



## Former officer found guilty

BY ANDREW LEINS  
Staff Writer

After an hour of deliberation, a jury found former Public Safety officer Frederick Currie guilty on Jan. 26 of one count of sexual battery and one count of battery against an 18-year-old woman.

The crime took place on July 8 of last year.

According to the CBS4 News website, Currie, 35, took the stand on Jan. 26 in his own defense.

He denied the allegations that he assaulted the 18-year-old woman and her boyfriend.

Currie was placed on administrative leave with pay the night of the incident, pending investigation and was arrested on July 20, 2005.

By being found guilty for sexual battery Currie lost his police certification.

Before the incident, FIU had twice fired and later rehired Currie due to the dismissals being overturned by an outside hearing officer.

Currie's previous criminal charges were not included in the prosecution's case; the charges in those cases were all dropped.

According to testimony, the victims were assaulted while Currie was searching the woman and her boyfriend for drugs at Tamiami Park.

## MISSING IN ACTION



**BEACONLESS:** On Jan 26, an order for the removal of *The Beacon* newspapers from University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus stands was issued by Marcos Perez, vice president of administration and Cristina Mendoza, the University's general counsel, according to Public Safety Chief Bill King. CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON

**For the full story see page 9.**

## Couple accused of spying on Maidique

BY C. JOEL MARINO  
Content Editor

Carlos and Elsa Alvarez gave details to Cuban intelligence handlers about a visit made by University President Modesto A. Maidique to the White House, according to a report published in *The Miami Herald* on Jan. 25.

The document that revealed this information and other facts was found in the Alvarezes' home computer, although their University Park office computers were also searched on the night of Jan. 12. The two FIU faculty members were charged with being unregistered foreign agents for the Cuban government last month.

Quoting the government affidavit that contained the information details, *The Miami Herald* mentioned that "Both Carlos and Elsa Alvarez reported on prominent university-level academics in South Florida," including reports on university colleagues and Maidique's White House visit.

Although the affidavit does not mention the specific date of the visit, Mark Riordan, director of media relations, told *The Miami Herald* that Maidique had indeed been to the White House at least a dozen times throughout the years. The newspaper also found that Maidique attended a ceremony at the White House in January 2001 and is a member of President George W. Bush's education advisory panel.

The affidavit also mentions that Carlos Alvarez willingly told Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence that one of his students was an FBI analyst because he feared his position at the DI would be damaged if his superiors found that he'd been interacting with a U.S. government employee. The affidavit also attempts to form a connection between a non-profit exchange program called Puentes Cubanos (Cuban Bridges) through which Alvarez took students (some of them from FIU) to Cuba and recruitment efforts.

"The DI was interested in which of these exchange students would be amenable to recruitment by the DI. Although Carlos Alvarez stated that he never received a follow-up request for actual names of potential recruits, he has stated to FBI agents that he would have provided that information if asked," the affidavit stated.

The Alvarezes are currently being held without bond at the Miami Federal Detention Center.

## Career week offers job opportunities

BY GRACE TAYLOR  
Contributing Writer

Students looking for an opportunity to submit resumes, obtain interviews and ask questions concerning their major, now have the opportunity to do so. Career Services will host Mega Career Week at University Park from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4.

This week gives students who are interested in attending the Career Fair for a chance to prepare for job interviews on Feb. 6.

The Career Fair is a bi-annual event and occurs during the Fall and Spring semesters.

Over 120 tables of employers will sit down and interview students during the fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pharmed Arena.

During the course of Mega Career

Week, different workshops will be available that provide several tips and practice skills to help students prepare for the task of job hunting.

Some of the workshops available are: resume writing, interviewing skills, internship 101, walk-in resume critiques and career services 101.

In order to make a professional impression, to attend the Career Fair students are required to wear business attire.

The Career Service website warns that those who are not dressed in the proper attire will not be permitted to participate.

Graduate student of student affairs administration, Jonelle Graham, is assisting in the organization of the event.

As a member of Career Services, she is in direct contact with the employers who will be attending the fair and interviewing the students.

Graham sees the Career Fair as a great opportunity for students looking for jobs before or after graduation.

"Employers can see the quality of students that FIU has to offer," she said.

Many of the companies which come to the fair are very famous or large businesses around the country.

Companies such as Target and Disney are common names which have attended the fair before. Other companies such as All State Insurance, American Express and others come to interview and answer questions for students seeking future employment as well.

Graham encourages all students to attend.

"[The event] is for everybody. Freshmen can come to ask questions and figure out what they want to major in, or

See CAREER, page 9

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY • JANUARY 30

**Wild Succulent Women:** 8:30 p.m., Bay Vista Housing (BBC)

**FIU BBC Campus Library presents MFA Reading Series:** 8 p.m., Library Reading Lounge (BBC)

**Kokology:** 9 p.m., Panther Hall 4th Floor Lounge (UP)

### TUESDAY • JANUARY 31

**School of Hospitality and Tourism Career Fair:** 9:30 a.m., WUC Ballroom (BBC)

**SPC General Meeting:** 3:30 p.m., GC 243 (UP)

**Women Coming Together:** 2 p.m., GC 2220 (Women's Center) (UP)

**Men's Basketball hosts Western Kentucky:** 7pm, Pharmed Arena Tickets - \$5 (Adults), \$3 (Faculty, staff, seniors, children), Free (FIU Students with ID) (UP)

### WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 1

**SPC Pan African Celebration Opening Ceremony:** 11 a.m., Panther Square (BBC)

**SGA General Meeting:** 4 p.m., GC 150 (UP)

**SGA and The Honors College present the "Head-to-Head Challenge" a debate between professors dealing with global issues:** 3:30 p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)

**FIU New Music Ensemble feat. director Orlando Jacinto Garcia:** 6 p.m., Frost Art Museum (UP)

**Dance Tryouts (Caribbean Panthers):** 7 p.m., Everglades Hall Second Floor Lounge

### THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 2

**Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series 2006: "Turning Your Brand Over To The Consumer" feat. Russ Klein (President of Burger King Brands, Inc.):** 6:30 p.m., Mary Ann Wolf Theatre (BBC)

**Writers on the Bay:** 8p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

**Caribbean Student Association Festival:** 5p.m., DM 100 (UP)

**SPC General Meeting:** 3:30 p.m., WUC 159 (UP)

**SPC Pan-African & NPHC Fashion Show:** 8p.m., GC Ballrooms (UP)

**Advisory Council Meeting:** 10 a.m., GC 2252 (UP)

**Symposia - 360 degree Design:** 7 p.m., The Wolfsonian

### FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 3

**Campus Life Leadership Summit:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wolfe University Center (BBC)

**SPC Cinema Fridays presents *Saw II*:** 7 p.m., 10 p.m., GC 140 (FREE) (UP)

**Amernet String Quartet performs:** 8 p.m., Wertheim Performing Arts Center (Concert Hall 170) (UP)

### SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 4

**Panther Rage Southern Challenge:** 1 p.m., Baseball Stadium (UP)

**Golden Panther Baseball hosts University of Central Florida:** 1 p.m., University Park baseball fields Tickets - \$5 (Adults), \$3 (Seniors, children), Free (FIU Students with ID)

**Golden Panthers Men's Basketball hosts Middle Tennessee in a Sun Belt Conference match:** 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 5

**SPC Campus Entertainment Super Bowl Tailgate:** 6p.m., Gracie's Grill (UP)

**Student Concert - Chamber Music Festival:** 4pm, Wertheim Performing Arts Center (Concert Hall PAC170) (UP)

- Compiled by Reuben Pereira

# Professors to debate on hot issues

BY DAVID BERRY  
Contributing Writer



Rocio Perez, Honors College student

Since the week of Hurricane Wilma, honors student Rocio Perez has wanted to hold a debate between professors.

"During the week of the hurricane, I came up with the idea after reading an article about the need for education in universities about public issues," Perez said.

Her dream will finally come true.

The Honors College, the Student Government Association and Alpha Xi Delta will host the inaugural Head to Head Challenge Feb. 1.

"I saw a need in FIU for political activism and education, and what better way to promote that than professors debating and students questioning them?" Perez said.

The Head to Head Challenge is a debate that showcases University professors discussing their views on social justice topics.

These topics include

contemporary social, political and economic issues, specifically the economic status of women, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

"Professors won't be the only ones voicing and defending their opinions; students will also participate and engage in the discussions. It's taken four months to plan and develop. A lot of interns have been working on it since December [and given them an opportunity to get involved in SGA]," Perez said.

The professors turned panelists who are scheduled to debate are: Elisabeth Prugl, Irma T. Alonso, Ronald Cox, Marc Resnick, Nejat Anbarci and M.O. Thirunarayanan.

I saw a need in FIU for political activism and education and what better way to promote that than professors debating and students questioning them?

Each of these professors represent a different academic department, and likely an equally diverse collection of opinions. All professors volunteered for the event.

A unique feature of this event is the role of the audience.

The participation of the students is crucial to the success of the event, as they will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions on the topics discussed.

Alex Prado, president of SGA, agrees.

"I really liked the idea because it's something that is very collegiate. It combines the social aspects of college with contemporary issues that are also relevant to our lives, and provides stu-

dents with a forum to discuss these issues with their professors," he said. "It's exciting, because rarely does the University see an event that involves students and their professors in an educational forum outside the classroom."

There is no cost for entry to the debate, and there will be free food.

In addition, there will be a dance performance as a prelude to the event.

As for the future of the event, Rocio's goal is for the event to grow to a larger scale, potentially as a debate that pits FIU professors versus University of Miami professors, as well as students from UM.

The event will take place in the Graham Center middle ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

## POLICEBEAT

### FRIDAY • JANUARY 13

• Sometime between 3:00 p.m. on Jan. 13, and 9:00 p.m. on Jan. 17, two laptop computers and an LCD projector were stolen from rooms 258-A and 256 at the College of Education There were no signs of forced entry or damage to the office doors. The property was valued at \$4,100.

### SATURDAY • JANUARY 14

• On Jan. 14 a student's digital camera was stolen from the Graham Center building's south side.

- Compiled by Andrew Leins



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## Poetry club focuses on international issues

BY DIANNE DAWKINS  
Contributing Writer

Imagine attending an event with no loud music, only cool urban beats and the steady sound of African drums. A spotlight shines through darkness and brings a single poet and a microphone into sight. As the poet speaks with passion and personality, you lose yourself in the words, taking

in everything that is said. This isn't just any type of poetry; you are witnessing the art of spoken word. The On Point Poetry Club is on the scene to bring people back to the world of spoken word poetry. "I do not think poetry is a lost art but I do think it is unappreciated," said club President Mara Moline. "I feel that the focus today is

more on visuals that we see in a video, not on the actual words." On Point Poetry was founded in May 2005 and has since been dedicated to bringing recognition to talented poets to the Biscayne Bay Campus. On Point is also hoping to bring together the non-poetic students of BBC for something other than a party

or comedy show. Although the club pays respect to other types of poetry, their inspiration comes from spoken word artists such as Maggie Estep, as well as music from The Roots, India Aire, and Angie Stone. Spoken word poetry is an urban, artistic form of delivering poetry aloud. It is performed in front of an audience rather than just written.

people and give them knowledge about what is really going on in the world around them," Moline said. Not only does the club give unknown poets a place for exposure, it also gives them a place to expand their skills. "I give [members] homework every week," Moline said. "I will give them a word or idea to write about for the next meeting."

These types of exercises challenge the poet's creativity and give them the opportunity to write about something they normally would not. On Point Poetry also challenges poets by holding poetry contests.

Most of the entries are spoken word and are performed, if you are too shy you can submit your poem in writing. "I had no idea that there were spoken word events at this campus but, now that I know, I can't wait to be a part of it," said Junior Sueane Walker.

"It is all about bringing us as students together to hear and to learn what others have to say about the world that we share today," Moline said. "I hope that this year we can get more members to share their thoughts with us."

For more information about On Point Poetry, students can join them every Monday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. in WUC 155.

Each member has a specific style and message delivered in each line they speak. Christian Jeannot writes and speaks about love, social issues, Africa and religion.

Elvia Brazil performs her words about love and emotions. And, Steven Ramirez promotes charity and awareness about AIDS, drugs, society, diversity and politics.

On Point Poetry is dedicated to bringing back that power of speech through both written and spoken word poetry, according to Moline.

With topics ranging from politics to poverty, On Point Poetry is more than just a club, it is a movement. "I want this club to awaken

## CREW ON CAMPUS



**WORK SITE:** Construction crews continue to work on a sewage and water hook-up for the new Marine Biology building and the Wolfe University Center. Vice Provost Raul Moncarz estimates the work will be completed within the next four weeks. **BETSY MARTINEZ/THE BEACON**

## Japanese 'mind, sensibility' learned through anime

BY LORA PINEDA  
Contributing Writer

From "Sailor Moon" to "Pokemon" to "Dragon Ball Z," the popular form of Japanese cartoon known as anime has become a popular trend in the United States.

With the growing popularity of anime and manga, which are a Japanese comics, groups such as, Anything Goes Anime North, are developing among universities and colleges in America.

AGAN is a club at the Biscayne Bay Campus that is dedicated to the world of anime, manga and video games.

Originally founded in 1997 at University Park, the club made its way to BBC in 1999 with the help of some library employees.

"We decided we should start showing anime, we wondered if there were other people who were interested," George Pearson, a reference librarian at BBC and faculty advisor for Anything Goes Anime North, said. "We did some publicity around the Wolfe Center and a lot of people showed up."

In the past, AGAN members have taken part in origami, anime drawing

workshops and field trips to Japanese museums.

But the main activity of AGAN is watching anime.

"Each semester we vote on which anime we'll be showing. At the start of the semester, we usually show samples from a lot of different anime so that people can decide what they like and can vote for it," Christina Folkman, president of AGAN, said. "Once the list is decided, we show a certain number of episodes each week."

Club meetings last about five hours. The first three hours are spent watching anime and the last are either spent watching an episode or playing video games.

In addition to watching anime, members also spend their time reading manga.

AGAN chooses anime that appeals to both genders and people of all ages, according to Pearson.

"We try to pick one show with boy anime and one show with girl anime, that gives some balance," said Pearson.

AGAN provides a place for Anime fans to come and enjoy anime together.

"The student who started it all just wanted a place where students and

people from the community could come to watch and enjoy Anime," Folkman said. "[Students get to] see new titles and things they've never seen before, and are able to discuss the titles and meet new people with shared interests."

But AGAN is not just about watching anime and reading manga.

It is also a place where members can learn about Japanese culture.

"I really want members and anybody who is interested to get an appreciation for Japanese culture," Pearson said. "I think anime and manga are windows into the Japanese mind and sensibility."

In the future, AGAN plans on holding a video game night. Non-

members are welcome to take part in this event.

AGAN meets every Wednesday from 5 - 10 p.m. in the BBC Library 124.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.fiu.edu/~aganime>.



VERONICA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

# OPINION

Harry Coleman Editor in Chief • Leoncio Alvarez Managing Editor • Christopher Necuze Opinion Editor

## Review of death penalty necessary in Florida

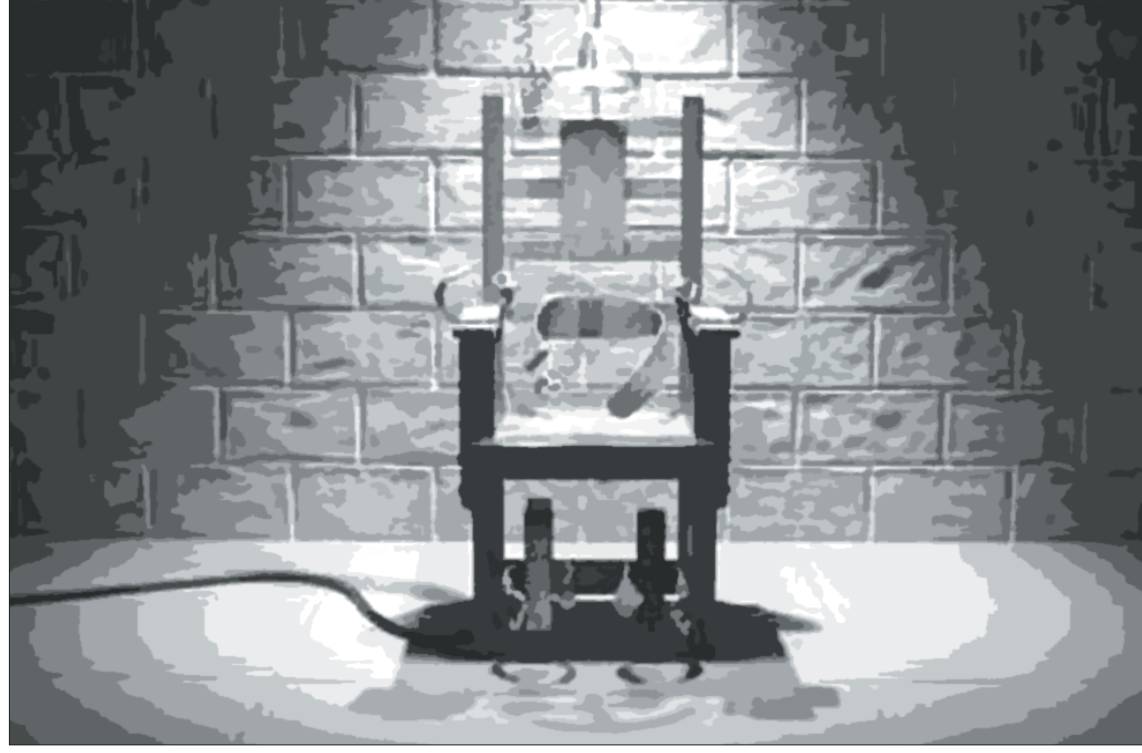
BY CHRISTINE LIRIANO  
Contributing Writer

California lawmakers have proposed a bill that will put executions on hold so that they may re-think the death penalty. Since the execution of Stanley “Tookie” Williams, founder of the infamous Crips street gang, the state of California has begun hearings on a bill that would suspend the death penalty until January 1, 2009, a good move, in my opinion, by the state.

Subverting the state’s death penalty law is not what is intended to be done, instead it is meant to reassess the system to assure no inmates are needlessly executed. Other than California, New Jersey has been the only other state to propose a bill to suspend the death penalty for a few years.

According to the site [deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org), there have been 784 executions in the U.S., mostly by lethal injection since the reinstating of the death penalty in 1976, when the U.S. declared it constitutional. Since 1973, over 120 people have been exonerated from death row across the country. Thirteen states including Alaska, Massachusetts and Michigan have since abolished executions – declaring it morally incorrect and unconstitutional.

If all goes as planned, the state of California will put a stop to executions until 2009, pushing



**OLD SPARKY:** After the execution of Stanley Williams some opponents have suggested that states should take a second look at their death penalty policy. COURTESY PHOTO

back anyone who is on death row another three years

The three-year hold on executions will give California a chance to study its capital punishment system and make recommendations for reforms. Temporary death penalty suspension has the support of 73 percent of California voters, 40 percent of which voted for the death penalty in the first place. Since all of this commotion is happening thousands of miles away, it may seem like

it shouldn’t affect us too much, right? What if tomorrow Gov. Jeb Bush decides he wants to follow in the footsteps of the lawmakers in California and do the same?

The state of Florida should, with an open mind, consider taking the same actions and putting a short hold on the death penalty. Along with all the money the state will be saving and using for other important causes, reviewing capital punishment may be good for the system.

Death row is an extremely long process that can take anywhere from 10 to 40 plus years. That said, an additional three years doesn’t seem like such a big deal, especially if in that time any bugs in the system can be fixed. The re-assessment of the death penalty may give wrongfully convicted inmates a second chance to prove their innocence. Justice served on a guilty inmate gives us a feeling of relief; accidentally punishing an innocent person puts us in a

state of guilt.

Even if the bill gets passed in California, it would still need approval from the state senate and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has not yet granted clemency in any capital case since he’s been in office.

It is impossible to really know if an inmate is guilty or innocent, but some time away from this act and we might actually find some other way to deal with this problem. Just as in the fictional movie, *The Life of David Gale*, in which an innocent man is sentenced to death for a murder conviction in which he claims he is innocent, the true verdict of a person is never absolutely known.

Perhaps Florida will wait and see how everything works out with California and New Jersey before deciding to follow in their footsteps. Yet in order for Florida to consider having this suspension occur, as with any bill proposal, a bill will have to be first proposed, accepted, reviewed by both houses of the Senate and then signed by Gov. Jeb Bush, the latter of which may prove to be most difficult.

Some time to study and make improvements on capital punishment may be exactly what is needed in order to be sure that as many problems with the system can be taken care of before it takes the lives of more wrongfully convicted prisoners.

## Big Oil ‘price gouging’ beneficial for U.S. in long run

BY J. BENNETT JOHNSTON  
KRT Campus

Ferocious natural disasters and soaring federal budget deficits notwithstanding, 2005 was a robust year for the U.S. economy – as most fourth-quarter earnings reports undoubtedly will confirm in the days ahead.

At the same time, it’s easy to predict that the good news of strong profits for America’s energy companies will be virtually drowned out by critics’ accusations that Big Oil is “price-gouging” and “making obscene profits.” And once again, many of the critics will call on Congress to enact a windfall profits tax and, perhaps, even institute price controls on the alleged miscreants.

I’ve heard the name-calling and cries for retribution many times before, especially in election years.

Before rushing forward in a vindictive lather, the critics and their allies on Capitol Hill need to take a deep breath and consider the facts. The peak gasoline prices of last summer have plunged by an average 75

cents as refineries and pipelines have come back on line. Yes, many Americans – especially in the Northeast – are paying more for heating oil and natural gas to warm their homes and workplaces this winter, but this is a consequence of many factors, not corporate greed.

Consider for a moment what determines the price of fuel and how global energy markets work. Not surprisingly, about half the retail price of a gallon of gasoline is the cost of crude oil itself – money that goes directly to suppliers in the oil-producing countries. Today, we import nearly 60 percent of our crude oil from 30 countries on six continents. An additional 20 to 30 percent of the pump price pays for refining, distributing and marketing of the gasoline. Federal, state and local tax collectors get most of the remainder – about 20 cents on the dollar.

Oil companies in recent months have been keeping about a dime a gallon. That’s a lot of money because Americans buy far more gasoline and drive far more miles than any other

nationality.

To satisfy millions of individual and mutual fund shareholders and stay in business in a fiercely competitive global marketplace, the oil and gas companies must plow much of their profit back into finding new petroleum reserves – often in dangerous parts of the world. Basic research and capital investment in new refineries, tankers, trucks and pipelines require additional billions.

We all know the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. The emergence of full-throttle economies in China and India, nations whose peoples account for a third of the Earth’s population, has ratcheted up demand – and prices.

Investors know that the mere threat of an Iranian oil cutoff can send global stock markets into a tailspin. Yet overall, the actual profit of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry amounts to less than eight cents per dollar of sales – or roughly the same percentage as all U.S. industries combined.

The disruption of supply by the one-two punch of Hurricanes

We all know the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. The emergence of full-throttle economies in China and India, nations whose peoples account for a third of the Earth’s population, has ratcheted up demand – and prices.

Katrina and Rita last summer caused pain at the pump for every American motorist. Thankfully, the pain was temporary for most because the crude oil market reacted as markets are supposed to do: supply shortages produced temporary high prices and some momentary cutbacks in consumer demand until resurgent market supplies and reallocations adjusted for the situation.

We avoided the prolonged energy crisis generated by the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo and the 1979 shut down of Iranian oil. There were no lines at neighborhood gas stations, no ‘odd-day, even-day’ pump rationing schedules, no widespread fuel shortages. Four months later, retail pump prices have returned to pre-hurricane levels, and they have done so without relying

on federal price controls or new taxes on energy companies.

By contrast, the windfall profits tax of the 1980s proved harmful to U.S. energy supplies and consumers in many ways: reducing domestic oil production, increasing oil imports and depleting investment revenues for future energy production. Artificial price controls and windfall taxes on domestic energy producers are an unnatural intervention. They proved to be a bad idea when they were tried in the past. They are still a bad idea now.

A vibrant economy is a shared national asset. Let’s allow the markets to work the way they are supposed to, according to the natural laws of supply and demand. We will all benefit as a result.

# New Canadian Prime minister expected to bolster ties with U.S.

BY CHRISTOPHER NECUZE  
Opinion Editor

When you think of Canada, what comes to mind? Most people think of hockey, cold weather, a single basketball team and that signature utterance after every phrase ‘ey.’ Being unlike most people, when I think of Canada, I think of the politics, the policies and the liberals.

The latter has all but changed, thanks to the recent elections in Canada, which ousted the ruling liberal Party for the more conservative one. I don’t know about you, but it seems to me that Liberals everywhere are running out of places to hide.

The new Prime minister, Stephen Harper, has many things on his agenda that make liberals foam at the mouth. During his tenure as Prime minister, Harper plans to touch on same-sex marriage, abortion issues and seeks to (gasp!) lower taxes, just to name a few of his policies.

Social matters, however, may prove to be the mere tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Canadian political arena. Paul Martin, the outgoing Prime minister, failed throughout his term to address many of Canada’s most pressing issues, such as the country’s embarrassing national defenses and its illustrious public health program which is in dire need of maintenance – and that’s putting it lightly.

Nevertheless, it will definitely not be easy for Harper. Winning

124 seats, compared to the liberals’ 103, the conservatives did win more seats in the parliament, but the government is still minority-led as a majority stake would require the acquirement of 155 seats.

So what does this mean for us? On his “Live on Broadway” stand-up act, comedian Robin Williams described Canada as “the loft apartment over a great party.” This new government will hopefully score our neighbor to the north an exclusive invitation.

What I mean by this is that a conservative government should better our relationship with Canada, a relationship that is becoming increasingly more important as oil from the middle-east either becomes more scarce or harder to get.

In 2003 alone there was over \$460 billion (with a “B”) worth of trade between the United States and Canada, making it the United State’s most important trading partner. An even lesser known fact, but just as or more important, is that in 2005 Canada reported 178.8 billion (also with a “B”) barrels of crude oil reserves, making its reserves the second largest in the entire world, second only to Saudi Arabia.



**VICTORY:** Newly elected Prime minister, Stephen Harper, will take a more conservative approach. COURTESY PHOTO

Canada is the seventh-largest producer of oil in the world and it sends 99 percent of its crude oil exports to the U.S. In 2004, Canadian oil was the single largest component of all U.S. oil imports. The new Prime minister plans to develop the oil industry in Canada to increase output.

The Canadian public does, for the most part, have a general distaste for the Bush administration. Nevertheless, it is imperative that the U.S. and Canada repair relations. We are each other’s most valuable ally, and in times of need, you must be able to call upon your neighbor for help.

# Terrorism policy missing the point

BY DANIEL CORDOVA  
Contributing Writer

Osama is back. On Jan. 19, Bin Laden broke his 13-month silence and released a tape over the Internet. Dispelling rumors of his death, Bin Laden offered a truce and also warned Americans of further attacks. Yes, Osama is alive and well, and this raises a number of questions.

How is Osama Bin Laden still alive? Despite extremely advanced technology, highly trained specialists and a practically unlimited budget, the mighty United States government cannot seem to capture this one man.

Many Americans, like myself, are wondering how one man has been able to evade special forces for four years my merely hiding in a cave when most people can’t even hide from telemarketers.

Are we any safer? Since the 9/11 attacks, billions of dollars have been poured into Homeland Security and, thankfully there have not been any more attacks in the U.S. since then. However, the level of paranoia has skyrocketed. A poll conducted by CBS News on July

15 showed that 94 percent of Americans believe there are terrorists inside the U.S. who are planning future attacks. People certainly don’t feel any safer.

But this isn’t the real problem. Having invested billions of dollars into establishing a democratic Iraq in the Middle East, one wonders if we are doing everything we can. The U.S. managed to overthrow a ruthless dictator, yet the very man responsible for the attacks that spawned this ‘war on terrorism’ is still making home videos. Our efforts have not been concentrated in the correct places.

Amidst all the chaos, from 9/11 to Afghanistan to Iraq, few have dared to address the real problem: The fact that these groups have such a strong hostility toward the U.S. Is it their perception of our interference with their culture? Is it our unwavering support of the state of Israel?

What needs to be addressed is the driving force behind the hatred. We are wasting time and money with new laws and regulations, such as the Patriot Act, that don’t attack the real

problem. We are going after the symptoms, not the virus.

Al-Qaeda, Hamas and other such fundamentalist groups are continuing to recruit new members, establishing an even wider network of ‘anti-American’ individuals who are willing to die for their principles. While we harass a grandmother because she brought her nail clippers in her carry-on, we should be focused on quelling the efforts of terrorist organizations that continue to grow to this day.

The hatred toward the U.S. is prevalent in the Middle East. We need to go to war against this hatred. The best way to combat this is by reaching the people. To reach the people you must meet their needs; build a school, not a tank; supply medicines, not guns.

Our goal in this war should be to meet the needs of the people, to overcome the hatred and ultimately establish positive relations.

Is this the plan of our administration? Maybe. The public has been kept in the dark about the real plan because they are not addressing the real problem, hatred.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**What are your thoughts on the University’s decision to increase the inter-campus shuttle bus fare?**

- That’s total nonsense. If it keeps going up then it stops being useful.

**61%**

- I guess it depends on how much the price is increased.

**23%**

- It’s fine. You still save some money.

**9%**

- There’s another campus?

**7%**

Total participants: 56

Cast your vote at [www.beaconnewspaper.com](http://www.beaconnewspaper.com)

## WINNER & LOSER

### WINNER

**Hamas:** The Palestinian political party, that has also been listed as a terrorist group by the European Union, Canada, Israel and the United States, has won a majority of votes in the Palestinian parliamentary elections. The defeated Fatah party has begun burning cars. Hooray for democracy!



### LOSER

**The United States:** The economy grew at its slowest pace in three years, Iran is playing around with nuclear power, there are high fuel prices, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent as of December and yes, there were democratic elections in Palestine, but Hamas? At least Chevron’s earnings rose a record 20 percent ... oh wait that’s because of high fuel prices.



## QUOTATIONATION

*“Clearly what they did is unlawful. Government officials are not allowed to confiscate student newspapers. The information was obtained legally and by confiscating the newspapers they crossed the line.”*

– **Mike Hiestand**, legal consultant for the Student Press Law Center, commenting on the recent removal of *The Beacon* from newstands by FIU public safety on the night of Jan. 26.

*“The success of the film demonstrates that Americans are much more accepting of gays and lesbians than ever before.”*

– **Afework Afework**, president of Stonewall Alliance, on the growing popularity of the controversial film *Brokeback Mountain*.

*“I’ve heard disagreements: ‘preserve your gunpowder for the future.’”*

– **John Kerry**, the democratic senator, on his attempts to filibuster Judge Samuel A. Alito’s nomination to the supreme court and on some of his fellow democrats’ attempts to stop him.

*“Community service is an extremely worthwhile activity.”*

– **Leonard Elbaum**, professor for the physical therapy department at FIU, on the FIU AIDS walk for Orphans taking place Feb. 6 – an event he helped organize.

# OSTALGIA ATTACK

## A fond look back at '80s and '90s pop culture

BY C. JOEL MARINO  
Content Editor

Smurfs, Power Rangers, the Oregon Trail, Michael Jordan, Pogs, the Spice Girls, 'Saved by the Bell' – Lauren Andreu and Sam Youn, both juniors, laugh and yell "I remember that!" every time a new object is added to the list, their faces full of excitement.

Like many college students around the country, both Andreu and Youn admit to having a fascination with this random recollection of cultural references from the '80s and '90s, usually making these lists with friends of the same age.

"There were so many things growing up, I don't think I can say them all," Andreu said. "It kind of makes you feel old."

And feeling old may not necessarily be a bad thing these days.

From announcements that Steven Spielberg will produce a live-action version of the popular 20-year-old "Transformers" TV show to a continual praise of all things retro by music channel VH1, media markets across the country have begun to make a trend out of a very unlikely feeling: teenage nostalgia.

VH1 itself can be seen as a main pioneer in this profitable industry after its highly rated 2002 program "I Love The '80s" was followed by shows on the '70s and '90s. Soon after, other cable networks like Bravo and E! began airing similar programming, eventually leading to a full out return of once-disposed pop material as remakes dominated the summer box office and old TV shows found new life on DVD.

"Yeah, I like watching all those shows that have to do with stuff from when I was a kid," said freshman Jemelle

Whitaker. "It's like they're giving me details on things I thought I had forgotten and it helps bring back a lot of good memories."

Although Youn doesn't watch many of these programs, he says he still can't help reliving all those childhood memories because it allows him to bond with friends when they're not doing much.

"Sometimes we'll just be standing around, not doing anything, and then someone will just say, 'Do you remember ... ?' and we all join in," he said, "It's just something everyone's been doing."

Bennett Schwartz, an FIU associate professor in psychology, agrees that this popular impulse by adolescents and young adults is carried out in order to bring people of different backgrounds together while providing a shared identity.

"These common cultural memories both bind us together as a culture and also differentiate us from other cultures or, perhaps, sub-cultures," he stated via an e-mail interview. "So your 15 – 25 [age group] is bonding by learning a set of common cultural icons and at the same time distancing themselves from the icons of their older peers and parents."

However, Schwartz also states that there are certain recollections called 'flashbulb memories' which register where a person was and what they were doing during important national events, usually tragic ones.

These sort of memories usually do not make it onto the wistful lists, and Schwartz maintains that shows like "I Love The '80s" and the nostalgia-on-demand "Best Week Ever" (which magnifies the events of a previous week as though years had gone by since they happened) serve as

positive memory cues to the otherwise negative cues of the flashbulb memories.

When asked why events like the explosion of the Challenger shuttle or the Clinton impeachment trials were not registered into nostalgic conversations, Youn stated that "we didn't care back then about the news."

"The Challenger exploded once, but the shows we loved played every day," he said.

Whitaker agrees with Youn's opinion and believes that remembering good, silly things from the past can be a helpful tool for teenagers just entering adulthood.

"The older you get, the more you think about serious subjects like everyday responsibilities and death. This helps people deal with it," Whitaker said.

Even as Hollywood and the commercial mainstream try to cash in on this need for light-hearted closure, Schwartz thinks that, in the end, popular yearning for days past will continue as a struggle between the generational gap.

"I also think part of it is an attempt to understand the parental generation, hence the focus on the '80s today," he said. "When I was a kid, there were lot of TV shows and movies that took place in the '50s, the coming-of-age time for my parents, [like] 'Happy Days,' *Back to the Future*, etc."

Even though Andreu sometimes feels annoyed by the reminiscence of older folk, she says that won't stop her from being nostalgic herself.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,' Gameboys, 'Full House,' skirts with leggings – I remember all these things because they remind me of special times growing up," she said. "And that's what really makes me happy."

### Power Rangers

Based on the Japanese "Super Sentai" television series, "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" was a widely popular live-action children's show that began in 1993. The series' many incarnations are still popular.



### Spice Girls

Selling over 45 million albums, the Spice Girls were the most popular girl group of the '90s. Each member had a distinct persona making the group relatable and accessible for young girls worldwide.



### Gameboy

Originally released by Nintendo in 1989, the Game Boy handheld game system – along with its addictive best-selling game Tetris – became the ultimate car-ride companion for children of the day.



# Cowboy flick a phenomenon

BY REUBEN PEREIRA  
Staff Writer

The nominations for the 78th annual Academy Awards will be announced Jan. 31. Many predict *Brokeback Mountain* will be one of the five films nominated for the Best Picture Oscar.

Also expected to get nominations are Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal for *Brokeback Mountain*, Philip Seymour Hoffman for *Capote* and Felicity Huffman for *Transamerica*. A common factor all these movies share is a gay character in the starring role. This has led some Oscar pundits to dub this year's upcoming Academy Awards as the 'gay Oscars.'

Many in the film world have heralded *Brokeback Mountain* as a landmark film because it's the first gay-themed movie to potentially reach a mass audience.

The western about two Wyoming ranch hands, Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, who meet and fall in love in 1960's Wyoming has picked up accolades from almost every major critic group across the country, including the Los Angeles Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle - widely considered the most prestigious film critic groups in the country.

Lines from the film, such as the now infamous "I wish I knew how to quit you," are being used in everything from late night shows with Jay Leno, Jon Stewart and David Letterman, to parody skits, CNN and everything in between. The movie has become a pop culture phenomenon.

The film has received almost unanimous praise among the gay and lesbian community including FIU's own Stonewall Pride Alliance.

"The success of the film demonstrates that Americans are much more accepting of gays and lesbians than ever before," said Afework Afework,



**BOY MEETS BOY:** With *Brokeback Mountain's* great success, controversial issues do not stand in the way of its widespread popularity. **COURTESY PHOTO**

president of Stonewall Alliance.

Since the film's opening in mid-December, controversy has plagued the film, mostly ignited by the controversy-fueling media. However, critics of the film are far and hard to find. Most of them, including conservative radio hosts and columnists have admitted that the film is beautifully written, shot and acted and deserves the praise it's getting.

Audiences from the South and the Midwest are perhaps having the hardest time accepting a film of this nature. A theater in Utah banned the film from screening due to a personal bias of the owner, much to the dismay of the Utah audience.

"The reception towards the film from Christian groups and organizations is going to be very negative," said Daniel Alvarez, instructor of religious studies at FIU. "Because, particularly in the South and the Midwest, the dominant interpretation of Christianity that prevails is very

conservative."

Lesley Northup, associate professor of religious studies, agrees.

"It's not a recruiting film as some may think," Northup said. "We have the worst ideas of what a gay relationship is and we have never seen what a three-dimensional relationship between two men would be like."

President George W. Bush, when asked about the film in a recent press conference, replied that he hadn't watched the film but had heard of it. A visibly uncomfortable Bush had the opportunity to take a shot at the film but decided not to.

Despite the controversy and subject matter, the film continues to perform exceedingly well at the box office. Since its opening at six theaters on Dec. 9, the film has grossed \$547,425, the highest per-showing average for any drama in film history. After the Golden Globes, it was the highest

See COWBOY, page 8

# LIFE!



FIVE QUESTIONS OF INTEREST



**NAME:**  
A. PHRED  
HUNTER

**CURRENT  
POSITION:**  
ASSISTANT  
GENERAL  
MANAGER,  
UNIVERSITY PARK  
BOOKSTORE

## 1. WHY DID YOU GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING?

A) I had to go to the bathroom B) I had to take my daughter to school and C) oh yeah, my boss likes it when I show up to work. Actually, I'm just a workaholic.

## 2. IF YOU COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A DAY (FROM ANY TIME OR PLACE), WHO WOULD IT BE?

Any or every major prophet, be it Mohammed, Jesus, Moses or Buddha. I sometimes wonder if it was difficult for them to do the right thing.

## 3. WHAT TV ACTOR OR PERSONALITY MAKES YOU CHANGE THE CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY?

Tom Cruise because he's the single most overexposed celebrity. I'll watch his movies, I just don't want to hear him speak. [Also,] Howard Stern because I think he's just plain offensive.



CRUISE

## 4. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IRAN WANTING TO FURTHER THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM?

I'm afraid of everyone wanting to further their nuclear program.



STERN

## 5. WHAT SONG DEFINES YOUR LIFE?

Umm ... it's tough to pick one song that defines your entire life. I tend to have happy songs of the day. Today my happy song is "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves.

- Compiled by Reuben Pereira

## HOUSING ROYALTY



### REGAL STYLE:

Vaughn Johnson and Stefanie Miller were crowned Mr. and Ms. Housing 2006 (left) at the "RHA Mr. and Ms. Housing" pageant that took place Jan. 27. The competition included a talent portion, where both winners chose to sing (above, right).

EDDIE ZENG/THE BEACON



Know an interesting professor? Does your friend have a cool campus job? Then recommend them for this section feature by e-mailing [beaconlife@yahoo.com](mailto:beaconlife@yahoo.com)

Look for the Life! 5 feature every Monday issue.

# Film addresses touchy issues

From COWBOY, page 7

grossing picture in America for three days. Thus far, it has grossed around \$41 million and at the rate it's going, with the upcoming Oscar nominations, the \$100 million mark is easily within its grasp – not bad for a film that cost just \$14 million to produce.

“The fact that it's performing so well in states that aren't known to be gay-friendly, speaks volumes on how [far] we've come as a society,” Afework said.

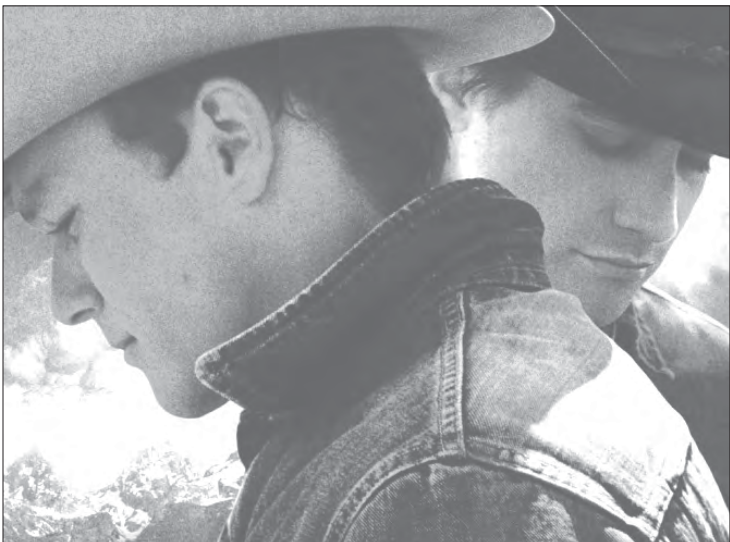
Some say the film is revolutionary filmmaking but others disagree.

“It's a conventional romance and it follows the tradition of other Hollywood romance films. Boy meets Girl (Boy meets

Boy, in this case), fall in love and fall out of love. It's a conventional Hollywood film,” said Barbara Weitz, director of FIU's Film Certificate Program.

The marketing department of the film hasn't concealed the subject matter, although in some cities some award promos have depicted the men with their wives, implying heterosexuality. The poster of the film has drawn comparisons to the *Titanic* poster, implying that the marketing team is pushing the film as a conventional romance. It is, in the end, a love story like most love stories in films. And like Oscar-winning romances *Titanic*, *The English Patient* and *Gone with the Wind*, it is about a forbidden love.

“As time passes, there will be a better understanding that these people are humans, that they have feelings, that they are very much like us,” Alvarez said. “There's such a great divide in our society. We view them as lepers, something impure or dirty. I'm very hopeful that a film like *Brokeback Mountain* will be a valuable contribution to breaking down these barriers.”



**FORBIDDEN LOVE:** *Brokeback Mountain's* similarity to the *Titanic* movie poster suggests its marketing teams pushed for a conventional romance. COURTESY PHOTO

*sfbc International*

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# University removes student newspapers

## Administrators, student press learn legal lesson

BY BETSY MARTINEZ  
Biscayne Bay Editor

The Department of Public Safety removed copies of *The Beacon's* Jan. 26 issue at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus on the night of the issue's publication.

Public Safety Chief Bill King confirmed that the issues were removed pursuant of Florida statute 794.03, which states that it is "unlawful to publish or broadcast information identifying sexual offense victim[s]."

"There appeared to be a violation of a Florida statute that covers a sexual victim's identity and we removed the newspapers to lessen the impact," King said. "We only did as we were told to do as far as removing the papers."

The order to remove the newspapers was handed down

by Marcos Perez, vice president of administration and Cristina Mendoza, the University's general counsel, according to King.

"We were protecting the rights of a person who may not have wanted her name revealed. She should be the person who gives the authority to print her information," King said.

*The Beacon* published a story in which, at the time of publication, an alleged sexual offense victim was identified.

The story involved an FIU Public Safety officer, Frederick Currie, who was arrested and charged with allegedly sexually assaulting an 18-year-old woman while on duty July 8, 2005.

The victim was not an FIU student, and Currie was placed on administrative leave with pay.

Currie was charged and

convicted of one count of sexual battery and one count of battery against the victim on Jan. 26.

The same day, Larry Lunsford, associate vice president of student affairs and university ombudsman, was contacted by Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs and undergraduate education, and informed him of the situation.

"There was a misinterpretation of a statute. It was not intended to be censorship. They were looking at how to lessen the situation," Lunsford said.

Lunsford recounted the criticism *The Miami Herald* faced by publishing a photo of ex-city commissioner, Arthur Teele's corpse laid out on *The Miami Herald* building lobby.

"Remember what *The [Miami] Herald* went through in publishing that? It's sort of the same thing [*The Beacon*] is being accused of and that is, 'did [*The Beacon*] make a good judgement?'" Lunsford said.

Lunsford has served as advisor for three college newspa-

pers.

Public Safety returned the issues at 10 p.m. on Jan. 27.

"Clearly, what they did is unlawful. Government officials are not allowed to confiscate student newspapers. The information was obtained legally and by confiscating the newspapers they crossed the line," Mike Hiestand, attorney and legal consultant for the Student Press Law Center, said.

Tom Julin, legal counsel for *The Beacon*, agreed, citing the 1994 Florida Supreme Court case *Florida v. Globe Communications Corp.*

When the *Globe* was criminally prosecuted for publishing an alleged victim's name, a trial court, a state appellate court and the Florida Supreme Court all agreed that the state law was unconstitutional.

"*The Beacon's* publication of the name does not violate Florida law. The statute was declared unconstitutional 12 years ago. I don't think they had any right to [remove the newspapers] and that doing was in violation of the students'

rights who were publishing the newspaper," Julin, of the law firm Hunton & Williams said.

*The Beacon* felt it was an unfortunate incident.

"The University felt that it was the right thing to do and obviously they were wrong and violated our first amendment rights. We are looking toward the future and continuing to publish a paper that informs the student body," Harry Coleman, editor in chief of *The Beacon*, said.

Lunsford said it's an educational lesson for the University and *The Beacon*.

"The University can't tell students what they can say or write," Lunsford said. "That's what's great about press and democracy. There's two sides and people learn on both sides then go forward because Monday brings another paper, another day."

Mendoza and Perez were not available for comment at the time of publication.

*Additional reporting by Managing Editor Leoncio Alvarez.*

## Students fundraise for AIDS

BY JENNIFER MESA  
Contributing Writer

FIU Honors College students, in collaboration with other organizations, will join in the FIU AIDS Walk for Orphans Feb. 6.

The 6,000 step walk will begin in the Betty Chapman Plaza. Each step will represent the 6,000 children who are left orphaned every year because their parents died from HIV/AIDS.

Junior Andrea Felix, along with a group from her honors course, Aesthetics, Values, and Authority, with Leonard Elbaum, a professor for the physical therapy department started the fundraiser as a project for the course.

Elbaum's physical therapy courses focus on kinesiology, the science of human movement and gait or walking-analysis.

It also covers historically important marches and walks, which inspired Felix and her group to organize the fundraiser.

"Community service is an extremely worthwhile activity," said Elbaum, who encouraged Felix to get involved with charitable walks after finding out that she was double majoring in economics and religious studies.

As the project progressed, Felix realized that it was "growing into something much bigger."

Besides the Honors College, other contributing organizations include the Student Government Association and Baptist Health South Florida, among others.

All proceeds will be given to the Hope Initiative Program of World Vision, an international non-profit organization that

focuses on "caring for orphans and children made vulnerable by the disease, preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS with education based on biblical principles and advocating for effective programs that transform communities and save lives," according to a press release.

While the group as a whole has not set any monetary goal to fundraise, they have agreed that their main goal is to raise awareness and support from the community, according to group member junior Robert Sobrado.

Another committee member, Junior Fritz Murphy has set a personal goal of \$6,000.

Felix hopes for a turnout of at least 500 walkers.

For information on how to get involved go to [www.firstgiving.com](http://www.firstgiving.com).

## Professionals to interview potentials

CAREER, from page 1

what they want out of their major," she said. "There are all sorts of internships and positions available for all types of majors."

The Career Fair and Mega Career Week events are accessible to current, graduate or alumni students.

However, if students wish to be interviewed by employers on the day of the fair, they must register for Golden Panther Services at [www.fiu.edu/~career](http://www.fiu.edu/~career).

Students such as junior Jacqueline Toledo are taking advantage of Career Week. Toledo signed up for the workshops in order to obtain an internship.

"I'm interested in learning what's out there job-wise," Toledo, who is majoring in

criminal justice, said. In addition to her personal benefits from the program, she feels that other students should engage in the event.

"I think it's a lot of help. You're studying to later on obtain a career. Attending is worth it," she said.

Even if students do not want to attend this year's events, Graham recommends that students should not delay their pursuit toward a career.

"Students should not wait and start to build their resumes now," Graham said. "That's what [Career Services] is here for, to help them prepare."

Those who want more information concerning the fair or Mega Career Week can visit the Career Service center in the Graham Center room 230 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

F.Y.I.

## FIU AIDS Walk for Orphans

- When: Feb. 6
- What time: 10:30 a.m.
- 6,000 step walk
- No registration fee
- Free T-shirts and snacks for walkers
- For more information visit [www.firstgiving.com](http://www.firstgiving.com)

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# Almonte says opponents, fans respect team more

ALMONTE, from page 12



ALMONTE

this and that, but at the beginning of the season, coach Rouco [gives] everyone an opportunity to play in order to see who can play down the stretch ... now is when you need the people to play.

Everyone at the beginning was not buying into what we had to do for this year. We had people

that we didn't have last year, talent-wise, and we didn't win the conference but we were a pretty hard team to beat. We have players like Ish [N'Diaye], Kenny [Simms], Jayce [Lewis], Cesar [Chavez-Jacobo] and myself that were here last year and played.

Now, over the last couple of weeks, people are buying into what we did last season and trying to play more inside, more hard nose basketball and they are seeing that it works.

**Q: How far do you think this team can get this season? What needs to be done on a nightly basis for that to happen?**

We can go as high as winning the conference championship, that is our goal but it's not that I think about it; it is something that we can do.

Most of the teams that we have played in our conference don't look much better. It's not as if we are going into games thinking we are going to get beat.

Everyone knows that when we go on the road, we are going to play hard and compete and try and win all our games.

Last year, we would be on the plane and people would say, "It's a loss." People would come to play us and say,

"It's FIU, it's easy," but this year, you can see in the fans and the teams that they respect us a lot more.

If we keep playing the way we are playing, and keep doing what the coach wants us to do, sometimes as basketball players, you want to do this and shoot it here, but that's not the way it is in college.

If everyone buys into what the coach wants us to do, we will play well and have a real good chance to win the conference.

*For the rest of this interview, read the Thursday, Feb. 1 edition of "The Beacon".*



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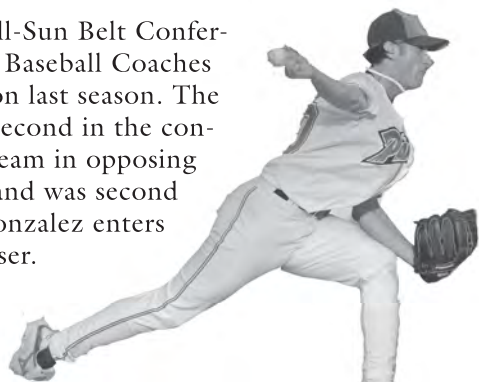
# PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

## BASEBALL

### FRANK GONZALEZ

RHP

Gonzalez earned Second-Team All-Sun Belt Conference and Second-Team American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region recognition last season. The senior led the team and finished second in the conference in ERA. He also led the team in opposing batting average and appearances and was second on the team in wins and saves. Gonzalez enters his final season as the team's closer.



#### 2005 STATISTICS

ERA	W-L	APP	SV	IP	BB	SO
2.70	8-1	29	3	66.2	19	51

### MICHAEL LOPEZ

OF/1B

As the starting first baseman last season, Lopez ranked among the top five on the team in multiple offensive categories - including first in walks, tied for first in doubles, second in RBI, third in runs scored, fourth in hits and total bases and fifth in home runs. Lopez will see some time in the outfield this season

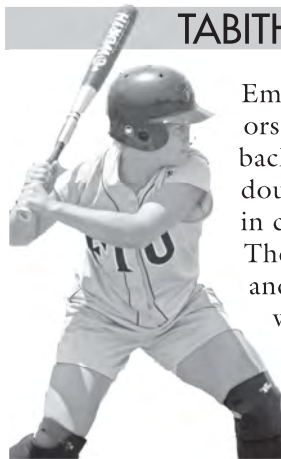
#### 2005 STATISTICS

AVG.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	BB
.312	202	51	63	5	47	10	29

## SOFTBALL

### TABITHA EMBRY

C



Embry, who earned first team all-conference honors last season as a third baseman, makes the move back to her original position of catcher. Embry nearly doubled her batting average from 2004 and hit .417 in conference play, ranking second in the Sun Belt. The junior tied for third in the conference in triples and is currently tied for second on FIU's all-time list with four.

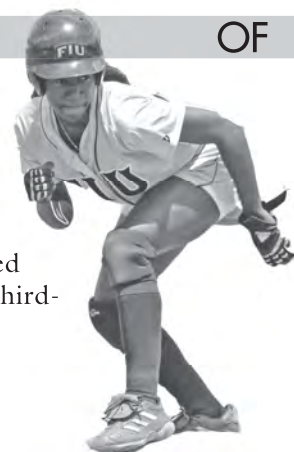
#### 2005 STATISTICS

AVG.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB
.281	171	19	48	4	24	4

### DEOMNI MURRAY

OF

A first-time conference honoree, Murray was one of only two Golden Panthers to start in all 62 games and made just one error the entire season. The Junior's .261 batting average was third on the team and was a 142-point improvement from her freshman season. She also enjoyed a seven-game hitting streak to match the team's third-longest of the season.



#### 2005 STATISTICS

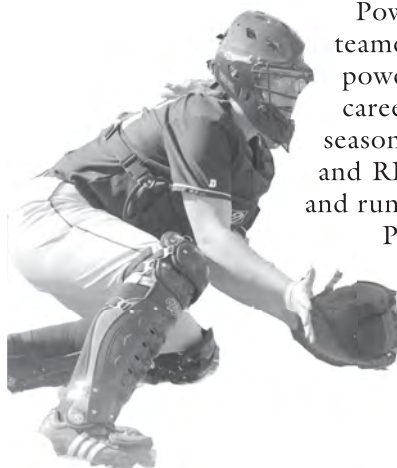
AVG.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB
.261	205	25	53	1	8	19

### JENNIFER POWELL

DH/C

Powell, selected to the all-conference second teamer in 2005, made herself one of the best power hitters in the conference as she put up career numbers for the Golden Panthers last season. The senior led her team in homeruns and RBI and was second on the team in hitting and runs scored.

Powell had a team-high 10-game hitting streak (March 18 - April 9), which tied for fourth-longest in school history.



#### 2005 STATISTICS

AVG.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB
.277	166	22	46	7	25	7

## Hiialeah Park near highways; ideal for public transportation

HIALEAH, from page 12

like your getting rid of the Washington Monument. Some people who live in Hiialeah don't even know what's on that plot of land.

Another problem facing the Hiialeah Park location is that there are no major highways in its immediate vicinity, so traffic before and after games will make Hiialeah traffic even more horrid than it already is.

The park is about two miles east of the Palmetto Expressway and Okeechobee Road and only four miles west of I-95. The biggest draw, however, would be its proximity to the Metro Rail station - literally a one-minute walk.

So, Palm Beach and Eastern Broward residents can take the Tri-Rail, connect to the Metro Rail and save the hassle of driving south on I-95 during rush hour.

On paper, the idea seems marvelous; especially when coupled with the fact that the Marlins don't draw too big a crowd.

The two other reported sites, Amelia Earhart Park and plot of privately owned land near I-75, can be equally suitable to those who commute by car but will be difficult to get to by those who use public transportation.

The reality of the move is highly unlikely but only because it makes too much sense. The original plan would

have built the stadium right next to the Orange Bowl, altering the historic stadium that is still used by the University of Miami football and for other sporting events.

Construction on the Orange Bowl site would be a nuisance to those scheduling sporting events there, as well as the fans who attend them. Construction in Hiialeah Park would not bother anyone, except for maybe a few brides-to-be.

Even if the construction should extend beyond the enclosed Hiialeah Park, Hiialeah residents wouldn't mind all that much because we are already used to it. Take a drive through Hiialeah and you'll notice a lot of roadwork being done, which perplexes us residents because there was nothing wrong with the roads in the first place.

But that's beside the point.

Political experts are saying that the Marlins are using Hiialeah as a tool to restart talks with the city of Miami, but the Marlins might have found a better locale. The team has said all along that it wants to remain in South Florida. With Hiialeah, they have a legitimate chance.

Hiialeah has called itself "the City of Progress" for as far as I can remember and they have the potential to live up its motto.

Now, the question is, where are the Marlins going to get the rest of that stadium money?

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## Senior forward talks about team

BY ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA  
Staff Writer

With the Golden Panthers men's basketball team on a two-game conference win streak and a 10-day layoff, *The Beacon* sat down with senior leader Ivan Almonte and spoke to him on the team's struggles, their dreams for the season and a little about himself.

Almonte was an all-Sun Belt first teamer last season and a preseason all-conference player at the beginning of this season.

As of Jan. 30, Almonte is averaging 13.2 points per game and 11.4 rebounds per game this season. At one point in December Almonte ranked second in the nation in rebounds per game.

**Q: Are things going the way you expected so far for the team?**

Well, not really. You know we had the bad stretch; we lost 11 games and it was really hard for us. I got hurt a little bit and so did some of the other players, so it was really hard to find ourselves.

We have more talent this year, but we didn't put everything together at the beginning of the season. After the last two games I think everybody is buying more into what [head coach Sergio Rouco] wants us to do, the things we have to concentrate on, like defense and playing hard.

I think everyone is playing together more and trying to win. Maybe at the beginning of the season things went the wrong way, but now we are picking it up and I think we can finish the season the way we expected.

**Q: What needs to be done to fix these problems?**

I don't think we need to do a lot of changing. We just need to keep on playing hard, like in the last two games. When conference starts it is really hard to go out there and execute because everybody scouts you and knows what you are going to do.

So last year we did a lot of different stuff for every team but, with a lot of new players this year, it is really hard to put up new stuff for every game.

I think we just need to execute the new plays we are learning so that everyone can do it and we can play hard.

**Q: What were your sentiments during the losing streak?**

It was really hard for everybody. It was just hard losing and when you play hard, but maybe we would just play hard for one half and then the second half play poorly.

It was hard knowing we had the talent to win the games, but we couldn't do it. I don't know why. Now that we won the last two, everyone cares and things have changed in a positive way. We think we can play with anybody in the league.

**Q: Is this the kind of season you would have expected for your senior year?**

You always plan on more success than you have. We were expecting to win 20 or 25 games because that is human nature. It has just been hard to come in and lose that many games



**LEADER:** Senior Ivan Almonte is averaging 13.2 points and 11.4 rebounds per game in his final season as a Golden Panther. FIU ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS PHOTO

during your senior year, not just for me but for everyone else.

Everyone that is here comes from a winning program and a winning mentality. It is really hard when you come to a school like this and you are trying to take the program to another level.

When we came last year we knew the [men's] basketball program was a little down and I think we did pretty well for ourselves last year.

In college basketball, the non-conference schedule, you really want to win all the games but that doesn't really matter. What really matters for a conference like this one is conference play.

Last year, I think we lost the first six conference games and we couldn't find

ourselves until later. This year, I think we have a good opportunity to win the Sun Belt.

**Q: Comment a little on the output from the other players on the team. Are they playing the way you would have expected or are they yet to get into stride?**

Most of [us] have come from high school or junior college, where [we] were primary options on offense or whatever else [we] did.

We have kids who were used to scoring 25 points per game. When they came to this kind of team they were probably thinking we are going to do

See **ALMONTE**, page 10

## Move to Hialeah makes sense for Marlins, city

COMMENTARY



BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO  
Sports Editor

Imagine going to a baseball game and as you're waiting in line to enter the stadium parking lot, you see street vendors ready and willing to sell you anything from churros, to water bottles, to bootleg Spiderman inflatable dolls. All without having to leave your car.

There isn't anybody who is more excited about the possibility - albeit very slight - of the Florida Marlins building a new stadium in Hialeah than me.

And not because it will bring economic prosperity to the notorious city, or because it will keep the Marlins in South Florida.

My reasoning is purely selfish; because I live in Hialeah.

My initial thought on the possibility of a new stadium was that it would never happen - and I'm probably right on that point. I thought the only good thing to come out of the move was that it would cut the commute to stadium by 90 percent - for Hialeah residents, that is.

However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized how much sense it made.

The once-famed Hialeah Park thoroughbred track sits on 220 acres of practically unused land. The track hasn't had a racing event since 2001 and is now primarily used for wedding and *quince* pictures.

The biggest problem with construction on the land is that Hialeah Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park is also an Audubon Bird Sanctuary because many pink flamingos live there.

What to do about that, you say?

Get creative with the proposed stadium's architecture. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim have a waterfall behind the centerfield wall. The Kansas City Royals have lush greenery and a water fountain beyond the outfield wall in their stadium. The Houston Astros have a freaking train that travels around the perimeter of the ballpark.

So, as homage to Hialeah Park, the new Hialeah stadium should have some of the greenery that graced the park, a replica of its famous fountain and remain a sanctuary for the flamingos. Not many stadiums can say they have a bird sanctuary behind their outfield walls.

As for the whole National Register of Historic Places thing, it's not

See **HIALEAH**, page 11