



2004 young voter turnout, optimistic

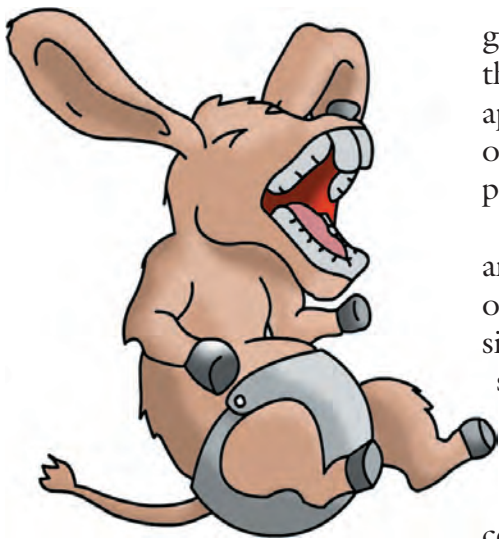
By VANESSA GOMEZ
News Editor

Since 1972, when 18 to 21-year-olds were first allowed to vote, the voting participation of Americans under the age of 25 has declined approximately 13 percent, according to a study by the University of Maryland. In comparison, the overall turnout in presidential elections has declined about four percent since 1972.

With presidential elections approaching, polls and research show that in the past, young citizens have had lackadaisical attitudes about politics and their influence on choosing a public official.

Some have felt their vote will not make a difference. However, there are projections that suggest that the 2004 elections will see an increase in young voter participation.

"I am registered to vote, but I don't because I don't think it matters," said 23-year-old Peter Abreu, junior and psychology major. "It won't change much, everyone is bought out anyway."



Research from the U.S. Census Bureau ranks the top 10 reasons for not voting among the registered population; "felt vote would not make a difference" ranks as reason number three among registered 18 to 24-year-olds. The number one reason was "conflicting schedule or too busy," followed by "out of

Reasons for not voting Source: U.S. Census Bureau November 2000	Registered non-voting 18 to 24 year-olds	
	Number	Percent
All reasons	3,487,000	100
Too busy, conflicting schedule	834,000	23.9
Out of town or away from home	431,000	12.4
Felt vote would not make a difference	428,000	12.3
Refused or don't know	385,000	11
Other reason, not specified	342,000	9.8
Registration problem	318,000	9.1
Forgot to vote or send in absentee ballot	264,000	7.6
Did not like candidates or campaign issues	193,000	5.5
Illness or disability (own or family)	116,000	3.3
Inconvenient polling place/lines too long	81,000	2.3
Transportation problem	79,000	2.3
Bad weather conditions	16,000	0.5

compiled by Vanessa Gomez

town."

"Old people vote because they have money to invest, and financial reasons to elect, plus, candidates never address issues that directly affect young people, we don't have money so they won't address us. I don't think [candidates] care, there is not that many of us," said Abreu.

In fact, Census data does suggest that regardless of the reason, the 25-and-over population votes approximately 20 percent more on average than the 18-to-24 population of registered voters.

Voters between the ages of 18 and 24 have had the worst turnout of any age group in every congressional and presidential election since 1980.

For example, of the 10 million eligible voters between the ages of 21 to 24, only 37.2 percent were registered to vote in the 1994 congressional elections, and only 16.5 percent actually voted.

The 1992 Clinton-Bush election showed improvement with 38.5 percent voting in, yet this is still less than half of the voting population for this age group. The '60s, on the other hand, saw more than half of 11 million young voters (ages 21 to 25) taking to the

polls, this according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

18-year-old, Anabel Betancourt, sophomore and business major, believes that the voter turnout is directly related to the events of the times.

"I am sure that people voted in the '60s and '70s because of the war, no one wanted to go to war, that is why hippies were so extreme. I bet you more people will vote this year, not many people that I know agree with us going to Iraq," said Betancourt.

Within the last few years organizations like Rock the Vote and Youthvote, along with other party-affiliated groups, have taken to motivating the younger population to participate in the election process.

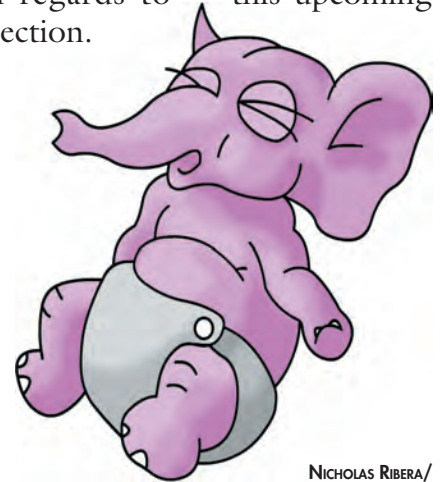
Research done by MTV network, which sponsors Rock the Vote, found that more young people say they will vote in the 2004 elections than at any time in the 1996 and 2000 elections.

In October 2003, 39 percent of 17 to 24-year-olds said they were certain they would vote in 2004; that is 30 percent higher than the previous highest point in 1999.

"I am going to vote this year," said 20-year-old sophomore,

Ezequiel Blanco. "Look at what happened last year. Who says one vote doesn't count? I have never voted, but there are some things I don't agree with that are going on now. I think my vote will help."

That is apparently the attitude many young people are taking in regards to this upcoming election.



NICHOLAS RIBERA/
THE BEACON

According to exit polls, young voter turnout increased 60 percent in the New Hampshire primaries; there were 30,700 young voters present this year in comparison to 19,200 in 1999.

And four times as many 17 to 24-year-olds showed up to the 2004 Iowa caucus than at the 2000 caucus.

"Enough recounting," said Blanco, "this year there should be no doubt on who the winner is."

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NEWSFLASH

UNIVERSITY

PantherSoft goes live

PantherSoft System, a web-based administrative computer system was officially launched earlier this year. PantherSoft will allow students to access their records online at anytime, from anywhere and will enhance self-service capabilities.

The PantherSoft conversion process began June 23. As of July 6, PantherSoft will be available for all transactions. Because of the conversion, the new payment deadline for Summer B is July 12. Summer A grades will be available through PantherSoft on July 13.

PantherSoft ID's have been sent to your FIU e-mail accounts and will be required for all transactions as of Fall 2004.

FIU officially pursues a medical school

On July 8, FIU president, Modesto Maidique, will announce that FIU will officially pursue a medical school. The event will take place in the Marc Pavillion at 2 p.m.

The establishment of a medical school will address the need for more doctors locally and improve the quality of health care in Florida by increasing the number of minority physicians. It will also provide an affordable medical school option in South Florida.

Dali Lama visits FIU again

On Sept. 22 His Holiness the Dali Lama will visit Florida International University to lecture on compassion. The FIU lecture will conclude his four-day visit to South Florida.

Tenzin Gyatso, the Dali Lama, visited South Florida for the first time in April of 1999, he visited FIU then and received an honorary doctorate in divinity. He is also a recipient of a 1989 Nobel Peace Prize.

The lecture at FIU will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Golden Panther Arena. The lecture is not open to the public. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m.

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Florida International University's College Reach-Out, Switch On and Upward Bound programs are pleased to be again participating in the Summer Food Service Program. We are further happy to report that the Education Talent Search will also be a part of this program. Talent Search is a new pre-college initiative. This will mark the seventh year FIU has participated in this venture. It will mark the first time service will be implemented at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The Florida Department of Education sponsors this service for students during the months of June, July and August.

This program is similar to the National School Lunch Program. It provides nutritionally balanced meals to needy children regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, age or national origin during summer vacation when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. Children 18 years of age and younger who qualify for free and reduced price breakfast or lunch during the regular school year, and children receiving food stamps of TANF may receive their meals at no charge.

Close to 320 middle and high school students enrolled in academic programs here at the University will benefit from the Food Service Program. Please contact Carlton Daley at (305) 348-1742.

CLASSIFIED

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Small local clothing manufacturer seeks part time help in assistant office management. Responsibilities to include: Data entry, inventory management, warehouse organization, telephone reception, web orders and sales. Flexible hours: \$7-8 an hour. Contact Donald fx 305-661-5551, 305-661-7200, email: sailangl@ix.netcom.com

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INFORMATION

The Beacon
FIU/ UP Campus
Graham Center,
Room 210
Miami, FL 33199
VISIT US ONLINE AT:
www.beaconnewspaper.com

General Newsroom
(305) 348-2709
Fax Number
(305) 348-2712
Biscayne Bay Campus
(305) 919-4722
WUC 124

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The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters and eight times during the summer. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads may be addressed to our advertising department in our newsroom. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. *The Beacon* is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student Activity and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

OPINION

Alejandra Diaz Editor In Chief • John Lovell Managing Editor • Felicidad Garcia Opinion Editor

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think keeps many students from voting?

- I think most students do vote.
- Students often feel their vote doesn't count, that's why many aren't even registered to vote.
- A lot of students don't vote because they're unaware of the issues and have "more important things to do" than find them out.
- They're still trying to cure their weekend hangover.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER



Alf: The newest talk show sidekick will be making a comeback and teaming up with Ed McMahon as a Johnny Carson replacement, on a half-hour special on TV Land July 7.

LOSER



Shawn Mayo: The 20-year-old man from Daytona, Fla. pleaded no contest to a Grand Theft charge after stealing a judge's wallet, going on a shopping spree and signing his own name on the credit card receipts.

QUOTEABLES

"I've done it a few times. I'll go and just watch 15 minutes of the movie in two or three different theaters, just to feel how the audience is digging it, get that immediate reaction."

– **Tobey Maguire**, "Spider-Man 2" star, on his incognito trips to the movies.

"F___ yourself!"

– **Dick Cheney**, United States vice-president, to Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy during a group photo on the Senate floor. He said it "felt better afterwards."

"I was the buffet and he just couldn't resist. That's not how it was."

– **Monica Lewinsky**, former White House intern, on Bill Clinton's telling of their sexual relationship in his recently published memoir, "My Life."

"We're just marketing the movie the best way we can," he said. "And we're absolutely not going to tolerate (attacks). Hit us and we will hit you back twice as hard."

– **Tom Ortenberg**, president of Lions Gate Films Releasing, on criticisms that the documentary's marketing parallels that of a political campaign.

"I miss my old job terribly."

– **Martha Stewart**, domestic guru, just one month before facing trial for charges on her questionable sale of ImClone stock.

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. 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.



Miamians lack language manners

By **SEAN MAGUIRE**
Guest Columnist

The fact that we live in a bilingual city should make us proud; it's a sign of intelligence and culture. But being bilingual comes with the responsibility to be considerate of our monolingual neighbors. That means being polite and following certain rules of etiquette that are designed to reduce the intimidation some people feel when they are surrounded by people who speak two or more languages with complete ease. Unfortunately, without even realizing it, we do not exercise common courtesy, and so, create an unpleasant environment.

Take the following story for example. I got on the elevator in the Green Library, on the way to class. In addition to me, there were two guys talking between themselves in Spanish and a woman standing nervously. The conversation between the two guys was pretty funny, and occasionally they would say a phrase in English. The one I remember particularly well was "she is so nasty." The woman was visibly uncomfortable. When they got to their floor and stepped out, she asked me if I knew whether they had been talking about her. They had been talking about some party from the previous night, which I told her.

The moral of the story is that it is really easy to make people uncomfortable if they don't speak your language. The two on the elevator should have either switched to English when they realized she didn't understand what they were saying (it was pretty obvious), or if they were going to stick to Spanish, not burst out with random English sentences.

We Miamians aren't deliberately rude. When you've always

been able to understand both languages, you don't even realize that others might get a little off kilter when you jump back and forth.

Nevertheless, we are often rude without realizing it. It's time to change our habits and apply some of the rules of etiquette that are common in other countries that are multi-lingual (like Switzerland, Belgium, Malaysia, etc). This will go a long way in creating a pleasant atmosphere in our city which makes even monolinguals proud of our multilingual heritage. We can be polite, so that our linguistic skills seem charming, not threatening. Here's my humble list of do's and don'ts.

Firstly, if someone walks into the room and you know they don't speak the language you are currently using, switch to that person's language.

This applies even if your conversation has nothing to do with the person who just walked in the room. It saves the other person from getting paranoid and feeling like he has to talk behind your back when you're gone in order to get revenge.

Secondly, let the first to speak choose the language. If a person starts a conversation in one language, stick to that language. The exceptions are situations from guideline number one, and jokes or quotes that can only be understood in one language or the other.

Some people are proud to have learned English (or Spanish) and are really trying to apply it. You might be oblivious to this fact if you have spoken both since birth, but letting the first to speak choose the language avoids the issue.

Thirdly, once you determine which language the conversation will be in, stick with it (subject to rules number one

and three).

Spanglish is common in Miami and we usually don't even notice we are speaking it. But it tends to corrupt your ability to speak either Spanish or English properly. It also leads to distraction. Ever met someone who constantly substitutes "pero" for "but?" It tends to come out when you're nervous, for example in job interviews. Avoid the problem by training yourself to use one language per conversation.

If you are not sure what language to start a conversation in, use your best judgment. When in doubt, English is the default. If you get it wrong, offer a quick apology. Then refer to guideline number three.

Some people who look Latin, but aren't, get offended if you start with Spanish, and vice-versa. Most Miamians have good intuition for which language to use. But they have a horrible time realizing when they've gotten it wrong. I've seen people go four or five sentences in one language before they realize the person they're talking to has no idea what they are saying.

Lastly, for those Miamians who are not bilingual, start with two assumptions until proven otherwise: They are not talking about you, and just because someone is speaking Spanish (or English), it doesn't mean he can't also speak English (or Spanish).

When language is involved, misunderstandings can make people unnecessarily bitter, or, even worse, confrontational. However, being polite can diffuse the situation, and actually encourage pride in being part of a bilingual city.

Being bilingual should be a sign of culture, intelligence and sophistication. Following proper etiquette makes it so.

A case of **SUMMER AMNESIA!**

First summer semester paves way for exciting second semester

We're baaaaaack!

Did you miss us? We sure missed you, and apparently we missed a great deal of other important stuff as well. While all these great news-worthy things were going on at FIU and around the world, your friends here at *The Beacon* were sitting back, relaxing and enjoying our time off. It was way sweet, but now we're back and ready for action, and we couldn't be more excited.

Can you feel the enthusiasm? It's radiating right off the page!

While the most of our staff was busy soaking up rays, our photographers worked diligently, documenting all the happenings from May to July. To make up for our two-month leave of absence, we've dedicated these two pages for a gigantic photo spread just for you!

As you can see, we've been preparing for this since we last left you at the end of April, so we hope it helps you feel a little more caught up on your current events.

Check out our construction update. The expansion and renovation of GC is nearing completion and BBC is finally seeing the beginning stages of the new Marine Biology building. Additionally, the second phase of the new Health and Life Sciences building is almost done.

Over at the Children's Creative Learning Center, a children's yoga class also provided us with a great photo op. What's cuter than a bunch of little kids trying to stretch the cocoon butterfly stance?

From here on out, we'll be publishing on a weekly basis so make sure to grab a copy every Monday and keep yourself informed on the latest in FIU News.

While you're at it, make sure to check out the Opinion, Life (the new Arts and Entertainment section) and Sports sections.

From all the staff members here at *The Beacon*, we wish you good luck in Summer B and are truly glad to be working for you again.



FACE LIFT: As part of continuing construction, the Graham Center is receiving a major facelift. Glass panes will cover the enormous steel skeleton (above) and become a new back entrance that is sure to turn heads. An additional renovation includes a new wing which features a beautifully designed outside wall facing the Green Library. *EMILY JENSEN/THE BEACON*



STRETCH: Manuel Rojas-Romero and Hannah Newfield stretch out on mats during a yoga class sponsored by the Children's Creative Learning Center. The class was offered twice a week during the summer A semester. *ELIZABETH PEREZ/THE BEACON*



GOT MILK?: A cow made of wrapped paper boxes sits as part of an art exhibit designed by kids and created at the Children's Creative Learning Center. The cow even sports a cow bell and small tail. The art exhibit also featured a colorful bus made of boxes and brown paper bags with children's faces drawn on them. The art exhibit was displayed in the Graham Center during Summer A. *EMILY JENSEN/THE BEACON*

SUMMER RECAP

WORLD

World mourns 40th president

Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the U.S., passed away June 5 at the age of 93 following a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

As the world looked back on the life of Reagan, both his supporters and opponents agreed that the optimistic president changed the world.

After having reshaped and revived the Republican Party, while devoting most of his foreign-policy energies to the dismantling of Soviet communism, Reagan left office at the end of his second term in 1989.

Reagan was laid to rest at his hilltop presidential library on June 12 following a week of mourning and remembrance by world leaders and regular Americans. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Reagan, and three children.

Occupational government takes over

After months at war and the capture of President Saddam Hussein, the United Nations Security Council approved the U.S.-British timetable for the interim regime, elections and adoption of constitution in Iraq.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi began to head the interim government on June 28, two days ahead of schedule, in an attempt to surpass any secret attacks on the new government.

Iraq's new government also reinstated the death penalty before taking legal custody of jailed former President Saddam Hussein on June 30.

Hussein along with 11 other members of his former government appeared before Iraqi judges on July 1 for a formal reading of charges which occurred during more than two decades in power. Including crimes against humanity, the killing and torture of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, genocide and war crimes.



BREAKING GROUND: An excavator digs up and removes dirt from the future site of the new Marine Biology building to be located near the Wolfe University Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Construction on the site began after the groundbreaking ceremony held on April 23. The new waterfront marine building will allow students and faculty to work in 57,000 square foot laboratory. *ALFREDO SOTO/THE BEACON*



ROOKIE: Newly appointed University Park Student Government Association President Jorge Rosario addresses the Board of Trustees during a meeting on June 14. The meeting was a first for Rosario who commented that he felt honored to be a part of the board. Ruth Webster, Biscayne Bay Student Government Association president, was also in attendance at the meeting during which the BOT discussed the university's financial and academic status. *EMILY JENSEN/THE BEACON*

SUMMER A HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY

Meeting held to discuss university issues

Board of Trustees members met on June 14 to discuss pressing issues affecting the university.

Led by Chairperson Adolfo Henriques, the trustees and other administrators updated university President Modesto A. Maidique on the university's financial situation, academic policies and administration changes taking place throughout the university.

Both recently elected Student Government Association presidents, Jorge Rosario and Ruth Webster, were in attendance along with former SGA President Clayton Solomon, who has taken on a position as Maidique's personal assistant.

Air conditioning problem closed University Park

Many university employees were sent home due to a problem with the air conditioning system on June 1.

Supervisors were advised to provide Administrative Leave for all employees affected by the problem. Normal working hours resumed the following day, but employees were still told to wear comfortable clothing.

The problem also led to the cancellation of the president's Town Hall Meeting, which was rescheduled on June 18, and other university business.

The air conditioning system has since been restored to normal working condition.

Research leads to new roofing standard

The Florida Building Code Commission approved a recommendation by FIU researchers to change the Florida Building Code's roof sheathing nailing standards for houses in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone.

Research done by the International Hurricane Research Center showed that the use of 8d Ring-Shank nails will improve the resistance of roofs to hurricane winds by 130 percent.

The new roofing standard will go in to affect starting January of 2005 and the nails are expected to strengthen 350,000 new homes in South Florida over the next 10 years.

Provost seeks reorganization

Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Mark Rosenberg announced plans to reorganize several academic units within the university on June 28.

According to Rosenberg, the proposal is due to the university's financial situation and its goal of improving its public research status.

Several reorganizations have already taken place throughout the university, including the merger of the College of Urban and Public Affairs and the College of Health into one entity.

Since June 28, the provost has spoken to several deans advising them to work on options for reorganization that would be submitted by Dec. 1. The Faculty Senate has also been asked to participate in the reorganization plans.



SEXY SPIDER: Tobey Maguire returns as Spider-Man in the Columbia Pictures sequel. "Spider-Man 2" joins several other sequels in the box office this summer. COURTESY PHOTO

Second Spidey flick a swashbuckling success

By **MARJORIE RIZZO**
Staff Writer

By now, most of you have been bombarded with corny cliché lines for the summer blockbuster "Spider-Man 2."

I am sure you have not escaped one-liners such as "web-slinging fun" or "a new spidery sensation."

I too can't resist the temptation: "Spider-Man 2" catches its audience with a web of entertainment

But here's why: "SpiderMan 2" is one of a few cinematic charms that manages to outshine the original, 2002's Spider-Man.

It breaks the blockbuster's unwritten rules of the formulaic action flick and becomes a flim with heart.

The film is full of swashbuckling superhero action, romance and a youth's inner struggle to do the right thing.

Man responsible: returning director Sam Raimi.

He demonstrates how to make a character-driven drama out of a comic book while pleasing an audience that wants a blockbuster.

One of Raimi's partners in crime is talented Tobey Maguire.

He returns as the good-natured Peter Parker, who faces new challenges as he struggles with "the gift and the curse" of the spandex-suit life.

Peter desperately tries to balance his two identities: superhuman crime-fighter and college student.

And Dr. Phil isn't there to help, which leads to stress taking a toll on his superhero powers.

Peter is distraught by his secrets and he finds that his relationships with all those he holds

dear are in danger of deteriorating.

His life-long longing for Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst) becomes even stronger, and the pain he feels for his not-so-secret love distresses Peter.

He avoids his true feelings because everyone knows superheroes can't have girlfriends because then all super enemies would find out, and the girlfriend would become a damsel in distress...wait... that happens anyways.

Adding more stress, his best friend Harry Osborn (James Franco) is still bitter over his father's death and continues to seek revenge against Spider-Man.

Kind-hearted Aunt May (Rosemary Harris) is still there for Peter, but is going through a financial and emotion strain herself.

The compelling adventure continues as Spider-Man's life becomes even more complicated when he confronts a new nemesis, the intelligent Otto Octavius, (Alfred Molina) who is reborn as the maniacal menace Dr. Octopus.

This movie is jam packed with action sequences that more than satisfy action addicts and has plenty of special effects for eye candy.

I think this Hollywood movie really gets it right. It is witty and intelligent, two traits often subtracted from big-budget action movies.

I give this character driven summer flick four stars.



SPIDERMAN 2



Memorable tunes rock summertime

By **JOHN LOVELL**
Managing Editor

There are two distinct ingredients that define great American summers. The warm drives to and from the beach wouldn't be the same without that one irreplaceable CD on repeat and when the cool night falls.

Music makes up the cornerstone of any nutritional summer diet; forget about Atkins!

Check out my picks for the greatest summer albums to make the next two months memorable.

Weezer: *Blue Album*

Bringing back fond memories of sixth grade, Weezer's legendary *Blue Album* is a landmark in summer music. Veteran listeners of *Blue Album* are likely to recite every single word to all 10 tracks, and it's guaranteed to infect you as well.

Toxically addictive songs such as "Undone-The Sweater Song," and "Surf Wax America" will have you screaming at the top of your lungs and swearing you've found the holy grail of 90s rock. Blast it on your beachside jam box and watch as your scene-points rake up.

Rocketship: *A Certain Smile, A Certain Sadness*

If you're a treasure-hunter then I urge you to dig up this gem, but don't bother looking in stores.

The band's first and only full-length album screams summer with intense happiness that's balanced only by the under toned farewell-like melancholy.

Users will often find themselves inexplicably blasting the poppy organ sounds on full volume and do-do-doing along with the charismatic and cutesy vocals.

Guys take note: Rocketship's album is the perfect summer-fling stimulator, with lovey-dovey lyrics and song titles like "I Love You Like the Way That I Used to Do," "Kisses Are Always Promises"

and "We're Both Alone," so make sure to add this one to your soundtracks for wooing.

The Roots: *Phrenology*

Repainting and breathing new life into alternative hip-hop, The Roots' *Phrenology* also falls perfectly into place come summertime. The soulful rhythms are matched nicely with sophisticated and interesting beats that throw back to an older, jazzier feel.

You don't have to be an artsy coffee bean beatnik to appreciate The Roots' work of art.

Set aside the importance this album holds for the hip-hop genre, and you have a nice body of work that's musically engaging but simply fun at the same time.

Kick it old school with the new school beats of *Phrenology* this summer and you'll get what I'm talking about.

Wilco: *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*

This will make better sense as a summer pick if you listen to it in August, as the season dreadfully begins to wind down, and you gear up for another fall semester. It's a peculiar kind of gloom that makes this album such a great catch for a summer wrap-up.

There are several moments on *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* that, when looking back on your experiences, will help make sense of all the crazy and wonderful (or not so wonderful) things that occurred.

All in all it's just a metaphoric embodiment of everything one would

hope to have in the end: A good friend who will listen to all of your summer tales and laugh along while flipping through photos.

Foxtrot is the kind of soundtrack you'd want to hear when enjoying that last red sunset and soaking in all the new memories you've procured.



Marlon Brando 1924 - 2004

- Filmography Highlights:
- "A Streetcar Named Desire," 1951
 - "The Wild One," 1954
 - "The Godfather," 1972
 - "Apocalypse Now," 1979
 - "Don Juan DeMarco," 1995

Players headed for next step in lives- MLB

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

Among the hundreds of elite players who will join in on the Major League action, several of them will be representing the blue and gold colors of FIU that first set them on their way.

Highlighting the day as FIU's first player selected, junior Derek DeCarlo was picked by the Milwaukee Brewers in the ninth round as the 256th overall pick.

The junior from Miami Southridge High School is no stranger to attention as he was selected as team MVP in his senior year of high school after a 10-2 record for the season and 95 strikeouts. DeCarlo entered



FIRST: DeCarlo was the first Golden Panther chosen in the 2004 draft. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

FIU and quickly made a name for himself. He pitched two flawless seasons at FIU, since his freshman year, without losing a single game, along with being voted Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year.

During his three years at FIU, he led the team with a 3.39 ERA, which was the fourth-best ERA in the Sun Belt Conference. He ended a successful year not only with a 5.59 ERA and a .290 batting average, but a ticket for a promising future.

The next Golden Panther selected in the draft is junior Mark Worrell. The Florida native was selected in the 12th round to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Worrell pitched for an outstanding 12 strikeouts in May against rival New Orleans. He first appeared at Indian River

Community College in Florida where he had 77 strikeouts in 77 innings and was named No. 1 preseason junior college pitcher in the country by *Baseball America*.

Another striving player in the limelight is senior Fernando Alvarez, who went in the 16th round to the Chicago White Sox. Alvarez came to FIU from Dodge City Community College where he batted .317 with 51 RBI's and 21 stolen bases in his sophomore year.

This year, while playing left field in 52 games, he finished with a .295 batting average and 27 RBI's. He finished off the season third on the team with a .402 on-base percentage and came in fifth in runs with 31.

The Golden Panthers kept producing players into the Major Leagues through the second day with the selection of Mario Suarez. He was picked in the 34th round and was welcomed to the Chicago White Sox team.



CHI-TOWN: Suarez was picked in the 34th round by the White Sox. **DANNY KAMBEL/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**



SWEET SIXTEEN: Alvarez will be joined in Chicago by Suarez. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

Suarez will blissfully re-unite with his former teammate Fernando Alvarez, who was also selected to Chicago the day before. During his final season at FIU, Suarez played in 27 games and batted .246. Both Alvarez and Suarez have signed professional contracts and have already headed out to their new teams.

They are now standing proud not just as "ex-Golden Panthers," but as future black-and-white pinstripes anxious to hit the field.

After being a big hit throughout his FIU career, senior Andrew

Edwards is still on the go. The New York native signed a contract with the New York Yankees and has already reported to Staten Island.

Edwards ventured to FIU as the top-seeded pick for the Golden Panthers and despite two major injuries, he still managed to make a splash.

In 2003, he made ten appearances, nine of them were starts, and allowed four hits or less in five of his nine starts.

He struck out a season-high seven batters in four innings against Western Kentucky and combined on the Golden Panthers' 7-0 shutout of Seton Hall in the month of March.

Edwards ended his career this season with a 4.58 ERA, a .260 batting average and finished on top of the pitchers with a solid 10-4 record.



CARDINAL: Worrell went in the 12th round. He will be remembered by his 12-strikeout game. **DANNY KAMBEL/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**



ACE: Andrew Edwards is now wearing pin stripes. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

Johnson reunites with Rouco

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completely around.

"You are as good as your players, if you get kids that are going to work hard on and off the court, kids that believe in the head coach and are talented, then you have a chance to be successful and I think we are doing that with a good recruiting class," said O'Brien, who believes that with the returning class, the program will improve year after year.

New Assistant Kenneth Johnson

Rouco finished out his coaching staff with the hiring of "K.J." as assistant coach. Johnson comes one year after taking over the head coaching rights of Lake Brantley High School.

Johnson comes to FIU in high praise from Rouco who coached him at Norland High.

"K.J. will teach our players how to become better people through example," said Rouco at the announcement of Johnson's hiring. "He never missed a day of class over his 12 years in public school. He played for me at Norland and was the same person every day."

For Johnson, hearing the call from Rouco to come coach at FIU was an important opportunity.

"It was a privilege for him to ask me to come coach with him," said Johnson. "I already know what to expect and how

he's going to coach the guys. When he called me to come in staff, it gave my family a chance to come back to Miami, and for me the opportunity to coach at the college level, which under Sergio is going to be great."

Johnson grew up playing in Florida summer leagues. He was named twice to the all-county team and in 1995 received a McDonalds All American nominee.

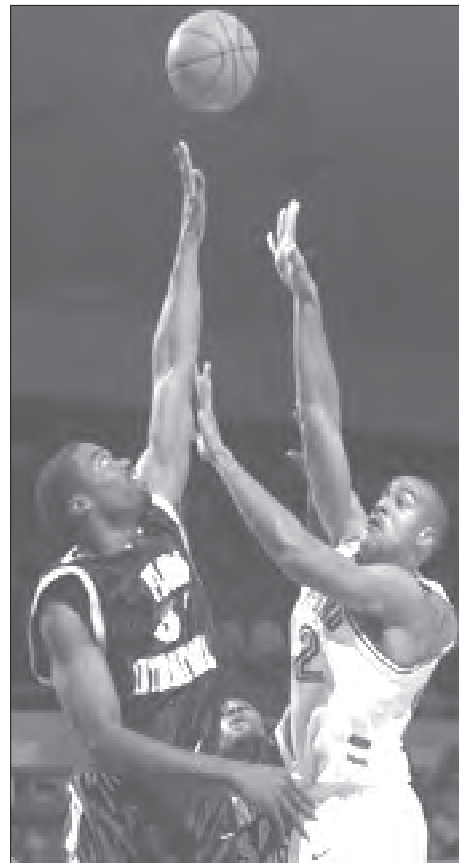
With plenty of South Florida experience, Johnson should help FIU recruit local players, an area the team has lacked over the past years.

"I definably will try my best to help in that area, I just think it starts with building positive relationships with the coaches at this schools," said Johnson.

Another area of focus for Johnson will be the guards, in particular the point guard position where the Golden Panthers struggled last season.

"The number one thing is having a true point guard at point guard and that's one huge step in order for us to be successful. The class coming in, we have a guy with the talent needed on the floor which makes coaching a lot easier," said Johnson.

Both coaches have begun working with the team in order to help turn around last year's record of five wins and 22 losses.



NEW HEIGHTS: Byron Burnett and his teammates will be playing under new leadership this upcoming season. New head coach, Sergio Rouco, recently hired Joe O'Brien and Kenneth Johnson as associate head coach and assistant coach, respectively. O'Brien has three championships under his belt and Johnson is a former player of Rouco from Norland. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

Stevens: "We are excited to play UM."

VOLLEYBALL, from page 8

very excited about the potential of this team," said Stevens. "We've got really good transfers coming in."

For the first time in two years, the Golden Panthers will host the Invitational Tournament with Stetson, Southeastern Louisiana and St. John's this season. This tournament will be key for FIU.

Coach Stevens, is specifically awaiting the Buckeye Classic in Columbus, Ohio, in September with hopes to mix up their schedule a little. "We wanted to take on the challenge of the Midwest," said Stevens.

The Golden Panthers are eager to kick off their season against cross-town rivals University of Miami on Sept. 1.

Playing the Hurricanes is always a big challenge for both Stevens and her players as fans from both teams generally fill up the arena.

"We are excited to play UM this year at home," said Stevens. "Every time we play them we get a really good game and a really good crowd."

FIU won't face their first Sun Belt Conference opponent until Sept. 24 against Arkansas State.

SPORTS

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THE BEACON

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Three NCAA tournament teams lined up for FIU

By **NATALIE SABIA**
Staff Writer

The 2004 upcoming season for the Women's Volleyball team will definitely include several new faces since last year. However, their schedule remains fairly similar.

The Golden Panthers will face three NCAA Tournament teams from last season.



Stevens

Such teams include defending Sun Belt Conference champions New Mexico State, two-time Big

East title holders New Hampshire and three-time Atlantic Sun champions University of Central Florida.

The Golden Panthers will open the season with a total of nine new faces, which doesn't worry six year Head Coach Cookie Stevens, despite the tough schedule the team will face.

"Even though we have the majority of new players, I am

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STATE MATCHUP: Head Coach Don Strock hopes the Orange Bowl Classic will establish a new in-state rivalry between state universities FIU and FAMU. COURTESY GRAPHIC

Football to host game at Orange Bowl: Large crowd expected to boost attendance

By **YANELY PEREZ**
Contributing Writer

When the football program began three years ago, playing Division I-A football was a goal but not for another five to eight years down the line. Fast track three years and the Golden Panthers will begin Division I-A this season with an even bigger plan, a game at the Orange Bowl against Florida A&M.

The announcement of the match-up was finalized during a figurative luncheon held at the Don Shulas Golf Club on Monday, June 28. The two in-state universities were represented by athletic directors, head coaches and Orange Bowl officials.

The Golden Panthers will take on the FAMU Rattlers on Nov. 27 in the rebirth of none other than the historic Orange Blossom Classic.

The event is considered an important one for FIU because the team needs to count for an average attendance of 15,000 which is required for Division I-A as FIU makes the transition from Division I-AA.

"This gives us the best chance. It puts the game in a bigger stadium, not to add that it has tradition and has a track record for success. With the combination of these important points, though we are a growing program, this event will guarantee us the needed 15,000 requirement," said FIU Athletic Director Rick Mello.

A big crowd is expected, not only for the game but also for the halftime show, which will feature a Battle of the Bands

competition and a fundraiser that includes "An Evening with Bill Cosby."

FIU Golden Panther Head Coach Don Strock credited the game as an important one in order to "build rivalries," between both state universities as most of the players from both teams know each other from playing against one another in

high school. The first classic took place 1933 when Florida A&M took on Howard University of Washington D.C, in which FAMU won 9-6, marking the beginning of a fantastic yearly tradition.

In 1947, the Classic moved to Miami where it became one of the many major sports events, and till now the Orange Blossom

Classic has continued to be a part of FAMU's regular season schedule.

With the help of the games tradition, the long established event will provide the exposure and impact the program needs.

This newly revived classic will take place during Thanksgiving Weekend in Miami's Orange Bowl at 1 p.m.

Rouco completes coaching staff

By **HARRY COLEMAN**
Sports Editor

When Sergio Rouco took over as head coach for the men's basketball team back in April, he promised he would find the best players and coaches to turn the program around. In the past two months, he has done that by hiring Associate Head Coach Joe O'Brien and Assistant Coach Kenneth Johnson.

O'Brien is a proven winner, coming to FIU after winning three national championships for Southeastern Community College. Winning three national championships and four Region XI titles over an eight-year span O'Brien saw the challenge of Division I basketball as the reason for becoming a Golden Panther.

"I felt it was time to do something different, I was at Southeastern Iowa for eight years and I felt we had accomplished all we could winning three national championships and our graduation rate. All coaches that are at the college level want to go to Division I level, and I

have a good opportunity here with a good friend in Sergio because we have a very good friendship and working relationship," said O'Brien.

When Coach O'Brien's players at Southeastern weren't winning on the court, they were graduating from school.

O'Brien saw 58 of 63 sophomores, an astonishing 92 percent, receive their A.A. degrees. For O'Brien, graduating is just as important as winning, a standard he hopes to continue here at FIU along with Rouco.

"Graduating is absolutely important, that's what's being a student athlete is all about. I am the first person in my family to go to college so I know that kids should and have to take advantage of being on a scholarship. If a kid graduates under your program then you know you picked the right one," said O'Brien, who has 313 wins and 119 losses over 13 years of head



PROVEN WINNER: Joe O'Brien comes to FIU in hopes of turning the program around with winning and graduating players. COURTESY PHOTO

coaching experience. Despite straight losing seasons for FIU, O'Brien believes he can help contribute in turning the program

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LADIES 2004 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE	
DATE	OPPONENT
08/21	Alumni Event
09/01	Miami
09/03	Arizona State
09/04	@New Hampshire
09/04	Toledo
09/10	Stetson
09/11	SE Louisiana
09/11	St. John's
09/17	@Ohio State
09/17	Montana State
09/18	Northeastern
09/24	@Arkansas State
09/25	@Arkansas- Little Rock
09/29	@Florida Atlantic
10/03	South Alabama
10/08	Western Kentucky
10/10	Middle Tennessee
10/14	@Louisiana- Lafayette
10/16	@North Texas
10/19	@South Florida
10/22	Denver
10/24	New Mexico State
10/29	@Middle Tennessee
10/31	@Western Kentucky
11/06	@New Orleans
11/09	Florida Atlantic
11/12	Arkansas State
11/14	Arkansas- Little

Bold Denotes Home Games
"@ Denotes Away Game