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Foodgasm: When Bianca was faced with a challenge to create appetizers for a wine tasting, she quickly found out that simplicity is key.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Getting Schooled: Our columnist looks at the challenges of applying for grad school in the midst of the economic recession.

OPINION PAGE 4



What does President Obama's state of the union address last week really mean for college students?

OPINION PAGE 4



The New York Times wants to charge subscribers for content posted online. Why is this the future of journalism as a profession?

LIFE! PAGE 5

Classical organ player performed at the school of music.

SPORTS PAGE 8

FIU point-guard and JUCO transfer, Phil Gary, Jr., discusses his past and future possibilities.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Women's basketball will hit the road in search of their third road win of the season when they face Louisiana-Lafayette on February 3.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Organic Farmer's Market, Feb. 3, 12-3 p.m. Come and purchase local and organic food by the Central Fountain.

Yogarden, Feb. 3, 1 p.m. Join the Yoga Club in relaxing and de-stressing for free at the FIU Garden (between the Baseball Stadium and the Nature Preserve).

HTC Workshop, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. Keynote lecture: Ken Tadashi Oshima, University of Washington, "In-Between Space." It will be free and held in the Wolfsonian.

—More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 66 HIGH: 77



THURSDAY
Cloudy
LOW: 70 HIGH: 78



FRIDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 65 HIGH: 81

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SGC-MMC

Two cabinet members cut

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Recent changes in the executive cabinet's communications and transparency team drew criticism of past inefficiencies and vague job descriptions from the ousted director of communications.

Moses Aluicio, the former director of communications, stressed to Student Media that he held no animosity toward his former peers and spoke well of

them, but did say the restructure was brought on by a lack of proper planning.

"It wasn't that big of a deal," Aluicio said of his departure. "But you wouldn't have to restructure something that was done right the first time."

This semester, he and the Director of Public Relations Chelsea Franco, were fired from the cabinet. The cabinet has decided not to hire anyone in their position and has shifted respon-

sibilities within the executive branch. Elections Commissioner and Lectures Coordinator Christina Flores had been tapped as an informal director to manage the communications team.

Newly installed Chief of Staff Nick Autiello, who replaced Drew Sanchez at the end of last semester, told Student Media that the two were let go because their busy schedule did not allow them

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WHAT'S SO FUNNY?



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

Comedian Eric O'Shea performed his "Elmo" personas on Jan. 28 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The event was hosted by the Student Programming Council. O'Shea was voted National Comedy Performer of the Year in 2007.

Trustee appointed to BOG

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

University trustee Patricia Frost among six appointed to Board of Governors by Governor Charlie Crist.

Crist visited Tampa, FL on Thursday, Jan. 28 for a Governors Board meeting where he announced that he will seek \$100 million in additional funding for higher education.

During his time in Tampa, Crist also announced the names of the six appointees to the 17-member board that oversees Florida's 11 public universities.

Five of the appointees, including Patricia Frost, are new to the board. According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, the only reappointed member is lawyer Ava Parker, the board's vice-chairman and a former University of Central Florida trustee.



FROST

FIU dates back to 1984. She is a member of the FIU Foundation Board and has worked closely with the FIU College of Education since 1970.

Among the other appointees

are Richard A. Beard, founding chairman of the University of South Florida's Board of Trustees; Morteza Hosseini, chairman and CEO of Intervest Construction Inc. and member of the influential Council of 100 business groups; as well as John Rood, who served as a U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas from 2004 to 2007.

"Each appointee is passionate about securing the best possible education for our students and ensuring Florida continues to develop the talent required to compete in an innovation-based economy," Crist said in a statement to the *Orlando Sentinel*.

The new members serving terms end on Jan. 6 2017.

Relay for Life gears up for its sixth year

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Editor in Chief

After having raised more than \$80,000 for cancer research last year, the FIU Relay for Life team is working hard to up the ante with even more ambitious goals this year.

Relay, now in its sixth year at FIU, is a night-long event where students gather to recognize those whose lives have been affected by cancer and to raise money toward a cure. Last year's event drew crowds of upward to 3,000.

Juliana Carboni, co-director of Relay for Life this year, sees the event as an opportunity to give back to the community.

"You are able to be with your peers, you are able to outreach," Carboni said. "You are able to do something together for one night that is bigger than all of us."

Nationally, Relay for Life events are in their 26th year and have raised an estimated \$3 billion for cancer research since their inception in 1986. According to its Web site, more than 3.5 million people participate in events in over 5,000 communities across the country and globe. Relay is the main fund raising event of the American Cancer Society.

"Almost everybody knows someone who has been affected by cancer," Carboni said. "The American Cancer Society does more than just research for a cure; it provides services for families, treatment options and housing. So the money that we raise goes directly to those dealing with cancer today."

Relay for Life was born in 1985 when a surgeon from Tacoma, Washington decided to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Dr. Gordon Klatt's friends would pay him \$25 to run laps around a track. He ultimately raised \$27,000 and walked 83 miles. The first official Relay was held the following year.

Though Relay is only one night, it takes a year of preparation to make sure the massive event is a success. The next year's directors are selected in May and the committee is formed by Summer A.

"In May we started reserving the ballrooms for all of the pre-events that we have," said Raul Perez, also a co-director. "For the actual event itself, we do it little by little throughout the whole year so it's not jam-packed at the end."

Organizations that decide they want to participate in Relay for Life can form a team. Most of the Relay for Life teams begin their fund raising in January and each raise between \$500 to \$1,000 prior to the event, when most the fund raising occurs. Almost any group can form a team.

"It's mostly student organizations," Carboni said. "We have student teams, faculty teams and community and housing teams ... Last year we

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‘Inefficient’ system has unclear job descriptions

SGA, page 1

to commit fully to their important positions.

“They both contributed a little bit in the Fall, but not to the level that their job descriptions asked them to,” Autiello said.

Aluicio agreed with Autiello on the busy schedule portion, as he is planning to apply for Law School and had other issues on his plate, however he disagreed over the allegation of not meeting a clear job description.

“I wasn’t really given a job description,” Aluicio told Student

Media, and says the directions he was given were “vague” and had no clear defined lines.

Franco felt she did perform up to the description she was given last summer in spite of being told she “didn’t do much.”

“I didn’t do anything [wrong],” Franco told Student Media in an e-mail. “I was present at any and all meetings required of my position and made certain I was available whenever any of my fellow SGA members needed help with something.”

Franco believes that some of her duties overlapped with other members

of the communications team; a sentiment shared with the former director of communications.

“It was inefficient,” Aluicio said of the last system, “[it had] lots of positions that could have been put together.”

The establishment of concrete descriptions has been a source of contention in the senate. A bill was passed this month that tried to establish a nomination process for the executive cabinet and would ask for any new position created by the Student Government Council for the Modesto Maidique Campus president to have a

written description of the basic functions of the position.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda ran from class to the SGA chambers when he received a text on the bill. He railed against it and claimed he could hire as many people as he saw fit, despite the fact that the bill would not limit his prerogative. Some in the senate saw the bill as an overstep of their authority even though sponsors sought an opinion from the judiciary branch which found the bill to be legal within the constitution.

The next time the bill was intro-

duced was after the executive branch had a chance to weigh in on it. Sponsors say the majority of the changes were only in language, it originally referred to an executive order as a proclamation, a description Rionda objected to. Autiello told Student Media that the cabinet approved of the bill.

“I don’t think that is too much to ask for,” said sponsoring senator Vignesh Doraiswamy to the senate when asking them to support the simple new requirement.

Aluicio hopes the new system will have more communication.

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Actor arrested after intoxicated robbery attempt

Actor Rip Torn was arrested Friday night after allegedly breaking into a bank in Salisbury, Connecticut with a revolver while heavily intoxicated

According to CNN, Torn, 78, appeared in court on Monday where he posted \$100,000 bond and was arraigned on burglary and firearms charges in Bantam Superior Court.

Torn’s Lawyer, A. Thomas Waterfall, told CNN that he expects his client to go into a treatment facility for alcohol abuse.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arraras

Ryder complex serves as Relay locale

RELAY, page 1

had 74 teams and we had about 55 represented around the track, so the majority of teams do come out and fund raise at the actual event.”

Groups interested in creating a team can register online at relayforlife.org/fusouthfl. There is an initial registration fee of \$100, but teams can choose to defer payment and actually use the fund raising tools available to them to raise it.

“During the actual event, teams are to have a booth set up around the track according to our theme, which this year is Relay Around the World,” said Cailun McCarty, team development chair. “So for example, one team is doing Las Vegas and is having a wedding chapel as the fund raiser.”

The night begins with a survivor lap in which everyone participates. The survivor lap serves as the opening ceremony and cancer survivors are invited to join this initial lap as a celebration of their success.

The survivor lap is followed by several local entertainment acts.

“Last year we had salsa performers teaching everyone

how to dance, bands, DJs, the winner of our talent competition Star Search also performs,” Carboni said.

The most notable Relay event is the Luminaria Ceremony, in which participants are asked to remember those who have fallen victim to cancer by dedicating a luminaria bag to them.

The paper bags are decorated by participants who have lost a loved one or in honor of someone currently fighting the disease and placed around the track.

“During the luminaria hour, we put some soft music, turn off all the lights and then put candles in each of the luminaria bags around the track,” Perez said. “It represents just how many people have been affected by cancer.”

This year’s Relay will be held in the Ryder Business Complex on March 5

- 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Last year there were complications with the event’s initial venue, the football stadium and the team was forced to relocate the event to the Ryder Business Complex with only a month’s notice.

This year the team is getting used to the idea of the Ryder Complex being a more permanent home for Relay.

“We felt that the Ryder Complex was more conducive to a Relay environment, mainly because the stadium doesn’t have a track,” Carboni said. “So it prohibited the use of tents, the use of food and generators. So it just makes more sense.”

“Having Relay in the stadium was never our key focus,” Perez added. “We knew we had the Ryder Business Complex, it’s worked great before, so we just stuck with it.”

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Feb. 1, 2010, the article titled “Day of remembrance honored by survival story” on page three should have been credited to Matthew Solari.

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

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FOODGASM

Yummy appetizers with quick prep, gourmet flair

At a Spanish wine tasting, I was asked to prepare a few small dishes to serve. At first I was filled with what I call “chef’s anxiety.” I get this because there are so many dishes I can make, and then the introspection begins - “Will this pair with the wine?” “Is this ingredient in season?” “Is this dish within the budget?”

Then I quickly went through “cooking apathy” I love food, I love to cook - but when I am forced to cook something that I am uninspired about, I just end up not caring.

The key is to make food that sits in the middle of these two spectrum’s - one where you care to much to the point of hyperventilation, and the other where you don’t care at all. This is where I develop quick and easy dishes because they still showcase great flavors, but take so little time.

For the wine tasting I decided to make two very simple appetizers - Patatas con Aioli and a Warm Quick-Marinated Goat Cheese.

Patatas con Aioli roughly translates to potatoes with fancy-shmancy mayonnaise. It is a dish commonly served in Spain in several variations. For simplicity’s sake, I decided to just make one style of the appetizer, and I decided to buy my potatoes from

the freezer section of the grocery store.

(I know, I know, I am slightly ashamed of my cheating but at the same time I need to save time - if I didn’t I wouldn’t have time to write *Foodgasm!*)

I purchased the 20 oz. package of Ore-Ida Original Roasted potatoes. These are perfect because the small bite-sized cubes are traditional to the dish and they are only seasoned with salt and pepper - flavors that will not compete with the aioli.

Follow the directions on the bag for cooking the potatoes. While they are in the oven make the aioli by whisking one room temperature egg yolk with two teaspoons of lemon juice and half a teaspoon of dijon mustard in a bowl. Once combined whisk in 1/4 cup of olive oil and three tablespoons of vegetable oil a few drops at a time until the mixture resembles a thick dressing or thin mayonnaise. At this point you can flavor your aioli with whatever you like. I decided to grate four big cloves of garlic and whisk it into the finished aioli, and finally season it with salt and pepper to make a classic garlic aioli. Serve this alongside your roasted potatoes and save the rest for a yummy sandwich spread.

The Warm Quick-Marinated Goat Cheese dish is just as simple but sad to say, a

COLUMNIST



BIANCA ROJAS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN VALENTINE

Marinated Warm Goat Cheese (left) and Patatas con Aioli (right).

little expensive - it costs about \$16 to make. The trade off is that this dish can be made in under five minutes. To make this dish, in a small pot heat 1/2 a cup of olives - any kind you like - a few sprigs of fresh thyme, three over-poured tablespoons of olive oil, the juice of one lemon, and its zest, and a pinch of pepper on low heat until the point that the oil is warmed and you can smell the fragrance of the lemon and thyme emerging. Then simply pour this over your piece of goat cheese, that you have let sit at room temperature for about half an hour. Serve this with a crusty bread or crackers and you have a show stealing appetizer. The warm, melty and tangy goat cheese paired with the citrus and herbal fragrance is a quick and sophisti-

cated meal opener fit for any occasion.

In all honesty, it took me longer to write this article than to make these two appetizers for my wine tasting, and it will probably take us longer to eat them. But regardless of how quick and easy these dishes are, they are still packed with flavor. The integrity of the food was not lost in my race to cure my “chef’s anxiety” before plateauing into my depressing “cooking apathy.” We’re students after all, we’re allowed to take short cuts to feed ourselves and our loved ones, as long as it is foodgasmic.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or “Foodgasm” ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

Student uses clubbing to aid Haitian relief effort

LATOYA BURGESS
Staff Writer

Newly appointed Clerk of Council Mawou Francois of the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council began a fundraiser for Haitian earthquake survivors that include selling campaign buttons, dinner, and free admission at Miami’s nightclub Karu and Y.

Francois will reveal the campaign pins at Karu and Y on February 19. The pin will read “Coeur Des Survivants” (French for “Hearts of the Survivors”). Each pin costs \$1.

On Tuesdays 2-5pm, Fridays 7-10pm, and Saturdays 7-10pm until Feb. 19th, students can purchase the buffet-style dinner for the Haitian Earthquake relief campaign pin reveal party at Karu and Y, 71 NW 14 ST. The cost for single persons is \$35, the cost for couples is \$60, which includes free admission to the club on the night of the event.

According to Francois, gaining free entry into the club isn’t the only perk of buying dinner tickets.

“Couples will receive a dozen red roses and singles will have the chance to eat high quality,

gourmet food,” Francois said.

Proceeds from all pin purchases will be donated to Haiti Task Force. The program is run by Dr. Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs at Modesto Madique Campus. Jones was unavailable for comment at press time.

Francois, who was born in Haiti, says his parents inspired him to get involved in helping the impoverished nation.

“My parents were involved with helping people and family in Haiti prior to the earthquake; they are my inspiration for doing this [campaign],” Francois said.

Francois says he is pushing for the campaign pins to be sold at the bookstore. SGC-BBC is currently helping him make flyers to promote the event.

According to Francois, the reason he chose Karu & Y to host the event is because it is one of Miami’s biggest hotspots for students.

“I chose Karu because it’s one of the most talked-about clubs in Miami and it would really help the fundraising efforts to jump off with a bang,” Francois said.

Karu and Y’s admittance age is 21 and over for men, 18 and over for women.

Students dive head-first into scuba instructor certification

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Several semesters and more than 250 open water dives later, four students from the University recently became certified scuba diving instructors.

The National Association of Underwater Instructors came to the University January 22. and certified Anthony Zayas, Russ Waddy, Alex Carreno and Jorge Bello after evaluating their diving experience, a 100-question examination, and their logs with the number of dives they have completed throughout the program. The master divers also gave several classroom and pool presentations to prove their in-depth knowledge and ability to teach.

“The exciting thing is that they all started as basic drivers, went to advance training, got their master divers and now they are professionals-- all within FIU,” said Bob Weisman, FIU Boating and Diving Safety Officer.

Now that these four students have reached the instructor level, they all look forward to pursuing a profession related to their ultimate passion—diving.

Carreno, who graduated from the University in 2005, has worked with Weisman as an assistant

instructor for six years. He said it’s a big relief to have finally become a certified scuba diving instructor but it doesn’t end here.

“I plan to continue to take classes and get even more certifications in other special training,” he said. “It’s a hobby of mine but at the same time a passion of mine, and if I can do something with it job-wise, that’s awesome.”

Carreno is no stranger to the water. He got certified at the age of 13 and went shark diving in the Bahamas with a well-known scientist Erich Ritter. He was infamously bitten in the calf by a shark.

Bello also became a certified diver in his early teenage years. The recent graduate majored in marine biology and eventually crossed over to scientific diving. For some time, Bello assisted the FIU labs and obtained some samples for the professors. He said it was around that time when he became interested in leading groups and teaching.

Teaching is nothing new to the newly certified dive instructor Anthony Zayas. He is a chemistry teacher at Braddock Senior High School. Zayas received a Bachelors and Masters from FIU and is pursuing a second degree in Asian Studies. According to Weisman, Zayas will soon be teaching at the

University.

Thanks to the latest accomplishment of these four students, Weisman said he wants students to realize that “all these opportunities are here in Florida.”

An opportunity students like Russ Waddy, a senior finishing his last semester, can take advantage of. Waddy said he has been free diving all of his life and has a lot to look forward to this spring. He will be graduating with two major achievements: a scuba diving instructor certification and a bachelor of arts in psychology.

Since its inception in 1996, Weisman is proud the FIU Dive and Safety Program has come a long way.

“When the program first launched they only had 12 scientific qualified divers. Now they have 56,” he said. “I have students who are now in Australia, South America, the South Pacific and others working in the Caribbean and throughout the Keys.”

The program is a collaborative effort among the Environmental Health & Safety Department, University College, Marine Science Department and the College of Education.

Students interested in the joining the program can visit the website <http://fiudive.fiu.edu/about.html>.

Obama's Recovery Act bailing many students

ANA MARIE PEREZ
Contributing Writer

President Obama's State of the Union address on Wednesday, Jan. 27 intended to make the nation privy on the major plans in Washington while focusing on a newly proposed Recovery Act.

During the speech, unlike during former President Bush's speeches, many young and old Americans found themselves lost and grabbing a dictionary from time to time. Then, there are the few who were able to afford a world class education and maintain a higher vernacular necessary to understand political jargon. This gap in between those who can understand language at an elite level and those who have lagged behind is unacceptable, and President Obama agrees:

"In this country, the success of our children cannot depend more on where they live than their potential."

Many discuss Obama's continuing course towards health care reform, building jobs and a recovering economy. How does this help college students?

Amidst this recession, college and university costs are increasingly difficult to pay. This semester alone, I refrained from buying two textbooks and am using old books. Those of you, like me who are doing anything to save will benefit from the Recovery Act. It will provide relief to at

least eight million Americans paying for college.

Within the plan are tax credits with a four year sum of up to 10 thousand dollars and increase in Pell Grants. Also, an additional one million students who take out loans will be required to pay only 10 percent of their income on this debt. All final obligations will be forgiven after 20 years;

"Our government's reasoning is "no one should go broke because they chose to go to college". Right on!"

those serving the government will have debt forgiveness within 10 years. Our government's reasoning is "no one should go broke because they chose to go to college." Right on!

Does this seem too good to be true? To a certain extent, it is. According to the last United States census, there are 30.7 million Americans between the ages of 18-24. This means that a total of eight million tax credit beneficiaries is not large enough a number compared to the overall population. Also, there is a call to impose a government spending freeze in 2011.

In his speech, federal government spending for education is not exempt from

this freeze.

Many of my fellow classmates are skeptical and believe the speech was just another political campaign in which Obama tries to sway everyone's opinions in his favor. It's the typical complacent stance against politicians. I beg to differ. An air of self-defense was palpable and he often boasted about his

achievements.

However, if we take into account all the slander Obama receives, there's more than enough reason to see he has to defend himself. He was quick to point out that the recession and our nation's massive deficit is not his fault reminding us that he had inherited it from the past eight years of fiscal irresponsibility. There was not enough time to go into detail over every plan.

Obama is not trying to hide things by sounding vague. We've become too accustomed to having news fed into our ear; all the facts are out there and are easily accessible in today's world. The Recovery Act is not a faux as some conservative sects would portray it.

GETTING SCHOOLED

Slow job market raises fears for FIU graduates

And now, the wait begins. I have sent off sealed envelopes containing recommendation letters, résumés and official transcripts to graduate schools across the country. I am done collecting writing samples. I have finished fussing over my personal statement.

My checking account aches after overnighting materials via UPS and ordering additional GRE scores. But at last, the application process is coming to a close.

What concerns me is the fact that I'm probably in the middle of the most competitive application season grad schools have ever seen. No pressure.

Thanks to the struggling economy right now, more people are opting to enter or return to graduate school in order to avoid a difficult job hunt in a hurting market.

The New York Times reported that the number of Americans who took the Graduate Record Examination in 2009 climbed to 670,000 – a 13 percent increase compared to last year, citing figures from the Educational Testing Service. The number of people who took the LSAT – the Law School Admission Test – also jumped to nearly 61,000 last October.

So I am not only competing against fresh blood, ready to snatch their first B.A. – I'm also thrown into a pool of individuals who are trying to get ahead of the economy and wait things out through graduate studies.

The nation's unemployment rate stood at 10 percent in December, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, even though a few experts who are declaring that the recession is slowing down and nearing its end.

I don't blame these applicants because I'm essentially doing the same thing.

Really, I'd rather do homework than work retail any day. But what bothers me is this catch-22; we're going back to school in order to get work later because we cannot find work now.

I cannot believe that people can become so disillusioned. What prospective students have to remember is that a) no degree, not even a doctorate, will guarantee you a job and b) not working during your time in graduate school is not very likely.

I am not getting an M.A. or M.S. expecting oodles of offers afterward from jobs all over. Never mind the fact that I am pursuing work in the publishing field, where fears of closure are abundant.

I am getting another degree because it is in an area that I want to learn more about, which should prepare me for work in a hopefully related area. While I want to think another degree would set me apart from other applicants, I'm now another soul crossing its fingers.

Regardless, not working during your graduate studies at an institution is nearly impossible, unless you acquire plenty of competitive fellowships and assistantships to finance your education. This is especially true for people like myself, who are pursuing degrees in the humanities.

Thomas Benton, a professor from Hope College in Michigan wrote in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* that unless one was "independently wealthy" and without a need to earn a living, then pursuing a graduate degree in the humanities could be considered.

But nothing is guaranteed.

I suppose attending graduate school could be the most expensive form of escapism one could take.

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

New York Times right in charging for online services

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

In this era of technology, the printed word and tangible page has become nearly obsolete. I get all my news from online sources, so when CNN reported that the *New York Times* announced a plan to start charging for their online content, I fail to see why people are opposed to it. We have to pay for the printed version of the news, why not the digital version.

Many people see the Internet as this magical land, where there is unlimited space, and it doesn't cost

to post anything. That is anything but the truth; there is the cost of the server, hosting the website, bandwidth, and any number of miscellaneous costs from maintenance to tech support.

When digital news just started, the income from the printed sources was able to sustain the cost of online hosting, but when everyone switches from print to digital, that income disappears. How do people expect the paper to support itself and pay writers without any income.

This plan is all coming after the first quarter report in which the New York Times Company lost

\$74.5 million, and the New York Observer reported that the general manager said "the forecasts for the second quarter are looking roughly the same" as the first quarter reports.

The company wants to implement a "metered" paying system, which is when a certain amount of pages are free, then after that, the customer must pay a subscription fee. As a journalist myself, I say make them pay for anything they read.

If I were working there, the audience would be reading my hard work and time-consuming

research. I wouldn't want someone reading my article for free. When a printed newspaper is bought, there is no trial period, no "let me see what the news is today, and if I don't like it, I'll put it back". Why change it for the digital version of the newspaper?

There is one big way to stay away from paying a fee—advertisements. Personally, I don't like advertisements, it can easily compromise the integrity of a newspaper.

If one company is your main source of advertising and your paper is publishing a negative article

about that same company, the writer can be conflicted. The writer may become caught between reporting truthfully and impartially trying to please the company that provides for his paycheck. This shouldn't be something that is happening now, this should have happened a while ago.

I don't understand what people are complaining about, the newspaper is a service, and services cost. I'm glad the *New York Times* decided to start charging for online content, because soon, everything is going to be going digital. This is only the beginning.

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WINNER/LOSER

Wiccans. The United States Air Force Academy announced that it would be opening up outdoor worshiping areas for Wiccan cadets and others with similar earth-centered faiths like Pagans and Druids among others. Times sure are changing.

People. Radioactive tritium, a dangerous carcinogen, has been discovered in the ground water near 27 of the U.S.'s 104 nuclear reactors. These reactors account for 20 percent of the power produced within the nation. Most reactors are over three decades old.

QUOTATIONATION

"Maybe the Americans thought they were helping 33 kids, but now there's going to be a much slower process and maybe even a ban on future adoptions."

Chuck Johnson,
National Council for Adoption

MONSTER MUSIC

Guest organist's diverse talents shine through playful performance

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Robert Heath is acclaimed for his work as a classical music performer across the United States. On Jan. 31, he brought his talent to the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The concert organist used his charming personality and incredible talent to entertain. Unfortunately, few University students were in the audience. It was a sea of sports jackets, khaki slacks and sweater sets.

Maybe the harpsichord isn't very appealing to college students after all.

If you're more of a GaGa or Beyoncé fan, you still could have gotten a kick out of watching

Heath play – he's a showman.

With the tiniest movement he could make so much happen on an instrument and he knows you are in awe of what he is doing.

It is incredible how he works the organ like a toy, referring to the large instrument as "the monster."

His sleek, all-black ensemble adds to his music-man persona. He was as smooth on the instruments as he was in the way he handled the audience.

Heath bounced from the harpsichord to the chamber continuo organ to the famed 74-rank Schantz pipe organ, which was donated by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim, playfully.

Each instrument had a distinct sound, though they are in the same instrument family. It was

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



Senior music major Christian Escobar prepares for his upcoming performance on Feb. 6 with the FIU Chamber Winds Concert at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

too cool to hear the differences and hear Heath's opinion of each of the instruments.

The harpsichord resembles a piano in appearance but sounds like a guitar with a higher note range. In a weird way, the harpsichord sounds computerized, as if the notes are too high and shrill to

sound like they are coming from an instrument. If you're not into classical, the music could remind you of the soundtrack to a Super Nintendo game; picture Bach dressed up as Mario jumping from mushroom to mushroom.

On the continuo organ, Heath plays standing up and you wouldn't

expect one thing to make such a diverse arrangement of music. He played up the nuances of every song to make sure the listeners could fully appreciate the music and the instrument.

The "monster" organ does

ORGAN, page 6

PANEL PANEL

Spider-man to get cinematic do-over

It seems like the only constant in Hollywood is change.

Sony Pictures Entertainment announced that Marc Webb will be taking over Sam Raimi's role as director of the next Spider-man movie. While no actors or concrete details have been given, Sony has offered vague details of what we can expect.

Similar to what was done with *The Incredible Hulk*, Sony is starting from scratch with the next Spider-man movie, as if the previous three movies with Tobey Maguire never happened; something I've been trying to do for years.



The movie series is being relaunched in 2012, with the "second volume" being based off of Marvel's Ultimate Spider-man comic book series.

COLUMNIST



PABLO PENTON

Ultimate Marvel is an imprint of comics published by Marvel featuring updated versions of their famous heroes, offering fresh stories for the new generation of comic book readers. Marvel Ultimate comics have nothing to do with Marvel's "normal" universe, allowing for new, untethered stories and different interpretations of characters.

It's hard to say just how many unique properties of Brian Bendis' Ultimate Spider-man will be translated over to the new movies, but one guarantee Sony has made is that the new movies will be focusing on Peter Parker's life in high school.

Other possibilities include seeing the dynamic between Gwen Stacey and Mary Jane as they try to remain friends while not letting their mutual feelings for Peter Parker get in the way. We may also see the Green Goblin ditch his glider and instead be a... well, giant green goblin.

At first the relaunch decision may seem brash, but the Spider-man movies so far haven't offered anything stellar.

The most important thing in super hero movies is the personification of the main character, which has been the biggest flaw of Raimi's movies.

In the first movie, Peter Parker is

constantly bewildered and helpless. In the second, he's impotent and preppy.

In the third, he becomes depressed, emo and irritating in a movie that has enough villains to populate a small island country. This leads to a bloated movie that all the Midol in the world couldn't remedy. Sam Raimi bit off more than he could chew.

It's impossible to capture all the stories of a monthly (now thrice-monthly) publication that has been going on for decades. The goal shouldn't be to cover as many plot lines as possible, but instead to focus on Peter Parker the comedian, the humanitarian, the genius, the charmer, the detective and the witty smart alec.

Peter is always so likable for being an everyday guy. He struggles to pay the rent and balance work, school and a relationship with the love of his life, all while fighting for morality and justice.

People watch comic book movies for the characters, which was perfectly exemplified by *The Dark Knight*.

It had a good plot, great cinematography and glorious special effects, but the reason it was so esteemed is because it broke down every character to their raw core.

Fueled by a comic book series with a simpler setting and a director who understands how to portray lovable nerds in realistic relationships, the new Spider-man movie has the perfect ingredients to go back to the basics on why Peter Parker is the blue-collar hero we can all relate to and cheer for.

THE BEACON REVIEWS: PYGMY

Countless clichés make read tiresome

IVAN FLORES
Staff Writer

Chuck Palahniuk, the brain behind popular novels such as *Fight Club* and *Choke*, is infamous for his books' graphic topics, controversial characters and dark social commentary laced with tongue-in-cheek humor.

His latest book, *Pygmy*, is the story of a high school exchange student who happens to be a covert operative from a nameless totalitarian nation whose mission is to unleash Operation Havoc upon America. His host family, the Cedars', is a nuclear midwestern family.

Donald, the host father, who also happens to be a minister, works at Radiological Institute of Medicine and has access to biological weapons.

The host mother is sex starved and her sole purpose in the book is to provide a myriad of dildo jokes and dildo-related shenanigans –

PYGMY, page 6



PHOTO BY JEFF LODER

The Smashing Pumpkins perform at The Chicago Theatre in 2008.

New Pumpkins tracks disheartening

On June 21, 2005 Billy Corgan, vocalist and lead guitarist for The Smashing Pumpkins, announced he was reforming the band.

I knew at that moment that things would never be the same again.

The new group released *Zeitgeist* in 2006 and it went over about as well as one could hope for a pretentiously titled album by a band whose tyrannical songwriter lost his ability to write worthwhile music the moment he discovered the Bible – so, not too well.

Now, Billy and his hired hands are turning out a 44-track (quadruple album?) opus called *Teargarden by Kaleidoscope* whose release looks to revolutionize (read: ugh) the very album format by trickling down individual, downloadable tracks on a weekly basis in an attempt to “shake things up” creatively.

It’s worth noting that this isn’t the first time Billy has experimented with online releases.

When Virgin Records refused to release *Machina II* because of its predecessor’s weak sales, the band put the album on the Internet for free and was perhaps one of the first bands to actually take such a gamble.

Since *Machina II* is actually quite decent, it stands to

reason that perhaps Corgan has turned over a new leaf. Maybe there is a chance that he’ll show the world that old Pumpkins’ magic.

Pfft ... of course, that’s far from true. Instead, Corgan has chosen to slowly bleed out whatever goodwill he accumulated during his original run with the band by releasing nigh unlistenable dreck.

The first release from the album is “Song for a Son,” though it might as well be a “Stairway to Heaven” tribute considering that the opening piano line sounds exactly like it.

Corgan attempts his best *Blonde on Blonde*-era Bob Dylan impression and ends up with a creaky growl that he must have mistaken for soulful. That’s just the first minute by the way.

The whole thing unravels as a series of plodding, perfunctory crescendos that try to recapture the glory of past tunes like “Snail” and “Porcelina of the Vast Oceans,” but end up sounding more like a terrible bar band doing covers of classic Smashing Pumpkins songs.

Oh, and did I mention the turgid lyrics? Here’s a taste then: This is a song for a son/ This is a song for a sailor ... This is a song for a star/ This is a song for a space invader.

It’s as if Corgan thought to provide the soundtrack to a LiveJournal entry.

Things got a whole lot worse last week. “Widow Wake My Mind” was unleashed upon the world.

Like syphilis for the ears, the song grates and brings one to the edge of madness as the realization occurs that Billy Corgan is past saving. It’s a funky little ditty in which the angst-ridden front man moans about his dear lost widow in a vaguely psychedelic way.

The rest of the song is an excuse to pilfer everyone from notorious sod Jack Johnson to 70s disco beats.

Perhaps it is too soon to judge whether or not Billy Corgan has completely lost the plot or if he is truly still capable of great things.

With 42 tracks to go, the man surely has his work cut out for him. However, he has invited this preemptive criticism by taking on such an unusual release strategy so it isn’t exactly odd that this makes me dread what the rest of this will sound like.

This is worse than Zwan and *Blinking with Fists* – Billy Corgan’s 2004 poetry book – combined.

Actually, that is a fitting way to describe these new songs: fifth-grade level poetry set against the sort of overly optimistic guitar pop one might encounter in a department store dressing room.

COMMENTARY



HECTOR MOJENA

Heath ends performance with improvised segment

ORGAN page 5

exactly what it’s supposed to – delivers music that makes the concert hall shake.

Before his set, Heath would take his time and examine the organ. He would feel out the pedals and keys, take a look at the music and take a second before he let go on the organ.

He had a childlike aura and you could tell he looked at playing music as fun and not as just a job.

But, he’s still a business man. He pimped his CD collection by using the Jedi mind trick to persuade the audience to buy *Music from Italy and England*, *The Bonny Gray-Ey’d Morn* and the collected harp-

sichord sonatas of American composer Edwin McLean.

Heath is well-known for his improvisational skills on the organ and showed off a little bit of that in the end. While he had a much more serious nature when playing the classical pieces, he let loose when he performed his improvisation pieces. Though you could not see his face, you did see his salt and peppered gray head of hair bobbing and swaying to the music.

He used all the pedals and pulls on the organ to really show it off. He had to put his whole body to work for this and it’s almost like a man versus machine showdown with the motivational music and all.

Broken English masks book’s attempted humor

PYGMY, page 5

family is constantly scrounging around the house to find batteries that the mother hasn’t used yet and, in a handful of cases, some that she has used but still have a charge.

The Cedars also have two children, “pig dog” brother and “cat” sister. Pygmy has a limited understanding of the American culture and as such is often led astray by “pig dog” brother.

In one scene inside a Wal-Mart, “pig dog” convinces Pygmy that a bottle of Listerine is aftershave, which Pygmy continues to apply to his face throughout the book.

Pygmy’s limited understanding of American culture also leads to a few other funny situations: He believes that Kentucky Fried Chicken’s Colonel Sanders was in fact a war hero and that the restaurant is a monument to him.

However, the novelty of the book wears off as soon as you realize that it is written in Pygmy’s broken English for all 241 pages.

The only competent characters in the story are Pygmy and his host siblings. On

top of that, the only time there is any properly formatted English is when Pygmy has a dialogue with any Americans.

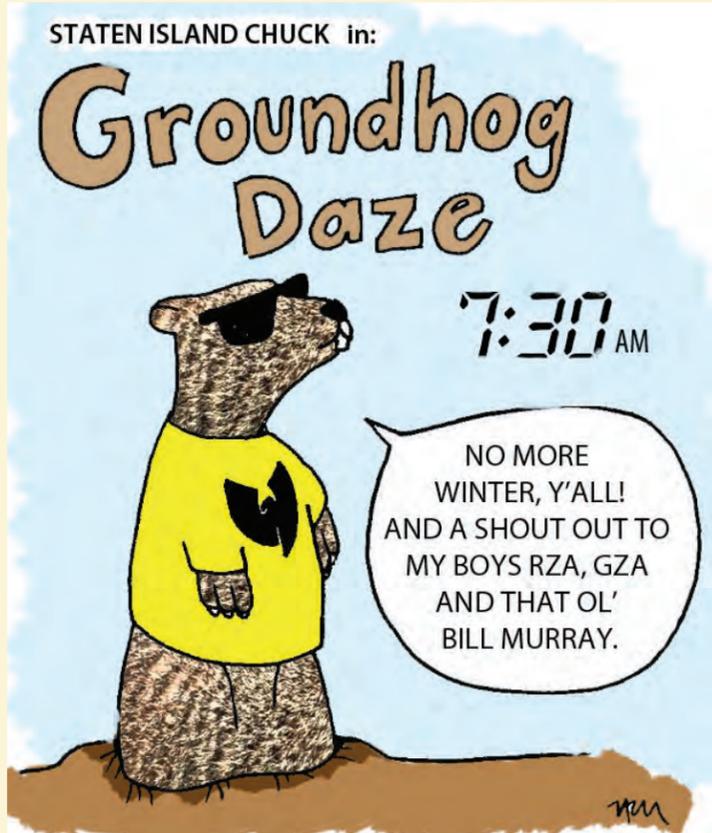
Palahnuik adds insult to injury by making the majority of the dialogue happen between Pygmy and an incompetent adult – which is most of them.

The host parents spend most of their time drugged at the hands of their children, so there is actually very little dialogue that doesn’t involve Pygmy’s broken English. To make matters worse, the entire story is littered with clichés; at times enforcing unfortunate stereotypes.

Palahnuik does manage to juxtapose Western culture against Pygmy’s upbringing and training in a totalitarian nation. But interweaving his history in chapters that break from the present seems obtuse at times and ruins the rhythm of the already broken English.

Any laughs that Pygmy can provide are ruined by the fact that it is written in broken English, mired with more clichés than I’d like to note in this article and an ending that is not only rushed but leaves the reader wanting more – like a different book.

Diversions



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

Difficulty: Evil

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

Newcomer discusses past, looks at future possibilities

GARY, page 8

Chris Paul leads the NBA in assists and is second in steals, a category Rondo leads the league in.

Gary ranks second in the Sun Belt Conference in steals with 42, while also leading his team in the assist category with 68.

"With the disadvantages these small guys have, it gives players like me hope to keep playing basketball past college and maybe the NBA," Gary said.

Shumpert said that Phil is an "up and down" player, meaning he likes to run and play press defense.

Gary has been slowed by a knee injury, resulting in tendinitis earlier this season. The injury slowed down his first season at FIU, but since then he has been able to produce consistently for the Golden Panthers.

"I feel great right now," Gary said. "But the injury is random."

MOTHERLY LOVE

Gilliam is the mother of three sons, the oldest being Gary. According to him, his mother has played a tremendous role in his basketball career.

"I'm a momma's boy," Gary said. "I talk to her before and after every game."

For Gary, who started playing basketball at the age of two, a lifetime of playing basketball has instilled in him a competitive drive that has led to some unfortunate circumstances for the point guard.

When Gary was in the 8th grade, he was asked to play in a pick up game at a summer camp. However, the young guard did not have any shorts to play in.

Being the competitor that he is, Gary jumped on the court with his loose sweat pants and went up for a lay-up, losing his pants on the way to the basket.

"It was so embarrassing," said Gary. "Even my mother was on the floor cracking up."

Ragin' Cajuns up next as FIU travels to Lafayette

WOMEN'S, page 8

20 points and knocked down five shots from beyond the arc to break the FIU record for career three-pointers made.

Bosilj, who averages 11.2 points per game, was elated to break the record but was even happier about the way her team worked together.

"It feels good," said the Croatian guard after the win. "I'm just happy that we played as a team and that everyone gave their effort."

LEADING THE WAY

While Elisa Carey remains the Golden Panthers' most potent offensive threat with 12.4 ppg, point guard Michelle Gonzalez has also been a huge

contributor with 11.9 ppg. Last weekend Gonzalez scored 10 of her 15 points in overtime to lead her team past the Owls.

"When we needed her the most she took over," said Bosilj after the game. "It was great teamwork."

For Louisiana, Mercedes Johnson hopes to take over.

The sophomore ranks first on her team in scoring and rebounding with 13.7 and 5.6 per game, respectively.

Both FIU and Louisiana have had their struggles offensively, ranking at or near the bottom in the conference in many offensive categories, including points per game.

FIU (9-13, 4-7 SBC) sits 11th with 60.4 ppg while Louisiana (8-14, 3-7 SBC) ranks

10th with 61.8 ppg.

PREVIOUS SUCCESS

Last time the teams met was Feb. 4, 2009 in Lafayette. FIU confidently downed Louisiana, 64-44.

In that game, Cherisse Buddy scored 11 of her team-high 13 points in the second half while Carey added 10 points and nine boards.

In the final minutes, FIU was able to out score Louisiana 17-2 to snap a four game losing streak.

The Golden Panthers hold an all-time advantage of 12-6 against the Ragin' Cajuns and a win would mark three straight seasons without losing to Louisiana.

FIU places three top five performers in shot put

TRACK, page 8

Meanwhile, Brittany Smith's throw of 43'5" was good enough for a second place finish in the women's shot put.

Redshirt Freshman Benia Gregoire also showed potential in the women's shot put, finishing fourth with a throw of 41'06.5". Gregoire was also able to break the women's team's freshman weight throw record earlier in the event with a throw of 51'07.75". The throw earned her a second place finish.

In the long jump, Florence Upkai registered

a fifth place finish with a jump of 17'11.5".

During the track portion of the event, Pedro Biggora led the men's side with a fourth place finish in the 400m dash, with a time of 49.75, while T'Keyah Dumoy, a freshman, led the women with a ninth place finish in the 55m dash with a time of 7.25.

For the Golden Panthers, the meet was their only indoor meet in the state of Florida.

This week, the Golden Panthers track team will be setting their sights on The New Balance Invitational in New York, after competing in New York City two weeks prior.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Phil Gary Jr., a JUCO transfer from Malcolm X Community College, has been one of the Golden Panthers' key contributors at the point guard position this season. He leads the team in assists and steals, while scoring 9.6 points per game, good for third on the team.

WEST SIDE STORY

Point guard showcases success after transfer

JOEY CRUZ
Staff Writer

First year coach Isiah Thomas is one of the top 50 basketball players to ever play in the NBA. He won a national championship in college and an NBA title as well.

First year point guard Phil Gary Jr., from Chicago's West Side, grew up in the same city as Thomas, who recruited him to help him take his winning ways to his new career as an NCAA head coach.

"Being from Chicago didn't hurt when recruiting Phil," Thomas said. "He's a quick guard and his motor is always running."

Gary played with NBA All-Star Derrick Rose in grammar school, and later played in high school with McDonald's All-American point guard Iman Shumpert, who now plays at Georgia Tech.

"Not only were they my close friends," Gary said. "They helped me get better as a player."

Shumpert and Gary are best friends and used each other to adapt their styles of play.

"There was a playoff game that we should have won and I was covering an extremely quick guard who was about 5-feet tall," Shumpert said. "Ever since after that game, Phil and I became so competitive the season after that we would nearly fight when practicing against each other."

Out of high school, Gary was offered

a number of mid-major Division 1 scholarships, including the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Gary decided to attend Blackhawk College for a season, followed by a transfer to Malcolm X Community College, where he then could transfer to a better Division 1 school.

CHANGE OF MIND

Coming out of Malcolm X, Gary averaged nine assists and 19 points per game. Numbers like that made the 5-foot-11 point guard a hot commodity for some major basketball programs.

"I had schools like USC and Central Michigan that recruited me," Gary said. "But when Coach Thomas called me to visit FIU, my whole mind set changed."

Gary chose FIU, and Thomas, over the bigger name choices he had.

For Thomas, it helped that Gary's father grew up and played basketball alongside him, and he is one of the main contributors to Gary's success.

"When it came to basketball, his father was very strict on Phil," Gary's mother, Geneva Gilliam said. "Sometimes Phil wanted a father more than a coach."

RESEMBLING STARS

"[Chris Paul] is by far my favorite player in the NBA," Gary said. "But everyone compares me to Rajon Rondo."

GARY, page 7

TRACK & FIELD

Underclassmen shine in UF meet

TOM DEAN
Contributing Writer

The FIU Track and Field team traveled to Gainesville on Jan. 31 for The Jimmy Carnes Invitational at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.

The team, largely comprised of freshman and sophomores, had seven top five finishes for the day, showing potential for the young team.

One highlight of the event was freshman Andrew Maddox's fourth place finish in the shot put, in which he shattered the previous freshman record for the event with a throw of 45' 11.75. The throw was just .06 off the all-time FIU men's shot record held by Jeremy Herring.

TRACK, page 7

FIU hits the road again for SBC tilt

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After picking up its second road win of the season just last weekend, the FIU women's basketball team will look for success on the road once again as they face Louisiana-Lafayette at 8 P.M. on Feb. 3.

The Golden Panthers, 2-6 on the road this season, expressed exhaustion after their last road trip, which included losses to Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

"We're very tired. This Sun Belt schedule is exhausting," said head coach Cindy Russo after the loss to Western Kentucky on Jan. 17. "It

was a long trip but they're tough."

With just seven games remaining before the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the team hopes to not let the trip to Lafayette get the best of them.

LAST TIME OUT

The Ragin' Cajuns, who are 5-4 on their home court, are coming off a loss to in-state rival Louisiana-Monroe, while the Golden Panthers defeated their rival, Florida Atlantic, in overtime on Jan. 30.

Against the Owls, senior Monika Bosilj had a hot hand as she scored

WOMEN'S, page 7



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Fanni Hutlassa, a redshirt sophomore, ranks 3rd on the team for three point field goals made this season.