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Zebrafish research at BBC aims for disease prevention PAGE 3



FIU holds off late Ragin' Cajun run to advance PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

OPINION PAGE 4



Humanities majors are under scrutiny thanks to a suffering economy.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Spring football opens and Golden Panthers set the table for an '09 campaign filled with high expectations.

LIFE! PAGE 5



FIU Symphony Orchestra, Choir to perform Haydn March 7.

OPINION PAGE 4

Survey results reveal that students expect at least a 'B' for simply attending lectures. Where have standards gone?

LIFE! PAGE 6

Find out what's playing at the Miami International Film Festival this weekend.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

COLUMN: Paradise Afshar tells us how to ruin a perfectly good weekend with a horrid massage and bad service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beatlemania Now! March 6, 7 p.m.: America has been through a long and winding road with its love affair with The Beatles. Get your Beatle fix at this event at Seminole Hard Rock Café.

Against Me with Flogging Molly, March 6, 9 p.m.: Enjoy performances by one very controversial, journalist-hating band and another band with the most Irish spirit known to man at Pompano Amphitheatre.

Andrew "Dice" Clay, March 7, 8 p.m.: What to say about the "Dice" man, he is a woman-hating alpha male and he will be performing at the Miami Improv.

Britney Spears, March 7, 9 p.m.: There are a zillion jokes that can be attached to this event, but even we are too good for that. Enjoy the musical stylings of the pop princess at American Airlines Arena.

Kite Day Festival, March 8, 5 p.m.: Go back to a simpler time in your life for a little while and go fly a kite at Haulover Beach Park. Unfortunately, Julie Andrews will not be in attendance.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 63 HIGH: 77

SATURDAY
Mostly sunny
LOW: 64 HIGH: 78

SUNDAY
Mostly sunny
LOW: 64 HIGH: 80

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S. Florida's MLS bid sees an early end

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

Major League Soccer in Miami, specifically at FIU, was over before it even started.

MLS and Marcelo Claure released a statement March 4, which said that both parties had agreed to terminate Miami's bid to field a pro-franchise in 2010.

If Miami would have been awarded a team, it would have played at FIU Football Stadium.

Claure, the Bolivian millionaire and founder of Brightstar Corporation, a telecommunications company, partnered with Spanish soccer club

FC Barcelona in hopes of getting Miami its first MLS team since the Fusion folded in 2001.

But with the floundering economy, the \$40 million expansion fee appeared to be too steep for both parties to pay.

Couple that with MLS doubts about whether a professional soccer team could survive in South Florida and concern about the venue where games would be played, Miami's bid didn't have much of a chance.

MLS released a statement as soon as the bid was terminated.

"I want to thank both FC Barcelona and Marcelo Claure for the tremendous effort to bring an MLS

expansion team to Miami," said MLS commissioner Don Garber, in a league press release. "FC Barcelona is one of the best managed and strategically operated sporting clubs of any sport in the world, and I appreciate the opportunity that we have had to work with them and Marcelo Claure over the last few months."

In an interview with the *Sun Sentinel*, FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia said the team would pay some rent and give the University a \$750,000 donation over five years, which could have been matched by the state.

FC Barcelona would have also helped the University find naming

rights for the stadium.

The remaining cities competing for two expansion teams in 2011 are Vancouver, Portland, Ottawa and St. Louis.

Despite losing the bid, Claure said he remains optimistic about bringing a pro-soccer franchise to South Florida.

"I remain a believer in MLS and the future of professional soccer in America ... particularly in South Florida," said Claure in the press release. "Although we have not been able to move forward at this time for a wide variety of reasons, I will work with FC Barcelona on other soccer projects in South Florida."

ANONYMOUS



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Freshman Lisa Junco stopped to stare at graffiti on a column outside of the Green Library. The slogan is a repeating motif around campus.

SGC-UP

Elections code bill defeated by one

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Though no senators walked out of the University Park Student Government Council meeting held March 2, intense debate continued on the Senate floor over the Elections Code Act of 2009.

"I don't personally care if anything else on this week's agenda doesn't pass. We spent over two weeks debating about this. Let's get it done," said Senator Jeffery Molinaro for the College of Law.

The bill was finally defeated in the Senate by a vote of eight to seven during the meeting.

Among the items called for were the establishment of political parties in student government elections, the disclosure of candidates' résumés and elections records to the voters and the ability for candidates to campaign and endorse each other.

Molinaro, the strongest opponent to the bill, debated during the Senate meeting on Feb. 23 during which several of the senators walked out, that political parties in the Senate could lead to Greek control of student government, citing the Gator Party in the University of Florida as an example.

That argument then served as the main argument for senators who

opposed the bill.

"This bill will only serve to make the strong, stronger. It would keep out all underdog opponents from running or getting elected. I cannot support this bill," said Krishan Arora, a lower division senator, during the debate.

Senator David Dial, co-sponsor of the bill, came to its defense.

"There are Greeks who are in this room. We are here on the first day of Greek Unity Week; I hate to hear you guys use 'Greek dominance' as a curse word or to fear-monger. We teach our brothers and sisters to be

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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

New asst. dean speaks to students

SOLDANAYS MIJUCA
Staff Writer

The College of Medicine welcomed its new assistant dean, Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, who came to FIU and talked to pre-med students about life as a physician, his own experiences in the career and his hopes for the University.

"When you become physicians, I pray to God you take an oath to take care of people – and do it right," Greer said.

The speech, held Feb. 24 in the Wertheim Conservatory building, was sponsored by Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health professional honor society.

Patricio Lau, associate vice president of Alpha Epsilon Delta, was the host of the event.

"I actually invited friends that already graduated from FIU and are in med school to come in and hear this man speak," Lau said.

Greer also announced his new position in the College of Medicine as the assistant dean of academic affairs.

As assistant dean, Greer will bring a community-oriented approach to health care for the University and work side-by-side with medical students, helping train them, according to the college's Web site.

"FIU is doing one of the most exciting new things ever, [which is] to open up a new College of Medicine. That is the first new school of medicine to open in the country in 26 years," Greer said.

Greer also discussed the field of medicine, informing pre-med students what it's like to be a physician.

He expressed his concerns regarding medicine in the United States and the death

GREER, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

FIU narrows down search for law school head

According to *The Miami Herald*, an FIU search committee selected its first four candidates to interview in the search to find the new head of the College of Law.

Among those chosen is U.S. Attorney for the Southern District, R. Alexander Acosta, who was appointed by George W. Bush and is planning to vacate his post in the near future.

Others chosen to interview for the position include Jimmy Gurulé, law professor at the University of Notre Dame, David Brennen, deputy director of the Association of American Law Schools and Colin Pickler at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law.

John Rock, head of FIU's new medical school, chairs the committee and is leaving the door open for more applicants to follow.

LOCAL

University of Miami student studying abroad in Singapore found dead

Scott Jared Monat, a 20-year-old second year microbiology major, was found dead while studying abroad in Singapore.

Monat was found in the housing kitchen Wednesday morning, according to *The Campus Observer*, the student newspaper at the National University of Singapore.

UM issued a press release on Wednesday regarding the incident.

"The death of a student is always a tragic loss for the University of Miami community," the statement said. "The University offers its deepest sympathies and support to Scott's family and friends during this difficult time."

Florida opens 2009 session

Florida Legislature opened its 2009 session March 3.

Republican lawmakers face the hard task of spending the billions in federal stimulus without upsetting their conservative, anti-stimulus constituency.

The most noteworthy event will be Gov. Charlie Crist's State of the State Address which, according to *The Miami Herald*, will "be an uplifting and concise assessment of how things are going in Florida."

Also, Rep. Larry Creutul, R-Ocala, will become speaker for the 2009-2010 term, replacing Ray Stansom of Destin, who was removed due to concerns regarding dealings with a local state college.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

Forums to allow debate over tech fee

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

The Technology Fee Committee will be holding public forums regarding the technology fee increase set to go into effect this Fall.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Cathy Akens will chair the committee, whose responsibility will be to determine the need for a higher technology fee and if so, how high it would be.

The goal of these meetings is to give students, faculty and staff the opportunity to give input.

The increase of the tech fee would provide for an expansion of the University's current wireless network beyond the 625 wireless access points currently in place, according to Min Yao, chief information officer.

The fee will also allow for the

creation of a virtual student lab, which would grant access to high-cost applications such as Photoshop and AutoCAD to students anywhere, at any time, as long as they are connected to the Internet.

In the past, EDUCAUSE, a national consortium for college and university technology organizations, conducted a review of FIU's technology budget. It discovered that the University spent 3 percent of its tuition on developing technology, whereas other universities spent 5 percent.

Student government members from both campuses were invited to sit on the committee to be able to voice students' concerns about the increase in tuition.

"I sympathize with students in these difficult financial times. Just as our University is facing financial challenges, so are our students," said

lower division senator at University Park Nick Auitello. "At the same time, our University is extremely underfunded compared to other institutions throughout the nation. Our technological infrastructure is not on par with other major urban research institutions and technological updates are clearly needed."

Students are urged to attend these hearings as the tuition increase affects them the most.

The meetings will be held at Biscayne Bay Campus on March 9 at 12 p.m. in WUC 155 and at UP on March 10 at 2 p.m. in GC 140.

Those who wish to offer input but cannot attend the meetings can submit comments and questions to techfee@fiu.edu.

Additional reporting by David Barrios

Greer advocates altruistic motives

GREER, page 1

rate in the nation.

"The U.S. has the biggest death rate in the world," he said. "Not to mention, the U.S. has also one of the highest numbers in infant mortality throughout the world."

He mentioned diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, AIDS and diabetes, as some of the causes.

Greer said he came to the University in hopes of teaching med students that they should be studying to become physicians for a good reason, which is to help those in need, and not for the money.

"If you want to make money go get your M.B.A.," he said. "But if you are doing it for money, then it's for the wrong reason."

Greer established a network of medical clinics to serve the poor and homeless population of Miami, the Camillus Health Concern. They are staffed by more than 100 physicians and medical students. More than 10,000 indigent men, women and children are treated at the CHC clinics every year.

Greer also said that many doctors do not want to accept Medicaid. There are doctors who only accept private insurances and patients that pay for their own care. According to him, this is why so many people who do not have the money are not getting the treatment they need.

"Not to mention the other factors that prevent certain people from getting help

When you guys go out there and you're the leader, you got to make this country better.

Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, assistant dean
College of Medicine

such as social economics, non-biological causes of disease, social determinance and education," he said.

After Greer spoke, there was a question and answer session.

Students asked several questions about Greer's personal life, such as when he first thought about becoming a physician, his life as a doctor and his family.

Watching his father study medicine, Greer said, wasn't the only influence he had that made him want to become a physician.

"The passing of my younger sister, who was visiting me at school for her birthday ... That made me realize that my calling is to help people and to not let them suffer," he said.

Myrdich Toribio, a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, said he was moved by the speech.

"I felt he was a great speaker, he was very inspirational," he said. "The stories he had were very vivid."

Greer, a Miami native with Cuban and Irish background, went to Columbus High

School in Miami and then to University of Florida.

He earned his medical degree at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra* in the Dominican Republic and did his residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Greer is a liver and digestive disease specialist; he has a small practice with his father, Dr. Pedro Greer Sr.

He was appointed as the first dean of homeless education at the University of Miami School Of Medicine.

His autobiography, *Waking Up in America: How One Doctor Brings Hope to Those Who Need It Most*, discusses his early years as a physician delivering care to patients living under highway overpasses in Miami.

Greer came with a message and a mission – to inform the future leaders of America of what a real physician is about.

"When you guys go out there and you're the leader, you got to make this country better," he said.

Athletics prohibitions re-evaluated

SGA, page 1

leaders in their community and I don't see the problem with 'Greek dominance.' Let us be

honest about SGA elections. It is not all Greek," Dial said.

Dial then referred to the 2007 deal between Athletics and SGC-UP in which student

government signed a three-year agreement for use of a skybox in FIU Football Stadium as a venue for student organizations and events.

"University Park was seen voting unanimously for this skybox with Biscayne Bay refusing to support it. Now what does that show? Students decided to rally between campuses supporting their idea. That is a party system at work," Dial said.

Debate continued until the bill came to a final vote. The latest version of the bill eliminated the capability for parties to raise any funds for campaigning.

"I liked the idea. I just wish

that there was more detail in the proposal," said Adam Johnson, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Following the Elections Code debate, the Senate passed a resolution recommending that Athletics repeal prohibitions against food and drinks on the stadium and allow the Relay for Life to be held there.

The fifth annual Relay for Life was moved from the stadium to the front of the Ryder Business Building after the organization cited several disagreements with Athletics, including refusal to let food and drinks onto the field, unexpected costs and a scheduling conflict with football practices.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 4, the article "Holy Hardcore," had an incorrect caption. The pictures said that Nielsen is on stage with guitarist Garrett Zablocki. It is actually guitarist Heath Saraceno in both pictures.

In the same issue in the brief about *Pericles*, it said the show runs from Tuesday to Saturday but it runs Thursday to Sunday.

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

THE BEACON

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New fish breeding may shed light on terminal diseases

ERIK STEINHARDT
Contributing Writer

Current studies on household fish and common algae could have promising results in finding treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, according to researchers at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Located on the first floor and south end of the Marine Sciences building and about the size of an average BBC auditorium classroom, is the \$10 million Aquarium Room.

The Aquarium Room holds two plastic pools in which researcher John Berry, assistant professor of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, hopes to start a consistent breeding population of zebrafish that can be used for research.

Zebrafish are tropical freshwater fish commonly found in household aquariums. But according to Berry and those who work with him, they are much more useful than that.

Since zebrafish have a high rate of embryo production and are similar to human embryos, Berry said that they are a preferred testing subject for the type of research that he and others are conducting.

Zebrafish are also a growing focus among biologists to discover possible treatments for blindness, cancer, heart regener-

ation, Lou Gehrig's disease and tinnitus – a chronic ringing in the ears.

By using these zebrafish, Berry can study the effects of toxic algae as well as its effect on the environment and human health.

"The advantage of the zebrafish is that we can breed them and get hundreds, if not thousands of eggs in an afternoon, and we can work with these embryos for up to five days," Berry said.

Elisha Lee, a biology major and research assistant, grows these embryos.

"There are a lot of characters in the growth that you can judge whether development is occurring naturally or if there is something random that may be a cause from the toxins that we're applying to the embryos," Lee said.

According to Berry, toxic algae, also known as blue-green algae, is a cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria are the green-tinted scum usually found on top of lake water, or streams.

If toxins from the cyanobacteria are swallowed, come into contact with human skin or are inhaled in high levels, they can pose a health threat to humans and animals, according to the New York State Department of Health Web site.

"There are a number of people getting ill by drinking water with these toxins," Berry said.

STRAIGHT OR CURVY?



CYNTHIA FRANCISQUINI/THE BEACON

HEALTH SCREENING: Ellen Rodriguez hands Lis-Marie Alvarado, sociology and anthropology major, a pamphlet about spinal health, while Juan Muñoz, student chiropractor, checks Bronwen Bares, coordinator for the Women's Center, for spine problems at the Wellness Expo, March 3 in Panther Square.

"All sorts of evidence suggests that there are long-term health effects, including higher rates of particular cancers and possible neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease, associated with some of these compounds, so we're interested in being able to measure these in the environment and identifying the risk but also characterizing the risk biologically."

Not all the side effects of blue-green algae are negative. Berry said that there are also a number of human health benefits from it.

He said, for example, that a compound in the algae controls mosquito larvae and reduces the

There are a number of people getting ill by drinking water with these toxins. All sorts of evidence suggests that there are long-term health effects ...

John Berry, assistant professor
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

survival rate of adult mosquitoes, which helps decrease mosquito-borne diseases.

The aquarium will also be a classroom tool for the professors of the marine science program and for undergraduates to do their own research.

"This is giving me research experience as an undergrad and giving me a great thing to put on my resume for grad schools," Lee said. "I have been given an opportunity to get into a lab and do work that graduate students and research scientists do."

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

How to ruin a promising weekend - and your body too

I got into a car accident a few weeks ago and ever since, I have been dreaming about getting a good back massage.

When I finally went to get one this past weekend, it was anything but relaxing. My time at Massage Envy (20633 Biscayne Blvd.) proved that Murphy's Law – anything that can go wrong will go wrong – applies at the worst times.

The place did not give me a bad vibe when I first walked in. It was warm and inviting with purple walls, a very comfortable white sofa and chairs in the lobby area. After I checked in, I went into the waiting room, which had dim lights, another comfortable white sofa and calming music playing. I felt confident about the massage, until my masseur showed up 15 minutes late for my appointment.

Now, the last time I checked, a massage is supposed to be relaxing, but someone did not get the memo at Massage Envy. In fact, throughout the whole massage, the only thought running through my mind was, "I thought we didn't allow torture in this country."

As soon as I laid down on the bed, the

masseur told me to let him know if he started to hurt me. So I did, but for every "Ouch, that hurts," he would just keep going. Within 15 minutes, my face was no longer in the headrest of the bed.

COLUMN



PARADISE AFSHAR

Instead, I had accidentally moved the pillow and was being hit in the face by the metal bar that separates the bed from the headrest.

Did I mention I ended up with a masseur who had breathing problems? The soothing music was drowned out by the sound of his inhaling and trust me, there is nothing less relaxing than a middle-aged man breathing heavily over you when you're trying to unwind.

After the massage, I felt as if I had gotten into another accident and felt like throwing up. I know I looked worse than I felt because everyone in the salon asked me if I was OK when I was leaving. Of course, now I had to find someone new to fix my back after the people who were supposed to fix it made it worse. Oh, joy!

When my time in the torture bed was over, I went to get food, hoping it would get rid of the feeling of nausea I got from my masseur. I went to Kabobji Middle Eastern Restaurant

(3055 NE 163rd St., North Miami Beach) and it succeeded in making my stomach feel just as bad as my back.

I ordered the mixed mezza platter. The platter comes with *falafel* – a popular Middle Eastern dish that has chickpeas, fava beans, parsley, cumin and other spices, rolled in flour and fried – stuffed grape leaves, hummus, *tabbouli* (a parsley, cracked wheat, tomato, garlic and cucumber salad) and, of course, *baba ghanoush* (a mixture of eggplant, tahini and garlic) for \$15.99.

The food was nothing to rave about, but I probably would have enjoyed it more if it were served properly. All of this food is traditionally eaten with pita bread, but the bread I got was still in the plastic bag that the manufacturer put it in. Who eats cold bread, especially at a restaurant? They could have at least given me the illusion of fresh bread by heating it up.

To make up for a parsley-infested iced tea, I ordered *douogh*, a Middle Eastern carbonated yogurt drink I adore, which of course came to me flat. This may not seem like a big deal to those who have never had it before, but imagine ordering a Coke and having it come flat.

When I told the server that the drink was flat, his response, I kid you not, was "I'm South American." So if I work at an ethnic restaurant and mess up a dish, I can just say I'm Persian and that will make up for anything that goes wrong, right?

I was not happy about having to leave a tip at this restaurant. But I figured I could forgive him for having an off night.

The bad massage, however, not so much. I am normally nice when I go out, but my experience at Massage Envy was so bad, I couldn't bring myself to tip the server. Blame the guy who inflicted the damage. He actually told me that 15 percent of my \$39 bill was \$10!

I may be a journalism major, but even I know that 15 percent of 39 is not 10.

I rarely tell my readers not to visit a certain location, but honestly, these two are the worst I've visited in the area, and I do not recommend them whatsoever. Just avoid them.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. The columnist pays for all food and experiences. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.

'HUMAN' SURVIVAL

Liberal arts completes a college education

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

The humanities make life worth living.

Despite *The New York Times* reporting on Feb. 24 that economic downturns usually lead to a decrease in the enrollment in humanities classes, and that colleges are already placing hiring freezes on professors in this field, humanities remain an important requisite for life. They provide background knowledge for any career and can indeed themselves be marketable.

Language, art, history and culture have been developing for as long as humanity itself, and it is the duty of our species to carry on these ideas. It need not be the duty of a select group of people to hold society's knowledge, akin to Lewis Lowry's *The Giver*.

It is certainly understandable why humanities are not in high demand, however. Times are tough, and right now, many are focused on doing whatever is necessary to make a living to support families; maybe somewhere down the line they can learn about culture. I admit that I am not running out to sign up to learn new languages. Though this is mostly because, after living in Miami my whole life and even taking four years of Spanish classes but still not being fluent enough to order *croquetas* at Bustelo, I highly doubt my own linguistic abilities.

"What we haven't paid a lot of attention to is how students can put those abilities effectively to use in the world," Richard M. Freeland, the Massachusetts commissioner of higher education, told *The New York Times*.

“Language, art, history and culture have been developing for as long as humanity itself, and first and foremost, it is the duty of our species to carry on these ideas.”

"We've created a disjunction between the liberal arts and sciences and our role as citizens and professionals," Freeland said.

This brings out the key to saving the humanities: relating them back to everyday use.

The most important distinction to make here is that going to college to expand your mind and going to college for career advancement are not mutually exclusive. This article is not aimed at getting you to abandon your goals of financial gain in order to live an enlightened life studying the humanities, because it is possible to do both.

A degree from a university signifies many things, and the fact that you can balance a ledger, define habeas corpus or know the difference between atomic weight and atomic number is only one aspect of it.

Employers also expect that you have the ability to think logically, converse clearly and be culturally diverse.

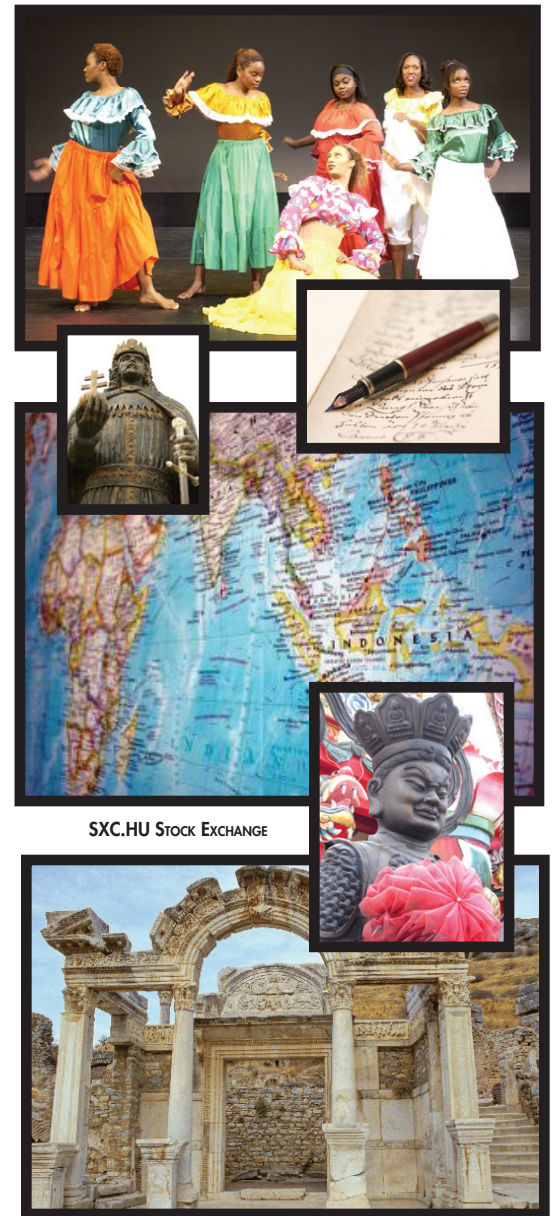
"The liberal arts tradition teaches critical thinking and judgment required in any successful career in any field, and all professional fields involve human problems and

ethical choices that no technical training can address let alone resolve," said Robert Paul, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Emory University, in the school's student newspaper.

This is the right attitude to take toward the humanities and the dean should be commended for upholding the school's commitment to the field without conditions based on economic climate.

The essence of this issue though, is what we, college students with varying degrees of certainty in where we are going in life, should do when budgets are tight and time is in high demand. Hit the books, learn five languages and devote yourselves to the study of Plato, Aristotle and Nietzsche?

If you can, great, but the mind-set is what is important here. If your major requires electives, as it undoubtedly does, in addition to those "easy-A" classes that you take to raise your GPA, try taking one about a



SXC.HU STOCK EXCHANGE

WELL ROUNDED: Studying humanities gives students appreciation for human history.

foreign culture, or join a club that will introduce you to people in ethnic groups other than your own.

Plus, you never know when being well-versed in literature and culture is going to come in handy at a cocktail party.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Athletics tried accommodating Relay for Life within FIU Stadium policies

This letter is a response to the editorial published on March 2.

The FIU Athletic Department has done everything in its power to accommodate the Relay for Life campaign and will continue to do so. Athletic Director Pete Garcia and the Athletic staff support Relay for Life and applaud their fund-raising for cancer research.

FIU Stadium is not only for the Athletics Department's use, but also for the University as a whole and it is something the entire FIU community should share and be proud of. However, in order to keep a gem like FIU has been given, there are a few restrictions that must be followed in order to preserve the stadium for years to come.

The FIU Athletic Department has tried to work around these restrictions to accommodate

Relay for Life. The Relay for Life staff felt they could not work within the FIU Stadium policies and therefore decided on their own not to hold the event at FIU Stadium.

FIU football head coach Mario Cristobal has already made it clear he would have changed his practice on Friday to accommodate Relay for Life. Last year, coach Cristobal left Spring practice early to participate in the Relay for Life and he is a big advocate in its cause.

The FIU Athletic Department would still cherish the opportunity to hold the Relay for Life event at FIU Stadium, and is still willing to work to ensure that both the FIU Stadium provisions and the Relay for Life event are kept in a working fashion.

FIU Athletics
Department

Going the extra mile for an 'A'

IRIS FEBRES
Interim Opinion Editor

Researchers at the University of California, Irvine found that students felt they deserved at least a "B" average for a class for merely attending lectures, according to an article in *The New York Times*. Forty percent of those surveyed felt they deserved a "B" for only completing required readings for the course.

I don't know about you, but I find this absolutely ridiculous. Blame the nerd in me, but I refuse to believe our standards as students have decreased so much.

We must realize what the standard for a given class is, which I'm sure varies from professor to professor. I don't think there's a universal standard, although it would surely make things less confusing.

I believe that the default grade in a class is a "C"; a "C" means "average, satisfactory work," for you met the professor's minimum expectations. You merely did the work.

I take it that, therefore, a course grade of an "A" means you surpassed your professor's expectations; he or she discerned from your assignments, exams and any other submissions that you put in more effort than required

for the course.

I was always taught that an "A" meant doing more than what was assigned. My parents always told me to give my teachers more than what they ask for; to aim high, so that in case I don't reach what they asked, I'll end up with a good grade instead of a mediocre one. Putting in the minimum amount of work set me up to feel uncertain. I would ask, "Was that enough?" and honestly, it usually wasn't.

I'll admit, sometimes I got lucky. Once, I got an "A" on a paper that I wrote the night before it was due, while high on Coca-Cola and bitter coffee. Other times, I wasn't so lucky, and I knew I deserved the grade I received.

But of course there have been instances – and I know you've been there too – that I'd get a grade I didn't expect after hours and hours of work. Yet usually a professor will be clear with what they want in their critiques (and hopefully, there are critiques to begin with). Pickiness varies from professor to professor, and it takes practice (perhaps more than one class) to understand exactly what they expect.

Students should know when they deserve an "A" versus a "B", and certainly an "A" versus a "C". I

know when I turn in a paper whether it's good or sub-par, I expect specific grades after determining the effort I put into an assignment.

Now that doesn't mean that if you put in a countless number of hours toward a project – blood, sweat and tears – and you end up getting a "C", that's what you deserve. You have to be up-front with your professors when you're honest, and it would probably help them in putting a name behind a Panther ID number. If you demonstrate to them that you care about your grade – that you care about the class and the work you put in – then they might be more willing to listen to you.

Coming in the day before final grades must be submitted with, "Oh, but I really thought I deserved a [insert high grade here]" will not help you in the slightest.

I think it all comes down to building relationships with your professors. I don't mean asking them out for coffee – they're too busy for that – but I mean understanding where they're coming from, even if they're teaching a subject you greatly dislike.

Otherwise, to be a successful student, you have to put in more than 100 percent – but I suppose it all depends on what you define as "success."



SWEET RAPTURE

FIU orchestra revives Haydn's masterpiece

PEDRO CORTES
Contributing Writer

FIU's Symphony Orchestra and the University Chorale and Concert Choir will perform at the Wertheim Concert Hall March 7, highlighting the last major work of an influential composer who died 200 years ago.

Written by Franz Joseph Haydn, *Harmoniemesse*, his final mass, will be performed by the orchestra with the University Chorale and Concert Choir and will be conducted by Professor John Augenblick, director of choral studies. Four faculty members in the vocal department will act as soloists for the piece.

The orchestra will open the night with Mozart's *Concert Aria Exsultate Jubilate* and Chopin's *Andante Spianato & Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22*.

Augenblick chose Haydn's final piece,

Harmoniemesse, because of its relevance to Haydn's career and the period of time it was composed.

Haydn wrote it at the end of the classical era and the beginning of the romantic era.

To help out his students, Augenblick brought in Patrick Dupré Quigley, the founder and conductor of local chamber choir Seraphic Fire, who ran workshops with the University Chorale and Concert.

The workshop was held to improve the tone quality and phrasing of the piece, something that becomes harder as a work becomes older.

"The further back you go, the more performance practice has changed," Augenblick said.

This affects modern choirs, since newer techniques may clash with older ones and affect the final sound of the whole piece.

Augenblick also split the choirs into sections based on gender and vocal range to help with their training.

Professor Carlos Riazuelo, the orchestral head, was also involved

in the decision of *Harmoniemesse* because of its focus on wind instruments.

"Haydn was the father of symphonies. He made harmony big, wind instruments too," Riazuelo said.

Riazuelo will be conducting the Symphonic Orchestra, along with the winners of the concerto competition, Nicole Ferretti and Alex Sancho.

Sancho, a 20-year-old sophomore, was selected out of a dozen other participants, some of them grad students, to perform with the Symphonic Orchestra.

"It's why I was there," said Sancho. "I wanted to perform with the orchestra."

This will be Sancho's second orchestral performance, his first being at Coral Reef Senior High School, where he performed Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2*.

The event starts at 8 p.m. and costs \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 for FIU faculty and staff and \$15 general admission.

Call 305-348-0496 for tickets.

SILENT CRY



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

PUBLIC PRISONER: Jessica Sidney, junior and member of Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, protests sex trafficking outside the Graham Center Atrium.

THE CINEMATIC

Anti-superhero movie *Watchmen* a great hit

Director Zack Snyder's (300) long-anticipated movie adaptation of the graphic novel, *Watchmen*, has finally hit the big screen and it is the best film of the year so far.

Watchmen is set in an alternate universe where superheroes and masked vigilantes exist, but they are outlawed by the government. The United States has won the Vietnam War and Richard Nixon is still the president of the United States.

The film opens as the camera zooms out of the smiley face button of a former superhero, Edward "The Comedian" Blake (Jeffery Dean Morgan), who is wearing a house coat as he watches television in his apartment.

When a mysterious man bursts into Blake's apartment, the film's first action sequence ensues with a brutal and violent fight.

Nat King Cole's song, "Unforgettable," is played during this scene via a television commercial. The sequence subsequently ends with The Comedian being thrown through a glass window and plummeting to his death.

This event causes a masked vigilante called Rorschach (Oscar-nominee Jackie Earle Hayley) to investigate the murder of his former colleague. Upon further investigation, there seems to be a plot unraveling to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes.

He tries to reconnect with his former

crime-fighting legion and as he delves deeper into his probe, he discovers that his theory is coming true and the clock is ticking away to a certain doom with apocalyptic consequences.

I believe this is the adaptation that all *Watchmen* fanboys have been waiting for. Zack Snyder adapts the comic book nearly frame-for-frame, but manages to add some new ingredients to the story.

One such example is the opening title sequence. Set to the tune of Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'," the sequence showcases the rise and fall of superheroes.

The images that are shown in the opening sequence are like pictures that have been captured and have come to life.

While this is not a comic book frame shot-for-shot adaptation of the graphic novel, Snyder manages to keep some of the key images from the book and translate them smoothly on the silver screen through amazing cinematography and outstanding CGI.

The effect of slow motion is used constantly in the film as it seems to be Snyder's trademark. Not to say the slow motion sequences get tiring throughout the film, but they are necessary in order to build up the tension in the scenes.

Unlike last summer's *Iron Man* and *The Dark Knight*, this is not the kind of comic

COLUMN



STEVE MESA

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RELAY FOR LIFE

FIU fights cancer, celebrates life

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. Life! Editor

More than 3,000 South Floridians will come together at the University Park campus to celebrate life and fight cancer.

Relay for Life, a fund-raiser for cancer research, will be held 5 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. tonight and March 7. The event will be held on the lawn of the Ryder Business Building.

For student director of Relay for Life Barbie Erched, the event is also an opportunity to walk down memory lane.

"It's once a year that we get to remember those who have passed away from cancer in the community," Erched said.

This year's theme is Hollywood and participating organizations can decorate their tents with a movie theme.

For Veronique Nydam, an anthropology sophomore who will participate with Sigma Kappa, the event hits home.

Nydam's grandfather died of colon cancer before she was even born. Now her grandmother is in

remission for colon cancer and her best friend's mom is in remission for breast cancer.

Such circumstances motivate her to raise money for the event along with her sorority sisters, who will be flaunting a *Nightmare Before Christmas* theme. For Nydam, the survivor stories keep her going as well.

"The emotions that these people have ... and just the look on their face, they are so happy and excited to have this chance to live, you have to be there to see it," Nydam said.

The event will include pie-eating contests, flag football and music performances from several bands including Los Primeros. The Heat dancers will also be present.

Erched said those interested in helping out could volunteer, donate money and participate in the ongoing activities.

Last year, Relay for Life raised \$70,000 at the University. This year's goal is to raise \$80,000.

"Bring all the cash you can so you can help us reach our goal," Erched said.

Emotional core drives Watchmen

WATCHMEN, page 5

book movie that parents should bring their kids to. The movie contains a rape scene, grisly deaths, broken body parts and full-frontal nudity from a CG character.

Watchmen is the ultimate anti-superhero movie.

While there are some moments in the film that glorify the antics of superheroes, it spotlights the mental and emotional toll that these masked avengers have suffered as they keep crime off the street.

The cast of *Watchmen* manages to bring the characters they portray to life. Jeffery Dean Morgan makes The Comedian a tragic hero with murderous tendencies who regrets the things that he did by recognizing his life as "a joke."

You might not recognize Billy Crudup through all the CGI composition, but his performance is definitely not artificial. He humanizes a character that has no emotions and replicates a voice that is reminiscent of HAL 9000 from *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Patrick Wilson manages to bring the character Dan Dreiberger aka Valentino: The Last Emperor a Nite Owl II, to life.

Dan prefers to reason with criminals instead of provoking them and manages to perform as a shell of a man who longs for the old days when he dressed up to fight crime and be with the only woman that he deeply loves.

Out of all the actors in the film, Jackie Earle Hayley becomes the backbone and the narrative voice of the film as his character, Rorschach aka Walter Kovics, was in the graphic novel. The voice he brings to Rorschach could be compared to Clint Eastwood in his *Dirty Harry* days. He manages to bring this tragic hero to life with the combination of rage, hate and an abusive childhood that made Kovics a person you do not want to mess with.

Watchmen defines director Zack Snyder as one of our modern film visionaries by staying true to the original source material and the performances in the film bring life to the characters that were first drawn and published 24 years ago.

The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.



Film festival opens its 26th annual celebration of films in downtown

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

The festivities of the 26th annual Miami International Film Festival will commence tonight with the screening of *Valentino: The Last Emperor*, at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami, following an opening night celebration at the Freedom Tower.

Valentino: The Last Emperor is a documentary that chronicles the life of the legendary fashion designer, Valentino, and his 45-year association with his sometimes boyfriend and business partner.

Another one of the films that MIFF will showcase at the Gusman Center on Sunday is a documentary called *Cachao: Uno Mas*, which was produced by Miami's own Andy Garcia (*Ocean's Thirteen*). The film pays tribute to one of the greatest Afro-Cuban musicians of all time, Israel López, who is also known as "Cachao." This documentary features a live concert that took place in San Francisco and features interviews with Cachao's musical collaborators: Garcia,

John Santos, Ray Santos and Orestes Vilató.

The interviews are constructed to help trace Cachao's musical journey from his early days in Cuba to worldwide fame and recognition.

The documentary is short, running only 68 minutes, but the film manages to weave Cachao's performances in San Francisco with his musical collaborators, as well as interviews with Cachao and stories told through his friends about the legendary musician's career.

Anyone who has followed Cachao's career or any moviegoer who loves a great documentary with excellent music should appreciate the film for what it is, a celebration of a man's life and his music.

From the seedy underworld of his films, such as *King of New York*, to his recent documentary *Chelsea on the Rocks* about the historic New York hotel and the artists, musicians and poets who lived there, New York has become filmmaker Abel Ferrara's muse.

Ferrara will be honored by the MIFF on March 12 at the Gusman Center as part of the festival's Career Achievement Tribute.

diversions



THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • MARCH 6

WHAT: Beatlemania Now!
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock Café
CONTACT: 954-327-7625

WHAT: Carnival on the Mile
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Miracle Mile
CONTACT: 305-644-8888

WHAT: Against Me with Flogging Molly
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: Pompano Amphitheatre
CONTACT: 954-946-2402

WHAT: Miami International Film Festival
WHEN: Call
WHERE: Several Locations
CONTACT: 305-673-4567

WHAT: Charity Concert
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Gracie's Grill
CONTACT: 305 348-3426

SATURDAY • MARCH 7

WHAT: Andrew "Dice" Clay
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Miami Improv
CONTACT: 305-441-8200

WHAT: Britney Spears
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHAT: Florida Panther v. St. Louis Blues
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: BankAtlantic Center
CONTACT: 954-7825

WHAT: Just the Funny Improv
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: Just The Funny Theatre
CONTACT: 305-693-8669

WHAT: FIU Music Presents: Chorus & Orchestra Concert
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

SUNDAY • MARCH 8

WHAT: Kite Day Festival
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: Haulover Beach Park
CONTACT: 305-944-3040

WHAT: Murs
WHEN: 305-358-7550
WHERE: Bicentennial Park
CONTACT: 305-358-7550

WHAT: 2009 Acura Miami Grand Prix
WHEN: 10:30 a.m.
WHERE: Miami Beach Marina
CONTACT: 305-673-6000

WHAT: Miami International Film Festival
WHEN: Call
WHERE: Various Locations
CONTACT: 305673-4567

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

Bermudez, Fondon lead Golden Panthers past Knights



NATALIE LEVY/THE BEACON

LEADING THE WAY: Lead off hitter Pablo Bermudez led the Golden Panthers past the Knights on March 5 at University Park Stadium.

BASEBALL, page 8

the game.

“When I get some run support, it’s a lot easier to pitch. I just get into a groove and keep pitching,” the freshman lefty said.

Fondon went on to pitch four consecutive scoreless innings. When he exited the game against Brown, the bullpen gave up the lead.

C o a c h

Thomas noted how more consistent this start was for Fondon.

“Tonight, he was solid for basically five innings,” Thomas said. “He got the leadoff hitter out. He got ahead of the hitters and hit his spots well.”

On this night, not even five errors would keep Fondon from evening out his record to 1-1.

“I worked on my cutter, started throwing it for strikes more,” Fondon said. “The

whole game I was pumped. It’s really exciting.”

Backing up Bermudez’s offensive output was outfielder Tyler Townsend who went 3-for-3 with three runs and a walk.

Townsend is the third batter in the lineup, who will be one of the main hitters responsible for driving in Bermudez.

“It’s important to have a guy like him because that’s the guy that sets the table for the rest of the offense,” coach Thomas said.

I worked on my cutter, started throwing it for strikes more. The whole game I was pumped. It’s really exciting.

R.J. Fondon
FIU Starting Pitcher

Football team enters spring with high expectations

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

With the Ides of March, comes spring rains, spring break, and all around the country, spring football.

The Golden Panthers enter their third spring under head coach Mario Cristobal, and coming off a 5-7 season, and the most productive offensive season in school history, excitement and enthusiasm are running high at the FIU stadium.

“The benefits of a great off-season show in the way that we bend, the way that we’re more explosive. Cristobal said.

“We look like we’re accelerating better. We’re showing better understanding of the scheme.”

Having played more freshmen and sophomores than any one in the country

two seasons ago, and putting together a solid campaign last season, FIU will field one of the most experienced teams in school history.

At the glance of the early unofficial depth chart, 17 of 22 starters would be upperclassmen with more than one year of FIU experience, including senior quarterback Paul McCall.

“Paul looked quicker in his drops, and he’s more flexible, and you saw him run, he looked a little shiftier,” said Cristobal of the first quarterback in school history to post a positive touchdown to interception ratio.

FIU put an emphasis on weight room work in the off-season, and on the defensive side of the ball it showed, even in the first practice of the spring.

Senior linebacker Scott Bryant was enthusiastic

about the gains made in the weight room, “Everybody is on the right page; all the younger guys, all of the freshman really applied themselves in the weight room” said Bryant.

The 5-7 season provided a spark moving into the off-season as well.

“From last year we gained momentum to play harder and play faster”, said Anthony Gaitor, who led FIU in interceptions a year ago, with five.

“In the off-season, we concentrated on getting faster and bigger because we’re going to have to be more physical with teams this year”, add the rising junior cornerback.

The Golden Panthers will have 13 more practices this spring, culminating with the spring game on April 3.

2009 FIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

(Dates subject to change due to TV)

Sat. Sept. 12	Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL
Sat. Sept. 19	Rutgers	Piscataway, NJ
Sat. Sept. 26	TOLEDO	MIAMI, FL
Sat. Oct. 3	ULM*	Monroe, LA
Sat. Oct. 10	Middle Tennessee*	Murfreesboro, TN
Sat. Oct. 17	TROY*	MIAMI, FL
Sat. Oct. 24	Western Kentucky*	Bowling Green, KY
Sat. Oct. 31	UL-LAFAYETTE*	MIAMI, FL
Sat. Nov. 7	Arkansas State*	Jonesboro, AR
Sat. Nov. 14	NORTH TEXAS* (HC)	MIAMI, FL
Sat. Nov. 21	Florida	Gainesville, FL
Sat. Dec. 5	FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	MIAMI, FL

*Sun Belt Conference Games

All Home Games Played at FIU Stadium

THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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Monday, Wednesday Friday

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Technology Fee Committee will hold public hearings at these times:

Monday, March 9, 2009
Biscayne Bay Campus | WUC 155 | 12 Noon

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
University Park Campus | GC 140 | 2 pm

The objective of these meetings is to give interested individuals an opportunity to offer input pertaining to a proposed Technology fee. The new fee would become effective in the Fall 2009 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings. Those who wish to offer input can also email the committee at techfee@fiu.edu.

FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ONE STEP CLOSER

FIU advances to next round of tournament

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When the Golden Panthers last won a game in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, it was Sergio Rouco's first season as head coach and Ivan Almonte was leading the team in scoring. That season, Louisiana-Lafayette bounced FIU in the semi-finals, and they haven't won a post-season game since.

That was 2005. This time around, ULL couldn't stop the Golden Panthers from advancing.

"What a win to start the tournament. I give [ULL head coach Robert Lee's] team tremendous credit, but they came back in the second half and that shows a team that is a good team and is well coached. We were very fortunate to win the game."

FIU (13-19) defeated ULL (10-20) 71-69 on March 5 at the Cajun-Dome in Louisiana. Freddy Asprilla led the team with 15 points, perhaps providing the difference between both teams as ULL downed FIU 90-73 on Feb. 5 with the freshman center out with a back injury.

"My teammates gave me the ball and I did my work," Asprilla said. "I think the intensity went down when they made their run but we did a good job."

Asprilla, the Sun Belt Conference freshman of the year, grabbed 11 rebounds in 25 minutes and the Colombia-native did not speak very clearly when reporters questioned him after the game.

Rouco was just fine with that.

"Freddy's English is not great but he can really rebound, score and defend," Rouco laughed. "He made a great play at the end when he saved the ball on the side to save us a possession. That's a kid that will do anything for us to win."

EARLY LEAD

The Golden Panthers jettied to an early 19-point lead when they took a 42-23 advantage off a Nikola Gacesa layup with under five minutes left in the first period. Part of the lift was provided by guard Michael Domin-



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

THROWING IT DOWN: Tremayne Russell had six points and one assist in the Golden Panthers Sun Belt Conference win over the Ragin' Cajuns.

guez, who came off the bench to score eight first half points; six of them coming on a pair of 3-pointers.

The junior made key shots that elevated the Golden Panthers in critical runs. With 7:26 left, he made his first basket on a layup to give FIU its largest lead at 27-15. Dominguez kept the streak going with a pair of threes,

one of them which opened the game up to a 38-21 ascendancy with 5:10 remaining.

The Ragin' Cajuns made an 11-1 run as the first half ended however, cutting the lead. FIU would not let up to start the second span of the game though. FIU built a 20 point lead at 61-41 with 12:44 left, capped by a

Russell Hicks dunk that followed a Josue Soto missed layup. The Golden Panthers defense would hold ULL to just 23-of-55 shooting.

ULL made a push near the tail end of the contest, cutting the lead to single digits with minutes left, but a few Golden Panther stops secured the victory.

Baseball team trounces UCF

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Pablo Bermudez provided early offensive firepower with a lead-off home run and R.J. Fondon hushed opposing batters striking out four batters in five innings.

"Depending on how I go, the team goes," Bermudez said. "Me being the lead off I have to be the sparkplug in the game."

The freshman outfielder got the whole team going to try to get Fondon his first FIU career win.

Last time Fondon left a game, he had a 4-1 lead quickly turn into a 7-4 deficit in one inning. But against the University of Central Florida Knights (2-6), the Golden Panthers (4-2) piled on enough runs to win 8-3 on March 4 at University Park Stadium.

Bermudez came into the game with just eight at bats this season, but he made the most of every at bat against opposing pitcher Jaeger Good.

"It means a lot to me being the lead off because I'm a college freshman," said Bermudez who went 1-for-3 and scored two runs. "It helps me deal with the jitters every game."

Head coach Turtle Thomas said Bermudez is a great offensive talent.

"Pablo has a rare ability to have speed and power. There's not many college players that can both run and steal a base and hit a ball out of the park."

After the Bermudez home run, the Golden Panthers got on the board two more times for a 3-1 lead in the first. This gave Fondon the insurance needed to calm down and take control of

BASEBALL, page 7

Women's basketball team loses to South Alabama

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Even after finishing with 4-14 record in conference play, the women's basketball team had some hope left to advance in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The Golden Panthers haven't been knocked out of the first round of any conference tournament since 1989 and were looking to keep that streak alive.

Those hopes were snapped and their season ended when South Alabama leading scorer, Shakira Nettles, put up 16 second half points to help the Jaguars beat the Golden Panthers 50-44 March 4.

"This is about survival and tonight we

survived," said South Alabama head coach Rick Pietri to usajaguars.com "[FIU] came out with great energy. FIU played very relaxed tonight, because they had nothing to lose."

Junior guard Ashley Traugott led the Golden Panthers with 11 points while Monika Bosilj added 10 points and seven rebounds.

The Golden Panthers seemed energetic early on, scoring the first five points of the game on a 3-pointer by Traugott followed by a layup by Elisa Carey. The team kept the advantage up until the 2:03 mark when Ra'Shawna Sippio put the Jaguars on top 24-23.

FIU was able to score four more points before Jessica Starling connected on a 3-pointer at the sound of the buzzer to tie the game up at

27 as the teams headed to the locker room.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to a 34-29 lead in the first few minutes of the second half, however, South Alabama was able to tie the game back up at 39 on a 3-point shot by Nettles at the 12:31 mark. A few possessions later Traugott responded with her third 3-pointer of the night followed by a solid layup by Marquita Adley, putting FIU up 44-39.

The offensive end would then go cold for the Golden Panthers, as the team went 0-for-16 over the final nine minutes of the game, busting any chance of keeping the lead. South Alabama was able to claw their way back into the game as the Golden Panthers' defense also collapsed, allowing a final 11-0 run by the Jaguars which

sealed the game.

"The last ten minutes of the game, we guarded our butts off," said Pietri. "Even when the shots weren't falling for us, and we had some open looks, we still defended well and gave ourselves a chance. When the shots finally started falling, we kept up the defense."

The Golden Panthers recorded a season low 10 turnovers while the Jaguars mishandled the ball 19 times, giving the Golden Panthers the advantage for points off-turnovers with 18 compared to seven.

The Jaguars will move onto the second round of the Sun Belt tournament which will be held in Hot Springs, Ark. while the Golden Panthers will have to focus their attention to next season.