

**WINE AND FOOD**  
HM prepares for fest

**CRAZY ENDORSEMENT**  
Coulter supports Hillary Clinton

**SEXY CIRCUS**  
Carnival offers sex info

**LATE STREAK**  
Women's B-ball wins three straight

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

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# WHAT THE DOC ORDERED

## Medical school reaches milestone

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**  
News Director

With preliminary accreditation secured for the FIU College of Medicine, University President Modesto Maidique can sleep much easier.

"I am committed to the medical school. My wife Nancy, she told me that I would be sleeping in the basement for the next six months if this thing didn't get accredited," said Maidique in a press conference.

The accreditation earlier this week by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education not only grants Maidique a decent night's sleep, but also opens the doors for FIU to address South Florida's medical needs.

The process of accepting the medical school's first class of 40 students can now commence, with the application process beginning in June 2008, and the first class starting in August 2009. At full capacity, the college will admit 480 students.

The FIU medical school is a long time coming.

Thomas Breslin, now professor of international relations, proposed building a medical school over 10 years ago as a way to develop FIU into a full-blown research university.

"It was my idea," said Breslin. "I was obsessed with getting this

school started."

In 1989, Maidique asked Breslin to develop a plan to make FIU a top research university. After analyzing the top schools in the U.S., Breslin realized most had a medical school.

Hence, the long process of creating a medical school at FIU began.

Aside from solidifying FIU as a top research university, the medical school was conceived as a way to serve students in South Florida who, until now, did not have access to a medical education.

"You should have, at the very least, access," Breslin said. "We live in this community, yet we don't have equitable access to what we pay for in taxes for the up-state medical schools."

As the only public medical school in South Florida, the new College of Medicine will provide access to aspiring doctors who have family obligations, or could not afford a medical degree previously.

Estimated annual tuition cost for the College of Medicine will be \$20,000 to \$25,000. Annual tuition costs for the 2007-2008 academic year at the University

**MILESTONE, page 2**



COURTESY OF FIU OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

## State funds, private donations will help fund new school

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**  
News Director

In the face of economic recession, budget cuts and tuition and fee increases, students may wonder where funding for the newly accredited FIU College of Medicine will come from.

FIU has requested \$46.5 million in funding over the next five years from the Florida Legislature, in addition to \$20 million a year in operating budget costs, according to the College of Medicine Web site.

But Stephan Sauls, vice president of governmental

relations, arrives at a much different number.

According to Sauls, FIU will ask for incremental requests over the next seven years that will total only \$22.5 million.

In the spring of 2007, the

**FINANCES, page 2**

## FIU rankings lead Maidique to early \$50,000 bonus

**CHARLIE GRAU**  
Editor in Chief

The Board of Trustees awarded University President Modesto A. Maidique a \$50,000 bonus for receiving a grade of "superior" on his annual evaluation at the Nov. 16 BOT meeting.

Originally, the bonus was supposed to be deferred to the end of Maidique's contract which ends in three years. The bonus would have accumulated a yearly interest of 8 to 10 percent while being paid out to Maidique.

After 40 minutes of debate, the BOT unanimously voted to give

Maidique his bonus upfront.

"I think we can all agree that the University is where it is today because of the president's good leadership skills," BOT member Patricia Frost said. "I think every faculty member at FIU is proud to have Mitch as their leader."

Many on the BOT said if it weren't for the budget cuts and state of the economy, they would have awarded Maidique a larger bonus.

Compared to what other public university presidents earned in bonus, Maidique ranks in the in the bottom 25th percentile.

"If we didn't have the current budget situation, we would definitely

be coming back at a much higher number," said BOT member Betsy Atkins.

Board members were at first weary to award Maidique the bonus upfront during a time in which the University's budget is being cut by the Legislature and faculty received no raises-instead receiving a one time \$1,000 bonus. Last year, Maidique made a base salary of \$462,608 and earned a \$80,000 bonus.

After compensation, his gross salary was \$561,816. Maidique had the fourth highest salary among public university presidents in Florida. University of Florida president J. Bernard Machen had the

highest salary at \$726,849.

"It's difficult to view this from a student whose tuition just went up 5 percent and is just scrapping by," said Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Hauptli.

The BOT cited these specific reasons why Maidique was receiving the bonus.

- Record level of Legislative Funding (+40 percent over previous maximums).

- Increased financial stability of University research through considerable growth in overhead funding to cover operating costs.

- Improved classroom utilization.

- Received full accreditation by the American Bar Association and by the Council on Education for Public Health.

- Rank No. 1 in the State for the February 2007 Florida Bar Exam pass rate.

- Ranked by the Journal of Criminal Justice as the 10th best nationally.

- Ranked by US News & World Report as the seventh best for Undergraduate and 23rd best for graduate programs.

Also discussed at the meeting was

**BOT, page 3**

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY • FEBRUARY 11

**Honors Council Society Fair (Monday and Tuesday):**

11 a.m., Graham Center 305

**Pan-African Vendor Fair (Monday - Wednesday):**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

**Sex Carnival:**

12:30 - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

**Romantic Film Festival - "Man's Job?":**

3 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Panther Rage General Meeting:**

4 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Pan African Lecture:**

8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**Pan-African Movie Night:**

8 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

### TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 12

**Romantic Film Festival - "The Honeymooners":**

12 p.m., Graham Center 150

**Mr. & Ms. Pan African Scholarship Pageant Cocktails:**

8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

### WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 13

**GSA General Meeting:**

1 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Romantic Film Festival - "A Perfect Match":**

3 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Asian Student Union General Meeting:**

6 p.m., Gracies Grill

**Pan African Discussion "More than Just a Jacket":**

8 p.m., Everglades Hall (1st Floor)

**Hair Show:**

8 p.m., WUC Ballroom (BBC)

**A Sticky Valentine:**

6:15 p.m., Hospitality Building Dining Room, Biscayne Bay Campus

### THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 14

**Valentine's Day**

**SPC Valentine's Day Extravaganza:**

12 - 2 p.m., In front of the Ballrooms Lawn

**SPC BBC- Jamaican Music:**

12 - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

**Romantic Film Festival- "Any reason not to marry?":**

3 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Italian Club General Meeting:**

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

**Valentine's Party:**

5 - 7 p.m., Panther Suite

**Pan African Dinner and a Movie:**

7 p.m., Graham Center 243

### FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 15

**ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:**

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

**Romantic Film Festival- Even of short Movies:**

7 p.m., Graham Center 150

**SPC UP Movie- "Beowulf":**

7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

**Urban Backyard Astronomy- Southern Cross Astros:**

8 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 145

**SPC BBC- Gospel Explosion Concert:**

8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**LICENSE TO HEAL:** University President Modesto Maidique (left) and Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the FIU College of Medicine, announce the accreditation of the medical school on Feb. 6.

# Med school to have impact on S. Florida

## MILESTONE, page 1

of Miami medical school amounts to \$30,048 for in-state students.

"The medical school will provide a path supported and funded by the state so that an education centered within the medical field becomes possible for many who couldn't even dream of one," Maidique said.

The new school will provide access not only for medical students, but also to underserved populations in the FIU area through its NeighborhoodHELP (Health

Education Learning Program) curriculum.

NeighborhoodHELP, the only program of its kind in the nation, will pair medical students with students from social work, nursing, public health, and eventually, business and law, to work with one to two uninsured or under-insured households. The students will work together with families and their health care providers for four years, collecting data, identifying health concerns and implementing and refining health care plans.

"FIU belongs to this

community, and wants to make a difference by going out into the community," said Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the medical school.

The College of Medicine now has two more rounds of accreditation to pass.

The school's accreditation will be reconsidered as it develops and additional resources are put into place. A full survey will then be conducted early in the fourth year of the charter class's progression, which is expected to graduate in 2013.

If the medical school meets

all accreditation standards during these two phases, then the school will be granted full accreditation, according to the accreditation committee.

Currently, the College of Medicine is housed in the Health Life Sciences Complex at University Park campus. The permanent building is expected to be complete by 2010.

It will be located on the southwest corner of 8th Street and 107th Avenue, and will share its offices with the Florida Department of Health's Miami-Dade headquarters.

# Donations crucial for new school

## FINANCES, page 1

Florida Legislature appropriated \$5.47 million for the medical school.

According to Sauls, there's a pretty good chance that the \$9.8 million FIU requested this legislative session will also pass.

"FIU has received strong support from the Governor, who included this request in his budget, and the Speaker to fund the FIU College of Medicine," Sauls said.

FIU will also rely on private donations to keep the medical school funded—a practice already in use by other medical schools in Florida.

According to the Office of Communications at the University of Miami, over 60 percent of private donations made during their last fund raising campaign went to the University's medical school.

North Dade Medical Foundation has already donated \$5 million to the FIU College of Medicine.

The money, which is eligible for a matching state grant, will go toward merit-based scholarships and appointing chairs for

the school.

Putting the past behind him, Dr. Herbert Wertheim, former member of FIU's Board of Trustees and one of the University's biggest donors, suggested that he may make another offer to the College of Medicine.

The college was almost named after Wertheim in 2007 when he offered to donate \$20 million, but revoked the gift after Maidique supposedly commented that Wertheim was given naming rights "on the cheap."

The donation would have also been eligible for a matching state grant.

"I would like to apologize to all of you for allowing my feelings to be hurt, and for me to probably act in an immature manner," Wertheim said at a press conference. "I want you to know that I'm here to help and support FIU from the bottom of my heart."

Junior Farhan Bandedi, a hopeful FIU medical student, believes private donations and the many community partnerships that the University has will help keep the medical school funded.

"The money is there. FIU as a medical school will never have issues as far as finances. [Our partners] wouldn't let us suffer financially if we have the need," said Bandedi.

Wherever the money comes from, it will be only a fraction of the economic impact that the College of Medicine is expected to have in the state.

FIU projects to almost double its economic impact from \$1.7 billion in South Florida, to an expected

additional \$1 billion impact on the state.

"In the process of taking that health education dollar, we can show a return on the investment as we improve the quality of life in the process of training men and women in medicine," said Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the medical school.

The new school is also expected to contribute up to \$62 million in taxes to the state, as well as create 8,300 new jobs.

## THE BEACON

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# \$1 million set aside for professor recruitment

**BOT, page 1**

an initiative by the University to improve recruiting of faculty.

According to Provost Ronald Berkman, the University lost more professors than he would like to have seen last year.

With the cost of living in South Florida being one of the highest in the nation and a

slumping housing market, the FIU Foundation has set aside \$1 million over the next two years to help the University recruit professors.

"When hiring new faculty, we're bumping up what we're paying for that position by 16 percent to reflect the cost of living," Berkman said.

The program is only a two year temporary fix, for now.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Douglas Wartzok said the University will report to the FIU Foundation to see how effective the program is for recruiting new faculty.



**GO ONLINE TO SEE SGC-UP NOTES**

# SGC-UP propose changes to constitution

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

A new constitution could be written for the Student Government Council at University Park if a resolution presented at last week's University-wide meeting passes.

The biggest change the new constitution would create is a student senate to replace the current student house of representatives. The senate would include 12 more seats than the current house.

"This is for the betterment of the students," said Anthony Rionda SGC-UP lectures coordinator, who is credited as being a driving force in amending the constitution.

"[Anthony Rionda is] the person who has been leading the charge because of his interest in other universities and how they have modeled their government," said Jose Toscano, assistant director of the Student Government Association.

Under the new senate, each college will receive

one representative per 2,000 students enrolled. In the event a new college is formed, it will be given one representative at the start of the next fiscal year and the constitution will be automatically amended to include the new college.

There will also be a fixed number of senators for Graduate Student Services, lower division students, housing students and general senators. In total, the senate will consist of 30 representatives.

Even though this apportionment of members seems more like a house of representatives by U.S. standards, the term "senate" can actually be applied to any governing body, according to Rionda.

Plans are also underway for a marketing campaign to encourage more students to apply for these senate seats.

"We want people involved," Rionda said. "We want them to understand that this is their money we allocate for their needs."

Specific details are still undetermined, but Rionda said that he is hopeful that the SGC-UP will be able to fill all of the senate seats.

Toscano said the proposed constitution has been developed very well because of the mix of people involved with its creation.

Rionda spent a great deal of time researching other universities while SGC-UP Speaker of the House Jennifer Ruiz, SGC-UP Chief of Staff Kenneth Gelok and SGC-UP Judicial Chair Bill Buchanan have examined other student governments closely during their time with the SGC-UP.

"I pushed some people to write it out and I refuse to take full credit for it. It was a group effort," Rionda said.

Besides the additional 12 senate seats, the new constitution will help create a more balanced system within the SGC-UP. Essentially, there will be more checks and bal-

**CONSTITUTION, page 4**

## Police Notes

**Feb 3:** A student returned to his car in the Gold Garage and discovered someone had attempted to break into it. The student admitted that he had an iPod in plain view inside of the vehicle.

**Feb 4:** Police were called to the University Park Apartments on a report by housing staff that complained of smoke that smelled of marijuana. Housing staff opened the door to the room to check on the welfare of the people inside the room. Police determined the strong smell of marijuana had originated from the room they entered. No contraband was found in plain view nor were there any occupants in the room. Housing staff secured the unit.

**Feb 5:** While on patrol, a police officer observed a small fire in the Ryder Business Center loading zone. He was able to extinguish the fire. A representative from EH&S along with a state fire marshal responded to the scene. The fire marshal stated that the fire was accidental.

- Compiled by David A. Barrios

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## Culinary classes prepare for wine, food festival

*This is part one of a three part series leading up the Wine and Food Festival*

**MARCELO GORENSTEIN**  
Staff Writer

As the South Beach Wine and Food Festival approaches, about 80 percent of students at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will start preparing for their biggest event of the year.

Professor and Chef Michael Moran will lead his culinary management classes - about 125 students in all - to help 24 internationally recognized chefs prepare for the festival on Feb 21-24.

Students will be responsible for the Bubble-Q event, which combines barbecue and champagne on Feb. 22 at the beachside of the Delano hotel in Miami Beach.

Bubble-Q will be sponsored by Moët and Chandon Champagne.

"The Bubble-Q will be student produced and managed all the way through from beginning to end, making it different from some of the other things that we will be doing," said Moran, who's been organizing the event for the past eight years.

"Each chef will produce about 1,000 portions for the 50 plus events of the South Beach Wine and Food festival, most of which are student assisted."

Several sponsors will be supplying donations for the students, according to Moran.

"We have a few sponsors who are giving amazing donations. The Allen Brothers from Chicago will be donating all the protein, China Grill management is donating all the fruits and vegetables, herbs, dry goods and just about everything else that's not protein," Moran said.

Jesse Shlachtman, a hospitality management major, will assist Moran at the event.

"This is my second year doing it, it's a pretty incredible event.

Its always an amazing thing when you get together a few thousand people and everything works out," said Shlachtman, "you always feel accomplished in the end."

Shlachtman, who is in Moran's advanced food production class and currently works as a bartender at restaurant, commented on how prepared he is for the event.

"I get to apply all the things I'm learning in school for example, putting together different spread sheets," Schlachtman said.

Bianca Rojas, lead coordinator for the training committee, and one of chef Moran's Teaching Assistants, said part of the money raised will be used for the students and the school of hospitality and tourism management.

"The proceeds go towards student scholarships and to improve the school, anybody who works during the festival gets a scholarship based on the



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**GRUB TALK:** FIU's Chef Michael Moran speaks with catering company representatives in anticipation of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

number of hours they put in," Rojas said.

Rojas, who has worked on the industry for five years as a manager of "Einstein Bro's Bagel" in Aventura said she is ready to participate in the festival.

"I haven't really hit any walls and felt that I was not capable of doing something," Rojas said.

"With the help of chef Moran and the management team I feel really confident."

The sold-out barbecue event will serve sample portions to the 1,600 guests who have each paid \$300 for admission.

For a complete list of events and prices, visit [www.sobewineandfoodfest.com](http://www.sobewineandfoodfest.com).

### NEWSFLASH

#### Friends of Wine to host a sticky valentine

The Friends of Wine club will be hosting its next meeting "A Sticky Valentine," on Feb.13 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Hospitality Building Dining Room at the Biscayne Bay Campus. A variety of dessert wines and rosés, fruit, cheese, and fresh baked goods will be served. Entry is \$4 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. Yearly \$10 memberships will be offered. Guests must be at least 21 years old and present valid ID.

#### Discussion with an Islamic minister

The Leader of the Nation of Islam in Miami, Rasul Muhammad, will discuss the importance of all religions to have an open dialect with each other on Feb. 13 from noon to 2p.m. in the Wolfe University Center's Ballroom.

#### A Voteless People is a Hopeless People

Tau Delta North Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Student Government Council at BBC will host an event to encourage students to register to vote. Also, they will be asking students to sign a petition to have BBC become an early voting site. This event will be held on Feb. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Panther Square.

- Compiled by Eddith Sevilla

## Councils to vote Feb. 27

### CONSTITUTION, page 3

ances according to Rionda.

"We looked into all the aspects," Rionda said. "It will be more like a real government."

If the proposal passes, it will only affect the SGC-UP and not the SGC-BBC. It will go for up for vote during the Feb. 27 University-wide meeting and must receive a 2/3 vote of approval in order to pass.

Currently the SGC-BBC

has not made any proposals to amend the SGA constitution pertaining to BBC. But Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president, did show interest in the "[The proposed constitutional changes] are very thorough and I really, really think it is a good change," Andrade said during the Feb. 6 University-wide meeting.

Andrade could not be reached for further comment at the time of publication. However, she alluded during the Feb. 6 meeting

that the SGC-BBC may also propose to amend the portion of the SGA constitution pertaining to the SGC-BBC at the next University-wide meeting. In that case, that proposal would also require a 2/3 vote of approval.

The current SGA constitution can be found on the SGA Web site [www.fiu.edu/~sga](http://www.fiu.edu/~sga) and the proposed constitutional changes can be obtained in SGC-UP office located in Graham Center room 211.

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THANKS FOR READING  
THE BEACON

# Academy of Leaders retreat forms new bonds



My Life Experience

Ana Perez  
Staff Writer

Forty students went to a retreat this weekend as strangers and came back as family.

"It has been one of the best experiences by far, with strangers, that I've ever had and it definitely opened my eyes up," said Kellie Maestrey, a freshman international business major and AOL member.

Academy of Leaders is a semester-based certificate program of the Center for Leadership and Service.

With their motto "Leaders Aren't born... They're Made," AOL teaches leadership competence, including personal empowerment, organizational development and responsibility, according to the CLS's program description.

As a member of AOL, I can say that there are no words to describe the heart-felt emotion inspired by the program. Leadership is not just a quality – leadership is life.

Beverly Dalrymple, creator and director of AOL, felt that students needed an education on how to use leadership in the real world.

"We started in 2000 as a brand new department to really start developing the leadership capabilities of all our students because up until then, students were getting leadership training, but they were getting it only connected to positions that

Angel Garcia, CLS-UP coordinator

We instill in everybody the five practices of what exemplary leaders do on a day to day basis.

they had," Dalrymple said. "In the last year and a half, the program has really exploded and we have been able to add a tract for athletes and a tract for Greeks." To start the program, students attend an inspiring weekend leadership retreat at Riverside Retreat in Labelle, Florida.

"The weekend portion, and the intensity of it, is really important because that's where everybody bonds and everything gets going," Dalrymple said. "The experience of spending an entire weekend with about thirty people you don't even know really helps the learning, as opposed to just sessions you might go to every other week."

The retreat costs \$45 for room, board and materials, like binders and papers, for leadership workshop sessions.

Bronwen Bares, advisor of AOL at BBC, explained how the program works step-by-step.

"The weekend retreat includes a personality test, leadership theory, reflection on personal values, and team building exercises," said Bares, coordinator for both the CLS and the women's center. "When we get back, we continue to meet throughout the semester to discuss other topics in leadership styles like presentation, communication, and motivation skills," Bares said.

Angel Garcia, coordinator for the CLS at UP, agreed.



ANA PEREZ/THE BEACON

**LEADING THE WAY:** Academy of Leaders members dance and sing while roasting marshmallows over a bonfire on a weekend club retreat, Jan. 25 through 27, in Labelle, Florida.

"We instill in everybody the five practices of what exemplary leaders do on a day to day basis and we empower you with that and we not only teach you, but you all go through different processes like the challenge course, and you exit that retreat almost ready to take on life; it's like a reset point," Garcia said. The five "leadership challenge" practices, as outlined in the AOL student information packet, include: model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart.

Bruno Phanord Jr., a freshman majoring in health science, said that what made

the experience more special was the camaraderie instilled in members.

"The retreat felt great to be a part of because there were so many valuable assets and traits of [a] leader that were presented and utilized in the activities we did," Phanord said.

To join Academy of Leaders, the next session will start in the Fall of 2009. Applications are available online.

"What a lot of people fail to realize is that there's an education that goes along with [leadership], and it's in you, we just help bring it out," Bares said.

It's an experience that has changed my life.

## Lecture questions news coverage

MARCELO GORENSTEIN  
Staff Writer

What happens in the Middle East that affects the lives of those living there is not news to the media, said David Olesker in his "Media War" lecture on Feb. 6 at the Biscayne bay Campus.

"Man bites dog- news, dog bites man- no news," Olesker said, illustrating a technique he called "the fallacy of the complex question." "I think the media does it intentionally all the time."

Olesker, founder and director of the Jerusalem Center for Communication and Advocacy Training, an organization that educates people on how to advocate on behalf of Israel, questioned what the media considers "newsworthy" and how selective coverage affects the world.

But Olesker argued it's "not done with malice."

"It is a way of collapsing a lot of information into one question," said Olesker to the audience of about 200, students and non-students, on Wednesday night.

Olesker's presentation was informative and laced with humor. However, he takes his line of work seriously.

"Israel's relationship with the rest of the world is a matter of life

and death," Olesker said. "Both Israel and the pro-Israel community here in the States have to tackle that [issue] with the same seriousness and conviction that they deal with other life-and-death situations regarding Israel."

Olesker, who will also speak at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami, travels outside Israel about four times per year presenting pro-Israel advocacy seminars. In addition, he provides "more than 200 programs a year in Israel alone," he said.

Israeli minister Meshulam Nahari gave the opening remarks at the event and answered general questions about Israel's foreign policy from the diverse audience. Brian Sevillia, a freshman international relations major, was affected by Olesker's lecture.

"Sadly, we are living in a time where terrorism no longer relates to just a handful of countries," Sevillia said. "In Israel, particularly, it is not a matter of if something will happen, but when. In my opinion, media attention to terrorist attacks is due to a number of things, and a combination therefore. Including, their very nature, terrorist attacks seek to be sensationalist; similarly, because innocent individuals are injured or killed by these heinous acts, they become media stories;

## MY BALONGA HAS A FIRST NAME



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**IT'S O-S-C-A-R:** The Oscar Mayer Weinermobile rests curbside at BBC while company representatives held an information session, Feb. 7, for students interested in driving the famous dog cross country.

also, there is no denying it, terrorist attacks have become a tool in a complex geopolitical calculation, thus their effects reach further than just the individual victims and nations."

Still, there is a lesson to be learned, according to Sevillia.

"For a population of young adults anxious to make their contributions to the world, the immo-

rality of terrorist attacks needs to be highlighted so that we learn the right lessons," Sevillia said. "Otherwise, students run the risk of applying their energy, enthusiasm, and efforts on unworthy causes."

Olesker ended the program by referring to "the question about nothing," or what the media is not covering.

"We expect the region to be driven by war and conflict; we expect brutal dictatorships to abuse human rights; and we expect a Western attempt to intervene in the region to change things," Olesker said. "Hence, almost everything that happens in the Middle East that deeply affects the lives of hundreds of people who live there, is not news."

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### College of Medicine will help solve South Florida's doctor shortage

In the past year FIU has been recognized many times and is slowly becoming a respectable part of the Florida University system and as of Feb. 4, there is just one more reason why: The accreditation of the Medical School, which is set to open Fall 2009.

With FIU's law school being accredited in, what many members of the staff refer to as, "record time", and subsequently having the highest pass rate on the state Bar exam (98 percent in 2006), FIU's stock had already risen in terms of prominence.

The accreditation of the medical school affirms what many have speculated for a long time: FIU may soon have the same appeal to resident and out-of-state students that other Universities like the University of Florida and University of South Florida have been enjoying for quite some time now.

The local media only bolsters the hype surrounding this new addition to FIU: *The Miami Herald*, on Feb. 7 reported that University of Miami's President Donna Shalala "fully expected" aclearance.

With a second medical program in Miami-Dade County, FIU has recently been the interest of the Biomedicine industry.

Shalala also mentioned that with the two programs, Miami can become even more of a medical destination and a major hub for Biomedicine.

Confidence for the success of the program is so high that by the time accreditation was awarded, FIU already had working agreements with Jackson North Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Miami's Children Hospital.

With budget cuts looming, the new dean of the Medical School, Dr. John Rock is not worried: "We are confident that the legislature and the governor will support developing these programs to increase the number of physicians in the state," Rock said, "to meet the needs of Florida in a crisis situation where there is a physician shortage."

Rock supposes that the new program will eventually double FIU's overall budget.

The accreditation of the medical school is an amazing development in a year of advancement for FIU.

With a crippling shortage of doctors in Miami-Dade County, FIU's medical school will certainly be picking up the slack, so to speak, where UM's school is lacking in terms of producing doctors.

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Budget gets cut, paychecks increasing but at what cost to FIU students?

In recent months, FIU has fallen victim to budget cut and tuition increases, among other financial maladies. Consequently, the school is delegating fewer funds to campus resources to a degree, but nothing Earth-shattering in terms of finances.

Why is it with all of this lack of money talk that our least profitable resources are the best funded and more increases in funding?

The foremost example of this is University President, Modesto Maidique. Maidique received a "Superior" rating in his annual evaluation and was awarded a \$50,000 bonus.

This wouldn't be so odd if anyone besides Maidique (who last year received a \$80,000 bonus) had not received a raise in the past couple of years because of budget crunches.

The option to defer the raise was nullified when it was brought up that a deferral would have an attached 8-10 percent interest rate. Maidique has certainly done a lot for FIU in the past 22 years.

Achievements aside, tens of thousands of dollars more per year in pay is just outrageous juxtaposed with the constant

refrain of "we need money!" It's just irresponsible to award that amount of money each year when the school is preparing to open a medical school and building a football stadium, which require a lot more money to complete and maintain.

During a time of in which colleges and professors are pinching pennies, Maidique should donate his bonus to the University. It is the only the right thing to do.

It's safe to say that FIU wantonly throws around money where it doesn't belong: When our football team lost all but one game, no one seemed to notice that the FIU team was coached by a man who gets paid in the realm of \$1 million annually.

With FIU throwing money from every direction at the administration and athletics, one wonders—with this budget crisis still in play—where the money to support our newly accredited Medical School will come from.

In an effort to save money, the spending habits of the Board of Trustees needs to be re-evaluated if anyone wants to get out of this financial quagmire before all of FIU drowns.

# CLINTON CRAZE



RACHEL DENNY CLOW/AP PHOTO

**CRAZY TALK:** Ann Coulter speaking at a luncheon for the Bay Area Citizen's Against Lawsuit Abuse in Corpus Christi, Texas in 2006

## Coulter's endorsement may do more harm than good

**MATTHEW RUCKMAN**  
Contributing Writer

One to be precise, Ann Coulter, recently voiced her intent to vote for Hillary Clinton over John McCain.

Coulter, a vociferous conservative who is primarily known for being unpopular, wrote a new book "If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans," which contains many of her most memorable quotes like "I think women should be armed but should not vote...women have no capacity to understand how money is earned." She also referred to the 2004 Democratic Presidential Convention as the "Spawn of Satan convention."

And believe me, that's just the tip of the iceberg. For those reasons Coulter's support for Hillary Clinton comes as such a surprise because not only is Coulter a misogynistic hypocrite, but she's hypocritical about her contradiction. A feat in itself.

While on "Hannity and Colmes," Coulter said: "If you are looking at substance rather than if there is an R or a D after his name, manifestly, if he's our candidate, then Hillary is going to be our girl, because she's more conservative than he is." Looking at this, there could be two purposes that Coulter has in mind, both devious.

One - She wants to fling poo on Hillary's campaign by voicing her support for it, such is Coulter's good name. Some of

you may be wondering how one media personality blessing a candidate could be construed as anything but positive... you don't know Coulter.

She weaves tangled webs like a spider named Deception. This blessing is a curse in disguise.

Not much could be more detrimental to the Clinton constituency than a Coulter back pat. Why? Coulter doesn't mesh well with Clinton's key demographic

two of those being immigration and taxation and has not really engendered himself to the far, far, so very far right.

But with Coulter's promise to vote for Hillary if McCain wins the Republican nomination comes another problem, one that may need a logician to navigate.

If Anne Coulter, a woman who does not approve of Women's Suffrage, votes for Hillary

**Ann Coulter**, Author and Political Columnist

"I think women should be armed but should not vote...women have no capacity to understand how money is earned."

(older feminist women), maybe because of her qualms with the 19th Amendment--the right of women to vote.

To truly understand the lunacy, a metaphor is in order. Clinton is Bugs Bunny, her voter base is... Clyde Rabbit. Nice and sweet huh?

Well Coulter is Elmer Fudd wielding the shotgun looking to put a hurt on any "wabbits". Not someone you'd invite to dinner or accept an endorsement from.

Two - She wants to steer Republicans away from McCain's camp and to Hillary's, initially assuring a nomination for the more conservative candidates such as Mike Huckabee.

The reasons for this being McCain has split with conservatives on a number of issues,

Clinton, a woman, what would happen? Would she implode and start singing "Daisy Bell" like her evil-robot predecessors? Or would someone simply drop a house on her for her antics? Both events are, unfortunately, not likely to happen.

What can happen is for readers to give Coulter the amount of attention she deserves, none. Because just like the mayfly, Coulter will buzz around your ear for a while until you feel like pulling a Van Gogh and doing away with the gift of sound.

But also like the mayfly, Coulter's influence has a lifespan of around 30 minutes, which means if you look away from the crazy lady, with a little time and a little luck, she'll shut up. We can only hope.

## It's a carnal carnival: Events encourage sexual health

**KASSANDRA POOL**  
Staff Writer

Students wanting to play tug of war with a condom or Pin the Condom on a Penis will have an opportunity to do so as the second annual Sex Carnival kicks off a week full of sexual health events Feb. 11-15.

University Health Services along with the Student Health Advocates for Peer Education (SHAPE) will be hosting educational events throughout the week with the theme "Sex does not equal love."

Although the carnival does not include jugglers or clowns on unicycles, it will have plenty of games, popcorn, cotton candy, prizes and condoms for students. On Monday, the events will start in the Graham Center pit from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The purpose of the carnival is to educate students about safer sex in a fun and social environment. Besides this, attendees will try to take away the taboo of sex and become aware of the different diseases that can easily infect someone's body if the appropriate precautions are not taken.

"It's important for our peers to know what's out there because not everyone is aware of what kind of diseases they can get without having protected sex," said Bianca Ventura, president of SHAPE.

This is the first year SHAPE is helping program the events for the week, as well as coming up with the ideas for the carnival games. The ideas developed include a twist to typical games such as Pin the Tail

on the Donkey. Other games include Ring Around the Johnny, where two students will race each other to throw a ring around a fake penis. Afterward, they will have to run and put a condom on the fake penis.

Every student who plays a game will receive a ticket where they will be able to exchange them for a teddy bear, a teddy bear with roses or an inflatable teddy bear.

On Feb. 12 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. there will be free giveaways throughout University Park. Students will be asked to answer a question and if answered correctly, they can receive a free T-shirt, condoms or lubricants.

A Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) luncheon will be held in GC 305 at 12 p.m. on Feb. 13 and will consist of a discussion with one of the University's nurse practitioners. Although the luncheon will focus on HPV, students will be able to ask questions related to sex, cervical cancer or any disease/virus.

The week of events will come to a close on February 14 with sexologist Dr. Marilyn Volker in GC 243. Volker will be bringing prizes for students along with answering student's questions about relationships, sex or concerns students may have.

Senior Health Educator from the Wellness Center Casandra Roache hopes the carnival attracts students to come out and learn about being sexually active the safe way.

"I want the students to be involved and for them to actually come and get excited about the games, and try something and learn something new," Roache said.

For more information on events, call the Wellness Center at (305) 348-2401.



## Last thing Anita Bryant wanted: 1,000 homosexuals

**JONATHAN DAVILA**  
Staff Writer

Two years ago, the Carnival Center for Performing Arts initiated a contest asking artists from the South Florida area to submit original plays for possible production.

Professor Michael Yawney of the FIU Theatre Department turned in the then-unfinished play, "1,000 Homosexuals," and was surprised when Carnival accepted with enthusiasm.

"I never thought they'd go for this piece. I thought 'now I have to actually finish it'" Yawney said.

A five actor musical described as a documentary/fantasy/comedy, "1,000 Homosexuals" will be debuting at the Carnival Center later this year.

The play focuses on Anita Bryant and her 1977 crusade against gay civil rights in Miami-Dade. Yawney expressed he had taken a keen interest in Bryant because he simply saw her as someone trying to do what she thought was right and morally justifiable.

"She stood up for what she believed in and it ruined her life," he said.

Yawney also stated the play was written in a way to depict both Bryant's side of the story and the "gay militant" side as fairly as possible without giving too much preference to one side or another.

"I try to present what was said without

too much of a comment on it so that those who agree with Bryant will not be [presented unfairly]," he said.

The former singer, performer and TV icon, now known for her campaign against homosexuality, will be played by local actress Merry Jo Cortada - an actress Yawney believes is perfect for the role due to her unique and varied talents.

"It would be easy to write [Bryant] off," said Cortada, "but what Yawney finds interesting about me is that I don't see her as a villain [either]."



**BRYANT**

To prepare for the role of Bryant, Cortada spent a considerable amount of time dedicating herself to the task of research, finding out all that she could about Bryant and her campaign.

Cortada said she watched two DVDs she collected from the Wolfsonian Museum that contained old news reels of Bryant from that time period.

She read "At Any Cost," a book co-written by Bryant and her ex-husband Bob Green, that helped her get into the voice of her character.

Cortada also stated she lived in Miami during this controversial time period, letting her draw inspiration from her own personal experience which she believes helps her greatly with the task of tackling such a

demanding role.

"This era was the beginning of gay pride," she said. "A lot of people are going

"a hot ticket and selling very well," but he did not deny that the play might spark some controversy.

**Michael Yawney, Professor**

I try to present what was said without too much of a comment on it so that those who agree with Bryant will be [pre-sented fairly]

to say 'Who is this woman?' and 'Did people really think that way?'"

Yawney's attempt to portray both sides of the story as true-to-life as possible goes beyond the casting of Cortada.

Yawney obtained stacks of government documents and newspaper articles relating to Bryant's campaign from a New York City public library.

He also collected information from "underground gay manifestos" from the Gay Community Center in Fort Lauderdale. Yawney said much of the play's dialogue comes directly from these government documents.

This unique reliance on primary sources likely made for many boring evenings, something that is not lost on the playwright himself. "It was probably the most nerdy way to write a play," he said.

Bill Spring, another actor involved in the production will be Anita's accompanist, said that "1,000 Homosexuals" is already

"It's a subversive work," Spring said. "Anytime you have a gay subject matter, it's subversive."

Yawney also believes the play might be more than a bit contentious considering the subject matter and the nature and public perception of the main character and the other people involved.

"It is a little controversial," Yawney said. "But it should be."

After reading the script, Cortada agreed with both Yawney and Spring.

"I told [Yawney], 'the only thing I'll ask for is body guards,'" she said.

This play is set to debut April 10, but Yawney said there had been a restructuring in management at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts that could possibly delay production until October of this year.

Tickets are not available at this time, but call the box office at 305-949-6722 for more information on the play.

## REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

## TECHNOLOGY MacBook Air

## A lightweight laptop with a heavyweight price



At 0.76 inches thin, Apple's new MacBook Air is a three pound notebook that's backpack friendly, fashionable and expensive. Emphasis on the expensive.

With a \$1799 starting price, the base Air model is equipped with an 80 gigabyte

hard disk drive, a 1.6 gigahertz Intel Core 2 Duo processor and two gigabytes of random access memory. Upgrade options include a \$300 processor boost to 1.8 GHz and a \$999 switch from a hard drive to a 64 GB solid state drive. Compared to the MacBook though, the Air has nothing. For \$800 less, the base MacBook model has a 2.0 GHz Core 2 Duo processor. For \$400 more, a model with a 2.2 GHz processor, 2 GB RAM and 160 GB hard disk drive is available - and that's still \$200 less than the anemic Air.

The \$1799 price tag isn't for processing specifications, it's for form. Sitting next to a MacBook, the Air may inspire those with more fervent bouts of technolust (and heavier backpacks) to consider life without a kidney.

Though before you start researching organ black markets, know that the Air makes a lot of compromises that media-philes won't like. There are only three input ports available; one each for headphones, USB port and an external display. There's also no optical drive to rely on

for movie watching between or, for some, during classes.

For the hardcore battery drainers who don't believe in wall adapters, Apple wants them to plug in. The battery is encased in the Air's body. Naturally, Apple is there for replacement battery needs at \$129 but two GB's of RAM are all the Air can hold - and allow you to have - because they're soldered to the motherboard. Coupled with a 144 MB graphics card, there'll be no *World of Warcraft* for Air owners.



These compensations mean that media-philes have to find new ways to tow their data on hand. One current data solution is to repurpose media players such as iPods, Zune's and Creative Zen's as external hard drives.

Apple's MacBook Air is meant for serious business.

With all the limitations imposed by the form, work can get done without the looming temptation to watch a movie or play games (although wifi internet access will beg to differ).

Yet Apple makes it hard for a student budget to look the Air's way because of the already high starting price that grows exponentially when upgrades and options come into play.

Overall, those who need mobility (three pounds of notebook) - at any cost - will warm up to the Air while those who need space and muscle will look elsewhere.

THEATRE *Electricidad*

## Great acting helps propel FIU show to excellence

CHRIS CABRAL  
ASST. LIFE EDITOR

FIU's production of "Electricidad" is a surprisingly enthralling, incredibly bizarre adaptation of the Greek play *Electra*, carried by strong performances, a captivating story, and a well written if flawed script.

What makes the play remarkable is the fact that the show could very well have been awful. With characters that refer to things like "the way of the cholo" (not to be confused with the way of the ninja), it is at first quite easy to dismiss the play off hand as an ill conceived attempt to modernize a classic story.

It is through the intense commitment of the actors that an audience member is able to forgive certain aspects of the script that would make the play seem cheesy in the hands of a lesser cast.

At the end of the day, it is a uniquely entertaining show more than worth the price of admission.

The story, for fans of ancient Greek theater, is familiar. Set in east Los Angeles, the play centers around a hellish netherworld of criminal mayhem where fires rage, bodies rot in the street and the police leave residents to their own devices, for better and mostly worse.

*Electricidad* is played by Mellisa Hubicsak. She is consumed with desire for vengeance when she discovers that her mother has killed her father.

Her father was the leader of a powerful Mexican gang that rules their part of the barrio, the Eastside Locos. In her grief, she chains herself to the body of

her father and lies in the front yard.

She rants about the evils of her mother and how she's determined to avenge her father's death at all hours of the day.

Her brother Orestes is said to have also been killed by her mother, which only further fuels the ire of young *Electricidad*.

*Electricidad* clashes with her Grandmother, her sister who has left a life of violence behind to become a bride of Christ, and just about anyone else who comes within a chain's length of her father's rotting corpse.

Her madness consumes her as her limitless desire for revenge tears her world asunder.

The story is watched ever intently and commented on by the local old ladies and cholas, who fill the role of the classical Greek chorus. They complain about the decline of the neighborhood, the unfeminine qualities of *Electricidad*, and the trouble with kids today.

At first, the chorus of old cholas seem a bit annoying, yet after a while they become one of the most memorable parts of the show, as their humor and social commentary provide needed balance to the show.

Many of the lines are delivered in spanglish, which can get annoying, especially for those who currently have a low B average in their Spanish class.

The play's biggest flaw is that many of the cultural references relating to life in East Los Angeles don't always resonate with a Miami audience. It is hard to judge the realism and authenticity of the

**ELECTRICIDAD, page 9**

## Writers' strike forces late-night hosts to improvise

CHRIS TOWERS  
Asst. News Director

Without the safety net of their writing staffs to help them craft their jokes and construct their premises, many late night talk show hosts have been forced to wing it as the writer's strike has entered its fourth month.

From "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" to "The Colbert Report" with Stephen Colbert, the late night hosts have been forced to rely more on their wits and charm than jokes, and the results have ranged from the brilliant (The Colbert-Conan-Jon Stewart 'fued') to the awful (everything Jay Leno has done, which, is actually, not a big change from normal pre-writers' strike Leno.)

By far the biggest beneficiary of the writer's strike has been O'Brien, a former comedy writer himself whose over-the-top persona has allowed him to run wild during the strike.

Instead of trying to replicate the formula the show has followed over the last few years, O'Brien's self deprecating humor has allowed him to embrace his lack of sketches and just kind of let the show run itself, doing everything from interviewing members of his own staff to hosting a race to predict the winner of the Super Bowl featuring turtles strapped to rocket powered remote control cars.

On the other hand, O'Brien's NBC predecessor Jay Leno's show has faltered. While Leno has never been my favorite of the late night hosts, I've found his work during the strike to be pretty terrible.

Often relying on gimmicks such as the



AP PHOTO/NBC, DANA EDELSON

**CONAN ATTACKS:** Conan O'Brien attacks his foes to fill time due to the writers' strike.

"Jaywalking", Leno's show has particularly suffered since he's been doing the writing himself.

Stewart has shown his ability to work without the benefit of jokes and sketches, particularly in his first monologue following Sept. 11, which remains one of my favorite television moments of all time.

While the writing has leaned a little more toward the sophomoric than normal for Stewart, the wit and political satire has remained on point, with Stewart ad-libbing much of the dialogue on the fly.

His counterpart on Comedy Central, Colbert's show has also remained on point, continuing its tongue-in-cheek mockery of

political talking heads.

The best moments for Colbert have come from his friendship and support of Republican

presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee, who has appeared on the show during the strike to play air hockey with Colbert.

Stewart and O'Brien have also benefitted from Colbert's relationship with Huckabee, as arguably the best moments of the entire strike have been the three host's stages feud over who was responsible for Huckabee's campaign successes. This "feud" finally boiled over when Colbert and Stewart confronted Conan on his show, leading to an absolutely hysterical five-minute long brawl between the three.

So, despite the lack of writers, the late night talk shows have remained - for the most part - maintained their previous levels of humor, even if that humor has become a bit more disjointed. The good news for everyone involved is that, according to Disney CEO Michael Eisner, the strike is almost over, with just a general vote from the writers being the only obstacle remaining.

## A ≡ Δ

*Congratulations to those women receiving a 3.5 or higher for Fall 2007*

Tara Beck	Janelly Garcia	Diana Arteaga	Cati Gonzalez
Noel Deckert	Ger Lllaca	Sarena Bahad	Ana Lopez
Angeline Gonzalez	Jennifer Lopez	Erika Collado	Cristi Marino
Meaghan James	Carla Marconi	Genine Del Oso	Muriel Meier
Stephanie Lopez	Kathy Ortega	Alyson Earnhart	Ketty Quindemil
Stephanie Ospina	Ali Reboso	Ashley Fernald	Desiree Ruiz
Sandra Perez	Melissa Sabatier	Laura Davis	Ina Scholtz
Krizia Arias	Eli Cid	Zasha Fernandez	Silvy Revilla
Maggie Ferrer	Tiffany Stein	Monica Font	Natalie Bello



## REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

GAME *Shift*

## Innovative game provides uniquely fun experience



For me, the greatest accomplishment in gaming is creating a simple game that can successfully blend classic elements from multiple gaming genres in a way that is fresh and innovative.

“Shift,” a puzzle/platforming gem developed by Armor Games, does exactly that.

In “Shift” the object of the game is to reach a door to progress to the next level. Sounds simple enough, but in this puzzle/platformer, the route to the finish is not always obvious from the start.

The basics are all there: you run, jump and avoid obstacles to grab all the keys in a given area and then make it to the door.

The twist is in the shift - literally. At times, the only way to reach a certain area of the level is to press the shift key to invert the entire level along with the character.

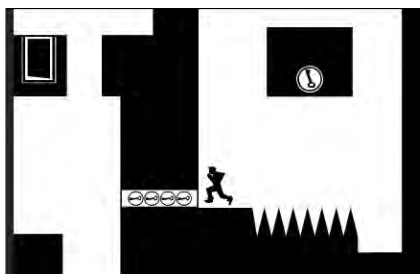
The game starts with a brief tutorial to get you used to the controls and introduce you to the concept of shifting.

Once you begin the actual game, the levels will gradually become more difficult as the puzzles become less obvious.

Everything leads up to a frantic final level where you will race against time in an effort to narrowly escape death.

“Shift” is a truly unique gaming experience.

With a black and white graphic style reminiscent of M.C. Escher’s surrealist works and surprisingly appropriate background music that might have you thinking of a certain pink panther, this game brings quirk and charm to a whole new level; right up to the hilarious ending and even beyond, this game will



COURTESY PHOTO

have you hooked.

The sense of accomplishment that comes in the end is akin to that of solving a Rubik’s cube or finally finishing that Sunday crossword puzzle.

With so much to love, my only complaint is how short it is.

“Shift” is just a few levels long with all the potential in the world to be a full-length game.

The game is featured on the Newgrounds flash site at [www.newgrounds.com](http://www.newgrounds.com). Look for the game at the top of the page.

## Gangsters meet greek tragedy in “Electricidad”

ELECTRICIDAD, page 8

dialogue.

When characters preface every phrase with the word “Cholo”, referring to the “cholo way”, the “cholo code”, “Cholowear” and the like, it makes one wonder: Do people in East L.A. really talk like this?

For the sake of the playwright, the director, the cast and everyone involved, and out of recognition of my own ignorance of life in East L.A. I chose to assume so. It made the play much more enjoyable.

Other than the spectacular set design and the power of the timeless story, what makes this play so enjoyable is the energy of the cast.

Most of the cast gets so deep into character that after a while, you completely buy into the idea that you are in an L.A. ghetto, except, you don’t fear for your life.

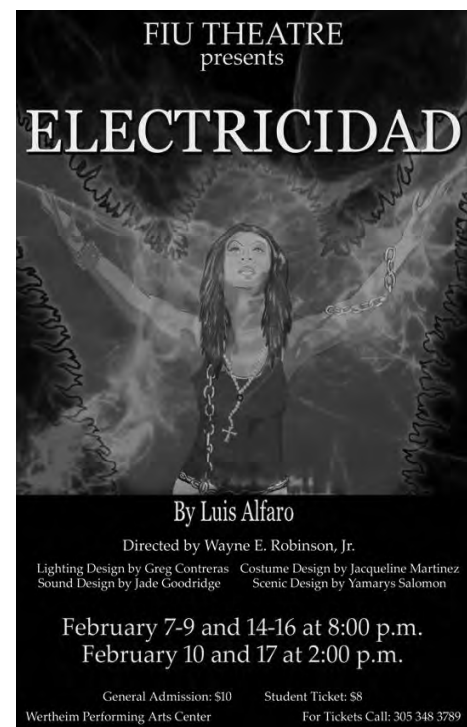
The lead actress gives a strong performance which is vital to any production of Electra or it’s Mexican American counterpart.

Morgan Howland Cook gives a powerful and layered performance as the mother.

She is able to summon a host of emotions in the audience, and her commanding stage presence more than matches that of her costar.

Ashley Alvarez is fantastic as Ifi, a tough chola struggling to maintain her newfound faith.

She gets to deliver some of the funniest lines, and there are many of them



considering the play is based on a greek tragedy. Alain Mesa is the breakout supporting cast member.

He is completely believable as Nino, the older mentor to Orestes, a tough role.

He projects the authority and sagacity of a veteran of the underworld, while maintaining an ability to make the audience laugh.

Overall, the power of the cast is able to make Electricidad a memorable must see production.

If you’re looking for a worthy alternative to reruns on T.V., Electricidad is the show for you.



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**MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	19-4	11-1	.826
Western Kentucky	19-5	11-1	.792
Middle Tennessee	11-11	8-4	.500
Florida Atlantic	10-14	5-7	.417
Troy	10-13	3-9	.435
Florida International	6-16	3-9	.273

\*All records up to date as of Feb. 8



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**SOMBER:** Junior center Russell Hicks shows his frustration after FIU's 72-62 loss at home.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE, 72 FIU, 62

# Sloppy turnovers bring team 10 games under .500 mark

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Staff Writer

After cutting an 18-point lead to 10 in a matter of minutes off a pair of Alex Galindo free throws with 12:23 left to play in the game, the Golden Panthers were just beginning to show promise of a possible comeback.

On the very next play, a re-energized Galindo streaked up the court looking for a fastbreak opportunity.

A loose-handed Tremayne Russell looked up to feed the forward before bouncing a ball of his foot and out of bounds for one on his five turnovers on the game.

Galindo, in disbelief, rolled his eyes at another missed opportunity.

For FIU (6-16, 3-9 Sun Belt), sloppy play, an array of turnovers and missed opportunities turned a basketball game into a circus act in a 72-62 loss to Louisiana-Lafayette (10-12, 6-5) on Feb. 6 at Pharmed Arena.

"This was a very disappoint-

ing effort tonight," said coach Sergio Rouco. "We had been playing very, very hard, even those games on the road, but tonight we just didn't bring it.

"I don't know if we worked them too hard at practice the last couple of days, but we looked sluggish and tired tonight."

FIU now stands alone in last place of the Sun-Belt Conference East Division. A frustrated Rouco wanted a better effort, especially at home, where the Golden Panthers were 6-6 on the season coming into the game.

"Just because you're home doesn't guarantee you a win," he said. "You have to come out and bring the energy, and we didn't."

The Golden Panthers began the game flat as they showed why they are second to last in the conference in scoring.

FIU scored just four points until a Erick Nsangou 3-pointer gave them a five-point lead with 13:34 left in the first half to make the score 7-2.

The lead wouldn't stand for

long, as the Rajin' Cajuns went on a 15-8 run to take a lead for the first time, one that would hold for the rest of the game.

ULL raised its level of play in the second half, as a fury of offense opened the game at 49-31 with 16:27 left in the game.

Point guard Nick Taylor, who started the first game of his career, knows can't turn the ball over too much to have a chance to win.

"We have to start by not turning the ball over," Taylor said. "We have to work at it, because it is taking away the scoring opportunities we get."

FIU committed 19 turnovers overall, just six shy of a season-high 25.

Contributing to the Golden Panthers' lack of scoring was a quiet bench, which scored just 22 points in the contest.

With three FIU starters averaging double-digit scoring, only an unusually aggressive Tremayne Russell was able to crack double-digit scoring off the bench.

With Russell and Taylor getting the bulk of playing time as freshmen, the unit has lacked cohesion due to their inconsistent play.

"We're going to improve and keep practicing and working hard," Taylor said.

"We will get it together and turn it around; we can handle it."

Rouco couldn't help but wonder how the game would have turned out with Miami Spring's High point guard T.Y. Hilton, who signed a letter of intent to play for FIU before the game.

"I can tell you one thing," Rouco said. "We could have used him tonight."

Taylor can relate to Hilton's high school success.

A former Norland high standout, he won a state title his senior year in 2006, but he admitted the college game is another league, different from his high school days.

"This is not Norland," he said.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	18-6	11-1	.750
Middle Tennessee	14-9	9-3	.609
South Alabama	15-8	6-6	.652
Florida International	10-13	6-6	.435
Troy	10-13	3-9	.435
Florida Atlantic	5-16	1-11	.238

\*All records up to date as of Feb. 8

# Rout begins during second half

**WOMEN'S, page 12**

offense, the Ragin' Cajuns looked to a full court press.

At first the press seemed to be working as FIU committed a couple of turnovers; however, after a few minutes, the Golden Panthers managed to break the press and

score six consecutive field goals.

The Ragin' Cajuns would not be able to erase FIU's lead despite a late 7-0 run as they won by a final score of 75-60. McDaniel and senior forward Courtney Ratliff scored a team-high 17 points for the Ragin' Cajuns. Ferguson led FIU in points, rebounds, steals and even blocks. Ciglar had a game-high with 9 assists.

Following the game Jenkins gave her opinion on why the team seems to be having its best performances of the season at this time.

"I think we are starting to play together a little bit more," she said. "We are figuring out what we are good at and have started playing. We've stopped thinking so much, and we just go with the flow."

# Recruiting class addresses defensive side of the ball

**SIGNING DAY, page 12**

was named MVP of the state title game.

These are some notable names fans should keep an eye on headed into spring practice for the fourth ranked recruiting class in the Sun-Belt Conference, according to *rivals.com*:

Linebacker AJ Grant, standing 6-0 and

weighing 220 pounds (Sandalwood, Jacksonville, FL) comes in with a 4.45 40-yard dash to go along with his big frame. He is also a three-star recruit.

Offensive lineman Cedric Mack from El Camino Junior College in Torrance, Calif., listed at 6-4, 335 pounds is originally from Miami and played for Palmetto High School.

"A mountain of a man who looks like a ballerina when pulling on toss sweeps," Cristobal said.

He is also a three star prospect, according to *rivals.com*.

Marcelus Manear, listed at 5-11, 180 pounds from Milford Academy in New York is a mid-year signee who tallied 55 tackles and eight sacks last year, leading Milford to

the 2007 Prep School National Championship.

The 2007 recruiting class is the best recruiting class in the program's history, based on the rating system listed on *rivals.com*. Coach Cristobal's second recruiting class will report to camp for the 2008 season with hopes of bringing prestige to the football team.

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU, 75 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE, 60

# WINNING WAYS

## Offense backs up third straight win

**DARREN COLLETTE**  
Staff Writer

For the first time this season, the Golden Panthers (10-13, 6-6) shot over 50 percent from the field.

The most efficient offensive game resulted in the team's third consecutive victory.

The Golden Panthers' 75-60 win against the University of Louisiana Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (5-17, 1-9) on Feb. 6 at Pharmed Arena marked the team's best second half performance of the season.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson led FIU with 19 points and a career-high 14 rebounds.

The game started with each team turning over the

ball numerous times. With 15:22 remaining in the first half, senior forward Jasmine Jenkins grabbed a rebound and went up for a lay-up that put FIU up 5-4.

Jenkins went on to score FIU's next 5 points en route to what would be a career-high 17-point night.

The first half was fairly close, with neither team gaining a large advantage over the other; with five minutes 58 seconds left, the score was tied at 18.

Sophomore guard Monika Bosilj connected on her second three of the first half.

Following a basket by the Ragin' Cajuns, junior guard Iva Ciglar connected on a three-pointer of her own that put the Golden Panthers

ahead 24-20.

Ciglar scored again on the next possession, but ULL responded with a basket from a junior center Alicia McDaniel, who connected on a lay-up while being fouled.

After hitting her free throw, McDaniel brought the Ragin' Cajuns within three points and the score was 26-23.

As time expired in the first half, Golden Panther Ferguson connected on a three-pointer that sent FIU into halftime with a 29-23 lead.

Ferguson continued to score in the second half as she put six of the Golden Panthers' next eight points on the board.

"I know that I am looked

at a lot when teams scout this team," said Ferguson. "If I can't score, I need to get it done for my team in other ways. I got to get rebounds; I got to get assists and keep the turnovers to a minimum."

FIU is 3-1 in games in which Ferguson has recorded a double-double.

"I believe we have come out on top every time I have rebounded well," she said.

The Golden Panthers continued to pour it on in the second half and freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa extended the lead to 24 with a three-pointer with 9:20 remaining in the game. In a desperate effort to shut down the Golden Panthers'

**WOMEN'S, page 10**

**ROLLING:** Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson drives the lane en route to a blank point performance.

# Football program receives 24 national letters of intent

**ANDREW JULIAN**  
Staff Writer

National Signing Day is a day when high school talent brings hope to college fans across the country. When a school's recruiting abilities are evaluated and when the future of the football program is introduced.

The FIU football program received 24 national letters of intent on Feb. 7. The day of great anticipation has finally arrived and for the

Golden Panthers, new blood is certainly needed and will be called upon to contribute, possibly from the opening snap of next season.

FIU, (1-11, 1-7 Sun Belt), who ended a 23-game losing streak with a victory in the final game of last season, a 38-19 win the North Texas Mean Green, has set its recruiting roots in South Florida under second year coach Mario Cristobal.

The FIU coaching staff chose to address every posi-

tion on the field and did so quite well, nabbing its first Top-100 recruiting class in school history.

The staff was able to sign players with good track records, including Florida's high school leaders in interceptions and sacks – cornerback Derrick Clark (6-1, 185 pounds) from Apopka High School, who had 13 picks, and defensive end Kambriel Willis (6-0, 215 pounds) from Booker T. Washington, who had 28 sacks.

Also choosing FIU were two other standout defensive players from Booker T. Washington, who won the Class 4-A State Championship in 2007.

Defensive end Jonathan Jackson (6-1, 235 pounds), who registered 19 sacks last season despite missing three games with a shoulder injury, and 6-2, 225-pound Winston Fraser, who had 110 tackles last season and

**SIGNING DAY, page 10**

### 2008 Football National Letter of Intent Signees

NAME	SCHOOL	NAME	SCHOOL
Stephen Bailey	American Heritage	Marcelus Manear	Milford Prep
Chris Charles	Coral Springs Charter	Junior Mertile	North Miami
Derrick Clark	Apopka	Darriet Perry	Lowndes
Troy Dannehower	Seabreeze	Andre Pound	Sebastian River
Aaron Davis	Bartow	Jercorey Quarterman	Parkway Academy
Winston Fraser	Booker T.	Kasey Smith	Seabreeze
Chuck Grace	Hillsborough	Emmanuel Souarin	Norland
AJ Grant	Sandalwood	Kenneth White	Norland
Joey Harris	Chiefland	Kambriel Willis	Booker T.
T. Y. Hilton	Miami Springs	Donnell Wilson	Golden Gate
Jonathan Jackson	Booker T.	Cedric Mack	Palmetto
James Jones	Lake Gibson	Milhomme Jean-Charles	Bayside

# Shaq trade beneficial for Miami Heat and Phoenix Suns



Commentary

**Xavier Villarmarzo**  
Copy Editor

The general consensus – from everyone, including the public, the media, team officials and the players involved – is that the Shaquille O'Neal trade is a positive one.

The trade works out for the Phoenix Suns because they get rid of Shawn Marion, who has been asking for a trade for a while now, and they get the dominant defensive presence in the middle they've been severely lacking. They also get rid of the ever-disappointing Marcus Banks.

Even though the Miami Heat let go of the man who promised a championship and delivered, it was the right time to part ways as Shaq was becoming unmotivated and complacent.

The trade to the Suns – much like when

he was traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Heat – will reinvigorate and motivate Shaq just enough to win himself another title. And there's no reason why he can't. He's playing alongside the most prolific offense in the NBA run by arguably the league's best point guard, Steve Nash.

Many wonder if Shaq can even keep up with the Suns' up-tempo offense, but Kurt Thomas, who played with the Suns last year, runs well with the offense. Suns coach Mike D'Antoni implied that Thomas and Shaq possess the same speed too.

Excuse me for using the term, but O'Neal has been a freak of nature throughout his entire basketball-playing career – a man that size should not be able to move like he does.

He will be in the Hall of Fame for sure, but my biggest complaint is his lack of motivation. In the early part of his career, he seemed unstoppable, destined to become not only the best center of all time, but probably the second-best player of all time (next to

Michael Jordan of course).

After his first title with the Lakers, though, is when he started to slip up a bit, showing up

“ Even though the Miami Heat let go of the man who promised a championship and delivered, it was the right time to part ways as Shaq becoming unmotivated and complacent.”

to training camp overweight and seemingly mailing in some contests. He was so good, posting double-doubles was the norm.

For two seasons with the Heat, he seemed very motivated. Sure he'd take a few games off here and there, but his team would make the playoffs, so that's when he'd turn it up a notch.

The drop-off in effort became even

greater after his title with the Heat, but the injuries didn't help either. Also, the Heat was so used to doing just enough to get into the playoffs that they forgot how to win games.

I'll always wonder "What if?" with Shaq, but at least he brought the Heat, Alonzo Mourning and Gary Payton a long-deserved

championship.

Now he can do the same for Nash and the Suns. As for the Heat, it gets rid of Shaq's burden of a contract and gets in return a versatile, four-time All Star in Marion.

It is not known whether Marion will opt-out of his contract after the season. If he does, the Heat will have a lot of cap room to make a big signing.