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WHACK DEBATE

Obama, McCain offer little substance

OPINION

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COMICS

LONE STAR TEST

Football seeks second straight win

SPORTS

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FAHRENHEIT 9/30

Banned books, poems read with students

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

Upon entering the Green Library Tuesday evening for a Banned Book Read Out, students discovered that even books like the Bible and "Sounder" did not escape being banned at some point in history.

"Any sort of publication should not necessarily be shut down or turned away unless there is libel," said Rebbecca Sampson, a sophomore. "It is freedom of speech and freedom of thought and if you want to be able to read about something, then you should be able to."

The event was hosted by FIU Libraries in honor of National Banned Books Week.

University President Modesto A. Maidique, Provost Ronald Berkman and library faculty members read excerpts from banned books, and afterward engaged in a discussion with students.

"An event like this benefits the student body but also benefits the FIU community because it raises the profile of the books that we're reading and highlights what we, as an educational institution, try to do; which is to share ideas and foster free dialog about those ideas so we can all learn from each other," said Laura Probst, dean of Libraries.

"[Banning books] underscores our commitment to absolute freedom of speech and academic freedom and to the right of every individual to read whatever he or she would like to read," Maidique said.

The first excerpts were three poems read by Maidique. Written by Heriberto Padilla, the poems were banned in Cuba for criticizing the revolution.

"This has been a policy in Cuba of ban-



JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

READING POESIA: President Modesto A. Maidique read the first excerpt from three poems by Heriberto Padilla.

ning, I would say, an enormous number of books because they might lead to thoughts that are different from the revolution," said Maidique, when discussing why the poems were banned.

Berkman followed by reading excerpts from "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

"It was published just a few years after Brown v. Board of Education," Berkman said. "There are various reasons in various places that ban the book. Some, because they feel it is politically incorrect in today's context and some feel that it raises subject

BANNED BOOKS, page 2

Professor 'Pancho' gets bronze

NATALEE GIL-DEL RIO
Contributing Writer

Looking back at his earlier years, Francisco "Pancho" Waltersdorfer remembers being told by an architect that he would not succeed in the field.

However, Waltersdorfer was able to prove him wrong.

On Aug. 26, Waltersdorfer, now an alumnus and professor at the School of Architecture, received a bronze medal for his outstanding academic distinction in architecture from the Florida Foundation for Architecture. The bronze medal is awarded to only one recent graduate who has succeeded in architecture.

Born in Peru but raised in Colombia, Waltersdorfer joined the University in 2000 after his father, who works for International Business Machines Corporation, transferred to Miami.

He came with the intention of majoring in business administration but quickly found out he'd rather study architecture.

"It bored me having to go to business class. My only motivation to attend class was knowing I had an architecture class the next hour," he said.

In fall 2004, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in design from the School of Architecture and was soon picked up by the Spillis Candela firm in Miami.

While working full-time, he graduated with his master's in 2008 as the top student of his class with the highest GPA.

"It was not very easy for me to do this," Waltersdorfer said. "I considered myself a full-time employee and student at the same time and remember not resting very much. Many nights, I remember only sleeping for two or three hours, not

WALTERSDORFER, page 2

Concert helps fund elementary music programs

JULIO MENACHE
Asst. News Director

When trying to find an original idea for a fundraiser, Senior Matt Murrell looked back to his elementary school roots.

Murrell, president of the Collegiate Music Educator's National Association, came up with the idea of organizing a concert aimed to raise money for poorly funded elementary music programs. While the concert is free, members of CMENA are asking for a minimum \$5 donation toward the grant.

"We were trying to find out

I never really had a music education as a child, so to see the students excited makes me happy as well.

Patricia Mitjans, Vice president, CMENA

how to give back to the community. We wanted to help music teachers somehow have the tools to be successful," Murrell said.

Now in its second year, the CMENA's 'Faculty Spotlight Concert' will feature performances inside the Wertheim Performing Arts Center's concert hall including FIU faculty members and

FIU's Big Band on Oct. 3.

"This is truly a great project," said Dr. Kathy Kersletter, assistant professor for the School of Music. "The real benefit, of course, is for college students to be involved in their profession."

The club set up the "Grant for Music in Need" which provides \$750 for an elementary school mu-

sic program of CMENA's choice. Members also choose from a long list of possible music programs.

"We (CMENA) provide teachers with a questionnaire and application, then we read through them and pick the teacher that will help promote music in the best of his or her ability," said Patricia Mitjans, vice president of CMENA.

Mitjans, who is coordinating the event this year, noted that while many members had no experience planning a concert, they were able to get a good deal of help.

"Planning the event was easier than I expected. Teachers have

been very cooperative," Mitjans said.

Last year, the club awarded the grant to West Homestead Elementary, who used the donation to buy 60 pairs of rhythm sticks and 20 18-note bell sets.

This year's concert will be benefiting Royal Green Elementary, whose program has decided to use the funds to buy 'boomwhackers' - hollowed out percussion tubes - three sets of chromatic handbells and curriculum for use.

"I never really had a music education as a child, so to see the students excited makes me happy as well," Mitjans said.

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

A new Florida law paves the way for virtual classrooms

Starting next school year, the first generation of Florida students can earn a diploma from their public schools entirely online, without ever setting foot in a classroom from kindergarten through 12th grade. A new state law requires districts to create their own full-time virtual schools, collaborate with other districts or contract with providers approved by the state. The law is believed to be the most wide-ranging virtual mandate in the nation.

WORLD

Chinese Olympic gymnasts legit according to federation

The Chinese women's gymnastics team did not use underage competitors during this year's Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, the International Gymnastics Federation on Oct. 2. The federation said it has concluded its inquiry into the matter after it confirmed the gymnasts' ages through official documents that the Chinese Gymnasts Association provided. The documents included passports, identity cards and household registers. However, the organization intends to further investigate the ages of two gymnasts, Dong Fangxiao and Yang Yun, who participated in the 2000 summer games in Sydney, Australia. The federation said it did not consider the explanations and evidence that Chinese authorities provided in regard to those athletes as satisfactory.

NATIONAL

'Sweeteners' could make bailout bill sour for House Democrats

Congressional leaders played a delicate political game Wednesday as they added "sweeteners" to a \$700 billion financial bailout plan to attract enough House members, particularly Republicans, to pass the plan, which failed in the House just two days ago.

The measures a mix of tax extensions, an increase in federal deposit insurance and other measures include many items that are appealing to Republicans.

Democratic leadership aides said the House vote on the bailout package could occur midday Friday if the plan passes in the Senate Wednesday night, which is expected.

– Compiled by Paulo O'Swath

THE FOOD DUDE



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

COOKING WITH KEVIN: Kevin Roberts discusses nutrition and easy recipes for students in the GC Ballrooms on Sept. 30.

Architecture professor makes it to top amid scrutiny, difficulties

WALTERSDORFER, page 1

something I recommend anyone to do."

Aside from the bronze medal, he has also received the Corporate Aecon Professional Excellence Award in 2007 and the BEA International Award in 2007 for his thesis project.

His hard work has paid off professionally as well.

Waltersdorfer is currently working as a professor for computer applications in architecture and has been

given his first major project in Spillis Candela, which he will spearhead.

He is also collaborating on projects with his students and ex-professors for the "Miami Waterworks" and "Festival of the Trees" competitions.

For a man who was told he'd never make it in the world of architecture, Waltersdorfer has exceeded expectations, proving that one doubter wrong.

"'Pancho' is certainly one of the best students to

'Pancho' is certainly one of the best students to come out of FIU and is as good as anyone in any major or IV League university.

John Stuart, Professor

come out of FIU and is as good as anyone in any major or IV League university," said his thesis professor John Stuart.

"It is obvious architecture is not the highest paying job in the market to-

day, but I don't care about having a fancy car or a big house. I'm an architect because I love what I do and hope to serve my community in any way I can," Waltersdorfer said.

Readings foster freedom of expression

BANNED BOOKS, page 1

matter that young people should not be exposed to. The book was banned in cities like New York and Anchorage, Alaska. The portrayal of the story and the portrayal of the characters is obviously done in period and expressed in period. It would be inauthentic if it did not capture and did not really express what was a country that was just emerging from apartheid."

Following the provost, Laura Cristos, library faculty member, read an excerpt from "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

"A novel that follows a fireman whose job is to burn books and his evolution of questioning whether or

not it was the right thing to do. Books are considered forbidden in the novel," Cristos said. "The book shows that freedom of thought is something we are entitled to, that comes from being well read. This book was banned not so much because of the content but because of a few words like hell, damn and abortion. That a book can be taken off a shelf for mere language makes us realize that it does not take much."

Violeta Fernandez, Lending Services supervisor, discussed and read from "Paula" by Isabel Allende.

"I had read the book many years back," Fernandez said. "It is a very touching story about a mother and her daughter and their relationship. There are a few passages that have sexual language. It's one on a list of 55 books

that parents in Faville, Ark. were petitioning to have removed from school libraries."

At the end of the readings, students got the chance to express their positions.

"It is simply out of ignorance that a book is banned in the first place because books are the best way we have to communicate our ideals and way of life to future generations," said sophomore Marie Moorman.

Visit our Web site on Oct. 2 to read the article with a warp around about the event.

www.FIUSM.com

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

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CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Sept. 28, 2008, the brief titled 'Board of Trustees ratify new contract for full time employees,' was a brief published four years ago. Negotiations are currently ongoing.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.



JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Work out, stay fit, win prizes with Rec-Bucks

JULIA CARDENUTO
BBC managing Editor

Going to the gym might be a burden for many people, but the Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus is trying to make it fun by offering an incentive- Rec-Bucks.

Rec-Bucks are redeemable, dollar-like vouchers given to students, faculty and members of the Fitness Center after every workout or outdoor activity hosted by the Recreation Center.

By accumulating Rec-Bucks, participants can win a wide range of prizes. A sports bottle is worth 15 Rec-Bucks, which is the minimum price for any of the prizes. A flash drive costs 35 Rec-Bucks while a sports bag is awarded after collecting 50 Rec-Bucks. The grand prize is a Kayaking Excursion with up to eight participants, for 100 Rec-Bucks.

"Rec-Bucks are designed to raise participation and awareness about the BBC recreation center, and to encourage a new and exciting way to stay healthy," said Jonathan Torrey, recreation specialist of the BBC Recreation Center.

The Rec-Bucks idea was developed after a one-on-one meeting last spring semester with Torrey and Elias Bardawil, assistant director of BBC's recreation center.

"We both sat down and brainstormed the idea for the program," Torrey said. "My idea was to invent something dynamic that would excite students, faculty and staff about staying fit."

The basketball tournament on Sept. 19,

was the first day that the Recreation Center gave out Rec-Bucks to students and faculty. Since then, the program has garnered attention.

"The program has definitely excited an interest in the idea of what Rec-Bucks are, and now there have been hints of the program around campus; students are stopping by the gym and asking when the dollars will start to be distributed."

The Recreation Center will have special day events where students, faculty and members will be able to get the Rec-Bucks, according to Jennifer Millon, a junior advertising major and fitness center attendant.

Even though the Recreation Center already distributed the first Rec-Bucks, the program is scheduled to start after proper advertising begins, Millon said.

According to Torrey, the program will continue throughout the year and upcoming semesters.

The Rec-Bucks can be redeemed for prizes at the Fitness Center reception desk.

"I want to make this program a part of recreation like strength training, cardio programs and the aquatic center area," Torrey said. "We want the prizes to be items that draw people to the program, but at the same time keep them looking out for something new."

For more information about the Rec-Bucks program, visit the Recreation Center at the Wolfe University Center, room 116 or call 305-919-5678.

FALSE ALARM



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

EVACUATION: Students and staff wait outside the Wolfe University Center after a fire alarm went off on Oct. 1. They waited outside for about 40 minutes. According to construction workers making repairs in the elevator room on the roof of Wolfe University Center, the alarm may have gone off because of dust and vibrations.

Making or breaking the night: good pre-game locations



PARADISE AFAHAR/THE BEACON

LOUNGING AROUND: With a full bar and comfortable couches, Archie's is an ideal spot to meet up with friends before a big night out.

There is nothing that can ruin a good night out like a bad pre-game location.

By pre-gaming, I mean a location where friends meet up at to eat and drink before going out for the night.

I cannot even start to count the times that I've had plans to meet up with friends at a coffee shop or restaurant before going to a club, and had that spot spoil the night.

Over the years, I have learned that getting coffee before going out may seem like a good idea, but in reality, coffee shops are so laid back that it is easy to leave feeling tired, even after all the caffeine ingestion.

The same can be said about certain restaurants that have become a staple in pre-gaming, that they are no longer fun to go to, like any Ale House location.

So this past Friday, when my friend Cynthia and I were meeting up with a few people before going to a party, I refused to pre-game at a coffee shop.

Instead, I decided to have my friends meet us at Sunny Beach Billiards, located at 17070 Collins Ave. unit 269, which is easily the

best place to pre-game in Sunny Isles.

Sunny Beach Billiards is a small billiard location with nine pool tables, a few television sets, a full bar and finger foods, like pizza and chicken nuggets.

As we waited for our friends to arrive, Cynthia and I played a few rounds of pool, which is a great way to pass time. The best part is that as people show up, they can join the game without interrupting; they just have to join a team.

Sunny Beach Billiards is an ideal pre-gaming location for those who like to stay out late. They are open until 2 a.m., making it easy for night owls to have a place to hang out.

Cynthia and I had so much fun pre-gaming with our friends, that I decided to explore other pre-gaming locations on Saturday night as well.

My best friend Beth and I were going to watch our friend Kayliegh perform during a showing of the popular movie, "Rocky Horror Picture Show." There was no one to meet up with this time, but we still wanted to go somewhere to pre-game before the show, which begins at midnight every Saturday

at Flipper Theater in Hollywood—but more on that in the Halloween issue of the column.

Our place of choice was Archie's, located at 18841 Biscayne Blvd.

It's a great place to pre-game if you want to get something to eat or drink before heading out for the evening. I really enjoyed the white couches in the Side Bar part of the restaurant. They are the perfect place to sit and wait for friends.

Don't let the club-like atmosphere fool you; Archie's is very inviting and a good place to talk over plans for the rest of the night. Pricing is also very reasonable. They offer an array of Italian food, such as pizza that costs \$13 to \$15 a pie.

I would suggest going on Thursdays for two-for-one margaritas and Ladies Night.

No matter where or when you like to go out, make sure you have a good pre-game location. Let's face it; waiting on people to show up is annoying, but there is no reason why it cannot be one of the best parts of the night.

"Weekends with Paradise," is a column that runs every other Friday, covering North Miami night life. If you have any suggestion, please send me an e-mail at paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE



PARADISE AFSHAR



2008 ELECTION UPDATE

THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: COMPLETE COVERAGE

INDEPENDENTS IGNORED

Undecided voters gain little insight from vague debate

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Life! Editor

In the battle for the collective eternal soul of Americans the presidential election has become, being an independent or undecided voter is kind of like being a kid stuck in the middle of a bitter custody battle.

Both sides, the Democratic and Republican tickets, have their own ends they want to meet. While they continually tell you they care about you, the actual evidence of this doesn't match up with the words spoken.

Sure polls and stump speeches say each candidate cares deeply about the concerns of those voters who attempt to operate outside the bounds of the two-party system

\$700 billion of taxpayers' money to failing financial institutions in order to prevent them from going under, and in turn, collapsing the economy.

Lehrer was forced to ask twice more what they would specifically do to address the plan and most importantly, which of their campaign goals would they give up to pay for it.

The most telling part of the debate was when Lehrer finally asked, "but if I hear the two of you correctly, neither one of you is suggesting any major changes in what you want to do as president as a result of the financial bailout. Is that what you're saying?"

Each candidate tried to dodge the question, which obviously annoyed Lehrer. They

to make a grand distinction between the two parties, take the war in Iraq; the majority of the back and forth between the two centered around issues based in the past. McCain's insistence that Obama's refusal to accept "the surge's" success and Obama's focus on whether we should have gone in with guns blazing in the first place are points that have been discussed for the past year, if not in the last set of presidential debates.

The fact that they disagree on going into Iraq in the first place doesn't overlook the fact that for the future, they aren't that much different. They both claim to want to eventually bring the troops home but increasingly resist timeliness in favor of the reality of the "situation on the ground."

Indeed, these situational factors will determine when troops come home more than what either of these candidates believe or desire, making the debates on this end rather moot.

While the talk on "spin alley" was that one candidate or the other backed the other into a corner and mashed them mercilessly during each allotted amount of time, the implication has to be that one of them must have won.

But if the point of the debate is less about talking points and more about informing worried undecided voters about how they actually plan to take care of the problems in the future of our country, neither side can claim a real victory.

In fact, the two disagreed on little of substance over the course of 90 minutes. On the main issues of foreign policy, neither took a stance too far to one side, possibly as a way to avoiding alienating those more in the middle.

But, in a two party system where the two are your only real choices, you can't help but feel a little cheated when the differences between the two amount to not much more than surface differences.

When looking at this election without

holding a stake one way or the other on who wins, it is hard to see too many substantial differences between the two. Sure, you have each party's pet issues – the environment, abortion, gay marriage, etc. – but on things like the economy and national defense, are the differences great enough to justify placing a vote for either?

In a recent ad, McCain's campaign criticized Obama for the number of times he said "I agree with John" during the debate – but doesn't that serve as a point against both?

They both said they believe spending should be curbed and done more intelligently as a whole, but as McCain himself said, "We have now presided over the largest increase in the size of government since the Great Society."

For those who find their politics don't match up perfectly enough with either candidate's to throw their support behind them, this debate was just another instance when you have to feel disillusioned with the whole process.

The good news is, the two guys we are looking at running the country are leaps and bounds better than recent options. But the bad news is that for those outside of the two parties.

They represent a lot more of the same policies that have become the standards for their parties, so if you don't like them now, the subsequent debates might not do too much to change your opinion.

Chris Towers can be reached at chris.towers@fiusm.com

Neither one of you is suggesting any major changes in what you want to do as president as a result of the financial bailout. Is that what you're saying?

Jim Lehrer, moderator of the first presidential debate, to candidates Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama

– but at the end of the day, the attempts to reach out ultimately are only done to serve their own purposes.

In this way, the Sept. 26 presidential debate between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain, while demonstrating the impressive oratory skills of the two, ultimately rang hollow to this undecided voter.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about the entire night was when moderator Jim Lehrer, who was at all times tough and fair to both candidates, asked where they stood on the economic recovery plan, which was being drafted for a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives just days after the televised debate.

The recovery plan would have sent about

both showed how unprepared and shocked they were of the economic situation.

This highlights how little foresight either candidate has given to the fact that, if you are going to write a check that exceeds the to-date cost of the Iraq war to banks and lending institutions, you must cut other programs. Neither of the senators could give specific examples of what they would sacrifice in the country's economic crisis.

Such heavy inclinations towards spending and little regard for saving by leaders of both leading political parties will surely threaten the upcoming years with federal budget deficits larger than those created under eight years of the Bush administration.

For another case of how the debate failed

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Views advocated in morality article pose danger to secular government

After reading Chris Lee Reyes' article on moral matters, I couldn't help but be appalled that my school's newspaper would allow such a radical opinion to be printed without another writer's views to be alongside.

As I was reading the article, I found myself agreeing with the writer until near the end.

Reyes then started advocating a radical view: that we should throw out the first amendment and desecularize the country so that a conservative Christian view of values can be allowed to press their biggoted views of homosexuals and those who do not follow the Bible.

This country was founded on the idea of enlightenment, on the principles of Locke and Montesquieu.

As our founding fathers wrote within our treaty with Tripoli in 1797, "Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion."

Mark Hackman
Junior
Political Science

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say? Contact us at opinion@fiusm.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.

Freshman recounts his tailgating experiences

New stadium. New game. You in? Sure, why not? I didn't have homework the weekend of FIU's home-opener, nor did I have any prospective tests to fail. Besides, FIU had graciously given out free vouchers to all students who presented a Panther ID and as I have quickly learned as a college student, you take anything that's free.

The first game in the new stadium would be one to remember. It'll go down in FIU history, or so it was advertised.

Growing up, I was never a fan of football, so this game would be my first college football experience, and with that would come tailgates. Except, I had no idea what in the world that was, so that weekend was my first tailgating experience.

During the pre-game festivities, music was blasting from several different tents. Burgers and hot dogs were smoking on grills and the energy was intoxicating. Sadly, so were the bathrooms. We were provided with portable bathrooms that are made out of plastic and reek of vomit -

among other things. I felt bad for anyone that really had to go to the bathroom or suffered from claustrophobia.

I spent about two hours hanging out with my friends, listening to music and rock climbing. I didn't think tailgating would be so much fun. If this was indicative of how future tailgates would be, then I see myself attending every home football game.

At game time, my friends and I headed toward Gate 6. We handed our panther IDs to be swiped for admission and went to find seats on the stands. This was an unruly experience. The lines were a complete disaster. I detracted a couple of points from my first football experience.

The game started at 5 p.m., and I was drenched in sweat by 5:30 p.m. I knew nothing about football, but I did know that the sun was blazing. Covered in sweat, I was glad when halftime came. It gave me some time to go downstairs and cool off under the stands with a small, overpriced frozen lemonade.

The game continued pretty much un-

eventful until the last quarter. We scored nine points by the end of the game, so it wasn't too bad of a loss. I was glad the game was over - not because I didn't like football but because the sun would no longer torture me.

A word to the wise: if you are going to go to a sporting event during the day for an extended period of time, do not wear jeans (much less black jeans). Make sure to wear a light colored shirt and bring sunscreen. If you don't, you will boil under the sun. Take it from a freshman with a sunburn.

Weeks after my first game, the experience is still stuck to me. I was surprised and glad to see that the University has so much pride. At the tailgate, everyone was splattering blue and gold paint on themselves and on each other.

During the game, everyone on our side was cheering and doing the wave. Even when we were losing, we never stopped cheering. Our football players never gave up.

Back in high school, once our team started to lose that would be it, it was over. But FIU did not give up that easily.



RICK MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

PANTHER PRIDE: Many students went out and tailgated prior to the Golden Panther's football home-opener on Sept. 20.

That same determination showed at this past weekend's game against Toledo. We won our first game of the season. So far, my football experiences have made me proud to be a Golden Panther.

Read Real Freshman Experience every other Friday in Life! Have a suggestion on what Jason should write about next? E-mail us at life@fiusm.com.

REAL FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE



JASON CACERES

Dear beautiful readers,

It is with great pleasure I introduce to you "diversions." So sit back with your *Beacon* copy, grab your favorite carbonated (diet) beverage and enjoy some comics and sudoku. Catch "diversions" in every Friday issue. If you're interested in becoming a comic artist for us, shoot me an e-mail at life@fiusm.com.

- Jonathan Davila, Life! Editor



diversions

EASY

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

HARD

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6				1				7
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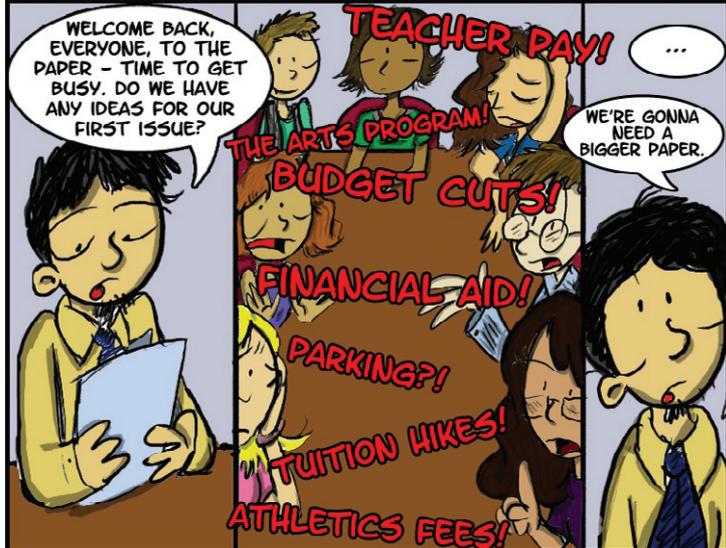
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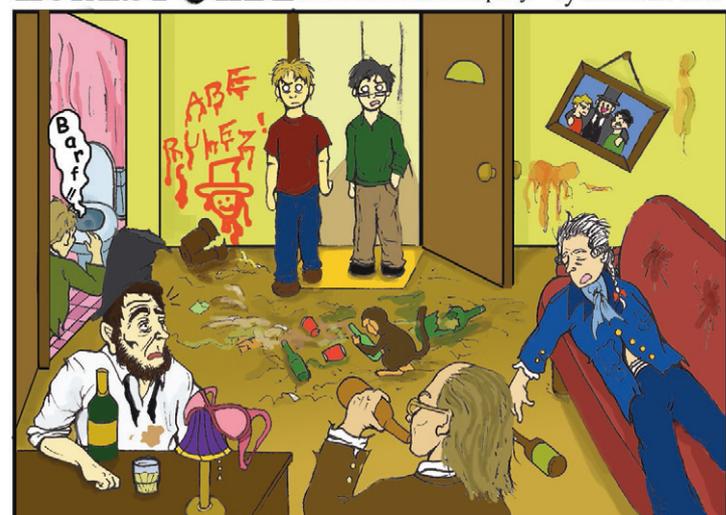
BY JONATHAN ROBERTS AND ANDREW SANTIAGO
JIMMY STILL HAS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY



STOP THE PRESSES! A COMIC BY IRIS AMELIA



HONEST ABE...throws a Presidential party. by michelle diaz



REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

MOVIE

"Blindness"

'Blindness' turns to blandness after climax

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

When a disease that causes blindness ravages a city, what happens when quarantine fails to contain it?

Directed by Fernando Meirelles, "Blindness" starts off in a crowded intersection with the first casualty of "white blindness" being a victim who sees nothing but white. One by one, everybody in the city is blinded by this sickness including a doctor (Mark Ruffalo), his wife (Julianne Moore) and a bartender (Gael Garcia Bernal). The only person not affected is the doctor's wife.

All of the people that get blinded are ordered to go to quarantine in an abandoned mental hospital. The doctor's wife lies about being blind in order to go with her husband.

Once in quarantine, the bartender declares himself "king," dictating to the rest of the people how they should get their food. In order to stop this madness, the doctor's wife must find a way to overpower the bartender and his cronies and escape quarantine.

"Blindness" is based on the Jose Saramago novel "Ensaio Sobre a Cegueira." The movie was the opening film for the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for the festival's Golden Palm award.

While "Blindness" is promis-

ing from the get-go as the disease tightens its grip across the city, as soon as people enter the abandoned hospital, the story slowly descends into a deep, dark place.

Madness soon takes over as urine and excrement are seen everywhere due to lack of restrooms. Yet as soon as the movie reaches its climax, it becomes very slow. This two-hour movie should have been trimmed down by at least 10 minutes.

While this movie has a good ensemble, none of the actors really stand out. They act like they have never been blind, which is as much in-depth acting as performances can get in the movie.

Meirelles has also directed the acclaimed foreign film "City of God" and the Oscar-winning film "The Constant Gardener."

I have to credit Cesar Charlone for his amazing cinematography. It was shot with stunning camera movements across a city's barren streets ravaged with debris and empty cars taking up space. One can definitely tell this movie was shot out of the United States, but I would not have thought that this was shot in Canada, Uruguay and Brazil.

Although points can be given to the film's cinematography for making the movie highly alluring, "Blindness" starts out strong but then becomes exceedingly uninteresting.

CD

Johnson and Jonson

Rapper, producer breathe life into stale west coast rap scene

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

I recently came a little heralded California emcee whose skills suggest he could make a major impact on the rap hemisphere.

I present you, Johnson Barnes, otherwise known as a verbal animal by the name of Blu.

After a busy 2007, Blu teams up with Mainframe for the Sept. 23 release, *Johnson and Jonson*.

With Blu as Johnson, and producer Mainframe as Jonson, the pair teamed up for one of the best listens of the year.

The TRES Records release features no guest appearances, giving the duo a unique sound reminiscent of the 70s.

The refreshing hip-hop journey begins with "J & J" as an opener, a joint introducing the group with heavy but not obnoxious drumming and a smooth change of instruments.

Mainframe creates an outstanding platform for Blu's Q-Tip resembling vocals.

After some bragging over his lyrical ability on another track, the third offering of the album is a catchy one in "Half a Knot."

The rapper takes on a darker subject over a poppy beat and

speaks on working the block. Getting more personal, Blu brings it back to his earlier days on "Mama Told Me," another smooth song laid out by the gifted 25-year-old.

Narrating mostly about kicking it on the steps and enjoying the feeling of drinking and smoking with his friends, Blu entertains while making it look easy.

After a feel good song in "Wow," the duo creates a scene of struggle for the album's hustler anthem in "The Only Way."

A song about hustle in the streets could be cliché if it weren't for Blu's impressive delivery and another example of solid sampling from Mainframe.

Besides Blu's tremendous lyricism, Mainframe's production shined on the album due to his near brilliant sampling of soul and rock, among other genres.

Yet even if the album shines most of the time and the group's chemistry is evident, they sometimes fall into a trap of sounding too similar.

Mainframe's production could be a bit more versatile to complement Blu's potential to tackle a wide variety of subjects.

This minor setback stops the album from being flawless but does not take away from the



young duo's effort to put together the best hip-hop release of 2008 so far.

With Blu's previous release, "Below the Heavens," which was a project with a different producer, Exile, the talented rapper has now built momentum and hype alongside his name.

His newest venture with Mainframe now raises the expectations of the California native.

Assisted by his producer, who is also west coast bred, the team provides a glimpse of what could possibly become the next best artist-producer group in the game.

Even though the California hip-hop scene had to sweat out a drought of quality music for some time before the arrival of The Game's three albums, Johnson and Jonson provide a nice alternate to Game's hardcore rhymes for the pacific.

Once fans pick up this album, it will be hard not to realize that west coast rap will be OK.

Though that might be an understatement.

Jonathan Ramos can be reached at jonathan.amos@fiusm.com.

WEEKEND CALENDAR

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 3

WHAT: Chinese Club Movie Night "Turn Left, Turn Right"
WHERE: GC140
WHEN: 4:00 p.m.

WHAT: SPC Movie Kung Fu Panda
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Panther Promotions Giveaways
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Theatre Presents "The Cook"
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Asian Student Union General Meeting
WHERE: Gracies Grill
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Atmosphere
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Democracy for America Campus Corps General Meeting
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Music: CMENC Faculty Spotlight Concert
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 4

WHAT: Maroon 5 and Counting Crows with Special Guest Augustana
WHERE: Cruzan Amphitheatre
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.

WHAT: The Academy Is with We the Kings
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: Apocalyptica
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Classic Albums Live Presents: "Hotel California"
WHERE: Paradise Live
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Funkshion: Fashion Week-Saturday
WHERE: Miami Beach Botanical Garden
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Nightmare: Ghost Stories
WHERE: Soho Studios
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Oktoberfest
WHERE: Fritz & Franz Bierhaus Austrian-Bavarian Restaurant & Bar
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Barack N' Roll Bake Sale + Voter Registration
WHERE: Sweat Records
WHEN: 3 p.m.

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 5

WHAT: FIU Theatre: The Cook
WHERE: FIU WPAC Main Stage
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Cut for the Cure
WHERE: Paul Mitchell Hi-Tech School of Cosmetology
WHEN: 10 a.m.

WHAT: Miami Dolphins vs San Diego Chargers
WHERE: Dolphin Stadium
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT: Lewis Black
WHERE: Kravis Center
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: United Slaves of America Tour
WHERE: PS14
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Last Chance for Change Rally with Jay-Z
WHERE: Bayfront Park
WHEN: 2 p.m.

WHAT: Farm Sanctuary's Walk for Farm Animals
WHERE: South Beach Whole Foods/Wild Oats Natural
WHEN: 4 p.m.

Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado

Primary offensive weapons helping backups put up points

ALPERT, page 8

sides Bush, Moore and Meachem are his guys. They have played exceptionally well the last few games, and look for them only to get better. They are both viable starters here on out.

Seattle Seahawks-

WR Bobby Engram/WR Deion Branch

The offense is back. Quarterback Matt Hasslebeck now has guys to throw the ball to who weren't selling insurance 2 weeks ago.

Engram was good last year and is Branch can stay healthy; he can break a few long runs and maybe a score every week.

The impenetrable defense will now get some time to rest, and be even better, but these two guys will be open all day if Running Back Julius Jones keeps running the ball this well with eight men in the box.

Pittsburgh Steelers- RB Mewelde Moore

Wait now, who is this guy? Well he was on the Vikings when there was no room for him- with Chester Taylor and AP.

Then, he signed with Pittsburgh with Willie Parker and Rookie Rashard Mendenhall.

With both hurt, Parker out who knows how long, and Mendenhall out for the season, Moore is the only healthy back in Pittsburgh, and he's talented too.

He is a tough runner who will get 15 carries and catch the ball five times too.

With Big Ben at the helm, Moore will find his way to having a stretch of very productive games for the Steelers.

Jacksonville Jaguars-WR Matt Jones

I've had an eye on him all year...actually for a few years now, and things are finally starting to click for this uber talented receiver.

He's been on the receiving end of most of the Jaguars game saving, drive extending grabs and continues to build a great repore with quarterback David Garrard.

He has been targeted twice as many times by Garrard as the next receiver on the depth chart and will continue to grow.

OTHER GUYS AROUND THE NFL TO KEEP AN EYE ON

Arizona Cardinals-WR Steve Breaston

Set a franchise record last week in total yards, and with Boldin woozy from the shel-lacking of a hit he took last week, Breaston will be used over the middle. His yards after catch ability is ridiculous.

Detroit Lions- RB Rudi Johnson

He's now the number one guy in Detroit, and that offense will score a ton of points. We all know what Rudi can do when he's healthy, especially on a team with a bad defense and potent offense. Run Rudi run!

Comments? Questions? Email me at jona- than.alpert@fusm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon-1 p.m. on Radiate FM, FIU Student Radio.

ONE UP



CHARI ADAME-SMITH/THE BEACON

MAKING PROGRESS: Kaley Durrance eludes a Western Kentucky defender in FIU's 1-1 draw at home on Sept. 28. It was the first non-loss for FIU this season.



PHIL COALE/AP PHOTO

JAGUAR RENAISSANCE: Matt Jones has responded well (21 rec, 244 yds, 1 TD) after his pre-season arrest, and is on pace for over 900 receiveing yards this season.

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GOING FOR TWO

Football looks for back-to-back wins for the first time since '05

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (1-3) offense finally came around last week in the team's first victory of the season against Toledo and this week will have an opportunity to continue their progress against a vulnerable North Texas (0-4) team that has yet to win a game.

Having been outscored 219-55 by opponents that are a combined 14-3, the Mean Green defense is the fourth worst (No. 116) in the Football Bowl Subdivision and teams have averaged 488 yards against them while also managing 30 touchdowns against the unit.

On the flip side, the Golden Panthers offense, which is still ranked last in the FBS, put up 35 points and recorded 5 offensive touchdowns against an inconsistent Toledo team that came out of the gate strong with 13 unanswered points but faded down the stretch in a 35-16 loss.

Junior quarterback Paul McCall won his second game as a starter in five tries last week and will look to record his third victory as a starter and second against the Mean Green.

Last season McCall's performance against the Mean Green was one of the key ingredients in the Golden Panthers first and only victory of the season in his first career start. The junior finished 11-of-19 for 228 yards and three touchdowns in the historic final game at the Orange Bowl on Dec. 1st, 2007.

The Mean Green defense is as porous as they come and allowed 77 points to a 3-2 Rice team in just three quarters of play last week.

Like the struggling defense, the offense has underperformed as well, and has been one of the reasons as to why the Mean Green have yet to hold a lead in their first four contests.

Nonetheless, sophomore quarterback

Giovanni Veeza is back under center for the Mean Green and will look to improve upon the tough luck he had against FIU last season.

The then freshman was 31-of-54 for 253 yards with 1 touchdown and 2 interceptions. Known as a scrambler, he was held at bay by the Golden Panther defense rushing for -21 yards on 8 carries.

The North Texas arsenal this season includes returning senior wide receiver Casey Fitzgerald who has 31 receptions for 277 yards and a touchdown as well as sophomore wide receiver Sam Dibrell who has 24 receptions for 233 yards and no touchdowns. The duo combined had 14 receptions for 118 yards and no touchdowns against the Golden Panthers last season. Overall, the passing offense has averaged 189 yards through the air with four touchdowns.

On the ground, junior Cam Montgomery has become the new full-time starter at running back and has 226 yards on 36 carries with two touchdowns. The rushing offense has averaged 126 yards on the ground with three rushing touchdowns.

If the Golden Panthers are going to go on their first two-game winning streak in the FBS, they have to hope that McCall can be efficient from the quarterback position. If he can take advantage of the weapons at his disposal, and find some consistency, not only will this game be a sure thing but he can turn around the rough start the offense has had this season..

The emergence of freshman wide receiver and future star T.Y. Hilton now gives the Golden Panthers an weapon on the outside and his numbers and speed support that.

In the first two games FIU's receivers

have had trouble creating separation in man-to-man situations. Hilton has played the part of the go-to receiver that the offense desperately needs and should continue to as the season progresses. He had a key 37-yard touchdown pass last week and a momentum changing 55-yard return off a kickoff to begin the second half. The tone-setting play helped to set up the first of what-would-be 4 touchdowns in the second half.

The running back duo of seniors' A'mod Ned and Julian Reams awoke in the 19-point victory, particularly Reams who finished with 75 yards on 19 carries with three touchdowns. He also leads all Golden Panthers with 4 touchdowns while Ned recorded his first touchdown of the season and finished with 51 yards on 15 carries.

While most of the emphasis will be on the offense, the defense will need continue to shoulder the load. Now ranked 82nd in the nation, the unit was

able to stifle a talented Rockets offense in the second half last week and the work will be much easier this week against an offense ranked 98th. If a repeat performance occurs and the offense can keep their run going, the Golden Panthers will surpass their win total of last season and record their second win of the season in a landslide.



KEVIN GALAMBOS/THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGIAN

FANTASY FOOTBALL FIVE

After four weeks, its time for some breakout performances

This is a great time of year for us fantasy football degenerates; rooting for your home team to win while at the same time hoping the opposing quarterback throws three touchdowns so you can beat your opponent and propel your team into first place.

Every week there's another big shot in your league boasting he (sometimes she) is the wisest player and

foreshadowed great performances by guys who last week if they walked by you in the mall you wouldn't know who he is.

The truth is, most of it is guessing. The guys who guessed right last year with Greg Jennings, Ryan Grant, Adrian Peterson, did well and trust me, if it was your buddy you knew it.

This year, players are starting to develop, and have breakout games, some continue and become major contributors, and some, flash in the pan, disappear back into oblivion and they are never mentioned again.

When does an owner decide when he's hold-

ing on to an aging veteran too long, uncertain of how much he will contribute to his team, and when do you pull the trigger on picking up a guy you have a hunch he's on the brink of a special season.

GUYS ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING OUT

New Orleans Saints-
RB Deuce McAllister/ WR Robert Meachem/ WR Lance Moore-

McAllister has taken his job back as Reggie Bushes complement back from Pierre

Thomas, who really flopped in the role, to my disappointment.

He will be involved in the offense more and more, and look for him to touch the ball 20 times and score touchdowns.

He looks rejuvenated. Moore and Meachem have very easy jobs with the number one fantasy quarterback in football throwing the ball their way, Drew Brees.

When Brees puts up the enormous numbers he does, he has to throw to somebody, and be-

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN ALPERT