

## SCHNEBLY MEDLEY

### Winery welcomes students

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## WEATHER STATION

# Station used as teaching tool

**JUAN PRADO**  
Contributing Writer

Unknown to many students, the weather station located on the rooftop of the Primera Casa building constantly searches for changes in climate conditions.

The job of the station is to track down climate changes occurring in the area and to provide data on such changes.

"It is a good idea to have a weather station, now I can check the weather," said Patricia Mendez, a junior.

Rene Price, manager of the station and Earth Sciences department professor, said the data from the weather center serves to investigate vertical differences in wind speeds during hurricanes.

The data helped identify the velocity of the wind at different altitudes during the passing of Hurricane Katrina.

The station is also used as a teaching source for students to learn about changes in weather patterns.

"I do use the data as a teaching tool in my hydrogeology courses. Students use the data to determine rainfall amounts and evaporation from FIU, parameters that are important for the water budget," Price said.

Hydrogeology is the study of the distribution and movement of groundwater. Students in this field use water budgets to determine changes in groundwater levels among other things.

Price said information gathered by the station has been requested not only by FIU students, but also by The National Hurricane Center, scientists from the University of Miami and local elementary and high schools.

"The National Weather Station requested data for Katrina because of wind distribution. The University of Miami requested data about water

## FIU'S IDOL



SARAH ALEXANDER/THE BEACON

**PANTHER IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** A crowd gathered in the Graham Center pit to cheer FIU theater major Sye-she Mercado, a top 12 finalist, while she performs on American Idol on March 11.

## FIU DAY

# SGA fights for FIU in Tallahassee

**BEN F. BADGER JR.**  
Asst. News Director

Putting a face to a name was the goal of Student Government Association during FIU Day, when students and administrators lobbied for support from the State Legislature in Tallahassee on March 11.

While other universities cancelled their visits to the capital, SGA wanted FIU students to be on the minds of legislators who will be voting on FIU's future in the coming weeks.

Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera was one of the first legislatures SGA sat down with.

"There is no money," Lopez-Cantera said in regards to the current state of Florida's available funds.

Due to a string of fiscal shortfalls, budgets have had to be cut throughout all areas of the state. An additional \$1 billion is expected to be cut from the total budget, bringing overall cuts to \$3 billion.

While meeting with various legislators, SGA focused on five main points: the College of Medicine, budget cuts, faculty and staff salaries, Public Education Capital Outlay

(PECO), trust funds and the major gift-matching program.

The overall strategy of SGA was not to ask for additional funding, but to make the cuts to these key areas as small as possible.

Katiana Saintable, president of Biscayne Bay Student Government Council, made constant statements to Reps. reminding them of the importance of PECO funds. The funds are used for construction and to fix structures such as those at



**Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC President**

**The people who are 'F-I-Who?,' we also need to get them on board.**

BBC, which Saintable considers to be dilapidated.

The only issue that was pressed more than PECO funds was that of the newly accredited College of Medicine. Virtually every SGA member brought up how important the \$9.8 million already promised for the school by legislature is. Rep. Ronald Brise commented that arguments have started to heat up within the legislature over budgets.

"We had a war on the floor over \$500 million," Brise said during

SGA's lobbying session with him. "I'm fully supportive of schools in your area."

Viviana Jordan, director of legislative affairs for SGC-UP said this year's FIU Day went well.

"I think things went very well in terms of receptions of our issues," Jordan said. "They were really interested in us."

Despite the success of these meetings, many SGA members felt that more legislators who do not support FIU should have been addressed. The majority of representatives lobbying already support FIU or are from South Florida precincts.

"It's important that we not just tackle the people who are from our district or who are FIU alumni, but those people who are from North and West Florida," Saintable said. "The people who are 'F-I-Who?,' we also need to get them on board."

Jordan commented that getting one-on-one time with any legislator is difficult because of their extremely busy schedule during the legislative session, which started on March 4 and will conclude on May 2.

For complete coverage of FIU Day, visit [www.fiusm.com](http://www.fiusm.com).

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

# Tuition control could shift

**DAVID ROYSE**  
Associated Press Writer

Voters would get a chance to change who sets tuition and controls the education system in Florida under a proposed constitutional amendment approved Friday by a House panel.

If passed, the change would in part reverse what voters did when they eliminated the elected education commissioner in 1998 and later created a Board of Governors to oversee universities.

Proponents argued the board created a unified system of schools rather than have state universities competing with each other in the Legislature for resources. It also was meant to better insulate schools from turf battles and political interference from state officials.

The proposed amendment voted on by the House committee would return to an elected education commissioner instead of an appointed one and shrink the Board of Governors.

While the amendment would make several changes to education governance in Florida, the 17-member Board of Governors that oversees the university system is at the center of the move to change the constitution.

The board voted earlier this year to raise tuition, saying students cannot get an adequate education with the lowest tuition in the nation.

But that angered legislators - particularly Senate President Ken Pruitt - who say only they can decide what tuition will be. Many legislators are set against raising tuition, saying it's a hardship on Florida's families.

Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, is fighting the Board of Governors in court over the tuition increase. The proposed amendment would settle the question, making it clear that only lawmakers can set how much students will pay.

The proposed constitutional



NEWSFLASH

**British architect presents lecture at Green Library**

On March 14, David Adjaye, one of Great Britain's leading architects, will present "Public Engagement and Private Retreat," presented by the Steven and Dorothea Green Critics' lecture series. Adjaye designed, among other buildings, the interior of the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway as well as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, Colo. The event will take place at 8 p.m. in GL 100. Adjaye's lecture will coincide with the opening of a new exhibit at the Frost Art Museum, which will feature the work of graduating Masters of Fine Arts students. The exhibit will be open from March 12 - April 14 at PC 110. The grand opening is on March 14, from 7 to 10 p.m., and guided tours will be given by the students themselves on March 26, from 7-9 p.m.

**Journalism student nets second place in essay competition**

Mirsad Krijestorac, a 40-year-old journalism senior who came to FIU after a career as a prominent rock music promoter in Yugoslavia, took second place from the Atlantic Council of the United States' national essay competition on transatlantic issues for his essay on Turkey's place in relation to the European Union. The prize of \$250 was awarded for his essay entitled "EU Identity Needs Help from Turkey," which was originally written for a class at FIU.

**Honors College lecture promotes excellence**

The Honors College will be hosting a lecture by author Brian Weiss, whose works include *Many Lives, Many Masters*, a book about the way psychiatry and metaphysics blend. The lecture, taking place on March 13 at 2 p.m. at the Marry Ann Wolfe Theater at BBC, will be free and open to the public.

**Panel of judges to share experience with audience**

A group of judges and judicial candidates will share personal experiences regarding the various paths they took to their positions. The group will also answer questions from the audience. The event will take place on March 13 from 6:15-8:15 p.m. in the small courtroom at the College of Law.

**Women's "Herstory" month inspires clothing drive**

Throughout the month of March, the Career Services Office, Women's Center and Center for Leadership and Service will be holding a clothing drive for professional women's and men's clothing to donate to the South Florida's Workforce.

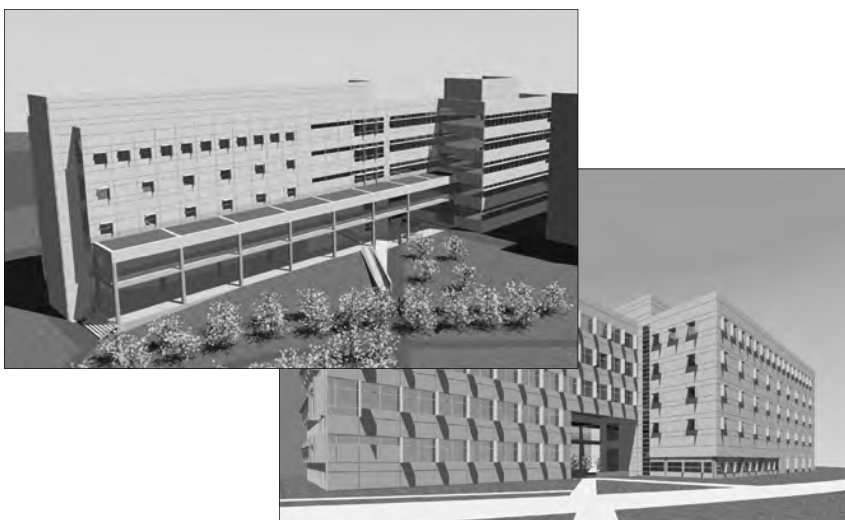
Clothes will be collected from the Center for Leadership and Service in GC 2210 and Career Services Office in WUC 255.

**FIU Students win big at interior design contests**

Interior design student Monica Estrada won Best Overall Project at the International Interior Design Association student day competition with her design for a restaurant in a cruise ship. Fellow interior design student Melanie King won first place in the Institutional and Health care category of the competition, for her design of a rehabilitation hospital. For photos of designs visit [www.fiusm.com](http://www.fiusm.com).

- Compiled by Chris Towers/ Beacon Staff

COMING SOON



These photos simulate the new \$34 million College of Nursing and Health Sciences building, slated to open at University Park in December 2009.

A ground breaking ceremony will be held April 10 with University President Modesto Maidique, CNHS Dean Divina Grossman and community partners in attendance.

The building will include two structures, with teaching facilities located in one structure, and administration in the other. Above

ground walkways will connect the two structures.

The building will be just a part of FIU's Academic Health Sciences Complex set to be built on the northeast corner of UP, and which will eventually include the FIU College of Medicine.

-Compiled by Beacon Staff

Maidique's new contract includes supplement funds

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**  
News Director

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously last month to change the terms of University President Modesto Maidique's employment agreement.

The board, which is responsible for budgetary issues, compliance with state policy and maintaining the quality of education at FIU, made the changes to more closely align Maidique's terms of employment with those of other university presidents.

All of the changes reflect an "absolute financial tradeoff," according to BOT Chairperson David Parker.

As part of the changes, Maidique's salary supplement of \$79,414.44 was added to his base salary of \$397,072.21. The supplement is given by the FIU Foundation, which seeks

out and receives donations for the University. The addition of the salary supplement brings Maidique's base salary to \$476,486.65.

According to Parker, it made sense to change the terms of Maidique's compensation because the president receives the supplement regularly, as if it were already part of his base salary.

"I looked at the president's compensation last year – the entire structure of his compensation – and in a conversation with the president, it didn't feel it was fair and appropriate to have what essentially was base salary not included in the definition," Parker said.

The change will qualify Maidique to receive more compensation if he retires from the presidency and takes up another position in the University.

In a tradeoff for incorporating Maidique's sup-

plement to his base salary, the board also changed the term for which Maidique can receive his presidential salary while in another position at the University. The president will only be eligible to receive funds for up to five years.

"Before, he could leave the presidency and become a professor or head of a department at his presidential salary for an indefinite term. As part of this change, I felt it was important to cap the term at five years," Parker said.

After five years, Maidique would be compensated at the normal pay for whatever position he may take. Once he retires completely from the university, Maidique's pension will kick in.

The board also agreed to change the rate at which the president accrues vacation time to six weeks a year.

Tuition battle amidst cuts

TUITION, page 1

amendment would still have to get through the full Legislature before it could go before voters later this year. A Senate version of the bill has one more committee to go through before it could be voted on by the full Senate. If it does get on the ballot, it must get at least 60 percent of voter approval to be adopted.

The House Schools and Learning Council voted 9-6 mostly along party lines to move the issue forward, with Republicans in favor and Democrats against.

While Republicans are pushing the measure in the Legislature, it has a high profile Republican opponent in former Gov. Jeb Bush. A representative of Bush's Foundation for Florida's Future told the panel that it opposes an elected education commissioner being added to the state Cabinet because it dilutes the governor's ability to drive education policy.

The measure is also opposed by former Gov. Bob Graham, a Democrat, who led the citizen initiative in 2002 that created the Board of Governors.

The battle over who has the right to set tuition comes at a time when public university budgets' are being cut by millions. On March 11, state economists said Florida's tax revenue is expected to be lower again, which may result in more budget cuts.

Reductions can range from \$2.7 billion to \$3.1 billion over the current and next budget years due to the slumping state and national economies. In November, they reduced the two-year estimate by \$2.5 billion.

Anticipating the latest decrease, the Legislature is poised to cut \$512 million in spending for the current year, which ends June 30. They axed about \$1 billion in October.

What does this mean for FIU? The University's budget can be cut as much as 15 percent of what it was last year, which translates into \$30.5 million.

"We are going to be facing some very tough choices and there can be some very serious consequences to this budget cut," said Vice President of Governmental Relations Steven Sauls said.

Charlie Grau contributed to this story



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# Watch the weather: Web site provides data

WEATHER, page 1

flow," Price said.

The weather station started operations in August 2004. After the equipment was purchased and installed, no additional money has been needed for continuing its operation.

The station only requires to be maintained a couple of times a year when the rain collector needs to be cleaned.

Some of the equipment the station uses are a rain gauge, a wind speed and direction anemometer, and a barometer.

Other instruments include sensors to measure air temperature, relative humidity, ultraviolet radiation and solar radiation,

The station also has a Web site that allows people to check out the latest changes in weather.

It also electronically

transfers all the data collected from the rooftop to PC 329 where the computer updates the information that appears on the station's Web site every 10 minutes.

Data on the Web site displays the current weather, highest and lowest temperature for the day, a time series plot that shows information for the last 72 hours and a meter that shows wind direction and humidity among other factors.

"We don't have many stations in the area to collect data," said Xavier Zapata, research assistant for the station and Earth Sciences graduate student.

According to Price, the station was purchased through a program called GeoSCOPE, which is a summer research program designed for undergraduate students to work as interns along faculty from

the Earth Sciences department.

The station was funded with a grant from the National Science Foundation Program: Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG).

"Now I [can] check the weather more often. I am always cold, so I would like to know about the weather outside before leaving my house in the morning," Mendez said.

Although there is a link to the National Weather Center on the Web site, the weather station at FIU does not work with them.

The link serves to check the weather conditions of the surrounding areas.

For more information visit the weather station's Web site at: <http://www.fiu.edu/~pricer/weather.htm>.



FERNANDO GARCIA/  
THE BEACON

**STORM WATCHER:** Graduate Student of hydrogeology in the Earth Sciences department Xavier Zapata analyzes a spreadsheet of figures on the salinity of water in the Everglades.

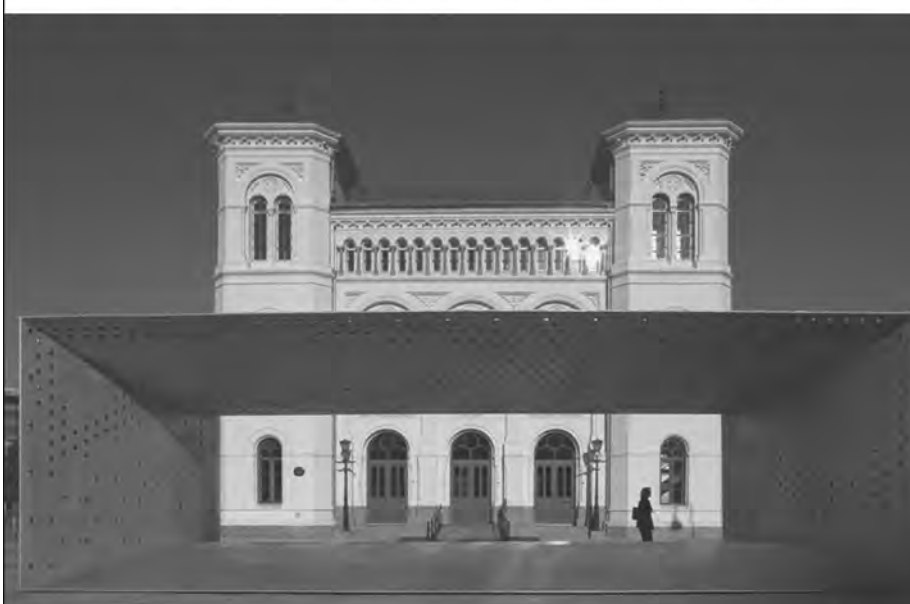
## READY TO WALK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**PICK UP DAY:** Junior Claudia Sierra (left) gives senior Aimer Olivera (right), a social work major, her five allotted commencement tickets at Grad Send-Off on March 10.

## The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series *presents*



Nobel Peace Center | Oslo, Norway | Photo by: Tim Soar

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## Schnebly's Winery gives visitors a taste



Commentary  
Bianca Roja  
Contributing Writer

On March 10, Professor Patrick "Chip" Cassidy took 15 advanced wine technology students on a field trip to Schnebly's Winery in Homestead.

Students had the opportunity to try over six fruit-based wines, including the Schnebly version of Champagne, made from the carambola, or star fruit.

I really enjoyed this experience because wine is a passion of mine, and the visit gave me the chance to try something new.

Schnebly's is a one of a kind winery because the wine is not derived from its usual fruit - the grape.

Instead, owner Peter Schnebly began making his wines from Florida's exotic fruits like passion fruit, mango and lychee. "Our goal is to be the best winery you've ever visited," Schnebly said. "There are already 5,500 winery's making grape wines in the U.S., why would we want to do that?"

Although wine grapes are impossible to grow in South Florida because of the climate, tropical fruits are abundant.

Schnebly farms used to only farm fruits, but today they make wines out of the "spoiled" fruits



**SCHNEBLY NOT SCHNAPPS:** Mango wine, as sweet as it sounds, substitutes well for dessert wine for those with an open mind (Left). Peter Schnebly, owner of Schnebly's Winery, ends his tour of the winery with his open-glass policy of free tastings as long as visitors retain their Schnebly tasting glasses. "Our goal is to be the best winery you've ever visited," Schnebly said.

NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON



they are unable to sell to retailers.

The Schnebly definition for "spoiled" fruit is a fruit that is at its peak of ripeness.

"Any fruit that has a spot on it, or is perfectly ripe, like a mango that you can tell is juicy and ready to eat can't go to Fresh King, our produce company. Instead, we use it to make wine," Schnebly said.

The winery is also exotic in its appearance.

It creates a tropical ambience while giving the vintage feel of west coast wineries by importing antique detailing for the tasting room.

A sales shack in the middle of the main hall has a 100 year old

tin roof that was found in Georgia. The Schnebly's also boast about having the largest tiki-hut in the state of Florida.

"We really wanted a wow-factor for our winery so we spent one million dollars over the average winery budget for construction and decoration," Schnebly said.

My favorite part of the trip was the idea that Florida can become more than just a South Beach state.

I feel like this is our first step to being more mature agriculturally, like California where produce just tastes better.

Once you pay for a tasting, and receive your Schnebly's signature

glass, subsequent tastings are free for life.

"We have a running joke around here that when you die you can leave your glass to your children and they can have free tastings for life," Schnebly said.

The mango and lychee wines were sweet and reminiscent of reislings and gewürztraminers, which are a couple of my favorite wines.

I was surprised when my favorite

wine was in its experimental stage, made out of yellow tomatoes.

Schnebly's is a great place for students to go, even if they are on a budget.

## Documentary chronicles Colombia's reinvention

**ASHLEY WOJNAR**  
Contributing Writer

Paola Perez used money from her savings to fund "Pablo is Gone," a documentary about present-day Colombia's social landscape after the death of drug czar Pablo Escobar, which she directed.

Perez's documentary will be played at Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center Theater on March 21 at 8 p.m.

Of Colombian descent herself, Perez wants to portray the Colombia she knows to the world and not the drug smuggling, kidnapping stereotype.

The culture has expanded and the peoples' influence is present in other career fields beyond the drug world.

"They have completely renovated their image, leaving Colombia's old past behind," Perez said. "The documentary tries to help bring forth a new meaning to being a Colombian

- real people working for a better future and many other things that enrich our society, allowing us to be more sophisticated and globally aware."

The film was made to show what people should think about when Colombia comes to mind, and what Perez and her crew intended to portray through the film - Colombia through a new and positive light.

For Perez, it is a sad thing when her country is known by drugs and Escobar.

"Any movie about culture gives students room to grow as people and see for themselves what is really going on in the world," Perez said. "Colombia has undergone total renovation, leaving behind our recent past - we think nothing of it, so should you."

A fan of independent films, Perez grew up in Medellin, Colombia. "Pablo is Gone," which is constructed of interviews and narratives, is her first docu-

mentary.

"I know it will become a great success, one that students at FIU and anybody can appreciate," Perez said.

FIU alumnus and public relations liaison Steve Ramirez said the film will include images of Perez's visits to Colombia.

"Through the documentary she'll be showing interviews as well as footage from her trips to Colombia from last year and this year as well," Ramirez said. "Through that, she will highlight the changes that have taken place within the country presenting a new image in a positive way and not in the stereotypical manner that it was known for - drugs, violence and the corruption that typically the average citizen would know, would always describe what Colombia is."

Although Perez wants people to see Colombia in a positive way after Escobar, Ramirez said there are people who think life in

Colombia was better off when Escobar was around.

"A friend of mine, who is Colombian, believes that the country is worse than it was without him [Escobar] because there weren't so many other cartel factions trying to have the power that he once had," Ramirez said. "Furthermore, he believed that Pablo was more of a business man rather than a drug lord."

Perez claims to have learned much from her home country and hopes viewers will appreciate it.

"Colombia has taught me to enjoy the simplicity in life, being humble and respecting other human beings," Perez said. "I strongly hope people will see the Colombia I have grown up in and grown to love."

The on-campus screening is free to all students and staff.

For non-students, it is \$7 at the door. For more information, visit [www.pabloisgone.com](http://www.pabloisgone.com).

### NEWSFLASH

#### Friends of Wine to present German Tastes

Friends of Wine will host German Wine Tasting on March 24 from 5 to 6 p.m.

The event will be held in the Hospitality Building Dining Room and costs \$4 for members and \$8 for nonmembers in cash only. People wishing to attend must be 21 or older and have a valid ID.

#### Spring Fling concert hosted by SPC

The ninth annual Spring Fling concert will be held by Student Programming Council March 28 in the Hospitality Management Patio. Artists, including Mario and Fat Joe, will be providing entertainment from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning. Tickets for FIU students are free, and general admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of.

#### Final Last Late Day Latte

On March 27 Campus Life will present the last Late Day Latte of the semester. The event will be held in AC1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

#### Stretching the Bill

Multicultural Programming and Services will teach students how to be financially savvy on March 14 in WUC 253 at 1 p.m.

#### SPC Presents I Am Legend

Student Programming Council hosts a movie night on March 13 in the WUC Theater. "I Am Legend" will begin at 5 p.m.

- Compiled by Ana Perez, Beacon staff.



## Obama has more experience than some past leaders

**CHRIS CABRAL**  
Asst. Life Editor

Here's an interesting piece of historical trivia. What do presidents Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson all have in common? All three had equal or fewer years of political experience when they became president than "inexperienced" Sen. Barack Obama has right now. These notable presidents all had comparable (in)experience.

Lucky for them, that inexperienced bunch didn't have to run for president in 2008. Wilson would have to defend his grand total of two years of political experience as Governor of New Jersey. And some ruthless opponent of FDR would no doubt circulate an e-mail with pictures of him in a wheelchair and attack him for having served as Governor of New York for only four years.

Often lost in the discussion over presidential experience is the fact that the arguments being deployed by the Clinton campaign could derail the Democratic candidate if they actually work. One argument is that experience in government is the most important qualifications to be commander-in-chief, ergo Obama is too inexperienced. If his level of experience was so inadequate, previous presidents with this level of experience would have stood out as failures. Instead, according a recent issue of *Time Magazine* ("Does Experience Matter in a President?" on Jan. 10) there appears to be no correlation between political experience and success in the White House.

Moreover, people on both sides of the aisle hold up various "inexperienced" presidents as models to aspire to.

Republicans idolize Ronald Reagan. As their party's nominee attacks Obama,

Republicans should remember that Obama has more experience in elected office than Reagan did. Furthermore, Clinton supporters should remember that for someone with less experience than Obama, Roosevelt did a pretty good job dealing with a depression and World War Two.

Clinton is trying to convince voters that she has vast experience as first lady relating to foreign policy. One example she cites is a "dangerous" trip to war-torn Bosnia taken in 1996 for a USO show. Yet her mission was hardly life-threatening. She was accompanied by singer Sheryl Crow and comedian Sinbad (*New York Times* March 26, 1996), Sinbad would later recount the harrowing decisions they faced.

"I think the only 'red phone moment' was: do we eat here or at the next place?" *The Washington Post* reported on March 11.

Sinbad went on to mock the claim that it was some sort of perilous mission.

"What kind of president would say, 'Hey, man, I can't go 'cause I might get shot so I'm going to send my wife ... oh, and take a guitar player and a comedian with you.'"

Clinton and Obama would both be better presidents than John McCain at a time when this country needs to move away from the failed policies of George W. Bush. Yet when Clinton emphasizes experience, she is reinforcing the same attacks McCain is likely to use against either of them.

Clinton's 35 years of experience which she touts conveniently includes every job she has ever had since college, lumping in her years as a corporate lawyer in the same category as U.S. Senator. Such a weak claim would wilt against a Republican nominee who has been in Congress since 1983.

The weakness of her strategy is evident in



BRIAN RAY/AP PHOTOS

**EXPERIENCED?:** Walter Mondale and Sen. Hillary Clinton are the "experienced" candidates.

her now infamous "3 a.m." ad. A strikingly similar ad made the rounds on the Internet early last year, using the exact same premise to promote John McCain. Clinton's ad is said to take inspiration from another commercial: the red phone ad used by Walter Mondale against the inspirational and inexperienced Gary Hart during the Democratic primary of 1984. Mondale won the nomination, but he lost the electoral college 525 to 13.

In 1932, the American people could have gone with the experienced Herbert Hoover over the inexperienced but eloquent FDR. Even in 1992, distinctions were drawn between George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton,

who had no foreign policy experience. At each turn, the American people chose hope for a better tomorrow over the false fears created by more experienced opponents.

Our generation will be trusted with the same decision. The Democratic candidate must focus on the issues, and the promise of a better America, they must not allow the myth of their own "inexperience" be used to distract Americans from the real choice: whether or not to allow movement in a new direction.

*Chris Cabral is the president of the FIU College Democrats and FIU Students for Obama*

## Models, actors' unskilled professions lacking legitimacy



Commentary

**Matt Ruckman**  
Contributing Writer

Whenever I hear the words, "Oh, I'm a model" or "I want to be a movie star" I can't help but chuckle. I don't think they are real professions, much less careers. Does reading lines and holding up shampoo bottles qualify as work? These jobs are not legitimate (theatrical acting notwithstanding), even

stand around showcasing clothes, that's it ... I'm doing that right now. And sometimes they even make it easier on the models of Victoria's Secret.

Acting, however is the worse of the two. I take particular umbrage to acting because of the reputation it enjoys. You know... the glamour, the wealth, E's witty come-backs. Why is this? Actors are just puppets with invisible strings, told by the writer what to say, by the director what to do and by the set designer where to be. Where is the work, or the human in there? The actor seems to be a kind of talking mannequin. Obviously,

there, to look pretty. Man doesn't, after all, live by bread alone. But if that's purpose, what do the rest of us have? Are we some kind of super-purposeful ambition-robots with our demanding careers? I'm definitely not and if you're reading this during class, you're not either.

The point is, if we lower the bar enough to include Tree-ing and Parrot-ing as work, in the traditional sense, we lose a little self-

respect.

It's kind of like when my boss asks me why I was late to work. I could say that I lost track of time because I was working at home, or be honest with myself and tell him I decided to sleep in. While I don't think actors or models are actually sleeping, well... except for those Ambien commercials, it is pretty close. All I ask for is a little honesty.

My rejection of modeling and acting as

“They are beautiful, pretty, enthralling, and that's a reason in itself. This is because people like looking at beauty, almost as much as beauty likes looking at mirrors.”

though they are paid exorbitant sums of money. That's because when someone says that they are a model, I interpret it as "I can do what trees do," and when someone tells me they are an actress, all I hear is "I can do what trees and parrots do." And that's why when I hear that someone is a model/actor I think, "Wow! You are an ecosystem of uselessness."

It's the total lack of thought required that bothers me so. Take modeling, it really is just an extension of the daily activity of sitting still, if that can be called an activity. But imagine it anyway. A job where you just

that's an exaggeration, if mannequins could actually speak, the entertainment industry wouldn't have a need for human resources.

Now, there is a reason models and actors are so valued, I'm not ignorant of it, it's quite blatant. We all experience it everyday with dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure. They are beautiful, enthralling and that's a reason in itself. This is because people like looking at beauty almost as much as beauty likes looking at mirrors.

Is beauty a mitigating factor though? Maybe I've been hard on the model/actors in ignoring their chief purpose for being

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### *Meal Plans do not cater to graduate students*

As a graduate student, I have quite a workload in front of me with many time constraints that puts even eating and sleeping on the back burner.

Unfortunately, I was assigned to live in Lakeview North and, thereby, assigned the Flex 10 Meal Plan. I resent being told by Panther Dining when, where and how I can use my meal plan and what time. Its "to-go" policy says that I can only take out one box per meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) or after a "significant amount of time" has passed.

This may seem petty to many but to a grad or doctoral student time is a precious commodity that cannot be wasted on multiple trips to Fresh Food when projects, papers and research are waiting to be done. Also, many International MBA and Finance majors have classes that run through our

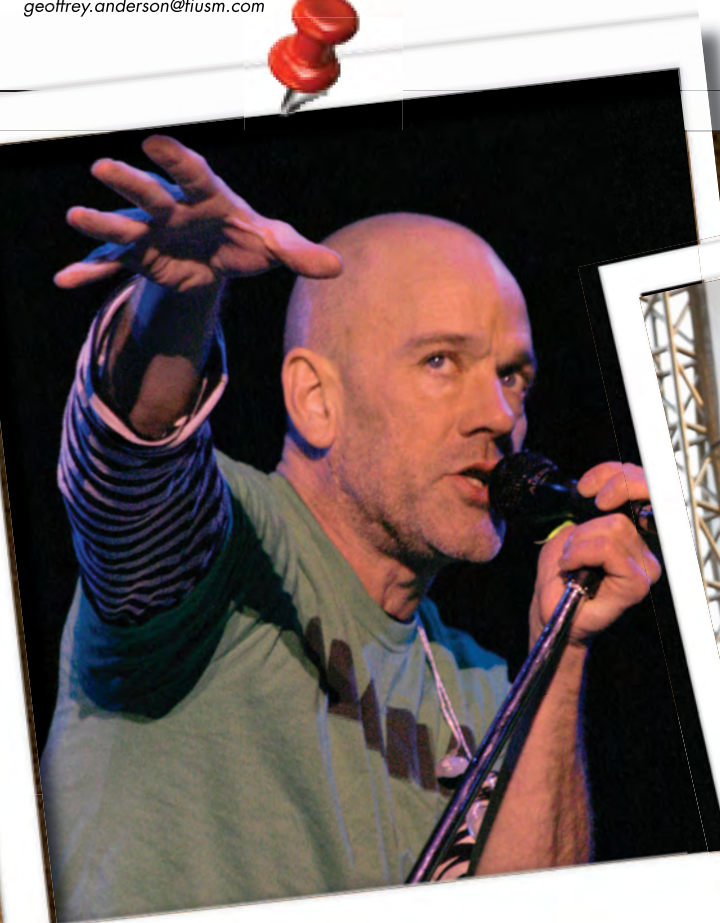
regular winter and spring break, and other grad students have classes that run past 9-10 p.m.

Did you know that Fresh Food is closed during these times so these students, despite having paid for the meal plans, are forced to fend for themselves?

I think the Housing and Dining departments need to work more closely with graduate programs and Admissions to fully understand the needs, time constraints and workloads of their graduate students, and thereby, refrain from assigning us to dorms without access to a kitchen and forcing us to take on meal plans that are inconsistent with our needs. Thank you for your time.

Angel Dendam  
Graduate Student  
Architecture major





Michael Stipe of REM



G. Love of G. Love and Special Sauce

## Jammin' in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS TOWERS

PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA

### Langerado brings wide array of bands to South Florida

For someone like me, South Florida is pretty much a barren wasteland for live music nine months out of the year. Whether it is because a lack of interest in live music or a lack of quality venues, it seems most of the year doesn't provide much to get excited about.

Which is why I always love when Langerado rolls around, as it did on March 6-9 at Big Cypress Miccosoukee reservation. It represents the beginning of a few-months period where there are actually opportunities to see bands live and, the festival itself represents a pretty great opportunity to see live music.

Alright, I have to admit, I didn't get to experience Thursday night, due to circumstances mostly beyond my control, though I can say the three-hour wait in line to get into the festival in my car wasn't exactly a fun time, it did offer me a rare glimpse at the night's sky, something we don't get to see every day in South Florida.

After setting up camp and getting situated, I caught about three hours of sleep Friday morning before making my way into the festival grounds. Along the mile and a half walk from my tent to the entrance I was offered everything from "chocolate" to "molly," though, since I was on the clock - and not at all interested in having to spend

some time in the chill out tent - I politely refused.

First up was Brett Dennen whose set was enjoyable if forgettable. His lack of any real stage presence didn't do much to add to his lifeless songs, which aren't great.

The next two acts, The Wailers, Bob Marley's legendary backing band and G. Love and Special Sauce, each brought something different to the table, though both performances had the energy you need to get through a hot day in the swamp.

The Wailers spent most of the time recreating Marley's classic songs while G. Love hyped up the Roots and Beastie Boys, the two hip-hop acts who would close the night and who G. Love shares a similar groove with.

After skipping 311 in favor of a nap, I caught the Roots who absolutely brought the house down, despite arriving onstage nearly a half hour late. Their cover of Bob Dylan's "Masters Of War" was one of the most thrilling political statements I've ever witnessed as drummer Questlove and his guitarist ("Captain Kirk"), along with tuba player ("Tuba Gooding Jr") riffed on "The National Anthem" and Dylan's

LANGERADO, page 7



Questlove of The Roots



Mike D of Beastie Boys



Toby Leaman of Dr. Dog



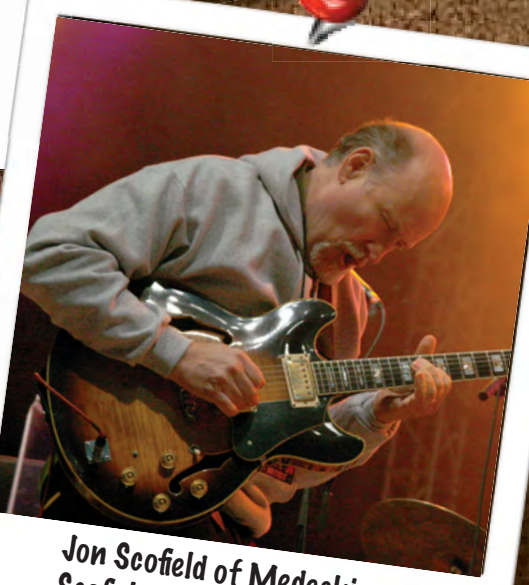
Trombone player of Spam All Stars



Tim Mahoney of 311



Brendan Buckley of Spam All Stars



Jon Scofield of Medeski, Scofield, Martin, and Wood



# Spring break trips, cruises abundant for students

**KASSANDRA POOL**  
Staff Writer

The moment students have been waiting for since the semester began is almost here. As of this Thursday they will be two glorious days away from an entire week free of academic obligations: Spring Break.

Students, such as freshman Ivana Harris, are excited about the break.

"To me [Spring Break] is a time to relax and enjoy the days with friends and family. It's like a getaway to ease school stress and catch up with sleep," Harris said.

Students may have their bags already packed, ready to travel somewhere new and exciting. Others, though, may simply head back home to spend time with their families during the break.

Some may be planning to go to South Beach for a tan and enjoy the nightclubs available amid thrilling scenery, but for those still interested in traveling elsewhere, here are some places to consider.

## GRAHAM CENTER TRAVEL LEADERS AGENCY

Located on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, Puerto Plata offers tourists picturesque beaches coupled with a backdrop of mountain ranges.

Travel Leaders offers students a stay there for five nights from \$879.00 per person.

The package includes round-trip midweek air to Puerto Plata, D.R., round-trip airport

transfers, accommodations for the number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages, activities and non-motorized water sports. Hotel tax and service charges are also included.

If Puerto Plata doesn't cut it for you, then Punta Cana might be the perfect place with a beach on the east coast stretching 50 kilometers.

An array of water sports is available for student tourists to enjoy, which includes snorkeling, flying boats, sports fishing

and double-decker party boats. Other activities available include horseback riding, safari-type excursions on four-wheel bikes, jeep safaris, moonstruck or helicopters rides and buggy rides.

Travel Leaders is offering a five-night stay from \$854.00 per person.

Round-trip midweek air to Punta Cana, D.R., round-trip airport transfers, accommodations for number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages, activities and non-motorized water sports are included in

the package. Hotel tax and service charges are also covered.

Another package the agency offers is a seven-night stay in Jamaica from \$862.00 per person.

This package includes round-trip midweek air to Montego Bay, Jamaica, round-trip airport transfers, accommodations for number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages,

activities and non-motorized water sports, as well as hotel tax and service charges.

Other than sandy beaches and calm blue seas, Jamaica offers tourists opportunities to climb waterfalls, ride horses, swim with dolphins, hunt for ghosts in old houses, bicycle along mountain trails and scuba dive in the Caribbean.

For more information on the above packages visit the Travel Leaders website at [www.fiuttravel.com](http://www.fiuttravel.com) or their office in GC, next to the piano lounge.

## DADELAND TRAVEL AGENCY

If getting on an airplane isn't something you look forward to, then hopping on a cruise ship might be more enjoyable. Dadeland Travel Agency is offering a five-day Western Caribbean cruise through Carnival Cruise Lines starting at \$549 per person. The cruise

offers enchanting beaches, rainforests and an exciting nightlife. Travelers are also given optional daily activities. Their departure is March 15 and arrival date is March 20.

For more information on the above rate visit [www.dadelandtravel.com](http://www.dadelandtravel.com).

## CRUISES AND TOURS UNLIMITED

Another cruise ship to consider is the Disney Cruise Line, which offers a three-night cruise to the Bahamas. The cost is \$1300 for two persons.

The Bahamas is known for its tropical climate, history and culture.

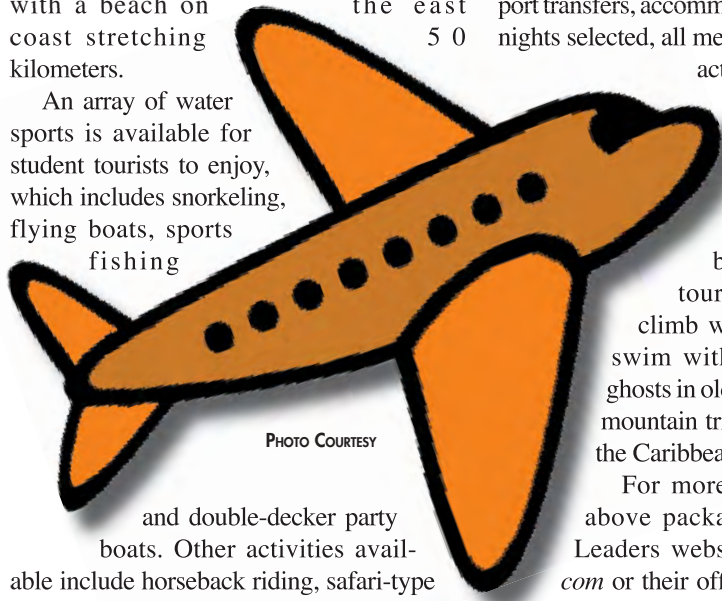
With Disney Cruise Line travelers can enjoy different activities program for adults, teens and children. Options include attending live musical stage shows or spending a day exploring Castaway Cay, a private island in the Bahamas. Departure date is set for March 13.

Carnival Cruise Line also offers a three-night cruise to the Bahamas. The cost is \$689 for two persons. Departure date is set for March 14.

Unlike the Disney Cruise, Carnival Cruise offers the "Fun Ship" Fascination which is a range of lounges, nightclubs, and fun-filled onboard activities.

For more information on the above dates visit [www.iwantacruise.com](http://www.iwantacruise.com).

Other booking options include American Airlines, where students can receive 10 percent discounts on flights. For details visit [www.aa.com/college.com](http://www.aa.com/college.com).



# South Florida's dismal music scene sees some relief

LANGERADO, page 6

powerful anti-war protest song for over 20 minutes. Despite the abridged set, the Roots were the band to see at Langerado.

The Beastie Boys came on after The Roots and they started slow. Well, actually, they didn't start slow, but I was so far back in the crowd, and the volume was so low, it was really difficult to get into them until I made my way to the front.

By this point, they had abandoned their hip-hop roots in favor of the most funky set of the weekend.

Who would've thought the Beastie Boys, all well into their 40's, could match up with the best of the jam bands throughout the weekend?

Starting off Saturday was American Babies, a talented four-piece country rock band fronted by promising young songwriter Tom Hamilton.

The band was followed by Dr. Dog, a brilliant rock band that has quickly become one of my favorite bands and a must-see live. Soulful, 60's-inspired rock tunes were the perfect accompaniment for one of the most beautiful days of the year; a memorable and lively performance.

Following Dr. Dog I caught the last half of Ben Folds, but missed his hysterical cover of a Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg song (Whose name I probably can't reprint) and then saw the first half of Matisyahu's set.

While I can certainly see the draw of an artist like Matisyahu, who manages to mix secular music styles with his religious beliefs, I'm not a huge reggae fan and I grew tired of the music, so I made my way to the front for REM, the night's closer.

REM was everything a headliner at a music festival should be: loud, energetic and, best of all, fun. Lead singer Michael Stipe took every advantage of the media and large crowd by posing with his Obama shirt before switching to his usual white suit.

The band, known more for its folk-pop tunes, wisely kept the energy up, mixing

old classics like "What's The Frequency Kenneth" and "Losing My Religion" with new songs that showed a lot of promise for their upcoming record. Despite Stipe's often ridiculous posturing and ego, REM was a treat on this chilly night.

Alright, I'm about to lose credibility. I didn't see anyone on Sunday. I couldn't take another day in the sun.

So we packed up early, bid *adieu* to our neighbors and set off back to civilization and reality content with the knowledge that, at least for one weekend, I was surrounded by like-minded people who shared a passion for music that made me feel at least slightly less out of tune with the world around me.

And for that, I thank Langerado and hope it continues bringing the good vibes and music for years to come.



Brass Section of  
Spam All Stars

Elan Attias of The Wailers



Billy Martin of Medeski, Scofield, Martin  
and Wood



Ben Folds



# WEEKEND RUNDOWN

## • THURSDAY • MARCH 13

**What:** Spring Break Boink Bus Tour  
**Where:** Ocean Drive (between 8th and 9th Streets on Ocean Drive)  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**When:** 10 a.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

**What:** Patrice O'Neal  
**Where:** Miami Improv  
3390 Mary St #182  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
**When:** 8:30 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$21.50

**What:** College Night Thursdays  
**Where:** Hooligan's Pub and Oyster Bar  
9555 S Dixie Hwy  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
**When:** 12 a.m. - 2 a.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

**What:** Women's History Month: Celebrating HerStory  
**Where:** Historical Museum of Southern Florida  
101 W Flagler St  
Miami, FL 33130  
**When:** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
**How Much:** Free, RSVP is Required

## • FRIDAY • MARCH 14

**What:** La Gloria Cubana Super Roll cigar-rolling competition  
**Where:** El Credito Cigar Factory  
1106 SW 8th St  
Miami, FL 33130  
**When:** 2:30 p.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

**What:** Liza Minnelli  
**Where:** Hard Rock Live  
5747 Seminole Way,  
Hollywood, FL 33314  
**When:** 8 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$60.00 - \$100.00

**What:** Susan Marshall & Company: Cloudless  
**Where:** Colony Theater  
1040 Lincoln Rd  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**When:** 8:30 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$25

**What:** The Green Party  
**Where:** The Catalina Hotel & Beach Club  
1732 Collins Ave  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**When:** 5 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

## • SATURDAY • MARCH 15

**What:** Jazz In the Gardens 2day  
Pass: George Benson, Ojays, Chaka Khan & More  
**Where:** Dolphin Stadium  
2269 Dan Marino Blvd, Miami, FL 33056  
**When:** 4 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$40 - \$75

**What:** Comedy Explosion  
**Where:** Parker Playhouse  
707 NE 8th Street,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33338  
**When:** 7 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$55

**What:** The Expendables  
**Where:** Culture Room  
3045 N Federal Hwy, Ft  
Lauderdale, FL 33306  
**When:** \$13  
**How Much:** 7:30 p.m.

**What:** Noche Latina  
**Where:** Knight Concert Hall  
The Arsht Center  
1300 Biscayne Blvd.,  
Miami, FL 33132  
**When:** 8 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$69.80 - \$96.55

## • SUNDAY • MARCH 16

**What:** Martin Short  
**Where:** Knight Concert Hall  
The Arsht Center  
1300 Biscayne Blvd.,  
Miami, FL 33132  
**When:** 7 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$11.50 - \$61.50

**What:** Calle Ocho festival  
**Where:** Calle Ocho  
7365 SW 8th St  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
**When:** All Day  
**How Much:** Free

**What:** Dranoff International Two Piano Competition  
**Where:** Lincoln Theatre  
541 Lincoln Rd  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
**When:** 4 p.m.  
**How Much:** \$30

**What:** Tropical Baroque Music Festival: Lydian Steel Orchestra  
**Where:** Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  
10901 Old Cutler Rd  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
**When:** 6 p.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

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**For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757**



**MD CLINICAL**





# Digital sins, anti-ego advice for new technology age



Did you know that every time you start up your engine you're sinning? That's what Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican has listed on their new list of seven social sins: Thou shalt not pollute the environment.

Since the Vatican has decided to flex some of their metaphysical muscles, I'm going to dip my toes into the fiber-optic sea and craft some of my very digital own.

Because being in college at the height of the digital age has made wireless life so easy, we sometimes forget to interact with our fellow pulsing bodies in meatspace, here are a few reminders when stepping out of the tubes.

Behold, I give thee Technolust's seven deadly digital sins:

### COMMANDMENT 1

Thou shall have only one self-portrait photograph per social network site. 30 pictures of yourself in slightly varied poses in your MySpace gallery reeks of Eau de Super Ego.

Unless you're a roommate on "The Real World" or "Big Brother," there's no need to document your every waking moment - we won't forget what you looked like a minute ago.

Plus you might notice a sudden boost in your friend count once you show you have

more interests than your own image.

### COMMANDMENT 2

Thou shall watch movies outside of the classroom. What's the point in coming to class if you're going to watch a film?

The money you, your parents or the government use to fund your college career is going to waste on a Netflix account that can't take your finals for you.

Stop trying to earn cool points by showing just how much you don't care and pay attention in class - you might win back more than the respect of that professor you've made question their faith in humanity.

### COMMANDMENT 3

Thou shall remove thy earpiece when both hands are free. When walking around, having both ears free works to your benefit.

You can judge how close that forklift backing up is and avoid death by freak accident.

You can even hold a conversation with your full attention - think of the possibilities! However, if you secretly fantasize of life as a cyborg you're excused: even I'd sell a body part if it meant I could have a hard drive implanted behind an ear to make life easier.

### COMMANDMENT 4

Thou shall not phone at meals. Unless you're in a swanky restaurant and messaging sweet, blush worthy nothings back and forth with your dinner mate, texting at meals is a no.

It says to your company nothing less than, "Yes I see you, no I don't care because the tiny, disembodied voice at the other end of this wireless line is infinitely

more interesting."

The exceptions to this rule would be doctors, journalists and parents who left their children with a babysitter at home: they're on call 24/7.

You, on the other hand, can and should unplug yourself from your phone for the hour it takes to eat. Your friends will thank you.

### COMMANDMENT 5

Thou shall deal with emotions face to face. Professing your undying love via text message can be cute, endearing even.

But breaking up, even asking for a divorce, by message? Just no.

As tempting as it may be to neatly package and send your emotions through a short message service, you're dehumanizing the person on the receiving end by blatantly disregarding their feelings.

Did they look like a robot when you first started dating?

Chances are not, so treat each other as people and deal with your emotions the messy, face-to-face way - you'll grow stronger because of it.

### COMMANDMENT 6

Thou shall not post a blog rant about work

and/or private photos online.

Google the net and you'll find stories of people fired from their jobs for posting blogs about work online and how companies are researching potential employees' MySpace and Facebook accounts to see who they really are.

Do yourself a favor and keep a physical personal journal that you can load with all the raging, tawdry details of your life that you can tear up into bits and eat if you find you have to make it disappear.

Otherwise, be smart about your online life: keep a public account for your squeaky clean image and a private account for documenting your weekend shenanigans.

You'll keep both your best face forward and your credibility intact.

### COMMANDMENT 7

Thou shall use technology wisely. Shiny, new digital toys like laptops, phones and cameras are great tools but can seduce us into forgetting simple manners.

Remember there's a whole living, breathing world outside of the box and you'll be on your way to finding the balance between life on and offline.

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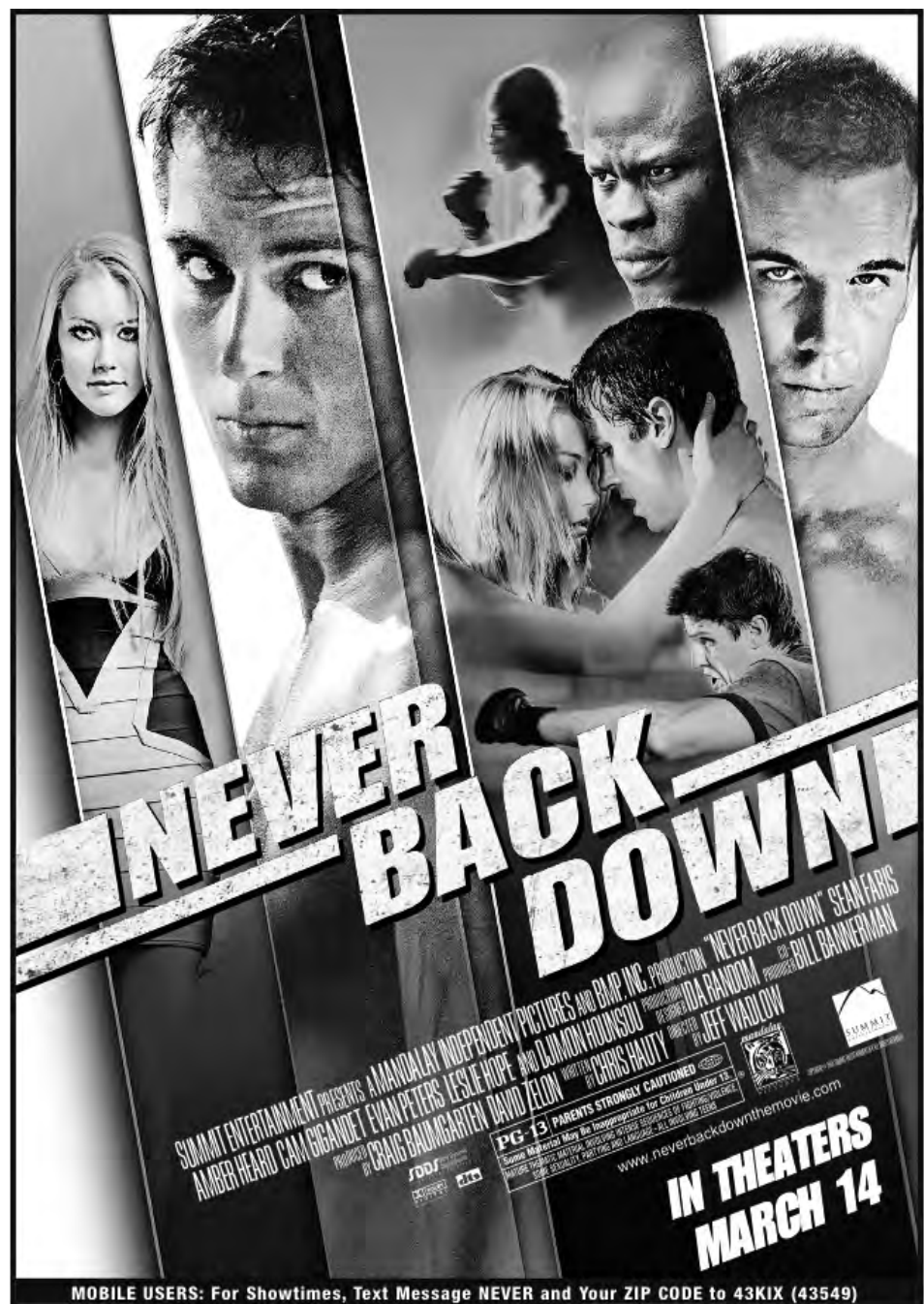
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## THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Thank you for reading

Coming in March:  
Three times a week!



**SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Arkansas State	8-4	3-0	.667
Florida Atlantic	7-4	1-0	.636
Troy	11-3	2-0	.786
ULM	7-4	2-1	.636
Middle Tennessee	8-2	1-1	.773
UNO	8-3	1-1	.727
Western Kentucky	6-4	1-2	.600
Florida International	6-8	1-2	.429
South Alabama	8-5	0-0	.615
ULL	4-9	0-3	.308
UALR	2-9	0-1	.182

\*All records up to date as of March 11, 2008

**SUN BELT LEADERS**

HITS		DOUBLES	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
Hines, MT	25	Brian Miller, Troy	11
Fuentes, FIU	22	Hines, MT	8
Castillo, FIU	22	Funetes, FIU	7
Beau Brooks, Troy	22	Castillo, FIU	7
2 tied with 21 hit(s)			

RBI		HOME RUNS	
Min 2.0 AB		Min 2.0 AB	
Townsend, FIU	21	Townsend, FIU	5
Fuentes, FIU	21	Brentz, MT	5
Hines, MT	20	5 tied with 4 home run(s)	

**SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDING**

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT	STREAK
ULL	0-0	15-5	.750	L1
Florida Atlantic	0-0	13-13	.500	L1
North Texas	2-1	9-14	.391	W2
Middle Tennessee	2-1	7-10	.412	L1
Troy	1-2	14-11	.560	L3
Florida International	0-0	8-18	.308	L2
ULM	1-2	7-13	.350	L2
South Alabama	0-0	9-9	.500	W1
Western Kentucky	0-0	9-8	.529	W2

\*All records up to date as of March 11, 2008

**Sports Replay**

**BASEBALL**

**TROY 13 FIU 12**

Five Golden Panther (5-7) errors overshadowed another double-digit offensive performance as they to Troy (10-2) on March 7 at Riddle-Pace Field.

The loss marked the first Sun Belt Conference game for both teams.

Sophomore Jorge Ramos (1-1) was charged with the loss as he pitched 2.1 innings and gave up five earned runs.

Troy reliever A.J. Howard (3-0) gave up three runs in 2.0 innings of work. Headed into the seventh inning, the game was a back and forth game with several lead changes. A five-run seventh inning, by Troy put them over the top, and the Golden Panthers fell 13-12.

**FIU 8, TROY 2**

Golden Panther (6-7) starter Corey Polizzano (2-1) wriggled his way out of trouble through 6.1 innings to even the series against Troy (10-3) on March 8.

He allowed eight walks; Troy stranded a total of 12 runners during the game. Troy starter Tim Wheeler (1-2) pitched 7.2 innings as he allowed seven earned runs and 10 hits. Senior John Petika went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBI. FIU got on the board early with a bases loaded single by Petika. The closest Troy would get would be when the score was 3-1. The Golden Panthers broke open the game with a four-run eighth inning to win 8-2.

**TROY 12 FIU 3**

For the second time in the series,

the Golden Panthers (6-8) allowed more than 10 runs as they lost their first Sun Belt Conference series of the season to Troy (11-3) on March 9. Also for the second time in the series, a big seventh inning by Troy doomed the Golden Panthers. FIU starter Stecen Stewart (0-2) allowed a career-high nine hits and five runs in 5.2 innings of work.

Sophomore Brian Santana and senior James Lajiness allowed seven runs in the seventh inning. After the seventh inning, the Golden Panthers found themselves down 12-3 and neither team would score another run.

**SOFTBALL**

**FIU 13, HARVARD 1**

The 2008 Blue & Gold Felsburg Memorial got underway at University Park on March 7 with a 13-1 rout against Harvard University.

The Golden Panthers' (7-15) broke their six-game losing streak behind starter Kasey Barret went the distance pitching a 5.0 inning complete game while allowing one earned run.

Junior third baseman Katie Bell led all batters with a 3-for-4 performance and four RBI. Harvard starter Ale Torres could not record out and she gave up four runs in the loss.

**BALL STATE 6 FIU 1**

In the second game, the Golden Panthers (7-16) could not duplicate their offensive performance as they fell to Ball State 6-1 on March 8. The Golden Panthers scoed their lone run in the first inning of play to even up the score.

Ball State was ahead 2-1 headed into the third inning, but they added

three runs behind three singles and a double to extend the lead to 5-1.

Ball State starter Elizabeth Milian pitched a complete game and relinquished one run. Golden Panther starter pitched 2.2 innings and allowed four earned runs.

**FIU 3 OREGON STATE 2**

Another strong performance by Golden Panther (8-16) starter Kasey Barret set up a late rally for FIU against Oregon State on March 8.

Neither team began scoring until late in the contest. Oregon State scored in successive innings to take a 2-0 lead. FIU responded in the sixth inning with a run of its own. Ashley Falk started the seventh inning with a home run to tie the game, then first baseman Carolina Rojas hit a walk-off RBI double to complete the 3-2 comeback.

**HARVARD 2, FIU 0**

Harvard won its first game of the season on March 8 against the Golden Panthers' struggling offense. Harvard starter Shelly Madick did not allow a run through 7.0 innings to earn the team's first victory of the 2008 season.

**OREGON STATE 4, FIU 1**

Oregon State tallied a season-high 14 hits to defeat the Golden Panthers (8-16) 4-1 on March 9.

FIU scored in the second inning and would not score for the remainder of the game. Oregon State scored in the same inning and added three more in fifth inning to complete the Gold & Blue Felsburg Memorial.

*Compiled by Sergio Bonilla*

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**JOBS**

**SUMMER JOBS:** Recreation Camp Counselors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/09/08-8/01/08 for children ages 5-14. WSI/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/08-9/08). Exp. desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.

**Photographers Needed.**

Bob Knight Photo is currently hiring part-time photographers to work local college and high school graduation ceremonies in May, June, August, and December. Applicants must understand basic digital SLR cameras, own a dark colored business suit, possess a conservative appearance, and attend two paid mandatory training sessions on April 16 and 25 from 6pm to 9pm. We have plenty of work throughout May but all photographers need to be available on weekends in May and the first week of June. Pay is \$50.00 per event. Please visit [www.bkhire.com](http://www.bkhire.com) <<http://www.bkhire.com/>> for additional information and to fill out an application.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING  
SUN BELT EAST DIVISION**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	26-6	16-2	.812
Western Kentucky	24-6	16-2	.800
Middle Tennessee	17-14	11-7	.548
Florida Atlantic	15-18	8-10	.455
Florida International	9-20	6-12	.310
Troy	12-19	4-14	.387

\*All records up to date as of March 11, 2008

**MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING  
SUN BELT EAST DIVISION**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	20-12	13-5	.625
Western Kentucky	22-11	12-6	.667
Florida Atlantic	16-15	10-8	.516
Middle Tennessee	15-17	8-10	.469
Troy	13-17	8-10	.433
Florida International	12-17	7-11	.414

\*All records up to date as of March 11, 2008

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING  
SUN BELT EAST DIVISION**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	25-7	16-2	.781
Middle Tennessee	21-10	14-4	.677
South Alabama	20-11	10-8	.645
Florida International	13-18	8-10	.419
Troy	13-18	5-13	.419
Florida Atlantic	6-22	2-16	.214

\*All records up to date as of March 11, 2008

**UALR 57, FIU WOMEN 52**

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Ciglar, Iva	5-14	8-8	4	2	7	21	40
Jenkins, Jasmine	2-10	3-5	7	1	2	7	35
Boslij, Monika	5-15	2-3	5	0	3	14	40
Neal, Asha	2-3	3-4	6	0	1	7	35
Drake, Tabitha	0-2	1-2	3	1	2	1	32
Hutlassa, Fanni	0-1	2-2	2	2	2	2	18
Team Totals	14-45	5-14	31	6	16	52	200
UALR	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Keys, Andrea	4-6	2-3	6	0	1	10	34
Hughes, Nikya	6-13	10-12	11	2	4	24	38
Rolfe, Asriel	2-3	0-0	2	3	2	4	26
Cooper, Anshel	3-12	3-3	5	1	2	9	37
Team Totals	18-50	19-22	34	13	12	57	200

# New point guard and post player will complement senior offensive leaders

**RAMOS, page 12**

to be.

Soto was heavily recruited by major programs like Georgia Tech and Illinois coming out of high school, before choosing Florida State.

After one season as a Seminole, Soto chose to transfer to become a part of turning around the FIU basketball program. The two-time high school state champion, at Arlington Day High, has played with the best.

In 2006, Soto played for the United States in the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany, and he averaged 17 points per contest, which has featured Vince Carter and Tim Duncan in the past.

He also benefited from playing for FSU as a freshman, valuable experience he can bring to the Sun Belt Conference.

Soto will be an energetic, heady leader

at the point guard position who will open up the floor with his shooting.

The second part of the puzzle is the 260-pound forward Asprilla. According to rivals.com, he is a three star prospect, and he will be the highest rated recruit FIU has ever had.

With Rouco already talking about improving the strength of his players inside, Asprilla will clog up the middle and be a force for the Golden Panthers.

Considered a prototypical post player with strong rebounding skills, the Colombian born big man should start at power forward right off the bat for FIU.

There is no doubt that if Rouco uses his new forward to his full potential, he will bully a conference that lacks a premier frontcourt.

Both players have won at different levels against elite competition.

**ONE SHOT**

However, if FIU stays healthy and does not manage to at least be over .500 in the win column, Rouco must go.

It will be too much. Galindo and Hicks, who scored 25 points per game combined this year, will both be 23-year-old seniors at the beginning of the upcoming season.

Expectations should be held on those two to take their game to the next level, as they both have potential to do more.

With Soto and Asprilla as complements, Rouco will have his most talented starting lineup, since he arrived at University Park four seasons ago.

Soto told me he expects an NCAA tournament appearance, off the bat.

The coach deserves to have a chance to lead the team he put together, but talent alone does not win.

So, come on, coach, lets see it work.

# Golden Panthers cannot continue improbable run

**WOMEN'S, page 12**

up 31-29. On the next play, Ciglar grabbed a rebound and quickly hit FIU's second consecutive 3-pointer.

Another UALR run closed the gap into FIU's lead with 8:09 to play when Hughes connected on her second triple of the game.

The Golden Panthers regained the lead thanks to Ciglar's third 3-pointer of the game, which gave her 19 of her season-high 21 points.

FIU's last lead of the game would come with 1:47 left, as Boslij connected on a bank shot in the paint.

Senior Trojans forward Andrea Key mad a tip-in while getting fouled and made the free-throw with 1:18. That put UALR up for good, 53-51.

The next basket of the game would come as Jenkins

connected on her second of two free throws with 22 seconds to play.

Down one with seconds to play, FIU was forced to foul.

Boslij got in position to defend Sitzmann, but before any significant contact was made. She hit both free throws to make the score 55-52.

Needing a three to tie, FIU put the ball in Ciglar's hands with three seconds left.

She drove to the basket only to be denied a lay-up by the Trojan's defensive.

A pair of late free throws by Hughes would seal a UALR win and end FIU's season.

Neal was optimistic about FIU's chances in the tournament, if they would have advanced past UALR.

"If we had won, she [Ferguson] would have come up for the next game," said forward Asha Neal.



COURTESY PHOTO OF DAN ANDERSON/SUN BELT CONFERENCE

**DOUBLE TEAM:** Senior forward Jasmine Jenkins scored 7 points and 7 rebounds in the 57-52 loss.

# New acquisition brings different offense than predecessor

**NEW COACH, page 12**

Before Purdue, Legg coached at Marshall where he served as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator in 2001-02.

Marshall ranked third nationally in total offense both years, averaging 505 and 495 yards per game, while compiling a 21-4 record and winning two bowl games.

In 2001, Legg coached Gregg Kellett, who earned first team All-Mid-American Conference honors and signed a free-agent contract with the Indianapolis Colts.

From 1995 to 2000, Legg worked at his alma mater, West Virginia, as interior offensive line coach.

He also was offensive coordinator his final season.

The Mountaineers were 39-31 and played in four bowl games during his six years on the staff.

Legg's other experience includes one season as offensive line coach at Virginia Military Institute (1994), five years as offensive line coach at Eastern Illinois (1989-93) and one season as offensive coordinator at West Virginia Tech (1988).

He was a graduate assistant at West Virginia in 1986 and 1987, working with the tight ends and special teams.

A four-year starting center for West Virginia from 1981 to 1984, Legg was head coach Don Nehlen's first recruit with the Mountaineers.

He played in four bowl games and, as a senior, received the Ira E. Rodgers Award for being the player who has "shown high leadership and academic qualities as well as football performance."

Legg was drafted by the Birmingham Stallions of the United States Football League and subsequently had a brief stint with the

Washington Redskins in 1985.

A native of Poca, W.Va., Legg earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1985 and a master's in education in 1987, both from West Virginia.

Four of his Boilermaker pupils went on to play for the National Football League: center Nick Hardwick (third round of 2004 by the San Diego Chargers), tackle Kelly Butler (sixth round of 2004 to the Detroit Lions), guard Uche Nwaneri (fifth round of 2007 to Jacksonville Jaguars) and tackle Mike Otto (seventh round of 2007 to Tennessee Titans).

"He will bring the kind of leadership that will help our program get to the next level and we're thrilled to have him on staff," coach Cristobal said.

-fiusports.com contributed to this report



COURTESY PHOTO/PURDUE ATHLETICS

**OFFENSIVE MINDED:** Bill Legg was the offensive coordinator for Purdue where he concentrated on working with the offensive linemen.



## Rouco deserves one more season to coach incoming talent



Commentary  
**Jonathan Ramos**  
Asst. Sports Editor

All signs point to the door for men's basketball head coach Sergio Rouco, and with reason. Rouco has compiled a 42-74 record in his four seasons leading the team and has yet to make any significant noise in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The struggling Golden Panthers could not reach double-digit wins this season, despite

having two all-conference performers on the roster, Alex Galindo and Russell Hicks.

Although it may seem easy to fire the coach, there are a few reasons why Rouco should get one more chance to turn around FIU's fortunes when the 2008-09 season tips off next year.

Be patient, Pete Garcia. Two of those reasons will likely be putting a smile on your face next season, Freddy Asprilla and Josue Soto.

These two players will make or break Rouco's FIU career and play a big role in the Golden Panthers return to significance, if they live up to their promise.

### FILLING NEEDS

In Soto, the Golden Panthers have found a point guard for the present and future, a weak link for the team last season.

Over the last two seasons, a Golden Panther guard has been unable to stay on the team.

In 2006, the Golden Panthers lost both starting guards Elvis Lora and DeJean Prejean to academic ineligibility. This season, FIU lost backcourt mates Michael James and Kenneth "Redd" White due to suspension and quitting.

Despite a valiant effort by freshman walk-on Nick Taylor to run the point, he is simply not the playmaker that Soto has the potential

**RAMOS, page 11**



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**CLOCK TICKING:** Head coach Sergio Rouco has a 42-74 record in four seasons.



COURTESY PHOTO OF DAN ANDERSON/SUN BELT CONFERENCE

**OVER THE TOP:** Senior forward Jasmine Jenkins attempts to grab a rebound against UALR.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: UALR 57, FIU 52**

## Golden Panthers end season with narrow loss

**DARREN COLLETTE**  
Staff Writer

During their season, the Golden Panthers defied the odds. They played through injuries, and plowed their way to the No. 7 seed in the Sun Belt Conference.

On March 8., FIU Golden Panthers (13-18) fell 57-52 to the No. 2 seeded University of Arkansas Little Rock Trojans, as they were knocked out of the Sun Belt Conference. "I thought it was a hard fought game, and there were some nice things. We just fell short in a couple of areas that cost us the game," coach Cindy Russo said.

UALR came in as the No. 2 seed, thanks to winning the Sun Belt Western Conference Division.

Despite being a No. 7 seeded "underdog" playing without three starters,

it was clear that FIU had a home court advantage in that game.

After a season of playing in front of a Pharmed Arena crowd that included the FIU Band, cheerleaders, Golden Dazzlers and Roary, that packed at the end of the arena clearly outnumbering the less vocal UALR supporters.

Junior forward Jasmine Jenkins won the opening tip, which was recovered by Ciglar.

After a week of downtime, UALR showed signs of rust and was outscored by FIU 6-0 over the first 6:11 minutes of play before Cooper converted on a lay-up while being fouled.

FIU controlled the vast majority of the first half thanks to its swarming defense, before the Trojans finally took the lead with 5:11 to play in the first half on a lay-up by Sitzman that

made the score 17-15.

UALR went on a run that encompassed over five minutes of play.

The Golden Panthers regained their composure and scored the final four points of the first half.

At halftime FIU trailed UALR 23-22.

"Let's go and do it. Let's win this game. We came in low scoring, so we were like, let's do the same thing on offense and defence, and we are going to win the game," said Iva Ciglar, at the close of the first half.

At the start of the second half, the game remained tight as the teams traded baskets and the lead changed eight times.

FIU grabbed a lead when sophomore guard Monika Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer that put FIU

**WOMEN'S, page 11**

## Football head coach assigns new offensive coordinator

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Sports Editor

Head football coach Mario Cristobal announced the new offensive coordinator, Bill Legg.

He is the former Purdue co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach, and he replaces James Coley who left for Florida State last month to become tight-ends coach and recruiting coordinator.

"Coach Legg is a veteran who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him," coach Cristobal said. "He is a great teacher, a great communicator and a dynamic leader who has worked at championship programs."

Legg, 45, coached five seasons at Purdue and was the co-offensive coordinator for the last two.

Calling most of the offensive plays,

the 2006 Boilermakers led the Big Ten in passing offense (291.6 yards per game) and total offense (415.7), ranking sixth and 13th nationally.

In 2007, Purdue again led the Big Ten in total offense (435.92) and scoring offense (34.31) and ranked 12th nationally in passing offense (307.15).

Legg coached the Purdue offensive line from 2003 to 2005, but concentrated solely on the centers and guards over the last two seasons.

Perhaps the biggest beneficiaries of Legg's offense will be the running back tandem of A'mod Ned and Julian Reams.

Former offensive coordinator James Coley implemented the spread offense, which revolves around physical wide receiver contributing to the offense.

As a result, the running backs did not receive as many carries. In addition, quar-



**Mario Cristobal**, football head coach

Coach Legg is a veteran who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him. He is a great teacher, a great communicator and a dynamic leader who has worked at championship programs.

terback Wayne Younger's mobile style also prevented the running backs to contribute to the offense, but with Legger controlling the offense, Ned and Reams should be the backbone of the offense.

Legg will be working with sophomore Andy Leavine and freshman Brad Serini, two of the returning offensive linemen.

The team lost two key contributors to the line this past season: senior Rolando

Clarke and Xavier Shannon.

The Golden Panthers offense ranked last in several categories in the Sun Belt Conference during the 2007 season, including scoring offense (15.1 ppg), passing offense (150.6 yards per game), and total offense 269.7 yards per game.

The team's rushing offense was ranked second to last (119.1 yards per game).

**NEW COACH, page 11**