



Contract negotiation angers faculty

By **LUIS NIN**
Copy Editor

A mass of angry faculty members crowded into the Graham Center Ballroom to attend the Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 23. Distressed over the administration's new contract proposals – which they feel would give FIU's management complete authority over matters traditionally negotiated through collective bargaining – the teachers' union arranged for more than 200 professors to attend the meeting.

But the crowd didn't last long. After Alan Gummerson, the president of the teachers' union, addressed the Board of Trustees with the faculty's complaints only to receive almost no reaction from the board, the professors walked out of the meeting in protest. The ballroom was left empty, and the board proceeded to conduct business as usual amid a sea of vacant seats.

According to a statement made during the meeting by Bruce Hauptli, chair-person of the Faculty Senate, several factors have led to the tension between faculty and administrators.

"Over the past two months, I have been approached by a diverse group of faculty members and others within the university community," he said. "These individuals have expressed the strongest of concerns regarding the administration of, and the leadership of, the university. It would be a serious misrepresentation to state that the apprehensions relate solely, or even primarily, to collective bargaining."

During the meeting, the administration presented proposals that would radically change the way contract negotiations are conducted.

According to FIU's teachers' union, which is a member of the United Faculty of Florida, the university's new negotiations would include several controversial proposals, like the establishment of a program to evaluate the performance of tenured faculty every five years. If their performance falls below a standard, management would reserve the right to terminate employment.

Another controversial policy would give the Board of Trustees the exclusive right to determine curriculum, programs, degrees and instructional materials.

Trying to ease the tension caused by these proposals, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique referred to the fact that this contract will be the first negotiated and structured solely by the university.

"It's the first time that we have collective bargaining, right here at the local level between FIU and the unions that represent our faculty and all our staff. This is the first time that we have had that run; it has always been directed at the state level. This is the first time that FIU personal policies can actually be catered directly to meet the needs of this particular community and this particular university," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique in an address during the board meeting. "I absolutely believe that any new experience and period of change that occurs with it brings along a lot of excitement, uncertainty and concern, but also brings a huge



NO 'MUSICAL CHAIRS': Bruce Hauptli, head of the Faculty Senate, sits during the Nov. 23 Board of Trustees meeting at University Park after a mass walkout by protesting faculty members. **LUIS NIN/THE BEACON**

amount of opportunity."

However, not everyone agreed that the administration properly handled the complaints against the contract negotiations.

"Unfortunately, there was basically no response [from the administration]. When the president came after Bruce Hauptli spoke, there was basically no response about the problem. The administration doesn't seem too worried about that; they seem to be more worried about the medical school than anything else," said astronomy professor James Webb.

Administrators, though, state that they have given the faculty's

concerns the appropriate attention.

"This board is absolutely committed to academic freedom. I want to reaffirm this board's unequivocal commitment to tenure," Maidique said. "We are not going to change tenure here at FIU. The process is going to stay the same. Tenured faculty are going to have the same array of rights and protections that they have had and that they have traditionally enjoyed."

Despite President Maidique's reassurances, the faculty remains skeptical of the administration's intentions.

In his address to the board,

Gummerson stated that the administration is attempting to remove faculty rights and protections from the bargaining agreement and trying to place them in a policy it cannot enforce.

Still, despite all the protests and accusations, Provost Mark Rosenberg was not surprised by these concerns.

"This is a negotiation which we would acknowledge is a little more difficult than we expected or hoped for, but it is a negotiation," he told *The Beacon*. "I'm anxious to see a resolution so that we can get back to the business at hand: the education and training of students."

Film showcase explores Israeli/Palestinian conflicts



POLITICS ON FILM: A scene from the documentary "Jenin, Jenin," shown by the Students for Palestinian Equal Rights as part of their monthly film fest. **COURTESY PHOTO**

By **ASRA JAWAID**
Staff Writer

Junior Aury Garcia didn't know much about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the Middle East before this past summer.

That's when an International Solidarity Movement volunteer did an on-campus presentation about the current state of Palestinian life, which many believe has worsened as the states of Israel and Palestine continue disputes over land.

Inspired by the volunteer and her presentation, Garcia and another FIU student, Pablo Avendano, began a new club at FIU known as Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights.

"I wasn't really educated much on the issue until [the volunteer] came.

Then I realized ... I should learn more," Garcia said.

SUPER's mission statement, which can be read on their website (www.superfiu.com), is to foster a commitment to the struggle against occupation and colonialism and to the advocacy of human rights, specifically as it relates to Palestinians living under what they consider Israeli occupation.

During this inaugural semester, SUPER has been showing monthly movies in a type of extended film festival documenting differences between the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

On Oct. 26, the club presented a movie entitled "Promises," by Jewish director B.Z. Goldberg, which presented contrasts between Israeli and

See SUPER, page 2

NEWSFLASH

INTERNATIONAL

Raid on Baghdad mosque uncovers car bomb workshop

A mosque raided by security forces in southern Baghdad contained a workshop to rig suicide car bombs, with seven vehicles ready for terror attacks, an Iraqi Defense Ministry official said Sunday.

National Guard forces raided the Sunni Muslim Al-Yassen Mosque in the southern Baghdad area of Abu Dshir on Saturday, said Gen. Saleh Sarhan of the Defense Ministry. In addition to seven cars pre-rigged with explosives, the guardsmen found 30 rocket-propelled grenades, high-powered rifles, mortars and remote control detonators, Sarhan said.

Anti-U.S. insurgents used some 60 mosques in the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, to stockpile weapons and provide cover during a U.S.-led offensive against the city earlier this month, the U.S. military says. One of the mosques was described as a general arms depot capable of equipping insurgents across much of Iraq.

Both Sunni and Shiite Muslim clerics are deeply opposed to the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, and many Sunni clerics also reject elections scheduled for Jan. 30.

In addition, a car bomb had exploded on a perilous road leading to Baghdad's airport, wounding two U.S. soldiers and damaging a military vehicle, a military statement said.

Insurgents also lobbed mortars near a police station in Baqouba, a city 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, police said. Two officers and a woman were injured.

As U.S.-led forces attacked Fallujah earlier this month, insurgents in Mosul rose up in a bloody campaign against civilians. Security forces found 17 bodies around the city on Friday, and 15 on Thursday.

Last week, Basra police arrested two Saudis, two Tunisians, a Sudanese and a Libyan who allegedly arrived in the city from Fallujah to carry out a bombing campaign.

NATIONAL

Christmas tree arrives at U.S. Capitol

A few preparations like a helicopter extraction and police escorts were necessary to get the U.S. Capitol's Christmas tree from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the nation's capital on Nov. 29.

"The hardest part of the whole trip was just getting everything lined up," said Keith Garman, the service manager for Camrett Logistics, the company in Rural Retreat, Va., that volunteered a semi truck to transport the 67-foot red spruce from George Washington National Forest to the Capitol's lawn. Cut down Nov. 2, the tree visited more than 30 Virginia towns en route to Washington.

Federal lawmakers adopted the tradition of the Capitol Christmas tree in 1964. Since 1970, it's been cut from Forest Service land, and this year's is the first from Virginia.

With help from the Capitol Architect's office, Forest Service officials whittled the pool of eligible native Virginian evergreens to one 79-year-old spruce last July.

Once cut, a helicopter plucked it from the forest. Workers tied its branches with parachute cord and steered it onto Camrett's specially built flatbed trailer for highway transport.

The White House's Christmas tree, a comparatively small 18-and-a-half-foot Noble fir donated by John and Carol Tillman of Rochester, Wash., also arrived Monday. First lady Laura Bush received the tree, which was delivered by horse-drawn wagon.

On Monday morning, a crane eased the mammoth Capitol spruce into position on the Capitol's lawn, where it now sits in a poured concrete footing, 5 feet deep.

It'll be decorated with 5,000 oversized ornaments - made mostly by Virginia schoolchildren - and 10,000 light bulbs before Dec. 9, when House Speaker Dennis Hastert will preside over its ceremonial lighting.

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New club promotes Palestinian cause

SUPER, from page 1

Palestinian children living minutes from each other.

This month's movie, shown on Nov. 23, was "Jenin, Jenin," a documentary of interviews with Palestinian refugees.

To promote "Jenin, Jenin," SUPER set up a table in the University Park's Library Colonnade from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 22 with pamphlets about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

"We had a few people who were very surprised and happy to see us there," Garcia said.

According to Avendano, the movies were chosen to educate students and open up a forum.

SUPER is currently discussing the possibility of hosting a forum with other relevant clubs on campus to address issues concerning human rights, other occupations around the world and the media's interpretation of the violence in Israel and Palestine.

The organization has received the support of FIU's Muslim Student Association but hasn't heard from the Jewish Student Union.

Next semester, SUPER plans to continue its movie showcase.

In addition, the club is seeking to bring two speaking tours, "Wheels of Justice" and "Stop the Wall," that will soon be in the Miami area.

"Wheels of Justice" is comprised of peace activists who tour the country and discuss the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They do teachings which are educational workshops about the conflicts," Garcia said.

According to club

members, SUPER has met with much success.

"Currently SUPER has about 70 people on its listserv," Avendano said. "The number of consistent meeting attendees fluctuates between 10 and 15."

Although Garcia is the official club president, she says that the club tries to make all members in the group feel like equals.

"We operate on consensus so there's no real need for hierarchy," Avendano said.

Most of the events were held to coincide with the United Nation's International Day of Palestinian Solidarity on Nov. 29.

According to the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation at www.endoftheoccupation.org, the Division for

Palestinian Rights at the U.N. annually observes this day, which is the anniversary of the adoption of the 1947 Partition of Palestine.

SUPER meetings are held every Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. in CP 101 at the University Park campus.

To receive e-mails from the club regarding future events, write to superfiu@riseup.net.

CLASSIFIED

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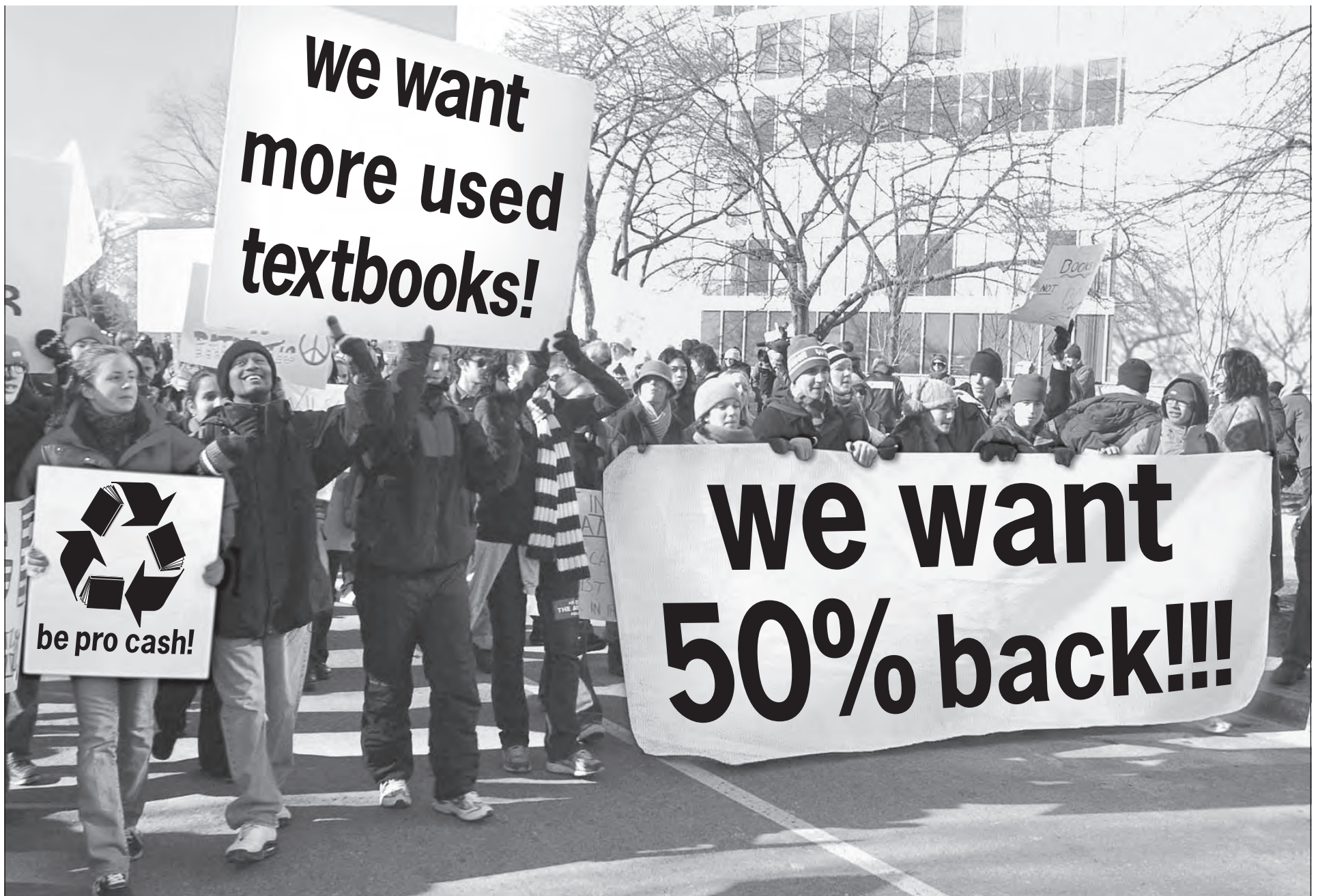
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OPINION

Alejandra Diaz Editor In Chief • John Lovell Managing Editor • Alicia Bustamante Opinion Editor

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With finals around the corner, how high would you say your level of terror is?

- Low – I could sleep through them and still get As – no studying.
- Elevated – I'm concerned but not stressed – 6 hours of studying.
- High – I'll lose sleep – 12 hours of studying
- Severe – Death is the only way out – 20+ hours of studying.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER



Paralysis princess: A South Korean woman became the first patient with spinal cord injuries to be treated successfully with stem cells, walking again after 20 years of paralysis. Take that Dubya.

LOSER



Lava Loony: In a classic example of Darwinism, the Washington man was found dead after allegedly heating a lava lamp on a stove top, causing it to explode and shoot shards of glass into his heart.

QUOTEABLES

"He was pretty well dressed and had a pocket full of money. All I wanted to do was beat him up and rob him ... seemed like a good idea at the time."

– **Aaron McKinney**, one of two men who killed Matthew Shepard in 1998, claiming that he attacked the student for drug money, not because Shepard was gay.

"Have you noticed on 'The Swan' that after all that plastic surgery, most of the women look like drag queens?"

– **Clinton Kelley**, host of TLC's "What Not To Wear," on competing makeover show "The Swan," on which contestants not only are told what to wear, but also given a great deal of plastic surgery.

"Just for a moment imagine the media hysteria and global outrage if 25 million Americans, many of them children, died from a treatable disease because medicine was too costly ... this is exactly what is happening throughout sub-Saharan Africa."

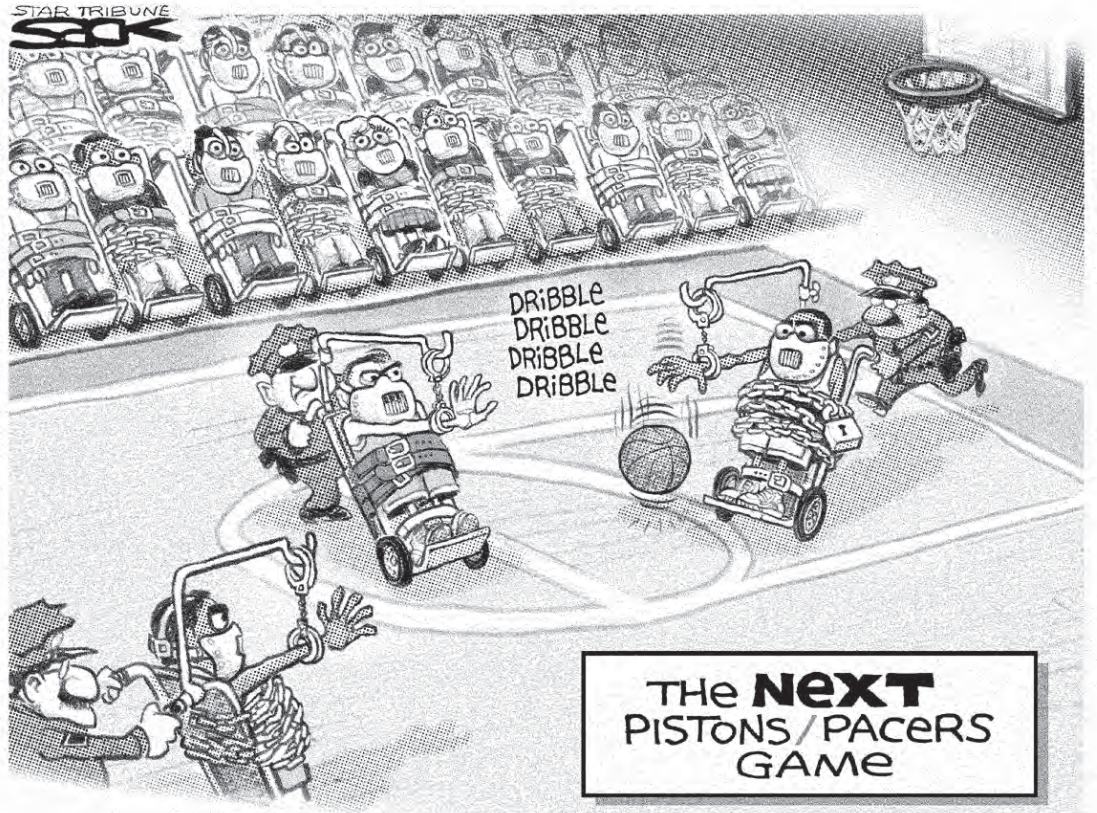
– **Alicia Keys**, singer and songwriter, in a message calling on peers in the music industry to address the AIDS crisis in Africa.

"As you would expect, the loss of freedom and the lack of privacy are extremely difficult. But I am safe, fit and healthy."

– **Martha Stewart**, lifestyle diva, in a Thanksgiving message posted from prison on her website.

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.



Casual use of 'pimp' raises questions

By **BREANNA TURNLEY**
Black College Wire

What thought comes to mind when the phrase "I'm a pimp" rolls off the lips?

It's an image that has led to controversy over whether it is positive or negative.

The modern definition of a pimp is that of a controlling man who objectifies women and forces them to prostitute themselves as a means of bringing in money for himself, giving the women a small portion of their earnings. As times have changed, so has the image of the pimp.

Rap artists Nelly, 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg have been active participants in the evolution of the pimp image. 50 Cent's ever-popular song "P.I.M.P." has been heard on radio stations everywhere.

Nelly has created an energy

drink called Pimp Juice and has even used P.I.M.P. to stand for the Positive Intellectual Motivated Person Scholars program he started in conjunction with Fillmore Street Brewery, the company behind his energy drink.

The scholarship is designed to aid college students, who deserve recognition for their hard work in academics and extracurricular activities. A portion of the sales goes toward his charity foundation 4Sho4Kids.

The pimp image that most of our parents think of is negative. But the modern-day pimp is a high roller with self-confidence, power and an over-the-top fashion sense.

Deshawn Hunt of Marietta Ga., a sophomore sociology/criminal justice major at Dillard University in New Orleans, defined a pimp as

a person who has a lot of females and a lot of money, and is very popular.

Dillard sophomore and history/pre-law major from Baton Rouge, La., Tressa Thomas said a pimp was someone with a lot of power.

"Someone who can free-style poetry that can change your mind about the world and can sell reading glasses to a blind man because his game is so tight. He is someone who is manager, CEO and co-owner of the world's oldest profession," she said.

The hip-hop industry affects the hottest new fashion. People want to wear what entertainers wear. The latest rap song is stuck in your head because it has been played on the radio so often. The word pimp can be seen as a catchy slogan written all over T-shirts.

Hunt said he believes the pimp image has helped the hip-hop industry.

"It has made it better. It has turned the real meaning into something positive to bring in money to the industry," Hunt said.

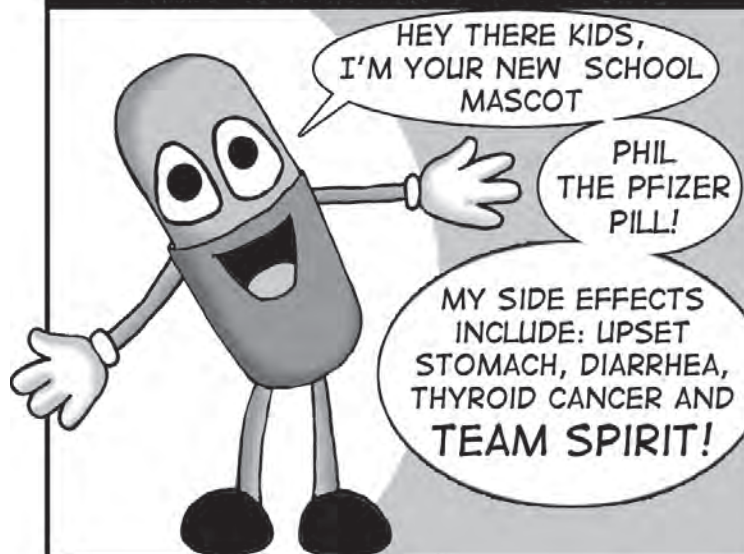
Thomas said it has both helped and hurt. "It has helped the spreading of hip-hop because weak-minded people (gravitate) to things that project an image of wealth, glamour, sex and easy living. It has hurt the industry because it makes artists look ignorant, shallow and self-oriented," she said.

Everyone should pay more attention to what one watches, listens to and repeats. Be careful when you say, "I'm a pimp." The question is, are you really, and if so, what kind are you?

Phew! [FIU] INTEGRITY FOR SALE

BY LUIS NIN

ON SEPT. 1, THE GOLDEN PANTHER ARENA WAS RENAMED "PHARMED ARENA" IN HONOR OF THE PHARMED GROUP'S ONE MILLION DOLLAR DONATION TO FIU'S UNDERFUNDED ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT.
IT MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...



Movie downloads ruin Hollywood profits

By **JAMES L. GATTUSO** and
NORBERT J. MICHEL
The Heritage Foundation

The debate over “moral values,” first raised in the aftermath of Election Day, continues. Now it’s the appropriateness of risque ads for “Monday Night Football” and the popularity of TV’s racy “Desperate Housewives” that’s causing the latest heartburn.

Yet the values issue also was raised recently in a much different context: the fight against the theft of intellectual property. Ironically, it is Hollywood, an industry rarely seen as a hotbed of traditional morality that is leading the fight, filing lawsuits against individuals found illegally trading movies over the Internet. While the move is unlikely to win the movie studios any friends, it is a justified and perhaps necessary step.

At issue is the unauthorized downloading of copyright material without payment to the owners. Typically, such downloading is done through “peer-to-peer,” or P2P, networks, such as “eDonkey.” These networks let users share files on their individual PCs with other network users. In this way, music, movies and virtually any other digital product can be quickly distrib-

uted to millions of other P2P users at no cost. According to one estimate, as of June 2004, some 8 million users were on P2P networks at any given time, sharing 10 million gigabytes of data.

The result is a massive theft of intellectual property, as users obtain works without authorization from or payment to their creators. So far, the main target of P2P downloading has been music, for the simple reason that digitized songs are smaller than digitized movies and can be downloaded more easily. But the rapid proliferation of high-speed Internet access, combined with new technology to shrink the size of movie files, has put the film industry at risk as well.

Video files accounted more than 30 percent of all P2P files transmitted in March 2004, up from 16 percent the same time in 2003. As many as 150,000 movies may be being traded on the Internet each day.

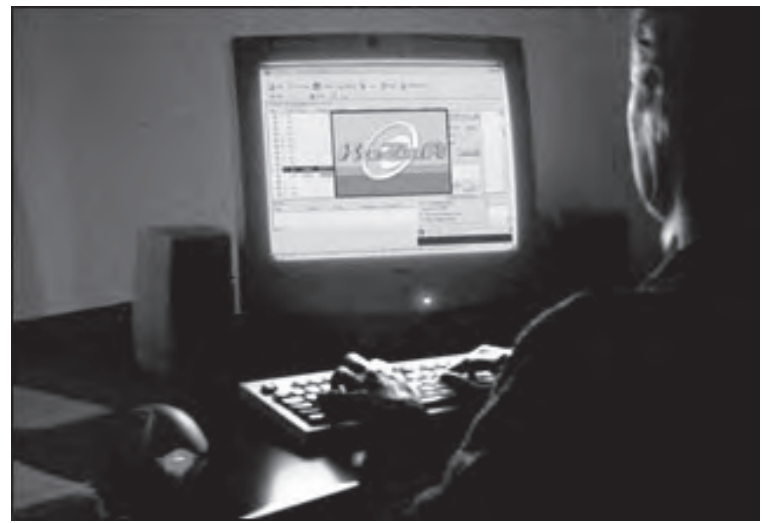
Starting last year, the music industry – through the Recording Industry Association of America, its trade association has been filing suits against individuals using P2P networks to share music files. The movie industry, on the other hand, opted to focus on public-awareness efforts and launched a broad campaign to educate consumers that downloading

copyrighted material without paying for it is wrong.

This did not solve the problem, however, forcing MPAA to go to court, with first civil lawsuits against individual offenders were filed on Nov. 16. If found liable, offenders face fines of as much as \$30,000 for each movie copied or distributed over the Internet, or as much as \$150,000 if the infringement is found to be “willful.”

Filing lawsuits is a controversial strategy for Hollywood, and the demagoguery has already begun, with one MPAA opponent saying “suing 13-year-olds and taking their college money isn’t the best approach.” Yet few question the legal liability of downloaders under copyright law. And the stakes are high for the industry and consumers: the billions in revenue lost through Internet downloading could mean higher prices for law-abiding movie fans and could discourage production of financially risky pictures.

Moreover, direct legal action against infringers is far preferable to many of the other approaches to the P2P download problem that have been discussed in Washington. Many, for instance, have urged federal regulation of PCs, DVDs and other devices that could be used to copy movies and music, in order to make infringement more difficult.



INTELLECTUAL THEIEVRY: The Moral issues concerning usage of online file sharing programs are unnerving to critics. COURTESY PHOTO

Other proposals would extend legal liability to manufacturers of these devices.

Policy-makers, however, should be extremely wary of such a regulatory approach. Any regulation of the fast-changing world of the Internet and consumers electronics would likely hinder valuable innovation, as well as increase costs to consumers.

Of course, lawsuits by themselves are unlikely to solve the P2P download problem. Continued education also needs to be pursued so that potential file-swappers understand why the unauthorized downloading of copyrighted material, like other

forms of theft, is wrong. Another part of the solution is likely to be development of new technologies that allow copyright holders to make copying protected works more difficult.

Stemming the tide of illegal downloading won’t be easy, but going after the worst offenders now, before movie downloads surpass music downloads, could prove to be a wise choice.

Protecting property rights without imposing undue limits on private markets will involve many difficult choices. Suing individuals engaged in theft of intellectual property through file swapping, however, isn’t one of them.

Graduate student promotes campus involvement

By **ABBAS SALEHMOHAMED**
Contributing Writer

It was the day before Thanksgiving. As the university emptied out, I started planning for a much-awaited long weekend. I had three significantly lengthy research papers to work on, a few journals to read and books to check out from the library.

I began to realize again that I was suffering from what every involved student suffers: too much to do in too little time.

I am a graduate student heavily involved in FIU’s campus life activities as SGA Graduate Representative. I love it this way. Although heavy involvement requires time, a scarce resource for all graduate students, I have learned that getting involved is well worth the investment. Besides being a strong complement to my overall college experience, it is an integral component that serves to enhance the acquisition of a

liberal education.

Not only does involvement provide me with welcome activity away from the ordinary, it provides opportunities to experience a tremendous growth in my personal, academic, professional and social life. While it is important to recognize the academic workload involved in earning a post-baccalaureate degree, it is also important to appreciate our institution’s investment (monetary and otherwise) in helping its students realize their ability to establish an identity within the university and the benefits that accompany that.

I went through this realization when I prioritized involvement as a graduate student, in what was the best move I ever made in college. It was this realization that prompted me to express my opinion in *The Beacon*.

More graduate students should prioritize involvement in student activities on campus. Not only would our involvement increase our visibility within the university community, it would reflect positively on our departments, thereby enhancing our academic careers and enriching our overall college experiences.

“Opportunities for graduate students to get involved at FIU are tremendous.”

Opportunities for graduate students to get involved at FIU are tremendous. With an influential and approachable Student Government Association, a Student Organizations Council comprising of over 140 student clubs and an active Graduate Students Association, the division of Campus Life provides innumerable opportunities for those seeking some sort of involvement.

If you do not find an organization that appeals to you – the chances of that happening are very slim – you can start your own!

Just because we are graduate students does not mean that we cannot participate in undergraduate activities. And while undergraduate students should try harder to involve graduate students more, it is important that each one of us, graduate and undergraduate, understand that we can most effectively take advantage of the opportunities presented to us when we work together, as one student body.

I know that as graduate students, we are all very busy. But, I also know that our research papers don’t talk back to us, and that interaction is a key skill that we can all work on at this stage in our careers. Now is the time to make an impact

on not only campus decisions and university policies, but also on ourselves and our fellow students.

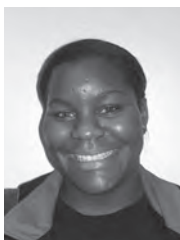
Graduate students should take it upon themselves to play a more prominent role in student activities. We have a power base where everybody can get involved. It is a place where you can make a difference.

I strongly urge you to get involved in campus activities. Join a student organization, chair a committee, start an organization, attend a football game and help us all play an important role in representing our outstanding student body.

As I ended this column, I glanced at the pile of books on my desk and wanted to escape into tomorrow. But, on this night before Thanksgiving, I was compelled to give thanks for where I was and who I am. I am an involved graduate student. I wasn’t always like this, but now, I could not be any other way.

CAMPUS QUERY

Because you live in Housing, how will you be decorating for the holidays?



Sarah Montrichard

International Relations,
Sophomore

“We set up Christmas lights and decorated our apartment with tinsel and holiday pictures.”



Sarah Hall

Psychology,
Senior

“I set up a small Christmas tree with singing lights and I put an angel that lights up in the window.”



Rachel Yorke

Biology Education,
Senior

“I’m going to decorate a wall in my hall with snowflakes that I will make and have my friends sign them.”

Local taqueria guarantees freshness and fast food

A bite with Carlos

Ernesto's Taco Shop – 8845 SW 107 Ave.
Kendall Mall



By CARLOS C. OLAECHEA
Staff Writer

It's after midnight on a Tuesday, and you've just finished a late night cram session in the Green Library for your physics class. There is a strong urge emanating from deep within your stomach. The urge then acquires a voice and soon enough there's a pounding in your ear: "hungry, gotta eat, hungry, gotta eat." However, having lived in Miami almost all your life, you know that your choices are limited. You have Denny's, IHOP, Starlight Diner and Rey's Pizza. But you don't want to sit down and wait for service at the first three, and you definitely don't want the all-night indigestion from the latter. All you want is a good, fresh, fast and cheap bite to eat.

Luckily, Ernesto has the answer to your problem, and just in time for finals week. Ernesto's Taco Shop (formerly Roberto's Taco Shop), located in the heart of Kendall, is a typical Mexican style taqueria. For those unacquainted with the term, a *taqueria* is the precursor to that demonic American creation, Taco Bell. It is a fast food restaurant where the food is always made fresh to order.

In fact, that's part of Ernesto's motto: "always open, always fresh." Yes, you heard right. Ernesto's is open 24 hours a day, six days a week. They close at 9 p.m. on Sunday and open at 9 a.m. on Monday.

So, how does the food measure up? Honestly, at three in the morning after a long night of partying, anything tastes good. However, the cooks at Ernesto's never fail to deliver great tasting well-executed food, even at more conventional times during the day. Their *carne asada nachos* (\$4.95) come with shredded cheese, *guacamole* and sour cream, and can feed a large group. The *quesadillas* (\$3.25 - \$4.95) come in a large variety with everything from just cheese to *carnitas* (seasoned grilled pork). The chicken *quesadilla* (\$3.95), which comes bland in most places, is well seasoned. Ernesto's also offers *taquitos* (\$2.75 - \$3.25), *burritos* (\$4.55), crispy and soft tacos (\$1.85 - \$2.20), and Mexican sandwiches called *tortas* (\$3.75 - 4.35).

Ernesto's also has combination plates (\$5.45 - \$6.50) with items like *burritos*, *enchiladas* and *tacos*. All are served with Mexican rice and refried beans. In keeping with the authenticity

of the *taqueria*, there is a salsa bar that has green *tomatillo* sauce (a fiery red sauce), and spicy pickled vegetables. You don't have to steer away from a completely Mexican meal when it comes to drinks, either. Ernesto's offers typical Mexican drinks like *horchata* (sweetened, cinnamon flavored rice milk), passion fruit and tamarind juices, and Mexican soft drinks (\$1.35). There are times, however, when it's too early, or too late for that matter, to have a typical lunch or dinner-time dish. Fortunately, Ernesto's Taco Shop serves breakfast specials that include familiar and exotic breakfast *burritos* and more traditional Mexican breakfast dishes like *buevos rancheros* (eggs with a tomato sauce).

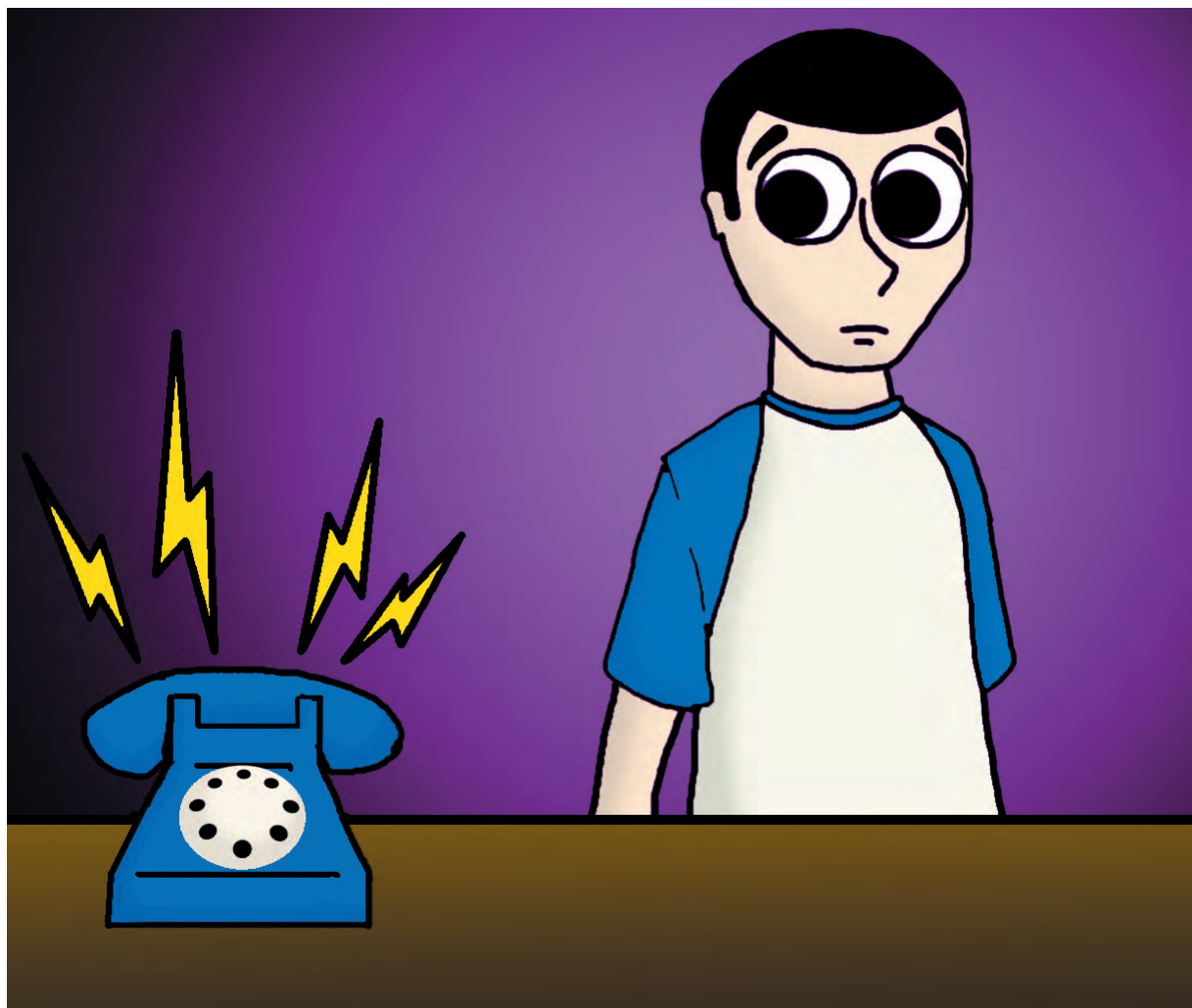
Overall, Ernesto's Taco Shop is quite a lifesaver when you're confronted with a late night hunger dilemma. It's relaxed environment also makes a great place to socialize with friends over a plate of *nachos* or *flautas*.



LUNCH: Ernesto's Taco Shop offers fresh, fast food such as *carne asada nachos* and *quesadillas* at low, convenient prices. JULIA MARCHESI/THE BEACON



TACO'S 24/6: Ernesto's is open to serve customers 24 hours a day, six days a week, only closing at 9 p.m. on Sunday and reopening at 9 a.m. on Monday. JULIA MARCHESI/THE BEACON



DON'T PICK IT UP: The new Jerky Boys album leaves a lot to be desired. ART BY LUIS NIN/THE BEACON

Jerky Boys album falls flat

By **LUIS NIN**
Staff Writer

Before anyone ever heard of "Crank Yankers" or "Touch-Tone Terrorists," the Jerky Boys were prank-calling hospitals about anal wart removal. Revolutionary for their time, the Jerky Boys were the first to make a prank call album. The original phone pranksters are back with their new compilation album, *The Ultimate Jerky Boys*. The album collects over one hour and 40 minutes of pranks

calls from their previous albums. Unfortunately, the album doesn't live up to the hype. Their humor didn't age well, and the album doesn't offer any new material. The CD simply isn't worth the \$25 price tag.

Back in the 90s, there was something unbelievably appealing about the Jerky Boys. Extremely offensive and groundbreaking, they appealed to the anarchist in us all. There was once something down-right hilarious about an outrageously stereotyp-

ical Hindu man calling an emergency room because he was bitten in the eye by a snake he was trying to charm. They took prank calls to a whole new level.

Unfortunately, with the advent of countless reality prank shows like "Jackass," the Jerky Boys have lost their edge. What once shocked us is now old hat. The Jerky Boys' comedy relied primarily on catching the audience off-guard, something it just can't do anymore. Most of the calls just aren't funny. Out of the 51 prank

calls on the album, there are only five calls that are still genuinely hilarious. There's one great bit about an Egyptian magician applying to perform in a night club and trying to convince the owners to let him bring his mountain lions.

But that was the exception and not the rule. Lots of calls just fall flat. Some of the prank calls give the impression that the person receiving the call is amused by the joke. If they're in on the joke, it just isn't funny.

Album marks band's new beginning

By **CARLOS JORDI**
Contributing Writer

It was about two years ago when Peter Arzeno left his drumming position the band September. Arzeno was looking for a more mature and serious group to work with and had considered several options. It wasn't until Fernando Galvez and Adolfo Dorda came into the picture that he felt a sense of belonging. Both Galvez and Dorda had heard of Arzeno's reputation. They knew he was an accredited and competitive drummer who had held several positions on the Miami Springs Marching Band and the local Miami music scene. This match, which gave birth to the band The Parlaphone, proved to be more than a coincidence.

Ever since Galvez and Dorda brought on Arzeno

as a band member, the band has played countless shows, recorded a demo and established a name for themselves in Miami. With the upcoming release of their new album, *First Against The Wall*, The Parlaphone seems unstoppable and displays a promising future.

I got a chance to hear the album, prior to its February 5, 2005 release, and to speak with drummer Arzeno about his feelings on the future.

Upon hearing the album, I was struck by the band's original style. The first track, "Come On," is an inviting tune with a melody that resembles a Beatles' song. The rest of the album is incomparable to anything I have ever heard. Tracks like "Melodramatic," "Yes, I Know" and "Take It Or Leave It," give pulse-pumping rhythms that are matched

with well written lyrics and thoughtful melodies.

However, half way through the album the songs decline in melody and lyric content. "Just Because" and "This Fish Is Dead" have introductions that seem out of place. These two songs don't fit with the rest of the tracks and dampen what could have been a much better album.

On the last four tracks, The Parlaphone's redeem themselves with songs that are similar to the first half of the album. "In Dreams," my favorite track on the album, begins with enough effects and heavy feedback to raise the hairs on your arms. The song is very well written and possesses a quality that separates it from the rest of the album.

Arzeno said that each band member's eclectic taste in music accounts

for the band's original sound and solid feel. He explained how the music they create is the result of a mix of different music. When listening to the album, this mix is evident and refreshing. Arzeno is happy to be out of the studio and admits that making this album was a terrific experience. He learned a lot from working with his bandmates and Tom Anthony, their sound engineer at Natural Sound Studios.

Peter said that the album is a culmination of two years' work, and marks a new beginning for the band. He feels that they have come a long way from where they started and promises their consistent growth.

The Parlaphone remains optimistic about the release of *First Against The Wall* and continue to play shows across South Florida.

markyr CALENDAR

THURSDAY • DECEMBER 2

Feeling stressed? Don't fret! Take a break and relax with the Student Organizations Council. They'll be offering free food and massages from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Panther Square at BBC.

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 3

The Baka Boyz from 103.5 The Beat present the first ever Bakapalooza concert. The wild, crazy, and crunk variety show will be going down at the University of Miami Convocation Center located at 1245 Walsh Ave.

There will be live performances by Lil' Jon, Ludacris, Ciara, Lil' Scrappy, Pitbull, Mr. Vegas and more to be announced. Tickets start at \$15 and are on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets or at the University of Miami Convocation Center box office. For more information contact ticketmaster.com or 305-358-5885.

Sugar plums and fairies will be dancing at the Kravis Center this weekend located at 701 Okeechobee Blvd. The Miami City Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," a classical ballet and long-standing holiday tradition, choreographed by George Balanchine, with a timeless score by Tchaikovsky. The ballet will premiere at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19.50-\$59.50. For more information contact 800-572-8471 or www.kravis.org.

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 4

The FIU School of Music presents the "Prism Concert" at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at UP. The concert will feature the university symphony band and the Golden Panther marching band. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and is free of charge. For more information contact Mary Alice Manella at music@fiu.edu.

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 5

The Frost Art Museum and FIU present "Lespri Endependan: Discovering Haitian Sculpture." This is a diverse selection of over 50 pieces from Haitian sculptors spanning the past half century to the present. The event features Edwidge Danticat who evokes the wonder of her native country while exploring race, class, language and gender in transnational and post-colonial Haiti. The all-day event will take place at UP in PC 110. For more information contact Kevin Huggins at 305-348-2890.



December 2, 1867

English writer Charles Dickens gives his first public reading in the U.S., in a New York City theater. Dickens was a hit with the American public, who anxiously awaited each installment of his serialized novels. The line for his first reading in New York was more than a mile long.

— Historychannel.com

TV is 'blitzen' with specials

By **MARISA GUTHRIE**
New York Daily News

It's that time of year - lots of shopping, cooking and wrapping to keep us busy. And it's a busy season on television as well.

But none of it requires spending wads of money, lifting a finger (just a thumb on the remote) or leaving the cozy confines of the couch.

Here are some of the highlights of the holiday programming onslaught:

Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson further cement their reign as the Sonny and Cher for the new millennium with a holiday variety hour. "Nick & Jessica's Family Christmas," Wednesday at 9 p.m. on ABC, has Nick's old band, 98 Degrees, reuniting for a rendition of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

But that's not all. Jessica is joined by little sister Ashlee for their first-ever TV duet.

It's hard to believe, but Rupolph, Hermey the Elf and those lovable Misfit Toys turn 40 this year. CBS screens the long-running holiday classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," featuring Burl Ives and a score by Johnny Marks, Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The Eds learn the true meaning of Christmas in "Ed, Edd 'n' Eddy's Jingle, Jingle, Jangle," Friday at 8 p.m. on the Cartoon Network. When Eddy finds his presents in

the attic and they all stink, he decides the only way to save his Christmas is to get adopted into another family with better presents. But Ed and Edd help Eddy realize that there's more to the holiday than just loot under a tree.

Joe Mantegna and Jean Smart play a married couple who are skating on the brink of divorce in the CBS movie "A Very Married Christmas," Sunday at 9 p.m., based on Elizabeth Berg's best seller "Say When." Mantegna plays the oblivious husband who is shocked when his wife (Smart) suddenly announces she wants to split up. Charles Durning co-stars.

NBC's "Fear Factor" has a special holiday episode, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., in which contestants step into Santa's boots and try to deliver presents despite the presence of vicious guard dogs.

"Groundhog Day" meets "A Christmas Carol" in USA's "12 Days of Christmas Eve," Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Steven Weber plays a high-powered, self-centered corporate raider and 21st-century Scrooge who is forced to relive Christmas Eve until he learns the true meaning of the holiday. Molly Shannon co-stars.

The Fab 5 morph into Santa's little helpers for "A Very Queer Eye Christmas," Dec. 7 at 10 p.m. on Bravo, taking on one family's bad decorations, holiday cliches and gifting

needs.

"A Clay Aiken Christmas," Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. on NBC, includes the "American Idol" runner-up performing favorite holiday songs with Barry Manilow and gospel singer Yolanda Adams. "Will & Grace's" Megan Mullally also stops by for a solo.

The weather outside is rarely frightful in "The O.C.," but things inside the annual Winter Ball could be when Marissa (Mischa Barton) uses the event to publicly acknowledge her relationship with handyman D.J. (Nicholas Gonzalez), Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. on Fox.

Ben Stiller, Hugh Grant, Britney Spears, Jim Belushi, Brad Garrett, Leah Remini, Jerry Stiller and James Woods bring to life the animated tale of "Robbie the Reindeer: Hooves of Fire," Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. on CBS. Robbie (voiced by Ben Stiller) must train to compete in the Reindeer races against black sheep reindeer Blitzen (Grant) for a spot on Santa's sleigh team.

George Lopez brings his comedy to the ABC movie "Naughty or Nice," Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. Lopez plays a sports radio jock who changes his stripes at the earnest entreaty of a young boy with a life-threatening illness. Once Lopez starts being nice, funny things start to happen, the boys health improves and so do the home teams' scores.

Pop-culture magazine

Entertainment Weekly recaps the year's trends in "The Biggest Little Things of 2004," Dec. 16 at 9p.m. on Bravo. The special examines the "iPod craze," post-Janet Jackson "censorship mania" and the "Perversion of the Family" epitomized by shows like "Desperate Housewives," "Wife Swap" and "Family Bonds."

"K Carroll's Christmas," Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. on A&E, is another take on the Dickens classic. Tom Everett Scott stars as a young greeting-card executive visited by the ghost of a Marley (more Bob than Jacob), as well as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Verne (Mini-Me) Troyer plays the Ghost of Christmas Future and Sha Na Na is featured on the soundtrack.

Dr. Phil and his wife are back for TNT's annual "Christmas in Washington" concert with such acts as JoJo, Michael McDonald, LeAnn Rimes, Ruben Studdard and Vanessa Williams, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m.

CBS' "Home for the Holidays 2004," Dec. 22 at 8 p.m., attempts to raise awareness of adoption via inspirational stories. Jamie Foxx, who was adopted, hosts the special, which includes performances by Black Eyed Peas and Ashlee Simpson.

"A Christmas Story," Jean Shepherd's classic tale about a boy who wants a BB gun from Santa, gets a 24-hour run on TBS starting at 8 p.m. on Dec. 24.

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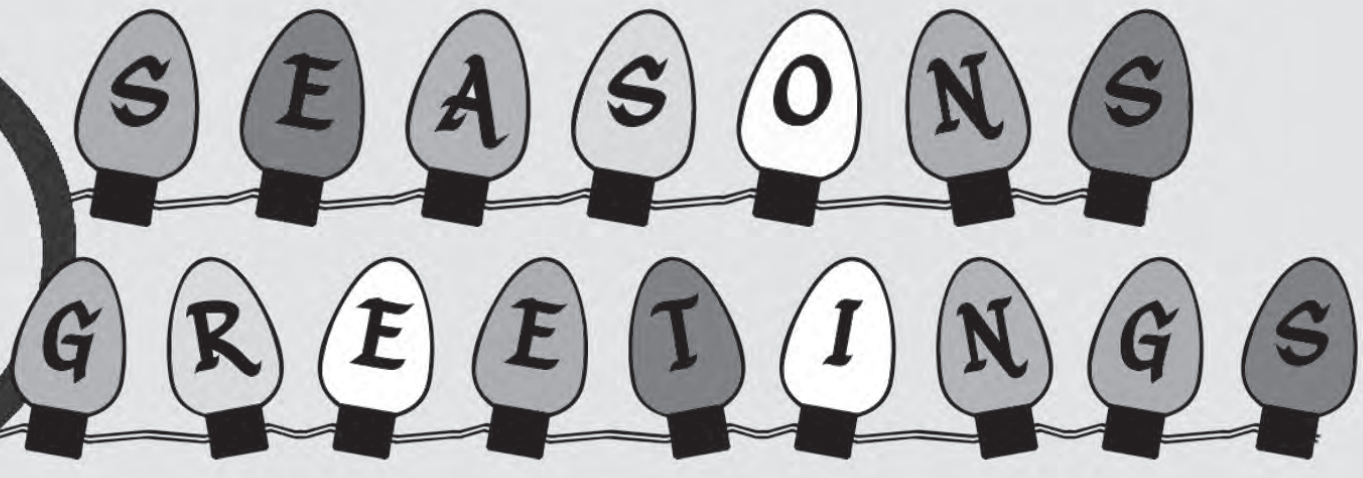
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The Beacon wishes all faculty and students a happy and safe holiday season.

There are several positions available at *The Beacon*.

Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and apply to begin training for the Spring 2005 semester.

Tomova records first double double of season in victory

WOMEN, from page 12

utes and trimming the WVU lead to 35-34. But, the Mountaineers responded with six unanswered points and a 15-4 run over the next seven minutes, beating the

Panthers by a score of 58-49.

Senior Yolanda Paige scored a game-high 18 points with five assists for West Virginia and was later named tournament MVP.

Mountaineers Sherell Sowho joined her teammate on the all-tournament list along with FIU's

Tomova and Eva Makela.

FIU 56 - ELON 44

The Golden Panthers reached the tournament final with a 56-44 win on Nov. 26 over Elon. Lone senior Milena Tomova

finished with her most productive game of the season.

The 6-foot-3 center recorded her first double double of the season with a 25-point, 10 rebound performance, capped off by four blocks.

After an even first half that

saw both sides even at 26 at the break, FIU's 9-2 run to start the second half gave FIU some cushion at 35-28.

The Phoenix followed with six unanswered points, but the Golden Panthers battled back and never trailed again.



FOR THREE: Milena Tomova shoots a three-pointer against Elon. The senior finished with 25 points. *JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON*



DOUBLE THE PLEASURE: Both the FIU and FAMU bands performed in a special halftime performance at the Orange Bowl on Nov. 27. *ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON*

2004 FALL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004

10:00 a.m.
College of Arts and Sciences

3:00 p.m.
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Health and Urban Affairs

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2004

10:00 a.m.
School of Architecture
College of Engineering
College of Education

3:00 p.m.
College of Business Administration -
ALL Undergraduate Candidates
EXCEPT School of Accounting

7:30 p.m.
School of Hospitality and
Tourism Management

College of Business
Administration
• Chapman Graduate School
ALL Business Masters and
Doctoral Candidates
• School of Accounting

IMPORTANT DATES:

Your Commencement pass and guest tickets will be available for pick-up at the Office of the Registrar between **Monday, December 13, 2004** through **Friday, December 17, 2004**, in the campus you designated on the Commencement Confirmation Form.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Academic regalia is required for participation in the ceremony and can be purchased at either of the FIU Bookstores.

Candidates and guests who require special assistance should contact the Office of Disability Services at 305-348-3532.

Family and friends who cannot be present at the commencement ceremonies can view the celebration live over the Internet by going to www.fiu.edu/webcast/live.ram. This link is only available during the ceremony.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call the commencement hotline at 305-348-3666 or visit the website at www.fiu.edu/orgs/commencement

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Coach Don Strock enjoys Orange Bowl homecoming

By **HARRY COLEMAN**
Sports Editor

After eight years, the Orange Blossom Classic returned to Miami and FIU took part in the legendary game with FIU.

The game had a 32-year run in Miami from 1947 to 1979 before the game took place up north at the states capital. The game returned to the Orange Bowl from 1985 to 1995.

FAMU has played in every game and holds a 43-24-1 lead in the series.

Playing at the Orange Bowl was sentimental for head coach Don Strock who played many games as a Miami Dolphin there.

Strock's most memorable moment at the Orange Bowl came on Jan. 2, 1982 against the San Diego Chargers. He entered the game with the Dolphins trailing 24-0 and then ral-

lied the team before falling short, 41-38 in overtime.

Strock, along with former Dolphins and current FIU coaches Bruce Hardy and Tony Nathan, came out before the game the same way they did many years ago as players.

"We took a walk where we used to come out in by the players' lots underneath the Orange Bowl," Strock said. "And it looks like it needs repairs," Strock joked.

The history at the former Dolphins home is what Strock remembers most.

"There were a lot of great football games played in this place by the Dolphins and we were thrilled to be part of it. It was pretty neat to win a game here as a coach knowing you've won some games here as a player."

Strock still remembers a few things about the Orange Bowl as he noticed his players getting tired towards the end of the game.

"Heck, I got tired at the end and I wasn't even playing. That's one thing I still remember about the Orange Bowl is that it's humid. It hasn't lost that through all these years."

Strock and the team will return to the Orange Bowl next year on Oct. 1 to play FAMU again.

1,000-YARD MILESTONE

After sitting out for all but one game last season due to injury, Rashod Smith has returned strong and has become the first rusher in FIU history to run for over 1,000 yards in a season.

Smith finished the game with 109-yards rushing and a touchdown. The senior accomplished the feat of 1,000-yards in the third quarter when he rushed for 7-yards on a draw giving himself 1,003 yards for the season.

The former Miami Northwestern standout has accomplished everything he dreamed off before coming to FIU.

"I had big dreams when I came [here]. Given the opportunities, I was able to accomplish them," said Smith.

Coach Strock says he is proud of his senior running back.

"Congratulations to him, he's a great kid," Strock said. "He's a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room."

PRO PLAYER STADIUM NEXT

The Golden Panthers will again play in a big stadium this Saturday



RUN: Rashod Smith became the first 1,000 yard runner in FIU history. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

Dec. 4, as the team faces cross-town rival Florida Atlantic.

The game will mark the third meeting between the two teams. FAU leads the all-time series 2-0. The Owls won 31-21 in 2002 and 32-23 in 2003. Winning the game comes with two incentives for both teams; one is winning the Shula Bowl and the second

is winning the recruiting battle in South Florida.

The game will kick off at 4 p.m. FAU is looking to add a premier halftime show involving a big name artist.

Originally, FAU had scheduled Atlanta rap group Ying Yang Twins, but the school cancelled after reviewing their lyrics.



HAPPY B-DAY: Strock celebrated his 54th birthday on Nov. 27 and the team won. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

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SLAM! Senior center Byron Burnett picks up two of his five points against Florida A&M. The Golden Panthers defeated the Rattlers 70-45 on Nov. 26. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

Senior Junior Matias hits game winning buzzer shot

MEN, from page 12

basket of the game, FIU lost their footing for most of the first half, and at one point found themselves down by nine, 22-13, with just under six minutes to play in the first period.

They ended the half on 9-3 run and trailed by one, heading into the locker room at the break, 25-24.

The second half was a new chapter for FIU.

With just under eight minutes to play in the game, FIU held their biggest lead at 50-43. The seven point lead diminished as the clock ticked down and the home crowd was brought back into the game with just over three minutes left as Central Connecticut cut the lead to one.

FIU led until Jason Hickenbottom hit two free throws with 13 seconds left in regulation, giving the home side their first lead since the 11-minute mark of the second half.

Trailing by one with 11 seconds to play coach Rouco called a 30-second timeout to focus his troops before the final seconds ticked away.

Following a Central Connecticut timeout with four seconds to play, the Junior show took flight.

Receiving a pass from guard

Jayce Lewis, Matias pulled up and silenced the nearly 1,000 fans inside Detrick Gymnasium.

Central Connecticut had just one last chance to score with less than a second left but failed to convert.

FIU 70 FAMU 45

The FIU Golden Panthers rattled Florida A&M from the start, showing no signs of having too much to eat on Thanksgiving and never trailed on its way to a 70-45 win at Pharmed Arena on Nov. 26. An undersized FIU team stepped up the pressure and held the A&M to just 25 percent shooting from the field.

FIU senior guard Junior Matias came off the bench to lead FIU in scoring with 23 points in 17 minutes.

After the game coach Rouco had only one thing to say about his best performer.

"He's a scorer and he's done a wonderful job for us," said Rouco.

Rouco has told Matias all season one important thing.

"If you're open, shoot it."

Transfer Ivan Almonte once again showed his presence on the court with outstanding defensive play. Almonte lead the FIU with nine rebounds and two blocks.

FIU lead 35-23 at the half in a game in which, the team just couldn't seem to pull away until late in the second period. The Golden Panthers went into the locker room with not only a 12-point lead but also all of the games momentum. The Golden Panthers though undersized took advantage of weak inside play by the state rivals and managed offensive board after offensive board to start the game.

"Our little guys got in the way, bumping them physically," Rouco said. "That's the way we practice."

The Golden Panthers struggled in the first half shooting just 3-13 from behind the arc. Adjustments were made at half-time and the ball was worked far better inside in the second half. They once again put up 35 points, shooting close to 48 percent from the field.

The story of the night however was the inability of the Rattlers to tickle the twine. Having shot just 6-26 in the first half, they managed to shoot just 26 percent in the second, en route to it's third loss by at least 25 points this season.

FIU forced 23 turnovers, including 17 steals, 10 of which came in the second half. Freshman guard Antonio Jones had five steals alone in the second half in just 10 minutes of play.

Fans in attendance enjoy game and school bands

By **ALBERT DEL TORAL**
Special To The Beacon

It was an afternoon of firsts this Thanksgiving Day weekend, when FIU defeated FAMU with a final score of 40-23 in the offensive juggernaut that was the 68th Annual Orange Blossom Classic.

The biggest highlight of the night were FIU's running back Rashod Smith and FAMU's quarterback Ben Dougherty.

Smith became the first FIU player to ever rush for more than 1,000 yards. He had his fifth 100-yard game of the year and fourth in a row.

Dougherty led FAMU by making the longest rush of his FAMU career, a 44-yard sprint in the second quarter.

He later surpassed the 5,000 career-passing yard mark in his final game before graduation.

FAMU head coach William Joe, the fourth most victorious Division I-AA coach of all-time, commented on his star player's final college outing during the post-game conference.

"It's just unfortunate that Ben's time is now, when the program is down and while there's turmoil within the confines of the athletic department," said Joe.

This year marks the first losing season for FAMU since acquiring coach Joe, as the team ended their 2004 run with a disheartening 3-8 record.

Despite the fact that some of his star players were injured for the game and that the FAMU athletic department currently has no president at the helm, Joe made no excuses after the loss.

Other game highlights saw the monster game of FIU's Antwan Barnes who started the game after coming off the bench for the last four. The sophomore returned a 51-yard interception for a touchdown.

"When I made it into the end zone I began doing a celebration dance, but then I remembered what happened to Terrell Owens and stopped. I really did want to dance, though, because it just felt good to be back. Glad I

could make it count," said Barnes after the game.

FIU was also aided by defensive end Venson Jones' 89-yard fumble return for a touchdown, which marked the first and longest in the program's three-year history.

It didn't end there as the play was followed by the longest play for FIU from scrimmage this season.

A 71-yard touchdown pass from Josh Padrick to Cory McKinney in the second quarter. That play was also the longest career passing play for both players.

Many frustrating bad plays occurred during the game leading to what coach Billy Joe called his team.

"Over zealotness to respond to FIU's real error-free football," said Joe.

When FAMU failed to record the extra point after their initial touchdown because of an over snapped ball, FIU's Zach Davis recovered and ran it in for the two-point conversion.

FAMU turned the ball

over an insurmountable six times, including four fumbles and two interceptions.

The FAMU defensive line consistently lagged throughout the game, allowing FIU to capitalize on a new school record of six sacks, before the final quarter got underway.

"I'm keeping my head up despite the loss because today I got to play my final college game in the historic Orange Bowl," said Dougherty, who finished the game with 436 yards passing and 87 rushing.

"I also got to go down with a bang ... scoring three of the Rattlers touchdowns and recording two new records for this school. Things could have been much worse."

At pre-game, it appeared that the expected 20,000-person crowd was mere fantasy but this goal was surpassed when 21,010 came out to watch two unranked state teams with losing records compete in the historic Classic.

Though the majority of the audience was there to show support for their team, that wasn't the only



PICK OFF: Nick Turnbull intercepts his fifth pass of the year against FAMU. **ISIDRO PENTZKE/TO THE BEACON**

reason people came to the stadium.

Fans also came out to enjoy the much-hyped halftime show, which featured performances by the world-renowned FAMU Marching 100 band and FIU's Band of the Sun.

"Big plays win football games and we had a lot of big plays today. Cory McKinney made a big one," said Strook.

"Obviously, we're thrilled! It's like I always say, play hard for 60 minutes and good things will

SPORTS

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Key plays spark Golden Panthers



PICK IT UP: Venson Jones picks up a fumble from FAMU QB Ben Dougherty that Antwan Barnes forced. Jones returned the fumble 89-yards for a touchdown giving FIU a 9-6 lead. The defense had a stellar game causing six turnovers including four fumbles. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**



AUDIBLE: With FAMU stacking up the box to stop the run, QB Josh Padrick changed the play at the line which, resulted in a 71-yard screen pass to Cory McKinney (above far right). **ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON**

By **HARRY COLEMAN**
Sports Editor

It was the birthday present Don Strock was looking for.

With a 40-23 victory over the Florida A&M Rattlers on Nov. 19 at the Orange Bowl, the Golden Panthers snapped a five game losing streak, giving Strock a birthday to remember.

"It's always nice to have something nice to remember a birthday by," said Strock whose team improved to 3-6.

"Winning a game certainly is something that pleased me very much."

Despite missing starting cornerback Greg Moss and leading tackler John Haritan, the FIU defense swarmed the FAMU offense forcing six turnovers for two defensive touchdowns.

Defensive lineman Daunte Monster had a monster game inside and pressured quarterback Ben Dougherty all game long, accounting for two sacks.

"We knew we had to get more pressure on the ball because they're a passing team," said Foster, who had two fumble recoveries in the game.

FAMU got on the scoreboard first on a quarterback keeper where Dougherty scored an 8-yard run.

Kicker Westly Taylor could not kick the ball, on the extra point. Because the snap was long and high, FIU's Zach Davis picked up the ball and returned it to the end zone, accounting for two points.

With the score 6-2 FAMU's defensive end Venson Jones returned an 89-yard fumble giving FIU a 9-6 lead.

After an Adam Moss field goal, the FIU offense finally got on the scoreboard as quarterback Josh Padrick called an audible at the line of scrimmage.

With the ball at FAMU's

29-yard line on first-and-10, Strock called for a hand-off to Rashod Smith. With the Rattlers stacking the box, Padrick changed the play at the line and called a screen for receiver Cory McKinney.

The result turned into a 71-yard touchdown pass as McKinney caught the ball at the line and juked three FAMU defenders by following key blocks by partner Harold Leath.

"They were definitely focused to stop the run," said McKinney who finished with four catches for 108 yards. "Originally it was a run play [Padrick] went to the screen; it was man on man and that's all it took."

Before the end of the first half, linebacker Antwan Barnes came up big for FIU with an interception returned 51-yard and a touchdown, giving FIU a 26-6 lead.

"Overall the defense stepped up in this game," said Barnes. "Coach Strock told us turnovers were going to be important in this game."

Smith came into the game needing 24 rushing yards to become the first Golden Panther to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards in a season.

After rushing for only 15-yards in the first half, Smith exploded in the second half to finish the game with a total of 109-yards on 25 carries.

"Kudos to Rashod Smith," Strock said. "He's a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room."

McKinney and Smith added the final two touchdowns for FIU in the second half.

After the game, Strock was proud of the way his team played.

"We're pleased to win. Big plays win football games and we had big plays today," Strock said.

Men's basketball pick up two straight victories

By **ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA**
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers continued their winning ways for the third time this season on Nov. 29 as the team opened its two-game tour of Connecticut.

The Golden Panthers beat Central Connecticut State by two in a thriller at Detrick Gymnasium in New Britain. FIU improved to 3-1 on the season.

Senior guard Junior Matias stole the show for the second game in a row by hitting a clutch three-pointer with just 1.5 seconds left in regulation to put the Golden Panthers in front.

Following a missed three-point attempt by Central Connecticut FIU won 63-61.

"Once I got the ball, I knew it was going to go in," said Matias in an FIU press release.

Matias, one of three

Golden Panthers in double figures, led the way for FIU with 17 points off the bench. Junior Ivan Almonte once again found his scoring touch adding 14 points and six rebounds. Ismael N'Diaye added 10 points.

The Golden Panthers outshot the opposition by shooting 59.1 percent from the field, including 16-25 in the second half.

After scoring the first

See **MEN**, page 11

Women's basketball drop championship finale

By **ANDRES CORDERO**
Staff Writer

After the FIU/Herald Thanksgiving Classic, the women's basketball team stands at two wins and two losses on the season.

The Golden Panthers opened the weekend with a 56-44 win over winless Elon, but fell short of the tournament title game on Nov. 27 against undefeated West Virginia.

WVU 58 - FIU 49

The Mountaineers handed FIU their second championship loss in two weeks despite three Golden Panthers scoring in double figures.

Senior Milena Tomova led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points including a career-high four three-pointers.

The Bulgarian native is averaging 15 points and nine rebounds per game through the first four games of the season.

Things started badly for the Golden Panthers, who managed just two field goals through the first eight minutes of play. FIU shot 26.9 percent from the field in the first half and trailed by as much as 17 points before going into halftime down 30-20.

FIU looked poised for a comeback at the start of the second half, outscoring West Virginia 21-5 through the first five minutes.

See **WOMEN**, page 9