

ROARY IS COOL
Mascot gets new costume

HISTORICAL ELECTION
Candidates evoke past presidents

CINEMA MAGIC
Upscale theater offers new choices

OLYMPIC BOUND
Track athlete set for Beijing

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

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A DEVIL INSIDE



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

SHOCKING NEWS: FIU theater students Natalie Ceballos and Matthew Mur portray a mother and son in the play "A Devil Inside," which ran from June 26 to June 29. To see more photos of "A Devil Inside," please visit www.FIUSM.com.

University ranks at the top for Hispanics

JULIO MENACHE
Contributing Writer

FIU awarded the most bachelor degrees to Hispanics in the United States in 2007, according to *Hispanic Outlook on Higher Education Magazine*. The magazine analyzed the number of Hispanic four-year graduates from a sampling of universities across the country and compiled a list of the top 100 schools.

FIU ranked first with a total 3,169 graduates, nearly 1,020 more graduates than the second ranked school, the University of Texas Pan American and 2,069 more students than the third ranked school, the University of Texas at El Paso.

Each of the schools in the top ten came from states with heavy Hispanic populations, such as California, Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Florida.

While many in the FIU community look at this distinction with great admiration, some students see it as no surprise.

"It's all about location, location, location. It seems pretty logical to me [that FIU has the most bachelor degrees for Hispanics] because of where we are located in South Florida and our close ties to Latin America," said FIU graduate Pablo Varona, who recently received his bachelor's degree in finance and

HISPANICS, page 2

WHAT A BEACH

When the sun is out, the doctor is in

JUAN PRADO
Staff Writer

If you're donning beach gear, chances are you'll soon find Stephen Leatherman testing sand quality, wave currents and water temperature down by the shore.

Leatherman is a professor at FIU who publishes a list of the top 10 beaches in America under the pseudonym Dr. Beach.

His passion for beaches started at a young age. One day his father came home with a truck full of sand in order to construct the biggest sand box in Charlotte, N.C.

"I loved it," Leatherman said. "I was the sand king."

At age six, Leatherman saw the beach for the first time, an experience that would later inspire him to write the list of best beaches.

"The first time I saw a beach my eyes opened wide and I went, 'Wow, that is the biggest sandbox in the world,'" Leatherman said.

Leatherman graduated in 1970 from North Carolina State University with a

TOP 10 BEACHES OF 2008

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Caladesi Island State Park
Dunedin/Clearwater, Florida | 6. Main Beach
East Hampton, New York |
| 2. Hanalei Beach
Kauai, Hawaii | 7. Hamao Beach
Maui, Hawaii |
| 3. Siesta Beach
Sarasota, Florida | 8. Cape Hatteras
Outer Banks, North Carolina |
| 4. Coopers Beach
Southampton, New York | 9. Cape Florida State Park
Key Biscayne, Florida |
| 5. Coronado Beach
San Diego, California | 10. Beachwalker Park
Kiawah Island, South Carolina |

bachelor's degree in geosciences and in 1976 obtained his doctorate from the University of Virginia in environmental coastal science.

He has authored over 200 journal articles and technical reports in topics revolving around science and nature. He has also given a number of speeches across the globe, in locations including Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Hong Kong, Micronesia and Thailand.

But the idea of making a list of the top 10 U.S. beaches didn't start until 1989.

That year, Leatherman received a call from a travel magazine asking him to prepare a list of the best beaches in

America.

At the time, Leatherman was on his way to China for a trip, but after being pressured by the editor of the magazine, Leatherman jotted down a list of the best beaches he remembered and considered superior.

"I didn't think much about it until the telephone began to ring," Leatherman said in his book, "America's Best Beaches."

Weeks later, Leatherman received a complaint from Daytona Beach's public relations department. They asked why they didn't make the list, even when they

DR. BEACH, page 2

Updated panther marks its territory on revamped logo

CHRISTINA VEIGA
Asst. News Director

FIU spent the summer working on its image, which culminated in the revelation of two new logos last month.

University mascot Roary Rage got a makeover through a fresh new logo from the Athletics department. The emblem features a "stronger" and "more aggressive" panther according to John O'Meara, director of marketing for Athletics.

The University also released a draft of a potential new logo design that encompasses the University entirely.

The logos were reworked by the University's marketing team lead by Associate Vice President of University and Community relations Terry Witherell, so no additional costs were incurred in

their creation.

Both logos feature the acronym "FIU" in block, blue and gold letters. The font type is "more traditionally collegiate," according to Maria Elena Villar, assistant professor of advertising and public relations.

For the potential University logo, under the letters "FIU" are the words *Florida International University*. The word *International* is written in larger letters to represent FIU's multicultural focus. The seal previously used in the logo has been dropped and will be used only for official documents such as diplomas or contracts, according to a press release sent out by University President Modesto Maidique.

Athletics' new logo has

LOGO, page 2

FALSE ALARM



EMILY VOGEL/COURTESY PHOTO

SPLAT: The City of Miami ruled in favor of FIU alumna Emily Vogel, who filed a lawsuit in 2003 for unlawful search and seizure by Broward Sheriff's Office. After noticing suspicious materials, BSO detonated a can of paint in Vogel's car. For the full story, visit www.FIUSM.com

University unveils logo to community

LOGO, page 1

also been simplified, shedding the shield background and tall grasses previously shown. The panther was also reworked, with the new logo featuring both front legs and an open mouth, bearing teeth.

"We tried to get the panther coming out at you with a little more muscle. It just comes across as a little

more aggressive as opposed to the last one," O'Mearly said. "The key words we tried to hit with this new logo [are] strength, courage and determination."

With FIU's tight budget in mind, the change to the new logos will be gradual.

"We're not asking people to throw anything away - that would be a waste of money. It's just when people order new supplies, they'd have the new logo," said Madeline Baró, assistant director of Media Relations.

Neither the University nor Athletics is sure how long it will take to phase out the old logos, or how much it will cost.

"It's a slow process," O'Mearly said.

The new logos came about in an effort to "unify and refresh the

FIU brand," according to Baró.

The University logo was reworked to provide consistency for the FIU brand. Previously, over 40 representations had been used to identify different areas of the University, according to the press release.

"Creating a recognizable and consistent logo will generate a message of pride and community to both our internal and external audiences," said Maidique in the press release.

Athletics decided to change its logo to represent a new era in the department, which has mostly come about due to personnel changes, according to O'Mearly.

"It's not just about Athletics. Part of this new brand is winning on and off the field - in the community and in the classroom," O'Mearly said. "The old logo needed tweaking to represent the new brand we are trying to create here."

The changes to both logos aren't too drastic - and for good reason, according to Villar.

"A dramatic change in logo sacrifices organizational history and brand legacy. It may make alumni and fans feel alienated," Villar said.



Cost, location lures students

HISPANICS, page 1

international business in 2007. "It's a great honor, but [FIU's] location plays a huge role. If this were a northern state such as North Dakota, then it would come as more of a surprise."

According to the last U.S. Census, Hispanics comprise nearly 20 percent of Florida's overall population and 65 percent of Miami's population.

Out of the more than 38,000 students who attend the University, 34,773 are Florida residents. Combined with the fact that FIU is a commuter school makes it a prime destination for local South Floridians who wish to stay close to home.

According to FIU's 2007 fact book, the official head count of the student body since Fall 2007 is 38,290. Hispanics make up more than half the student population as the largest ethnic group on campus with 22,769 students.

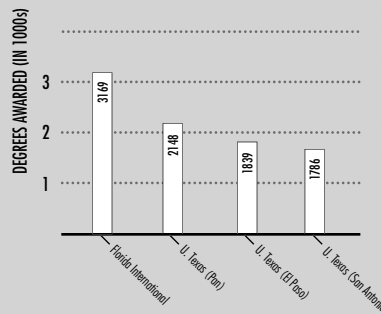
In comparison, the University of Miami, with a student population of nearly 15,000, has a Hispanic population of 3,000 students.

The University of Florida, the largest public university in the state, has a student population of more than 51,000, but less than 6,000 Hispanic students. When compared to other Miami-area schools, FIU had four times more Hispanic graduates than the University of Miami and Barry University.

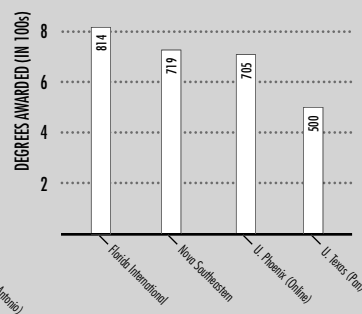
Besides its location, many Miami residents like Varona also chose FIU because when compared to other local universities, FIU's relatively low tuition costs make it less of a burden on their

DEGREES AWARDED TO HISPANICS

BACHELOR'S DEGREES BY INSTITUTION



MASTER'S DEGREES BY INSTITUTION



6

Florida universities in the Top 50.

3,000

Out of 15,000 UM students are Hispanic.

1,020

More FIU Hispanic graduates than #2 school.

22,769

Hispanic students equal more than half of FIU population.

bank accounts.

"For me UM was just too expensive," Varona said.

Ralph Cabañas, who was awarded his bachelor's degree in business administration in Fall 2007, was not surprised by the high number of Hispanic graduates.

"I believe Hispanics have that innate desire to stay close to their families," Cabañas said, whose family originally hails from Cuba. "I chose to stay at FIU because it was close to home."

Cabañas, like many students, looked at FIU's low tuition costs and its close proximity to Miami, but he also looked at some of FIU's other strengths.

"[FIU] has a top business

school and the University is still growing," said Cabañas.

With Hispanics making up such a large part of the FIU student body, some argue that FIU may need more diversity in its college campus.

But graduates like Cabañas compare FIU's current student body to how it was during their early years and see vast differences.

"I remember when I was a freshman in 2004, FIU had a huge amount of Hispanic students. Now I see that the University has become more diverse, with students from all sorts of backgrounds. FIU is growing and truly living up to its namesake of being an international university," Cabañas said.

Professor takes work to the beach

DR. BEACH, page 1

were regarded as one of the greatest beaches in the country.

It was then that Leatherman realized the importance of such a list for Americans who wished to become more informed about U.S. beaches. Leatherman then decided to devise a rating system for beaches.

The list of the top 10 U.S. beaches is now published annually.

Every year, Leatherman recounts 650 major recreational beaches in the nation and, aided with his own research, selects 10 that demonstrate excellent qualities.

He rates beaches based on 50 criteria points including air and water temperature, color of sand, color of water, number of sunny days and rip currents.

The beaches that place first on the list one year are retired for the next to give other beaches the opportunity to receive the top mark.

Beaches that are in second place one year can certainly make it to first place the following year. However, this may not be the case because of several factors.

"All sorts of things happen each year to beaches that affect their rating," said Leatherman.

Thanks to the popularity of his



STEPHEN LEATHERMAN/COURTESY PHOTO

BEACHY KEEN: FIU professor Stephen Leatherman, Ph.D. lounges on the sand - one of many factors he considers when ranking beaches.

list, Leatherman has been featured in segments on CNN News and FOX News. He has also made several appearances on the Travel Channel.

He has been quoted in publications such as *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and has appeared in "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in a special program about the best jobs in America.

Besides his list, Leatherman also enjoys his day-to-day work researching storm impacts and analyzing beach erosion.

"Dr. Beach is an alter ego of mine, it is the icing on the cake,"

Leatherman said. "But as hurricane researchers we are making a difference for the community."

Leatherman is currently the chairperson and director of the International Hurricane Research Center at FIU, a multidisciplinary research and education center with the purpose of mitigating and preventing damage from hurricanes. It also assists communities in dealing with the aftermath of tropical storms and hurricanes.

For more information visit www.drbeach.org or www.ihr.c.fiu.edu.

THE BEACON



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A cooler Roary makes his debut at the Bay

EDDITH SEVILLA
Staff Writer

She's been in office for little more than a month, but already Kenasha Paul is making changes.

The new vice president for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus met with FIU's Athletics department last month and pushed to obtain a new Roary costume with a cooling system exclusively for BBC.

"They informed me they were going to have Roary auditions and [I asked] how are the auditions going to affect the Biscayne Bay? Are we going to be able to have a Roary here?" said Paul, who was unanimously elected as vice president by SGC-BBC on May 21.

Athletics suggested Roary could freelance at BBC, according to Paul. However, to avoid conflicts such as lack of availability, Paul said BBC would benefit from its own costume.

"It makes more sense for us to have our own costume

so we can have it on call and [Athletics] understood our reasons," Paul said.

SGC-BBC paid approximately \$3,500 for the new costume, which comes with a cooling system to help wear-

While I was wearing the costume, I didn't smell anything, but once I got out of it, I was like 'whoa.' The rest of the day I smelled bad.

Kenasha Paul, Vice President
SGC-BBC

ers use the suit for a longer time, according to Paul. The current costume does not have a cooling system and can only be worn for two hours at a time.

Didier Georges, Student Organizations Council president, wore the current costume last summer for BBC's 30th anniversary.

"Because it was hot outside and summer, the costume was extremely hot and I was

sweating a lot," Georges said. "While I was wearing the costume, I didn't smell anything, but once I got out of it I was like 'whoa.' The rest of the day I smelled bad."

Paul partially credits this success to her experience as president of Panther Power and the relationship she had with Athletics.

Paul's work history includes time as director of legislative affairs from Fall 2007 to Spring 2008, Panther Power president from Spring 2006 to Spring 2008 and Campus Life board chair during Fall 2007.

Paul, who has been involved with SGA since the summer of 2005, said she plans to find out what issues concern students.

"I'm not sure exactly the plan of how we're going to knock them out but at least knowing the issues is my first step," Paul said.

Because Paul was not elected by the student body, she will run for vice president in October when the position becomes available again during special elections.

Singer lives double life as a journalism student

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Life! Editor

Ana Cristina Alvarez remembers the first time she sang for an audience when she mimicked Princess Aurora's melodious voice while watching Disney's "Sleeping Beauty."

"My grandmother couldn't believe that such a big voice was coming out of such a little 4-year-old girl," Alvarez said.

The first Hispanic to ever sing the national anthem at a presidential inauguration, Alvarez is now majoring in journalism at FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Alvarez, 23, born and raised in Miami by Cuban parents, is a recording artist whose talent includes a five octave vocal range.

Alvarez's first public performance was for a school event when she was five.

"I just became obsessed with singing," Alvarez said. "I would rehearse after school and record my own demos. Everybody has a hobby, and

mine was singing."

Alvarez grew up singing in competitions, Spanish-language musicals, and at 13 started writing her own music and playing the piano. She learned guitar at 17.

"My parents are not stage parents by any means. They never pushed me into singing. I was just so in love with it that they always supported me," Alvarez said.

Since then, she has gone from singing in competitions on TV shows like "Sabado Gigante" and theme songs for soap operas like Telemundo's "Vale Todo," to singing the 2006 Univision Sports World Cup Germany theme, "You can change the world."

Alvarez was chosen to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the 55th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20,

I've done so many interviews that I wanted to be on the other side. That's why I chose journalism.

Ana Christina Alvarez, Senior
Recording Artist

At 15, Alvarez signed with Sony International's Sony Discos to record her first Spanish-language record, "Ana Cristina," featuring the single, "A un Paso de mi Amor."

"When I heard my first single on the radio I couldn't believe it was me. I always knew I wanted to be a recording artist, I just didn't think it would happen so soon," Alvarez said.

2005. She sang in front of President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and other guests like the Prince of Spain, becoming the first Hispanic to ever sing at a presidential inauguration.

"It was a beautiful experience," Alvarez said. "I felt so blessed to be there. I felt like

SO MUCH TO SEE



RONICHA AZARD/THE BEACON

SO MUCH TO DO: Panther Power gave away free mini footballs, pens and wristlets (top); Science club's vice president Lorilee Valienter and member Christian Jeannot demonstrate chemical reactions (middle), and local band On a Square performs during SOC-BBC's June 26 club fair.

I was doing something for my country."

Alvarez has since sung for the president two more times: in October 2006 when she was invited by Emilio Estefan to sing at a White House event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and again during her April 2007 graduation from Miami Dade College at the commencement ceremony.

Today, Alvarez is focused on working on her new album of pop and R&B club music.

Alvarez is also completing her degree in journalism, which she says is not easy while also working on her album.

"It takes a lot of energy, planning and emphasis," she said.

Her mother Teresa knows that it is not easy for Alvarez, but is confident that she will succeed.

"Ana Cristina is a good, happy person and has high standards. She is very optimistic and has a very good attitude about life. She is strong and doesn't give up for anything," she said.

She has succeeded as a recording artist but getting an education was never out of her plans. Her parents also influenced her decision to attend

school.

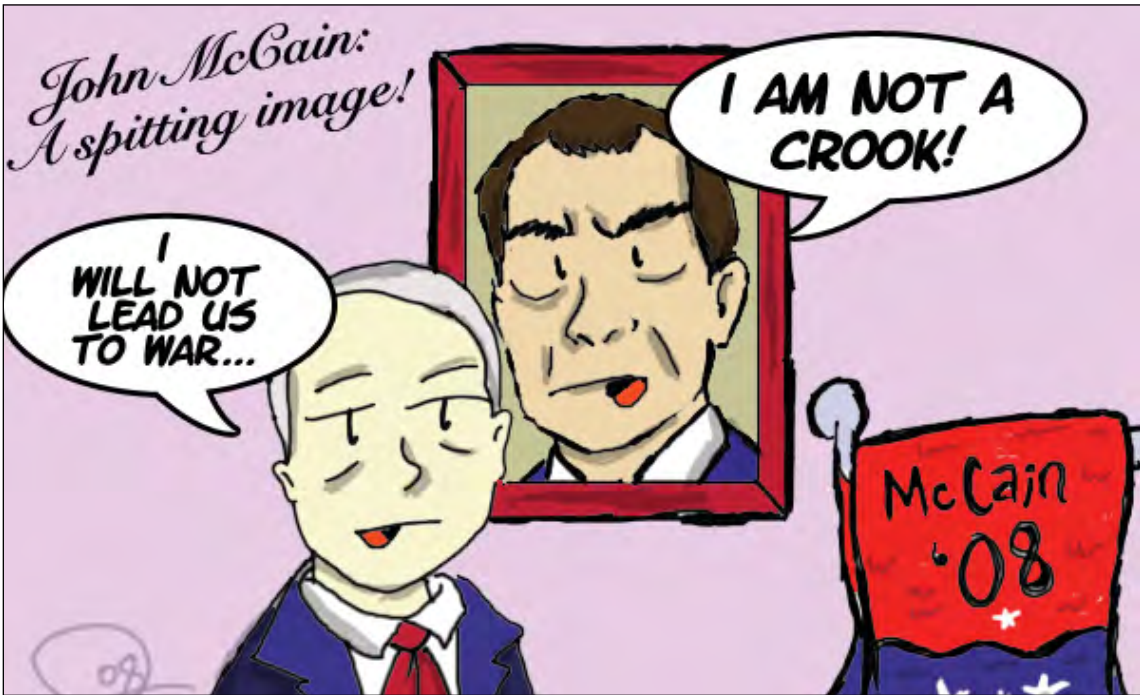
"I am a mechanical engineer, and I know how important an education is. So we encouraged her to get one," said her father Rene.

"I always wanted to have an education and not have people say that I have missed on something in my life," Alvarez said.

Now a senior, Alvarez will graduate in the spring of 2009.

"I've done so many interviews that I wanted to be on the other side. That's why I chose journalism. I love to write and I feel passionate about this school," Alvarez said.

History repeating in '08 election



CHRIS CABRAL
Staff Writer

Both of our two most likely choices for the White House this year bear striking historical comparisons to past leaders.

While Sen. Barack Obama is older than John F. Kennedy was when he moved into the Oval Office in 1960, the presumptive Democratic nominee does share the late President's oral eloquence and barrier breaking biography, with Kennedy being the first Catholic President and Obama vying to be the first African American.

Yet it is Obama's opponent's similarity to Richard Nixon that may very well swing the election in the Democrats favor.

John McCain has often been compared to our incumbent, George W. Bush, and while the two have been close allies over the past eight years, with McCain voting with Bush 95 percent of the time last year, according to the Congressional Quarterly, McCain's record evokes a quote from J.F.K., who 48 years ago critiqued his opponent, Nixon, as he accepted the Democratic nomination.

"We know it will not be easy to campaign against a man who has spoken and voted on every side of every issue," Kennedy is quoted as saying.

George Bush and his campaign team painted John Kerry as a "flip-flopper" in 2004, yet Kerry, for all

his political flaws, wasn't nearly as inconsistent as his opponents made him out to be. John McCain, by contrast, is almost forced to contradict himself.

McCain, after all, offered a glowing endorsement of Bush and his policies in 2004.

McCain, disturbingly, often tries to sound like he's become more like the Democrats in a deceptive attempt to win votes.

"On the most important issues of our day, I've been totally in agreement and support of President Bush," McCain said in an interview on Meet The Press on June 19, 2005.

So, like Nixon, McCain is being forced to try to defeat a charismatic opponent. McCain, disturbingly, often tries to sound like he's become more like the Democrats in a deceptive attempt to win votes. With high gas prices squeezing millions of Americans, he was quoted in the *New York Sun* on June 13 stating to a crowd, "I am very angry, frankly, at the oil companies."

Yet his bout of progressive popu-

lism was short lived.

A few days later he was in Houston, criticizing Obama in front of executives from big oil companies, declaring his support for sacrificing the coasts of Florida for drilling, something he had long opposed.

In a television ad, McCain declares his hatred for war, despite his longstanding support for the Iraq War.

Despite having voted with the president's position 95 percent of the time last year, he's attempting to claim he's not like Bush. Despite a zero percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters on environmental issues, he's claiming to be "green." Despite his commitment to staying in Iraq, he talks about his hatred of war.

In 1968, Nixon faced an electorate unhappy with the war and promised "peace with honor." Once elected, he promptly escalated the war and expanded the fighting into Cambodia.

He kept the war going for five more years. McCain would likely use a similar strategy for Iraq. Democrats and Independents alike must fight to ensure that Americans elect the Kennedy-like Obama, before McCain has the chance to become the 21st century Nixon.

Chris Cabral is president of FIU College Democrats

THE BEACON | Editorial

Athletics takes the steps necessary to keep progress scores above the national average

Although long over due, the Athletics department is beginning to take the NCAA's allegations that it "lacks institutional control" seriously.

For the past two years, FIU has been hit with penalties from the NCAA for poor academic progress rate (APR) scores, misapplying financial aid and allowing ineligible student-athletes to compete in competition.

APR scores are used to measure how well Division I student-athletes are performing academically during a four-year period. If a team scores less than 925 consistently, the NCAA's punishments can range from scholarship losses to termination from Division I.

From 2003 to 2007 men's basketball, football, baseball, men's track and women's swimming scored under 925.

Even though Athletics has installed various support systems to help student-athletes succeed while at FIU, students continue to fail. Since APR scores are calculated during a four-year period, it may take sometime for the cumulative scores to improve.

But the department is heading in the right direction in addressing the problem by hiring additional compliance officers, giving more athletes resources at the Student-Athlete Academic Center and hiring an APR specialist.

Going to such extremes is the

only way to make this problem go away. If the problem persists, the NCAA can ban teams from postseason completion or even relegate it to Division II status.

Being downgraded back to Division II would be a major blow to a University that has invested so much money into advancing its athletics program.

By focusing so much attention on Athletics, the University is hoping for a return on its initial investment in the future. Here are just some expenses: a new stadium, a new logo, new coaches, new equipment, support staff and the Student-Athlete Academic Center.

Even though coaches may be frustrated with APR scores, it helps student-athletes get help in the classroom. This ultimately holds the coaches and their players to higher standards.

APR ensures that student-athletes gain an education along the way, since many critics argue that schools use athletics as a means of producing a lucrative revenue stream, without student-athletes seeing a penny for their labors.

On the other hand, universities argue that student-athletes are being rewarded with a degree they are earning while in college.

Unless APR scores begin to be taken seriously, the value of these degrees will always be held in question.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to opinion@fiusm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FCAT article presents misfacts amid its irrelevance

Juan Carlos Sanchez's FCAT article was reporting on a moot point, if only because no one at FIU (except education majors) is affected by this topic.

Sanchez misses the entire concept of standardized testing by suggesting that the FCAT should only be administered at certain grade levels.

The test is administered yearly for the purpose of students advancing year by year rather than performing abysmally on the test every two to three years.

There was also a factual error: "Neil Bush is the CEO of this company that earned

\$20 million in software to prepare students for comprehensive tests."

However, the millions Sanchez is referring to is actually the seed money Neil Bush raised to start the company.

This, in fact, released said software several years prior to the No Child Left Behind Act.

Joseph Marhee
Sophomore
English Major

RESPONSE FROM THE WRITER

Standardized test is pertinent to current FIU students

Even though it was created in 1999, the influence of Ignite on the public school system is obvious.

It was specifically designed to assist the standardized testing that currently takes place in public schools today.

The company plans to sell its software at a price of \$30 per pupil per year, according to democracynow.org

In regards to no one in FIU being affected, that is highly questionable.

Many students already have children attending public schools.

If not, once graduated they will have

children.

FCAT is not a moot point or "piece of history."

This is an election year in which voters are being re-considered after the state Supreme Court banned them.

Now is the time to hold legislators accountable for their actions and remove them if necessary.

Juan Carlos Sanchez
Contributing Writer

Cobb Theatres presents dinner and a movie

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Contributing Writer

Going with a date or a group of friends to watch a movie has become a classier affair.

On May 30, Cobb Theatres opened an innovative experience in Dolphin Mall, just north of University Park. Although CinéBistro, a movie theater/restaurant hybrid, is located next to Dolphin 19 – the mall's original cinema – it caters to a different audience.

The atmosphere is more sophisticated than a typical local neighborhood cinema.

Upon entering, guests are greeted by white leather couches and a crystal chandelier which are separated from the dining area by a curtain of beads. Above the black dining tables and gold chairs are huge mirrors arranged at dif-

We want to make you feel like you are enjoying a movie from your living room while enjoying a high-end meal

Niketic Vedran,
General Manager of CinéBistro

ferent angles.

Behind the bar are two screens playing comedies from the golden age of cinema.

The walls are littered with memorable movie quotes such as "May the force be with you," "I'm the king of the world!" and "Yo, Adrian!"

Aside from its décor, CinéBistro differs from regular "movies-only" locales in other ways. Inside one of the five theaters, one can recline on large, high-backed leather seats and eat lunch or dinner.

Rather than popcorn or

nachos, the cuisine is high-end and the *tapas*-inspired menu is small yet diverse. Jerk chicken, bacon-wrapped shrimp and crab salad with mango are a few of the specialties.

The dessert menu boasts Caribbean-infused items such as *café con leche flan* and the highly recommended *empanadas* filled with guava and cheese.

"We want to make you feel like you are enjoying a movie from your living room while enjoying a high-end meal," said Niketic Vedran, general

manager of CinéBistro.

Once the meal is finished, one can lift the arm rest and snuggle up next to their significant other while indulging on one of their many movie-themed cocktails: the 007 Martini, Exorcist Bloody Mary and Sex and the City Appletini.

Because of issues with its liquor license, CinéBistro can only allow people 21 and older to watch a movie – the restaurant is open to anyone.

Senior Stephanie Araujo, a political science major, is eager to try out this new experience.

"I can't wait to go because you'll get it all in one spot. You do not need to stress about where to go on a night out," she said.

The cost of watching a movie at CinéBistro is \$15 on weekdays and \$17 on week-

ends which includes valet parking.

The prices for meals vary almost as much as the assorted selections on the menu. It ranges from \$5 for a starter of ham croquettes to \$25 for an entrée of *tournedos*, which are small, round meat tenderloins with mushrooms

The Dolphin Mall location is the first in the country, however, Cobb is open-

ing new locations in Tampa, Daytona Beach and Alabama in the near future.

For more information, call (305) 455-7373 or visit <http://www.cobbCinéBistro.com/>.

Visit our web site to see what CinéBistro is like on the inside.

www.FIUSM.com

CinéBistro:

Sunday - Thursday
11:30 AM - 11:30 PM

Movie Times:
(305) 455-7373

Ticket Pricing:
Monday - Thursday:
\$15 Per Ticket

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & holidays:
\$17 Per Ticket

Peer advisors welcome fresh faces at orientation

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

Orientation, for some, is the day where reality finally hits. College is right around the corner and it might mean waking up too early, tired from the weekend festivities.

With peer advisors running orientation, it might not seem so boring to watch other college students do silly skits about serious situations they might encounter at some point in their college life.

What started out as a partnership with undergraduate studies in the late 80s to help out with academic advising has evolved over the years into the peer advisor system we have today.

Both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus have their own set of peer advisors. At UP, the peer advisors have different committees, each in charge of a specific task to help facilitate and distribute the

work load evenly.

Waking up around 5 a.m. for every orientation in order to prepare everything, from the signs to the giveaways can become tiresome.

The teams eat breakfast and do cheers to get ready for the long day ahead that typically ends at 10:30 p.m.

"For me it's really hard to wake up, but as soon as I start doing the work and I start seeing the freshmen come in, for some reason, I just get this jolt of energy and it's like 'Hey, welcome to FIU,' and when they go inside I crash," said sophomore Daisy Martinez.

According to associate director for the orientation office, Anna Cuba de la Fe, since 2000, the tradition has been to announce the new peer advisors the first day of school during the Spring semester at noon in the pit.

The reason behind this tradition is for the advisors to wait for fall grades to

come in and make sure that the students they've selected have made the minimum GPA requirement of 2.5.

Each year a variety of students are selected to become peer advisors. From the shy and not so involved student to the perky and hyped up overly involved student.

This year alone the orientation office received over 160 applications, from which only 25 students were selected for the 2008-2009 year. Typically, out of the 25 students, two are returning peer advisors.

Rigorous training began in the Spring semester up until the week before the first orientation in June.

In between the training sessions, the team prepared to attend the annual Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) where it had the opportunity to meet other orientation leaders and see what other universities do for their orientation sessions.

Showing off school spirit with dance off competitions and creating a banner are just some of the activities that happened at SROW.

This year the team won first prize for having the best banner in the southern region.

"I've got to say FIU, just being a commuter school and maybe not being as big as Alabama State or North Carolina State, definitely beats the pack. They are always waiting for us to do our cheers," said returning peer advisor Chris Ponce.

For those students interested in becoming peer advisors, applications are out by late September or early October and can be

picked up in GC 112.

Information sessions are held during the month of October for students who are interested in learning more about the duties of peer advisors or any questions they might have.

Whether it is impacting freshmen's lives, or teaching others about the university, peer advisors are, at some point, the first person students befriend in college.



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GO TEAM

Greek Affairs seeks to expel stereotypes

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

Promiscuous girls, scandals, cheaters, hazing and party animals – no, it's not an episode from MTV's "True Life," just the typical stereotypes many identify with fraternities and sororities.

To put these myths and labels to rest, the Office of Greek Affairs established the Greek Orientation team, more commonly known as the GO Team.

For the past seven years, a team of about 15 to 20 students has been selected to represent Greek Affairs during freshmen orientation. Incoming freshman might remember seeing the team dressed in green polos presenting experiences about Greek Life during Get a Life.

Team leader Melissa Sabatier joined the GO team in the hopes of dispelling Greek stereotypes.

"A lot of people say we are party animals and cheaters who have test banks. Our purpose above all is to squash these stereotypes and to prove to those who are incoming [freshmen] or already on campus that we are more than what a lot of people think we are," Sabatier said.

In May, the team began putting together a video for incoming students at orientation. The film highlights how joining a fraternity or

sorority will make a difference in a student's life.

The group has been given the opportunity to input ideas and visions regarding how they want to present Greek life to incoming freshmen.

This year, the team will be focusing more on presenting to first year experience classes, setting information tables throughout the University and possibly presenting at high schools for future students.

From capturing an audience of any-

possible to please everyone but, despite the barrier, the team has tried to be as creative as it can.

Opening with a presentation video showing crazy parties with alcoholic games, the team catches the attention of freshmen sitting at orientation.

"The team has really stepped it up and taken initiative and just created this presentation on its own," said Camargo, with high hopes and excitement for the team.

Other requirements include getting the signature of the president of their organization and their advisor.

Applicants go through an interview process where various staff and students from Campus Life sit on the committee to decide who will be a good asset to the team. The new team is announced at the Greek BBQ during the spring semester.

GO team member Sheska Ocasio, a junior majoring in public relations, recalls her first presentation that took place at the beginning of June.

"The first day we presented I was scared. I remember being on that stage and seeing a lot of people in the ballrooms, but it's the fact that it was something I wasn't use to," said Ocasio. "You have to watch out for other people's backs and stay on your toes to make sure we give students accurate information. I was nervous until we started rolling with the punches with our video."

"Don't embrace the stereotypes."

It is a message the team is trying to get across to students and the quote they used to end their video.



where between 200 to 300 students, to pleasing administration and peers and making sure everyone is represented correctly is the team's biggest obstacle, stated Thathine "Chini" Camargo, the teams previous advisor. It is im-

In order to be involved in GO team, students must be a part of a fraternity or sorority and have a minimum GPA of a 2.5. Applications are usually out by January at the Campus Life office located in GC 2240.

For more information on GO team, contact graduate assistant Joanna Garcia at Jgarc154@fiu.edu

Sean William Scott looks for life after *Pie*

STEVEN MESA
Contributing Writer

Two mid-level supermarket employees, one managerial position. Sean William Scott faces off with John C. Reilly in a battle of wits in the new movie written by Steve Conrad (*The Pursuit of Happyness*), *The Promotion*.

As a fan of Conrad's work, Scott came on board for *The Promotion* because he enjoys the comedy that Conrad's script delivered.

"His comedy comes from his voice and how he writes about human struggle, work, relationships and I really enjoy that," Scott said.

Aside from being a fan of Conrad, Scott is also a fan of his co-star's work.

"Reilly's performance is so unique and beautiful that he should be nominated", Scott said. "I may be exaggerating, but I think he is so great in this movie."

Recently, Scott has said that he cannot watch his performance in his movies *Mr. Woodcock* and *The Dukes of Hazzard* because both

movies were terrible. "It is important to think that not all movies you were in were great", Scott said.

In regards to *The Dukes of*

of Steve Stifler, the over-sexed hound dog who always found himself in the most disgusting situations.

Since then, Scott has been in the first two *American Pie* se-

You can kind of coast for a while, but at the end of the day you need a movie that needs to make some money.

Sean William Scott

Hazzard, in which he co-starred with Johnny Knoxville, he thought the movie should have been raunchier than the final cut that came out in the summer of 2005.

"The movie should have been like how guys really talked with me and Johnny but we were kind of handcuffed due to the PG-13 rating," he said.

On July 15, it will be a decade since the first *American Pie* was shot. This became the launching pad to Scott's career with the role

quels, *Dude, Where's My Car?* with Ashton Kutcher and *The Rundown* with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, but has yet to star in another blockbuster.

"I am always reminded of it because I would not have the life I have now if it was not for *American Pie*," Scott said.

Scott's next movie is called *Role Models* with Paul Rudd in which they both star as energy drink reps who enroll in a Big Brother program.

Scott is hoping that his co-star-



JASON DECROW/AP PHOTOS

STIFFLER GROWS UP: Sean William Scott, best known for his role in the *American Pie* series, recently starred in *The Promotion*, with John C. Reilly.

ring turn with one of Hollywood's most dependable funny men will be the big hit that turns him into a true Hollywood leading man.

"You can kind of coast for a while, but at the end of the day you need a movie that needs to make some money."

Steven Mesa can be reached at moviefilmdevotee@yahoo.com



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Recruits build athletic programs, logos do not

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The Leprechaun has been putting up his dukes for the University since 1965.

The storied athletics program saw its variety of mascots and logos before solidifying the Leprechaun as the official logo.

Before 1965, the University still won seven of its 11 football national championships.

But how could it be? How is it that Notre Dame was a football powerhouse for decades without its symbol of strength and prowess?

Easy, the logo isn't putting on a uniform and playing for the team.

What attracts up and coming football prospects to Notre Dame is not the team's mascot or logo, it's the team's history and reputation for winning.

Notre Dame Football has won the most national championships in NCAA history, over 100 years of tradition and no season with more than 9 losses.

Those types of facts draw good players to Notre Dame, not the silly logo.

Last season's team posted a 3-9 record, the worst in the program's history. Where was the Leprechaun to save them in 2008?

Perhaps Head Coach Charlie Weiss' fortunes will change once he proposes the University add vampire teeth to the logo and roll up the Leprechaun's sleeves



APR policy forces academic compliance effort reform

APR, page 8

only employees of her kind in the nation. Working under the compliance office, Garcia is the "gatekeeper" of all scholarship athletes, and will be working with incoming athletes and making sure APR guidelines are met.

Garcia understands the university's vision and is impressed with FIU's direction, which has been initiated by athletic director Pete Garcia.

"I am impressed with Pete's [Garcia] realization that this is a process. From the beginning of recruiting to graduation. He is not just

into the numbers but the process," Garcia said.

"There is a commitment of everyone to start a foundation with a clean slate from the registrar's office to me."

As the APR specialist, Garcia is also an assistant director of compliance, who will work with Eligibility Assistant Director Jessica Plantada-Diaz and financial aid specialists in the University to prepare FIU to succeed for the next circulation of APR evaluation.

A START

After a successful 2007-08 academic year for ath-

letes that saw a tremendous cumulative GPA improvement, Garcia is sure of the positive direction, but it is the incoming recruits who will have to get the grades in order for the University to be released of its probation.

The recruiting process will be more challenging than ever in the search to bring the best student-athletes to the University who can succeed on the field and in the classroom.

"We have to make this better," Garcia said. Those words have rattled FIU's athletic program more than ever before.

Whether it's a sissy bird, crazy old leprechaun or steroid-filled turtle, logos represent winning programs, but should not be altered in an attempt to create them.

Not changing the logo is a way to build tradition. When a university is constantly changing its identity, recruits and fans alike have trouble associating one logo to the school.

Maryland decided to keep the "mean" and silly logo for many years, but it's what represents the University's athletic program now and forever. Whether it's a sissy bird, crazy old leprechaun or steroid-filled turtle, logos represent winning programs, but should not be altered in an attempt to create them.



PICK UP GAME



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

FACE-TO-FACE: Members of the FIU men's basketball team (left to right) Badara Ndiaye, Nikola Gacesa, Harley Fuller and Josue Soto play a pick up game at the FIU Arena on June 26.

Father, girlfriend lead track star's cheering bandwagon

FORBES, page 8

I would really like to try to get my time down to 13.4 seconds. I really feel that I can do it, but it's just a matter of time and weather conditions.

Q: Who has been your biggest supporter on this journey? How?

A: My biggest supporter through all of this has mostly been my dad. Not only has he been the main financial backbone through this whole thing, but he is worse than a girl sometimes when it comes to bragging that he has a son that is an Olympian — but how can I blame him?

FIU and its athletic staff has also done wonders for me. My head coach, Eric Campbell, has been the one man crew that got me to get so far ahead in so little amount of time. He did this not only on the track, but in the books also. My girlfriend has also been one of my biggest supporters through all of this. She helps me to find answers to questions that I sometimes can't answer myself.

Q: What has your training consisted of over the last two months?

A: My training has consisted of very fast repetitions of hurdling and sprint work. I have cut down the gym and weight room so I don't tire my muscles.

I need to keep them strong. Campbell and I have been working on trying to keep me at my peak performance for the months leading up to the Olympics. We want to try to have me run my fastest time at the Olympics, when it really matters most.

Q: Are there any habits you need to break as you move to this next level of competition?

A: I have been really hard to break my bad habits. I am trying to get more sleep because school makes me miss out on a lot of sleep time. The books are always first, but now that I have graduated, I am trying to sleep as much as possible.

Q: How does it feel to represent not only FIU, but also the Cayman Islands at the Olympics?

A: It feels like a dream to me. To know that I'm going to be representing FIU and my country at these games, is a one in a lifetime opportunity. Many of the guys that I've competed against this year probably will not make it to these games for various reasons. This is an opportunity that is not to be taken lightly.

Q: Describe the emotion you felt after getting injured right after making the qualifying time at Drake.

A: After re-aggravating my foot during nationals at Drake, I was just hoping that it was not too bad to the point where it would affect me drastically. I was just praying that it would get better by resting it, and it did. So, I am really grateful.

Q: Medal or no medal, what are your plans after the Olympics?

A: After the Olympics, my plans are to go pro. I love track and field to the point that it has become a major part of my life.

I would do it all day long if I had the energy. Besides my family and my girlfriend, it's what I love most.

To keep competing for my country is something that I'm obligated to do, not just for myself, but for the up and coming youth that might not have that guidance that they need. Mostly, I want to give them someone and something to look up to as a role model.

Student Media is now accepting applicants for Sports Director for the Fall semester

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FIU GRADUATE QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPICS

Track star discusses training, life after Beijing

AUDRINA BIGOS
Contributing Writer

Caymanian Ronald Forbes, a recent FIU graduate, qualified to represent the Cayman Islands in the 110-meter hurdles at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Forbes joined the track team at FIU in 2005 after being scouted and given a full athletic scholarship out of Bacone College. He battled injuries throughout his entire FIU career but now, all his dedication has clenched a spot in Beijing.

On June 13, Forbes clocked 13.625 seconds in the semi-final round at Nationals, beating the 13.72 second mark needed to attain the Olympic qualifying standard. Forbes was only .44 of a second behind the NCAA record of 13.21 run by Aries Merritt in 2006.

Unfortunately, he slightly re-aggravated an injury during the race, which hindered him in the finals, as he finished eighth with a time 14.05 seconds.

Forbes is still training and competing until he travels to Beijing later this summer.

Forbes Q&A

Q: If you could describe your journey during the last 5 months in 3 words, what would they be?

A: Long, hard, and rewarding.



Q: What has been your biggest obstacle on your journey to Beijing?

A: Some of the biggest obstacles that I've had on my journey would be injuries. They really kept me from learning some of the critical skills I need to know in order to run this event. I not only had to deal with the physical despair of the injury, but also the mental frustration because of me not being able to do many of the things others could do. When trying to run at my best, having an injury is not too fun. It sometimes takes away my confidence because I know my body isn't functioning at 100 percent.

Q: What expectations do you have going into the hurdles at the Olympics?

A: At the Olympics, my goal is to make it through as many rounds as possible. I really don't want to get knocked out in the first round. One of the main things I want to accomplish in China is to better my current personal best time.

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Academic rules affect coaches' jobs

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

There was a time when the NCAA didn't have such strict academic regulations.

A time before academic reform efforts changed the standards division I programs had to meet.

Men's basketball coach Sergio Rouco can explain:

"As coaches, we are cleaning up the program academically, while trying to win games," he said.

Since the APR (academic progress rate) was instituted in 2003, athletic programs have had to live up to a higher academic standards for their student-athletes.

The APR system is an assessment of academic performance that gives points to teams based on student-athletes reaching academic eligibility.

A score of 925 during a four-year span is needed in order to appease the NCAA, something FIU was not able to do in basketball, football, baseball, men's track and women's swimming from 2003-2007, all five teams scored under 925.

As a result of the low scores, FIU lost more scholarships than any other team in division I in 2007 and lost more than five total scholarships in 2008.

Rouco believes that the new rules are in the best interest of the student-athletes and education, but has made it more difficult for coaches to keep their jobs.

'HARSH'

"The APR started the year I came in here in 2003, so I inherited it. We are frustrated as coaches because they threw something at us as an experiment, but while they tweak it as we go along some coaches are losing their jobs," Rouco said. "You should have something established if you're having a rule so harsh."

With some coaches paying for the failures of previous administrations, it has become harder to survive as a division I coach in Rouco's opinion.

The athletic department has gone through seven coaches in the last two years, four of those coaches were fired.

Rouco, who is 42-74 in four seasons as head coach, hasn't changed the way he has recruited because of FIU's emphasis on academics.

"You are more pro-student here than any other institution I have been at. Miami is a city where kids have to be academically oriented. They can be easily distracted," he said. "It never changed with me."

Despite the University's stress on academics over the years, the football, baseball and men's basketball teams need to score at least 900 next year or they will face postseason ban.

And if they do not score at least 900 the following year, the programs will be banned from division I and the Football Bowl Subdivision.

As a result of the severe consequences low APR scores may bring, Monique Garcia was hired roughly three months ago to serve as an APR specialist, one of the

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New logo creates menacing facade, won't bring national championships

Everyone knows that friend in high school who tries way too hard to be tough.

This friend is in fact very delicate, but walks, talks and presents himself as the meanest guy in school.

Just like that misguided friend, the Florida International University Athletics' logo was changed from a golden panther, to one with intense eyes, fangs showing and claws out.

In other words, the Athletics Department is trying way too hard to intimidate opponents with its logo instead of with its recruits.

There is no correlation between intimidating logos and successful athletic programs. Yet FIU President A. Modesto A. Maidique stresses that

the logo's block letters represents strength and the new panther reflects the University's aggressiveness.

As logical as that sounds, several universities have embarrassing logos, but still managed to win national championships and garner top recruits season after season.

Here are three examples of those types of schools:

Kansas- Who knew 'Woody the Wood Pecker' and 'Big Bird' had a love child? One look at the University of Kansas Jayhawk and you've discovered crazy bird meets Sesame Street.

The logo went through several transformations from 1912-1946 until finally deciding on the current logo in 1947.

During the years Kansas was changing the logo to some hostile, angry-looking Jayhawk, the athletics program won zero national championships in any sport.

After adopting the smiling, gentle Jayhawk, the University has won 10 national championships in four sports.



The Jayhawks won their most recent title in 2008, when the men's basketball team brought home the division I national championship.

Now, what makes more sense?

The men's basketball team won the championship because the logo scared away Memphis players, and the jovial Jayhawk gave the Kansas fans pride, which translated into victory.

Or, the men's basketball team won because of a roster filled with top-tier recruits, including five players subsequently drafted to the NBA and a reputation for being an elite basketball program.

I'd take my chances with the NBA-bound players versus the smiling bird any day of the week.

Notre Dame- If you've ever had that grandpa, who became overtly pugnacious and combative when drunk, then the Notre Dame Fighting Irish logo brings back some memories.

If the Leprechaun's purpose is to terrify all foes with his fists up, knees bent and green hat tilted, then I rather have grandpa show him how they used to fight back in the day.

COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA
SPORTS EDITOR