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MEXICO

Murders cause paper to restrict coverage

The biggest newspaper in Mexico's most violent city will restrict drug war coverage after the killing of its second journalist in less than two years.



TAJIKISTAN

Islamic militants kill at least 23 soldiers

Heavily armed Islamic militants ambushed a military convoy in eastern Tajikistan, killing at least 23 soldiers and dealing a severe blow to Afghanistan's northern border.



INDIA

Heavy floods kill 47 plus people

Heavy monsoon rains and landslides swept the hilly areas of northern India over the weekend, killing at least 47 people, officials said Monday.

Florida Travel Act challenged

Faculty Senate hopes Appeals Court rehears Cuba travel ban case

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

After losing in federal appeals court, the FIU Faculty Senate is hoping that second time's a charm.

Lawyers for the Faculty Senate are set to ask the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to reexamine its decision that puts strict limits on funding for academic trips to Cuba.

Attorneys for the Faculty Senate will seek an En Banc reconsideration, in which all 11 members of the court will rehear the case, instead of the usual three judge panel that delivers decisions. They expect to file for the motion before the Sep. 21 deadline set by the court.

On Aug. 31, the court upheld a Florida law banning state taxpayer dollars from being used to finance academic trips to countries considered "State Sponsors of Terrorism" by the State Department. Under the law, state money cannot be used to fund academic exchanges to Cuba, Iran, Syria, and Sudan.

The judges, however, ruled that private donations could be used to fund academic trips to the blacklisted countries.

In 2008, the Faculty Senate, along with eight other professors, challenged the Florida Travel Act in U.S District Court, and won. The State of Florida later appealed the decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We are disappointed by the panel decision. We are hopeful that the full court will reconsider the panel decision," said Patrick Fitch, an associate attorney for Alston & Bird representing the plaintiffs.

The Faculty Senate argued that the law violated the professors' First Amendment rights and interfered with the federal government's ability to regulate foreign affairs.

The three judge panel disagreed, ruling that the state legislature is well within its power to regulate the educational spending of state universities.

"I think that the court failed to appreciate the significant way in which the Florida Travel

Act clashes with federal law and policy," Paul Brinkman, a partner at the Alston & Bird representing the Faculty Senate, told the National Law Journal, "Foreign relations is a uniquely federal prerogative and needs to be jealously guarded from interference by the states, particularly with respect to countries like Iran and Cuba.

Yet, state representative David Rivera, who helped pass the law back in 2006, says this is more a domestic issue than a foreign relations issue. He told *Student Media* that the Florida legislature has a responsibility to make sure that taxpayer dollars are not used improperly.

"The legislature has the right to protect taxpayers from using their money to subsidize governments that do harm to the U.S.," said Rivera.

Rivera, a Republican running for Florida's 25th Congressional district, disagrees with President Obama's plan to increase academic and cultural exchanges with Cuba.

"Giving any unilateral concessions to a totalitarian dictatorship is wrong. The Cuban dictatorship has not merited any change to current policy," said Rivera.

SPY SCANDAL

The law came into effect shortly after a former FIU professor and his wife were accused of spying for the Cuban government. Carlos Alvarez, an associate professor at the College of Education, plead guilty in federal court to the lesser charge of being an unregistered foreign agent and was sentenced to five years in prison, while his wife, Elsa, was sentenced to three years in prison for failing to report her husband's activities to authorities.

According to the Miami Herald, Alvarez took five academic trips to Cuba, but did not use the school's travel license to take students to the communist country.

Alvarez took students as part of Puentes Cubanos, a group that encourages dialogue and reconciliation amongst Cuba and the U.S. Federal prosecutors, alleged that Alvarez used the group to gain recruits, but never gave

CUBA, page 2

Surveys show adequate sleep improves GPAs

MATTHEW MACKLE
Contributing Writer

If you have a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep, or if you tend to stay up late and wake up late and feel fatigued during the day, you may want to take steps toward improving your sleeping habits before your academic life is affected.

Surveys have shown that students who get a full eight hours of sleep, and especially during the appropriate hours of the night, tend to have higher GPAs.

Fatigue is an extremely negative force. Activities you should be enjoying can become mundane chores. Instead of participating in class, you may find yourself counting the minutes until you can leave without being rude.

If you relate to these feelings, you may be like many other college students who have undesirable sleeping habits. A person struggling with this can change his or her attitude and ambition during the day by practicing certain techniques.

Sara Schwartz, a physician at University Health Services has some advice.

"Have a good bedtime routine. Turn off the T.V., music and lights. Don't study in bed, use your bedroom only for sleeping. This will train your mind to connect the room with sleep."

She also explained that a lot of people have insomnia because of stress. In order to combat stress, University Health Services offers several services that include counseling, massage therapy, yoga and meditation.

SLEEP, page 2

Florida Senator candidates meet in first Senate debate

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

It was appropriate that Gov. Charlie Crist stood between Democrat Kendrick Meek and Republican Marco Rubio during their first Senate debate Friday since he was getting hit from both sides.

Crist repeatedly pointed out that he doesn't have to follow the ideology of either party and said his opponents would only be part of the partisan divide that has Washington in gridlock.

"My opponents have a script that they have to listen to, they have talking points that they have to go by. The party bosses in Washington give it to them. If they don't toe the line, they lose

their support," Crist said. "I'm the only one on this stage that can say the Democrats may have some good ideas, the Republicans may have some good ideas."

But Meek and Rubio said voters shouldn't buy the act.

"Everybody sees what you're doing, everybody gets it," Rubio said. "You only changed parties and did this independent thing when you couldn't win the Republican primary. And now you wake up every day and you try to figure out what you can say or do to take votes away from Congressman Meek so more Democrats will vote for you."

Meek also piled on, saying Crist is "trying to pick the raisins

DEBATE, page 3

GARDEN PARTY



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

The University's Organic Garden club, lead by Braian Tome, a senior in environmental studies and Thelma Velez, a senior in anthropology meet together on Fridays to discuss future plans for their gardens.

NEWS FLASH

‘Great Recession’ over, research group says

The “Great Recession” has ended, officially. At least, that’s the word from the private, nonprofit research organization that calls the beginnings and endings of recessions, the National Bureau of Economic Research. The NBER said Monday that the recession which began in December 2007 ended in June 2009, which marked the beginning of an expansion. The announcement rules out the possibility of a so-called “double-dip” recession, because any new downturn would be seen as a brand new recession. President Barack Obama said that even though the NBER officially named an end to the recession, the economy has a long way to go and much work to be done to become healthy again. “Something that took ten years to create is going to take a little more time to solve,” Obama said at a town-hall-style meeting shown live on CNBC.

Florida universities weigh flat-rate tuition system

Florida’s state university system is mulling a one-size-fits-all tuition structure for full-time students. Under the plan, which could receive final approval from the state Board of Governors as soon as November, full-time students at participating universities would pay a flat rate per semester, regardless of how many classes he or she actually takes. The pricing structure, known as block tuition, is already the norm at private universities across the country according to The Miami Herald. An exact pricing model for Florida schools has yet to be hammered out, and schools may decide to charge slightly different rates. South Florida’s two state universities, Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University, have yet to take a position on the issue.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Travel restricted to private funds

CUBA, page 1

any names to the Cuban government.

PRIVATE FUNDING

According to Rivera, professors can still continue to travel to Cuba for legitimate purposes, as long as they use private money from individual grants awarded to professors.

But, Uva de Aragon, the associate director of the FIU Cuban Research Institute (CRI), says that the law also bars state funds from being used to process private grants used to pay for the academic exchanges.

She says that most private grants need

to go through the state university system for approval.

Aragon, whose institute has taken students to Cuba in the past, says she has only used private donations in the past from notable donors such as the Ford Foundation, the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation.

In order for students to go to Cuba, Aragon says, they must be graduate students with an approved thesis, have a letter of recommendation from their professor, and absolutely need to go to Cuba to complete their thesis.

In 2010, the CRI took three graduate students to Cuba.

Aragon says the law has put Florida

public universities at a disadvantage, especially when it is the policy of the Obama Administration to encourage academic exchanges.

“We have Cuban American professors that understand the issues better for people who don’t know the history of the country; this is really putting us at a disadvantage,” said Aragon.

She also added that the exchanges are an important tool to distribute information to the Cuban people.

“When you take information and books from here, I wonder how you can put a price on that? How valuable it is to give that information to people in Cuba?” said Aragon.

Sleep linked to memory retention

SLEEP, page 1

She also noted that some students like to consume alcohol before bed in order to get to sleep easier, but this is not recommended as it negatively affects the sleep cycle.

The same way it has an effect while one is awake, alcohol slows the nerve centers in the brain during sleep. The normal REM cycle is disturbed if the person is drunk.

The REM cycle, widely recognized as the dream state and the most beneficial mental process during sleep, happens for the first time between the third and fourth hours of slumber. Short naps during the day do not make up for the sleep that was missed at night.

Health Services also recommends a daily exercise routine and proper diet for better sleep. Schwartz added that many students experience acid reflux, which keeps them up at night, so it is not

recommended to eat too soon before going to bed.

Professor Robert Grabowski explained the science of sleep. He gives this advice to his students before exam dates.

“Neuro-pathways are coated in a myelin sheath, like the rubber coating on a wire. Like the wire, the coating only lasts so long... myelin is secreted during REM cycles,” said Grabowski.

The coating helps to reinforce the memories obtained during the day.

Myelin is a tissue made of fats and proteins, so eating foods with a reasonable amount of these elements is essential for myelin production.

“Athletes carb-load before a big game. If you’re a good

student, carb-load before an exam” Grabowski advised.

Taking multivitamins can also help myelin production.

Dr. Robert Stickgold, of Harvard Medical School, has studied the connection between sleeping patterns and memory retention.

One of his more prominent experiments involved the game Tetris.

Subjects were novices at the game and were told to play for several hours a day.

During examination, Stickgold and other scientists found that their first REM cycles came rather quickly.

When they woke up, some of them reported that they had dreams of falling blocks.

The ones who had dreams of Tetris eventually showed

more improvement in their playing than those who had not.

From this evidence, Stickgold draws the conclusion that the brain naturally re-examines and reinforces memories from the waking day. He believes this is the reason why we dream.

Another scientist, Antti Revonsuo, has studied sleep patterns in rats.

The rats were deprived of sleep and eventually became less adept at even their most primal survival instincts.

Students who experience sleeping problems or daily fatigue should take advantage of the services they offer at the clinic at University Health Services. Call (305) 348-2401 for information or appointments.

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Florida Unemployment rate rises

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly for the second straight month, hitting 11.7 percent in August although other economic indicators are looking up, state officials said Friday.

Legislative economist Amy Baker predicted the uptick earlier this week because people who had stopped looking for work are returning to the job market as the economy improves. Those who drop out of the labor pool are not counted in employment statistics.

August's 11.7 percent rate continues to mean nearly 1.1 million Floridians are out of work. Florida again tops the national jobless rate of 9.6

percent.

"Historically, mixed signals from economic indicators during the bottom of a recession are common until the economy recovers," said Cynthia Lorenzo, director of Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation. "Fluctuations in rates of unemployment and job growth are typical examples."

Florida's unemployment rate peaked in March at 12.3 percent, the highest since the federal government began compiling jobless statistics in the 1970s. It then started dropping and was at 11.4 percent in June before rising again to 11.5 percent in July and 11.7 percent in August.

The state lost 16,000 nonagricultural jobs in August for an employment total of 7.2 million. Florida,

though, gained 29,800 jobs since August 2009 for an annual job growth rate of 0.4 percent.

Small as that increase might be, it marks the second straight month of positive over-the-year job growth after three years of losses. It's more than offset, though, by growth in the state's workforce. Florida added 35,000 more workers over the prior 12 months including 12,000 in August.

It'll take the creation of nearly 900,000 more new jobs for the state to get back to pre-recession employment levels and at the current pace that won't happen until 2014, Baker told the Legislative Budget Commission on Tuesday.

The segment showing the biggest over-the-year

employment growth has been private education and health services with a gain of 33,500 jobs, or 3.2 percent.

Others showing growth are trade, transportation and utilities, up 18,900 jobs (1.3 percent); professional and business services, up 11,000 jobs (1.1 percent); leisure and hospitality, up 9,300 jobs (1 percent), and other services, up 5,500 jobs (1.8 percent).

The biggest over-the-year job growth has occurred in the Gainesville metropolitan area, which added 1,100 nonseasonally adjusted jobs (0.9 percent) and Bradenton-Sarasota-North Port, also adding 1,100 jobs (0.4 percent), followed by Pensacola and Tallahassee, each with 800 new jobs (0.5 percent).

Crist, Meek defend stimulus use

DEBATE, page 1

out of the bread" by saying what's popular on any given issue.

"Mr. Crist is someone that is willing to say 'Hey, I'm for everything on any day.' But we need leadership, someone to speak out," Meek said.

Crist waited until the second to last day to qualify for the ballot to announce he would run without a party.

He later changed his party registration from Republican to no party affiliation.

Crist debated Rubio in March as a Republican candidate, but Friday was the first time he and the two major nominees answered questions together.

All three agreed that the 14th Amendment shouldn't be changed to strip it of automatic citizenship for anyone born in the United States. They also agree that the Cuban embargo shouldn't be lifted.

Otherwise, there were distinct differences.

Crist said he would have voted against the health care overhaul President Obama signed, Rubio said the law needs to be repealed and Meek defended his support of the bill, saying thousands of Floridians are losing their health insurance every week.

Crist and Meek criticized the Arizona immigration law that requires officers to check immigration status of suspects if they believe they might be in the country illegally.

Rubio said the law was appropriate for Arizona as a border state, but not appropriate for the rest of the country.

Crist and Meek defended the \$787 billion federal stimulus while Rubio criticized it.

"The people in charge have absolutely no idea how jobs are really created, they think politicians create jobs. That's why they supported some-

thing like the stimulus package," Rubio said, adding that government has to create a business friendly environment rather trying to spend money to boost the economy.

Meek said stimulus package kept the country out of a depression and Crist said it saved 80,000 Florida jobs.

"We have to get back to allowing folks to work with their hands again and we have to making things again," Meek said. "Unlike my two opponents, I've always had a forward lean for green jobs in the state of Florida."

Crist used the question on the economy to again point out that he'll listen to ideas from both sides.

"Congressman Meek talked about investing in green energy and he's right. Marco Rubio, I assume, will talk about cutting taxes. Maybe he's right too. I believe in both," Crist said. "My two opponents can't talk about both. Only I can talk about both in an honest way."

MATCH POINT



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Irving Posado, a junior in business administration, plays ping pong in a tournament hosted by Cameron Besaw in Everglades Hall on Sept. 7.

WEIRD NEWS

Koala Population Ravaged by Chlamydia

The world's koala population is being ravaged by an epidemic that would seem at odds with the animal's image as the cuddly emblem of Australia. According to researchers, 50 to 80 percent of the marsupials are infected with a disease commonly associated with human promiscuity: chlamydia. According to AOL News, situation is so dire, in fact, that experts fear the koala may become extinct in a few decades if a vaccine isn't developed. While nobody knows how koalas first came to be infected with chlamydia, some researchers speculate koalas may have been exposed to infected mammals at some point in their evolution. The disease spreads among koalas through sexual contact, as well as orally from mother to young during child rearing.

US Tourists Caught With Human Skulls in Greece

Greek police have charged two American tourists with desecrating the dead after they were caught at the Athens airport with six human skulls in their hand luggage, according to AOL News. "The skulls were found in a scanner check during a stop-over in Athens on their way back to the United States," a police official told Reuters. "The coroner confirmed they were human skulls." The tourists told police they'd bought the skulls at a souvenir shop on the Greek island of Mykonos and thought they were fakes. They were charged Thursday and then released pending a trial. "They bought them ahead of Halloween to decorate their homes. Both tourists were then released and took a flight back to the U.S.," another policeman told CNN. It's unclear where the skulls came from.

Rare 'Asian Unicorn' Dies in Captivity

You say you don't believe in unicorns? Well, one of the mythical animal's real-life relatives, known as the saola, has died after its short stay in a village in Laos. The mammal - often referred to as the "Asian unicorn" even though the antelope-like creature has two horns -- is so rare that only 250 are believed to exist worldwide, and none are in captivity. The BBC reports that the saola -- discovered in Southeast Asia in the early 1990s -- has never been seen in the wild by biologists. Its existence, to date, has been confirmed only in photos by local villagers.

Men Wear Heels So Women Can Heal From Domestic Violence

A group of men in San Diego are collectively putting their best foot forward -- and into high heels according to MSNBC. It's part of a Sept. 30 event called "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," which, true to its name, will feature hundreds of guys strutting their stuff in a mile-long walk through the city's downtown in an effort to raise money for the local YWCA's domestic-violence programs. There are similar events all over the country, but this is the third year that San Diego men have risked bunions, twisted ankles, hammertoes, blisters and all the things that women go through just for the "joy" of wearing stylish shoes.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

FOOTBALL

Defense shines, but inability to finish strong ruins upset bid

There was a lot of talk about some "12th Man" that strikes fear into visiting teams that enter College Station to take on Texas A&M.

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

At the end of the third quarter, this "12th Man" was reduced to a spectacular stunned silence as the Aggies fell behind by two touchdowns to a team that many of the nearly 80,000 fans assembled at Kyle Field probably couldn't locate on the map.

With just 15 minutes remaining, it began to look like the Golden Panthers would actually make program history on Sept. 18, finishing what they came close to doing a week earlier against Rutgers: beating a BCS team for the first time. And not just that, but actually doing it on the road in one of the most hostile environments in college football.

As the fourth quarter progressed, however, it became apparent that the tank was beginning to run on empty. The offense struggled to move the ball as they did all game long and failed to execute, leaving the defense to fend for themselves.

UNFAZED DEFENSE

Despite forcing five turnovers, including an interception return for a touchdown by Anthony Gaitor to give FIU that fourteen-point edge in the third quarter, the Golden Panthers still could not hang on for that elusive victory.

When the smoke was cleared,

Of FIU's 20 points, 17 were a direct result of turnovers forced by this aggressive defense that the Golden Panthers have never seen.

Any doubts of this defense being simply a one-hit wonder against the Scarlet Knights were erased as the Golden Panthers blitzed from every angle imaginable, constantly keeping the Aggies and Big 12 Preseason Offensive Player of the Year Jerrod Johnson on their toes and off balance for most of the game.

It is clear that what Defensive Coordinator Geoff Collins has done over the offseason was not just a complete overhaul in the playbook and the style of play, but also in the mindset of the unit as a whole.

The defense remained aggressive and constantly sought to apply pressure in the backfield throughout the entire game, never backing down.

But despite giving the offense every opportunity to try and run out the clock and perhaps finish the game with one last score to put the game potentially out of reach, FIU went three-and-out in their first two drives in the fourth quarter and the Aggies took advantage of a tired defense.

RIGHT THERE

Unlike in the past, a "moral victory" simply is not good enough anymore and every player on the roster and every coach from Mario Cristobal down knows that.

The Golden Panthers, despite all the pre-season predictions and question marks, could have conceivably headed into the Maryland game with a 2-0 record.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP IMAGES

FIU defensive end Tourek Williams wraps up Texas A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson on Sept. 18. The Golden Panthers defense has been stellar thus far, but the team has come up short in two upset bids in 2010.

If the Golden Panthers continue to play defense with the kind of aggressiveness displayed in the opening two games, FIU could conceivably be competitive in every game remaining on its schedule and compete for a Sun Belt championship with many of the conference's top teams suffering early on this season both on the field and on the injured list.

But there is one thing that the Golden Panthers need to do if they are going to make that final step forward and turn these types of painful 'moral victories' into

program-defining wins: deliver that final blow.

IMPERFECT FINISH

The Golden Panthers have been out-scored 27-0 in the fourth quarter after two games this season. That needs to change and fast if FIU plans on making a bowl run this season and winning games that matter.

The next two weeks before conference play will be very important in determining whether or not this team will be a contender or a pretender in conference play.

This team appears to have

the confidence necessary to beat a Maryland team that went 2-10 in 2009 and lost 11 starters going into this season. The Terrapins narrowly escaped Navy in their season opener and, after a win against an FCS team, was mostly dominated by a tough West Virginia team.

This is their best chance to do what they couldn't do the last two weeks: win. But if they are going to go into Maryland and come back home with a victory in hand, they need to play 60 minutes of football.

Not 45 minutes.

MEN'S SOCCER

Rodriguez strikes again for Golden Panthers in OT win

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The FIU men's soccer team (4-2) started off their six game road swing with a win against the Jacksonville Dolphins on Sept. 17.

After addressing some midfield issues the Golden Panthers were ready to take on Stetson on Sunday to come home with two victories.

Little did they know their freshman phenom, Nicolas Rodriguez-Fraile, would shine brightest as he punched through his third overtime time goal of the season and his second match-winning goal in a row to beat Stetson 1-0.

"We fixed up our midfield and they complimented our defense. We had the opportunities and it was a hard fought game. The overtime took its toll on our starting forwards and Nico finished the game for us. Just all I can ask for as a coach," Eketebi said.

The one goal came after 109 minutes of grueling play and a switch in possession. A quick break away from midfielder Diego Tamburus allowed Rodriguez-Fraile to find space for an excellent through pass.

He finished by taking a chip shot on Stetson keeper Andreas Schnable from 25 yards out for the win. The ball popped over the keeper and into the back of the net, giving FIU another late win drowned with emotions.

After hitting the clutch shot, Rodriguez-Fraile was

named MVP of the Stetson Soccer Classic All Tournament Team. Also on the all tournament team were Tamburus (2 assists in tournament), defender Anthony Hobbs (108 minutes against Stetson), who has yet to sit out any game, and goalkeeper Shane Lopez after having his second clean sheet this season against Stetson.

Last season, the Golden Panthers did not get their fourth win until an Oct. 12 matchup last year with Jacksonville and were 1-1-5 on the road. The team has already eclipsed both marks.

The team will now have five day's off before going on the road again to take on Florida Gulf Coast on Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m. The team will then start its Conference USA slate at Marshall on Oct. 2.

ACCOLADES

After a thrilling couple of road wins, Lopez earned C-USA defensive player of the week honors for his efforts.

The senior goalie had 12 saves at the Stetson Soccer Classic and played in every single minute over the last two games, which FIU won.

It's the first time an FIU player has earned such a distinction since 2007.

Lopez is in his first year as a starter for the Golden Panthers after playing in a combined 13 games over the last two campaigns. The 6-foot-2 native of Canada was 1-6 in games he started last season

Lopez was joined in honors by Juan Castillo of

STETSON SOCCER CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

PLAYER	LOCATION
Nicolas Rodriguez-Fraile	FIU
Shane Lopez	FIU
Anthony Hobbs	FIU
Diego Tamburus	FIU
Eric Montenard	Manhattan
Sean Russell	Manhattan
Nedim Hurstic	Jacksonville
Pedrag Ivanovic	Jacksonville
Ryan Corning	Stetson
Gonzalo de Mujica	Stetson
Fredrik Brustad	Stetson

*Rodriguez-Fraile was also named MVP of the team

Southern Methodist University, who was the conference's offensive player of the week and is in the midst of a five game scoring streak for the Mustangs.

Castillo won the accolade for the second consecutive week.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

FIU ends non-conference schedule

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (6-6) played their final away tournament before kicking off Sun Belt Conference play at home by winning two of three matches and moving their record back to .500 at the Sugar Bowl Collegiate Classic from Sept. 17-18.

FIU 3, SAM HOUSTON STATE 0 (25-23, 25-14, 26-24)

FIU got the weekend started on the right foot with a three-set sweep over the Sam Houston State Bearkats (6-8) in their first match of the tournament.

It was a balanced offensive effort for the Golden Panthers, who picked up the victory with no players reaching double-digit kills for the match. Sabrina Gonzalez led the way with nine while Andrea Lakovic followed with eight.

Both teams fought in a closely contested first set that featured 15 tie scores and eight different lead changes, but the Golden Panthers gained an edge late in the stanza with a 24-21 lead.

A couple of errors allowed SHSU to cut the lead down to one point, but the Bearkats committed a service error of their own to give FIU the lead.

After storming through the second set and taking a comfortable lead, the Bearkats put pressure back on the Golden Panthers in the third set, controlling the lead for most of the set and were one point away from avoiding the sweep.

But the Golden Panthers rallied and took the lead before Lakovic sealed the game her eighth kill of the match.

OREGON 3, FIU 1 (24-26, 25-22, 26-24, 25-23)

Despite taking the first set over the No. 16 Oregon Ducks (11-0), the Golden Panthers narrowly dropped the next three sets as they failed to get a win ranked opponent for the first time this season.

After a first set that featured numerous tie scores and lead changes, the Golden Panthers found themselves with a 24-21 lead late in the set and appeared poised to take an early lead over the Ducks.

Oregon stormed back and tied the set at 24-24, but consecutive kills by Gonzalez and Una Trkulja put FIU on top for good and gave the Golden Panthers an early advantage.

The Ducks came out strong in the second set and the Golden Panthers were forced to play from behind for

most of the set and were unable to overcome the disadvantage despite hanging around for the entire set.

In the critical third set, the Ducks managed to pick up the final two points necessary to break away from FIU to take the lead before closing out the match in the fourth set.

Trkulja and Jessica Gehrke each had 15 kills to help keep the Golden Panthers competitive throughout the match.

FIU 3, TULANE 2 (25-23, 21-25, 25-18, 11-25, 17-15)

In one of the more challenging matches of the season for the Golden Panthers, FIU survived a difficult challenge by the Tulane Green Wave and won in a five-set thriller (4-8).

Both teams alternated set victories in a see-saw battle that went down to the final set, when back-to-back kills from Ines Medved and Andrea Lakovic broke the 15-15 stalemate and sent FIU home on a winning note.

Trkulja once again picked up double-digit kills, leading FIU with 18 kills with Lakovic tallying 15 kills of her own to help life the Golden Panthers to a win that moved the team back to .500.

INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

FRATERNITY

TEAM	W-L	PCT	STREAK
Pi Kappa Phi	1-0	.1000	W1
Sigma Phi Epsilon	1-0	.1000	W1
Phi Sigma Kappa	1-0	.1000	W1
Sigma Alpha Mu	1-0	.1000	W1
Pi Kappa Alpha	1-0	.1000	W1
FIJI	0-1	.000	L1
Lambda Chi Alpha	0-1	.000	L1
Beta Theta Pi	0-1	.000	L1
NPHC All-Stars	0-1	.000	L1
Sigma Chi	0-1	.000	L1
Tao Kappa Epsilon	0-0	.000	-

*All records up to date as of Sept. 22

SORORITY

TEAM	W-L	PCT	STREAK
Alpha Xi Delta	1-0	.1000	W1
Delta Phi Epsilon	0-1	.000	L1
Phi Mu	0-0	.000	-
Alpha Omicron Pi	0-0	.000	-
Sigma Kappa	0-0	.000	-
Sigma Sigma Sigma	0-0	.000	-
Phi Sigma Sigma	0-0	.000	-

*All records up to date as of Sept. 22

For more standings, visit fiu.edu/~camprec

SPORTS REPLAY

Sun Belt rewards Gaitor for TAMU performance

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

A few Golden Panthers have garnered accolades for their respective performances over the weekend, including cornerback Anthony Gaitor for his performance in an upset bid at Texas A&M.

In the meantime, men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas has continued to add onto his impressive recruiting resume in his brief stint with FIU.

FOOTBALL

Anthony Gaitor can add another conference accolade to his shelf.

The senior was named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week on Monday, rewarding him for a stellar performance in the Golden Panthers 27-20 loss at Texas A&M On Sept. 18.

Gaitor had a 54-yard interception return for a touchdown that gave FIU a 20-6 lead in the third quarter, and was instrumental in FIU's containment of TAMU star Jerrod Johnson, who was just 11 of 31 passing and threw four interceptions. Gaitor also had two tackles and a forced fumble in the game.

Gaitor was also awarded the accolade after a two-interception contest in a 31-21 win vs. Middle Tennessee on Oct. 11, 2008.

Since then, Gaitor has established himself as one of the premier defenders in the SBC.

In addition to the conference award, Gaitor was also announced an Honorable Mention Defensive Back Performer of the Week by collegefootballperformance.com.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Isiah Thomas has continued to pull in impressive recruits after impressing in his

first full recruiting class last spring.

Over the last week, Thomas padded onto his 2011 class by adding verbal commitments from Darnell Harris and Cedrick McAfee.

Harris, a 6-foot-8 power forward, is a teammate of Chris Coleman's at Humble Christian Life Center in Texas.

Coleman committed to the Golden Panthers over the summer and will be joined by his front-court mate Harris in the post for FIU. Harris is a three-star recruit according to rivals.com.

McAfee, a four-star recruit, turned down offers from Memphis and Auburn, among others, and will have a chance to have an immediate impact as his arrival comes with the graduation of a slew of this season's senior guards.

The players are not assured to be Golden Panthers until they sign a letter of intent on National Signing Day.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Golden Panthers had mixed results at the Mountain Dew Invitational in Gainesville on Sept. 18.

On the men's side, the team finished 10th out of 19 teams with 231 points. In the 5K women's race, FIU had 320 points en route to finishing 12th out of 20 teams.

Florida finished first in the men's 8K race, with 22 points, followed by Embry-Riddle (96 points) and Florida Southern (125 points).

FIU's Sebastian Castillo placed the highest on the team in the individual leader board with a 26:19 time.

Florida also won in the women's competition with 41 points, as Jacksonville finished a distant second with 111 points. Daniela Espino placed 29th with an 18:53 time. Tai Canady finished at 45th with a time of 19:18.

MIAMI HEAT

Heat looking to block distractions off the court

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Part of Erik Spoelstra's offseason time away from coaching included another trip halfway around the world to his native Philippines for some youth clinics and other events.

The 2010 visit wasn't like the one he made in 2009.

"The Miami Heat was a much different brand this summer," Spoelstra said.

Go figure, following an offseason where all the Heat did was re-sign Dwyane Wade, then lure two-time NBA MVP LeBron James, Chris Bosh and four other significant free agents to join a team with immediate eyes on a championship.

Added visibility was a given for the Heat after their almost-never-ending series of major moves this offseason. It all hasn't been received as warmly as Spoelstra was when he visited his mother's homeland earlier this summer, of course, not with plenty of people both inside and outside the NBA — even some of Spoelstra's closest friends in the coaching fraternity — offering some sharp words for what Miami pulled off this summer.

"Every single franchise in this league, if they had the opportunity to sign three players the way we were able to, they would have without any hesitation," Spoelstra said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Spoelstra doesn't care much about all the fuss. Spoelstra would rather the Heat look at the season looming ahead, not the summer they'll be leaving behind.

"We have enough issues that we're focusing on," Spoelstra said.

Part of why the Heat are moving training camp to a pair of Air Force installations — Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base in Florida's Panhandle, roughly 650 miles or so from Miami's home arena — is the hope of limiting distractions during the first few days of practice.

Avoiding them this summer has been largely impossible. The Heat have been the talk of the league.

Riley said last week that the way Miami can "answer all the critics" is by showing up and doing what the Heat were built to do, that being contend for a title. He took issue after the signings of James and Bosh with things said by, among others, NBA analyst Charles Barkley, Orlando general manager Otis Smith and Magic coach Stan Van Gundy — a close friend of Spoelstra's and, like the current Heat coach, a former Riley protege.

Smith questioned James' competitiveness in July, shortly after he joined the Heat. Riley called that "stupid" last week, setting the stage for Van Gundy to fire back a day later.

Van Gundy told OrlandoMagic.com that "what Otis said wasn't a stupid remark. Unless of course you have a different opinion than Pat, then apparently it's stupid."

The war of words, for now, is ending with Spoelstra.

"I'm not going to comment on other teams," Spoelstra said. "And other teams have enough issues of their own to get ready for the season, without worrying about what we did or what we're doing, to keep them busy."

Spoelstra said he's most rested and ready for the coming season than either of his first two at Miami's helm, although that doesn't mean all the offseason work is done.

The playbook is still getting tinkered with. The team is checking to see if any other players might be available to help, although Spoelstra said Miami's current 18-man camp roster — three more than the maximum allowed during the season — is the one he's planning on having for the first practice. And Spoelstra is still working on what he'll say at the first formal team meeting of the new year.

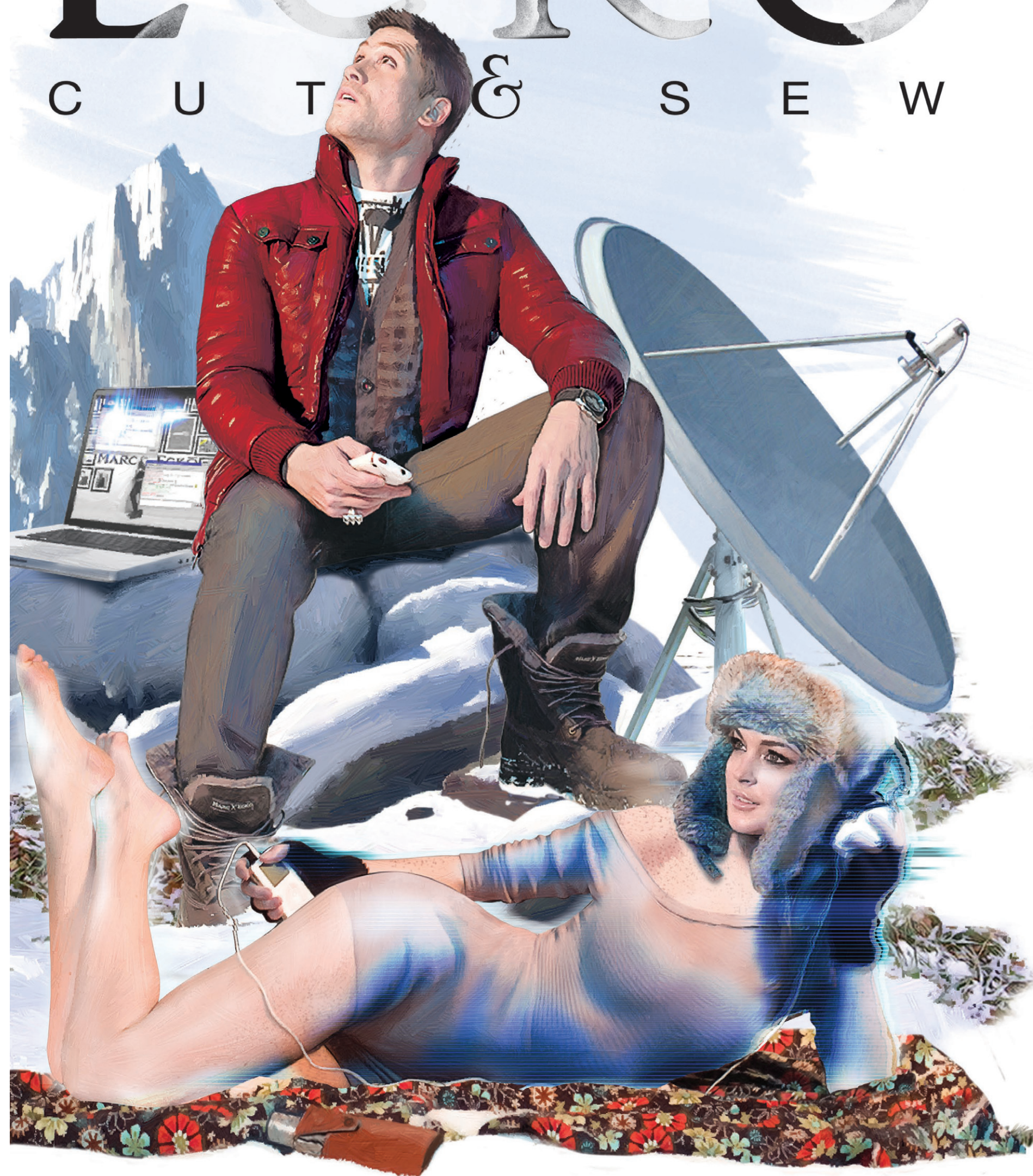
That all aside, he's beyond eager to see what the Heat have.

"I wish training camp started three weeks ago," Spoelstra said.

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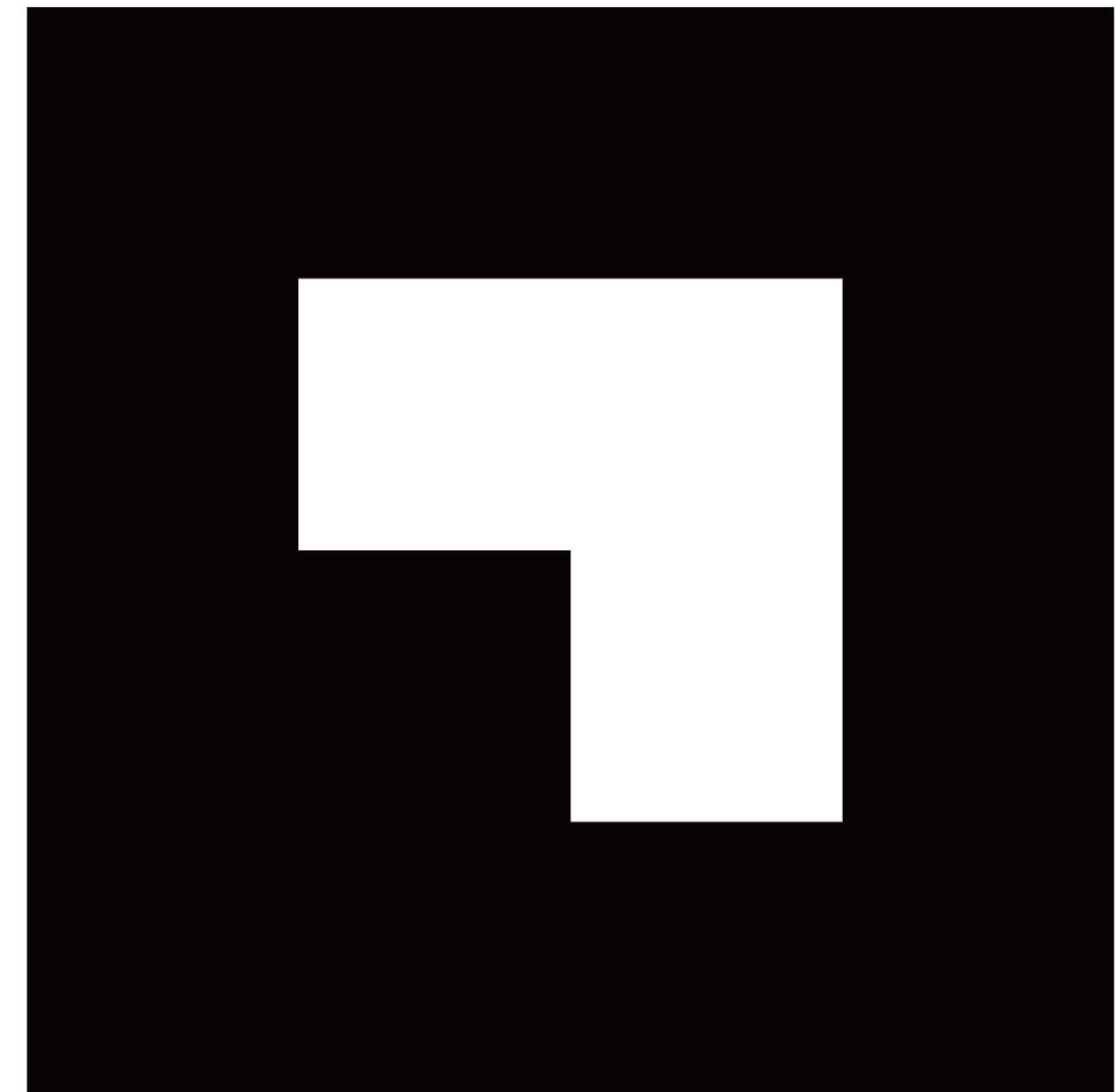
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LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

THE BAND IS BACK

New director reveals big plans for marching band

ADRIAN ESPINOSA
Staff Writer

The FIU Marching Band is taking to the field with a brand new director at the helm to march them into the 2010 season.

After the band's elimination last year, the voided space is once again full and a welcome part of FIU's forward moving ambition.

Barry Bernhardt has been directing college bands for the past 27 years and now steps up to the plate at FIU to help build a still growing program.

Among the many responsibilities of directing a band is building a tradition which FIU can add to over time and call its own.

Before it was taken out of commission,

the band had only been a part of FIU for 6 years, so the new director has his job cut out for him starting FIU traditions in performances.

That is one of the main goals set by Bernhardt: to increase school and campus solidarity through the entertainment and boisterous sound of a marching band.

He also stressed the responsibility of the band in creating a positive environment on the field and becoming the 12th player whose job it is to carry the morale of the crowd to the team.

Obviously passionate about the tasks at hand, Mr. Bernhardt reveals his motivations.

"I'm doing it for the students," he said. "I want to make sure they have the best possible connections."

Currently numbering about 115, Bernhardt aims to increase the band membership to 300 or so, to reflect the huge student population.

"I like how everything has a schedule. He's strict on time and he always makes sure he brings out the best in us. As for the music, he's always on top of our music... it's just one of the best programs I've been in," says Matthew Ruiz, a freshman majoring in music technology and a band member.

Bernhardt intends for the band to begin the journey of gaining regional, and eventually national, recognition. Many events are planned for them, and Mr. Bernhardt proposes to take every opportunity for growth and exposure.

For example, a production company in Las Vegas will be hosting an event where

the band is scheduled to perform.

Also, the Florida Marlins have shown interest in having the FIU Marching band play the National Anthem.

Barry has been traveling with bands for many years, and on three occasions he traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to direct his marching band in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Before coming to FIU, Bernhardt was a professor and director of bands at Southeast Missouri State University for 20 years.

In addition to directing college marching bands, he was on the production staff for Bowl Games of America where he choreographed halftime shows for college bowl-games, including the Orange Bowl.

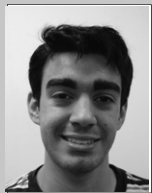
THE BAND, page 9

PANEL PANEL REVIEW: FABLES #97

Fables take readers to a fairy-tale land not so far away

Snow White lives in upstate New York in a magically concealed village full of talking farm animals and fairy tale creatures.

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

Her ex-husband, Prince Charming, is a cocky womanizer who mooches off his second ex-wife, Briar Rose.

These people all belong to the hidden community of Fable Town, which is the last bastion free from the evil adversary who took the homelands from the Fables thousands of years ago.

This may sound like the plot device from a Disney movie gone wrong, but it is actually just a part of the grand story arc of Fables, where characters from fable stories and tall-tales from all over the world are real beings with real lives.

The more popular a fable is among the mundane humans, the more powerful they are and the longer they live.

Being immortal and well known makes

it hard for these magical people to live their lives, but after thousands of years, they have carved their own lifestyle hidden within the real world.

After mentioning the book so often, I had to review the latest issue of Fables as well as the last 8 years worth of narrative that its creator, Bill Willingham, provides.

The reason I bring Fables up so often is because of its inventive concept and its immeasurable amount of potential throughout the years.

This is, in my opinion, how every comic book should be written.

When the characters and heroes of a story have strong inter-personal dynamics, the writer can let the story write itself.

Without this quality, a book can end up feeling forced such as when the Punisher died and someone revived him as a copy of Frankenstein's monster to continue a war on crime (regrettably, this recently happened in the Marvel Universe).

Fables' unique beginning helps it avoid forced plot points and has helped it not only

become a successful book for years, but also spawn spin-offs that have become just as successful.

Even more important than the beginning is where the characters go from it, and Willingham dutifully provides interesting character growth, intense action, and grand adventures.

When reading through the story arcs, it's hard to notice the specific attention to detail because it flows from issue to issue, yet Willingham has had the evolution of Fable Town mapped out since the beginning.

This preparedness on Willingham's part is why Fables has had a steady printing over the past 8 years.

The art is subtle and modest. In mainstream comics, 2 page explosions fill each issue, but in Fables, panels are filled with character expressions that add loads to the writing.

In addition, James Jean, one of DC comic's most talented artists, has supplied nearly every cover up to issue # 81.

A book containing Jean's artwork was published in 2008 to showcase his collection

of amazing covers.

Fables is still going strong along with its current ongoing spin offs, Jack of Fables and Cinderella: From Fable Town with Love.

In the past few months, issues #96 and #97 have been delayed, but I believe this is simply part of the build up to the #100 anniversary issue.

For those readers willing to put time into a lively and rewarding series, I highly recommend these comic books.

The series is so highly regarded that chances of finding the first dozen or so volumes at the nearest bookstore or library are extremely high.

Another option could be to wait until the printing of issue #100 when the current story arc "Rose Red" ends, but don't wait too long. Missing out on Fables is a definite mistake.

Panel Panel is a comics column. Look for it every other Wednesday. Beacon writers do not receive free services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.

THE BROTHER KITE:

Band members discuss album, influences and plans

HECTOR MOJENA
Staff Writer

For years the band Brother Kite has built their reputation as indie rock's heir apparent to Brian Wilson's sunny pop throne.

Beginning with their 2004 self-titled effort, the band has crafted some of the most hummable pop music and has done so with the sort of originality that suggests this music does not belong to trends or fashions: it's simply timeless.

2006's *Waiting for the Time to Be Right* boosted their status as America's pre-eminent ethereal pop-smiths and opened up a whole new sonic world for the band.

As they get ready for the release of their newest effort, *Isolation*, members Jonathan Downs and Patrick Boutwell discussed how their latest is a departure from their last album and how Paul Lansky's influence played a part.

The Beacon: Who are the members of The Brother Kite

and how long have you guys been playing together?

Jonathan Downs: Patrick and I began writing and recording together as a duo in the early 2000s. Mark (guitar) and Andrea (bass) joined us in 2002, and Matt (drums) joined us in 2004. That's been the personnel since.

TB: What was the genesis of *Isolation*? There's a more electronic sound to some of the tracks, but there are also a lot of "classic" TBK style songs here.

Patrick Boutwell: It was mainly just wanting to do something radically different, more dark and heavy, but also more sparse than the last one. *Waiting For The Time To Be Right* was more of a "teenage infatuation and heartache" kind of album, and that dictated that big, wet Wall Of Sound vibe. *Isolation* is literally about feeling alone and wanting to defect from the world, and electronics seem to help get that feeling across.

TB: What were the main influences that went into

making this album? Any particular artists or writers perhaps? I sense a bit of New Order myself actually.

PB: Not so much New Order, but perhaps Joy Division. There is actually one line in the track, "Escape from the no-man's land", that sounded awfully familiar to me, and then I heard "Disorder" for the first time in a while, and it has that line ("On the tenth floor, down the backstairs, into no man's land"), and thought, "Ah, so THAT'S where that came from". Joy Division and New Order are bands that I'm not a rabid fan of, but I definitely get them, and that sort of understanding had an unconscious influence, I suppose.

For this album, in the beginning, I was listening to things like *A Rainbow In Curved Air* by Terry Riley and "Mild und leise" by Paul Lansky, trying to train my mind to think differently. It was hard because The Beach Boys have been one of my favorites since I was a little kid, and to undo something that has become

so tightly woven in my brain took some time, but I think it yielded some interesting results.

Lyrical speaking, for me, there is no greater influence than the way I feel. I've never been the type of person to read poetry, nor someone who really pays that much attention to other people's lyrics, but the single conscious literary influence I had on this album was "The Pasture" by Robert Frost. Everything about it just clicked with me, and I ended up naming the final song on the record after it.

TB: Does having your own studio increase the level of work that gets done or does the freedom to work on anything for as long as you want stall the process?

JD: Definitely the latter. We end up fiddling with things for months that should probably be done in hours. That was the case with *Isolation*, and also for *Waiting For The Time To Be Right*. But I'm not really complaining, I guess. On the rare occasion that we do work quickly, we usually

don't like the results. I guess our pace is our pace, and that's that, although we're trying to change that lately. I've recently mobilized most of the gear at our studio in New Hampshire and we're now doing more recording at my home here in the Providence area. Because of this, we're planning to follow up *Isolation* rather quickly with an EP and seven-inch in November. Three months between TBK releases would be downright unheard of.

TB: Since you guys issued your self titled album, it seems like TBK has become a sort of cult band, with figures like Tom Monahan counting themselves as fans. Are you guys happy with that distinction?

JD: Sure, it's better than no distinction at all. In some regards, it would be nice to have a more lucrative distinction, I suppose. But we'll take what we can get.

PB: Yeah, it's nice in print, but not exactly in the bank.

For the rest of the interview please go to fiusm.com.

Band director has a lot in store for the 2010-2011 year

THE BAND, page 8

Before coming to the school as the new director, a friend of Bernhardt's had come to FIU from Texas Tech to review FIU's School of Music which happens once every ten years as a part of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Barry was given the heads up about the band directing position for the fall, and jumped at the opportunity. Beginning in July, he

took control of the reins from the interim Director for the summer, Dr. Catherine Rand.

"Mr. Bernhardt's 27 years of experience, wonderful personality, and musical talent... make him wonderful for the position," says Rand.

Though he is most definitely accredited, there are still many challenges to be tackled that include anything from a shortage of instruments to the acquisition of conventional uniforms. For

now the band will be playing in Perry Ellis sponsored khaki's, Guayaberas and straw hats. "The FIU Marching Band is going to be generic; as we build tradition and identity we will get a look that will be unmistakably FIU," says Barry.

As the 2010 football season heads into motion, the band will be hard at work to solidify their intended niche as a well mortared brick in the University's wall of institutions.



LINDA LEE/ THE BEACON

The drumline practices with the band for the FIU vs. Rutgers game.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Local produce, smoothies, yoga, and more!

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Central Fountain, along the red wall

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS Meeting.

WHEN: 7 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

HEARST DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES



Lecture by Don Browne, CEO of Telemundo.
WHEN: 3 - 4:15 p.m.
WHERE: Mary Anne Wolfe Theater, BBC
CONTACT: hradi@fiu.edu

YOGA

Hosted by the Yoga Club. Bring your own towel and if you prefer, your own mat.
WHEN: 8 - 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

MAYHEM POETS!



Presented by SPC-MMC.
WHEN: 6 - 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
HOW MUCH: Free for students. Get your tickets in GC 2240.
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

LECTURE

Dr. Norman Finkelstein on the Gaza Blockade; hosted by Students for Justice in Palestine.
WHEN: 8:30 - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 100

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23

A LECTURE BY OMAR KHAN



Presented by FIU Architecture.

WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public.
WHERE: PCA 135

SECURING YOUR FUTURE LECTURE

Hosted by Phi Chi Theta.
WHEN: 6 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 286

STUDENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Meeting.
WHEN: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn

YOGA CLASS

Including hatha yoga and relaxation techniques.
WHEN: 10 - 11 a.m.; 4 - 5 p.m.; 7 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: GC 324
CONTACT: 1008yoga@gmail.

HONORS COLLOQUIUM



Noted author Campbell McGrath will lecture.
WHEN: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 100

ONLINE GRADUATE INFO SESSION

School of Business will hold an informational chat session for those interested in the master's programs.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WEBSITE: http://fiu.bz/9vlfhi

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

FIU VOLLEYBALL



The Golden Panthers host the Denver Pioneers in the first home game of the season.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students; \$5 general
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

SPC MYSTERY MOVIE

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

POOL NIGHT

Hosted by Phi Chi Theta.
WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Porter Davis Game Room

FIU WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Golden Panthers host the UALR Trojans.
WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students; \$5 general
WHERE: FIU Soccer Stadium

BBC REC CENTER YOGA RETREAT

Retreat includes three yoga sessions, cabin rental, nature walk and more!
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$65 students; \$75 non-students
WHERE: Oleta State Park
For more info, contact shaww@fiu.edu

BEGINNING OF SEMESTER BBQ

Hosted by Biology Graduate Students Association.
WHEN: 12 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to all students.
WHERE: ECS 186B (Geiser Lab)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25

FACULTY RECITAL



With guest Anthony McFarlane, trombone. Presented by FIU Music.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff/senior; \$15 general
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

PIE ON THE PORCH



Local pie contest, heritage garden inauguration and historic house tour!
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Donation
WHERE: Merrick House 907 Coral Way, Coral Gables
For more info and to RSVP, visit slowfoodmiami.com

FIU VOLLEYBALL

The Golden Panthers host the North Texas Mean Green.
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students; \$5 general
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP



Join Students for Environmental Action and help clean up S. Fla's beaches!
WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Students will be meeting at MMC at 11 a.m. to carpool For more info, contact Cara Cooper at ccoop001@fiu.edu

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

Homeowners snubbed by politicians

MARGARET DEPASS
Contributing Writer

There is a Homeowners' Association Bill S1196 which Gov. Charlie Crist signed into law on June 1, 2010 and became effective July 1, 2010.

I was very disappointed that it waived condos having to install "life-saving devices" such as sprinkler systems, which not only decreases insurance premiums, but more importantly saves the lives of the elderly who cannot escape quickly in the event of a fire.

I was just as disappointed that the law also provided a loop-hole for special assessments.

Since they cannot be charged without homeowners' approval, an HOA can then add those amounts into association fees which the homeowners cannot control.

Since HOAs are allowed to record this charge, which is called a lien, on an

owner's property, and so many owners are already unable to pay their association fees, this increases the HOAs ability to foreclose on the home.

I became aware of this law in Feb. because I was concerned when I attended our annual HOA meeting where the election of new board members or rotation of board members took place.

There were only five board members present. With three homeowners, including myself, and the proxies a total attendance to the annual board meeting was 12.

Even though the meeting was properly publicized according to the HOA rules, the homeowners did not show up.

Since we have 289 homes, quorum was not met, neither was there 20% of the homeowners present.

Yet, the board voted in a new member and conducted business as usual, contrary to our HOA's Rules and Bylaws.

With the new law, I was also concerned because unnecessary cosmetic work was done in our community that could have possibly increased association fees or caused special assessments to be charged.

Thankfully, our association fees were not increased, nor did we receive special assessment fees.

My guess is that the association's extra income from our good investments, which have kept our association fees low for over 25 years, was used.

I don't think most HOAs are as lucky as mine with this new law because a lot of them are overseen by developers and association managers.

Since these laws also allow the developers that oversee the HOAs to "self-insure," which I feel is a conflict of interest, I think these laws financially benefit the law firms and developers that represent and own the HOAs.

In return, it seems the law provides a revolving door to benefit the politicians, attorneys and developers that are financially contributing to the politician's campaign.

With the current devastation of homes going into foreclosure, I echo how imperative it is for us to vote this coming Nov. 2 for the politicians that will help us to avoid foreclosures on our properties, not hinder us in keeping our homes.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Tailgating best in Lot 6, but change is needed

On Sept. 11, the University's home opening game against Rutgers had over 19,000 fans attending in high spirits—except for students living on campus, who were asked to move their cars from Lot 6 to Lot 5 by noon on Sept. 10 to provide more space.

The Beacon understands that Public Safety notified the students with an ample amount of time, but the deadline should have been extended in order to facilitate the relocation of students' cars.

Also unfair was to have students' cars towed at a fee of \$65 if they did not move their cars themselves.

Tamiami Park, owned by Miami-Dade County, has been used in the past for University events such as tailgates and football games. According to a spokesman for Tamiami Park, they do in fact allow the University to use their facility for parking purposes. Of course, then, students who were asked to relocate their cars would be bothered since there was more than enough parking available for those who do not live on campus.

Parking and Transportation were unavailable for comment.

The Beacon agrees that Lot 6 is the ideal place to tailgate. But as parking is already known for being difficult, students should have been provided with an option to park in parking spots that are normally not available to them such as the Recreational Center parking, in addition to allowing any overflow to be relocated to Tamiami Park.

It seems the law provides a revolving door to benefit the politicians, attorneys and developers that are financially contributing to the politician's campaign.

Studying abroad: life-changing and illuminating

MELANIE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

When people first learn that I've studied abroad, the first words out of their mouths are usually, "I wish I could've done that when I was in college."

Whether you're majoring in medicine, business or basket weaving, I believe that studying abroad is something every college student should do at least once before they graduate.

I found it to be quite an experience when it came to helping me appreciate my culture in relation to the dramatically different cultures of the world.

When studying in places as geographically and culturally foreign as Australia or China, it definitely helped me appreciate the simplest amenities I had always taken for granted being born and raised in the United States.

While some may argue that taking a vacation produces

the same effect, there's something to be said about staying in the same place long enough to immerse yourself in that culture, as opposed to simply being a passive observer everyone can immediately recognize as a tourist.

Besides the cultural integration, studying abroad also helps out career-wise.

Having global education and language studies on your resumé is a huge bonus for those of us wanting to go into international careers.

Globe-trotting through study abroad programs also helps you earn credits towards your grade point average.

Personally, the most important benefit I earned from studying abroad was a reminder of something I'd been taught a long time ago and had forgotten in the hustle of the archetype that we call "life": time and space hold little sway over what truly makes us human.

You can't realize the true

universality of our basic human elements until you're riding for eight hours through the Australian Outback laughing uproariously at a movie that would never make it to theaters in the States, or climbing the Great Wall of China beside two complaining five-year-olds, not understanding the language their mother keeps snapping at them in, but still knowing that she's telling them to shut up because this builds character.

The University offers hundreds of different scholarship opportunities and dozens of affordable study abroad programs to travel, study or work in places like Tianjin,

China or the Amazon in Peru.

Some of the most popular and affordable scholarships come from the David L. Boren Scholarship and Fellowship Awards, a federally-funded initiative designed to encourage students to acquire language proficiency and refine international skills. If you qualify, they could pay for your entire trip.

Take a semester to study abroad and widen your horizons to the point where you can barely see them anymore.

Stop to smell the flowers just once, because there are some daisies you'll never cross twice.

When studying in places as geographically and culturally foreign as Australia or China, it definitely helped me appreciate the simplest amenities I had always taken for granted...

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For more information, contact
Magnolia Hernandez
Interim Director
Office of Education Abroad
PC 113
305-348-1913

VERBATIM

"We have met our responsibility. Now it is time to turn the page."

President Barack Obama
Declaring the end of Combat Operations in Iraq

DISCLAIMER

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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

Power, Gelabert contributed to on campus sculptures

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composed of steel, tree trunks and a polyester coat resin. It is a white column with various openings featuring tree trunks.

"Florencio Gelabert's work is the ideal fit for our sculpture garden which draws attention to the connection between art and the environment," said Damian Fernandez, vice provost of BBC at the time, in a press release from the University's media relations.

Power, a well-known artist throughout the world is recognized by his innovation of combining art with science. His goal is to obtain an audience by his artwork to take interest on our oceans.

"...[To] create a very loud voice that is interesting and while we have the public interest, we communicate scientific facts that better preserve and enhance the natural phenomenon called the ocean,"

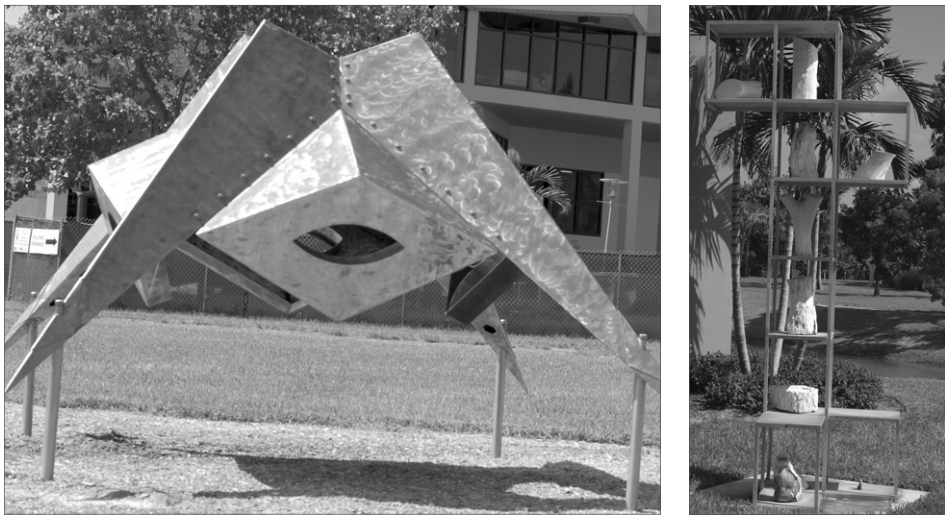
Power said on CBS4.

Power's "Future Wave" piece, located behind the Marine Science building, is composed of seven steel forms submerged in the Atlantic Ocean in 1985. After a year, the stainless steel "Reflective Man," composed of nine steel forms along a passage way near the Marine Science building.

"The school is the perfect place to display these sculptures given their global nature. The location by the bay where people can enjoy them just magnifies their potency," said Power's in a press release from the University's media relations.

The "No Turning Back" piece, a 10-foot-tall wavy structure, contributes to the sculpture garden.

"It's an integral part of the campus and it's nice to see a merging creativity of art and science," said Kevin Bernhardt, senior biology major.



PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

"Focus" (left) by Ross Power is next to the Hospitality Mangement building and "Column Tree" (right) by Florencio Gelabert is behind the Wolfe University Center.

Debuting with a buffalo chicken cheesesteak

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chicken as tender as possible. If you're using a thick piece of chicken, such as a breast, first cut the thickness in half or thirds.

Heat about a tablespoon of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Once the skillet is hot add enough chicken to cover the bottom of the skillet. It's good to spread the chicken out as much as possible. All of the chicken should be directly touching the skillet.

In about two minutes the chicken should be ready to flip over. At this point the cooked side should be lightly golden. If it's ready, flip it over and let it cook for about another two minutes on the other side. Once the chicken is cooked through, place a few pieces of American cheese on top, and then toss the chicken so the melted cheese is spread throughout. Set this mixture aside in a bowl and repeat the process with more chicken if needed.

Cut open a roll lengthwise and spread some blue cheese dressing on the inside of the roll. Put the cooked chicken and cheese mixture inside the roll and then drizzle

enough buffalo sauce on top to cover the chicken. Repeat the previous steps to make more than one "buff" sandwich.

Prepare for a foodgasm because it is now ready to enjoy.

INGREDIENTS FOR 4 CHEESESTEAKS

- 1.5 lb. raw Chicken (Breast or Thighs)
- 1/3 lb. White American cheese (thin sliced)
- 1/2 cup Buffalo sauce
- 1/4 cup Blue cheese Dressing
- 4 12" long (approximately) sandwich rolls

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ST. MARTIN

Tight outcome in 1st parliament vote

Tiny St. Maarten has elected its first independent parliament, but results on Sept. 18 leave unclear who will govern when the former Dutch colony becomes a semiautonomous country on Oct. 10



HAITI

Few answers at Haiti's pres. debate

Haiti held its second presidential debate every on Sept. and only four of 19 candidates faced off in front of about 40 audience members. There were few detailed responses and it was disrupted by power blackouts.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Pastor suspected of abusing 30 children

Prosecutors are investigating claims that Daniel Vasquez sexually abused 30 children. The pastor has surrendered to authorities in the city of Santiago and declared his innocence.

Getting to know the campus' steel artwork

VICTORIA MARICHAL
Contributing Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus flourishes with beautiful steel sculptures by environmental artists Florencio Gelabert and Ross Power.

BBC's sculpture garden blooms everyday at the campus with its scenic views and environmental purpose for the over 7,000 students who attend.

"The sculptures are very free-spirited," said student Kaylan Pereira, junior biology major.

Both Gelabert and Power's sculptures have

contributed unique formations that draw attention to the link between art and our environment.

Gelabert, born in Cuba, is from an era of artists who migrated to the United States after Fidel Castro took power. The "Column Tree," and his other recent work, focuses on obtaining public response by depicting the destruction of the earth and the environment undergo.

The "Column Tree," located outside the Wolfe University Center facing the Marine Science building, was donated by



PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Ross Power's sculptures, "Future Wave" (top) and "Reflective Man" (right) are both located near the Marine Science building



New York art collector Marc Routh and funded by the Florida Art in State

Buildings Program. This program is an organization that is dedicated to

displaying art in various public locations.

The "Column Tree"

stands 10 feet tall in the

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MARINE SCIENCES

Marine Science building not just for marine science

BRIAN CORREIA
Contributing Writer

Since opening in 2006, the Marine Sciences Building at the Biscayne Bay Campus has been home to many different courses other than biological sciences majors.

Over the last year alone, 13 different disciplines were taught in the Marine Sciences building besides programs related to Biological Sciences. Such courses include: Philosophy, Hospitality, Nursing, Speech Communications, Women's studies, Modern Languages, Physics, Statistics, Accounting, Management and International Relations, Journalism and Politics.

However, Biological Science courses still constitute 60 to 70 percent of the total building utilization. Some of the courses taught this semester include: Ecology, Biological Oceanography, Marine

Ecosystem Ecology, Invertebrate Zoology, General Oceanography, Marine Botany and Marine Biology.

On top of the disciplines taught in the Marine Sciences Building over the last, there is also allocated space for the Student Government Association at BBC to host the Fall Semester kick-off.

"All classrooms on campus are utilized for general purposes. In regards to the Marine Sciences Building, we try to focus only those majors there, but we need to utilize University resources where available," said Stephen Moll, vice provost of BBC.

The utilization of all classrooms on campus is the key to additional funding that the school receives from the State.

"Utilization is important because if we don't utilize a building to its full capacity, then the state won't give us more funding. And by receiving more state funding, we are

able to offer more courses and majors inevitably giving the students more choices," said Annette Baham, BBC Facilities Scheduler.

Prior to the Fall Semester, there were several renovations that took place within the Marine Sciences Building to give students studying biological sciences a new home at BBC away from the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"There was three faculty members that relocated their labs and offices from MMC to BBC within the Marine Sciences Building," said Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences and director of marine sciences.

Two of the three professors are Trexler and Rudolf Jaffe, who teaches chemistry. Bill Anderson, professor of earth and environment, will follow shortly thereafter, once all the renovations are finished.

Another renovation currently taking place is the boat ramp along Biscayne Bay.

Recently, this has been non-functional, but administrators hope to see it finished by the end of the fall semester.

In addition, faculty members are discussing the possibility of building another Biological Sciences Building at BBC to address students' needs in that major.

"The new building, which we're not really sure when it will happen yet, will be a large lab, classroom and office building for multiple disciplines. That will lead to the kind of interdisciplinary research and teaching that is needed to solve environmental challenges of today and the future," said Dr. Michael Heithaus, director of the school of environment and society.

"In my 13 years with Florida International University, ultimately seeing [Modesto Maidique Campus] and Biscayne Bay Campus as a whole grow, has been a totally awesome experience," said Baham.

FOODGASM

Restarting for the foodies with some flair from Philly

GENE KRAVETS
Contributing Writer

Following a brief hiatus, a column known as Foodgasm, will once again grace the pages of The Beacon. Foodgasm, which was previously written by Bianca Rojas, will be taken over by myself, a fellow food-lover.

I'm currently a Hospitality major with aspirations of eventually opening a restaurant.

As a youngster, going out to restaurants was the biggest treat for me; once I formulated an opinion about which foods I liked, having steak or ribs for dinner became almost as much of a treat.

Around the start of my high school years, I grew fond of the Food Network and certain

cooking shows on TV. I was interested by how artistic, scientific and creative cooking could be. I then decided that I had the capacity to do the same things that chefs on TV were doing, so I started experimenting by creating my own dishes.

Ever since, cooking has been one of my favorite hobbies and even something that I hope will evolve into my career. I enjoy crafting original recipes in my own kitchen, but also mimicking dishes that I enjoy while out.

The first food item that I will write about draws from my roots. I come from Philadelphia, home of the Philly Cheese Steak - a sandwich that consists of thinly sliced meat topped with melted cheese inside a long roll.

Since cheese steaks have become a universal food item many variations have been introduced. There are pizza steaks, chicken philly's and now, my newest favorite, the buffalo chicken cheese steak.

This heavenly creation merges the buffalo wing and the cheese steak. The thought alone brings tears of joy to my stomach, but when the sandwich materializes and interacts with my taste buds, a true foodgasm ensues.

The essence of this sandwich is a roll filled with chopped chicken pieces, melted cheese, buffalo sauce and blue cheese dressing. The resulting concoction is pure deliciousness. In every bite you taste the tenderness of the chicken, mixed with the creaminess of the melted cheese, the tang of the blue

cheese, and the spice of the buffalo sauce, all contained in the roll.

I've only been here for a month, so being a newcomer to the area I haven't a clue where to find a buffalo chicken cheese steak, let alone a good one.

Instead, I will offer my own recipe on how to make this sandwich. For those who already cook, consider adding this to your repertoire, and for those who do not, this is an easy and highly satisfying dish to make.

To start, cut the chicken into quarter inch chunks or as small as possible. Small pieces will decrease the cook time, keeping the

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