



## SCREENS PROVIDE PROTECTION

### FEMA grant guarantees new screen system installation

By **ALEJANDRA DIAZ**  
Editor in Chief

On an average day, residents of the University Park Apartments would awaken to the quiet sounds of birds chirping and the wind blowing.

But, thanks to the installation of new hurricane screens, screaming construction workers, drilling and clunking ladders have replaced the peaceful sounds of nature.

For many residents, the UP Apartments have become a haven for students looking to live in a serene environment away from the traditional noisy dorm rooms of the neighboring housing complexes.

The installation, which began in Nov. of 2004, brought a newfound appreciation for the silence that had once inhabited the Apartments since the beginning of the Fall 2004 semester.

"The noise was really loud," said Maya Ozery, a freshman resident. "It got so annoying that I had to leave to study for finals."

Housing officials sent a letter to building residents about the possible disturbance, and some students still had concerns about the noise and the timing of the installation.

"As the installations continue throughout UPA, letters will be sent out informing students about what is going on and why the screens are being put up,"

said Aarika Camp, residence life coordinator for the Office of Housing and Residential Life. "Students can contact us with any concerns they have."

According to James R. Wassenaar, executive director for Student Affairs, resident assistants were asked to tape a letter to every apartment that would be affected by the installation.

The letter, which stated that the university would begin the installation of hurricane protection screens on all exterior windows, also informed students that workers were scheduled to work from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For some students this proved to be an inconvenience but many felt it was necessary.

"I know that [the screens] are necessary, but the workers are loud," said Braden McCall, a first year transfer student and resident. "It affected my sleeping habits, but because it's on campus, I just left and came back when the work was done for the day," said McCall.

In the letter, housing officials also informed students of the necessity of hurricane screens and explained that the screens were paid for by a million dollar grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Department of Homeland Security.

"Several years ago, the university submitted an application with assistance from Miami-



**ALL SHUTTERED UP:** Hurricane screens installations have begun at UP during the winter break and have made quite a difference in the buildings look. **JESSICA MARSHAL/THE BEACON**

Dade-County for a FEMA grant to enhance the protection of the student housing facilities. Four years later, we now got the grant and the screens are being funded through [the grant from] FEMA," Wassenaar said. "No student fees are going into [the installation] ... [the project] is solely funded by FEMA."

According to the FEMA grant, the university has agreed to accept the \$1,886,862 grant in order to "retrofit the housing units to meet the American Red Cross shelter standards and install storm shutters in

accordance with the drawings and specifications of mesh panel shutters, roll-up shutters and accordion shutters."

As part of the agreement, the university endured a lengthy competitive bidding process in which companies sent estimates for the cost of installation and materials.

The university then submitted the proposed costs to FEMA and waited for approval of the installation, purchasing, company bids and material specifications.

The process was further extended by the required signa-

ture and approval of the Miami-Dade County Fire Marshall.

According to Gloria Garzon, the senior project manager who secured the hurricane screen grant, Phoenix Architectural Products, Inc. won the bid to install the screens in early January of this year as per the Miami-Dade County specifications.

As part of the grant, the university had to agree to evacuate students to a shelter in case of a hurricane evacuation, because FIU is located in a High Velocity

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### Pell Grant formula changes may put greater financial burden on students

By **PATRICK KERKSTRA**  
Knight Ridder

As a freshman, Temple University student Arsema Solomon needed to borrow just \$5,000 to cover college expenses that were not met by grants, some limited family help and a part-time job.

Three years later, Solomon has added a night shift as a bank teller to her day job - and still mounting costs have forced her to double her student-loan load, to \$10,000 a year.

Her financial burden may be even greater next year, if the Bush administration goes ahead with a plan to change the Pell Grant funding formula.

"I already work full-

time to supplement my grants and loans," said Solomon. "But I guess I'd just work more."

If the formula is changed, an estimated 90,000 students receiving Pell grants would become ineligible for the program, and an additional 1.2 million students would see their grants shaved by \$200 to \$300, according to a financial-aid advisory committee created by Congress.

All financial-aid administrators agreed their campuses would feel the pinch - especially public universities such as Temple

The Pell program, which was authorized in 1972, is the principal federal grant program for higher education. About

so quickly - up 37 percent in the last decade - appropriations still routinely lag behind demand.

Consequently, Congress has frozen the size of Pell awards for the last three years at \$4,050 annually - an amount given only to the neediest students. Nobody froze college-related expenses.

"Tuition and the cost of living are going up, and this program is stagnant on the grant size, and now it's actually going backward on eligibility," said Richard Woodland, the financial-

aid director at Rutgers-Camden. "We hate to see a retreat from this cornerstone program."

The combination of stagnant federal grants and spiraling college costs has made stories such as Solomon's common at Temple, said Timm Rinehart, the university's associate vice president for enrollment.

"We have a high population of needy students who are dependent on state and federal money to attend Temple," Rinehart said. "But the government is meeting that need less with grants and more with loans over the last few years. And that's alarming, because students are

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“The government is meeting that need [students depending on state and federal money] less with grants and more loans ... that's alarming because students are coming out with more debts.”

Timm Rinehart

Temple University's Associate Vice-President for Enrollment

and Rutgers University in Camden, N.J., where more than a third of all students receive Pell grants. But it is too soon to tell exactly what the impact would be.

five million students a year now receive Pell grants, splitting \$12.5 billion. Congress has invested heavily in the program in recent years, but the Pell applicant pool has grown

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TUESDAY • DECEMBER 11

**First Bar Examination Review Session:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., GL 165, UP.**Inaugural Class graduation luncheon:** 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m., 4th floor student lounge, UP.**Repeat Bar Examination Review Session:** 2:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., GL 165, UP.**Men's Basketball vs. La Salle:** 7:05 p.m., Philadelphia, PA.

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 14

**Mark Klett, Mapping Landscapes and Time (Opening Reception):** Frost Art Museum, South Beach, Miami.

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 15

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Hi/Low  
78°F/64°F  
mostly sunny

TUESDAY

Hi/Low  
78°F/65°F  
partly cloudy

WEDNESDAY

Hi/Low  
80°F/67°F  
partly cloudy

THURSDAY

Hi/Low  
79°F/67°F  
partly cloudy

FRIDAY

Hi/Low  
79°F/64°F  
t-storms

SATURDAY

Hi/Low  
78°F/62°F  
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SUNDAY

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# UP campus installs shutters

From SCREENS, page 2

Hurricane Zone. Luckily for the university, this was possible because the Primera Casa building at UP is an American Red Cross shelter according to Miami-Dade County standards.

"We are actively pursuing the deployment of the screens and hope to have it impact other housing facilities as well," Wassenaar said. "In these three resident complexes, the window systems don't comply with the most current hurricane code standards."

Although the hurricane code standards will be updated as a result of the new hurricane screens, housing officials hope that these screens will also protect students and their property from hurricanes.

"Our first priority was improving the protection of our students' property in the buildings themselves, and there are still policy discussions that will take place as to whether or not students are permitted to remain in the halls during category three or higher storms," Wassenaar said. "The policy now is that [students] will stay in house for storms that are rated category two or less."

Although hurricane policy discussions have yet to take place, housing

officials say that they will focus on protecting students and property.

Residents who have had the screens installed agree with housing officials that the added security measure is necessary.

"I feel safer from hurricanes and I think thieves too. [The screen] looks pretty hard, and it would make a lot of noise if someone tried to get in," said junior resident Adriana Perez. I broke a window just by pushing it to scare [my roommate]. These [screens] are better."

The screening devices consist of a black wire mesh material that is framed in an aluminum cage.

Before installation, the existing window screen is removed and replaced with the hurricane screen. Holes are drilled around the frame of the existing window and large screws

secure the screen in place. Some students say the additional security is a benefit but aesthetically the screens are an eyesore.

"It is kind of ugly from outside, but you get used to it. It kind of looks like it doesn't fit appearance-wise, but it's okay," Ozery said.

Even though students may find the screens unsightly, housing officials say the screening devices will improve energy consumption and cost.

"In terms of energy

**SIDENOTE****COST**

UP Apartments	\$677,900
UP Towers	\$494,500
UP Towers	\$157,700
West Building	
Panther Hall	\$409,000

**SCHEDULED DATE OF COMPLETION**

UP Apartments	Jan. 20
UP Towers	Feb. 10
UP Towers	Feb. 21
West Building	
Panther Hall	March 14

savings, these screening devices will reduce the heat load in the room by as much as 35 percent," Wassenaar said. "This will hopefully reduce our cooling costs, which will hopefully benefit students in terms of future rental rates."

Residents say they can see a small difference in the light that comes in through the screens.

"It is darker in the rooms but not that much. I don't use the light from outside, so it doesn't matter," said junior resident Denisse Rodriguez.

Although there will be a visible change on the familiar face of the four UP housing complexes, Biscayne Bay Campus housing residents can rest assured that the hurricane screen installations will not affect their housing units in any way.

"[BBC] did not meet the criteria for the hurricane screens, because they are within a mandatory evacuation zone, so there were no provisions to equip that facility. We evacuate that building regardless," Wassenaar said.

# Bill puts students in jeopardy

From BILL, page 1

coming out with huge debts."

The formula tweak being considered would update antiquated tax information the U.S. Department of Education has used to help determine Pell eligibility and need. The tax tables currently in use were compiled in 1988. Although new tax tables would be a more accurate reflection of student need, the adjustments would end up hurting far more students than they would help, said Brian K. Fitzgerald, director of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, which was created

by Congress.

Republicans in Congress have urged the changes over the objections of Democrats, most notably Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J.

Congressional Republicans argue that by more accurately evaluating current need, there might be more money available in future years to increase the grant size past \$4,050 for the neediest students.

The Pell program annually spends about \$1 billion more than it is appropriated. Until that gap is closed, the maximum grant is likely to remain capped.

While Fitzgerald agrees newer tax tables must

eventually be used, he said a better approach would be to phase in the changes so students do not suddenly see their grants drop precipitously or, worse, discover they are no longer eligible.

"It's a one-time shock," he said.

Students in many other states are in for an even bigger shock. Unlike Pennsylvania and New Jersey - which currently use their own formulas when awarding state grants - most other states tie their grants directly to the Pell formula, meaning students in those states will take hits on both types of grants, Fitzgerald said.

Pennsylvania is in the

midst of re-evaluating its own grant-award formula. One of the possibilities being considered is tying the Pennsylvania formula to the Pell formula, said Keith New, a spokesman for the state's Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Whatever changes are made to the Pennsylvania formula likely would not take effect until the 2006-07 academic year, New said. And unlike the Pell program, Pennsylvania has allocated \$40 million to smooth the transition by "grandfathering in" students already in college, preserving their existing grants until they finish their undergraduate educations, New said.



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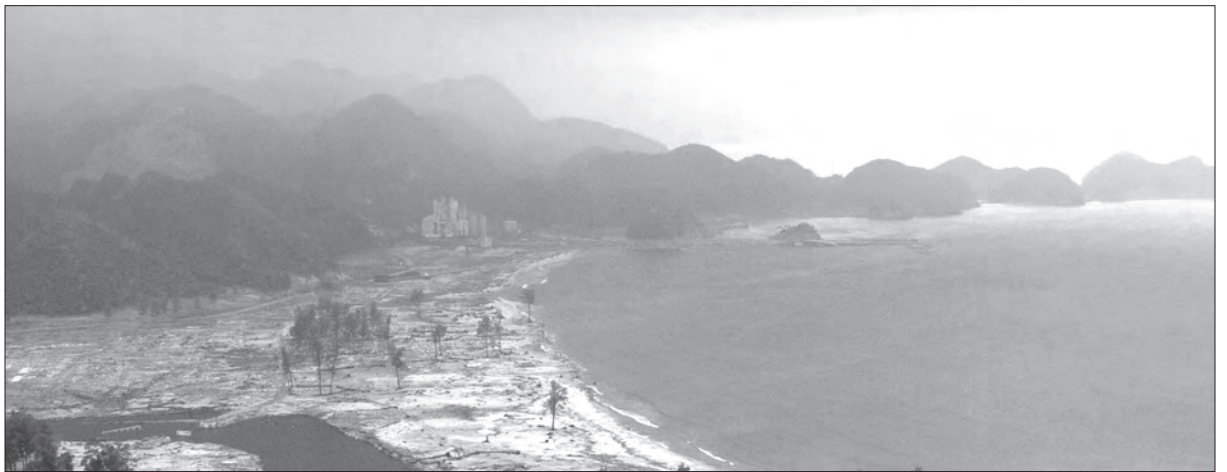
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### TRAGEDY STRIKES THE EAST:

The death toll from the tsunamis that hit Sri Lanka stands at 30,000 with another 16,655 injured. Those who have survived have been left homeless as their homes could not withstand the devastation of the tsunamis. COURTESY PHOTO



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# OPINION

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## WINNER & LOSER

### WINNER



**Houston Medics:** According to a survey done by Men's Fitness magazine, Houston, Texas is currently the fattest city in the United States. Doctors are already making preparations for the largest collective heart failure ever.

### LOSER



**Aaron Carter:** Proving that god still has a sense of humor, the bubblegum pop singer's SUV bizarrely erupted into flames last week. Carter evaded injury and was thankful for a second chance to become less of an embarrassment.

## QUOTEABLES

*"If critics weren't happy with some of my films, they have no idea of how unhappy I am with some of my films."*

– **Kevin Spacey**, actor, in a recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle.

*"The United States is not stingy. We are the greatest contributor to international efforts in the world."*

– **Colin Powell**, Secretary of State, responding to Jan Egeland, emergency-relief coordinator for the United Nations, who believed disaster relief funds were too small.

*"He sparred with me every once in a while. I hit him a couple times and he couldn't believe it. He was, 'Where'd that come from?' I was like, 'Yeah, watch it. There's more where that came from.'"*

– **Hillary Swank**, actress, who used husband Chad Lowe as a part-time sparring partner to prepare for the film, *Million Dollar Baby*.

*"I saw a 6-year-old carrying a 30-pound mortar with another 6-year-old following behind with a match."*

– **Kiefer Sutherland**, actor, to CBS Late Show host David Letterman on Iceland's penchant for fireworks during New Year's Eve celebrations.

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to [beacon@fiu.edu](mailto:beacon@fiu.edu). Letters must include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

# Democrats must focus on youth

By **BEN WAXMAN**  
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

We college-aged youth are being blamed by some for allegedly failing to show up at the polls. Supposedly, this was a major factor in the Democratic loss of the presidential election.

But in several closely contested battleground states, the youth vote made all the difference. According to the Associated Press, 64 percent of voters aged 18-29 went to the polls in Pennsylvania. They selected John Kerry by a margin of nearly 20 percentage points. The same is true for several other blue-going battleground states, such as Minnesota and Wisconsin. No other age group overwhelmingly rejected the conservative policies of George W. Bush as reliably as youth.

Instead of blaming my generation, the left should consider sharpening its strategies for recruiting America's youth. If the Democratic Party wants to rebuild its political infrastructure, nurturing a vibrant and organized progressive movement among students should be a major priority.

Put the emphasis on "organized." Conservatives have understood the value of investing in students for a long time. As much bellyaching as the GOP does about "bias" on college campuses, conservative student activists are incredibly well-supported and financed.

For example, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) funnels nearly \$1,000,000 a year to conservative campus newspapers across the country and spends an additional \$40,000 on summer fellowships for promising student leaders.

These investments have paid off. Former ISI fellows have gone on to become presidents of major public policy organizations and senior advisors in several Republican administrations - Ronald Reagan's National Security Advisor, Richard Allen, was an ISI graduate, for example.

Key to conservative success has been the movement's

willingness to make long-term investments. Instead of recruiting students to do grunt work, conservative organizations mold promising youth into effective leaders.

Progressives could steal a page from this playbook. And there are fledgling efforts to reach out to young people. The largest union in the country, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), held a "Student Solidarity Summit" during its last convention to recruit students to be labor organizers. While there is nothing wrong with this objective, it misses the mark if the goal is to build a strong progressive movement.

Unions need more than organizers. They require sympathetic policymakers and allies in the mainstream media to win their campaigns. Therefore, the labor movement would do well to train policy wonks and talking heads, not just future staffers.

There are a number of reasons to focus on building the intellectual capacity of young activists. Most students, even those who don't become particularly politically engaged, shape their world views at college.

Despite the stereotype of overly "liberal" campuses, youth are more influenced by the ideas of their peers than teachers. Forceful advocates among the student population are needed to win over the next generation. Youth must be trained to clearly articulate a progressive vision for the future.

Conservatives on campus have been able to synthesize complex ideas into easily understood concepts. Republican at the University of Virginia organized a bake sale to protest affirmative-action policies. They sold cookies for \$1 to white students and then discounted them for people of color.

Sure, this grossly oversimplifies the issue, but it is an effective way to communicate their message: affirmative-action policies are unfair.

These bake sales took place at several colleges across the country. And how did liberal students respond? By shout-

ing down the conservatives and demanding the practice be banned. This created sympathy for the Republican activists and added to the perception that progressives are unwilling to listen to anyone who disagrees with them.

If progressive students had the kind of support and infrastructure that conservatives did, we'd dominate the campus wars.

There are a variety of ways to strengthen the student left. A network of blogs could monitor various conservative efforts on college campuses and develop plans to counter them.

Taking a cue from the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s, students could pressure college administrations to stop investing their endowment into companies that give money to over-the-top conservatives, like Coors Brewing Company or Sinclair Broadcasting.

Finally, progressive organizations could establish a network for student interns, providing financial support for summer programs.

Many organizations that supported Kerry seem genuinely committed to a long-term struggle to rebuild progressive power in the United States.

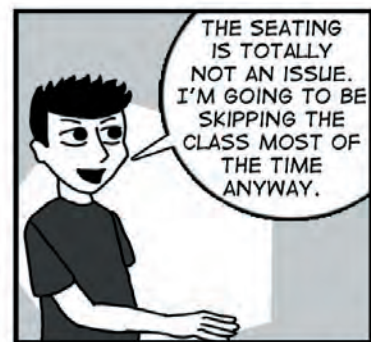
If the left would like to come back from the wilderness and actually govern at some point in the future, it will need a strong stock of leaders to carry the banner.

By preparing young people for careers in political organizing, journalism, and public policy, the left automatically builds a lasting infrastructure for the future.

The millions of dollars being spent by George Soros, MoveOn.org and various other organizations represent a capital infusion for the future of American liberalism. However, unless these groups invest in student activists, they will deprive themselves of a critical resource.

*Ben Waxman is a sophomore at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., and was the media spokesman for the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition. He can be reached at [benwaxman@gmail.com](mailto:benwaxman@gmail.com).*

## Phew! [FIU] OVERRIDDEN BY LUIS NIN



# GOP still searching for candidate to tame Clinton

By **DOUGLAS TURNER**  
Knight Ridder Tribune

WASHINGTON – Hillary Rodham Clinton's long-term prospects brightened considerably in recent weeks, not counting John F. Kerry's return to this city as a U.S. senator.

It should be noted no member of the Senate, including Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards of North Carolina, worked harder than the New York Democrat to elect Kerry president.

Kerry was an awful candidate, and he is history. The largest potential threat to Clinton's re-election to a second six-year term in the Senate the year after next, GOP pipe-dream candidate Colin L. Powell, bowed out of state politics during a European farewell trip as secretary of state.

Powell's strategic retreat leaves it mostly up to former New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani as the big threat to Clinton in 2006. But Giuliani announced he is going to Wall Street.

Giuliani Partners, his private consulting firm, announced it was buying the investment-banking arm of accounting firm Ernst & Young LLP as part of a deal to set him up in a brass-plated counting house.

Hizzoner's reincarnation as J. Pierpont Morgan doesn't take him out of consideration, but it poses a number of liabilities to his becoming a serious Senate

candidate.

The image of a war-mongering, self-seeking broker of influence with President Bush will not endear Giuliani to New York's minorities, most of whom still resent what they saw as his draconian police-state tactics to "take back" the streets of New York.

Competing with the other Manhattan cutthroats would limit Giuliani's opportunity to become better known in upstate New York. By contrast, Clinton, after just four short years, knows the back roads, the satraps and the institutions of upstate New York like the back of her hand.

Which bring us to her best news. Clinton has become immensely popular upstate. A recent Quinnipiac Polling Institute survey shows her viewed favorably there – where Republicans and independents hold sway – by 56 percent of those polled. Only 30 percent viewed her unfavorably, with 14 percent undecided.

Upstate men assess her work favorably, 54 percent to 34 percent. Women, who are in the majority of actual voters in any election, are her chief support, and they back her 70 percent to 20 percent upstate, with 10 percent undecided.

Statewide, according to Quinnipiac, Clinton's favorables are 63 to 26, her highest, and a stunning reversal of her standing in early 2001.

And it is done the hard way:



**CLIMBING TO THE TOP:** Hillary Clinton's steady support as New York senator lays possible groundwork for future presidential contention. COURTESY PHOTO

By discipline, a talented back shop and a lot of hard work. It has been observed elsewhere that she has in four years produced a torrent of legislation. She has reached across the widening political divide and enlisted Republican support – often backing GOP bills.

The most recent example is a bill she co-sponsored with Montana Republican Conrad Burns to help states and localities upgrade the 911 systems. Tucked into the omnibus appropriations measure, Bush will sign the Clinton-Burns bill into law in a

few days.

Finally, there is always the chance that Gov. George E. Pataki, who can't be savoring a race for governor against Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, may decide to run against Clinton as a last option. Chances that Bush would name Pataki to a Cabinet job are narrowing to almost zero.

Right now, however, Pataki is at the nadir of his popularity. Faced with the onerous choice of opening a door to the legendary lady or the tiger, is Pataki likely to take on a lady who is also a

tiger?

**ABOUT THE WRITER**

Douglas Turner is the Washington bureau chief of *The Buffalo News* ([www.buffnews.com](http://www.buffnews.com)). Readers may write him at *The Buffalo News*, 1141 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045.

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## Health care issues prove relevant, even to young adults

By **DREW AVERY**  
The Seattle Times/NEXT

Like oxygen and fire escapes, health care is something you rarely think about until you need it.

I am going to postulate then that most NEXT readers don't spend much time considering health care. I can promise this writer hadn't – until an incident involving my belly button and a few incredibly high hospital bills.

Most of us in our teens and 20s take good health for granted. We assume that disease, infection and serious bodily harm will be put on hold at least until we can find a job with health bennies.

So while politicians and senior citizens talk about

health care, we shut down our sense and wait for the talk to return to education and the job market.

In fact, people ages 18 to 24 should be listening more than seniors when the topic is health care.

Why? Because in Washington state, 18-to-24-year-olds are twice as likely to be uninsured as older nonretired adults, according to The Health Policy Analysis Program.

Count me in that group.

As a recent college graduate in the process of looking for a job-job (i.e., one with benefits), I was just planning to stay healthy. Then I got an abscess, an infected or irritated area that collects puss, often for no real reason. (I hope

“ I got the hospital bill, which made me ... wonder if I had signed my belly button up for a semester of college. ”

you're not reading this at the breakfast table.)

I just happened to get one in my navel.

Though I tried to see if time really would heal all wounds and even attempted to find cures on the Internet, it wasn't long before I was in the emergency room, with an IV, getting prepped for a CAT scan.

The real fun started when I got the hospital bill, which made me cuss out loud and wonder if I had signed my belly button up for a semester of college rather than spent

an afternoon in the emergency room.

Yes, this true story is intended to scare you into thinking about health care. There is no guarantee for good health, but there are ways to guarantee being able to pay for health-care costs.

A good resource for general advice on health insurance is your state's office of the insurance commissioner.

Individual health-care plans can vary depending on where you live. These resources can discuss your options.

Several programs in Washington state help the uninsured. Basic Health is a state program that helps low-income residents get coverage, though the waiting list is frighteningly long.

Several groups offer short-term insurance. Check with your university's alumni association – the University of Washington's association offers such help. And don't forget to check out doctors who work on a sliding scale.

If worse comes to worse and you are in the hospital

before you could think about health insurance, there's always charity care. Charity care is offered in most hospitals and works similarly to a scholarship program. You apply for the service after your visit and if you meet the low-income criteria, you will most likely receive help paying your bill.

Health problems are bad enough.

Wondering how you will pay to have them fixed is even worse. Start thinking about health care now.

Drew Avery is a writer for NEXT, a Sunday opinion page in *The Seattle Times*, and a 2003 graduate of the University of Missouri. E-mail: [NEXT@seattletimes.com](mailto:NEXT@seattletimes.com).

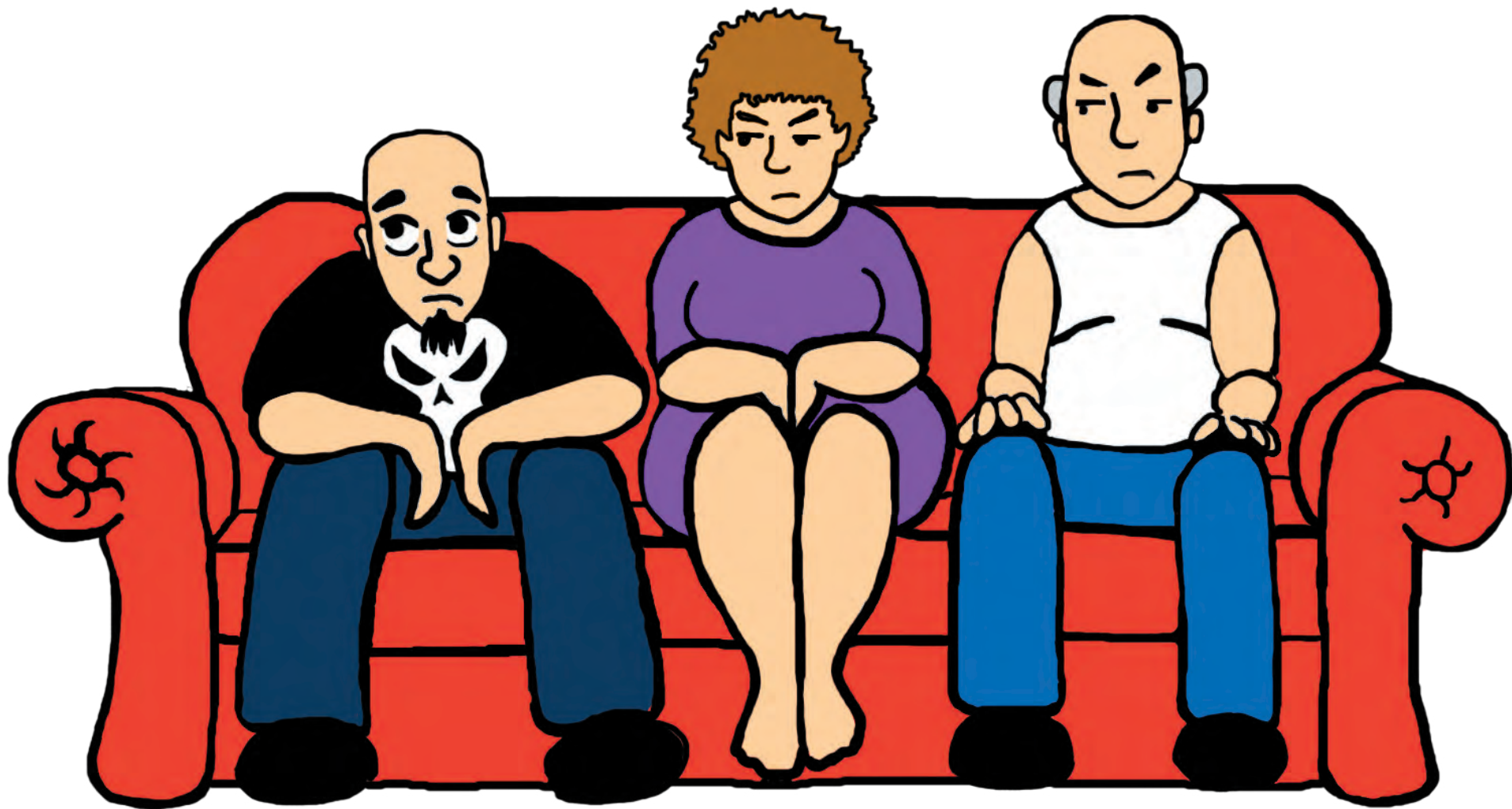
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# LOCKDOWN

## Back at home



LUIS NIN/THE BEACON

## Readjusting to family life, not an easy task

“My parents freaked out when I told them I was going to Denny’s with my boyfriend after midnight.”

By C. JOEL MARINO  
Senior Staff Writer

Monica Canteron  
Sophomore

While visiting his parents on his holiday break between the Fall and Spring semesters, junior Mike Del Rey left his family’s house in Tampa to visit some friends.

At 2:30 a.m.

When he returned a few hours later, he found his parents watching TV in the kitchen, waiting for him with a disapproving frown and a lecture.

“They told me it wasn’t good for me to be driving around the city that late in the night without telling them,” he said. “I told them that in college everyone’s up at that time walking or driving or hanging out. They got me upset, even though I knew they would be waiting for me.”

For many FIU students living away from their homes, returning to their families after months of separation for the holidays can prove to be a hard trial.

Students used to a more liberal atmosphere and personal freedom may find it difficult to again abide

by a strict parental code.

“My parents freaked out when I told them I was going to Denny’s with my boyfriend after midnight,” said Monica Canteron, a sophomore who returned to her house in Jacksonville during the winter break. “Going out with him already freaked them out, but I think us being up so late also scared them a bit.”

Curfews, however, aren’t always the problem.

Nicole Bransley, whose daughter attends FIU, said she noticed severe changes when her daughter returned to her Ft. Lauderdale home.

“Even though she took out the garbage sometimes and watered the plants, there were a lot of chores she wouldn’t do,” Bransley said. “When she lived here, she used to make snacks for her brothers. But when I asked her to make them sandwiches during the break, she had a fit and

told them to do it themselves. It’s like she was another person.”

Tension between students who feel they’re already living independent lives and parents who assume their mature children will now respect the laws of their house can bring stress not just during the breaks, but anytime a student visits the house.

“I go home on the weekends to visit my parents because they live in Hialeah, and at first, I was really annoyed when I went,” said Ricardo Ardanos, a sophomore. “My parents would give me a hard time, because I had to work, and then I’d see my girlfriend late. It took a while, but we finally made a compromise.”

Ardanos knocks on his parents’ bedroom door when he gets home after 1 a.m. to let them know that he has returned home. This gives him plenty of freedom to go out while still letting them know he

is fine.

“My parents finally understood that I need to live my own life and do my own things, but I still wanted to tell them what I was doing so they [wouldn’t] worry. The deal we made solved everything,” Ardanos said.

Some students felt that similar compromises saved their families from getting into many tense situations during the three weeks of winter break.

“This wasn’t the long summer break, so it’s not like I could go out and get a job to keep me busy,” Del Rey said. “And since there’s not much to do around my neighborhood, I knew I would be spending a lot of time home. Even though there was some trouble with my parents at first, I just took it easy for the time I was there and tried to see eye-to-eye with them.”

Del Rey states that his family was the primary reason for returning home in the first place.

“They’re my parents. I’ve got to enjoy them while they’re still around,” he said.

# Argentines know Italian cuisine like no other

A bite   
with Carlos

Graziano's Next Door  
9209 Bird Rd.



**ITALIAN FLAVOR:** Patrons at Graziano's Next Door enjoy an afternoon meal while the tasty gelato selection awaits them for dessert (above). JOHN LOVELL/THE BEACON

By **CARLOS OLAECHEA**  
Staff Writer

I have a rule of thumb when it comes to Italian food in Miami: If the restaurant is Argentinean owned, then it is probably good and most likely inexpensive. This has been the case for almost every Argentinean owned eatery to which I have been. Pasta is usually very fresh, sauces are savory and creative, and it is all often reasonably priced compared to the boring boxed pasta you may find at other pricier Italian or "Mediterranean" restaurants in Miami.

It has also been my experience that Argentineans are more attuned to subtle flavors, a typical characteristic of European palates, without losing the flavor of a dish altogether, something many Americans tend to do when handling such a tricky cuisine as Italian.

Most Argentineans also have retained a sense of old world sophistication and elegance, and it can often be found in their restaurants. They don't call Buenos Aires the Paris of Latin America for nothing.

On Bird Road there is a charming bistro and wine shop that perfectly characterizes the Argentinean standards of gastronomic sophistication. Graziano's Next Door is a complete surprise from the moment you walk in the door. Not

to be confused with the famous Graziano's steak house, which has recently gained national acclaim as one of the best Hispanic restaurants in the nation, Graziano's Next Door is a place where you can get a small bite to eat, perhaps with a bottle of wine from their superb selection, in a casual yet chic setting.

Once you walk into this bistro, you think that you have been transported to Coral Gables until you peer outside the window and see the congested traffic, people hawking newspapers and *mamocillos* (Spanish limes) and the adult bookstore across the street. Nevertheless, with the stylish tile floors, cheerful peach colored walls, elegantly chosen décor and excellent service, you soon forget the *chusmeria* (vulgarity or "ghettoness") of the surrounding neighborhood and start to feel as if you are in Buenos Aires or Florence.

Graziano's Next Door boasts its own wood-burning oven from which perfectly crisp European style pizzas are churned out daily, as well as homemade *empanadas* and tender lamb *chorizo* doused with Spanish sherry.

On our last visit, my dining partner and I savored the lamb *chorizo* (\$6.99), called *Chorizo al Jerez* on the menu. This came sizzling from the oven in a skillet with a pool of a deep, semisweet

sherry and delicious pan drippings – perfect for dipping their freshly baked bread into. The sausages were cut into bite-size pieces and were tender and meaty with a slightly gamy flavor from the lamb along and other spices, including thyme.

As a second dish I ordered a vegetarian pizza for one (\$8.59), while my dining partner ordered an *Insalata de tonno* (\$5.99), or tuna salad.

The pizza was the perfect size for someone with a moderate appetite and could easily be shared by two people with smaller appetites. The crust had a perfect equilibrium of crispiness and chewiness, as well as an adequate amount of fresh tasting red sauce. The cheese was, refreshingly, fresh mozzarella, which stretched for about half a foot with every bite. The toppings – red and green peppers, good quality black and green Italian olives, Portobello mushrooms, onions, and artichoke hearts – were generously added without weighing the pizza down.

The tuna salad was closer to a *salade niçoise* than the American mayonnaise and relish concoction. Mixed greens were topped with thick slices of beefsteak tomato and imported Sicilian tuna. It was all dressed in a caper and anchovy vinaigrette. This dish is perfect for a light dinner or lunch, and the portion, like the

pizza's, was perfect.

If you like beer with your pizza, Graziano's Next Door offers a wide variety of domestic and international beers. I recommend the Argentinean draft beer Quilmes, which is light and refreshing and pairs perfectly with a vegetarian pizza. Peroni, an Italian beer, tends to be a bit heavier on the hops, with a more bitter flavor, making it more suitable for meatier dishes.

Graziano's Next Door also offers a variety of *pannini* – grilled Italian sandwiches. Varieties are named after European cities and regions and contain ingredients like Serrano ham in the Iberico *pannini* and Brie cheese in the Parisino.

Graziano's Next Door is one of those restaurants where you simply cannot pass up dessert. Forget the New Year's resolution for just one day and savor the luscious artisan gelatos that this bistro offers. All varieties from Swiss chocolate and hazelnut to *mamey* and honeydew melon are on display, and all the flavors can be sampled before making a decision. The servers can bring the gelato to your table, so there is no rush to leave the restaurant with food still in your hand.

A meal at Graziano's Next Door is perfectly finished with a demitasse of espresso or *cortadito*. After such a tasty and elegant dining experience, you are ready to venture out into the world of bad driving, botanicas and El Rey de Las Fritas, satisfied in knowing that somewhere in Miami you can eat and be served like a king without having the budget of one.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*The Beacon chooses restaurants at random based on their proximity to the FIU campus and their affordability to students. The restaurant is not informed of the reviewer's affiliation with The Beacon, and the reviewer pays for all the meals.*

# FIU CLUE

## Operation Bookstamp

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– www.fiu.edu

# WHAT the...



LUIS NIN/THE BEACON

## Frat house or sacrificial temple?

Pi Kappa Phi's new on-campus fraternity house, still under construction.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Biltmore Legends and Ghost Stories, every Thursday

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# Actors singing: What's their motivation?

By **JIM FARBER**  
New York Daily News

Everyone has a voice. But does that mean everyone has to cut an album? Hollywood stars think so.

The record-store cut-out bins and private kitsch collections are bursting with releases from actors who, in a blur of hubris, mistook themselves for singers.

Even Phyllis Diller.

Wait — it gets better. On her album, she covered the Stones' "Satisfaction."

Equally surreal moments include a recording of "Proud Mary" by Leonard Nimoy, a spoken-word take on "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" by William Shatner, and a version of "Stand By Me" by Muhammad Ali. (Partial excuse: The fighter was still Cassius Clay at the time.)

You can hear all these inadvertently brilliant recordings on Rhino's "Golden Throats" CDs.

But now a trio of prominent thespians — Robert Downey Jr., Minnie Driver and Kevin Spacey — have all risked critical ridicule this season with debut CDs.

Spacey is taking the most daring leap by doing his own singing as Bobby Darin in the movie "Beyond the Sea," which opens this month. And he's performing Darin's music live in venues around the country. So, if nothing else, you

have to give the guy credit for nerve.

Here's how the latest batch of actors-turned-chanteurs really sound:

## KEVIN SPACEY, "BEYOND THE SEA" SOUNDTRACK.

Those who watch late-night talk shows know Spacey as a terrific mimic. But why listen to what amounts to an "I Can't Believe It's Not Bobby Darin" CD when you could just as easily play the actual thing?

Viewed this way, Spacey's recording becomes something of a stunt, if a relatively accurate one.

Spacey has the rhythmic chops to navigate Darin's brisk phrasing — no mean feat — though he clearly lacks the earlier star's elan.

You can measure the limits to his voice in the ballads. His take on "Mack the Knife" has more smarm than charm.

The album's producer, Phil Ramone, set Spacey's voice in some nice arrangements and surrounded him with enough echo to give his singing a bit of shimmer.

Of course, if you've never bought a Bobby Darin album, and the movie inspires you, it would be a sin to start here.

## ROBERT DOWNEY JR., "THE FUTURIST"

Joni Mitchell fans probably still haven't forgiven



**SPACED OUT:** Kevin Spacey is one of many actors who have surprisingly taken a liking to actually singing on screen. Several actors have been featured on accompanying movie soundtracks as well. **COURTESY PHOTO**

Downey for his mewling cover of "River," which he moped through on "Ally McBeal" some years back.

And they shouldn't.

But that recording was a sweet memory compared to Downey's solo debut, which appears, puzzlingly, on Sony's snazzy Classical imprint.

Downey offers mainly original pieces, performed on spare acoustic guitar or piano. Think: Tori Amos with a sex change.

But it's not Downey's eccen-

tric melodies that make his record unlistenable. It's his way overarticulated singing. He sounds like "SNL's" Jimmy Fallon doing a vicious satire of Dave Matthews.

Downey leans into the husky end of his voice, then shoots up for a cracked falsetto with such self-consciousness, it's impossible to hear the tune.

## MINNIE DRIVER, "EVERYTHING I'VE GOT IN MY POCKET"

Driver owns an iffy instrument with little wind power and less distinction.

Her pale tones aren't done any favors by her drowsy country-tinged tunes.

The album has so little momentum, it makes the Cowboy Junkies seem manic. Even her cover of Springsteen's "Hungry Heart" threaten to lapse into a coma.

Ultimately, her record isn't as much ear-achingly bad as it is a stone-cold bore.

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# Steroids have become the shortcut to success

STEROIDS, from page 12

endorsements by barely averaging double figures in points.

In baseball, these team players don't exist. There are only a handful of baseball players who could serve as poster boys for the sport by being a singles hitter. For every Derek Jeter though, there is a Gary Sheffield or Barry Bonds.

The lack of a salary cap system allows owners like George Steinbrenner to have a team payroll of \$250 million a year, and players such as Rodriguez to get paid \$25 million per season (that's over \$17,000 an inning!).

With price tags like these, it's no wonder players must resort to unnatural ways to keep up with the competition.

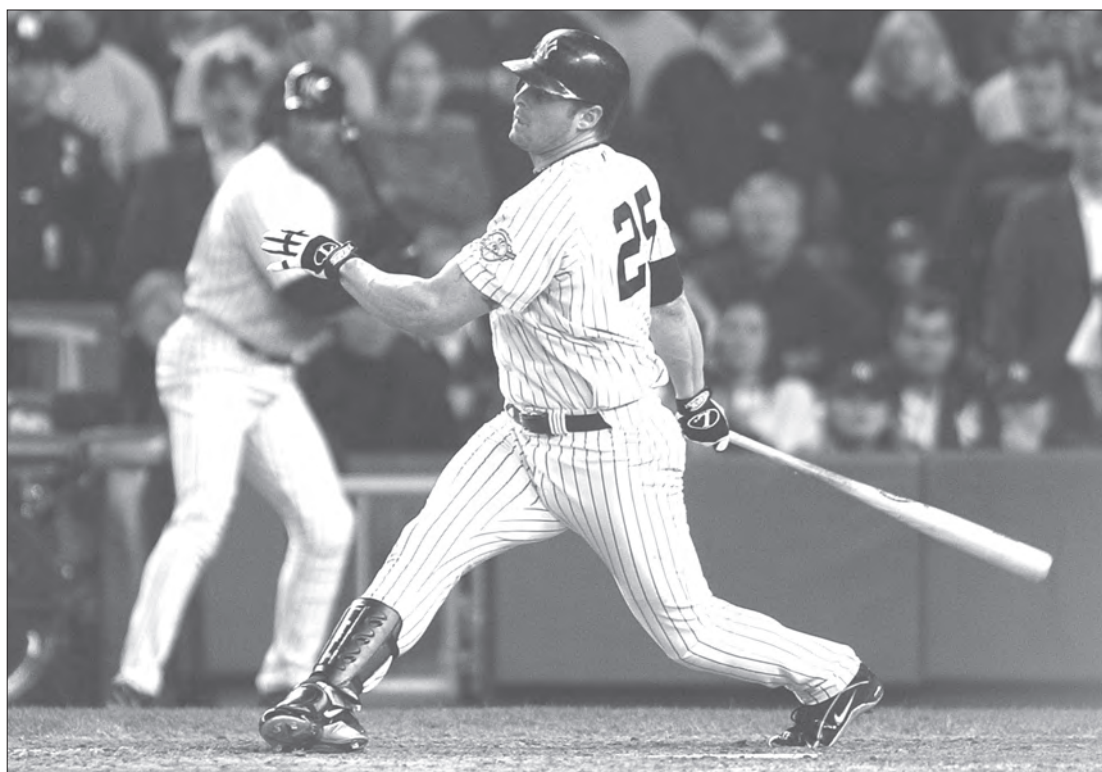
## IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING AN EDGE

For years, players have been hitting the weight room to try to get an edge on the competition.

In 1951, the incredibly talented 20-year-old Willie Mays built what many consider to be one of Major League Baseball's first chiseled physiques. This helped him to hit 660 homeruns in his career and receive a first ballot into the Hall of Fame.

In 1966, Boston Red Sox great Carl Yastrzemski hit 18 homers and drove in 80 runs. After hitting the weight room that off-season, "Yaz" produced a career best 44 homers and 121 RBIs in 15 less at bats.

It's always been known that in order to take your game to the next level, you have to do more than just batting practice. Back then it took hard work and



**ONE OF MANY:** Jason Giambi recently admitted to using steroids the year he won Major League Baseball's Most Valuable Player award. Players like him and Barry Bonds are among the many who have used steroids in order to enhance their performance. COURTESY PHOTO

dedication to post big numbers.

These days players have opted for the steroid shortcut.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

There exists only one democracy in the sports world, and it resides in baseball. Thanks to the strongest player's union ever created, commissioner Bud Selig can't pass very strict laws on the use of steroids.

Any law proposed for Major League Baseball must be agreed upon by both the league and the union.

This is why players constantly take

steroids with little worry of suspension or heavy fines. It's ridiculous how the sport with the biggest illegal substance problem is the one that has tiptoed around the issue and allowed it to escalate to dynamic proportions.

Drug testings are done randomly and secretly in the majors. The results are not given to the media, and therefore the public doesn't hear about most of the occurrences of drug use.

It's pretty scary to think that the things we do know are only because they were somehow leaked to the media.

Imagine what is going on in baseball that its fan base does not know about. This is why Selig's feet still tremble at the

mention of Canseco's soon-to-be released book.

The loyal fans of the game deserve to know what is going on. We can't keep following the game if officials are going to keep us sheltered from its negative aspects. We need to hear the whole story.

## THE FUTURE

These are some very crucial times for the game of baseball. A lot of questions will arise in the next coming months as Barry Bonds edges closer to Hank Aaron's all-time homerun record of 755.

Is it really fair for Hank Aaron's record to be diminished by a steroid user? Will the single homerun record by Bonds be posted with an asterisk? How much further will this steroid thing go? And how will it finally be put to an end?

What about the Hall of Fame? Should guys that cheated their way through the game be admitted?

Think about it. Pete Rose was banned from baseball and denied entrance into the Hall of Fame for gambling. But gambling did not have anything to do with the numbers he put up or the reason why he is even considered for a place in the Hall.

However, steroids sure do enhance performance and are responsible for the numbers players put up. Are baseball officials saying that gambling is more of a crime than using illegal substances?

The player's union has a lot to look at in the upcoming time and a lot of questions to answer. If a solution does not come up soon, the era preceding the so-called Juice-Ball Era, could very well be, the Dead-Ball Era.

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**SPLASH:** The swimming and diving program competed in the Matt Gribble Invitational, facing top-notch programs including Colorado State University, Florida State University, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, Virginia Tech and host the University of Miami on Jan. 7. Megan Balkenbush tallied an NCAA Zone qualifying mark, scoring 256.65 points in one-meter en route to a fourth place finish. DANNY KAMBEL/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON



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**sports fan?**

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# Physical defense keep women winning



**WINNERS:** Eva Makela (top) scored eight points against the Trojans. LaQuetta Ferguson (right) hit the first of two free-throw attempts to tie the game at 58-all and send the Trojans game into overtime. FIU ended with a victory over the Trojan. JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

By **ANDRES CORDERO**  
Staff Writer

FIU Women's basketball (11-3) opened Sun-Belt Conference play on Jan. 6 with a 70-63 overtime victory over the visiting Trojans. FIU has now won all 11 of the previous games against Arkansas-Little Rock and improves to 5-2 in SBC openers, including two wins at the expense of UALR.

While most FIU students were enjoying the holiday break, the Golden Panthers basketball team was hard at work. Coach Cindy Russo's squad has been doing a lot of winning since Dec. 15, when the fall semester officially ended.

Women's basketball carried a three-game win streak into the holiday break, and after defeating Northwestern University, Marshall University, The University of Central Florida, Stony Brook and The University of Dayton in consecutive contests, the Golden Panthers are off to their best start since going 15-2, to open the 2001-02 season.

This eight-game win streak is the longest so far this season and has been attributed to stingy, physical defensive play. Anchored by 6-foot-3 Latvian sophomore, Lasma Jekbsone, the Golden Panthers have allowed an aver-

age of 52.8 points per game while scoring 62.6 on the season. Jekbsone's 2.5 blocks per game rank 24th in the nation. Milena Tomova continues her strong all-around performance, averaging 18.2 points per game (37th in NCAA) and 8.2 rebounds.

The win streak was snapped on Jan. 3 with a 54-60 loss at Alabama. The new year proved unkind the Golden Panthers as they recorded a season-high 24 turnovers and just 20 first half points.

The chance for redemption came just three days later and the Golden Panthers bounced back as Tomova's 30 points and five rebounds were enough lead FIU past the lady Trojans in the first

game of inter-conference play.

Jekbsone added five points and a game-high 14 rebounds (five offensive) and point guard Faeza Bouderra contributed 13 points and six boards to the winning effort.

Jocelyn Love led the lady Trojans with 22 points on 7-of-22 shooting while hitting on four of 13 three-point attempts. Alicia Cash punched in 16 points and nine rebounds, but the two team-leading scorers got very little help from their supporting cast.

FIU outscored the Trojans 14-6 in points of the bench and the differential was enough, despite shooting 39 percent to UALR's 42.



# Rouco's team surpasses last year's record

**BASKETBALL, from page 12**

The loss dropped FIU to 5-5 heading into the much anticipated FIU Holiday Classic featuring Colgate University, Ohio State University and Binghamton University.

The Golden Panthers took care of business in a messy opener as Matias

looked on from the sidelines with suit and tie.

In the first half, junior Ivan Almonte shot 1-8 from the field, and FIU trailed by three, 31-28 at halftime.

However, in the second half, Almonte put on a show, shooting 5-8 from the field for 15 points while collecting seven rebounds.

The Golden Panthers pulled away late and assured themselves a place in the final of the tournament with a 72-56 victory.

With Ohio's defeat of Binghamton, the stage was set for the championship game.

With Matias out for the second game in a row, the weight was once again, on the shoulders of Almonte and N'Diaye.

Almonte answered the call connecting on 8-of-11 shots and 9-of-11 from the stripe on his way to 25 points and 10 rebounds. N'Diaye, on the other hand, struggled all night shooting just 6-20 from the field for 14 points.

Sheldon Bailey added 11 points of the bench for the Golden Panthers.

However, point guard Jayce Lewis made the difference with two of his points.

With FIU leading 72-70 with 29.8 seconds left to play in overtime, Ohio guard Mike Green hit a clutch three-pointer to put the Bobcats up one.

Following an FIU time-out, Lewis

drove the lane for the Golden Panthers and drew the foul, sending him to the line for the first time all night.

In front of a silent crowd, where a pin drop could have been heard, Lewis nailed both free throws, giving FIU its final lead of the game.

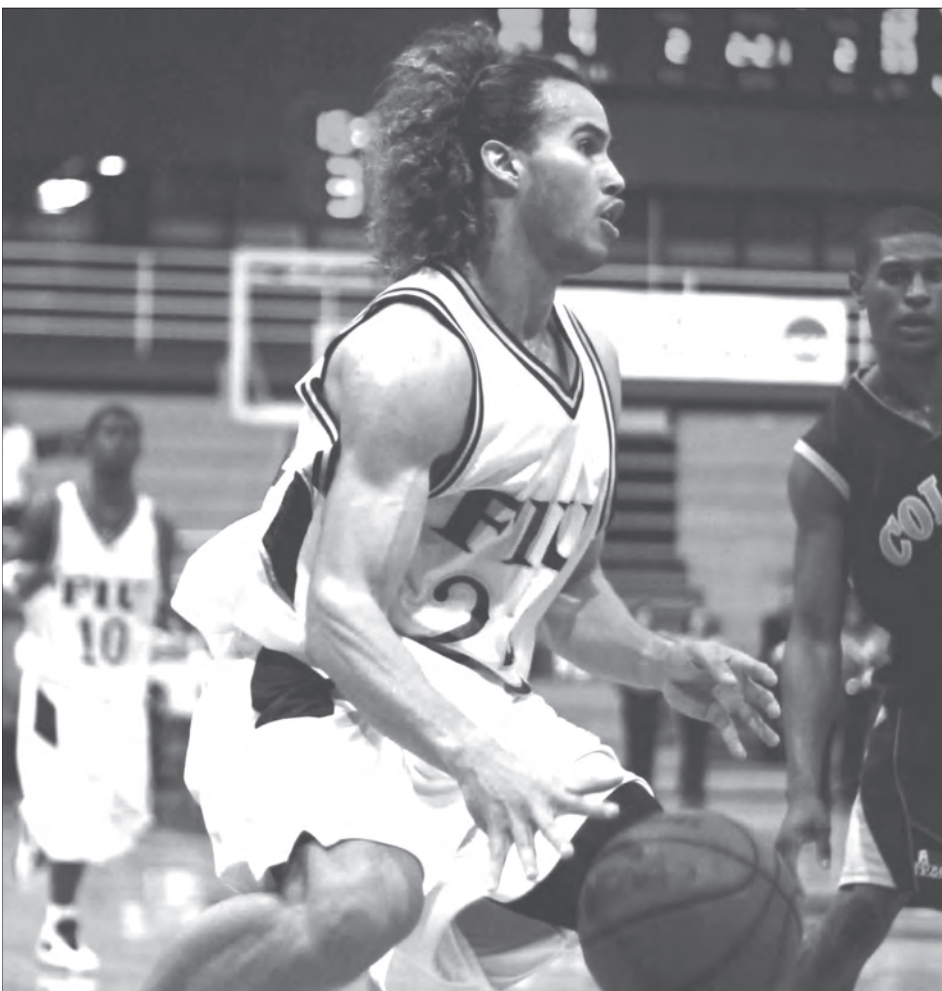
With the 74-73 win in the books, it was not only time to celebrate the win, but also the all-tournament nominations.

Almonte was not only named tournament MVP, but was also nominated to the all-tournament team, along side teammate Jayce Lewis.

Following the win, Coach Sergio Rouco was all smiles.

"It was a great game for us, and we beat a great team in Ohio. Like us, they are a tough, aggressive team, and they're physical."

FIU's current record now stands with seven wins and six losses. With the seven victories, the Golden Panthers have already surpassed last years dreadful 5-24 record.



**MVP!:** Ivan Almonte was named Holiday Classic Tournament MVP for his outstanding play in leading FIU to the championship. JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

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# SPORTS

12 - January 10, 2005

THE BEACON

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## Steroid use hurting America's past time

### COMMENTARY



By **ALDEN GONZALEZ**  
Staff Writer

Not too long ago, you could look at a Major League Baseball player and see a role model—a charismatic, humble individual who worked hard and came out to play every day.

Among the money hungry Pete Roses and drug-using Darryl Strawberrys, there was always a dedicated Cal Ripken Jr. and a humble Tony Gwynn on which you could model yourself.

You don't see many of those players now, at least not in the spotlight. These guys spend their summers in the dugout watching the games or on buses driving across the country in the minor leagues.

They can probably play just as well as any of the other players in the Major League as far as skills go, but their balls don't carry over 500 feet and they definitely can't take a curve ball low and away and drive it out to left field with their 20-inch biceps.

Believe it or not, these guys do things the right way. But what do they get in return? Less playing time and unfair, underrated evaluations.

This sends a very bad message to players and admirers: The only way to get paid the

big bucks and have your face in a magazine is to take steroids and crush balls over the fence. Make two errors a game, and that's OK. Strike out three out of five at bats, don't worry about it; just get the ball in the cheap outfield seats.

Former Atlanta Brave Cy Young Award winners Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux said it best: "Chicks dig the long ball." But it's not just women who feel this way. It's your five-year-old tee-ball playing son, or your baseball-crazed little brother.

How many times is America's youth going to be heart broken when the player they admire comes clean about using steroids or admits to taking some sort of performing enhancing substance the year they won an MVP? It just keeps getting worse every season, and there seems to be no stopping it.

### STERIODS OUT IN THE OPEN

Now that we're looking back, we could probably pin-point the year this became a craze as 1998. Who would've thought that something so bad could arise from such an extraordinary season?

Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa were on the brink of greatness and provided two heroes at the time baseball needed them most. During the year, "Big Mac" hit 70 homeruns and a reporter found a bottle of androstenedione ("andro")—a supplement that some consider a steroid. The reporter found it in McGwire's locker room, and the player later admitted to taking it. So the carousel of drug test-

ing and asterisks by the player's record began to take its course.

Not too long after that, Ken Caminiti, former all-star third baseman, admitted to using steroids the year he won an MVP and estimated that at least half of today's ballplayers use them as well.

Shortly following Caminti's admission, Jose Canseco, former all-star outfielder, stated that he was using steroids and threatened to release a tell-all book, entitled "Juice," about his life and the steroid issues he dealt with in the clubhouse.

This leads to this past fall, when Jason Giambi, New York Yankee first baseman, admitted to a jury that he used steroids during his MVP season and Barry Bonds, San Francisco Giants outfielder, claimed he unknowingly accepted a steroid from his trainer.

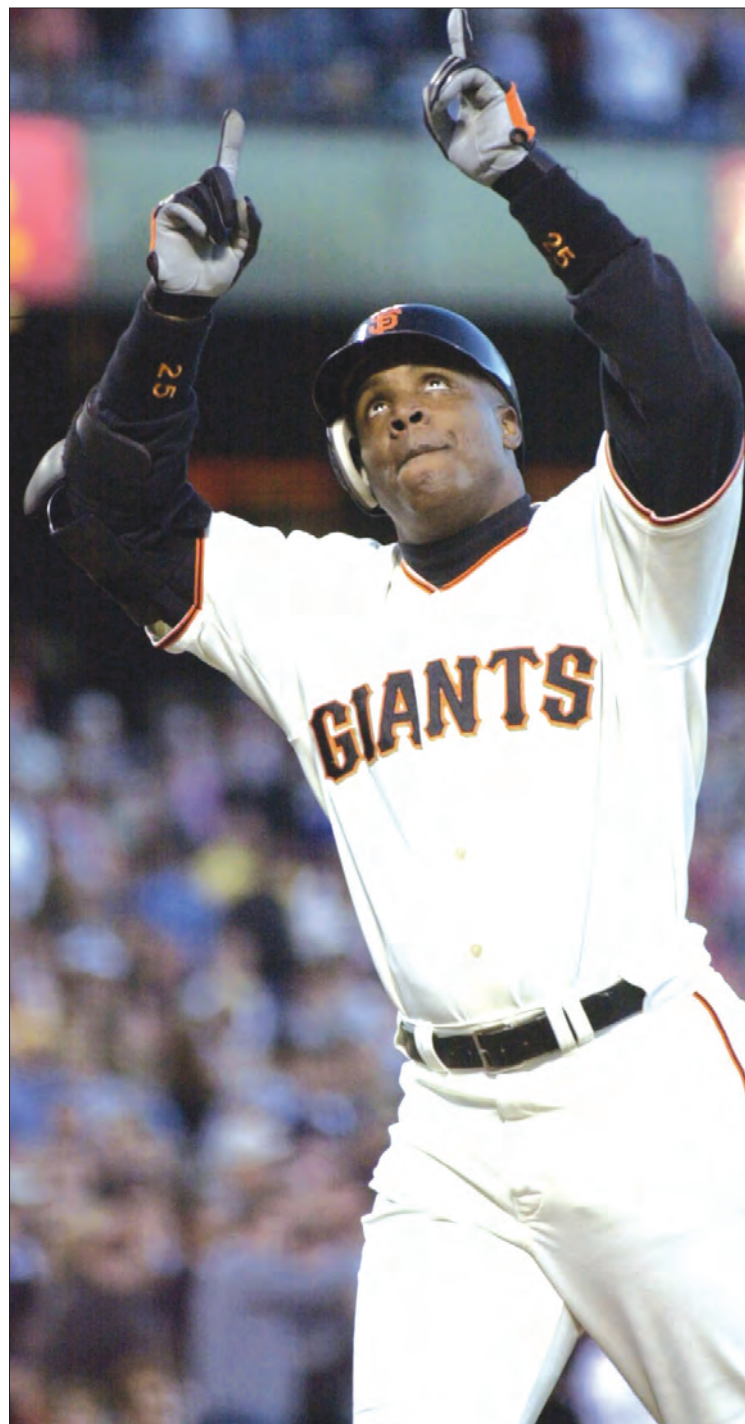
As the pieces of the puzzle keep coming together, the image is becoming clearer, and it's not a pretty one.

### MONEY TALKS

No sport focuses more on individual statistics than baseball does. In football a guy like Tom Brady, who came through in two Super Bowls and plays conservative football, makes seven figures even though he throws half as many touchdowns as the league leader.

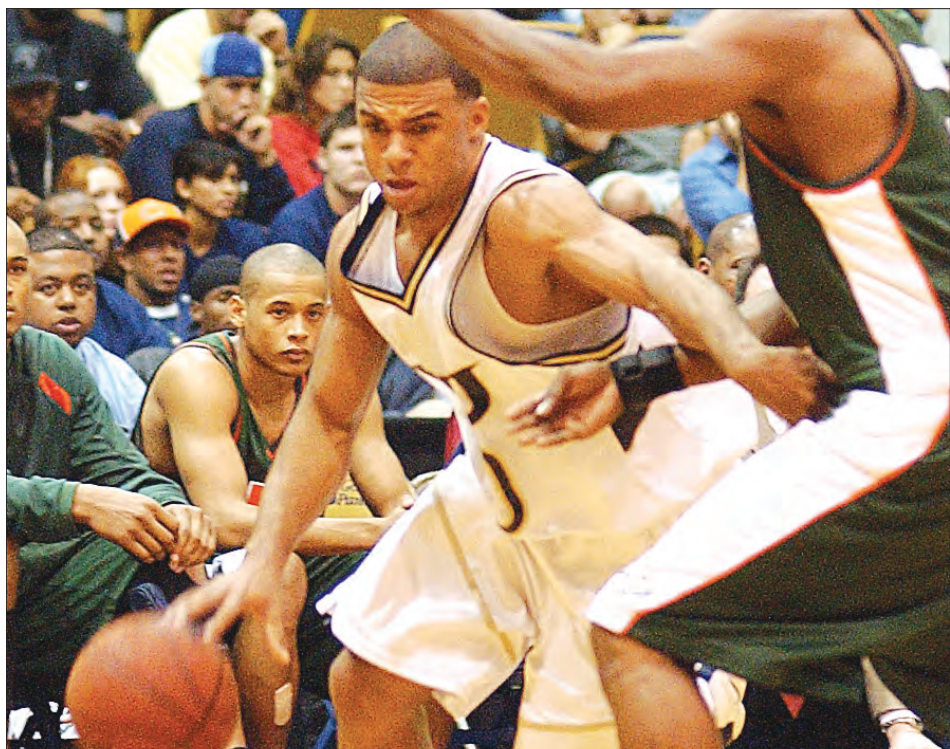
In basketball, a center like Ben Wallace can play good defense, be a presence in the paint and make millions of dollars off

See **STERIODS**, page 10



**RECORD BREAKER?:** Barry Bonds is close to breaking the all-time record of Major League homeruns. Some people think his use of performance enhancing substances gives him an unfair advantage. COURTESY PHOTO

## Basketball picks up key victories over winter break



**CAPTAIN:** Fifth year senior Junior Matias has played well this season despite missing all but six games last year. GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

By **ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA**  
Staff Writer

After back-to-back losses to the University of Connecticut and the University of Miami, the Golden Panthers were looking for a golden Christmas break.

They found what they were looking for.

The FIU men's basketball team finished the out-of-conference Christmas schedule with a winning 4-2 record. With a victory against rival Florida State University in Tallahassee, the team entered the break with good momentum.

FIU got off to a good start, defeating Florida Tech on Dec. 9. FIU never trailed en-route to an 81-66 victory.

Just three days later, FIU traveled to Tallahassee for the first of two road games. Surprisingly, the Golden Panthers, led by junior Ismael N' Diayes's 22 points, upset the Seminoles, a Sports Illustrated pre-season top-30, 65-60.

Following an eight day break, the Golden Panthers were on the road again,

this time in Tampa to face the University of South Florida. FIU played sloppy in the state televised game and stumbled with 19 turnovers. Coach Sergio Rouco's team lost to USF by eight, 74-66.

The start of a three-game home stand for the Golden Panthers looked bleak as they faced off with No. 20 George Washington University at Pharmed Arena.

After leading by as much as seven points with under a minute and a half to play, the Golden Panthers stumbled into halftime tied with the Colonials at 34.

During second half, the Colonials showed their key shooting strokes, as they connected on over 58 percent from the field and 62 percent from behind the arc.

The Golden Panthers clearly missed their captain, Junior Matias, who played just 11 minutes due to a lingering back injury. FIU lost 81-71 and dropped its second game in a row for the second time this season.

See **BASKETBALL**, page 11