

MINORITY AWARDS

Jose Marti scholarships disbursed

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LIEBERMAN DIVIDED

Joe Lieberman endorses McCain

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GREEN LIGHT

Cars of the future

LIFE! PAGE 9

DONE SLIPPING

Men's team halts four-game drought

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McCain, Clinton Win

ELECTION '08

Amendments may affect education

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

Late campaign pushes by former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Ariz. senator John McCain was able to cement his status as the front runner for the Republican presidential candidacy following a Florida primary that saw him take 36 percent of the vote and all 57 of the state's delegates.

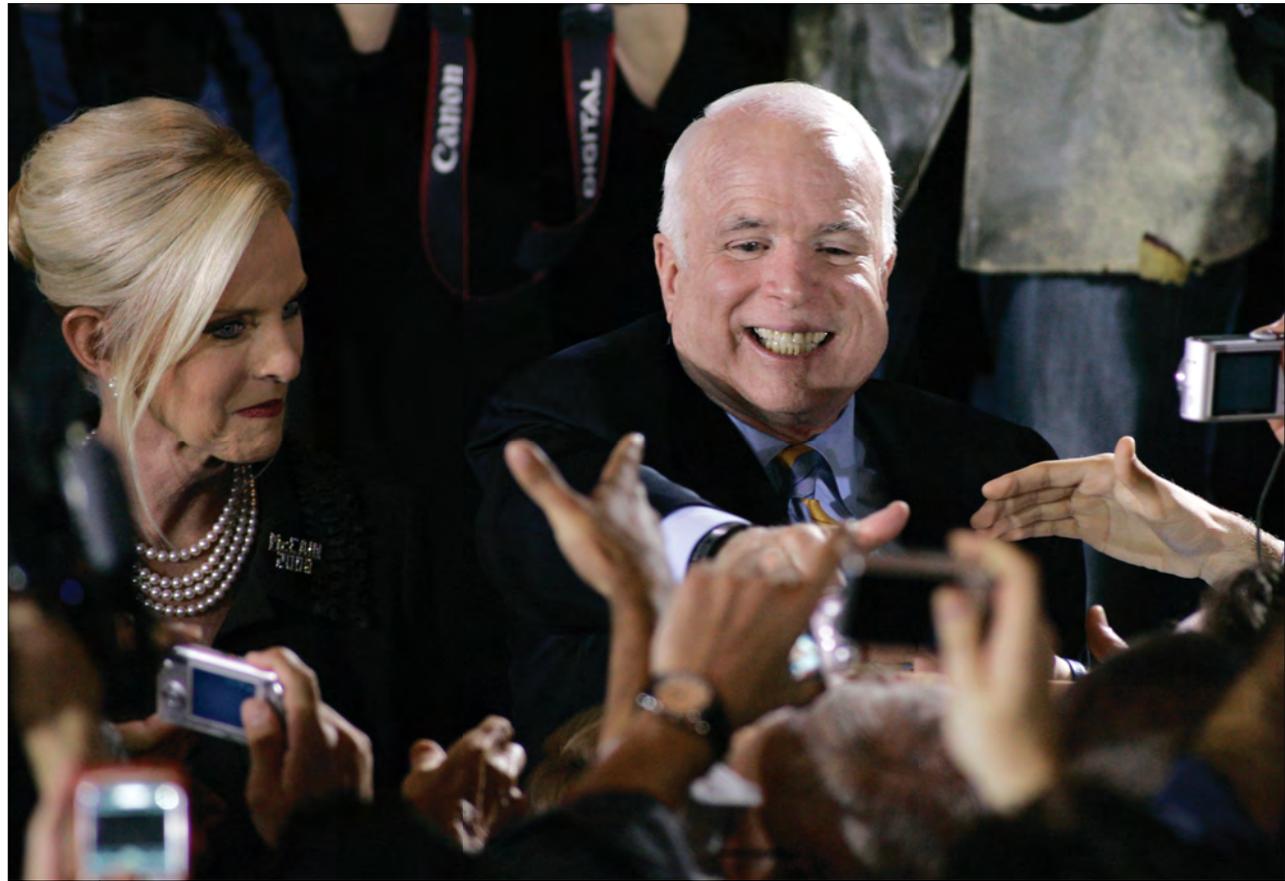
On the democratic side, N.Y. senator Hilary Clinton took 51 percent of the vote, defeating Ill. senator Barack Obama who came in with just 31 percent of the vote. Florida's democratic delegates, however, will not be seated at the party's national convention in Denver following a disagreement over scheduling. Despite the national implications of the results, arguably the issue on the ballot with the single biggest implications for FIU and its students is the passage of state amendment 1, which will change the way the state reports and

collects property taxes. Coming on the heels of statewide tuition increases, as reported by *The Beacon* on Jan. 28, the new amendment will cut money from the state's budget for public services, including education.

"It puts more pressure to find money for schools in the state budget, and it creates more challenges for university support," said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations at FIU. "I guess the voters felt they needed the tax relief right now."

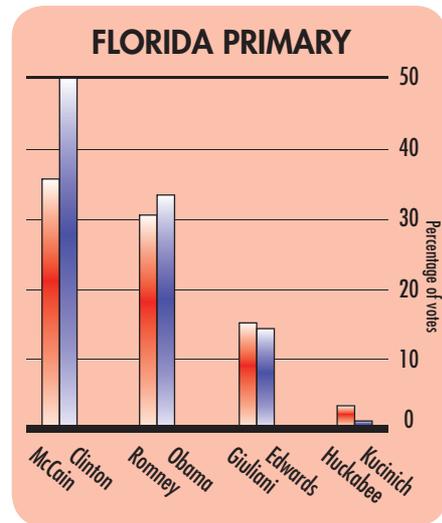
Despite this amendment's passage, the passage of Miami-Dade county Question 3, regarding the addition of Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida, will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

"Universities do not exist in a vacuum. K-12 is a big responsibility for the state as far as funding goes," Sauls said.



ALAN DIAZ/AP PHOTOS

VICTORIOUS: Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, accompanied by his wife Cindy, left, shakes hands with supporters after his Florida primary victory in Miami, Tuesday, Jan. 29.



AMENDMENT RESULTS

- State Amendment 1** A statewide amendment to reassess the property tax laws in the state constitution.
- County Amendment 1** A Miami-Dade County charter amendment to move the date for candidates to qualify for local elections up three weeks.
- County Amendment 2** A Miami-Dade County charter amendment to change the position of property appraiser from an appointed office to an elected one.
- County Amendment 3** A charter amendment to limit slot machines to their current locations at horse and dog race tracks and Jai-alai fronton, and to use taxes for those on public education funding.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

University preparing for accreditation in 2010

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

In the spring of 2010, FIU will be under review for reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This regional committee will observe if FIU is meeting certain standards of a learning institution.

The committee will determine whether or not the degree FIU students earn and pay for is actually worth anything.

"The other schools, like

the School of Journalism [and Mass Communication] and the [College] of Law have their own committees and associations to answer to when it comes to this reaccreditation process. But this process is the reaccreditation of the University as a whole" said Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Hauptli.

Hauptli is just one of the many faculty and administration members at the University preparing for the "reaffirmation of accreditation," which involves an on-site visit of the university

by reviewers from SACS to judge the state of the university as a whole.

Reaccreditation, however, is much more extensive than just an on-site visit.

It involves the submission of a "compliance certification" in which the University certifies it is in compliance with all the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements necessary to be met. It covers all matters including educational, support and administrative units.

The University must also

submit to SACS a Quality Enhancement Plan, a "carefully designed and focused course of action that addresses a well-defined issue or issues directly related to improving student learning," according to the SACS Web site.

"The QEP is a new part of the accreditation process and focuses on student learning. The principles of accreditation have changed, and we have additional requirements to be met," said Susan Himburg, the SACS director of reaffirmation at FIU.

Her job is to oversee the entire reaccreditation process for the University. Himburg was in charge of overseeing the same process for the previous reaccreditation in 2000.

According to Himburg, the QEP is the primary concern at the moment, and SACS has been working on one since last Spring semester.

"The compliance certification is much more cut and dry, but the QEP may be of more significance

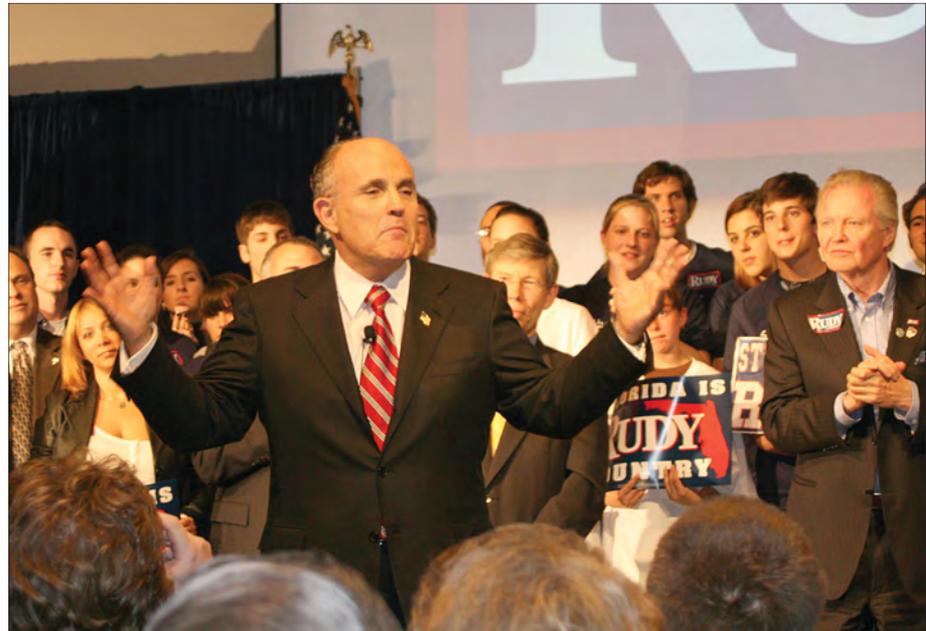


LIEBERMAN GIULIANI



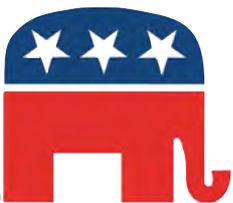
VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

ACROSS PARTY LINES: Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman speaks on behalf of John McCain at FIU in Graham Center room 243 on Jan. 28.

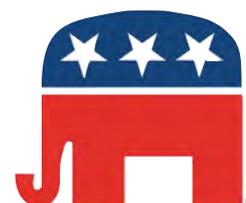


GAUDRY PUECHAVY/THE BEACON

ONE LAST HURRAH: Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani addresses the crowd at the Graham Center Ballrooms at FIU on Jan. 28.



FOR A FEW HOURS, FIU HELD THE ATTENTION OF THE POLITICAL ARENA



Lieberman stumps for McCain at FIU

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

Mere hours before former New York City mayor and Republican presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani made a highly publicized appearance at the Graham Center Ballrooms, another prominent politician was drawing crowds at University Park.

Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman slipped into the conference room in GC 243 for a personal appearance on behalf of Arizona Sen. John McCain, who is seeking the Republican nomination.

Compared to Giuliani's hyped appearance, former Democratic presidential and vice-presidential candidate's

Lieberman-McCain Climate Stewardship Act, which they co-sponsored in the Senate and proposes a cap-and-trade policy regarding emissions of greenhouse gasses.

He described McCain as the most qualified person to lead the country at this time. Lieberman also discussed McCain's past as a prisoner of war and their similar histories of being able to cross party lines in a partisan Senate as reasons why he supported McCain.

"The event with the senator was more relaxed, built around a dialogue and food. [Giuliani's] event was designed for maximum attendance and lots of big guns back-to-back setting up Rudy's speech," said Juan

boost to the Arizona Senator, who has made a push in the polls in recent weeks.

"Lieberman is an independent so he holds cross party appeal," Robaina said.

Despite this appeal to voters on both sides, Lieberman has drawn criticism from members of his own party for his support of a pro-war Republican candidate.

"His support of McCain is not surprising considering he is an independent," said Christian Martinez, vice-president of the College Democrats. "It became clear he wouldn't follow party lines once he became pro-war."

Lieberman responded to this criticism, defending his bipartisan history.

"If you disagree with somebody on eight out of 10 issues, why wouldn't you work with them on the two you agree on," Lieberman said.

During his final note during the appearance, Lieberman expressed pleasure that most of those in attendance were students, and praised the University for its involvement.

Robaina echoed these sentiments.

"The room was pretty full, but that's to be expected with something like this," Robaina said. "The crowd was overwhelmingly students, and that's great because it's who we put events on for."

Giuliani pushes for student vote at FIU

CHRISTINA VEIGA
News Director

FIU got a taste of Rudy Giuliani on Jan. 28.

National media captured members of FIU and the community plastering posters on walls, slapping stickers on chests and waving signs in support of Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani.

"I think bringing [Giuliani] is a great idea. We wish we would have had all the candidates here," said A.J. Meyer, vice president of University Park Student Government Council.

National Chairman for Students for Rudy, Ory Rinat, felt the Mayor's message was well received at FIU, saying the University is home to one of the biggest and strongest chapters of Students for Rudy.

"He understands what people in our generation are looking for," said Rinat, a Columbia University student.

The presidential hopeful brought along Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, Texas Governor Rick Perry and actor John Voigt to stir the crowd.

"Let me tell you something," Perry told the

crowd, "the fire in this room — the youth in this room — is what is going to carry today and tomorrow for Rudy."

The crowd was most susceptible to Voigt, who spoke of Giuliani's crime-fighting in New York as former mayor of the city and his response to the attacks on 9/11.

Giuliani took the stage, opening with a specific appeal to college students, though a wide range of demographics were present in the audience.

"We're going to take this country in a direction of greater strength. We're going to take this country in a direction of even more prosperity and we're going to do it with all of you, the young people at the university who dream great, big dreams and accomplishments," Giuliani said.

Main talking points for Giuliani included Iraq, building up the United States military, economic stability and tax cuts. Energy independence was also on Giuliani's agenda.

The crowd, estimated by the Giuliani campaign to be over 500 but later reported by *The Miami Herald* to be about 250, let out an unintended chuckle when

Giuliani said America would be the first country to send an astronaut to Mars.

They were, however, more receptive to Giuliani's stance on Cuba.

"We have a wonderful story of Cuban Americans — the great story of what happens when people have support, when people have freedom," Giuliani said. "I hope and I pray that when I'm president, you and I will be able to go to Cuba."

Rinat wasn't sure what Giuliani would have to say about the recent tuition increase and the affects of the property tax Amendment 1.

"I don't want to speculate on the mayor's position, but I think the mayor is very, very committed to keeping college affordable for the younger generation," Rinat said. "I think the mayor has proven to us that when you cut taxes, you don't necessarily have to cut education."

Not everyone was supportive of Giuliani. Ron Paul supporters were present in the Graham Center before Giuliani's speech and met his supporters coming out the ballrooms after his speech.

"It's important to have different views and different opinions and the good thing about doing this is we can present our opinions in a peaceful manner," said Kevin Cedno, a Miami-Dade College student and Paul supporter.

event was a casual affair.

Lieberman briefly discussed McCain's candidacy before taking more than 25 minutes worth of questions regarding both his and McCain's views on numerous issues.

Among the issues he took questions on were the

Carlos Robaina, president of the College Republicans, who was responsible for setting up the event.

An 'independent Democrat' who has crossed the aisle on numerous issues to side with Republicans in the Senate. Lieberman's support of McCain has provided a

NEWSFLASH

New forums now online at www.fiusm.com

As of Jan. 31, two new message forums will be open on www.fiusm.com. One forum will be dedicated to discussing *The Beacon's* stories and the other to posting ideas for possible news stories.

Chinese ambassador gives lecture at FIU

As a part of FIU's Presidential Lecture series, Zhou Wenzhong, ambassador of the People's Republic of China, gave a lecture entitled "China's Foreign Policy In The New Millenium" on Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. at the MARC International Pavilion at University Park.

Ambassador Zhou was a diplomat who worked closely on US-Chinese relations in the 1980's and is now the "ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary" for the People's Republic to the United States.

University President Maidique, professors to discuss environment

University President Modesto A. Maidique, Environmental Studies Professor Jack Parker, Biological Studies Professor David Lee, Religious Studies Professor Nathan Katz and Psychology Professor Sorah Dubitsky will be participating in a forum on how spirituality impacts environmental and global warming issues on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

"Spirituality Goes Green: Spiritual Approaches to Global Warming" is part of a nationwide campaign known as "Focus The Nation" that is being held on over 1,000 college campuses nationwide.

Spencer Wells to speak at University Park

Spencer Wells, the "Popular Geneticist", will be speaking at UP on Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. He will be discussing his involvement with the Genographic Project.

Wells became involved in the project in 2005 as the project director.

The National Geographic Society, IBM and the Waitt Family Foundation, who run the project use DNA samples to trace human migration out of Africa from over 60,000 years ago.

For more information contact Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean of the Honors College at 305-348-4100. The lecture is free and open to the public.

– Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. and Chris Towers / Beacon Staff

New School of Music director brings a world of experience

DAVID X. RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Kathleen Wilson's travels – which include states like New Hampshire and Oklahoma and countries such as Nicaragua, Venezuela and Mexico – have brought her to FIU as the new director of the School of Music in July of 2007.

Globetrotting has accustomed Wilson to diverse student populations.

"I have students all over Latin America, which I just love," said Wilson. "I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU."

Visitors who enter Wilson's office are greeted with numerous music books in various languages and a piano. Wilson uses the piano to teach one-on-one applied voice classes from in her office.

Some of the books in her collection include history of music and vocal musical scores in Latin, Italian, Russian and German.

Wilson also features her own book, "Art Song in Latin America: Selected Works by 20th Century Composers." Wilson's book was published in 1998 as the first anthology of Latin American songs extant.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

"As a committee we are very impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field," said



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel's "Messiah" with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Orlando Garcia, professor of theory and music composition. "Thanks to her administrative experience she has gotten the faculty moving towards a common

or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her

Wilson plans to achieve excellence by establishing a foundation of good faculty.

"We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable," said Wilson.

FIU offers a unique experience, according to Wilson. One such feature of the School of Music is its Sydell Ida Wertheim Pipe Organ, donated by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim

"It's the only pipe organ of any academic institution in South Florida," said Wilson. "This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can."

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.



Kathleen Wilson, School of Music Director

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal."

Wilson has "very high energy, is positive and friendly," said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson's proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship

music students to give back to the community by either teaching or performing.

"I want our students to be philanthropists," said Wilson. "I want them to come out with their idea of giving back to the community."

THE BEACON

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Plans begin for compliance certification

ACCREDITATION, page 1

to students since it will affect their curriculum,” Himburg said.

Last fall, Himburg and others called for members of various campus constituencies for input as to what theme the QEP would focus on.

“We’re adding an international component to the undergraduate curriculum while also addressing verbal and written communication skills for the QEP that we’ll submit to SACS,” said Himburg.

This spring, a “QEP Development Team” was formed, consisting of members from all the colleges and schools and other areas of the University to help form the content of

the QEP. The first meeting of the team was on Jan. 28. It is expected that the development of the plan will take the better part of 2008 and 2009.

The compliance certification is due to SACS on Sept. 10, 2009. That fall, the Development Team will test the feasibility of its planned course of action and refine the plan, which will be resubmitted to SACS five weeks before the Spring 2010 semester.

“We’re really at the beginning stages of fleshing things out. Course content is a faculty discussion, and how we’ll go around achieving these goals is the next challenge,” said Jeffrey Knapp, director of the Academy for the Art of Teaching and a member of the QEP Development Team.

NATIONAL TREASURE



GAUDRY PUECHAVY/THE BEACON

RUDY COUNTRY: Actor Jon Voight shows his support for Rudy Guiliani at the rally held in FIU at the GC ballrooms on Jan. 28.

Students worry Chavez will make matters worse

JAMIE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

It is a typical school day at Biscayne Bay Campus for junior Chanell Sanchez.

Sitting down at her usual bench in the Academic II building, she turns on her laptop and drinks coffee while browsing the news from her home country of Venezuela.

It is at this point that she can no longer hold her anger.

“Chavez is an idiot. Getting into a military face-off with Colombia is the last

thing that we needed,” she said.

Like Sanchez, many of the Colombian and Venezuelan student population are closely monitoring the souring relations between Colombia and Venezuela which got especially bad last week.

According to International Student and Scholar Services, there are 265 international students from Venezuela and 355 students from Colombia with an F1 visa for the 2006-2007 academic year.

This does not include the thousands of Colombian and Venezuelan Americans

who are under the Florida residents’ category.

After mediating in the release of two high-profile hostages by the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Chavez angered Colombia’s president, Alvaro Uribe, by saying he respected the group’s political aims and called for it to be removed from terrorist blacklists.

The FARC has been fighting the Colombian government for more than 40 years and holds hundreds of people hostage in the Amazon jungle.

Sophomore Natasha Monell, who grew up in Colombia and attended high school in Bogotá, thinks the harsh words from Chavez toward his neighboring country will help no one.

“President Chavez is using incorrect ways to better a country. By trying to make a difference, he is only making things worse,” Monell said. “The FARC has been a constant human rights violator and to have its terrorist labels removed would give it a dangerous political presence.”

Other Latin American students, like Ecuadorian Freddy Briceno, also worry about the delicate state of South American politics, even saying he would not rule out a military confrontation between the neighboring countries due to Chavez’s stance on the FARC.

“Personally, I would not rule it out,” he said. “Of course I don’t consider it

immediately likely, but there is a possibility it could come about.”

On the other hand, Professor Thomas Breslin, vice-provost for the Department of International Relations, thinks the problematic relations between Colombia and Venezuela pose a direct and unique challenge for American policy.

“We will have to keep an eye on Chavez. He is however, not the first person to push extreme nationalism and, although these issues won’t go away anytime soon, we must be there to help in whatever way we can,” Breslin said. “In most cases, Chavez means well for the people of Venezuela,” Breslin said. “Unfortunately, doing it this way is not the right manner.”

Last week the Colombian government formally protested Chavez’s support for the guerrillas telling him to “stop attacking” Colombia

and interfering in its internal affairs.

For some of the Colombian and Venezuelan students at FIU, political tensions – even from another country – can disrupt their academic focus.

“Not only do I have many relatives throughout Venezuela, but my boyfriend is from Medellin (Colombia)”. We always have ties to our countries and it would be irresponsible to ignore these issues,” said freshman Alejandra Lombana.

On January 20, President Hugo Chavez continued to attack Uribe, calling him a “worthless person unfit for presidency” before calling the Colombian government a “puppet for the American government”.

“[Chavez] is trying to become the next great liberator of the Americas, when he is nothing but a moron,” Sanchez said.

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Six students receive Jose Marti award

ANA PEREZ
Contributing Writer

The Jose Marti Scholarship held its eighth anniversary breakfast at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

The Jose Marti Scholarship was founded in 2000 by Raul Moncarz as a partnership between FIU and Miami-Dade College.

Entrants must submit an essay analyzing any aspect of Jose Marti and why he was an important figure.

FIU received a donation from Jose Badia, president and owner of Badia Spices, so that students of both colleges with winning entries would each get \$2,000.

This year FIU's scholarship winners included Carmen Carvajal, Melissa Jahangiri, Yanelis Leyva, Leslie Revoredo, Yeysi Trujillo and Dayanes Rodriguez.

Although most did not have a chance to attend, Rodriguez, an advertising and marketing major, was present to receive her award.

"I thought it was an excellent opportunity and I loved the title," Rodriguez said. "It made a reference to a deep understanding of his words and I was captivated by it.

"I'm Cuban and [Marti] was my teacher in the way I was raised, reading his stuff and taught his way of thinking."

Myra Exposito, whose Cuban roots prompted her involvement with the scholarship, described the criteria for the essay entries.

"I participated last year in the judging committee [at University Park] and the criteria is simple.

Any full-time student who demonstrates a knowledge about Marti can write an essay, and good grades are very important," said Exposito, an advisor for the Science Club at BBC.

Gustavo Roig, who presented the scholarship awards, expanded on the criteria.

"The students have to analyze something of Jose Marti and then elaborate. It could be anything from his poetry to his love of children, or his dedication to



ANA PEREZ/THE BEACON

WITH HONORS: Professor Gustavo Roig presents Dayanes Rodriguez with her Jose Marti scholarship award. Winners were honored at a breakfast, Jan. 29, in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

Cuban independence to his life in New York," said Roig, director and associate dean of the Center for Diversity in Engineering at FIU's College of Engineering and Computing.

Rodriguez explained what she analyzed in her essay as well as her reaction when she was informed of her award.

"I reflected [on] the idea that he can be a modern, romantic and renaissance man because his ideas

reflected all three, but I made an emphasis on modernism because I believe one of the aspects of it is patriotism and revolution," Rodriguez said.

"He was like a hero to me, so I enjoyed writing it. When Dr. Moncarz called me and told me, 'Congratulations, you won,' I was excited."

Rodriguez plans to use the scholarship money to pay for her tuition.

Uva de Aragon, key spokesperson at the breakfast and author of "Repensando a Marti," made a speech on "Jose Marti: Romantic, Modernist or Renaissance Man?"

"The same way there is a European union – Marti dreamed of a Latin American union – and now with globalization, his work is even more relevant," said Aragon,

JOSE MARTI, page 6

Wellness Center promotes health through yoga, offers HIV counseling

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

With eight staff members – including a yoga instructor, an HIV consultant and an acupuncture specialist – the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center promotes tranquility.

The Wellness Center's Web site stresses the need to find balance and peace in a hectic life, said Elvira Velez, senior health administration director.

"What's different about wellness is that it's not disease based," Velez said. "For many years that was my philosophy.

"I wanted to educate people to help them prevent the problem."

The concept of wellness, having maintenance and prevention as key, became a medical phenomenon about 20 years ago.

At FIU though, the demand was growing for clinical care because of the increased number of stu-

dents and the advantages that the clinic offered, according to Velez, who is an advanced registered nurse practitioner.

"[Nurse practitioners] are allowed to do many of the functions that a physician does so I can prescribe, manage your ailments or order any kind of treatment you need," said Velez, who holds a Masters degree in Public Health.

Velez worked with a surgeon who had a contract with FIU to do patient care for both campuses and after a while, "it was kind of a challenge to be at both campuses at the same time," she said.

As a result, Velez lobbied the Division of Student Affairs to get another nurse practitioner, which was later accomplished.

The Wellness Center then transferred from the old Hospitality and Management Building to the clinic that now exists behind the BBC Library.

The starting point for



Elvira Velez, the Wellness Center's senior health administration director

Once the assistant director is in place again, then I think that things will work more smoothly. We will be inhabiting space with the SGA in the Wolfe Center which is going to be great because it's a natural marriage.

the Wellness Center was HIV counseling and testing, as it led to health education and prevention – issues which were taboo then, Velez said.

Senior Health Educator Dona Walcott, who heads the Wellness Center, and assistant Ludovica Virgil know how effective the Center's services are.

Virgil, a public administration major and graduate student, used the center's services as an undergraduate.

"I took advantage of the massage, [not] the yoga," Virgil said. "I work nine to five. The yoga is right in between my schedule and I have to be here for the students and the staff."

The Center's yoga class

is instructed by Bonnie Quiceno, a ballet and modern dance teacher with 20 years of experience.

Spinal vertebrae injuries resulted in Quiceno's move to yoga instruction.

"I enjoy my association with the Wellness Center because here the whole concept of health is prevention of illness or injury. It goes hand in hand with yoga," Quiceno said.

Velez said that the problem with the Wellness Center is that it is short-staffed due to budget shortages.

"We've had some challenges lately because we don't have an assistant director. It's really staffed by a part-time senior health

educator," Velez said.

Big changes are in progress for the Wellness Center. Most importantly, moving to the third floor of the Wolfe University Center.

Part of the problem is informing students about the Wellness Center's existence.

Moving to where the old fitness center used to be will help save money and therefore pay for more staffing, said Velez.

"Once the assistant director is in place again, then I think that things will work more smoothly," said Velez. "We will be inhabiting space with the SGA in the Wolfe Center which is going to be great because it's a natural marriage."

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11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
YOGA
3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
MEDITATION
6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
YOGA
10 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

THURSDAY
YOGA
4 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY
MEDITATION
5 P.M. – 6 P.M.

SATURDAY
MEDITATION
11 A.M.-12 P.M.

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DRUM BEATS



EDDITH SEVILLA/THE BEACON

WADAIKO PERFORMANCE: Ronin Taiko, a Japanese drumming group, kicked off One World Celebration week, Jan. 28, in the Wolfe University Center Square.

NEWSFLASH

Terrorism and the Western Media Lecture at Biscayne Bay Campus

"The Media War" lecture will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Introductory remarks will be made by Meshulam Nahari, an Israeli Knesset member. The lecture will be led by David Olesker and will examine why terrorism surprises Western media. The lecture is free and open to the public. There will be complimentary transportation from University Park and Florida Atlantic University. For more information contact MediaWarEvent@gmail.com.

Forum to discuss Iran's nuclear ambitions, implications

FIU's Department of International Relations' Middle East Society, the American Jewish Committee and Hillel Second Generation will present a forum on Iran's nuclear ambitions and implications for the world. The event will be held Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. There will be a panel of consul generals from France, Germany and Israel. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail MES@fiu.edu or call 305-919-4839.

Student Organizations Council holds club fair

The Student Organizations Council will be sponsoring a club fair Feb. 1. The clubs will have information tables set up in the Campus Life hallway in WUC. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 305-919-5804.

Friends of Wine to host South American wine tasting

Friends of Wine will hold its second wine tasting of the year on Feb. 4 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Hospitality Management Building Dining Room. Various South American wines will be served along with *hours dourves*. Entry is \$4 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Yearly \$10 memberships will be offered. Cash only. Guests must be at least 21 years of age and present valid ID.

— Compiled by Catherine Kaiman and Eddith Sevilla

Breakfast honors minority students

JOSE MARTI, page 5

associate director of the Cuban Research Institute at UP.

"His values of honesty and decency and his love for social justice are something to be learned, especially with everything going on in the world today," Aragon said.

Along with Aragon, the room was filled with other education proponents such as Rolando Montoya, president of Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus; Jose Vicente, president of Miami Dade College's North

After both the U.S. and Cuban anthems were sung, Vallina presented Moncarz with a recent original painting of Marti.

Although Pepin did not cook the breakfast, he was excited to be there.

"For the last five years or so, I have been the MC and I love to participate in something like this that helps students and reminds us of Jose Marti," Pepin said. "It's something that I'd like to maintain for many years to come and I'm proud that they called me here."

To apply for next year's award, visit



Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research Institute

[Jose Marti's] values of honesty and decency and his love for social justice are something to be learned, especially with everything going on in the world today.

Campus; Jorge Vallina, Cuban artist and illustrator; and master of ceremonies Chef Pepin, a renowned Cuban chef.

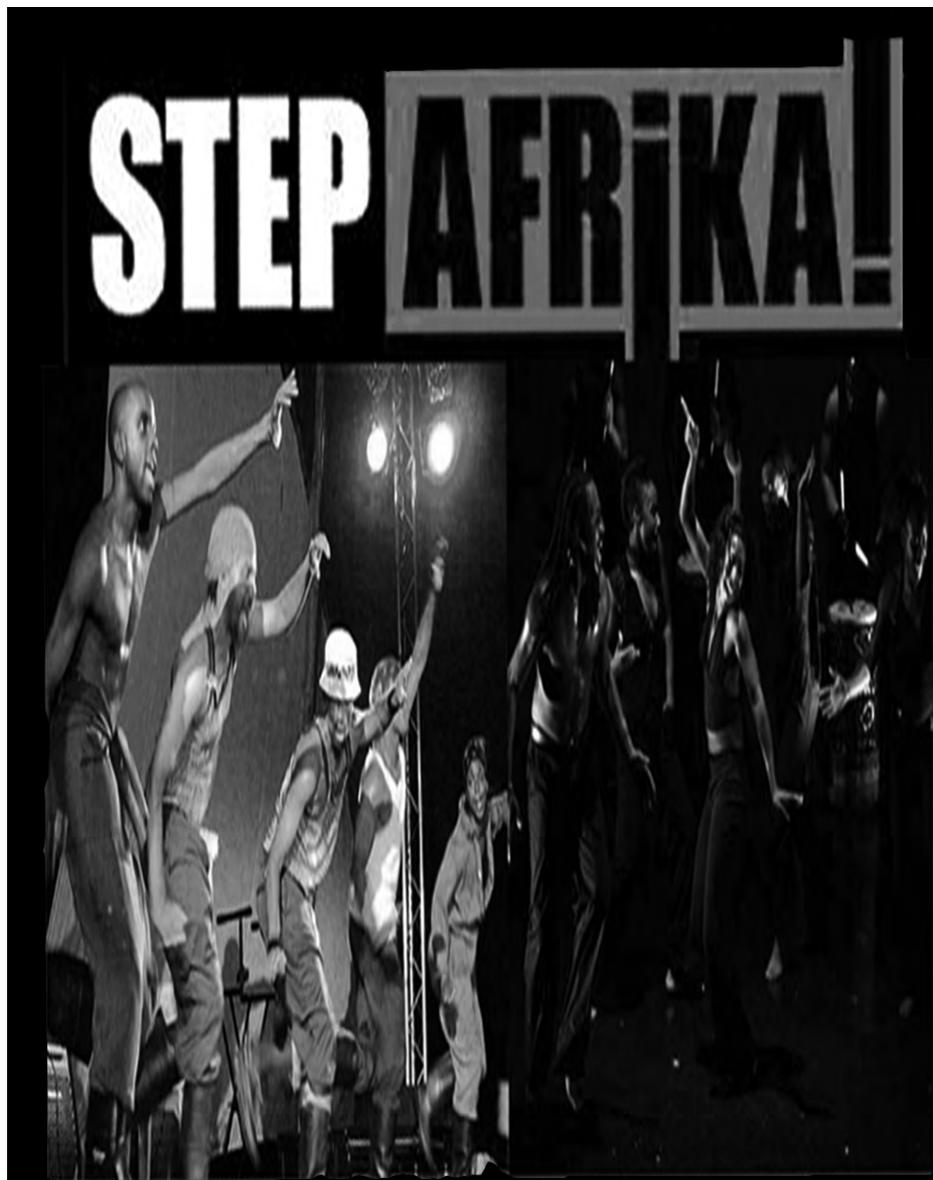
As people walked in, they were greeted with appetizers such as guava and cheese, crackers, assorted pastries and Cuban coffee. Inside the ballroom, eggs, potatoes, *croquetas*, sausage, danishes and additional pastries were offered.

Pepin opened the ceremony with a slideshow of past events and examples of Cuban culture.

www.fiu.edu/scholarships and download an application. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or residents, full time students and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

"It's very nice that we can have money for our students to study," Exposito said.

"For me, the most important thing is to find a way to have money for our minorities. I have no difference between Cubans and any other country; I think that any minority that needs it, deserves it."



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LIEBERMAN MAKES HIS PICK

Connecticut senator endorses McCain at FIU

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

The College Republicans hosted an event on Jan. 28 where Independent Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman from Connecticut was a speaker.

Lieberman is the first speaker of the 2008 election season at FIU, appearing on behalf and in shameless advocacy of presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

The senator began speaking of the partisanship rampant in Congress and in the U.S., as well as voters selecting candidates strictly because of their party affiliation rather than how much they agree with the candidate.

This seemed groundbreaking (especially in FIU where the Left and Right are more segregated than ever), that is, until he began shilling for Sen. McCain.

Lieberman spoke of McCain as if he were a larger-than-life messiah for both parties, a claim that may have some truth: McCain has become synonymous with a certain type of heroism, that he himself dismisses for the sake of his modesty because of his five and a half years spent in a Northern Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

After that time, he was allowed to leave — because of McCain's naval pedigree causing a media circus, according to Lieberman on Jan. 28 — but refused to leave without the rest of the American prisoners. Granted, McCain is a hero, but what irked me about the talk was how Lieberman used the opportunity to overstate McCain's electability and almost shatter his opponent's credibility.

He called Sen. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts the "Britney Spears of the Republican Party" in the sense that, "No one knows what he'll say or do next!"

Possibly in reference to Romney's claim that his father "marched" with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I suppose that's just how elections are these days.

It wasn't so much the endorsement — given that it was a McCain endorsement event — but that Lieberman felt so comfortable calling other candidate's credibility into question when his own motives are of relative-scale suspicion.

When Q&A time rolled around, predictably, he answered with the stock responses to "hot button" issue-related questions.

When FIU student and former Sergeant in the Armed Forces, Dan Berkovitz asked what Lieberman and McCain's (being seemingly one and the same) stance on the removal of troops from Iraq was, Lieberman half-heartedly explained that both of the senators had voted in support of the war, but both opposed a timetable to remove soldiers prematurely because it would be "Disastrous ... Iraq would be in chaos."

The answer was a typical non-committal response to the issue by being as vague as possible and only mentioning what isn't going to be done.

It's almost as if he had no idea what he would do if it were up to him. That's great that he won't hastily remove the soldiers, but are they advocating a "full steam ahead" approach or a "we're done when we're done" attitude when it comes to the direction of Iraq?

Being supporters of the war, neither Lieberman nor McCain could really sway the anti-war voters in their direction without such ambiguous responses.

In Lieberman's defense, he did imply the war may be in its terminal phase: "[The war] is going in the right direction," explained Sen. Lieberman.

But again, the issue here is that his vagueness and non-committal attitude towards key issues cost him any real shot at the Democratic nomination in 2004 and may hinder any support he was hoping to get in the next presidential election, should he choose to run.

Shameless endorsements



LM OTERO/AP PHOTO

TAKING SIDES: Joe Lieberman and Republican John McCain appear together at a Detroit auto show.

aside, I think what this event was foreshadowing was a possible run at the vice presidency for Lieberman, provided McCain is nominated, and this is likely, or at least according to Lieberman, who declared, "John McCain can and will win."

A McCain/Lieberman ticket wouldn't be the disaster I'm making it out to be, but without consistency on issues (something McCain has, but Lieberman has been known to falter on occa-

sionally) it's the campaign that will suffer.

While McCain definitely has the most experience, who's to say that the war can't be put on a timetable for completion?

McCain himself has experience in a war that was started on false pretenses and drawn out for the sake of not looking like quitters.

This gives him a unique credibility, but is this image of the seasoned political and military

veteran going to seduce people to make a vote they don't want to make?

The moral of Lieberman's speech was that you should vote for whom you agree with most and to hell with the party label; a good point from a key example of that philosophy.

It's almost enough to forget that Lieberman is saying this, of my own suspicion, to "convert" Democrats to vote for the just right-of-center McCain.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SGC-BBC selects second class talent for guest speakers

As I have not attended class in the Biscayne Bay Campus in a while, I am not familiar with their SGC.

Still, I am quite baffled by their decision to invite Jerry Springer to speak at their campus.

Springer's T.V. show is the epitome of commercial trash converted into an art form for the entertainment of average beer belly wanna be quarterbackback Joe with the intelligence level of a moose.

Is that the best speaker the BBC-SGC could come up with?

UM gets the presidential debates and FIU instead gets the closest thing to a T.V. porn auteur. They are plenty of speakers out there with far more redeemable artistic and intellectual qualities than Springer.

Who are they going to invite next? Paris Hilton? Flavor Flav? K-Fed? Let me know when they get Robert De Niro or Joe Pesci.

Mario Mendoza
Senior
Sociology-Anthropology

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

Hollywood takes sides in abortion debate with “Juno”

ALEXANDRA MCANARNEY
Contributing Writer

I went to see “Juno” with my friend the other day. The movie has been regarded as one of the best written films of 2007. It has its quirky moments and striking cinematography,

But at the risk of sounding over-analytical, “Juno” reeks of pro-life political bias in an unrealistic setting when a young girl gets knocked up by her gangly best friend.

Here’s the thing: “Juno” is not the first movie to set up a new paradigm for young girls where no protection is used during intercourse. The pregnancy is carried out full-term, everything is peachy.

When Juno, played by Ellen Page, announces she’s pregnant to her family, that she is carrying the pregnancy full-term and giving the baby up for adoption. There are a few jabs at Juno for being so “reckless,” but then her stepmother simply starts her on pre-natal vitamins, and all is well.

“The Other Option” is discussed, but having been discarded earlier in the film after Juno hears from an Asian classmate/Pro-Lifer that babies have fingernails outside a clinic, The Other Option becomes null and void.

The pro-life endorsement was

so strong that the very reason Juno decides to carry the child to full-term is, in fact, erroneous: fingernails do not appear until the 18th to 20th week of development. Juno considers an abortion during the second month.

What bothers me is that the past few movies that involved a knocked-up-girl are all pro-life. The movie “Saved” takes place within the walls of a cultish Evangelical high school. While it is more convincing than “Juno” (the main character in “Saved” is ostracized, for about oh, 10 minutes, because of her suddenly gay boyfriend and five minutes afterwards because she is discovered to be pregnant), it’s unlikely that Christians are so forgiving when one of their own falters. I should know. I’ve made smaller mistakes whilst believing in Jesus. The guilt and ensuing repentance were exponentially greater than anything anyone endures in “Saved.”

“Saved” reminded me of my school in El Salvador; it had the same type of sanctimonious faculty who would try to make a circular peg fit into a cross-shaped hole. Mine was supposedly secular, but it hardly felt that way. There were Catholic retreats and I wondered where I, the “lesbian, Satanist, witch” and the One Jew Girl, would go. Well, the One Jew Girl went to the retreat and I stayed home and reserved box



COURTESY PHOTO

KNOCKED UP: Ellen Page and Michael Cera star in the Oscar nominated film “Juno.”

seats in hell.

In “Saved,” Jena Malone character keeps the child and presumably raises in the company of the dysfunctional company she keeps. Everyone is happy and lessons about tolerance are learned within a highly-conservative community.

According to the progressive Third Way media organization, 33 percent of mothers are unwed in this country and 12 percent of them are Evangelical, usually around the age of 16. The mere fact that an Evangelical girl has fornicated, the reaction would have been severe.

I think movie distributors smack of anti-choice. I don’t think every

child should be “snipped at the bud,” but I can smell bias just like I can smell a well-used diaper. There’s even a pregnant Hentai superhero called Most Fruitful Miyugi who is oh-so-slyly pitched to audiences while Juno and the adoptive father of her unwanted child enjoys a moment of comic book connoisseurship and disgustingly awkward sexual tension.

Since Choice is such a skull-breaking concept, I doubt it will be seen in a movie within any context. I have seen another friend make a choice opposite from Juno, “Saved,” etc. ending in different results. Arriving at the decision took two weeks

so that consequences could be fully grasped, but abortion is not the easy route. She is still affected and endures psychological consequences.

Responsibility is a hot coal no one wants to juggle. The idea is not to have the hapless killing of babies; It’s about integrating Choice and Responsibility into every little squatter that makes it out of the proverbial foxhole.

I would suggest a clinic play “Rosemary’s Baby” in their waiting room as perfect pro-choice propaganda so that both factions’ numbers dwindle. But if a movie studio can have its billion-dollar bias, I can have my one-dollar bias too.

Americans should demand solidarity for Palestine

MATT LUCIANO
Contributing Writer

One and a half million Palestinian men, women and children live within the Gaza strip; a region that borders Israel to the north and east, Egypt to the south and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. Currently, Israel controls Gaza’s borders, airspace and access to water. On Jan. 20, Israel shut down Gaza’s only power plant just days after sealing off its borders.

Within the past several weeks, dozens of Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded due to what the Israeli government calls “retaliation” for rocket fire

directed at a southern Israeli town. This punishment has resulted in the death of innocent people.

Demonstrations were held throughout the United States Jan. 29 to protest the Israeli blockade, which is in clear violation of international law. Several organizations, such as the ANSWER coalition of Florida, Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights, Muslim American Society and many others came together in peace and solidarity to stand up for human rights.

Br. Sofian Abdelaziz Zakkout, director and counselor of the American Muslim Association of North America spoke his mind in a CNN report on Jan. 28.

“We are opposed to the blockade of the Gaza Strip. We are against the mass punishment of our nation,” Zakkout said.

The Israeli blockade refuses the shipment of fuel; hospital facilities are virtually ineffectual without the use of electricity and many Gazans are being denied the right to travel outside of the strip to receive necessary medical care or supplies.

“Everything is controlled by Israel, like a prison,” Zakkout said.

Furthermore, innocent Gazans must face poor and unsanitary sewage as well as contaminated water, Zakkout emphasized.

“Imagine the thousands of children and newborn children without heat, hot milk, medicine or nutrition,” he said.

According to Article 33 of the Geneva Convention “no protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise, intimidation and terrorism

“...United States is responsible for the continuity of the blockade and the suffering the Palestinian people are enduring.”

are prohibited.”

As a signatory, Israel has an obligation to uphold the laws outlined in the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Zakkout believes Israel should be held responsible for every child and elderly person and affirms that “we [Palestinians] are against the killing or torturing of Christian or Jewish peoples and call upon the Christian and Jewish communities to have compassion and respect.”

The most important concern is the restoration of peace and justice. Each year, Americans send billions of tax dollars in aid to Israel. Many people, myself included, believe the United States is responsible for the continuity of the blockade and

the suffering the Palestinian people are enduring. Our government has proven capable of putting an end to a crisis such as the one in Gaza. The common sentiment Sunday night was that of urgency for our government to stop the mass oppression and collective punishment of innocent Palestinians; to call it an injustice would be a grotesque understatement.

I call upon anyone who believes in the legitimacy of this American democracy to demand that our government take immediate action and strongly urge those people to join us in solidarity and support of upholding human rights, peace, and justice for all Palestinians.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think the FDA standards are too lax?

- Yes –The FDA should conduct better studies of new products and institute a follow-up procedure.

96%

- No – It isn’t always possible to foresee the long term affects of all foods and drugs.

4%

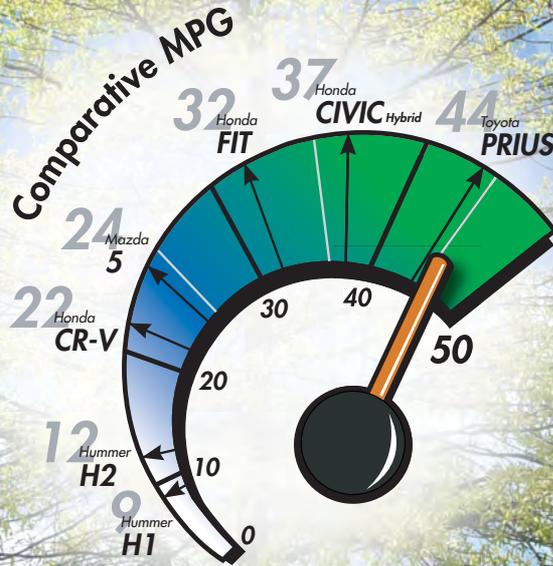
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HYBRID HYPE



New vehicles use electricity, reduce emissions

OLIVIA SARRACINO
Staff Writer

The automobile industry is going green, or better yet – hybrid. With the decade coming to an close, leading auto manufacturers such as Toyota and General Motors are introducing a new kind of hybrid: an electric plug-in slated for 2010.

According to *The New York Times*, Toyota's President Katsuaki Watanabe announced at the 2008 Detroit Auto Show that the company will launch the first plug-in hybrid as a series of "environmental steps" intended to curb global warming.

Toyota and other automobile companies are not the only figures in an emerging trend involving efforts to go green. There have been new organic foods and "green buildings," as reported in *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

Hollywood actors have also played a big role by advocating environmentally friendly products and even taking part in the hybrid car phenomenon. Cameron Diaz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ted Danson are some of the most vocal proponents of alternative fuel-driven cars.

Helping the environment by reducing fuel consumption is indeed what hybrid cars are designed to do.

"It's an advantage because it has less pollution," said Dara Boudlal, a sophomore majoring in communications. "Which is good for what is going on with global warming. It's better for the economy and for going green."

A hybrid vehicle has components similar to a non-hybrid car, except that a hybrid contains more advanced parts: gasoline engines, fuel tanks, electric motors, generators, batteries and transmissions specially designed for this kind of car. These parts outline the basic structure of a gasoline-electric hybrid as mentioned by Julia Layton and Karim Nice, writers of "How Hybrid Cars Work."

It has been eight years since Toyota introduced the Toyota Prius, which was, according to *hybridcars.com*, the first hybrid vehicle in the United States. Since 2000, other companies like Honda, Nissan, Lexus, Saturn and others have introduced their own hybrid models.

On Jun. 7, 2007, Toyota announced they had sold about 2.5 million hybrid units in that year, and 2005 Dr. Peter

Harrop, author of "Electric Vehicle Market Statistics 2005 – 2015," revealed that the global hybrid car industry generated a total of \$31.1 billion in sales.

HYBRID, page 12

Top Five Hybrid Cars Sold in 2007

-  **1** Toyota Prius
\$ 21,100
-  **2** Toyota Camry
\$ 25,200
-  **3** Honda Civic
\$ 22,600
-  **4** Ford Escape
\$ 26,265
-  **5** Toyota Highlander
\$ 33,200

WEEKEND RUNDOWN

•THURSDAY• JANUARY 31

What: Christine Andreas
Where: Carnival Studio Theatre
The Arshat Center
1300 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$23

What: Rod Stewart
Where: Hard Rock Live
5747 Seminole Way
Hollywood, FL 33314
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$100-\$300

What: Monthly Beer Dinner
Where: Lola's on Harrison
2032 Harrison St.
Hollywood, FL 33020
When: 6p.m.
How Much: \$60

What: Happy Hour at the Beach
Bar
Where: Palms
3025 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33140
When: 5 – 8 p.m.
How Much: Varies

•FRIDAY• FEBRUARY 1

What: HIGH ON FIRE plus A
Life Once Lost /Saviours / Rwake
Where: Churchill's Pub
5501 NE 2nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33137
When: 7:30p.m.
How Much: \$13

What: Richie Havens
Where: Culture Room
3045 N Federal Hwy,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$23

What: Ron White
Where: Sound Advice
Amphitheatre
601-7 Sansburys Way
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$42.75

What: The Business of Being
Born
Where: Tower Theatre
1508 SW 8th St.
Miami, FL 33135
When: 6:30p.m.
How Much: \$15

•SATURDAY• FEBRUARY 2

What: The EAT with Jeannie and
the Tits / Fraulein / Pitch Black
Radio
Where: Churchill's Pub
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$10

What: Ween
Where: Revolution Live
200 West Broward Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
When: 8p.m.
How Much: \$26.25

What: Carnival
Where: CocoWalk
3015 Grand Ave.
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
When: 2pm. till 12a.m.
How Much: Varies

What: Monster Jam World Tour
Where: Dolphin Stadium
2267 Dan Marino Blvd.
Miami Gardens, FL 33056
When: 7:30p.m.
How Much: \$16 - \$20

•SUNDAY• FEBRUARY 3

What: Drink and Chill Literally
Where: The Polar Bar
938 Lincoln RD.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
When: Varies
How Much: Varies

What: Miami International Map
Fair
Where: Historical Museum of
Southern Florida
101 W. Flagler St.
Miami, FL 33130
When: 10a.m. – 5p.m.
How Much: \$10

What: Aromas of Havana Cigars
and Lounge
Where: Aromas of Havana Cigars
and Lounge
14781 Biscayne Blvd,
North Miami Beach, FL 33181
When: Daily
How Much: Varies

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

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Teenage shrinks, zombies arrive in February

CHRIS TOWERS

Asst. News Director

For movie fans, the post-Oscar landscape seems awfully bleak: last month's top grossing movies were the critically panned "Meet The Spartans" and "Rambo," as well as "Cloverfield," which received mixed reviews.

February doesn't look much better, with only a handful of movies that look to offer either big box office draw or the type of quality that film buffs are looking for. Here are the movies that will look to draw theater-goers this month:

THE EYE (FEB. 1)

Despite her status as one of the most sought after commodities in Hollywood, Jessica Alba has yet to truly take over a movie that she has starred in. Some might



argue it is because of her limitations as an actress, but that hasn't stopped her from landing lead roles in numerous big movies, and her latest is the psychological thriller "The Eye."

The premise of the film is that Alba, a brilliant concert violinist, has been blind since childhood. She undergoes an operation that allows her to see again thanks to donor eyes, but after the operation, she begins seeing frightening images nobody else can. Much of the movie revolves around the question of whether she is losing her own grip on sanity, really seeing things, or if the eyes are actually haunted themselves.

Will this be the movie that Alba finally moves past the stigma of being just another face, or will this one fall by the wayside like so many of her other projects? Early reviews aren't looking good.

GEORGE A. ROMERO'S DIARY OF THE DEAD (FEB. 15)

The father of the entire zombie horror sub-genre and creator of the classic "... of the Dead" series, returns with his second movie in the series in the past three years, which is quite a bit of a better turn around time than the

20 years separating the previous two installments.

This time, Romero turns the camera on the victims, following a group of young independent filmmakers who stumble upon the initial outbreak featured in the original "Night Of The Living Dead." Romero's trademark social satire and commentary can be expected, along with the sense of foreboding that he perfected in his previous films.

CHARLIE BARTLETT (FEB. 22)

In his directorial debut, Jon Poll, who worked on both the "Meet The Parents" and "Austin Powers," looks to play off the typical high school rebel archetype by trying to find a way for the typical slacker hero to fit in and take advantage of today's Prozac and Ritalin obsessed culture.

The eponymous hero, played by Anton Yelchin in his first starring role, continues in the proud tradition of Ferris Bueller and John Bender before him by mixing things up in his school.

Particularly, he uses his connections to a psychiatrist, paid for by his wealthy parents, to fake prescriptions for his fellow classmates and their various maladies or vices and act as a de facto counselor for them in a

bathroom stall.

This looks to be one of the few refreshing movies released during this month, as it tries to avoid high school stereotypes while also parodying the prescription drug-filled times we currently reside in.

BEKIND REWIND (FEB. 22)

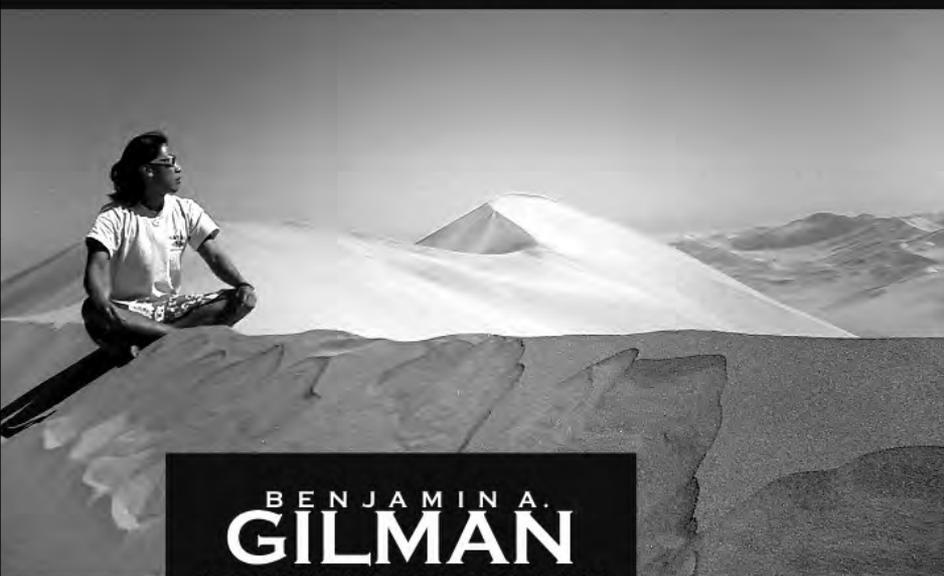
In a time seemingly devoid of fresh comedies, this Jack Black and Mos Def vehicle certainly appears to be breaking the mold. Black and Mos Def play a pair of friends who, through a variety of absolutely ridiculous circumstances, manage to delete the contents of every movie in the video store owned by Def.

In an attempt to fool the store's lone costumer, an old lady whose grip on reality can be best described as "light," the duo decide to remake every single movie in the store on their own in order to keep that one last customer.

Despite a plot that is ridiculous at best, the thought of watching Black and Def recreate pivotal scenes in movies as wide ranging as "Driving Miss Daisy," "The Lion King" and "Robocop" is enough to make this the contender for funniest movie of the month.



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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 1

Adrenalina teaches how to ride indoor waves



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

SURF'S UP: Employee Rick Sanchez demonstrates the in-house surfing simulator, the flowrider, in Adrenalina at Miami International Mall.

ROCIO BLANCO-GARCIA
Staff Writer

The beach and extreme waves are no longer the only options for FIU students who love surfing.

Adrenalina, a new extreme sports store located in Miami International Mall, opened a little over a month ago.

With its flowrider, a pool of artificial waves, Adrenalina hopes to become a one-stop trip for surfers in the Miami area.

"We offer you the clothes, the board and waves for an adrenaline rush," said John Storm, the store's manager.

Adrenalina is the first company in the U.S. to feature a flowrider inside of a mall.

The company wanted to create something unique and different; anyone could have a ramp to skate, but not waves to surf.

Since the store opened, the 35 m.p.h waves have proved to be a success.

The flowrider has become the store's main attraction. Long lines of people waiting to jump on the board and ride the waves are seen every day.

"I have seen everyone try it, from six-year-olds to 50 year olds," said Andrew Gonzalez, an employee of

the store. "I think that by the end of the year people will have to call in advance to make an appointment."

A half-an-hour ride costs \$20, but Adrenalina offers numerous membership options.

The store provides customers with a surfboard so they do not have to purchase one.

However, those who are interested in riding the artificial waves must bring a bathing suit and a towel.

"This experience cannot be compared to anything else," said Louis Smith, a frequent to the shop. "It's like snowboarding, wakeboarding and skateboarding all at the same time."

Most of the people who go to ride the waves are 18 to 24 and have been skating or surfing for years, but even if you have never tried any of these sports before, Daniel Frutos believes that practicing is not difficult.

"It's a lot easier than what it looks like. All you have to do is lean back and the waves will hold you up, and if you fall down you won't get hurt because the floor is soft," Frutos said.

The store's inventory is not limited to only surfing goods, however.

Extreme sports enthusiasts can find everything they need in the

store: skydiving accessories, skateboards, mountain bikes, wakeboards and even paintball protective gear.

Adrenalina even has come up with its own line of clothing made from Peruvian cotton.

Even though the store has been open for more than a month, Adrenalina will have its Miami store grand opening Feb. 16 at 2 p.m.

There, a flowrider contest will take place and the participants will have the chance to win a \$2,000 pool prize.

Those who would like to participate must register before Feb. 13.

A street surfing exhibition and pro athlete autograph signings will also take place.

The company currently has two stores, one in Miami, where its corporate offices are located, and one in Orlando's Florida Mall.

Six new stores are under construction in Houston, Tampa, Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Philadelphia.

For more information on Adrenalina and its grand opening next month, visit adrenalina.com or call the International Mall store at 305-470-1119.

Rocio Blanco-Garcia can be contacted at rocio.garcia@fiusm.com

Film festival inspires true love across nations

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

As February begins, some students are likely racking their brains trying to figure out what special gift to give their boyfriend or girlfriend for Valentine's Day.

Hosted by the French Club and French Honor Society, the Romantic Film Festival will commence Feb. 4.

The festival begins with a screening of "I'm Not Here to be Loved," a French film about a 51 year old man unhappy with his

life until he meets a young woman named Françoise, who is about to marry another man. The film will be shown in the Graham Center room 150 at 7 p.m.

The festival is free and open to the FIU community. The films come from all over Europe, including Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Italy and Germany. All films will have English subtitles.

For the past two years, the French Club and French Honor Society have done various festivals each semester, such as the Franco-Polish, Franco-African and Franco-Canadian festivals.

For the first time this semester the festival is sponsored by Red Chemistry and FIU's Center for the European Union.

The films are being provided by Red Chemistry Director Isabelle Landman, a friend of Professor Maria Antonietta Garcia who is also the advisor for both the French Club and French Society.

"I want students to have the opportunity to be exposed to different films and to have a good time while having intellectual

fun," Garcia said.

Garcia explained the film is not just meant for those students who know French or to those who are already members of the French organizations on campus.

Throughout the festival the French Club will be fundraising by selling chocolate grams for a dollar.

On Feb. 14 they will be hosting a Valentine's Party from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the GC Panther Suite.

Events Coordinator Gabriela Junco is hoping to see students enjoy themselves while watching the films.

"Foreign films always give you a surprise," Junco said.

"They are more artistic. They reveal a lot about the culture in which the film was created."

The next festival, coming in Fall 2008, is already being planned. Garcia is open to any suggestions or comments from anyone.

For a synopsis of any of the films contact Garcia at garciahd@fiu.edu.

The festival will end with an evening of short movies in GC 150 at 7 p.m. on Feb. 15.

For a complete schedule of all films read This Week on Campus in Monday's issue of *The Beacon*.

Kassandra Pool can be contacted at kassandra.pool@fiusm.com



Manufacturers offer new energy efficient cars

HYBRID, page 9

To date, Toyota has sold over a million hybrid vehicles. The company attributes its success to the many long-term benefits that hybrid cars have to offer.

"Aside from the gas-savings to hybrid owners," indicated a press release from Toyota, "the significant reduction in tailpipe emissions, as well as the reduction in foreign oil dependence, has been a factor among many buyers who say they are concerned about the environment."

General Motors, another significant hybrid producer, is also making the transition from conventional hybrids to a plug-in called Chevy Volt. Like the vehicle developed by Toyota, the 2010 Chevy Volt, as described by GM, is "capable of running on electricity, E85, bio-diesel and gasoline fuels."

In addition to these new plug-in hybrid vehicles, *The New York Times* mentioned that Toyota's Lexus department will reveal a hybrid-electric car, which was specifically designed for the luxury brand. This will be presented at the 2009 Detroit Auto Show.

Other luxury automobile companies such as Porsche have plans to introduce their own hybrids by 2009 or 2010.

Lawrence Ulrich wrote in *The New York Times*: "It is hard to imagine a less likely candidate for the hybrid treatment: the Porsche Cayenne, a 5,000-pound S.U.V. that ranks among the fastest, most powerful trucks ever built."

While some are content with the

Justin Weaver, Psychology major

Everybody puts emphasis on big trucks and cars and they don't realize in the long-run what they are doing to the environment.

emerging trend of the hybrid, others like Justin Weaver, a psychology major, are concerned that the majority of people are more inclined to purchase bigger cars.

"Everybody puts emphasis on big trucks and cars and they don't realize in the long-run what they are doing to the environment," Weaver said. "These companies need to be conscious when they make these new Hummers and Land Rovers."

Now, all that is left to do is see how people react to the traditional and plug-in hybrid car.

For more information and price quotes on hybrid cars, check out hybridcars.com.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Panthers should defeat weak opponent despite short roster

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

When the Golden Panthers (6-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) step on the court for their meeting against Denver (8-11, 4-4) on Jan. 31, it will be one of the few times this season that they have had the momentum.

They will look for their third two-game winning streak of the season, riding on the shoulders of junior forward Alex Galindo, who is averaging 24 points per game over his last three outings.

The Pioneers, meanwhile, come into the contest having been dismantled by 38 points in their last game by Sun Belt conference leaders South Alabama.

FIU, who is ranked tenth overall in the conference, has seen a rise in their pre-season all-conference forward's play.

Galindo began his surge with a career-high, 34-point performance against Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19 and scored 23 points Jan. 27 against New Orleans.

With the Pioneers having to contain one Golden Panther star, FIU will not have to do the same as Denver does not have a player that averages over 11 points.

If there is a player to watch for Denver, it will be Adam Tanner, one of the better centers in the conference who will match up against FIU leading scorer Russell Hicks.

Tanner averages 10 points and four rebounds a game. The Pioneers have improved mightily from their 4-25 record

of a season ago, but have been inconsistent throughout the season and the Golden Panthers should capitalize on a team of Denver's caliber.

SHORT-HANDED

The Golden Panthers have lost their second guard of the season due to undisclosed reasons as Kenneth "Redd" White left the team.

White, who was averaging 10 points per contest, has left the Golden Panthers with just eight active scholarship players.

The lack of depth at the position has left freshman point guard Tremayne Russell as the starter, with walk-on Nick Taylor seeing more time than he ever has.

White, a transfer from Texas A&M, was in his first season with the Golden Panthers. Senior point guard Michael James is also not with the team due to an incident earlier in the season.

BREAKOUT GAME

Golden Panther center Badara Ndiaye had one of his better games of the season Jan. 27 as he nearly had a double-double versus New Orleans.

The seven points and seven rebounds were both single game and career-high numbers for the Senegal native.

Ndiaye often spent time in the game alongside fellow big man Hicks – something FIU has not flashed a lot this season.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STEPPING UP: Junior forward Alex Galindo has averaged 20 points per game in his last three games, including a career-high 34 points.

Next year will prove whether or not Garcia retains Rouco

RAMOS, page 15

free-throw percentage drop. Adding to the team's woes has been its problems in the locker room, as the team is without two veteran guards it started the season with. Michael James, who was the starter at point guard, and combo guard Kenneth White have both left the team for undisclosed reasons. White, who was just beginning to hit his stride, was becoming a bright spot for the Golden Panthers.

In Rouco's defense, the

team has had to go with freshman Tremayne Russell at point guard, with walk-on-freshman Nick Taylor also seeing playing time at the position. FIU is very inexperienced at the point guard position, arguably the most important position for a team who does not have many set plays in the paint.

HELP COMING

The Golden Panthers will have arguably its most talented group of newcomers ever coming in next season when point guard Josue Soto and

center Freddy Asprilla are eligible to play. Soto, a sophomore transfer from Florida State, will give Rouco options at point guard. Asprilla, FIU's first verbal commitment in the class of 2008, should be able to give the Golden Panthers another scoring threat inside to complement junior center Russell Hicks. Both are former three-star prospects by Rivals.com and both could be Rouco's last hope.

With the instability and inconsistency the team has had, things have not "stayed

the course" as Rouco had hoped.

As much bad luck as he is having this season, he is bringing in some of the best talent the program has had. With

the talent, however, comes pressure and the question of whether he can coach them. I believe Rouco should have a chance to coach next season, but whether that is in Garcia's

future plans is not known.

If Rouco does make it to next season, there will be no room for some of the bad breaks he has had this season, whether it's his fault or not.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Injuries decimate inside presence, time to give freshmen more minutes



Commentary

Darren Collette
Staff Writer

First, Elisa Carey goes down with an ACL injury in the second game of the season – there goes the team's biggest inside threat who was putting up great pre-season numbers.

But the team still had Marquita Adley around to dominate the inside. Six games in, Adley breaks her right thumb while falling to the floor at the Pharmed Arena. With those players gone for the season it would have been easy to count the team out. However, the Golden Panthers (7-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) have stepped up to the challenge.

Until this season, senior forward Jasmine Jenkins had seen few minutes in her first few years at FIU but, being the team's only upperclassmen left over six feet tall, she was the natural selection to be the team's new inside presence.

Jenkins has made a big impact since being thrust into the limelight. In the first game following Adley's injury, Jenkins grabbed 12 rebounds in a huge win on the road against the University of Miami. Since then she has had six double-

figure rebound games and recorded two double-doubles. Jenkins also leads the conference in blocks and ranks fourth in rebounds.

Another interesting subplot has been the play of FIU's freshmen. Of the four, forward Fanni Hutlassa has seen the most playing time and recently has even started two games.

Hutlassa is a versatile 6-foot-1 guard/forward who can rebound, defend and shoot 3-pointers at a high percentage. Forward Liene Jekabsons, center Maja Krajacic and guard Tabitha Drake have not seen as many minutes, but have all had good contributions this season.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson is the team's leading scorer and puts up a little more than 17 points a game, which places her fourth in the conference in scoring.

Her shooting skills not only provide the team a lot of points, but when she is double-teamed, the Golden Panthers are pretty good at finding the open shooter.

At this time, the only player on the team to start every game is junior guard Iva Ciglar.

It is also often that Ciglar will play entire games and she leads the Sun Belt Conference in minutes played and total assists.

The team is currently on a three-

game losing streak. One consistent theme in recent games is runs. In its last four games, FIU has gone on runs of 11-3, 14-0, 13-0, 14-2, 9-0 and 10-0. However, there have also been times when FIU has given up runs of 11-2, 17-2, 21-5 and 20-2.

FIU will also need to find a way to break its opponent's momentum during these scoring spurts. Ferguson believes that the team has allowed these runs due to inexperience.

As for the good runs, the team will just need to hope they can continue them and that shots can keep dropping.

The big problem could very well be the loss of the inside players.

It also could be fatigue in the main rotation that seems to only include Ferguson, Ciglar, Jenkins, Hutlassa, senior guard Asha Neal and sophomore guard Monika Bosilj.

Jekabsons, Drake, Krajacic and junior guard Antonia Zeigler have all played this season, but not as many minutes as the main six.

FIU is pretty strong at guard so it is doubtful Drake or Zeigler will see extended minutes, but with the team undersized it could be time to put Jekabsons and Krajacic in the rotation more because of the size they can add.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOUGH TIMES: Head coach Cindy Rouco (above) has depended heavily on guard LaQuetta Ferguson (below) for offense.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	17-3	9-0	.850
Western Kentucky	16-5	8-1	.762
Middle Tennessee	8-11	5-4	.421
Florida International	6-13	3-6	.316
Florida Atlantic	7-14	3-7	.333
Troy	9-11	2-7	.450

*All records up to date as of Jan. 29

FIU MEN 75, UNO 62

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Fuller, Chris	1-1	0-0	5	1	3	7	26
Galindo, Alex	8-13	3-6	10	2	3	23	36
Russell, Tremayne	3-4	0-0	2	3	3	9	23
Nsangou, Erick	1-3	0-1	2	2	1	4	19
Hicks, Russell	7-15	0-0	8	0	3	17	31
Essola, Cedric	1-1	0-0	3	0	0	2	12
Team Totals	25-49	22-31	472	12	18	75	200

UNO	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Dykes, Kyndall	2-10	0-1	7	1	3	7	31
McCalebb, Bo	9-15	2-5	3	5	4	24	34
Manning, Jacob	0-3	0-1	2	1	0	0	23
Souleymane, Asra	1-1	0-0	0	1	0	2	20
Reynolds, Shaun	5-8	1-2	1	1	1	12	27
Parlow, James	3-9	1-2	2	0	2	10	24
Team Totals	23-58	10-19	27	9	11	62	200

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	16-5	9-0	.762
Middle Tennessee	13-8	8-2	.619
South Alabama	14-6	5-4	.700
Troy	7-13	3-6	.350
Florida Atlantic	10-10	3-6	.500
Florida International	4-14	0-9	.222

*All records up to date as of Jan. 29

UNO 70, FIU WOMEN 60

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Ciglar, Iva	4-8	1-2	4	3	6	11	38
Jenkins, Jasmine	5-8	0-0	8	0	3	10	36
Bosilj, Monika	4-9	0-0	4	0	3	10	21
Neal, Asha	0-3	2-2	5	4	1	2	26
Ferguson, LaQuetta	6-15	3-6	7	4	2	19	39
Hutlassa, Fanni	3-9	0-0	4	2	5	8	28
Team Totals	22-55	6-10	36	13	21	60	200

UNO	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Young, Talishia	7-13	0-1	5	1	1	14	29
Helm, Brittany	5-10	2-2	6	4	4	12	36
English, Le'Della	10-16	4-5	2	0	1	27	40
McGee, Candice	0-3	0-1	5	5	2	0	29
Johnson, Cookie	4-11	0-1	3	1	1	8	32
Gayler, Sarah	0-2	0-0	2	0	0	0	12
Team Totals	30-60	7-12	33	14	12	60	200

Galindo scores 23, grabs 10 rebounds

MEN'S, page 16

James and the sudden departure of Kenneth "Redd" White, the 6-1 guard who transferred last year from Texas A&M.

The Golden Panthers used their size as an advantage, at times using a lineup featuring seven-foot junior center Russell Hicks, who recorded 17 points and eight rebounds, 6-foot-11

N'Diaye and 6-foot-9 Nikola Gaseca.

Despite having a lopsided 18 rebounds compared to 12 assists, the Golden Panthers' offense shot 51 percent from the field and 33 percent from behind the arc.

Walk-on freshman point guard Nick Taylor has been solid since

beginning to play more quality minutes almost two weeks ago.

Taylor, who only turned the ball over once in a season-high 28 minutes, combined with Tremayne Russell for 14 points and seven assists at the point guard.

Taylor added four of the team's seven steals.

After the win, which evened the Golden Panthers' home record to 6-6, coach Sergio Rouco was pleased to see his team come out with a victory against a formidable conference opponent.

"We followed the game plan to the tee," he said. "We used our size to contest their shots and we didn't give them a lot of second chances with the ball."

The Golden Panthers prepare to hit the road against Denver on Jan 31 and north texas on Feb. 2.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

MORE MINUTES: Freshman guard Nick Taylor is seeing more minutes since the departure of Kenneth White.

Inept offense dooms women's squad

WOMEN'S, page 16

ward Jasmine Jenkins with 15 minutes left in the game, the Golden Panthers went ahead 48-40.

After the lay up, the Golden Panthers would not score for the next nine minutes.

English spearheaded the Privateers' ensuing 20-2 run, scoring eight points in it.

The Golden Panthers finally showed signs of life when Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer. English responded with her third 3-pointer of the game.

Not wanting to be excluded from the 3-point barrage, freshman Fanni Hutlassa hit FIU's tenth three-pointer of the night to cut the lead to seven with 4:59 remaining in the game.

The Privateers closed out the final five minutes of the game by scoring seven of the game's last 11 points en route to a 10-point victory over the

Golden Panthers.

Ciglar finished the game with 11 points and three assists.

Jenkins nearly had another double-double with 10 points and eight rebounds. English's 27 points were the second most FIU has allowed one player to score all season, the University of South Florida's Shantia Grace scored 29 points against FIU in November.

"We could have stepped up a little better, but sometimes you have these games," Ferguson said.

Ferguson bounced back from two low-scoring home games by recording 19 points, seven rebounds and four assists, including 4-of-9 shooting from behind the 3-point line, against the Privateers.

"It's hard to swallow a loss like this against a team we should beat, but it happens to the best of us," she said.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TRAPPED: Freshman forward Liene Jekabsone attempts to divide University of New Orleans defenders.

Team's slow growth places coach on hot seat

its pre-season goals.

Rouco, who survived athletic director Pete Garcia's rampage of firing coaches in the offseason, has done little to impress his boss thus far.

"We aren't the cool dudes. We got to jump on people like everybody is the best team in the league," Rouco said after a loss to Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19.

Indeed, the Golden Panthers have been far from cool. FIU has been among the most inconsistent teams in the Sun Belt Conference. After losing four of its first seven games, all at home, FIU has sandwiched a two-game winning streak in between two losing streaks of four games or more.

NO PROGRESSION

A huge part of FIU's disappointing season has been the underachieving performances by swingmen Chris Fuller and Alex Galindo. Galindo, a pre-season all-conference selection, has seen his scoring average take a dip

from his sophomore season. Despite waking up to score 57 points over his last two home games, the forward had only scored over 15 points three times this year - compared to the eight instances he did it at the same point last season. Galindo has had five games in which he scored in single digits, just one short of what he had all of last season.

Don't get me wrong, I know Galindo is a very talented player who has the potential to be among the best players in the conference, but we should all expect more from the former Rivals.com four-star prospect. Galindo spent his first year of college basketball at powerhouse Kansas and came to FIU with big expectations from the coaching staff and fans.

Fuller, the lone senior on the team, has gone from a double-digit scorer to averaging a lowly 7.5 points per game while seeing his rebounds, field goal percentage and

RAMOS, page 13



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DOWNHILL: Head coach Sergio Rouco record this year is worse than last year's at this point.



Commentary
Jonathan Ramos
Staff Writer

For coach Sergio Rouco, it must feel like winning is much easier said than done after he had this to say before the season:

"If everything stays the course and we don't suffer major injuries, there is no reason why we can't finish among the top four teams in [the Sun Belt Conference]," he said.

To sum up the first 19 games of the Golden Panthers season, things haven't quite stayed the course and it hasn't been injuries that have derailed the team. FIU has followed up its 12-17 performance last season with a 6-13 start to this year and a deep hole to overcome if it wants to reach

MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 75, NEW ORLEANS 62



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

OVERPOWERING: Senior guard Chris Fuller slams down a dunk against the University of New Orleans on Jan. 27 at home.

SKID OVER

Second half run sparks team's victory at home

ANDREW JULIAN
Staff Writer

Junior forward Alex Galindo's efforts would not be wasted this time as the Golden Panthers (6-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) snapped a four-game losing streak with a 75-62 victory over the New Orleans Privateers (14-7, 4-5) on Jan. 27 at Pharmed Arena.

Galindo led the Golden Panthers with 23 points and 10 rebounds, for his second consecutive home double-double.

"I thought we played well from the start and we did a great job rebounding the ball all game long," he said.

Entering the contest, the Golden Panthers were out-rebounding their opponents by an average of almost six rebounds per game.

The Golden Panthers continued that trend against New Orleans, out-rebounding the Privateers 42-27.

The two clubs traded baskets and stayed close for most of the first half, due in large part to 10 first-half Golden Panther turnovers.

The score was tied on eight different occasions and there were five lead

changes in a competitive first half that saw FIU lead by as many as five points and the Privateers lead by as many as four.

The Golden Panthers were able to break the final tie of the half with seven seconds remaining thanks to a three-point play by junior center Badara N'Diaye that gave the home team a 31-28 edge heading into intermission.

For the second straight home game, Galindo came out of the break

late surge from the Privateers, who cut the deficit to 11 with just over a minute to play.

Leading the charge for the Privateers was the Sun Belt Conference's all-time leading scorer Bo McCaleb, who finished with a game-high 24 points, two more than his season average.

Outside of McCaleb's efficient 9-for-15 shooting from the floor, the Privateers were held under 33 percent field goal shooting.



Alex Galindo, Junior Forward

The second half is the most important time of the game and I just want to play well and give my team a chance to win.

roaring with 18 second half points, leading a 20-6 run that lasted almost nine minutes in the middle of the half.

"The second half is the most important time of the game and I just want to play well and give my team a chance to win," Galindo said.

The Golden Panthers led by as many as 19 and were able to withstand a

They also failed to take advantage of the free throws line, shooting just 53 percent from the free-throw line.

FIU toyed with some new lineups during the game as well.

Sudden changes had to be made due to the indefinite suspension of point guard Mike

MEN'S, page 15

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NEW ORLEANS 70, FIU 60

Panthers let double digit lead slip away

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (7-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) could not hold on to a 13-point lead in the first half and could not hold on to the ball in the second half as they faltered 70-60 to the University of New Orleans Privateers (10-10, 4-5) at Pharmed Arena on Jan. 27.

A 14-5 turnover difference in the second half led to 26 points off turnovers for the Privateers

Senior guard Le'Della English led the Privateers with a game-high 27 points.

The first five minutes of the game were tight and the Privateers gained a 6-4 lead on a lay-up. On the next play, junior guard Iva Ciglar hit a 3-pointer that sparked a 10-0 FIU run.

The lead grew to 13 when Ciglar scored again with 4:45 remaining in the first half making the score 31-18.

But the Privateers responded by out scoring FIU 12-2 to end the first half, cutting FIU's lead to three, 33-30.

"I thought we ran a good offense until we got behind and we panicked," said coach Cindy Russo.

"We are still struggling for a post game. We lost out two starting post players at the beginning of the year. We got a little bit of it back, but I don't think they have a lot of confidence and we need to keep working on it."

Aiding the Privateers' rally was the play of junior forward Talishia Young, who scored 10 points in the first half. Normally FIU can bring

in freshman center Maja Krajacic to try and stop a bigger opponent, but she had to sit out the game with what Russo said was really bad bronchitis.

Also playing less than 100 percent was sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

For the first time this season, Bosilj did not make the starting lineup, but still managed to record 10 points and four rebounds.

The second half started with senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scoring eight of FIU's first 10 points.

However, the Privateers answered almost every FIU shot with one of their own.

Following a lay-up by senior for-

WOMEN'S page 15



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SWARMED: University of New Orleans defenders suffocate junior guard Iva Ciglar.