connections and allies I've assembled around the world, I feel I can help move this country forward," he said.

Connections and allies alone do not make a leader. They may have worked for him in his charity work, but help him. he will need more to stabilize Haiti and move it forward.

Jean used his connections successfully with his charity foundation, Yélé According to *The Washington* Post, they managed to raise over \$1.6 million days after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Port-au-Prince The Post also said Yélé generated so much donor interest that its site crashed.

However, in an analysis of its tax returns, the foundation was criticized for how the money was being spent. Its administrative fees were higher than similar charities Furthermore, paymentsfrom the charity were made to businesses owned by Jean and another one of the foundation's board members according to The Washington Post.

I'm not incriminating Jean, but this situation raises doubts as to his ability to put the right people in place to

Although the people in Haiti probably won't give two cents, or gourdes, about Yélé's tax situation, future donors will keep that in mind when considering whether to donate to a country being led by a man with known discrepancies.

The New York Daily News said in an editorial that Jean can't do worse than "the despots, thieves and incompetents whose decades of misrule account for so much of Haiti's plight."

A person who isn't worse has the possibility of maintaining the status quo, which now, unfortunately, is the poorest country in the western hemisphere with extreme poverty, illiteracy, and class divide.

This cynicism is not what Haiti needs. Haiti needs someone with the know-how to rebuild it with a clearly laid out plan to help it heal, not a popularity contest.

# Gathering Opinions, **Promoting Discussion** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. 95.3, 88.1, 96.9 and streaming live on FIUSM.com

# **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 in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

# DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

# AT THE BAY

The Beacon – 8 www.fiusm.com Friday, August 27, 2010

# SGC-BBC takes steps to fill vacant positions

# DEBORAH SOUVERAIN

Contributing Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has several available seats for students to serve on the executive branch.

"SGC-BBC is aggressively seeking to fill at least half of the [vacant seats] before the beginning of the fall semester," said Oehleo Higgs, SGC-BBC press secretary, who serves as the direct liaison between the student body, SGC-BBC and media outlets.

Besides functioning as the liaison between the student body and the University administration, the Council develops and researches programs to enhance the health, education, safety and welfare of the student body at BBC and the Broward Pines Center.

The president of the Council is responsible for overseeing members of the Cabinet, while the standing committee chairs report to vice president. However, due to a lack of student involvement, the executive branch at BBC only consists of a president, vice president, and chief-of-staff, according to Higgs.

"There is a lack of interest, and lack of knowledge that the positions are available," said Higgs.

Council members are often chosen from a pool of SGC-BBC interns who have successfully completed their shadowing assignments.

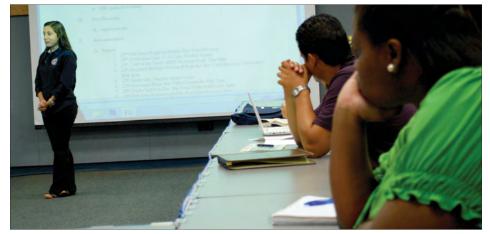
"I definitely plan on hiring representatives to fill the vacant seats the Council. The more individuals we have working to reach our goals the easier it will be to accomplish them," said Christin "Cici" Battle, SGC-BBC President.

Battle urges students who are interested in becoming apart of the Student Government Association to inquire about open positions. Undergraduate applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA; graduate students must have a minimum of a 2.5. All applicants must take at least 50 percent of their classes on BBC.

Once applications are approved, applicants begin the campaigning process.

As of July 21, following the SGC-BBC general meeting, the position of comptroller and six seats under the Executive Office of the President remain vacant. The Comptroller is responsible for SGC-BBC's finances, supervises income and expenditures, keeping track of all ingoing and outgoing money. Comptroller pretty much serves as chief accountant for SGC-BBC.

Battle hopes to hire a comptroller who is reliable and dedicated.



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Katherine Bernardoni (left) presents her case to be Chief-of-Staff to the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus during their general meeting on Aug. 25.

Battle and her council are aggressively working to increase school spirit by taking measures to award students wearing University apparel. In addition, They also have plans to create a lounge area where students can occupy their free time on campus.

"Back in the day BBC was the place to be, but now MMC is the major campus and we are striving to bring change to BBC to show that there is life here as well," said Higgs. Battle's goals for BBC are also geared towards community engagement. She intends to use the resources of the community to make the campus better known.

On a broader scale, Battle is committed to empowering the both councils to work together as one, despite the strain. The councils intend to meet several times a semester to discuss issues that affect both campuses respectively.

**BLEEKER MEETS BISCAYNE** 

# A New Yorker's tale: first night out in North Miami

I'm a born and raised New Yorker. And like most, if not all the students

BBC is, I'm sure you'll get some-

budget.

who attend this

university, I'm on a

the Biscayne Bay

Campus is quite a

different story. If

you ask students

what they think of

Unlike Modesto Maidique Campus,

COLUMNIST



SANDY ZAPATA

thing along the lines of, "It's nice and calm" or "This campus has a really chill vibe." But if you ask the students, what they'd like to see more of, without a doubt they'd say they wish there was a social environment on BBC as vibrant as MMC's.

Well this is for all my newly arrived students at BBC, even if it doesn't seem like it; North Miami has a lot to offer especially for those of us on a tight budget. I'm a lover of the arts, all kind, music, dance, art,

poetry and performance. So I figured I'd take my New York street swagger and put it to work to check out some of the local spots around town and let you all in on the off-campus activities you can all take part in.

Now, being that most of the events I've attended in the past have been in South Miami, I knew there had to be some good and of course some really bad places in North Miami. One of the best advantages of North Miami is that for the cost of a one night

cover fee in South Miami, you can spend a weekend full of activities in good old North Miami.

So it's the last Friday before fall semester in which classes will begin. Usually I'd be apt for the beach or shopping but on this lovely Friday morning, the rain decided to take part in my social life so I headed to the Farmer's Market at Jackson North Medical Center on 160 NW 170th St, North Miami Beach, 15 minutes west of BBC.

Then we have the fact that the market is being held at a hospital. Having worked around Jackson North, it's not in the best of neighborhoods.

So you're sure to see some crazies running around while picking your apples and oranges. But, I'd have to say that for another rainy Friday afternoon, I'd be far better off to stay home and watch crazies on Maury or Springer than at Jackson North.

After my failed attempt to enjoy a nice day out on the town, I knew that whatever I did tonight had to make up for my uneventful afternoon. To Billy's Pub Too I went. \Billy's is undoubtedly my favorite place to have a good time thus far. Located at 732 NE 125th St North Miami, Billy's is easy and quick to get to from BBC. This place is a definite Greenwich Village kind of place.

With beer pong, dart boards and foosball tables set up and ready, Billy's is the perfect place for college students and young professionals to hang out without the high price tags of South Beach.

This smoky, feel good bar is just what the doctor ordered. Stay 'til they kick you out because after the first few minutes, you won't want to leave. This is definitely my best pick of the weekend. No high prices for a good time and friendly people all around, I recommend Billy's to anyone who needs a fun night.

Next place I decided to check out was Churchill's Pub located about fifteen minutes from campus on 5501 NE 2nd Ave, Miami. Doors open at 9 pm and the entrance fee is normally \$5.00 unless they have special events.

At first glance, Churchill's Pub looks like a whole in the wall from the outside and automatically reminded me of a pub off Bleecker Street in New York; needless to say, I can't remember its name because it was one of those random, unforgettable, New York nights.

Now be advised this is not a hiphop bar, but if you're a fan of punk rock, this is definitely the place to be. With bands like Angry Pudding, Tongues of the Heartworm, DJ Skidmark and the 20 Anniversary Show of the Holy Terrors, Churchill's was packed with energy and entertainment.

If it was inside listening to the bands play, playing pool or having a cold beer outside, without a doubt Churchill's Pub was a Saturday night well spent.

With low priced drinks, food menu, diverse people this place is definitely one to consider on a Saturday night regardless of your taste in music.

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

# SINGING THE BLUES



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

David Uffner, freshman meterology major, on stage singing during Campus Life & Orientation's Karaoke and Restaurant Sampling Fair on Aug. 25 in Panther Square.