

JOSE MARTI AWARDS
Winners to be announced

WHO'S TO BLAME?
Discussing global warming

KARAOKE CRAZE
The worldwide phenomenon

RECRUITING TRAIL
Team needs improved talent

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Couple's memory honored

ASHLEY ARTILES
Staff Writer

It has been over three years since the death of FIU students Janelle Bertot and Anthony "Tony" J. Perez. The couple died of carbon monoxide poisoning in Weston, Fla. On Nov. 14, 2004, Perez and Bertot were on a date at the Weston Town Center. They were sitting in Perez's 1993 Mercury Villager with the engine running when they felt sick. Unaware of the symptoms of the poisonous gas and the lack of breeze, the couple later died.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless poisonous gas that is produced by the burning of fuels. When it enters the body it prevents the flow of blood to bring oxygen to your organs, cells and the rest of the body.

Bertot and Perez were actively involved in Greek life; Bertot was a sister of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and Perez, at the time, was president of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

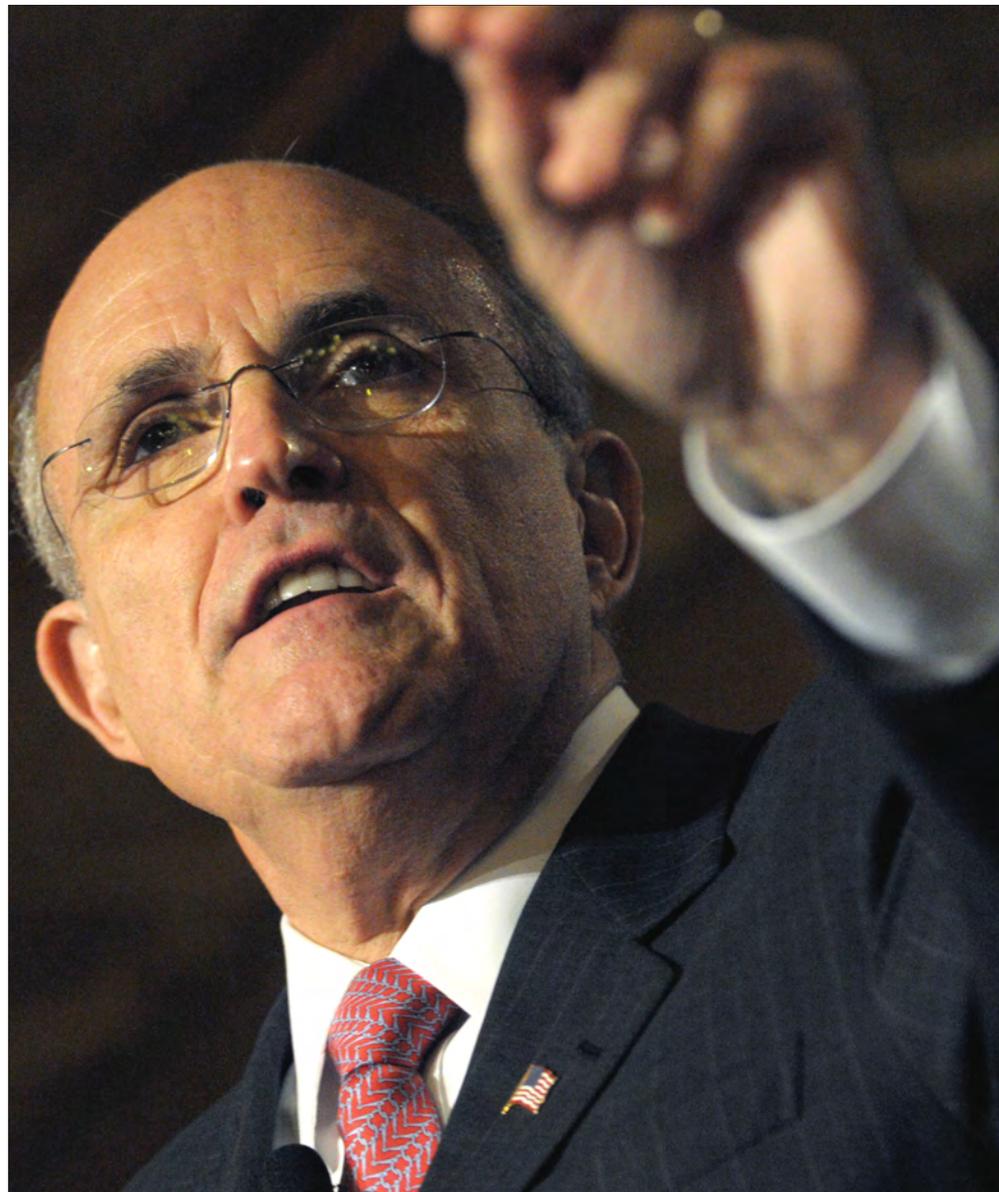
Bertot's family immediately created Janelle's Wishing Well Charitable Foundation in her honor. Tony's Lighthouse Charitable Foundation was recently founded to honor his life and educate the community about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Distraught by the loss of their brother and sister, Phi Sigma Sigma and Pi Kappa Phi united to create a memorial for Bertot and Perez.

"Clayton Solomon, brother of Pi Kappa Phi at her alma mater Western High School and other donations, the foundation will be expanding its scholarship from the high school to FIU's Greek organizations. A kickball tournament is in the works.

"We hope to organize a kickball tournament as one of next year's events at FIU involving the Greek community. I think it

GIULIANI SKIPS FIU



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP PHOTO

STOOD UP: Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani was scheduled to speak at FIU on Jan. 28 but canceled due to "scheduling conflicts," according to Out Reach Coordinator Javier Correoso.

will be a fun event and bring awareness as well," said Bertot.

On February 23, 2008 at Bijan's on the River, Janelle's Wishing Well will host its third annual fundraising gala in downtown Miami. The tickets will be \$70.00 per person including dinner, entertainment and a donation to the foundation in order to continue the legacy of Bertot and Perez.

There is limited information on Tony Perez's foundation since it was recently founded. Brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are working on launching Tony's Lighthouse's Web site by next year. In the future, they too will donate scholarships on Tony's behalf to the Greek community.

MONOXIDE, page 3

ONE CAMPUS CHALLENGE

Students take on Challenge

ROCIO BLANCO-GARCIA
Staff Writer

One in seven people live in poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic has come to affect more than 35 million people throughout the globe, according to *ONE.org*. This is the reality society is faced with at the dawn of the 21 century.

In Fall 2007, FIU joined the fight against the spread of AIDS and poverty by partnering with the ONE Campus Challenge.

Other universities around the country such as Iowa State University, University of Florida and Georgetown University also joined the challenge.

"The challenge is fun, competitive and, it allows us to fight for a good cause," said Juan Jarapiño, former president of the FIU chapter.

ONE operates in all 50 states as a humanitarian non-profit organization, with a membership of over 2.4 million people.

The goal of ONE is to raise public awareness on issues of poverty, hunger and disease.

The organization also works to convince America's leaders into allocating more of the US budget toward alleviating AIDS and poverty, which are devastating entire generations in the world's poorest countries.

The Campus Challenge was

ONE CAMPUS, page 8



Deadline to become a Florida delegate approaching

CHRISTINA LEMUS
Contributing Writer

The application deadline for Florida delegate candidates is approaching, and the Florida Democratic Party believes this is the most important election to be a Florida delegate.

Florida democrats are not just voting in the 2008 election, they are campaigning to be a part of it. Even after the Democratic National Committee decided to strip the Florida vote

at the National Convention, constituents are still rallying their vote for delegates.

Jenny Alvarez-Parrilla, a journalism student, said this would be a great opportunity for students to become a delegate because they would be able to learn a lot about politics, and at the same time, be a part of the election.

"Becoming a delegate allows you to represent a candidate who you believe in and get your voice heard in the election," Alvarez-

Parrilla said.

The Florida Democratic Party believes Floridians will still turn out and vote on Jan. 29, and the state will receive enough media attention to campaign for the democratic candidates.

Sandra Lyon, director for the Office of the Chair for the Florida Democratic Party, said the Florida primary could be very important in the election, and people are waiting until the last few days of the month to submit their application for delegate.

"Everything can change after Super Tuesday, so people are waiting until they think they know which candidate is going to win. They want their candidate to win so they can run to become a delegate," Lyon said.

The application deadline for Florida delegate candidates is Jan. 29, and it requires a person to already be a registered democratic voter and to have completed two forms from the Florida Democratic Party: the Loyalty and Oath form and the

Statement of Candidacy form.

John Hornbuckle, executive director for the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, said the best way for Democrats to get involved in the election is to become a delegate and vote at the convention.

"What people don't realize is how easy it is to become a delegate and how well they can represent their state, their party and their community,"

DELEGATES, page 3

Blackboard replaces obsolete WebCT

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

WebCT is no stranger to students taking Web-assisted or completely online courses.

That will soon change, though, as FIU is in the middle of phasing out WebCT's use and will instead turn to a similar system called Blackboard.

“Communication is much better with Blackboard because every student in the course is also in Blackboard, so communication via e-mail is assured to get to every student. Also, any student has the ability to communicate with any lecturer or anyone else in the course,” said Thomas Pitzer, biological sciences professor. “This is important when the total class size can be approximately 1,000 students.”

Blackboard was placed into service last year after it bought WebCT, according to Mimi Lezcano, an Electronic Learning Consultants' training manager.

“The support for WebCT was not being renewed,

therefore we have to move toward a new product, and the closest thing to WebCT 4.1 is Blackboard CE6,” Lezcano said.

Since the switch, several issues have risen, ranging from problems in posting lecture notes to a semester's worth of grades disappearing.

Other problems include lag, login issues, student's

experienced before were isolated problems,” Lezcano said.

While several professors complained the new system lacked proper support, none wished to be identified in this article.

However, according to Lezcano, each faculty member is assigned an e-learning consultant, giving professors easy access to

“**Thomas Pitzer, Biological Sciences Professor**

Communication is much better with Blackboard because every student in the course is also in Blackboard, so communication via e-mail is assured to get to every student.

grades not showing after a professor posts them, removal of professors' administrative access and missing quizzes.

“To one degree or another I have experienced all the aforementioned issues at one time or another,” Pitzer said.

According to Lezcano, the issues were corrected with three software patches that were installed over the Winter break.

“The related problems

support. The consultants are available Monday through Sunday, from 8 a.m. to midnight.

Blackboard also offers a help desk for additional support.

Even with of the support offered, Palmer Graves, associate chair of the chemistry department decided not to switch to Blackboard.

“Blackboard, the new version 6.0, according



THEY'VE GOT CHEMISTRY

WEIRD SCIENCE: (from left to right) Maria A. Perez, Pablo R. Sacasa, and Jorge Restrepo of the Chemistry club perform an experiment for spectators at this year's SOC club fair on Jan. 22.

GAUDRY PUECHAWY / THE BEACON

to UTS was not installed correctly and did not work. It was extremely slow and crashed a lot,” Graves said.

According to Lezcano the issues have been address and the patches have made the system more stable.

Despite the problems being resolved, WebCT fans are quick to defend its usage in their classes.

“E-learning and WebCT are very successful here in the chemistry department at the University of Florida,” said Eric Enholm, associate chair in chemistry

at UF. “Both students and faculty find it very valuable in keeping track of information, scores and other data used in courses, especially general chemistry and organic chemistry.”

While FIU professors have claimed problems with the system, Enholm finds the positives with the system outweigh any potential problems.

“The negatives are so few with e-learning that we use it extensively with most of our undergraduate students,” Enholm said.

After the transition to

Blackboard is complete, professors who have been using WebCT or another type of Web-assisting program for a prolonged period of time may find it difficult to make the switch, according to Graves.

“I have been using WebCT for 10 years now,” Graves said. “WebCT has worked very well for me and my students.

Like it or not, professors will have to start using Blackboard once it completely replaces the current WebCT system within the next year.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 17 issue of *The Beacon*, the story titled ‘Chair, Provost differ on effects of budget cuts,’ Chris Towers and Corey Bachman should have been credited with additional reporting.

In the Jan. 22 issue of *The Beacon*, the story titled ‘GOP candidates support Bush but keep distance’, John McCain was said to have recieved a 90 percent from the John Birch Society in 2007. He recieved that rating in 2004.

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

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TOMATO WARS

MIRACLE TOMATO: Jessica Cerullo, creator and performer of *Miracle Tomato*, showcases her work on the Wertheim Performing Arts Center stage on Jan. 19.

Foundations inspired by couple's death

MONOXIDE, page 1

"There is not a day I don't think about them. I look at both of their pictures, and I came together to try to make a plan for some sort of memorial," said Breny DaParre, sorority sister of Janelle Bertot who sits on the executive board for Janelle's Wishing Well. "Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and Pi Kappa Phi fraternity joined to raise funds."

A car wash hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma and a gentlemen's auction by Pi Kappa Phi raised about \$3,000.

"The rest of the funds were donated by FIU students, friends and alumni," DaParre said.

The proposal for the memorial was approved. Phi Sigma Sigma and Pi Kappa Phi decided on benches, which were donated by the Abigantus family, friends of Janelle's Wishing Well. The memorial is now located in the southwest corner of the Graham Center fountain.

Janelle's Wishing Well teamed up with the University of Miami and Jackson Poison Control to create a program approved by both

Miami-Dade and Broward County school systems to educate high school students in driver's education classes and health classes about the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

In July 2007, Governor Charlie Crist signed a carbon monoxide law entitled "Janelle's Law" that will go into effect in July. The law requires carbon monoxide detectors similar to smoke detectors to be installed in new buildings that burn fossil fuels including residential and commercial buildings.

"There is not a day I think about them. I look at their pictures when I wake up and all day when I'm at work. They're my angels. But through awareness events, I can not only potentially save someone's life, but keep their memory alive," DaParre said.

For more information on Janelle's Wishing Well, or to purchase tickets for the fundraising gala, visit <http://www.janelleswishingwell.org/>.

Ashley Artilles is a member of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority.

Becoming a delegate offers costly, historic opportunity

DELEGATES, page 1

Hornbuckle said.

According to Lyon, running as a delegate candidate is a campaign.

If an applicant's presidential candidate wins at least 15 percent of the primary vote in their district, then that applicant has an opportunity to run for a delegate. However, the applicants must also make it to a district-level caucus in order to win votes to be a delegate.

"It all comes down to the caucus. If you don't go, then you can't become a delegate," Lyon said. "But when people go they bring bus loads of family and friends who will vote for them. In the 2004 caucuses at least 200 people showed up for both Miami-Dade and Broward County. It's kind of unfair because if you don't know very many people you won't win."

Florida Democratic caucuses take place on March 1 at 25

different locations throughout the state.

According to Lyon, applicants must campaign for themselves until the day of the caucus so they can have as many people as possible within their congressional district to vote for them.

According to Mark Bubriski, communications director for the Florida Democratic Party, when a delegate candidate goes to a caucus they have to make sure all of the people they bring to vote for them choose the ballot with the same presidential candidate.

That ballot will have a list of all the possible delegates for a candidate within that congressional district.

The votes will be determined the same night of the caucus and the winners will go on to the national convention.

The size of a district depends on how many delegates will go to represent Florida, and whichever presidential candidate wins the

most votes at the primary will receive more delegates than the others.

Delegate candidates have to truly campaign to win those limited slots because some districts may have anywhere from two to six delegates go to the convention in Denver,



Sandra Lyon, Dir. for Office of FL. Democratic Party

Becoming a delegate is really something you have to commit to. The money, the time, the campaigning — it's all worth it. Especially this year when we have the chance to vote for a real change into the presidency. It's like making history.

Bubriski said.

"For the whole state of Florida there will be 210 delegates that will go to the convention. Those delegates will have a chance to experience a historic moment because it could be the first time ever that a woman or a black man will become President," Bubriski said. "And this might someone's

only chance to be apart of it."

According to Lyon, what applicants really need to know is that a lot of money is needed to become a delegate.

The Florida Democratic Party does not finance delegates; therefore, if a delegate is chosen to go to the National Convention,

he or she must pay all of their travel expenses.

"It costs money to run for a delegate, not only do you have to campaign to win and become a delegate but you also need money as a delegate because you have to pay your way to Denver," Lyon said.

Alvarez-Parrilla believes she

would run as a delegate if it wasn't so expensive to pay for the trip to Denver.

The only thing holding her back is the lack of financial support.

"If someone could help me pay for the travel expenses, then I would definitely go; but, as a student right now, it would be too hard to pay for a trip like that," Alvarez-Parrilla said.

For Lyons and most of the other Florida Democratic Party members, becoming a delegate is worth the money and the commitment.

They believe the up close experience in the election is a once in a life time opportunity.

"Becoming a delegate is really something you have to commit to. The money, the time, the campaigning — it's all worth it. Especially this year when we have the chance to vote for a real change into the presidency. It's like making history," Lyon said.

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Jose Marti's Cuban passion honored at scholarship breakfast

Hundreds of essays turned in, two winners awarded \$2000

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Contributing Writer

FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus will join Miami-Dade College in celebrating the birth of Cuban writer José Martí as part of the eighth annual scholarship breakfast.

The celebration will take place Jan. 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

This year's event will feature keynote speaker Professor Uva de Aragon, a journalist, poet and essayist, whose career has been devoted to Martí.

"Martí's greatest passion was Cuba. He wished not only to liberate her from the colonial government of Spain, but to lay the foundations of the nation, the Republic," Aragon said. "Even during the organization of the war, he saw the need to limit the power of the military and of creating a civil society."

Aragon came to the United States from Havana in 1960 at age 15. Passionate about literature from an early age, she started publishing at 16. She has penned a dozen books, including "El Caiman en el Espejo", "Versos de Exilio" and "Los Nombres del Amor", as well as newspaper and magazine articles.

Aragon is the editor of "Repensando a Martí", a volume of essays on Martí, and associate

director of the Cuban Research Institute at FIU.

When asked about the impact of his works on college students today, Aragon was disenchanted.

"Unfortunately, college students today do not know as much about Martí as they should. He is more than Cuba's founding father, a man of universal values," Aragon said. "His 'Escenas Norteamericanas' are a precious source to learn about life in the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Furthermore, his advocacy for a united Latin America, racial equality, and respect to human rights, is as valid today as in his times."

The scholarship was founded in 2000 by Raul Moncarz, former vice provost of BBC. Through a donation given to FIU by Jose Badia, president and owner of Badia Spices, scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each will be given to FIU and Miami Dade students who have winning entries.

This contest is a way to let people know what an important figure Martí was, according to Rafael Zapata, a member of the Jose Martí Scholarship Breakfast Committee,

"This breakfast raises scholarships and other funds and pro-

vides a different way of honoring Martí's name," Zapata said.

Hundreds of essays on Martí's poems are expected for the scholarship prize. A scholarship committee based at University Park will choose the winning essays.

To qualify, recipients must be undergraduate students and enrolled full-time in an approved

degree-seeking program at FIU or Miami Dade College.

Two students from both FIU and Miami-Dade College will be honored at the breakfast with scholarships for their essays, one in Spanish and one in English.

Students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. They must also be a U.S. citizen or

permanent resident, a resident of Miami-Dade or Broward County and submit a separate one-page essay on one literary work or speech by the Cuban writer in English or Spanish. Applicants do not have to be of Hispanic origin to qualify.

Moncarz declined to comment.

Poems celebrate African history

PAMELA DUQUE
Contributing Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus poetry lovers have a club where they can share their enthusiasm for words.

Founded in 2005, On Point Poetry is a small club of students who share a passion for spoken word poetry. Supported by the Student Programming Council, The Black Student Association and the African New World Studies, these young poets' mission is to entertain those who enjoy reading and writing poetry.

"It's a group of young poets who recite, who read and who write poetry for themselves. We get together and we share a little bit of ourselves," said Kertus M. Toussaint, club president

and a senior finance major.

In cooperation with The Write Side Poets Inc., a non-profit organization that supports young writers through contests and events in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, On Point Poetry will be hosting Moments of Reflection, an event to celebrate African American History.

"Its not going to be just poetry, there's also going to be drummers and dancing," said Manouchka Cherfrere, On Point Poetry vice president and a freshman biomedical engineering major.

Featuring Jubilee Ray Dominguez's dancehall music, Poetic Vibe and DJ Push Play, this event will touch topics from the slave trade to the civil rights

movement.

Drummers from Africa will also perform. Moments of Reflection will take place Feb. 5 at BBC's Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at 6:45 p.m.

"It's an experience," Toussaint said. "Even if you don't love poetry, the show and experience alone are worth coming [to]. Any person who has any minority affiliation, regardless if they're Cuban, Puerto Rican or Hispanic, should come. This is an opportunity to gain some perspective on history."

On Point Poetry also will host Sensual Seduction.

"[At Sensual Seduction] there will be no limits," Toussaint said. "The poets will be allowed to speak freely. It gets very strong."

Sensual Seduction will

be held Feb. 12 in the BBC ballroom at 7 p.m.

The club has also worked with Spoken Words, a sister poetry club at University Park. Together the two clubs come together and form one to represent the amateur poets of the University.

Membership to On Point Poetry is open to anyone.

"I'm not a poet myself. I don't write. I like to enjoy other people's talent," said Nakeia Calvert, On Point Poetry member and a sophomore marine biology major.

For more information on the club and events, visit www.myspace.com/onpoint-poetry.

"All you have to do is just love poetry," Cherfrere said. "That's the only requirement."

WORK IT OUT



SUSANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

DEFENSE MOVES: Students take part in the BBC Fitness Center's Self Defense and Core Training class held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m.

“Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research institute at FIU

Unfortunately, college students today do not know as much about Martí as they should. He is more than Cuba's founding father, a man of universal values.

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Global climate changes pose serious threats

MATT COOK
Contributing Writer

One of the most pressing issues our generation faces is that of global climate change, more commonly known as global warming.

The global climate is rapidly changing and the consequences are going to be disastrous.

“These scenes are as frightening as a science fiction movie, but they are even more terrifying because they are real,” said United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon following the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Global Climate Changes’ report.

“Global warming is ‘unequivocal’ and carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere commits the world to an eventual rise in sea levels of up to 4.6 feet,” a Nov. 2007 article in the *USA Today* reported.

Ban Ki-moon asserted in a *USA Today* report, “Only urgent, global action will do.”

The United States and China are among the world’s top polluters; it is time this country takes responsibility for its actions.

If we want to live in a healthy

and sustainable world we must own up and learn from our mistakes. It is important that all nations work together to resolve this issue.

In order for that to happen, it is going to take cooperation. I would expect one of the largest polluters in the world – the United States – to set aside its private interests, otherwise, there will not be a world left.

USA Today’s article attests that enough carbon dioxide already has built up that it imperils islands, coastlines and a fifth to two-thirds of the world’s species and as early as 2020, seventy-five million to two hundred-fifty million people in Africa will suffer water shortages.

Residents of Asia’s large cities will be at great risk of river and coastal flooding.

The facts are self-explanatory; our world is going to gradually deteriorate until there is nothing left and it is going to start with the people the world neglects and takes advantage of the most.

My message to the United States and the first world Imperialists is this: you are not invincible, as noted by the article which goes



KOJI SASAHARA/AP PHOTOS

GORE CAST: Former Vice President Al Gore acknowledges spectators before the screening of, “An Inconvenient Truth,” his documentary on global warming.

on to state that “Europeans can expect extensive species loss, and North Americans will experience longer and hotter heat waves and greater competition for water.”

Does the United States government and others honestly think they can continue to strip the world of its resources without facing consequences?

The climate is changing as we have seen with melting snow and glaciers, higher temperatures and rising sea levels.

Global warming can and will

cause even more devastating natural disasters, strain food and water resources, eliminate species entirely and spread disease.

The problem we are facing today is man-made. It started with the desire to produce more at whatever expense necessary.

Industrialism, imperialism and materialism have ruled our society. We have attempted to dominate and manipulate the world and its resources, however we are in for a very sad awakening.

Until nations can set aside

their interests for the betterment of society, we can expect to see more catastrophic hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, rising sea levels, extinctions and depletion of our world’s resources.

The world’s resources are a gift to humanity; gifts that we should respect and value. What we use, we must give back.

Ban Ki-moon may have put it best, that global warming will become “so severe and so sweeping that only urgent global action will do. We are all in this together.

Citizens given more options for pharmaceutical needs

EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

While FIU students were traveling around the country to spend the holidays with their families, Florida Governor Charlie Crist had his own road trip around the Sunshine State. Anywhere from Miami to Orlando to Jacksonville, Governor Crist was busy spreading the word about the launch of the new Florida Drug Card Program.

The program reached out to the public on Dec. 20, 2007 and was welcomed with open arms as 3,000 Floridians enrolled within a day.

“The health of all Floridians is tremendously important,” said Crist. “Floridians eligible for this program have demonstrated their hope for a healthier lifestyle by signing up.”

One may qualify for the card under certain circumstances. According to Crist’s Web site, A Florida citizen is eligible for the program if they do not have prescription drug coverage or if they are in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage gap.

The required age is 60 or older, but the card allows for younger residents if they have an annual income of less than triple that of the Federal Poverty Level.

For individuals, couples and families under the age limit to qualify their annual income can be no more than \$30,636, \$41,076 and \$61,956, respectively. Approximately four million of Florida’s residents will be able to take advantage of

the program and its benefits.

Residents who sign up for the program will save anywhere from 5 percent to 42 percent on almost every brand name or generic drug, varying by prescription and store.

In addition, 3,000 pharmacies across the state are participating in the program, making access as easy and painless as possible.

The only cost to Florida citizens is an activation fee of \$1.50 upon their first prescription. As for the pharmacies, they agree to the negotiated prices of each drug. Those savings are then passed onto the customers taking part in the program.

Further proving that Crist is giving more power and options to the people, the governor has set up several Web sites for the Drug Card’s members. On *FloridaHealthFinder.gov*, consumers can find information about 1,600 conditions, medications and insurance information.

In an effort to benefit citizens who were exploited, Crist has brought several companies up to task after they feigned wholesale prices in the past, further proving that he stands strongly for the people and in giving those in need of medication someone to trust.

The program spans a majority of the pharmacies of Florida, and provides the beneficiaries of the program the highest possible discount on prescription drugs. In short, after a user’s insurance is accepted, the remaining balance can be further discounted, provided they are simply part of

the Florida Discount Drug system.

For people who are under-insured, the Drug Card Program is strictly beneficial. Aside from the \$1.50 fee required to become a member, there’s no loss involved.

“ The program spans a majority of the pharmacies of Florida, and ultimately affords the beneficiaries of the program, the highest possible discount on prescription drugs. ”

The only problem would occur if you’re under 60, in which your income must be considerably less than the poverty level.

The system, thus far, is only publicly criticized because of the stringent criteria of eligibility. Even those who make only slightly more than the maximum allowable

income are exempted from the program. If only Governor Crist had proposed that eligibility could be appealed based on the circumstances of the appellant.

All in all, the program is an innovation

in Florida’s health care system. With the next wave of seniors projected to be the largest demographic, it’s safe to say the Florida Discount Drug Card will become a standard in the near future, likely to become as common as an ATM card.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. Letters must 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.

KARAOKE NIGHTS

Bars offer patrons taste of stardom

ELYSE COLEMAN
Staff Writer

Our Place Lounge and Liquors is a dimly lit tavern with walls covered in Americana and a small, crowded bar in the center. A tiny platform designating a stage sticks out in a corner, also lively decorated.

Until the karaoke begins, the MC attempts to liven up the crowd by singing, break dancing and shouting out a slew of unintelligible words interspersed with obscenities, which manages to get everyone into the mood.

The bar hosts karaoke nights on Saturdays and Sundays. Also known for their Saturday karaoke night was Hooligan's Pub and Oyster Bar, one of the many locations in Miami where Boogie Man George Entertainment hosts a karaoke night. Hooligan's boasts itself as "Miami's number one sports bar" and is a bit more low-key than Our Place, substituting the theatrics with a more traditional karaoke session.

For the past two decades, karaoke has continued to rise in popularity around the world. According to a June 2003 article in *Japan Inc. Magazine*, the industry seems "almost recession-proof."

"The reason karaoke is so popular is because it lets individuals be a star," said Boogie Man George, owner of Boogie Man George Entertainment and a disc jockey since 1972. He has been in the karaoke business for six years.

"They can be a star for the three

While karaoke remains popular throughout North America, East Asia and Europe, the ways in which it is most commonly practiced are different. While in North America and Europe karaoke usually means singing up on a stage in front of a crowd of strangers in a bar, restau-

can vary and they are usually rented in increments of an hour or half hour.

A market also exists for home versions of karaoke machines.

According to *The Singing Machine*, a Web site that credits itself as "the leader in home karaoke and beyond," prices on home systems can range from approximately \$60 to \$400.

Recent years have seen a new addition to the home karaoke market through karaoke games for video game consoles, personal computers and even mobile phones.

"I like the fact you can get rated on your singing and sing the songs you like with friends," said Jennifer Matas, a senior. "It is kind of cool I suppose."

Boogie Man George Entertainment operates at a wide variety of venues, all of which are listed on their Web site www.boogiemangeorge.com.

Boogie Man George, Boogie Man George Entertainment

The reason karaoke is so popular is because it lets individuals be a star. They can be a star for the three or four minutes they're up on stage. It makes a person like you or I feel important.

or four minutes they're up on stage. It makes a person like you or I feel important," said George.

Karaoke was popularized in the United States in the 1990s, but it actually dates back to the early 1970s. *Time Asia Magazine* credits a Japanese drummer by the name of Daisuke Inoue as having invented karaoke in 1971. However, according to *About.com*, the patent for the karaoke machine currently belongs to a Filipino inventor by the name of Roberto del Rosario, who invented the "Karaoke Sing Along System" in 1975.

rant or some other type of venue, karaoke in East Asia is much more personal. According to *Karaoke Scene magazine*, There are establishments throughout Asia where groups of people can rent a "karaoke box," a small, sound-proof room equipped for karaoke parties.

"Karaoke boxes are really popular in Japan," said senior David Shaw. There was a big place right close to my house. It's a very big business there. They have thick books filled with every American song you can think of and tons of Asian songs."

The prices on karaoke boxes



"Cloverfield" cast provides an inside look

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

If the only thing separating you from the one you love was a giant, blood thirsty monster, would you run to their rescue? This is the question that drives the action in "Cloverfield", a film with a new take on the monster genre.

"Cloverfield" reunites J.J. Abrams and Director Mark Reeves since their work on television's "Felicity". Along with writer Drew Goddard, they've taken inspiration from Japan's "Godzilla" and have tried to give rampaging monsters a fresh start.

The Beacon spoke with actors Mike Vogel, Lizzy Caplan and T.J. Miller in a national college press conference call for their insights on making "Cloverfield".

"When we were all told it was a monster movie, there was sort of a hesitation because we've seen it done [badly] a lot of times," said Vogel, who plays Jason Hawkins, Rob's older brother. "I think the [film's] saving grace is the vision of

J.J. Abrams, the vision of Matt Reeves and a cast of characters that makes you feel safe in doing what you do and in being a part of something like this."

Part of the actors' filming commitment included signing nondisclosure forms to keep mum on story details to the public. With filming limited to a single handheld camera, upward of 40 takes were shot for each scene.

"Toward the beginning, in order to gear up for every scene where we were out of breath - which was like, basically every scene - we would run really fast up and down the street so we would legitimately be out of breath and then I think by like, take 14 it was like, 'Yeah, you know what? I think I'm gonna fake it for this one,'" Caplan said. "With all the dust and all the hyperventilating that we had to do, they had oxygen tanks for us."

Miller plays Hud Platt, Rob's "number one dude" charged with capturing his last night in America on film. Miller worked double duty as actor and cameraman,

shooting almost one third of the film while playing Hud, the audience's eyes in the catastrophe.

"It's such a different movie to make and it's so hard to act [in a kind of] film that you've never seen or [with a unique] style of film making so we did the best we could," Miller said. "We - and by that I mean the director, the producers, all the actors, the crew - we were all figuring it out as we went along ... that's a challenge. I think we were successful in that sense."

The choice to shoot with a single camera was meant to recreate the intimate, voyeuristic quality real homemade videos have, according to Abrams.

To further ground fantasy in reality, Miller was encouraged to improvise lines to create genuinely spontaneous reactions that the audience could relate to.

"You're in there with Hud, and there's no reverse angle showing you what he's not seeing," Abrams said. "Every moment becomes charged, because you

know that, just off-frame, there might be something horrible happening. But you don't know what it is."

"The fact that it's a single camera shooting style mixed with a lot of incredible effects, and then you take into account that the film was done for 25 million dollars, it sets a really high standard for other films to follow to show that it is possible, without busting a mega budget, to do what can be a successful film and make it incredible and different," Vogel said.

"Cloverfield" has already paid for itself, having earned a record \$41 million in its opening weekend, according to Paramount Studios.

"This film is so much more than a monster movie - it's a survivor movie, it's a comedy, it's a love story and it gives you motion sickness," Miller said. "It's a big idea and a bold and ambitious move in film making and I think Matt Reeves did what he needed to do and J.J. did what he needed to do and the acting was amazing."

WEEKEND RUNDOWN

•THURSDAY • JANUARY 24

WHAT: Aromas of Havana
WHERE: Aromas of Havana
Cigars and Lounge
14781 Biscayne Blvd,
N. Miami Beach, FL33181
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Drink of the Week:
Chili Passion
WHERE: Setai Hotel
2001 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: South Florida Fair
WHERE: South Florida
Fairgrounds
9067 Southern Blvd,
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: Best of Miami Jazz
WHERE: Churchill's Pub
5501 NE 2nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33137
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH \$5

•FRIDAY • JANUARY 25

WHAT: Matchbox Twenty
WHERE: Hard Rock Live
5747 Seminole Way
Hollywood, FL 33314
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$60 - \$100

WHAT: Guster
WHERE: Culture Room
3045 N Federal Hwy,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$24.99

WHAT: Wu Tang Clan
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami
Beach at Jackie Gleason Theatre
1700 Washington Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$38 - \$63

WHAT: Heavy Metal
WHERE: miArte Gallery
85 Merrick Way,
Coral Gables, FL 33134
WHEN: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHEN: Cabaret Fridays
WHERE: La Paloma
10999 Biscayne Blvd.,
North Miami, FL 33181

•SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

WHAT: Sick of it all
WHERE: Studio A
60 NE 11 Street
Miami, FL 33132
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$16

WHAT: David Allan Coe
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$22

WHAT: The Miami Blues Festival
WHERE: James L Knight Center
400 SE 2nd Ave.,
Miami, FL 33131
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$47.50 - \$55

WHAT: Farewell to the Orange Bowl
WHERE: Orange Bowl
1501 NW 3rd St.
Miami, FL 33125
WHEN: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Laughing Gas Improv
WHERE: Miami Street Playhouse
6766 Main St,
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10

•SUNDAY • JANUARY 27

WHAT: Surf and Song Festival
WHERE: Indian Creek Plaza
17260 San Carlos Blvd,
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10

WHAT: Free Beer at Sushin
WHERE: Sushin Japanese Restaurant
10501 N Kendall Dr,
Kendall, FL 33176
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Drink and Chill Literally
WHERE: The Polar Bar
938 Lincoln RD.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: Varies
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: The Little Dog Laughed
WHERE: Gable Stage
1200 Anastasia Ave.
Coral Gables, FL 33134
WHEN: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$37.50 – \$42.50

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

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ROCKING OUT



PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON



MUSICAL CULTURE: Rock bands Envy on the Coast (above and far left) and The Audition (right) performed at Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room on Jan. 19 as part of The PacTour, a tour by clothing store chain PacSun. For a review of the show, pick up the Jan. 28 issue of The Beacon next week.

"Dark Knight" star dies in apartment

TOM HAYS
AP Wire

Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday at a downtown Manhattan apartment, and police said drugs may have been a factor. The Australian-born actor was 28.

Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the residence in the tony SoHo neighborhood, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said. A housekeeper who went to let him know the massage therapist had arrived found him dead at 3:26 p.m.

Many FIU students were shocked. "I think it's crazy. It's so sad," said Catherine Fowler, a Freshman. "I think it's really sad because he's a person from our era."

Usually you hear about older people dying and it sucks that someone from our era has died," said Zasha Fernandez, a Junior.

Ledger was nominated for an Oscar for "Brokeback Mountain," where he met Michelle Williams in 2005. The two lived together in Brooklyn and had a daughter, Matilda, until they split up last year.

Ledger most recently appeared in "I'm Not There." Ledger was to appear as the Joker this year

in "The Dark Knight," a sequel to 2005's "Batman Begins." He's had starring roles in "A Knight's Tale" and "The Patriot," and played the suicidal son of Billy Bob Thornton in "Monster's Ball."

Ledger grew up in Perth, and began doing amateur theater at age 10. After several independent films

and a starring role in the short-lived Fox TV series "Roar," Ledger moved to Los Angeles and costarred in "10 Things I Hate About You," a teen comedy reworking of "The Taming of the Shrew." "I really liked "Ten Things I Hate About You." That's my favorite movie," said Fowler.



LEDGER

Offers for other teen flicks came his way, but Ledger turned them down, preferring to remain idle than sign on for projects he didn't like.

"It wasn't a hard decision for me," Ledger told the Associated Press in 2001.

"It was hard for everyone else around me to understand. Agents were like, 'You're crazy,' my parents were like, 'Come on, you have to eat.'"

Carolina Santos, a sophomore, reflected on the consequences of the actor's untimely death. "It's going to be wierd not having movies with him."

All University leaders urged to join fight against AIDS

ONE CAMPUS, page 1

created after the organization saw increasing momentum in students' action to engage in fighting poverty.

"The purpose of the ONE Campus Challenge is to motivate and unite students as one," Cristina Lopez, leader of the FIU ONE chapter, said.

There are three phases and participating schools receive points during each phase. In the first, students recruit people to join the ONE cause, make calls to Congress and organize activities such as human logos, vigils and tabling in concerts.

In the second phase, the 100 highest-scoring schools, which included FIU, traveled to a conference in Washington D.C. where speakers such as Bill Frist, former Senate majority leader, talk about the issues of poverty, hunger and AIDS.

In the third stage of the event, the top ten schools will receive a \$1,000 grant to promote poverty fighting programs on their campuses.

FIU is entering the third stage of the challenge alongside more than 2,000 colleges and universities. FIU

ranks 65 in the competition with 24,140 points, but the members of FIU's Campus Challenge are still aiming to land in the top ten.

"Soon we will have a party where students will get to have tons of fun and at the same time make calls to Congress to ask our leaders to make the elimination of poverty, AIDS and hunger part of their political campaigns," Lopez said.

Lopez, together with the three core members of the FIU chapter and more than 50 volunteers, have attended festivals and done tabling to promote the organization.

"We don't ask for money or donations; all we want you to do is wear our shirts and pass our message to others," Lopez said.

The organization's Web site, *ONE.org*, allows anyone to sign the ONE declaration and volunteer for the cause. Bracelets and T-shirts are also available for sale on the Web site.

The T-shirts are made in Lesotho, a small African country, and \$10 from every purchase goes to the Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS fund, which provides AIDS treatment to Lesotho factory workers.

Students can also join ONE through popular student networking Web sites such as *Facebook.com* and *Myspace.com*, where the students can add ONE to their top friends list, add animated logos to their personal page, listen to music from the campaign, sign the declaration or create a chapter on their campus.

The organization's current goal is to end the hardships of undeveloped countries, but the members of the FIU chapter have their own goal. They want to expand poverty awareness all around campus and make other FIU associations join the cause.

"We want to talk to the leaders of all other FIU associations and invite them to join us in this fight against global poverty," Jarapiño said.

Daniel Depas, member of the FIU ONE chapter also encourages all FIU students to join the organization by ensuring them that if they all work together, they can change the world.

"We have the capability to make this a better world, to end poverty and alleviate the hardships of others," Depas said. "It may seem difficult, but it's possible."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Panthers begin crucial stretch

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

With South Alabama and Western Kentucky running away with the Sun Belt Conference through the first half of the conference play period, FIU will be playing catch-up in hopes of reaching its conference championship goal.

The Golden Panthers (5-12) face their most critical games of the season when they travel to Arkansas State (8-10) on Jan. 24 and face New Orleans (14-5) at the Pharmed Arena on Jan. 27.

FIU, who is 2-5 in conference play, comes into the pair of games with a three-game losing streak.

After two consecutive, inspiring wins before the losing streak, the Golden Panthers were blown out on the road by Sun Belt-leading Western Kentucky and South Alabama. They then returned home to lose a heartbreaker to Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19.

Arkansas State won't be giving the Golden Panthers a break as they will

showcase 6-3 guard Adrian Banks, another star scorer in the Sun Belt Conference.

Banks, who averages 20 points a game, is incredibly efficient and is shooting nearly 50 percent from the floor. The Indians also feature Ryan Wedel, who has scored as many as 30 points in a game this season and is averaging over 15 points per game.

ASU lacks depth, however, and does not have a single true center on its team. FIU center Russell Hicks could follow up his 15-point performance against Louisiana-Monroe with another successful one against the undersized Indians.

ASU will only warm the Golden Panthers up for New Orleans, who is a much more formidable opponent. The Privateers will roll out the sixth-leading scorer in the NCAA in Bo McCalebb, who scores over 22 points on a nightly basis.

New Orleans, who is fourth in the conference, has won two straight games as of Jan. 19. First year coach Joe Pasternack has turned the Privateers around and put them in the thick

of the conference title race after a 14-17 record last season.

The Privateers defeated FIU 77-67 last season.

HISTORIC GAME

Even though the performance was overlooked because of the loss, Alex Galindo's 34-point eruption against ULM on Jan. 19 stacks up as one of the best individual performances a Golden Panther basketball history.

Galindo had his way on 10-of-19 shooting from the field, which included five 3-point field goals. The junior forward scored ten more points than his previous career-high and etched his name in the FIU record books.

The performance ties former Golden Panther Ismael N'Diaye, who scored 34 in a five-overtime game, for the most points by a FIU player at the Pharmed arena and was only five points shy of former guard Carlos Arroyo's school record for the most points in a single game. Galindo's five 3-point field goals were also just four shy from tying an FIU record.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOTING THE ROCK: Junior forward Alex Galindo scored a career-high 34 points against ULM on Jan. 19.

Big Diesel to miss two weeks with hip injury

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Wire

Shaquille O'Neal will miss at least the next two weeks because of recurring pain in his left hip and leg, the latest piece of disappointing news for the reeling Miami Heat.

An MRI exam performed Tuesday on O'Neal's ailing hip found acute inflammation in that joint and his quadriceps muscle. He will be treated with ice, but won't do any basketball-related activity — with hopes that rest will cure the problem.

O'Neal will miss at least six games, barring a change in the rehabilitation schedule. The earliest he could

return under the timetable released by the team is Feb. 6 at Detroit.

"His activity, the activity, is exacerbating it," said Heat coach Pat Riley, whose team has lost 14 straight games, three shy of matching the franchise record. "That's all. That's what happens. He's trying to do everything he do. He's gotten all the treatment he can get. And now it's probably going to be an inactive period of time until the thing heals."

O'Neal was not available to reporters Tuesday. He has missed an average of 20 games over the past six seasons because of an array of injuries, and still has two full seasons after this remaining

on his five-year, \$100 million contract with Miami.

Other tests done Tuesday, including bloodwork, ruled out the possibility of infection or other problems, the team said.

O'Neal suffered the hip injury while diving for a loose ball against Utah on Dec. 22 — the last game Miami won. He missed eight games from Dec. 28 through Jan. 11, sought treatment in Los Angeles over that stretch, and returned when the Heat started their current seven-game homestand Jan. 16.

O'Neal left Monday's game against Cleveland in the first quarter to have the hip re-taped, then returned to the game with a noticeable limp. He finished with 10 points, none after halftime.

He's averaging a career-low 14.2 points this season, and his string of 14 straight All-Star Game selections — which matches a league record — almost seems certain to end because of his latest malady.

Heat guard Dwyane Wade, who scored 32 of Miami's 38 second-half points in Monday's 97-90 loss to Cleveland, said it's tough to continue watching O'Neal play in obvious pain.

"He's judged more than a lot of the athletes in the world because of who he is, who he has become," Wade said.

"If he's playing and hurting and not playing good, he's being talked about. If he's not playing and he's trying to get healthy, then he's being talked about for taking time off. It's a lose-lose situation. As his friend, I want him to be healthy. That's the most important thing to us."

Mark Blount likely will become Miami's new starting center, now that O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning (season-ending knee and quadriceps injuries) are hurting. Centers Joel Anthony and Earl Barron are also on the Heat roster, although they've combined to play 207 minutes this season.

Depending on how long O'Neal is out, Riley said the team might try to add another big man for depth.

"We'll talk about it," Riley said.

For now, Blount — who started 81 games for Minnesota last year and who has averaged 5.7 points in 16 minutes per game this season — will be the primary pivot man Miami, which has the Eastern Conference's worst record at 8-32.

When Blount was acquired before the season in a trade, he expected to spend the year playing alongside O'Neal and Mourning and helping the Heat get back to their championship form from two seasons ago.



COURTESY PHOTO

OUT AGAIN: This will be the second time this season that Shaquille O'Neal will miss time with a hip injury.

"It's been different," Blount said. "There's nothing I can do about that. Nothing you can really say. The team is looking at me to try to help them out right now. Of course, you want to be there with Shaq and be there with Zo, but that's not the situation right now."

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VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

HEADS UP: Freshman guard Russell Tremayne looks to pass the ball to set up the offense.

Loss snaps teams' two-game win streak

BASKETBALL, page 12

more help in the second half than he received. Russell Hicks and Erick Nsangou, who combined for 23 of FIU's 28 first half points, were only able to come up with three points between them in the second half.

Also in the second half, the Golden Panthers – outside of Galindo's 8-for-13 effort – went a combined

3-for-18 from the field.

The loss snapped FIU's two-game winning streak at home and extended its overall losing skid to three games.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Jonesboro, Ark., on Jan. 24 to take on the Arkansas State, losers of four of their last six (8-10, 3-5, SBC). They will return home on Jan. 27 to play the University of New Orleans (14-5, 4-3 SBC).

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Strong defense alone can't save team

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

With the season a little more than half finished the women's basketball team (7-11, 3-4 Sun Belt) has had its ups and downs.

Since starting the season 1-5, the Golden Panthers have gone 6-6 and seem to be heading in the right direction despite a tough schedule.

The Golden Panthers have done a great job on defense against most of their conference opponents like Troy and Louisiana-Monroe, who were both held to season lows in points.

However, the fact remains that FIU is just not scoring enough points to win consistently.

Since the loss of insides presences Elisa Carey and Marquita Adley, FIU has not scored more than 70 points in a game and has been held below 60 points six times.

This is surprising because FIU does have quite a few good offensive players, such as senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, sophomore guard Monika

Bosilj, junior guard Iva Ciglar and freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa.

The team's win against South Alabama on the road was a boost for a team struggling on the road.

"It was amazing. We played as a team. We were hustling and supporting each other," said point guard Iva Ciglar. "Everybody committed 100 percent."

Until that game, FIU had been struggling on the road, losing every game, often by double digits – with the exception of a big win in Coral Gables against the University of Miami.

Next up for FIU is the University of New Orleans (9-9, 3-4 SBC). The Privateers are led by Le'Della English and Brittney Helms who both average 10 points per game.

The Privateers are a fairly big team with two 6-3 players and four others six-footers. FIU will face the Privateers on Jan. 26 at the Pharmed Arena.

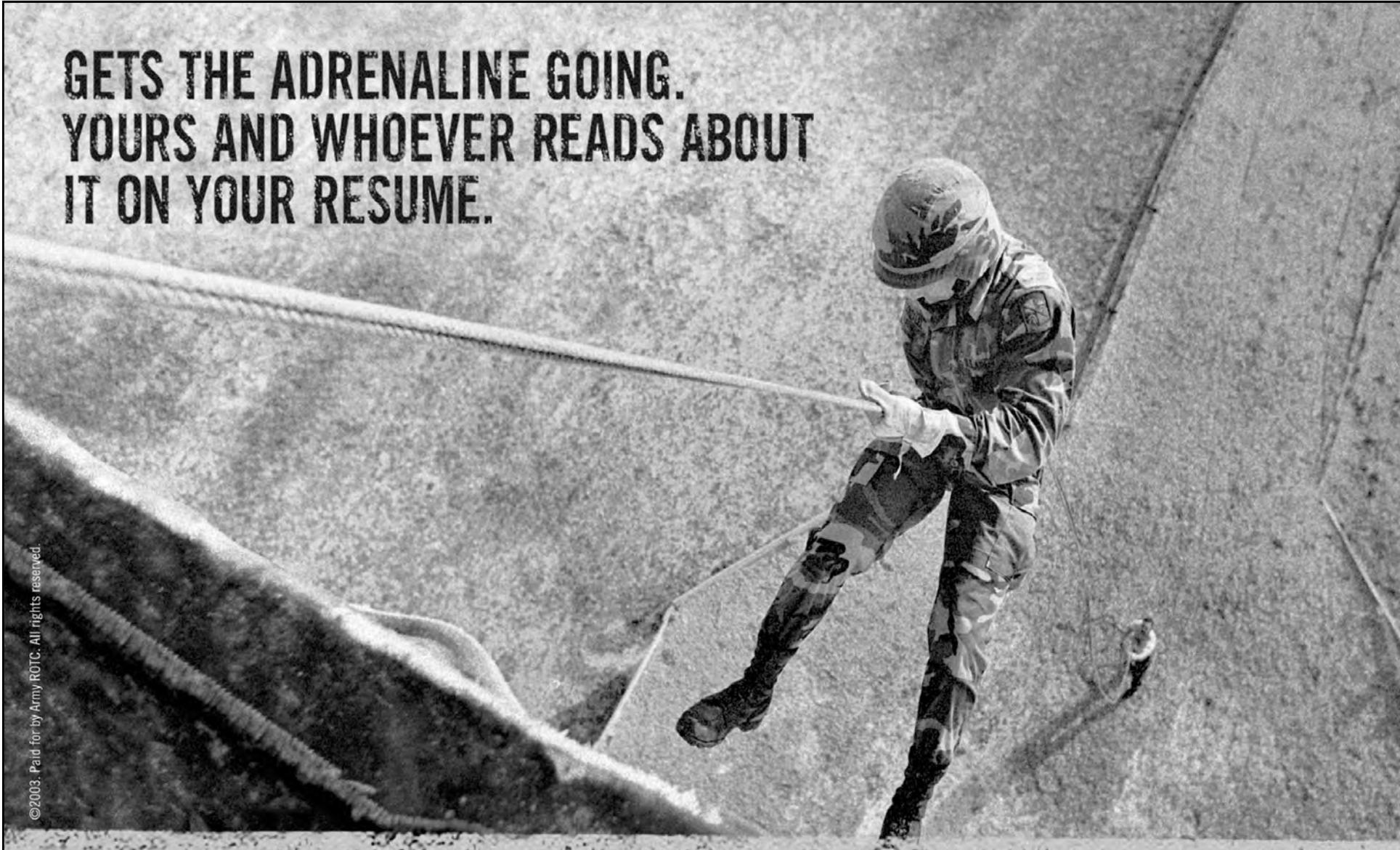
The game should be close and rebounding could once again be a key factor. FIU will need to find a way to shutdown New Orleans inside.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

UNITY: Despite losing two key defensive players, the Golden Panthers' defense has been the team's strongest suit. The inconsistent offense has led to many of the team's losses.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOUISIANA-MONROE 53, FIU 50

Strong defense not enough as Golden Panthers fall to Cajuns

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Despite holding the Louisiana-Monroe (12-6, 5-2 Sun Belt Conference) to a season low 53 points, the Golden Panthers (7-11, 3-4) only managed to score 50 points of their own and lost a close game in the final seconds of play Jan. 19 at the Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers fell behind early, but took the lead when junior guard Iva Ciglar drove to the basket and made a lay-up while being fouled. After making the free throw, Ciglar put FIU up 14-13. With five minutes left, FIU went cold and did not score for the rest of the first half. ULM scored the final five points of the half and took a 24-21 lead into halftime.

ULM continued its run in the second half and a three-point play by sophomore power forward Shannon

Davis gave the Warhawks a 36-23 lead. After a 17-2 ULM run, FIU called a timeout with 13:45 remaining in the game.

Coming out of the timeout, senior forward Jasmine

"It felt good, but we were still down and I knew it was not enough, so I was just hoping we could get back and win," Hutlassa said.

After the 3-point shooting clinic, the Golden Panthers

ULM called timeout following Ciglar's free throws. On the ensuing play, FIU set up for a full-court press and ULM stacked all its players on the FIU baseline. On a designed play, Moore ran

“Cindy Russo, head coach

I think we had a really good run coming back, but in the end we lacked discipline in doing the things we need to do.

Jenkins hit a short shot in the low post. On the next possession, freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa knocked down a 3-pointer. Hutlassa got the ball in the same spot on the very next play and drilled another 3-point shot. About a minute later, sophomore Monika Bosilj also found the hot spot and hit FIU's third consecutive 3-pointer. The three 3-point field goals all happened in a little over one minute of play.

were back in the game and only trailed 36-34. With eight minutes left in the game freshman forward Liene Jekabsons scored inside to finally even the score and cap off a 13-0 FIU run.

With 1:16 left in the game Ciglar went to the free-throw line. Even with ULM junior forward Lottie Moore quietly taunting her, Ciglar sank both free throws to make the score 48-45 in favor of the Warhawks.

the length of the court and caught what looked like a touchdown pass en route to a lay-up that put ULM up by five. With only 26 seconds left in the game, Hutlassa hit a quick 3-pointer that made the score 50-48.

After ULM sophomore guard Jesse Carrier hit one of her two free throws, FIU was down by three yet again. On the next play, FIU senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson broke free of the ULM press



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TURNING THE CORNER: Junior guard Iva Ciglar's late free throws could not prevent the Golden Panthers' 53-50 loss.

for a lay-up that put FIU down by one point with 17 seconds left. Jackson was fouled six seconds later and hit a pair of free throws.

Following a timeout, FIU had the ball with 11 seconds left, down by 3 points. Ferguson missed a three, and Jenkins wrestled for the

offensive rebound that she could not hang on to, but it went out of bounds off a ULM player's leg as time expired.

With four tenths of a second left, Ferguson again got the ball and fired as quickly as she could, but her shot did not find the basket.

It's time to go shopping; FIU football is hungry for talent

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while it is important to replenish the talent it will not be a top priority for the staff to find replacements.

Don't look to see the running backs replaced any time soon, as A'mod Ned established himself as a true playmaker and threat with his 60 yard dash while Julian Reams was an efficient, strong runner who was invaluable in the red zone. Daunte Owens and Trenard Turner are great compliments, Turner scoring two long touchdowns this past season on double play action passes.

Lastly we come to the all-important quarterback position. A controversy was started by Paul McCall in the last game of the season as he turned in a career game, throwing for 228 yards and 3 touchdowns and more importantly taking home his first career victory. Wayne Younger is more athletically gifted and shattered every quarterback rushing record this school has, but

could not find that all elusive win.

The question is whether the coaching staff feels either of these quarterbacks has what it takes to put this team over the top and into contention with the FAU's and Troy's of the Sun Belt Conference. If Cristobal thinks either one can turn into a winner, then he can turn his attention elsewhere to other shallow spots where the team desperately needs depth.

A team cannot be successful without replenishing its talent, and while this squad has a long way to go before truly being successful in the minds of its players and fans, it all starts with the recruiting war. Former UM coach Larry Coker fired despite winning a national championship because he couldn't bring in the talent, and Notre Dame's Charlie Weiss, for all the declarations of his offensive genius, ended up having the worst season in Fighting Irish history simply because he didn't have the players. Let's see if coach Cristobal and his staff can supply a tasty assortment of groceries.

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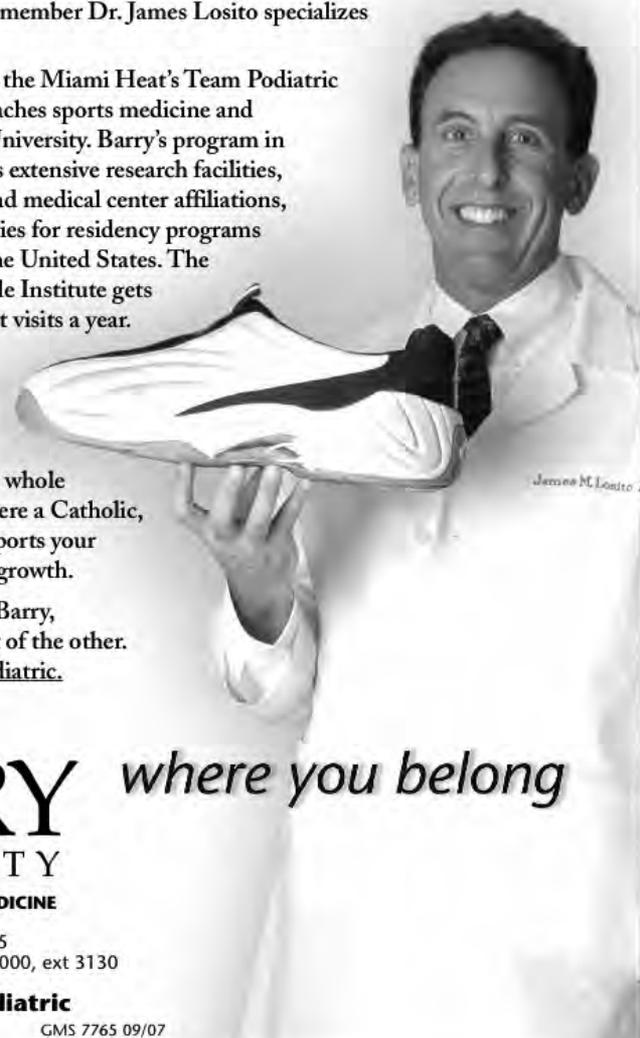
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MEN'S BASKETBALL ULM 68, FIU 66

Last second free throw costs team game

ANDREW JULIAN
Contributing Writer

Senior forward Chris Fuller tied the Jan. 19 contest against Louisiana-Monroe (7-12, 1-6 Sun Belt Conference) at 66 with a free throw with 18 seconds remaining to no avail.

The Golden Panthers (5-12, 2-5 SBC) were unable to come up with a stop to send the game into overtime or have a chance to come up with the victory as Jonas Brown of ULM converted a lay up, slashing to the basket with less than two second to play, giving the Warhawks their first conference victory of the season 68-66 at Pharmed Arena.

FIU turned the ball over four times to begin the game and trailed from the opening ULM basket 1:30 into the game.

"We played like we came in looking at their conference record and we're not the cool dudes," said coach Sergio Rouco. "We've got to play hard every time and jump on people like we are playing the best team in the league. Why we would take this team or any other team lightly? I can't understand."

The Warhawks took a 35-28 lead into the half and were able to increase their lead to as much 14 at two different points in the second half. With 10:49 remaining, Alex Galindo took the game over.

The 6-6 junior forward from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico scored 19 points in the latter portion of the second half to lead the Golden Panthers to the first tie of the game with 18 seconds remaining.

Coupled with the 10 points he had in the first 10 minutes of the second half, Galindo set a school record for points in a single half with 29. His total of 34 points tied a school record for points in a home game set by Ismael N'Diaye on Jan. 30, 2005 in a five-overtime thriller against Arkansas State.

It was also FIU's first 30-point effort since Ivan Almonte scored 30 against Troy in February 2006.

However, Galindo needed



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON ARCHIVE PHOTO

HERE WE COME: Head coach Mario Cristobal leads his team out of the tunnel before the start of the Golden Panthers final game of the season.

MAKING THE PITCH

Season really won in the offseason with recruits



Commentary
Chris Martinez
Staff Writer

For all that was made of what was formerly the nation's longest losing streak, the Florida International University football team made a splendid amount of progress throughout the year that culminated in a long-overdue victory over North Texas to cap off the season.

As one season ends, another begins for the coaching staff. This one doesn't take place on the gridiron, but rather the living room of recruits across the nation. It is the infusion of talent that keeps top programs where they are and allows small programs to continue their growth. It will be the first true test of head coach Cristobal and his staff, because as former NFL head coach Bill Parcells once said, "If I'm going to cook the dinner, let me buy the groceries".

That being said, let's look at some areas that will need to be addressed this recruiting season.

As the year progressed, many positions that began as question marks became areas of strength for the team, most notably at the linebacker spot, where despite giving up a lot of size in just about every game still managed to not only hold their own but provide some stability when the defense was forced to play for extended

periods of time. Michael Dominguez, Mannie Wellington, Ryan Martinez, and Scott Bryant are all underclassmen and will be returning next year. While it is important to keep upgrading at every position, this is one the coaching staff can feel confident in going into next year.

Defensive line is a whole other story. The loss of Audric Adger is going to hurt badly, especially after his record-tying performance against North Texas. The rest of the line is growing old too, as Jonathan Betancourt, Jarvis Penerton, and Reginald Jones all will be seniors next year. It is important to get freshmen under their wing as to learn from their experience.

At defensive back we see the loss of two of the team's brightest stars in Lionell Singleton and Cory Fleming. Singleton was the much-heralded kick returner who often considered the most talent player on the team, while Fleming was consistent throughout his entire career at FIU. The loss of both starters stings badly, although the play of freshmen Anthony Gaitor is somewhat reassuring. Nonetheless, replacing Singleton will be difficult, as the loss of a big-play kick returner and solid cornerback is not easy to find.

Moving to offense, the line suffers the biggest hit of all with the versatile Xavier Shannon transferring to play for his father at the University of Miami. Shannon manned every position on the line and the loss of him will hurt



PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

VICTORY: Sophomore offensive lineman Luis Pena (64) lifts his arms in celebration after the FIU beat North Texas for their first victory.

this team badly. The rest of the line remains intact and has a year of experience under its belt, but Andy Leavine still needs to show he can be the dominating force we all expect out of him and Joe Alajajian must continue his growth.

Wide receiver is perhaps the deepest spot on the team, but the lack of a true game-breaker badly hurts this corp. There is consistency and talent all around from Jeremy Dickens and Elliot Dix to

Greg Ellingson, who emerged as an excellent possession receiver his freshmen year. The squad is very young, nobody in the rotation will be a senior, but coach Mario Cristobal desperately needs a player who can stretch the field vertically.

Tight ends Eric Kirchenberg and Moses Hinton will both be returning for the senior years, so

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