

Saints & Sinners rocks Revolution Live!

PAGE 5



Women's, men's hoops prepare for tournament

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Taking laps after sundown, Aquatic Center may extend hours in the Fall pending an SGA vote.

OPINION PAGE 4

Public transportation in Broward County should receive a boost from Obama's stimulus package.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Chef Michelle Bernstein to be keynote speaker at Women Who Lead Conference on March 6 at BBC.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Softball drop first three games vs. Sun Belt Conference opponents.

OPINION PAGE 4

COLUMN: Eric Feldman discusses the freebies given with college acceptances and the cold shoulder given with denials.

LIFE! PAGE 6

COLUMN: Edith Sevilla looks at foods with fiber to help keep you going.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIU Film Club meeting, March 4, 5 p.m.: The economy stressing you out? Soothe yourself with America's favorite pastime, arguing about movies at GC 340.

Robin Williams, March 4, 8 p.m.: Come and enjoy the comedic stylings of the man that makes children's movies worth watching for adults, except for the movie, *Robots* – even Williams couldn't save that one! Tonight at Hard Rock Live.

Chromeo, March 4, 10 p.m.: Hear this electrofunk duo who call themselves "the only successful Arab/Jewish collaboration since the beginning of time" tonight at LIV.

Truth for Life meeting, March 5, 12 p.m.: This club's mission is to teach the Bible clearly and relevantly. Finally a place you can go to understand what's really going on in Revelations, at GC 140.

FIU Theatre Presents: *Pericles*, March 5, 8 p.m.: This is Athens! Come and enjoy watching the ancient Greek to end all Greeks at Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Studio Theatre.

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

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
LOW: 58 HIGH: 74



THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 60 HIGH: 76



FRIDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 62 HIGH: 78

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Fair brings games, rides, parking plight to UP campus

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

The fair has returned to South Florida, bringing new rides, food, festivities and contributions to the FIU community.

The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc. will be in South Florida for 20 days, however its impact on the local community has been seen for 58 years. The fair will be held at the Fair Expo Center next to FIU from March 26 to April 12 and this year it will be presented by Volkswagen.

The fair, which will be celebrating its 58th year, is ranked as one of the largest and most successful fairs in the nation and attracts more than 700,000 attendees per year.

For the University though, this may cause some problems.

"We have enough parking problems as it is," said student Kelly McGee.

The Public Safety and Parking and Transportation departments will be working in conjunction to ensure that fair goers and FIU students alike experience smooth and secure parking.

Fair parking will be limited to Parking Lots Three and Four, along with Blue and Gold Garages. Lot Five will be closed two weeks prior, during, and two weeks after the fair, as it will be in use by fair personnel.

Some students have expressed that the University should prioritize them over fair goers in regards to parking.

"[The fair] didn't affect the school as much five to 10 years ago," said Alex Paz, student. "However, our campus population has steadily increased over the years and both FIU and the fair need to adjust to it."

Paz said that finding parking quickly enough to make it to his midterm exam on time is more important than accommodating fair attendees.

However, students will not notice the effect of the fair traffic impact on campus right away, as the beginning of spring break coincides with the first week of the fair.

According to Public Safety, officers will be posted at 107th Avenue and 16th Street as well as 108th Avenue and 17th Street to direct and observe traffic in and out of the fair.

Sergeant Douglas Ochipa said students should be mindful of delays and hopes they will be patient and try to use the west end of the school to get around as much as possible.

"The biggest problem is always traffic when it comes to the fair ... [It's the] biggest inconvenience I think for everybody," he said.

After 10 p.m., both 107th Avenue entrances will be closed. However, if students show proper identification, the officers will let them in.

"We want to make sure that the lots surrounding the housing area are secured for residents," said Bill Foster, director of Parking and Transportation. "We will be staffing the entrances during busy times and allowing only those with valid housing decals to park in those lots."

The department will have officers patrolling the parking zones to ensure a safe and secure environment for fair goers to park. Officers will also be posted on the rooftops of the garages at night to keep a watchful eye over the parking zones below.

On the weekends, FIU police presence will be bolstered to deal with the large number of cars.

The fair will be employing the officers directly, aside from their usual FIU shifts. All funds paid to the police will come directly from the fair.

Ochipa urges students to be particularly

FAIR, page 6

University reacts to Relay for Life venue change

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Football coach Mario Cristobal is hitting back on charges that the scheduling of a football practice caused Relay for Life to change their event venue from FIU Stadium.

"We would have moved our practice to an earlier or later time or even to another part of campus," he said.

The fifth annual Relay for Life, to be held March 6, was moved from the stadium to the lawn in front of the Ryder Business Building after the organization cited several disagreements with the Athletic Department, including refusal to let food and drinks onto the field, recent unexpected costs and a scheduling conflict with football practices.

Relay for Life is an annual, overnight event that raises funds for the fight against cancer. In the event, participants walk on a track; food and drinks are sold and all the profit goes to the American Cancer Society. There are more than 4,800 Relays nationwide; FIU's event last year brought over 3,500 volunteers together and raised \$68,000.

Though FIU Stadium was reserved for the event last November, in a recent executive meeting, Athletics said that regulations forbid food or beverages on the field in order to protect the turf.

"I think it's irrelevant. Relay for Life is an organization that has raised millions of dollars for cancer research and we pay for that AstroTurf from our tuition. It shouldn't just be used for athletics but should be used for other events," said sophomore Andrew Sanchez.

"That's our entire event, feeding and providing beverages for 3,000 people to stay up for 18 hours," said Barbie Erched, student director of Relay for Life in an earlier interview with *The Beacon*.

RELAY, page 2

Videogame rental service gears up students

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Students can buy books, supplies, clothing and coffee at the University's bookstores. Now they also can rent videogames.

The G-Box, a videogame rental kiosk from online videogame rental giant GameFly, was scheduled to open at University Park's Bookstore on March 3, according to Assistant General Manager Dan Salzverg. Terms of the deal between the bookstore and GameFly were not disclosed.

"We did some research on the kiosk business and understood how it worked on the movie side," said GameFly co-founder and vice president of Busi-

ness Development, Sean Spector. "We thought it'd be interesting to try it out for games."

The kiosk will feature Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 games at a rental price of \$2.49 per day. Wii and PlayStation 2 games will cost \$1.99 per day.

The kiosk will be located in front of the checkout counter, near the bookstore's indoor entrance.

"The prices sound pretty fair," said Derrik Gomez, a freshman computer science major who frequently plays videogames at the now defunct Gracie's Grill.

Desired games are selected by the renter on the G-Box via a touch screen. Once the game is selected, a credit card must be swiped to obtain it. The credit

card is charged daily until the game is returned to the kiosk; the games must be returned before 5 p.m. or before the store's closing time.

"Sometimes, students don't want to deal with the hassle of shipping games and waiting for them," said freshman finance major Chris Piedra. "This is more of a convenience thing."

The fee for a lost or damaged PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 game is \$75. Damaged or lost Wii and PlayStation 2 games will cost \$60. Spector said these fees are more expensive than the actual price of the respective games because GameFly must not only re-buy the game, but ensure it is restocked into the G-Box.

"It seems a little pricey, but some-

body needs to buy the game and bring it to the machine," Gomez said.

Texas Tech and Louisiana State University were the first two campuses to debut the G-Box and FIU will be the third university to obtain one.

"I think it'll be great for residents on campus and commuter students who are gamers. It seems like a gamer's paradise," Gomez said.

Spector believes the University was a perfect fit for the next site of the G-Box.

"There is a certain amount of gamers in that vicinity, and it's a great campus," Spector said, noting that the kiosk will also offer students value when it comes to gaming, especially in the suffering economy.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

FIU Theatre presents Shakespearean play, *Pericles*.

FIU Theatre is putting on a production of the Shakespearean play *Pericles*. The production will span from March 5-15, performances are scheduled for Tuesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. The production will be held at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. This is the final production of the season.

Directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Wayne Robinson Jr., the play will feature unique stage productions and various kinds of music ranging from reggae to pop.

Tickets will be on sale for \$10 for students, alumni and seniors and \$12 for general admission.

For more information or to purchase visit <http://carta.fiu.edu> or call Event Information at (305) 348-0496.

LOCAL

Florida to charge bottlers for water

Gov. Charlie Crist is asking Florida water bottlers to start paying for the water they collect from aqueducts. According to *The Miami Herald*, "Every day, Nestle Waters of North America sucks up an estimated 500,000 gallons from Madison Blue Springs," a town located in rural Florida. This water is marketed as "Deer Park" water.

The state usually charges a one-time fee of \$150, however Crist wants to charge 6 cents per gallon used. This would eventually create up to \$56 million in the first year in government revenues.

Water bottlers are on the defensive, saying that bottlers are just like any other agricultural business, and that during times of crisis bottled water is a necessity.

NATIONAL

Obama chooses Gov. Sebelius for Secretary of Health and Human Services

On Monday, President Obama nominated Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as his new Secretary for Health and Human Services.

Obama said he hopes that Sebelius will address what he considers the biggest problem in health care, the high health care costs and the inefficiencies in the system.

Sebelius brings years of experience as a health insurance regulator; she must be confirmed before the Senate before she can take her position.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

COLLEGE OF LAW

Fun auctions promote public service

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

The College of Law held its second annual Summer Public Interest Fellowships Auction this past Friday in the Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall Courtyard. The silent and live auction's proceeds generated funds and support for the college's in-house student public interest fellowship fund.

This fund provides a stipend for law students working in full-time, unpaid public service internships over the summer.

"For students who really want to make a difference through public service, this auction will help generate the funds they will need working pro bono this summer," said Andrea Stone, a second-year law student and auction committee member. "It's the start for a great tradition at the FIU College of Law."

The program encourages students to work in service-oriented organizations and also teaches the importance of careers that give back to the community.

The auction was presented by Sunset Auction Company and included auctioneer Bryan Kinsley and ring man Charlie King.

Kinsley livened the crowd by chanting an auctioneer's trademark of quick, repetitive sounds or "fillers," while King circled the audience trying to find the highest bidder for the item at hand.

"We were here to make sure the audience was enjoying itself and to make sure items were bid for as high as possible and we think we were able to accomplish that tonight," Kinsley said.

Marissa Rios, a second-year law student, explained why an auction such as this is important to the law students of the University.

"The public interest auction will enable a group of law students to help those who need legal aid most while instilling a tradition of public service at the law school," she said.

This year's auction is expected to break last year's raised total, which amounted to more than \$10,000, in part by offering items in the silent auction including brunch at the Biltmore Hotel, tickets to the Sony Ericsson Open and the honorary first pitch at an FIU baseball game.

Items up for bid during the live auction this year not only included international wines and Starbucks gift cards but also lunches and dinners providing students the opportunities to meet one-on-one with their professors in casual settings.

These opportunities included cocktails and an evening barbecue for 12 with College of Law Dean Leonard Strickman and bowling, beer and burgers for seven with professor Scott Norberg.

Another lunch date up for auction

was an afternoon of the sampling of New Orleans' delicacies for eight with professor Thomas Baker and his wife. The day will include stops at Pat O' Brien's for hurricanes – a famous New Orleans drink – Arnaud's for shrimp *remoulade*, Felix's for stuffed crabs, Central Grocery for *muffalettas* and Café Du Monde for *beignets* and *café au lait*. The evening will conclude with a home-cooked meal at the Baker's home prepared by Baker herself.

Law students also bid on the opportunity to dine with professor Scott Fingerhut at lawyer hotspot La Loggia, where a group of four can network with a select group of judges as well as criminal and civil trial and transactional and appellate lawyers.

Fingerhut will also sponsor students' inaugural membership into the local, voluntary bar association they choose.

"This event is really about helping FIU law students have the opportunity to make a difference in their communities and develop into ethical, compassionate professionals," said Nicole Tesnow, the event's student committee chair and second-year law student.

Associate dean for Admissions and Student Services, Michelle Mason, and her assistant, Maria Madriz, as well as Tesnow and second-year law students Rios, Andrea Stone and Olivia Rodriguez spearheaded the auction.

POLICE NOTES

Feb. 20

A 2005 BMW was removed from its original parking space and then found on Parking Lot Three.

Feb. 22

A student reported theft from her vehicle while parked in Parking Lot Six.

Items stolen included a Florida Sun Pass, \$350 pay check, a pair of \$100 high heels and \$150 worth of CDs.

Feb. 23

Vandalism was reported in a Primera Casa elevator. Pictures were taken of the graffiti, which was removed later that day.

- Compiled by Cheryl Malone

SGC-UP takes action on debacle

RELAY, page 1

According to Erched, the football practice caused a conflict with the scheduled setup time needed for the event.

"We usually set up at 8 a.m. and usually finish setting up at 5 p.m. So it's a good few hours of setting up. Ending the setup at 1 p.m. is completely unheard of," she said.

"It was not until last Friday that I was informed that the event had been moved from the stadium," Cristobal said. "I contacted the parties involved, including A.J. Meyer and Beverly Dalrymple. It was clear, however, that football practice was never an issue."

A press release by Athletics stated that they "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."

The Student Government Senate at University Park responded to the situation with a resolution calling for Athletics to repeal food and beverages prohibitions for this event while calling for the football team to move their practice.

"This resolution isn't meant to be disrespectful toward anyone. It's merely meant to signal our displeasure with the way the situation was handled," said SGC-UP Senator Chris Cabral, main author of the resolution.

"As we realize that the football team is more than willing to cooperate with Relay for Life, we realize that it is more an issue with Athletics rather than just with football. When everyone discovered Athletics' decision, it seemed as if they said that some fake grass was more important than cancer research," said Ben Badger, SGC-UP press secretary.

This follows after SGC-UP invested \$90,000 in a three-year partnership with Athletics.

"It's horrible because students helped pay for the stadium and we're not using it," said sophomore Marchel Tucker.

THE BEACON

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Monday, March 9, 2009
Biscayne Bay Campus | WUC 155 | 10 am

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

Conference shows women how to be successful leaders

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

At first look, politicians, charity workers and celebrity chefs might not seem to have many things in common. Women from all these fields, however, will come to the University to share their experiences as leaders for the Women Who Lead Conference.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to see women who have taken different paths but still came out successful, and to kind of start to open up their minds about possibilities and what their options are,” said Bronwen Bares, coordinator for the Center for Leadership and Service and the Women’s Studies Center.

The conference will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 6 in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms.

“University Park has hosted a successful conference for several years, and we decided that the students at BBC deserved a great program also,” said Diann Newman, assistant professor at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The day-long conference will open with a lecture by celebrity chef Michelle Bernstein, who owns Michy’s, a Miami-based restaurant.

Bernstein’s lecture is sponsored by the SHTM as part of the Dean’s Lecture Series.

“We are pleased that Chef Michelle Bernstein enthusiastically agreed to be our keynote speaker for the BBC program,” Newman said. “She was very happy to support our program that encourages women to become leaders.”

Along with Bernstein, the event will include session topics such as “Triumphs and Trials: The Evolution of a Woman Leader,” which covers issues faced by women in power and will end with “A Women’s Guide to Visionary Leadership and Salary Negotiation for Women,” which will include a leadership development session and information on salary negotiations specific for women, according to Bares.

The conference is funded by the Student Government Association, Career Services, the Center for Leadership and Service, Women’s Studies Center, Aramark and Northstar Financial & Commodity Enterprise, according to Suzanne M. Onorato, director of the Women’s Studies Center.

It is co-sponsored by SHTM, the School of Journalism and

It’s a great opportunity for students to see women who have taken different paths but still came out successful.

Bronwen Bares, coordinator
Women’s Studies Center

Mass Communication, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the College of Engineering and Computing, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School and the College of Business Administration.

“The purpose is for our female students to meet and interact with women leaders in various industries,” Newman said. “They will hear about their trials and triumphs in the panel discussion and will have an opportunity to lunch together and share in a more intimate setting.”

Anyone can attend after filling out a registration form online.

The registration form asks for general information, as well as meal preferences for lunch and availability of participants for volunteering during the event.

Although the event is geared toward all University students, anyone from the community can participate, according to Bares.

“We often have other faculty and staff members attend, and occasionally we’ll even have community members come, but not a lot,” said Bares.

“A lot of it is paid for by student funds, so we are really trying to make it for the students.”

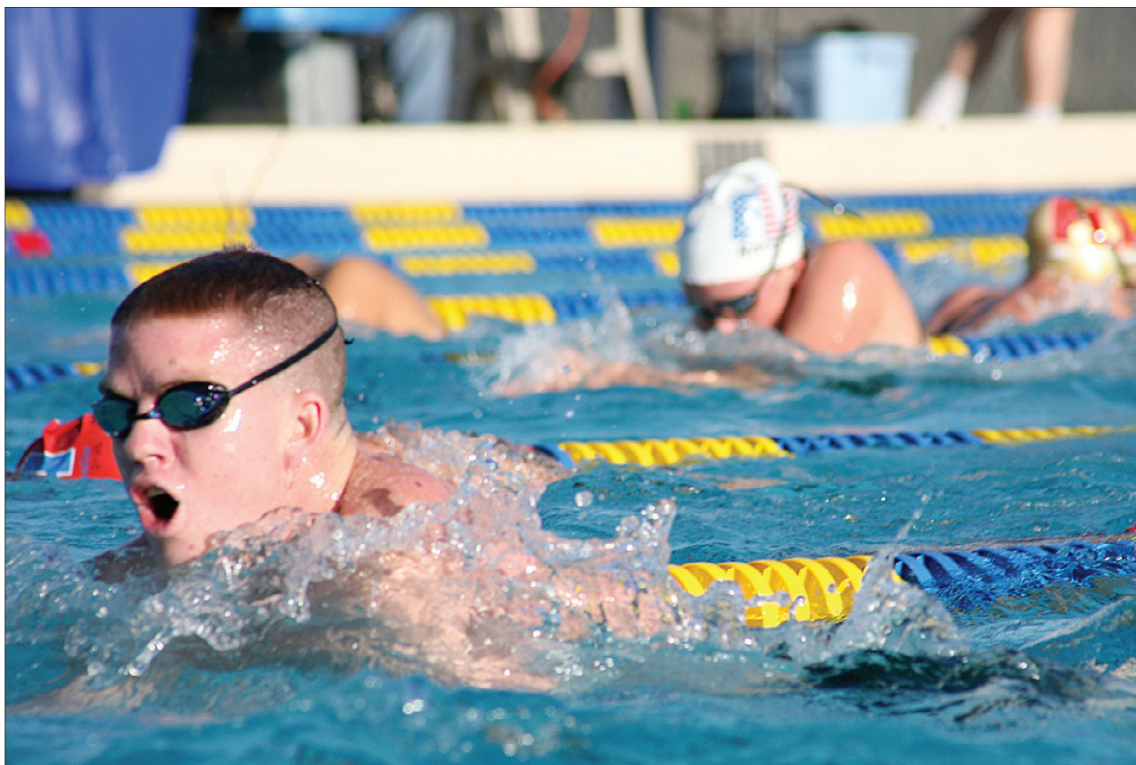
Refreshments, including lunch, will be provided for those who register for the conference.

The conference will also be held at University Park campus on March 27 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

Keynote speaker Lindsay Hyde, founder and president of Strong Women, Strong Girls, a non profit agency that guides college women to serve as mentors, will speak in three different sessions at UP.

Hyde, a Miami native, founded the organization during her freshman year in college.

For registration and more information, visit women.fiu.edu, or contact the Women’s Center at (305) 919-5359.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

STOP CLOCK SPLISH SPLASHES: Members from the North Miami Swim Team from Neptune Aquatics rented the swimming pool of the Aquatic Center on Feb. 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to time their laps.

Extended Aquatic Center hours tentative for the Fall semester

PARADISE AFSHAR
BBC Life! Editor

Camilo Sanchez enjoys using the newly remodeled pool in the Aquatics Center after a workout, but holds one major issue with the center – the times it is open.

“Extending the hours would be ideal,” said Sanchez, a junior international business major. “Some people prefer going to work out after they come back from work.”

According to Christina Reddick, the University’s Aquatics Center coordinator, a problem the center faced when the pool first opened was when to open it to students.

“We looked at what times people used the gym the most to find the most popular pool times,” Reddick said.

The pool is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

A reason for the pool’s hours, according to Reddick, is the number of lifeguards working for the Aquatic Center. There are currently eight lifeguards on staff, and there need to be three present at all times to do a rescue. With the number of lifeguards on staff, it is only possible to maintain three lifeguards at a time on these hours because they all work part-time, according to Reddick.

The hours for the Aquatic Center may be extended for the Fall semester from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the week, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays to accommodate students who want to use the pool at earlier times.

However, before the hours can officially be changed, Student Government Association must approve a request for extra funds, according to Reddick.

Frequent pool users, such as April Hannan, junior philosophy major, are happy about the potential change in times.

“I would love it. I use it every day,” said Hannan. “I go [to the pool] after my workout.”

According to Hannan, extended hours would mean that she could work out and use the pool before her morning classes.

But for students such as Juan Carlos Remedios, who uses the pool at least three times a week, having the pool open at 9 a.m. would not be enough because most students work out earlier in the morning.

“We want to be able to swim in the morning,” said Remedios, a junior public relations major. “Think of it this way, if you wake up in the morning and you say ‘I want to go to the pool,’ that’s your motivation. But at 6 p.m. it’s ‘I’ll swim for half an hour,’ rather than ‘I want to swim for two hours,’ early in the morning.”

The Aquatics Center includes two pools, a diving well and a swimming pool, but only the swimming pool is open to students. According to lifeguard Alex Sergou, the diving pool is only supposed to be used in swimming competitions and students do not have access to it.

This is something that students such as Remedios have an issue with.

“My issue is that we cannot use the diving pool. We should have access to both pools because we are paying to use both pools, not to just use one and the other for competitions,” said Remedios. “Let’s say you wanted to try out for the diving team, how do you try out without practicing?”

In addition to the restricted hours and the limitations on the diving well, the swimming pool is not open in its entirety to students, according to Reddick. The swimming pool usually opens the shallow 4-foot section first, and opens up more lanes throughout the day as more people come. About 100-200 people come to the pool every week.

Aside from having the option of using the pool after a workout, students and clubs can reserve it for free if they want to host a specific event like graduations or birthdays, according to Reddick.

“The Aquatic Center is a meeting place where students can socialize, it helps students feel relaxed,” Reddick said. “Come outside, bring your laptop, surf the Web and enjoy the great breeze.”

Sergou, a junior hospitality management major, said that he would like to see more people taking advantage of the pool to throw parties and hang out with friends.

“People should start to party here,” Sergou said. “Just imagine being in the pool with a DJ with chairs and love seats. It’s a really chill place for people.”

However, there are restrictions for using the pool for parties and club events. There is a maximum capacity of 252 people, and alcoholic beverages, glass containers and food are prohibited on the pool deck.

The Aquatic Center includes showers, locker access, certified lifeguards, waterproof DMX speakers constantly broadcasting a variety of music, Wi-Fi and pools heated to about 82 degrees.

Even though the aquatic center comes with its share of critics, for some students, such as Amanda Penas, a sophomore nursing major, using it is beneficial because it’s cheaper and more convenient than going to the beach, having to drive and spend money on gas.

“The fact that my friends and I now have a place we can enjoy the sun and not go broke is great,” Penas said.

For more information, visit www.wuc.fiu.edu.
Additional reporting by Maureen Nino.

READ THIS NOW!

Recession prompts drastic luring acts

Parents of prospective college students no longer have to throw a party when their kid receives a college acceptance letter since many schools are starting to include a party within the envelope.

From videos of fireworks to tubes of confetti, *U.S. News and World Report* states that prominent learning institutions, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ithaca College and Rutgers University are sending out fun-filled packages to try to encourage students to choose them in a tough economic climate, where pricey universities are just as worried about being accepted by students as the other way around.

I watched the congratulatory acceptance videos for Elon University, which seemed more like a video showing off the campus to prospective students, and Bryn Mawr College, which was cute in a horribly corny sort of way – and my adrenaline really didn't get pumping.

Videos are pretty neat, though, and probably the easiest thing to implement since they do not require putting anything extra into the envelope, and some, like the University of Georgia's animated fireworks, have already reportedly become some sort of tradition. Sending students college memorabilia, such as T-shirts and bumper stickers, are a good idea and will likely inspire some sense of school spirit before students even step foot on campus for orientation.

Colleges should be wary of going overboard, though. Remember, one of the primary reasons for trying so hard to attract students is the economic situation.

Is sending a T-shirt to a student, who may have applied to 10 other schools, really cost effective? Maybe, but only if school officials see that a higher rate of students are actually picking their school.

For as long as I can remember, high school seniors have been breathing into paper bags, nervously awaiting responses to their college applications. The words, "Congratulations, you've been accepted!" has always been enough to make teenagers jump up and down and families throw parties, and that hasn't really changed.

Though admittedly, the

confetti that MIT includes with their letter makes the party planning a heck of a lot easier.

All in all, creativity is always the best response to changing times and it's interesting to see what colleges are doing instead of just sending out letters. Simple things like videos and sending out certificates instead of simply letterhead are great, cost-effective ideas.

But schools that are putting such a huge focus on acceptance celebrations need to be careful not to alienate students that did not make the cut but still put a lot of time, money and effort in trying to get into their institution.

Rice University is going green by sending out rejections via e-mail, but the same *U.S. News* article indicates that students feel extremely disheartened by short electronic messages that say as little as "Admissions Decision: Deny."

Another problem with electronic notifications of acceptances and rejections is interruptions in high school classes, as students check their e-mail on their phones and either become overly excited or depressed during class.

Some colleges are only sending them out Friday nights to remedy this. This is a great idea because I can certainly recall many students eagerly hitting the refresh buttons for their e-mail inboxes during class or lunch back in high school.

Though there is no wording that can make a rejection notice from a college you had your heart set on not hurt, the amount of sincerity in it can greatly impact feelings about that institution. Letters should thank the applicant for applying and, if possible, list reasons for rejection.

Wooing accepted students is important, but so is keeping up an institution's reputation even with those who aren't going to be attending.

Times change and colleges are changing with it. Hopefully these interesting ideas and lack of attention to denials will be refined over time so that the change will be for the better.

COLUMN



ERIC FELDMAN

TRANSIT TROUBLES

Stimulus money should go toward connecting S. Florida

ANDREW SOLOMON
Staff Writer

Now that President Obama's stimulus bill is law, Americans are eagerly tuned in to see what it will actually do.

We've heard the promises for the last few months: the creation (or salvation) of millions of jobs and increased investment in health care, energy, education and infrastructure for the long-term benefit of the country.

The money, first and foremost, will go to the states, and I have an idea for the money the Sunshine State will receive: Let us spend a good part of it on public transportation for the South Florida tri-county area, the largest and fastest-growing metropolitan area in the state.

Miami-Dade County, the eighth most populated in the United States with over 2.3 million residents, already has a bus system and the Metro-Rail.

However, the Palmetto and Dolphin expressways as well as I-95 still experience daily traffic jams, leaving commuters angry and dreadful about driving. There is already a planned extension of the Metro-Rail that is scheduled to be completed in the middle of the upcoming decade.

This new "orange line" would extend all the way north from Miami Gardens, turning west in the city of Miami toward the terminus station at the University Park campus.

This would definitely alleviate the stress of commuting on congested roads for students living in Miami, but what about those who commute from Broward County?

Though not as big or as densely populated as Miami-Dade, Broward County is still home to about 1.7 million people, and the public transportation situation leaves much to be desired.

Those living in Broward without cars rely heavily upon a bus system that is, at best, minimally efficient.

On top of that, the only rail system that runs through the county is the tortuously slow Tri-Rail, which only runs by the coast, starting at Miami Airport and ending at West

Palm Beach.

These measures aren't enough.

Consider the obvious benefits of public transportation: fewer cars – less traffic – on the road, therefore less pollution in the air.

That results in less stress for the average commuter and more people reaching their destinations in a timely fashion more consistently.

Secondly, construction of such projects would instantly create jobs, something so many South Floridians desperately need.

We see new Sun-Pass stations popping up on highways across the tri-county area all the time in order to prevent traffic backing up – so why would we not hop on this opportunity to create an all new rail system, a symbol of a growing area?

I can't think of a better way to spend stimulus money: construct a rail system that focuses not only on connecting eastern Broward and Miami, but also western Broward, which would include not only Pompano Beach, but also Coral Springs and Tamarac; not just Fort Lauderdale, but also Sunrise and Weston; not merely Hollywood, but also Pembroke Pines and Miramar, cities with over 100,000 people, including many FIU commuter students who have no access to a public rail line unless they drive 20 minutes east.

Take my mother, who is currently finishing her master's degree in education at FIU. She commutes there once a week, 45 minutes there and 45 minutes back if there is no traffic.

She said, "Wouldn't it be nice if someone like me could just hop on the train in Coral Springs and be in Miami in the same amount of time and not have to spend a dime on gas?"

Since the majority of the population is finally getting real about change in this country, let's do it in our own community as well.

I can't think of a better way to spend stimulus money: construct a rail system that focuses on connecting Broward and Miami.

TRANSIT STATS

451,710

number of public transit passengers in Dade and Broward Counties

\$23

the cost of a transit pass for Broward students

22.4

the length of the current Metrorail, in miles

Information compiled from Broward.org/bct and <http://www.MiamiDade.gov/transit>





ROSALYN DELGADO
Recruitment Director

Ever wanted to know what it's like being part of the church of hardcore? Well, if you happened to be in Fort Lauderdale this past Friday, Feb. 28, you were treated to an experience nothing short of biblical. Brokencyde, Senses Fail and headliners Hollywood Undead made their first Florida stop with the Saints and Sinners Tour, playing to a nearly packed house at Revolution Live.

BROKENCYDE

Brokencyde was, no offense, a little less interesting than a singer/songwriter playing yet another gig at Starbucks. They do deserve credit for getting a few young girls to scream their brains out during their set, but aside from that it was your typical three guys running aimlessly around a stage and screaming into a mic with their mandatory DJ (laptop bearing)/keyboardist in the back, slapping the life out of a few buttons and keys.

As the band packed up their set, there was a sense of anxiety in the crowd. I'm not sure if it was the relief of the end of the set or the anticipation for the next band to hit the stage.

SENSES FAIL

As the lights finally dimmed, a sea of concert-



goers erupted in a collective roaring scream.

Senses Fail took the stage in a manner that can only be compared to the calm before a storm, one that would certainly leave some casualties behind. With the sound of the first guitar riff, singer Buddy Nielsen was barely able to introduce his band before he started throwing himself around the stage, moving like a man possessed by his music.

Playing songs from their latest album, *Life is Not a Waiting Room*, Senses Fail captivated the crowd like a preacher enamours his congregation.

Nielsen plunged head first into the middle of the crowd to sing "Sick or Sane" right along with the fans. The floor trembled with energy as Nielsen commanded it with the simple movement of his hands. As the band began to play the opening notes of "The Irony of Dying on Your Birthday," their front man began to divide the crowd into two sections.

"I want to see the middle of this floor, I need to see two sides ... right now!" Nielsen said.

Like the Red Sea, people obeyed and parted, and with his fists in the air he commanded us all to stay put.

As soon as the sound of drums and guitar riffs

converged so did the crowd, running back to the middle with an energy that made the floor tremble and mosh pits quickly erupt. With a huge smile on his face, Nielsen carried on with his performance.

As their set came to an end, the crowd wasn't ready to let them go, as "one more song" chants were screamed by fans throughout the venue. Senses Fail accomplished the one thing every band wants out of a performance: leaving the crowd hungry for more.

HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD

As Hollywood Undead took the stage, it was apparent that their opening act had stolen the show, if only for a brief moment. An energetic set was enjoyed by those that managed to find the strength to stay till the end, most probably just out of curiosity to finally see the faces behind the masks.



ANN MARIE MUNOZ/THE BEACON

MUSICAL COMMUNION: Buddy Nielsen, lead singer of Senses Fail, crowd surfs during a performance (left). Back on stage, Nielsen and guitarist Garrett Zablocki get the crowd going with a lively performance (middle and right).

Pulse

Eating high-fiber foods can be a treat with these tasteful options

If you think fiber is only for older folks, think again.

Fiber can help you reduce your chances of developing various conditions including heart disease, diabetes and constipation, according to an article published by the Harvard School of Public Health.

Keep in mind that your age does not make you immune to these conditions.

“When eaten regularly as part of a diet low in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol, soluble fiber has been associated with decreased risk of cardiovascular disease,” according to the American Heart Association.

The association suggests you consume oat bran, oatmeal, beans, peas, rice bran, barley, citrus fruits, strawberries and apple pulp, all of which are high in soluble fiber.

When I think of fiber cereal, FiberOne Cereal comes to mind. And if you’ve never tried this cardboard-tasting cereal, your taste buds should be forever grateful.

However, if you’ve been naive enough to soak these twig-figured pieces in milk and put a spoonful in your mouth, you are not alone. I too have cringed at feeling the hard, dry and tasteless bits sitting in my mouth.

Unfortunately tasteless as this cereal may be, it’s good for us.

Luckily, the makers figured out that their product was not boding well with our taste buds and have come up with a few flavorful ideas: FiberOne Shredded Wheat, Caramel Delight, Raisin Bran Clusters and Honey Clusters.

For those of us who made this discovery after we opened our box of bland FiberOne, trashing the cereal would not be wise, especially in this economic crisis.

The cereal’s front cover suggests a tasty alternative I had not tried until recently: adding fruits. A few days ago I had original FiberOne cereal with milk and strawberries. And boy, what a difference this makes – it was

so delicious, I couldn’t think of a better meal for breakfast.

FiberOne provides other delicious treats such as granola bars and yogurt.

If you’re strictly not about FiberOne, there are plenty of other high-fiber foods you can consume.

Besides adding fruits to your breakfast, the Harvard School of Public Health suggests consuming whole fruits instead of juice, checking the label for fiber-filled whole grains when buying breads, consuming cereals and crackers and eating more beans.

In essence, fiber is in most foods you eat each day.

Just be aware of the recommended amount.

Dietary fiber intake among adults in the United States averages about 15 grams daily, while the Institute of Medicine recommends consuming 14 grams of fiber for every 1,000 calories, according to the AHA.

Pulse is a weekly column examining the state of college health.



EDDITH SEVILLA

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 4

WHAT: FIU Art & Art History Presents: MFA Exhibition
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

WHAT: Robin Williams
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Hard Rock Live
CONTACT: 800-745-3000

WHAT: Diplo & Cromeo
WHEN: 10 p.m.
WHERE: LIV
CONTACT: 305-674-4680

WHAT: FIU Film Club meeting
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Democracy for America Campus Corps
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC 1223
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

THURSDAY • MARCH 5

WHAT: FIU Theatre Presents: “Pericles”
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Studio Theatre
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

WHAT: The Women’s Center Presents: Cry Out
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Everglades Hall
CONTACT: 305-348-1506

WHAT: Greg Ginn and The Texas Corrugators
WHEN: 10 p.m.
WHERE: Tobacco Road
CONTACT: 305-374-1198

WHAT: Black Student Union meeting
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Truth for Life meeting
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

Youth Fair offers discounted student tickets, ride passes

FAIR, page 1

mindful not to leave anything of value visible inside their cars, as they can be the a target for theft, because the fair brings in an outside element of the population to the campus.

“That’s the main reason they’re hiring us, to try to prevent any robberies,” Ochipa said.

Public Safety officers will be patrolling all the parking structures and lots on FIU property. However, security inside the fair will be handled by the Miami-Dade County Police Department.

This year, the event will offer 100 rides, 170 food vendors, 50 games and various souvenir and gift shops. It will also feature the World of Agriculture exhibit, a daily Mardi Gras parade, competitions and free live entertainment.

The fair is associated with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. However, all Miami-Dade County public and private school students will receive free admission to the event.

Each year, the fair offers students a variety of exhibits to experience, ranging from education, art and even horticulture and agriculture.

These exhibits are meant “to encourage and reward student achievement in a variety of educational and informative exhibits,” according to the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition’s Web site.

The fair also supports FIU as it has donated over \$2 million for the University’s community stadium and another \$1.4 million toward advancing FIU’s performing arts center.

The fair also provides over \$500,000 each year in grants and scholarships.

Tickets for the general public are currently on sale on the fair’s Web site. General admission tickets are \$8 online and \$9 at the door. Ride coupon packages and special “pay-one-price” ride passes are also available.

The fair will be providing special discounted tickets for FIU students, who will receive \$1 off general admission tickets, \$3 off the 24-ride coupon sheets and \$5 off of the “pay-one-price” tickets, good for unlimited midway rides Monday through Friday.

Tickets will be on sale from Feb. 20 to Mar. 24 from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and at 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday at the Graham Center Ticket Office.

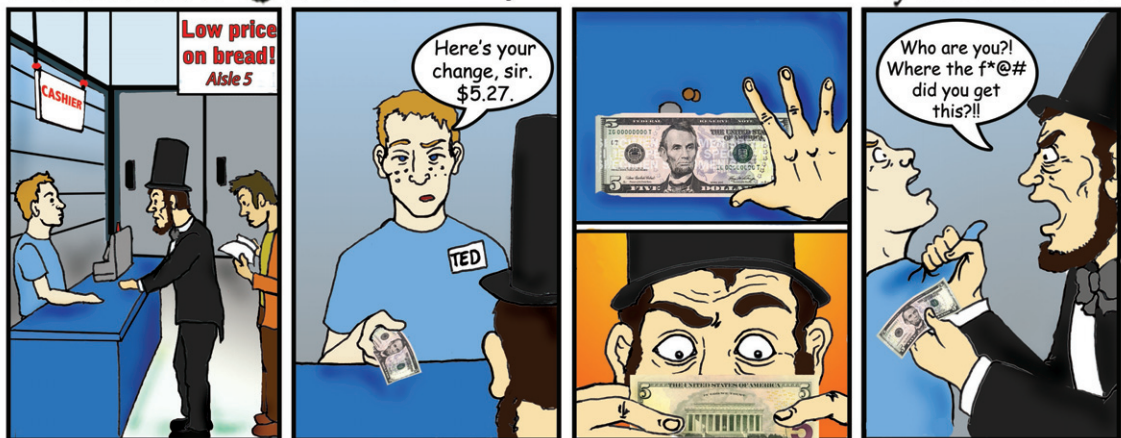
PERFORMING BEARS



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

TEDDIES: Indie band Bear 9 performs live at the Frost Art Museum’s Target Wednesday After Hours event Feb. 25. The monthly art gatherings are free and open to the public.

HONEST ABE honestly didn’t know.



diversions

by michelle diaz



JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Team has not lost in first round since '89

WOMEN'S, page 8

team. If we put everything together we can win the game," Bosilj said.

The Golden Panthers lead the all-time series, 11-8, against the Jaguars, but it was South Alabama who swept this season's series, 65-47 on Dec. 20 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena and 66-52 on Feb. 11 in Mobile.

Both teams packed their bags early in last year's conference tournament after losing in the second round. FIU was the No. 7 seed and fell to University of Arkansas at Little Rock, who was the No. 2, while South Alabama, in the No. 5 spot, fell to No. 4 Arkansas State.

"We're starting out 0-0 now, the tournament is what matters, one loss and we're out," Traugott said. "What happened this season doesn't matter as long as we build on it and look past it."

Perhaps the Golden Panthers will be able to repeat their streak of not being knocked out in the first round of any conference tournament since '88-'89, when they dropped in the opening round to Georgia Southern, 84-66.

FIU is shooting at about 37 percent with 54 ppg while the Jaguars are at about 39 percent and averaging 66 ppg. Despite the poor field goal percentage and weak record, some Golden Panthers are convinced that their true potential has yet to be displayed.

"Our biggest advantage is the fact that we've had a really hard year, no one has seen our potential," Traugott said. "Only we know our potential, they don't know what's coming."

The winner of Wednesday night's matchup will move on to the next round in Hot Springs, Ark. to take on either Troy or Louisiana.

Soto: 'We have to pick it up on defense'

MEN'S, page 8

at it. He brings a lot of passion for us," Rouco said.

The Golden Panthers scored 73 points in their first trip to the CajunDome, a season-high for a game away from the U.S. Century Bank Arena, behind a career-high 22 points from Nikola Gacesa.

FIU shot nearly 48 percent from the floor, but was outdueled by UL from above the arc, with UL posting a 14-for-30 three-point shooting effort, while the Golden Panthers hit just 4-of-21 from long range.

Led by a career-high 31 points from Chris Gradnigo, the Ragin' Cajuns posted a 49 percent field goal percentage, something FIU must address if Hot Springs is in the near future.

"It starts with us being better on defense," Taylor said.

Josue Soto echoed those sentiments

"We have to pick it up on defense, we need to play harder and with more intensity," he said.

Having dressed its full compliment of scholarship players just once this season, in the final game, FIU has not had the opportunity to experience the whole of its team's upside, but the Rouco is optimistic about the upcoming test.

"It's conference time. I think we'll make a nice run. They've been through a lot. It's 0-0 right now for us," Rouco said.

The Golden Panthers are participating in their ninth Sun Belt basketball championship, in 11 Sun Belt seasons, and have advanced as far as the semi-finals just once in 2005, when the Golden Panther run was ended by eventual tournament champion UL.

That meeting is the only time the Golden Panthers and Ragin' Cajuns have met in the SBC championship.



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

GET BIG: Freddy Asprilla has had arguably the biggest impact for a freshman in the SBC. The Colombian-born center averages 14 points.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

BUNTING: Carolina Rojas makes a play during a game earlier this season. FIU has lost four straight games and scored just four runs in the last three games.

Team starts SBC play with sweep at hands of WKU

SOFTBALL, page 8

innings. During the top of the 10th, the Lady Toppers got the first two batters on base, which set up the inning's two runs to take a 4-2 lead headed to the bottom of the 10th.

Gniadek drove in Welch with a double to centerfield. She stood at second base with two outs for Ashley McClain who flied out to left field to end the extra inning contest.

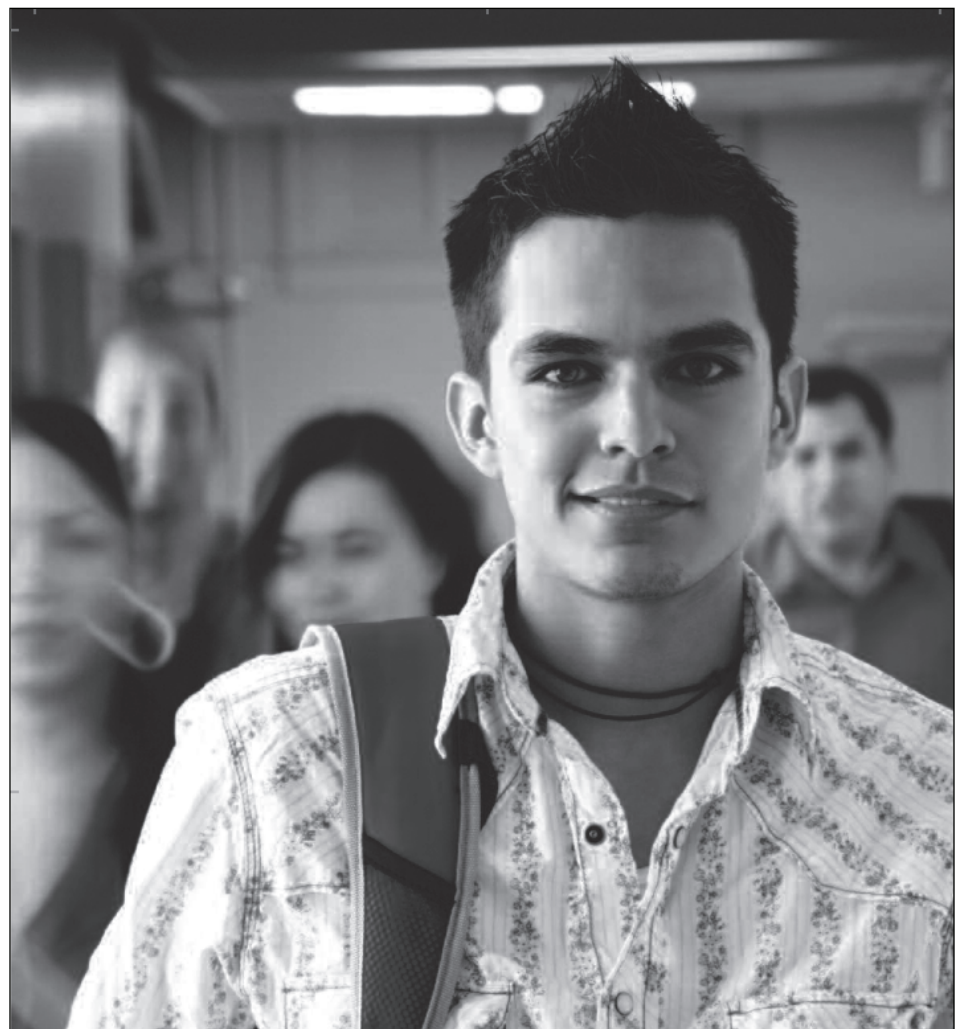
WESTERN KENTUCKY 4, FIU 1

Jennifer Gniadek could not catch a break, and the Golden Panthers could not figure out Rogge.

After pitching 10 innings on the day before, Gniadek started the final game of the series. Rogge pitched another complete game and gave up just four hits and one run. Her one-run performance capped off a series in which she won every game.

Gniadek's arm did not hold up as well as she lasted three innings and let in two earned runs for her sixth loss of the season.

Jessica Landau drove in the only run of the game for the Golden Panthers in the second inning to tie the game at 1-1, but the Lady Toppers scored two runs the following inning. The Golden Panthers never crossed the plate again and lost 4-1.



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TOURNAMENT TIME



Healthy roster gives team momentum

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

In each of the last two seasons, the Golden Panthers have been ousted in the opening round of the Sun Belt Championship by Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton; this year, FIU will try their hand at advancing to the second round with a first-round test at the University of Louisiana where FIU dropped a 90-73 decision to the Ragin' Cajuns on Feb. 5.

"Everybody's getting healthy and believing in each other," said guard Nick Taylor, about what has buoyed FIU's mindset going into the tournament.

Health would be a big key for FIU to advance out of the first round for the first time since 2005.

Freddy Asprilla missed the first contest between the two teams and he left a void in the paint. Asprilla averaged 17.3 points and 11.4 rebounds in 11 conference games played, and will if not provide presence, at least a different feel for the FIU offense and defense for UL to have to look for.

Asprilla has been hampered by herniated discs in his back, but maintains he's ready to go for the tournament.

"It doesn't bother me too much right now, but it still hurts," Asprilla said.

Golden Panther head coach Sergio Rouco is also pleased to have his big man healthy for the start of the conference tournament.

"Now is when [Asprilla] is beginning to get in shape and be on his total game. This is the kid that we know about. I think he's got his confidence back, but he gets it by working hard

MEN'S, page 7

Team ready for road challenge

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team will travel to South Alabama on March 3 to take on the Jaguars in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

FIU finished the regular season with a 6-23 overall record, 4-14 in SBC play to gain the No. 12 seed while the Jaguars finished 19-10 with a 10-8 record in conference play, making them the No. 5 seed in the tournament.

The Golden Panthers, who are coming off a 57-48 loss to Florida Atlantic University, will seek solid performances from junior guard Ashley Traugott and forward Marquita Adley who combined for 26 points their last time. Monika Bosilj will also hope to be a key contributor, the junior guard averages 14.6 points per game; however, she went scoreless in the team's season finale.

"We talked yesterday as a team and today we accomplished a lot in practice," said Bosilj after the team's final practice before hitting the road to Mobile, Ala.

"Everyone had a good attitude today even though we had a really hard practice, we feel positive and worked on some fundamentals," Traugott said.

Meanwhile, South Alabama dropped their season finale to Troy, 66-63, and will rely on Jessica Starling, who averages 15.1 ppg and Shakira Nettles, who pours in about 14 ppg to lead the way against FIU.

"Their advantage is home court but we have a very good

WOMEN'S, page 7



SOFTBALL

Golden Panthers have rough weekend

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Despite starting the season 10-6, the Golden Panthers softball team is now in its first losing streak of the season. The first of four consecutive losses came against Fordham, but the most recent losses hurt a bit more.

On the road facing the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers (10-3, 3-0 Sun Belt), the Golden Panthers dropped their first three games against a Sun Belt Conference team on Feb. 28-March 1. The team's pitching did a formidable job, but the offense managed to produce just four runs during the three-game series.

Lady Topper Ryan Rogge pitched 16.1 innings and gave up just one earned run in the series.

She also recorded every win against the Golden Panthers.

WESTERN KENTUCKY 6, FIU 0

For the Golden Panthers, hits came at a premium while errors came in bunches. The team's offense was shut out and limited to four hits for the game – the same amount of errors the team committed.

Western Kentucky starting pitcher Ryan Rogge had control of FIU's batters during the entire contest.

She pitched a complete game striking out five batters and not allowing a walk. FIU's starter Kasey Barrett pitched five innings and gave up five runs, but only two of those runs were earned.

The errors were spread out across the diamond with two coming from the outfield and two from the infield.

Infielder Jenny Welch provided two of her team's four hits as the Lady Toppers scored at least one run in five of the seven innings.

WESTERN KENTUCKY 4, FIU 3 (10)

Jennifer Gniadek pitched 10 innings and was the game-tying run on second base, but she still lost her fifth game of the season as Rogge came up with her second consecutive victory. Whereas last game the Golden Panthers committed many errors, this game the Lady Toppers made five of their own.

Those errors led to two of the Golden Panthers' three runs.

The Golden Panthers jumped to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning but would not score for the next eight



TOUGH LOSS: The Golden Panthers lost in 10 innings to WKU on Feb. 29 despite 10 solid innings from Gniadek.

SOFTBALL, page 7