

MEDIA WAR

Lecture to examine terrorism

AT THE BAY

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CROSSING THE AISLE

Presidential primary thins field

OPINION

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GO TO SLEEP

Sleep important for success

LIFE!

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NEW PANTHERS

Hedge your bets on prospects

SPORTS

PAGE 12

"RELAX, IT'S A COMEDY SHOW"



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

ONE RACE: Actors perform "N*W*C: *the race show!" on Jan. 30 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The play is based on the lives of three young men of different ethnicities. The show's message is "there's only one race: the human race."

WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

"Vagina Monologues" part of movement to stop violence against women, girls

VICTORIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

The Women's Studies Student Association will host the "Vagina Monologues" to raise money for organizations that help women affected by violence.

The play is a part of V-Day – a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, according to the V-Day Web site.

The production, coupled with benefit events, is meant to increase consciousness to help end violence against women.

Hiliana Gomez, production team member for the "Vagina Monologues," said most students and individuals are unaware of the high statistics of violence committed against females in Miami, and most importantly, at FIU.

"With this play, we wish to bring awareness,

education on prevention and support to all those women and girls who have been subjected to any type of violence – whether it is physical, mental [or] emotional," Gomez said. "The Vagina Monologues brings many people together, no matter the gender, to help stop violence against females."

The play was written by award-winning playwright, activist and screenwriter Eve Ensler.

She interviewed women from around the world about a fundamental taboo – the vagina.

According to the event flier, the play is a "collective yet unique testimony of womanhood in all its potency, hilarity, and heartbreak."

The event will include a reception held an hour before each performance. Refreshments will be served, and some surprise items will be sold.

All proceeds will be

So you know...

If you go:

When: Feb. 8 and 9 at 8 p.m.
Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

Where: University Park Green Library 100

Cost: \$10 for FIU Students
\$15 for FIU Faculty / Staff
\$20 for General Admission

A reception will be held one hour before each performance in the space in front of GL 100. There is no additional fee required for the reception.

collected and donated to community organizations who work to end violence against women.

"After the reception, the audience will be treated to a student-acted, student-directed, and student-produced performance that takes you through many women's experiences, which have proven to be both touching and funny," Gomez said.

With a successful production last year, the WSSA thought to take up the play again and

bring it to the University community.

"As organizer and director, I felt the need to take what I had learned in my women's studies courses and turn it into the actions that would produce social change and support those who help others," said Yahurys Vanessa Gomez, V-Day organizer 2008. "I am very proud of this year's production [and particularly proud of] the wonderful cast members that will make this play come to life."

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Fight for right to set tuition continues

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

The Florida Board of Governors is re-filing a lawsuit against the Legislature that, if won, would give the board authority to set tuition for all public universities in the state.

The lawsuit was originally dismissed by a judge on Jan. 3 because it lacked standing.

The Faculty Senate at FIU is part of the suit, but may be thrown off the case if they fail to prove they have been specifically harmed.

Originally filed by former Gov. Bob Graham and former U.S. Rep. Lou Frey Jr., the lawsuit must be submitted by Feb. 4.

"If the BOG has control of tuition and the Legislature grossly underfunds public universities, it will allow the [BOG] to increase tuition in order to provide the best educational experience," said Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Hauptli.

Created in 2003 by former Gov. Jeb Bush, the BOG's mission is to regulate, control, and manage Florida's 11 public universities.

"[This lawsuit] is necessary, but it's painful...painful because the Legislature wants to have complete control," Hauptli said.

After discovering that

BOG, page 3

NICARAGUAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Club focuses on culture, service

JADE LEONART
Contributing Writer

The Nicaraguan Student Association not only celebrates Nicaraguan culture, but is also dedicated to addressing issues of poverty in the country.

Francis Flores began to form the NiSA during the spring of 2005 after realizing there was no Nicaraguan student association on campus.

Flores, who is originally from central Florida, came to FIU looking forward to Miami's diversity and the opportunity to be surrounded by other Nicaraguans. NiSA became a student organization in the fall of 2007 after Flores applied for official club status.

"My vision for the new

organization focused on what I liked to do best – community service and humanitarian work," said Flores.

Besides helping others, NiSA goals include celebrating Nicaragua's culture and the development of Nicaraguan leaders at FIU. Through the NiSA's commitment to its original vision, it has quickly become one of the fastest growing social organizations on campus.

"The real and true motivation for students to join NiSA would have to be [being] passionate on working in community service projects and enjoy being involved in the FIU campus," said Carmen Linarte, secretary of the Nicaraguan Student

NiSA, page 2

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • FEBRUARY 4

Pan African Opening Ceremony:
12 p.m., *Graham Center Fountain*

Pan African Opening Ceremony/Pep Rally:
12 p.m., *Panther Square (BBC)*

Romantic Film Festival- “I’m not here to be loved:”
7 p.m., *Graham Center 150*

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 5

2008 Non-Technical Career Fair:
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *Graham Center Ballroom*

Romantic Film Festival- “Shake it All:”
2 p.m., *Graham Center 150*

Pan African Wet Fete:
4 p.m. - 9 p.m., *Housing Quad*

Romantic Film Festival- “Shake it All:”
2 p.m., *Graham Center 150*

On Point Poetry:
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., *WUC Ballrooms (BBC)*

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 6

2008 Non-Technical Career Fair:
10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *Graham Center Ballroom*

Ash Wednesday Ceremony:
12 p.m., *WUC 157 (BBC)*

Pan African Workshop:
12 p.m., *Graham Center 314*

SPC BBC- Dance Presentation:
12 p.m., *AC I (BBC)*

Romantic Film Festival- “Snow White:”
3 p.m., *Graham Center 140*

Asian Student Union General Meeting:
6 p.m., *Gracies Grill*

Pan African Movie Night:
8 p.m., *WUC Theatre (BBC)*

Dance Marathon’s “So you think you can dance” Show:
8 p.m., *Graham Center Ballrooms*

Delta Sigma Pi General Meeting:
9 p.m., *Graham Center 343*

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 7

SPC BBC- Haitian Music:
12 p.m. - 4 p.m., *Panther Square (BBC)*

MPAS-STARS: Strengths:
1 p.m., *WUC 253*

Romantic Film Festival- “When the right man comes along:”
2 p.m., *Graham Center 140*

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:
3:30 p.m., *Chemistry & Physics 197*

Italian Club General Meeting:
3:30 p.m., *Graham Center 150*

Pan African Discussion:
6 p.m., *Everglades Hall (1st Floor)*

Fannie Lou Hammer Story:
8 p.m., *WUC Theatre (BBC)*

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 8

Romantic Film Festival- “Lora, a story of love:”
4 p.m., *Graham Center 140*

MPAS-STARS: Strengths:
12 p.m., *Graham Center 216*

Pan African Discussion:
7 p.m., *Bay Vista Housing (BBC)*

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*



BEN F. BADGER/THE BEACON

SPLAT!

FACE PLANT: Marbely Hernandez, University Park Student Government Council President, agrees to an impromptu pie in the face from Kelvin Rodriguez, graduate student SGC-UP representative. The event was held on Jan. 30 in the Graham Center Pit for the Student Affairs Graduate Association, an exchange program with Bowling Green State University. For more pictures and a video, visit www.fiusm.com.

Club addresses Nicaraguan issues

NiSA, page 1

Association.

Some community service projects the club has sponsored include the sale of Hershey’s Chocolate and World’s Finest Chocolate.

NiSA held a toy drive this past December and will be having a school supplies drive later this semester.

The club has also sold pizza at the Graham Center and helped raise money for the victims of Hurricane Felix, a highly destructive category 5 storm that struck

Nicaragua and Honduras in early September.

On Jan. 19, the club, along with the Center of Leadership and Services, participated in the MLK day event: A Day of Service.

“Community service is one of our priorities. [We also want to make] our local community aware of our existence at FIU and wanting them to know that NiSA is active and available to help,” Linarte said.

The club will continue its humanitarian efforts over spring break. From March 17-

21, while many students will be on vacation for spring break, NiSA will be visiting their charities – Club de Ancianos, Ciegos & Invalidos de Santa Lucia in Esteli, Nicaragua. While in Nicaragua, they will provide resources and care for everyone from victims of sexual abuse to the handicapped. NiSA also sponsors two other charities in Nicaragua.

“Issues that young Nicaraguan-Americans face today are focusing [on] obtaining a college degree and succeeding in their personal

career field. In my opinion, no matter the students’ nationality, we all have a common goal, and that is to live and reach the American dream,” Linarte said.

The club meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. There is a \$10 service fee to join NiSA, but there are no other requirements to join the Student Organization’s Council club.

To see dates of upcoming events and more information on other ways to get involved in NiSA, visit www.nisafiu.mysite.com.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Jan. 31, Jose Maya should have been credited with additional reporting for the story titled “Giuliani pushes for student vote at FIU”.

In the same issue, the pull quote should have credited Juan Carlos Robaina, not Juan Robaina.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

THE BEACON

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Budget cuts, economy behind board's decision

BOG, page 1

the Legislature would not increase the funding for public universities, the BOG voted to increase tuition by 8 percent for the Fall semester.

If approved by the Legislature, the increase would have full-time undergraduate students paying \$186 more per year for tuition.

Currently, the Legislature decides whether or not universities can increase tuition and also decides how much money to appropriate to universities.

Hauptli and others believe that if the BOG receives the power to set tuition at public universities in the state, the board will do so responsibly.

"I do not believe that the BOG is going to be insensitive to the fact that raising student tuition has consequences on family. But ultimately, it doesn't help to have tuition so low that they can't get into the university system," Hauptli said. "It's great in

the sense that it provides several independent levers for the funding of the state university system."

With the economy slowing and three years of budget to the state university system, the BOG believes it should have power to raise tuition to provide students a better education.

Last October, \$157 million was cut from state university system's budget.

Florida ranks last among the states in four-year tuition and fees charged by public universities at about \$3,361 per undergraduate student.

The average tuition nationwide is about \$6,200 a year.

"If our revenue goes down and if tax cuts come, then something has to give. And, however the money goes, and as long as the governor is committed to holding K-12 education harmless, then in some sense, the state has to increase money for that, get it from some place, and we're one of the places

where it has to come from," Hauptli said.

With funding for education becoming a hot topic, many at the University level have been fighting that the Legislature not cut public university's budgets any further.

"Two things are happening simultaneously, which is a little unfortunate," said University provost Ronald Berkman. "On the one hand, there is a growing awareness in Tallahassee that higher education requires more money. On the other hand you have diminished resources. Unfortunately, there is no more money."

"The judge is going to have to be wowed by the argument, otherwise he's going to leave it as it is," Hauptli said. "One way or another, this is going to be decided by the courts within the next year."

Chancellor Mark Rosenberg wasn't available for comment.

Charlie Grau can be reached at charlie.grau@fiusm.com

Police Notes

- **Jan. 21:** An FIU student reported a water leak coming from the ceiling of room 257 in the Chemistry and Physics Building. The source of the leak was located and identified as a laboratory sink in CP 356. Facilities management was notified and the on-call plumber responded to the scene. Meanwhile, a chemistry student working down the hall located the water shutoff valve for CP-356. The water had leaked into CP 257 from the ceiling and spread into CP 253 and CP 255. There was no apparent damage to the equipment in the rooms and the leak was eventually fixed.
- **Jan. 24:** In the early morning hours, an FIU student reported his 2003 Black Chevy Tahoe, parked at the University Apartments K Dorm, as being broken into via the driver side rear passenger window. Stolen items include the victim's car speakers, car amplifier, car radio, GPS system and 80 gigabyte iPod. The victim was advised to notify his insurance company as well as to advise the police department of any further information that becomes available.
- **Jan. 26:** Police responded to the Wolfe University Center on the Biscayne Bay campus to an FIU student who was complaining of nausea and dizziness. Miami Dade Fire Rescue responded. The Miami Dade Fire Rescue crew checked the student's vital signs, which appeared normal. The student requested transportation to the hospital. The fire rescue crew arranged AMR Ambulance Service to respond and transfer the student to Aventura Hospital. There is no further information at this time.
- **Jan. 27:** At approximately 10 a.m., a police officer at BBC noticed a two-door, 2003 Honda Accord owned by a resident of the Bay Vista Housing area to be missing. With prior knowledge that the owner was in China, the officer sent an email, asking him if he had had the vehicle moved. The student responded to the email informing the officer that he had not had the vehicle moved.

- Compiled by David A. Barrios

SGC-UP Notes

January 30, 2007 • Call to Order: 4:06 p.m. • Adjournment: 4:50 p.m.

President's Report (Marbely Hernandez):

- Will be attending FSA at UCF from Feb. 28 to March 1. Will be discussing the Bright Futures scholarship program.
- Students can access the RUCKUS music downloading service by registering with their FIU student email.

Vice President's Report (Arthur "AJ" Meyer):

- Panther Point system introduced. Program will give students points for attending athletic events which can be traded in for various prizes. A pilot of the program is being planned by Athletics in association with the SGC-UP.
- An open SGA forum will be held Feb. 20. Students are encouraged to attend. Time and location TBA.

Comptroller's Report (Sergio Ibarra-Bolanos):

- Budget report will be completed by the end of February.

Student Services:

- Preliminary results from student polls on the Mobile Campus text messaging service show the majority of those polled in favor of the service.

Student Organizations Council:

- Deadline for new club registrations is Feb. 29.
- There will be a point conversion in the new SIC council during the Fall 2008 semester. Students are asked to continue earning SOC points as usual.

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.



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A CHEMICAL REACTION



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

EXPERIMENTATION: The Science Club invited students to mix polymers during the Student Organizations Council's club fair Feb. 1.

Media guru to discuss war

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Contributing Writer

For those who want a better understanding of Western media's depiction of terrorism, David Olesker will deliver a lecture on Feb. 6 at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Olesker, who has worked with Israeli diplomats and emissaries as a media and counter-propaganda specialist, is a founding director of the Jerusalem Centre for Communication and Advocacy Training.

"There is a lot happening in the Middle East at any given moment and very little is available for media access," said Olesker in a phone interview. "I once asked Andrew Steele [the head of the British Broadcasting Corporation bureau in the Middle East] how many times he had visited Damascus. He said, 'I never actually visited Damascus.' When asked why not, he replied, 'The Syrians won't give me a visa.'"

Rabbi Saj Freiberg, a religious studies department adjunct professor and FIU's Jewish Collegiate Learning Exchange chapter's associate director, remembered the first time he attended one of Olesker's lectures.

"I first met David Olesker when I was in high school," Freiberg said. "Olesker actually posed as a representative of a militant Islamic group, and proceeded to 'prove' to everyone that terrorism was justified. And we had no good answers for him! Then he revealed himself and began to pick apart the arguments he had just made. It was awesome!"

"More than just telling us the facts, he showed us how we can be manipulated all the time into believe in things that are totally false."

The international political debate surrounding the Middle East has become an increasingly sensitive topic at undergraduate institutions across the United States.

According to Olesker, it's imperative people know the real facts of what is going on in the region.

"When you are talking about media in the Middle East, everyone is a consumer and everybody needs to know what is happening with the coverage they get," Olesker said.

Daniel Behar, president of the JCLE, one of the event's sponsors, stressed the significance of the seminar.

"[This lecture] will open people's eyes to see what the United States, Israel and the rest of the Western World has to deal with," said Behar in an email interview.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, email MediaWarEvent@gmail.com.

"If students care about knowing true from false then they should care about this event," Freiberg said. "I never read a newspaper the same way again."

Honors College helps youth center

ANA PEREZ
Contributing Writer

Long known for its high poverty, unemployment and drug crime rates, Overtown was dealt another blow in 2000, when the census indicated that more than 1,500 children ages 14 and older do not attend high school.

The Overtown Youth Center was created in 2003 by Martin Z. Margulies, a real estate developer, and Alonzo Mourning, renowned Miami Heat player.

Mourning experienced the challenges of being a foster child, according to Jayne Klein, program coordinator for the Honors College at Biscayne Bay

Campus.

"A lot of them come from families where they are not getting the support that they need to begin with and it just multiplies itself and that's what [Mourning] saw, being a foster child and having the experience of being shifted around," Klein said.

In October 2006, Klein established a partnership with OYC originally only for Honors College students, now expanded to allow any BBC student to volunteer as well.

The project brings children from OYC to BBC for selected events that Klein believes would be interesting, useful and entertaining.

Antonina Shachar, a junior and secretary in the Honors College, went on a tour of the facility and described the staff's passion.

"It was touching to see the personnel have tears in their eyes while discussing the kids and you can see they truly care. I can't wait to volunteer!" Shachar said.

The center is equipped with a computer lab, gymnasium, nurses' clinic, and library. They also have a point system, where children accumulate points for good grades and ethics to exchange for prizes.

"It's a whole empowerment project to help them feel more a sense of self-

esteem and feel that they can succeed. The idea is to help them to grow and make them feel worthy," Klein said.

The OYC has a variety of programs including in-school, after school, weekend and even summer programs - all of them free.

The OYC is part of the Alonzo Mourning Charities and gets its money from funding and donations.

In 2005, U.S. Representative Kendrick B. Meek awarded the center a \$147,996 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

For more information, visit overtownyouth.org or call (305) 349-1204.

NEWSFLASH

Poets to celebrate black history month

On Point Poetry Club and The Write Side Poetry Inc. will host "Moments of Reflection: A Celebration of Black History" on Feb. 5 from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. Jubilee Ray Dominguez, Poetic Vibe and DJ Push Play will be at the event. For more information, call 305-919-5521.

African Drum Festival

The annual African Diaspora Drum Festival will be on Feb. 6 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the African New World Studies Department, the event will be held in the ANWS Square to celebrate black history month. Call 305-919-5521 for details.

- Compiled by Catherine Kaiman

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THE BEACON | Editorial

University gains recognition from prominent politicians

This election may be the first where the youth vote is being targeted more than ever and maybe more so than any other demographic, as evidenced by the recent surge of politicians focusing their energies on various student groups (most notably Rudy Giuliani and Ron Paul supporters on FIU's campus).

In Broward County, 18-29 year-olds comprised nearly 15 percent of the registered voters and such a sizable percentage (especially in Miami-Dade County where the 18-29 demographic is slightly larger) of voters could have swung the primary results in anyone's favor.

With the recent slew of politicians and their supporters, who have visited the University Park Campus, FIU has enjoyed a great degree of recognition.

The coverage of these events was international: At the Rudy Giuliani appearance on Jan. 28, the press coverage ranged from the local NBC state to foreign affiliates, an almost unprecedented occurrence for a University, especially one as young as FIU.

As a result, FIU has recently benefited from all types of positive publicity as a result. With a large Cuban community, Miami was a desirable location to promote the campaigns of most of the candidates in the current election.

Publicity aside, the appearances benefited FIU further by promoting the campus for possible future speakers. Events like this could serve to

build the University's reputation as a "politician/any major speaker friendly" campus, as well as a campus that has a politically voracious and outspoken student body.

Needless to say, the alacrity of the student body had a huge role in making the school desirable for these politicians and made FIU a very important stop for these candidates.

This election may have pushed FIU a little closer to being the next major Florida institution to be a mainstay of high-profile speakers and, perhaps in the future, a major factor in attracting new students.

The exposure to come (as candidates may return to speak in future elections), may be critical in attracting new students who may have otherwise never known about FIU. Publicity like this may serve to intensify the awareness of FIU in the media and in the general population.

With the Florida primary behind us and the attention on the Miami-Dade area following President Bush's speech at Miami-Dade College last year, the entire Miami area stands to benefit from this massive amount of exposure to the Colleges and Universities, other than the well-known University of Miami.

With FIU's academic stock quickly rising, the athletic programs steadily moving into prominence, FIU's political importance and mass awareness seems almost inevitable.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP PHOTO

CATCHING UP: Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton chat at the ABC News Democratic candidate debate.

Clinton, McCain take lead in Florida; Obama catching up

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

The long awaited Florida primary took place on Tuesday, with John McCain taking all of our state's 57 delegates, pushing him to the forefront of the GOP race, pushing pass former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. The results ended the campaign of Rudy Giuliani, who dropped out after failing to secure victory in the state into which he poured the majority of his campaign focus.

To the Left, Senator Hillary Clinton attained an entire 50 percent of the Florida vote in her party's primary; however, no delegates were added to her scorecard due to the sanction against Florida's Democrats imposed by the national committee.

As candidates from both sides of the aisle continue to drop out or

fall behind in the delegate count, voters are struggling to realign their support.

Obama seems to be the candidate with the greatest ability to depolarize American politics and lead the nation, which is why voters, on Super Tuesday, may want put their confidence in him.

The Democrats need to take note of the divisive nature of Clinton if they want more members of the GOP base to cross over in November's general election.

Among conservatives, the distaste for Hillary's fiscal policies, mudslinging campaign tactics, and affiliation to the former president became evident in the media.

The same cannot be said for Obama, whose liberal platform, including universal healthcare, may not appeal to most Republicans. His platform has exhibited strong leadership and a more moderate

streak that makes him attractive to those desiring a change.

Currently, both Republican front-runners exhibit some of what is wrong with the GOP: Under leadership of the Republican Party, which espouses limited government, we have seen a growth in Federal spending and in our debt.

Candidates who openly praise Bush's foreign and fiscal policies seem too much like a vote for the status quo. Republicans always agree on cutting spending during debates, but most have been vague on naming where the cuts are applied.

All being said, the most reasonable candidates to think about on the ballot on Super Tuesday are Obama and McCain, but who has the most pertinent experience for value voters and others for who national security through active offense is their largest concern this year.

School leaves on-campus students stranded on weekend

HEATHER STEIN
Contributing Writer

With about half of its full-time students living in Miami-Dade County, FIU is considered to be a "commuter school." The rest is comprised of a growing number of Residential students. With this number increasing, is it safe to say that the campus should remain open on weekends to accommodate them? Or should they be left to fend for themselves?

Many students often find it difficult to find dinner while stranded on the campus over the weekend; many food services on campus close early and remain closed for the duration of the weekend. By 5 p.m. on Fridays, it seems that the campus basically shuts down. While not in the extreme majority, the students who do live on campus are a quickly growing group. So if this is the case, then why does the campus need to shut down and essentially strand these students with nowhere to go?

Everything closes early (or remains

closed) on weekends including the Fresh Food Company, where most FIU students eat, and is the only option for many students. The Breeze Way Café, which is open until 9 p.m., is the only resource for basic amenities



Ana Rebbapragada, Freshman majoring in hospitality

It's ridiculous, if they are trying to make FIU less of a commuter school then they are doing a horrible job, there is nothing for students that live on campus to do on the weekend and café hours are limited.

like groceries.

Most students, myself included, would rather go to Fresh Food where they have pre-paid meals rather than spend money on disgustingly over-priced food at Breeze Way. "It's ridiculous, if they are trying to make FIU less of a commuter school then they are doing a horrible job, there is nothing for students that

live on campus to do on the weekends and café hours are limited", stated Ana Rebbapragada, a Freshman Hospitality student.

It is understandable that the FIU staff wants to go home early on Fridays and want week-

ends off, but food is necessary, especially for college students who are paying way too much to live here. FIU also has costly residence halls; they go up to about \$4,200 per semester. For that price several places should be open.

A precedent at most other Florida schools—UF, UCF, and USF among the most notable—is that businesses operating on campus must

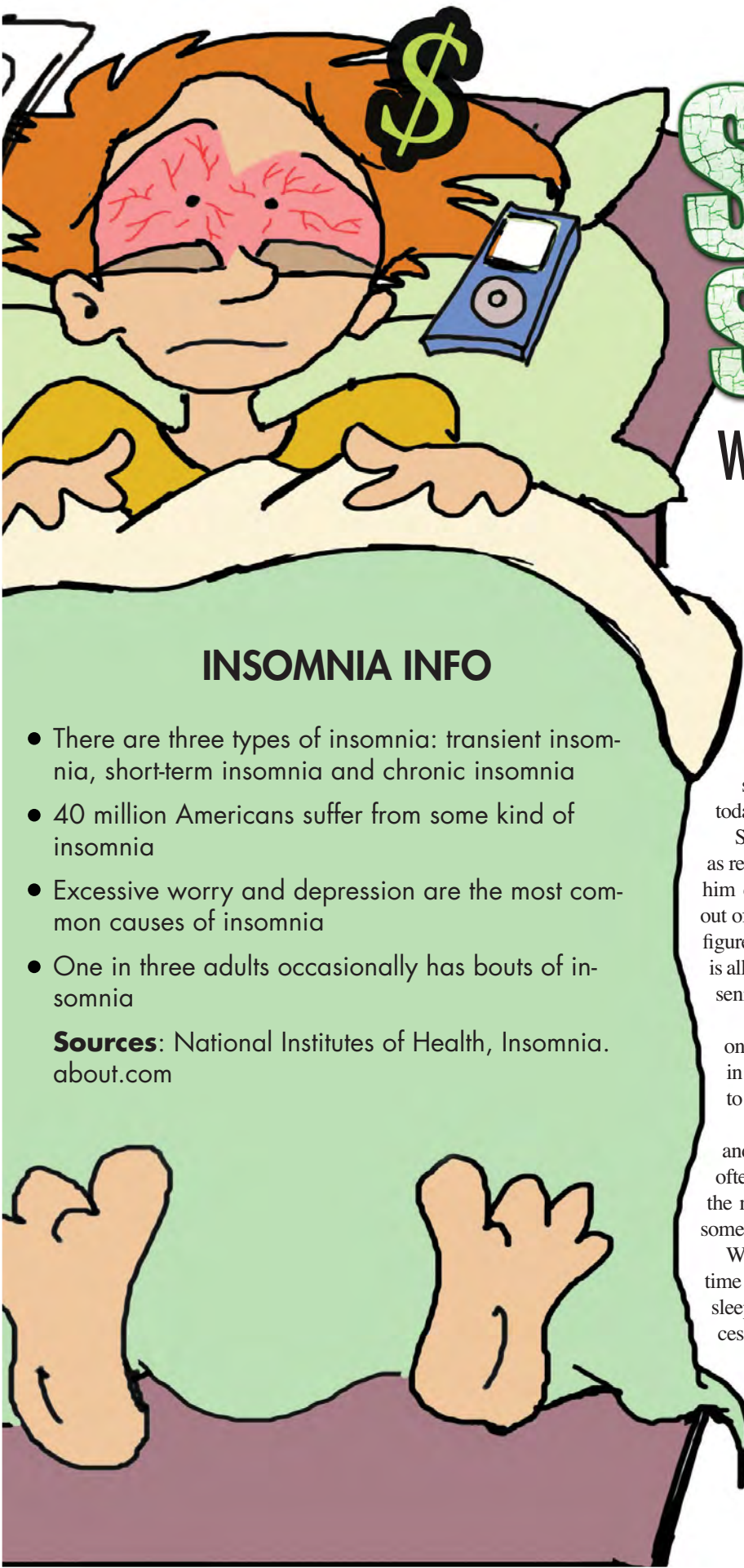
have accessible hours, unlike those of FIU.

"It seems like the school is made specifically for commuters" said Daria Lai, a Freshman Nursing student and FIU resident, whose sentiments are shared by many residents.

Students that live in the Lakeview Village have ten (non-rollover) meals per week to use, which they are forced to purchase when paying for housing. Many of those meals go to waste but yet FIU still gets paid.

"If they want to cater to housing students, they should leave at least one thing open" said Lisa-Marie Young, a Sophomore Resident Assistant in Lakeview South.

With FIU coming after students with everything short of a collection agency for even the smallest of fees, why are the residential students not receiving the services they pay way too much for? Since when has it been an ethical business practice (at the number one Business Administration University in the State, no less) that once the customer pays, no services are rendered?



SLEEPLESS in South Florida

Why you need sleep and how to get more

INSOMNIA INFO

- There are three types of insomnia: transient insomnia, short-term insomnia and chronic insomnia
- 40 million Americans suffer from some kind of insomnia
- Excessive worry and depression are the most common causes of insomnia
- One in three adults occasionally has bouts of insomnia

Sources: National Institutes of Health, Insomnia.about.com



Model of Health
a wellness column
Sandra Mateu

Recalling former President Bill Clinton's recent dozing off for a few seconds during a Martin Luther King Day speech, something inspired me to write today's column.

Some people took advantage of this event as reason to mock him, while others defended him due to the admiration or forgave him out of compassion. "Just because he is a public figure, it doesn't mean that he is not human. He is allowed to fall sleep like the rest of us," said senior Ulyses Almanza.

Although it is really funny to watch someone, in this case our ex-president, fall asleep in front of a crowd, this event calls attention to an important health issue.

When I go to school, stop for coffee, and overhear people talk in the morning, I often overhear people say they stayed up late the night before studying, working or doing something else.

Why is that? Why do people exchange sleep time with work, study or partying? Getting no sleep may seem like a trademark of a successful, hard-working individual.

The common assumption about former President Clinton's episode is that he has been sleep deprived due to his involvement with his wife's campaigning, not that the speech was so boring that he fell asleep.

Sleep deprivation could either be a

trend or a fact of life, according to a segment aired on National Public Radio titled "In Today's World, the Well-Rested Lose Respect," by Margot Adler.

The combination of the acceptance of this trend and the fast world we live in can be problematic.

Regardless of the current situation or status of an individual, it is necessary to sleep at least seven hours for the healthy functioning of the mind and body.

Lack of sleep may lead to many problems such as constant fatigue and less obvious problems affecting the brain and normal behavior.

The American Insomnia Association defines insomnia as a condition where people either have trouble falling a sleep or maintaining it.

When the periods of time without sufficient sleep become more regular, you could be experiencing any of the three common types of insomnia.

According to the AIA, there are three kinds of insomnia. Transient insomnia is the inability to sleep well over a period of time, usually fewer than four weeks, caused by excitement or stress.

Short-term insomnia is the inability to sleep soundly for four weeks to six months, caused by ongoing stress or medical conditions.

Chronic insomnia can be defined as poor sleep every night or most nights for more than six months, due to the above factors or a physical problem.

Vikki Valentine from an NPR segment titled "How to Get a Good Night's Sleep," advises: Get some exercise into your day, set up a quiet, relaxing bedtime routine, soft music and quality time with a bed partner, if possible.

If any of these techniques does not improve sleep quality, visiting a doctor might be necessary.

Do not skip or exchange your sleep hours. Sleep is necessary to restore and rejuvenate body functions, according to the article "Understanding Sleep," by HelpGuide.org.

FIU alumnus finds success with music magazine

LYNDSAY HALL
Staff Writer

A devotion to photography, love for music and an ease with journalism have forged an ideal career path for Sean McCloskey. As the publisher and chief photographer at Florida's music publication *Rag Magazine* since 2000, McCloskey has been able to snap photos of famous bands such as U2, REM, and The Rolling Stones.

After graduating from FIU, McCloskey started *Exposure Magazine*. After only six issues, McCloskey shut down the magazine to purchase *Rag*.

"Exposure lasted six issues because advertisers only wanted to sell to *Rag*," McCloskey said. "*Rag Magazine* was 30 years old and the original owners were shutting it

down. In June of 2000, I shut down *Exposure* and bought *Rag*."

McCloskey says the most enjoyable part of working at *Rag* is discovering new music and being in the photo pit at concerts. While this is an exciting part of his career, it is not an effortless task.

"Anyone with a camera can take a picture of the lead singer. I try to capture the bands' music through a photograph. You can't control everything, so it's not easy," McCloskey said.

At *Rag Magazine*, a primarily rock and roll driven publication, McCloskey is in charge of laying out the pages, assigning stories and selling advertisements. He also sets the budget, controls distribution and manages the day to day operations. He has help from his five main writers and two other photographers.

McCloskey says he feels rewarded for his obvious hard work.

"When we get an e-mail back from a band for an article, the enthusiasm from young bands is refreshing," McCloskey said.

McCloskey got his first taste of music photography in 1996 at Lollapalooza, a show he remembers as being one of his favorites. The best shows to photograph, he says, are the ones of established bands.

"Most of the time they will have great lighting as well as several spotlights. The performers will interact with us. It makes things fun and we end up with better photos," McCloskey said.

By getting his start at *The Beacon*, McCloskey learned how to lay out the newspaper and work with publicists. He got his start as a photographer and graduated as the

arts and entertainment editor.

"They gave me total control and that was incredible. I was able to completely immerse myself and get hands-on work in publishing," he said.

Besides *Rag*, McCloskey's work has been published in *The Beacon*, *Rolling Stone Magazine* online, a few international magazines and two prints have been recently purchased for the lobby of the Fillmore hotel. His success in the industry may certainly be considered "lucky" by some but a steady income is not normally expected.

"I love what I do. It's been 12 years that I've been working with concert photos," McCloskey said. "It's lucky, but I chose to do what I love instead of chasing the paycheck."

For someone interested in a

career path that includes photography, the experienced McCloskey does have some guidance.

"For photography, take photos, more photos and then more photos. Then look at photos. Learn how the best do it. That doesn't mean to copy them, just learn everything about your type of photography and your style will come through."

Currently, *Rag Magazine* is going through reconstruction, according to McCloskey. The new Web site will be available on Feb. 1, 2008.

"[There will be a] brand new Web site design. [We're] just trying to make it a little more visually appealing. Right now it is just the basics," McCloskey said.

To view *Rag Magazine* online and McCloskey's photography, visit Ragmagazine.com.

REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

MUSIC Jack Johnson: *Sleep Through the Static*

Jack Johnson returns with more of the same

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

I like Jack Johnson.

I might be risking any credibility I might have as a rock critic by saying that, but I can't lie about it anymore.

Admitting you like Jack Johnson right now is like admitting you liked the Dave Matthews Band five years ago. It implies you have all of the creativity of a drunken frat guy at a kegger doing an ice luge.

Still, I have to admit, ever since I first heard 2001's *Brushfire Fairytales*, I've had an affinity for this guy's music, and his latest album, *Sleep Through The Static*, is no different.

Johnson has made a career out of sleepy eyed sing-alongs and stoner faux-poetry, and while this album was supposed to represent a radical departure from the same old formula, at least in this regard it falls short.

Much of the pre-release talk surrounding this album has been regarding the sonic shift to a more electric sound, but it appears that nobody actually told Jack about this departure.

While new pianist Zach Gill adds some nice flourishes and backing vocals, for the most part the album steers clear of anything that would upset the listener's vibe. Aside from some heavy slide guitar on "Go On"

and a fuzz electric rhythm guitar on "You Thought You Needed," there is very little here that won't sound instantly familiar to anyone who has listened to Johnson before.

That said, these criticisms wouldn't even be voiced if this wasn't hyped up as his "electric album", so perhaps it is unfair to lay them down. Well, it doesn't have the hooks of his last album, *In Between Dreams*, but it also probably represents a better version of Jack the "song writer."

If this album is similar to any of his previous ones, it would have to be *On And On And On*, his second album, which features a more stream of consciousness approach and less of an emphasis on big hooky choruses. "Go On" is a somber reflection on his new life as a father, representing his fears for the future for both himself and his two new children.

One thing this album does not have are any glaringly bad songs, which is something his last CD definitely did. Getting rid of the big hooks of the last album managed to hide both the great songs and the bad ones, leaving you with something somewhere in the middle.

And for an artist like Jack, that middle ground isn't necessarily a bad thing. "If I Had Eyes" represents this best. Obviously

A QUEEN IS CROWNED



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

PAGEANT WINNER: Freshman Michelle Montesino won the title of Miss FIU on Feb. 1 in the GC Ballrooms.

the most upbeat song on the album, it still manages to give off a subdued feel.

Ever since he came onto the scene, it has been hard to separate the music from the young surfer-stoner persona he first appeared with. While this is a somewhat conscious effort to shed that image and

begin the growing up process every artist must undergo, this album manages to not come off as forced.

That is the best thing anyone could have hoped for from someone as laid back as Johnson, but then should we have expected anything more?

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REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

GAMES *Burnout Paradise*

Game sequel maintains quality of predecessors

LUIS H. GARCIA
Staff Writer

Burnout has always been about three things: Cars, speed and making insurance companies go bankrupt through insurmountable property damage. Criterion continues the mayhem with its first Burnout title dedicated to the current generation of consoles.

Burnout Paradise marks a big change from its predecessors with the vast cityscape of Paradise City which players can explore, taking after free-roaming titles like Grand Theft Auto. Players are now free to drive anywhere and crash to their heart's content with the entire city available from the start.

The Burnout series has always been easy to pick up and this game is no exception. Driving is a cinch and starting a race is just a matter of pulling up to a major intersection. More cars become available as you progress and are divided into three categories. Stunt cars are great all-around cars that perform best during stunts, aggression cars can take tons of damage, thriving on the destruc-

tion of other vehicles and Speed cars are known for just that- their speed. The choice of vehicle can be crucial.

Replacing Crash Mode from previous games is Showtime, which can be initiated at any time during your drive. The objective is to wreck your vehicle while trying to hit as many bystanders as possible. While fun at first, Showtime does seem limited compared to Crash Mode, where more strategy was key in pulling off big scores in any given situation.

Graphically, Paradise City is a sight to be seen. Sprawling urban areas, country side getaways – almost every square inch of the metropolis is a photo opportunity. Music from established names like Alice in Chains and Guns N' Roses are the highlight of what is a rather weak soundtrack. Still, the roars and constant demolition of the autos are stars in the audio department.

Ultimately, Burnout Paradise takes a great step in the right direction with a new idea for the same vehicular anarchy, showing promise for the future of the Burnout name.

TV *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*

Explosive action helps make up for lame, cheesy dialogue

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger may be the governor of California, but that hasn't stopped another Terminator from protecting would-be world savior John Connor (Thomas Dekker) in the latest TV series, "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles."

The "Terminator" films center on several robots sent from a future where machines have enslaved humans. In the second film, Arnold Schwarzenegger played a robot sent to save a boy named John Connor and his mother Sarah from being killed in the coming robot war in order to save humanity.

The series is set after the events of the second film in the Terminator series and follows Sarah Connor (Lena Headey) and her son John; who are on the run from the law. They blew up a multi million-dollar computer research facility in order to save the world from machines bent on wiping out the human race.

Unfortunately for this pair, they have more to worry about than

the police. The machines from the future have sent back assassins, also called Terminators, to try and fix history by killing John, in attempt to thwart his efforts to lead human resistance fighters in the fight against the machines.

While the plot sounds absolutely ridiculous, it's made Schwarzenegger a very rich actor.

When I first heard about the series I was afraid they were going to find some Schwarzenegger look-alike to play the role; luckily, they did not. A nice twist to the series is that unlike the movies, a female Terminator (Summer Glau) was sent back in time to protect John.

In spite of the refreshing twist, watching this new Terminator try to fit in with society is a hit-and-miss affair. It seems as if the writers of the series could not tell whether or not they wanted her to fit in. The show starts with her being able to perfectly fit into the foreign society she encounters, but then she acts like a social reject with a metal plate in her head.

I doubt the series is going to win any awards for writing, but the action is the saving grace of the

series. There are explosions, car chases, robot fights and an evil terminator pulling out someone's eyes to use for his own. The series really has all the action you can for, and hopefully the trend will continue.

Despite some cheesy special effects that seem to be thrown in arbitrarily from the films, the actors really pull you into their fictional world. It's almost a shame that good actors are in such a poorly written series.

But what is an even greater shame is how soon the series started a rerun cycle - just three episodes into its season, that started on Jan. 13. Thus far, there are only eight episodes of the series and according to *TV.com*, the next episode titled "Heavy Metal," is scheduled to air Feb. 4 at 9 p.m. on Fox. Hopefully the national writers strike won't keep more episodes from being produced.

So if you want to sit back and just watch some non-reality TV, then tune into "The Sarah Connor Chronicles" every Monday on Fox. It may make you hate the writers, but you'll soon love the show regardless of the cheesiness.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Tournament hopes still alive as season's end draws near

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

Seven games. That's what FIU's season has come down to.

When the Golden Panthers (6-14, 3-7 Sun Belt) host conference foe Louisiana-Lafayette (9-12, 5-5) on Feb. 6 at Pharmed Arena, it will be begin a set of seven games to end the season, five of which are at home.

With its season on life support, FIU will need to close the season strong for a chance to be seeded in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The Golden Panthers are currently 3-7 in conference play and the Ragin' Cajuns have lost three of their last four games.

With a 6-6 record at home on the year, it is unclear whether the stretch of home games to end the year will work in FIU's

advantage.

Against ULL, the Golden Panthers will look to contain veteran swingman David Dees, who surprisingly has seen his average drop from 17 points per game last season to single digits this season.

Nonetheless, the skilled scorer poses a threat to the Golden Panthers, who rely on defense to win.

The Ragin' Cajuns only have one scorer who averages double digits and are among the bottom half in the conference in team scoring.

The Golden Panthers will be looking to win consecutive games for just the third time this season.

DYNAMIC DUO

The arrival of junior center Russell Hicks as a transfer from Pepperdine University was the most talked about addition of the

off-season, in part because it has allowed junior forward Alex Galindo to play more on the perimeter.

Despite Galindo's slight scoring drop off, the numbers are rounding out as the season progresses and the two have become one of the most formidable offensive duos in the Sun Belt Conference.

With both averaging over 13 points, Galindo and Hicks have become a headache for opposing teams as they both average over five rebounds per game as well.

The Golden Panthers, however, are second to last in the conference in team scoring and have not supported the two main scorers sufficiently.

In spite of that, the two juniors can expect to be in consideration for the all-conference team in the off-season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Panthers host faulty team with 1-11 road record

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team (8-13, 4-6 Sun Belt) will return to the Pharmed arena on Feb. 6 after a two-game road trip that took the team to Colorado and Texas. Awaiting the Golden Panthers will be the Ragin' Cajuns of Louisiana-Lafayette (5-15, 1-8).

In one of FIU's most recent games, the team was able to grab a one-point win over Denver with a narrow final score of 53-52. Freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa led the way with a career-high 23 points.

As of late FIU, has struggled on offense as the team is shooting at a low percentage.

Without a strong inside presence, FIU is forced to shoot more from the perimeter, but those shots have not been falling with the consistency this season.

In Denver, all four of the team's freshmen saw playing time as they came in off the bench. Hutlassa clearly had the best showing, but it is encouraging to know Liene Jekabsons, Maja Krajacic and Tabitha Drake are all gaining experience.

The Ragin' Cajuns have struggled this season and are currently last in the Sun Belt's West Division.

They are led by senior center Sonora Edwards, who is averaging 11 points and eight rebounds per game this season.

Another key player on the

Cajuns' roster is senior forward Courtney Ratliff, who averages 12 points and seven rebounds a game. ULL ranks near the bottom of most major defensive categories in the Sun Belt Conference and will probably be hungry for a road win in Miami.

This is a winnable game for FIU, but the Golden Panthers most stay focused and work to improve their shooting percentage and shot selection.

FIU's last two home games have slipped away mostly in the second half.

The Golden Panthers have to make sure to save some gas in the tank for late in the game against the Cajuns, so they can avoid another second-half meltdown.

BOYS OF SUMMER



JESSICA MARSHALL/BEACON FILE PHOTO


NEW SEASON: The Golden Panthers baseball team opens their season Feb. 22 against Southern California under new coach Turtle Thomas.

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COURTESY PHOTO

MONEY PIT: New York City gave some money and city parks to owner George Steinbrenner for the construction of the Yankees' new stadium set to open in 2009.

New stadiums fail to boost economy

VILLARMARZO, page 12

The only reason Loria and his group have not built a stadium is because they have been looking for the city or county to fill a so-called funding gap.

The team says it doesn't have enough money to fully fund a stadium, but if you ask them to show you their books, they won't.

They'll claim they don't have to because they are a private company, but what do you have to hide if you really are losing money like you claim to be?

The Marlins aren't the only team who does this. Many teams claim to be losing money or not have enough money to fully fund a new stadium, but they'll never open their books to prove it.

Hell, even George Steinbrenner got New York city to pony up some cash and give up a couple of city parks for the New Yankee Stadium set to open for the 2009 baseball season, a project that some analysts say costs an estimated \$1.3 billion (for the stadium, parking amenities and other incurred construction costs).

He also won't have to pay any

property taxes.

So tell me how that can benefit the local economy?

Sure a new, bigger stadium creates some new jobs, but they are low-paying, seasonal jobs.

Sports owners are taking you out to dinner and while they get to have a well-aged filet mignon with a bottle of cabernet and nice cheesecake for dessert, you're having the complimentary bread, a measly appetizer and some iced tap water.

However, at the end of the night, you'll be splitting the check. And you wonder how the rich stay rich?

Gauging recruits' value not possible for years to come

BONILLA, page 12

in their hands. (No pressure, guys.)

As of Feb. 1, 16 high school recruits have verbally committed to sign with FIU, according to *Rivals.com*.

This is the first FIU recruiting class to have four players rated as three star recruits, and three out of five stars is nothing to be ashamed of.

But the rating system does not necessarily dictate who is going to be taking it to the house or bringing the pain.

Last year's recruiting class brought two players rated with three stars: Devin Parrish and Marquis Rolle.

Unfortunately, Parrish recorded just 1 solo tackle and Rolle caught two passes last season.

Regardless, the three-star rated players for the 2008 class are defensive back AJ Grant, offensive lineman

Cedric Mack, linebacker Kambriel Willis and defensive back Marcelus Maneau.

On film, Grant possesses college level speed and power.

His instincts getting to the ball are natural, and he knocks out running backs like a young Mike Tyson.

Unfortunately, that was the only video of the four players available for free, but, I admit, I liked what I saw.

With that being said, however, nobody will know how good a recruit is until they put on the shoulder pads and play consistently throughout a whole college season.

One thing is for sure, though, come Feb. 6, Cristobal will approach the podium and announce the 2008 recruits.

For him, Christmas is in February, even though students won't see gifts for another year or two.



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SIGNING DAY OVER-HYPED

Newcoming high schoolers won't impact football team next season



Commentary

Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

Little kids have Christmas, shopping addicts have Black Friday, movie buffs have the Oscars and college football coaches have National Signing Day.

It's that one day of the year they don't even mark on their calendar because the anticipation is a constant reminder of its arrival.

For FIU coach Mario Cristobal, Feb. 6 is the day when months of scouting, recruiting and convincing high school players to dawn blue and gold next season culminates.

Yet as exciting as new, fresh players joining the team sounds, National Signing Day, in a nutshell, is a showcase of next season's benchwarmers and practice squad.

Sure these new players are the future of the program, but, really, how much does the future matter to the current juniors and seniors who might never see the contributions these incoming recruits will make on the field?

For results to be acknowledged and appreciated they have to be a little more immediate than two or three years.

Of the 18 recruits Cristobal brought last year, 10 of them par-

ticipated in at least one snap.

Of the 10 who took the field, the biggest contributions were made by wide receivers Greg Ellingson and Jason Frierson, offensive lineman Brad Serini and defensive back Anthony Gaitor.

The freshman receiving tandem led the team in receptions and yards, but that still only amounted to 40 catches for 494 yards and two touchdowns. Considering these numbers account for two receivers' combined work through 12 games, it is not very productive.

Gaitor led the team in intercep-

experience?

The 2007 National Signing day recruiting class consisted of the most heralded recruits in FIU's short history because it was the first time the team landed out of state players.

I understand that the purpose of National Signing Day is not to present the new starting quarterback or defensive back, but it's just so difficult to be hyped up when in the back of your mind you know most of these kids won't help the team reach their goal of winning at least two games next season.

“ Yet as exciting as new, fresh players joining the team sounds, National Signing day, in a nutshell, is a showcase of next season's benchwarmers and practice squad. ”

tions with two and he recorded a sack.

Serini played in 11 games on the offensive line.

Beside these three players, the rest were just either one tackle on the box score or 15 pass attempts on the season.

So that was the 2007 season recruiting class – three contributors, seven participants and eight players without one ounce of in-game

It's especially hard to get excited when you're an upperclassmen and the next football game you go to could be your last.

That's why I dedicate the 2008 National Signing day to all the freshmen out there. I bestow the 2008 recruiting class to all the freshmen of FIU, who hold the future of the university's academic prestige

BONILLA, page 11

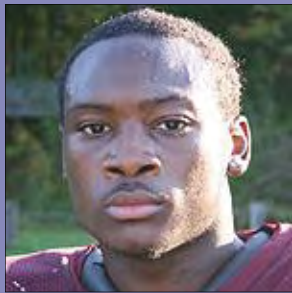
THREE STAR RECRUITS



Name: AJ Grant
Position: Safety
Ht: 6-foot-1
Wt: 190lbs
Forty: 4.45 secs
Hometown: Jacksonville, FL
Class: 2008



Name: Kambriel Williams
Position: Linebacker
Ht: 5-foot-11
Wt: 181 lbs
Forty: 4.72 secs
Hometown: Miami, FL
Class: 2008



Name: Marcelus Manear
Position: Defensive back
Ht: 6-foot-1
Wt: 190 lbs
Forty: n/a
Hometown: New Berlin, NY
Class: 2008

Stadium owners leave taxpayers with the tab



Commentary

Xavier Villarmarzo
Copy Editor

Imagine a millionaire panhandling through the streets of downtown Miami, asking for loose change. Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? But it happens more often than you think.

Maybe they're not literally panhandling, but every time a millionaire – and not just any millionaire, a nine-figure millionaire – or billionaire owner of a professional sports team asks the city or county for tax money to fund a new stadium, they might as well be. Passing the bill – or even part of the

bill – to tax payers is not only unfair, it is extremely greedy, considering that the majority of tax payers do not even care for the local sports team.

So why do they do it? It is very simple – because they can, and no one will stop them.

Every year, an ownership group for a professional sports team will complain to the local government that they need a new stadium.

The owners will argue that a new stadium will reinvigorate the area and stimulate the economy. But the only economy a new stadium stimulates is the pockets of the owners.

There's a reason those owners have all the money they have. If they can avoid paying the full tab and still profit from it,

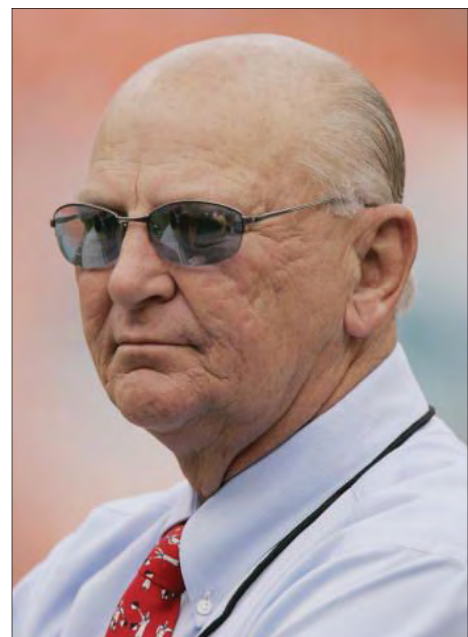
they'll do it every time. You wouldn't pass up a free meal, right? Well these guys aren't passing up free millions of dollars if they can get it.

Ever since Jeffrey Loria took over the ownership of the Florida Marlins in 2002, he has been vying to build a new stadium, saying it will stimulate the economy and allow him to build a more competitive team.

All he wants is to be able to make his own profits and break his lease from Wayne Huizenga-owned Dolphins Stadium.

With the current stadium deal, the Marlins only make money from ticket and merchandise sales. Parking and concession revenue goes to Huizenga's pocket.

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COURTESY PHOTO

BILLIONAIRE BIGOT: Wayne Huizenga pockets the parking concession revenue.