



## SPOTLIGHT

### EDITORIAL PAGE 6

FIU should host Major League Soccer games to generate revenue, bring life to the student body and athletics. Games would showcase the football stadium.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 4



Last week was too cold for ice cream, but some students took one for the team and helped raise funds toward multiple sclerosis.

### LIFE! PAGE 9

COLUMN: Chris Towers goes from Pop to "serious music" and back again.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Professor helps journalists succeed in countries where freedom of the press has limits.

### OPINION PAGE 6



Bringing back extinct species and dead loved ones are advantages that make cloning a necessary pursuit.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Caribbean Culture Revealed, tonight 7-8:30 p.m.:** Want to learn more about Caribbean food, style, customs and more? Then take part in the Pan-African event in the Towers' residence lounge.

**Garden Party, Fridays and Saturdays 5 p.m.:** Got nothing to do this Friday or Saturday afternoon? Then head to The Upper Eastside Garden for a game or two of miniature golf. The \$5 admission fee includes a complimentary drink.

**Shop Lover's Lane, Feb. 11 7-10 p.m.:** Don't know what to get your lover for Valentine's day? No problem. While you get your drink on, Kitchen 305 will host a fashion and beauty show with unique gifts. From edible body soufflés to organic skin care products, you'll be sure to find the perfect gift.

**Garden Party, Fridays and Saturdays 5 p.m.:** Got nothing to do this Friday or Saturday afternoon? Then head to The Upper Eastside Garden for a game or two of miniature golf. The \$5 admission fee includes a complimentary drink.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit [FIUSM.com/calendar](http://FIUSM.com/calendar).

### WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 64 HIGH: 77



**TUESDAY**  
Scattered showers  
LOW: 65 HIGH: 78



**WEDNESDAY**  
Mostly sunny  
LOW: 63 HIGH: 82

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1976-1979



**WOLFE**  
1979-1986



**MAIDIQUE**  
1986-2009



**5TH PRESIDENT**  
2009-????

## Successor to be chosen as early as May

**JULIO MENACHE**  
Staff Writer

Leadership, vision, management and resource development are among the most desirable qualities in University presidential candidates.

That's what Jan Greenwood, who co-heads presidential search firm Greenwood/Asher and Associates, told members of the University community at a forum Feb. 5. Though open to all students, only a handful actually attended the forum.

Meeting both at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus, the firm agreed that if pieces were in place to receive more federal funding and raise the stature of the University, it needed more work on crumbling infrastructures.

"We have a Third World infrastructure for the sciences," said Phillip Stoddard, professor of biological sciences. "We definitely need someone who can raise funds outside this University and outside of the existing structures."

"Someone with too much vision could be dangerous. We cannot afford another extended period of growth without development," said Bruce Hauptli, former faculty senate chair and philosophy professor.

Joyce Elam, head of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, said that the search process would lead to the selection of a new

in today's market. It's a tougher market."

She explained that publicly airing candidates' names could

*"We definitely need someone who can raise funds outside this University and ... the existing structures."*

Phillip Stoddard  
professor, Biological Sciences

University president by May 1.

But Hauptli questioned the swiftness of the search.

"Why May, why not June, or July? Is it really important to have it at this degree of speed?" Hauptli said. "It almost carries the appearance that a decision has already been made."

Greenwood tried to quell these rumors. An accelerated search timeline, while imperfect, reflects reality.

"We have never signed on to a search with a predetermined winner in mind," Greenwood said. "What we are up against is that FIU has not done a presidential search in 23 years. It was extraordinarily different than how it is done

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## HONORS COLLEGE

# Advisory board adds new member

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Contributing Writer

Mother of a former honors student, Mercedes M. Ponce saw first-hand the positive impact the Honors College had on her sons' education.

Now she has the chance to give back as a new member of the Honors College Community Advisory Board.

"I am very grateful to Florida International University and the Honors College for the wonderful educational experience my son had here," she said. "I would like to be in a leadership role to help other students."

Currently, Ponce is the executive director of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies at FIU.

CAPS offers credit and non-credit programs that are designed for working adults and their hectic schedules.

Courses are available in the evenings, on Saturdays and online. It was that experience, and advocacy for lifelong learning, that Ponce believes she was recruited for.

"I could offer my insights, and many years of experience developing programs that are professionally and personally enriching to students," she said.

Ponce enters a diverse group of professionals that include attorneys, CEOs, a judge, a state representative and an artist.

HONORS, page 3

# Maidique, top two execs to receive rewards

**CHRISTOPHER NECUZE**  
Editor in Chief

Amid budget turmoil and employee layoffs, President Modesto A. Maidique renegotiated the terms of his contract and rewarded his top two executives – Vivian Sanchez, CFO, and Ronald Berkman, provost – with six-figure retention packages, the *Miami Herald* reported in a Feb. 8 article.

According to the agreement ratified by the Board of Trustees, Maidique, who

in November of last year announced his intentions to step down as University president, will continue to receive his yearly \$478,000 through 2015, about \$2.8 million in total, and is also entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical.

Should his successor decide to replace either Sanchez or Berkman, the two would be entitled to compensation packages possibly totaling more than \$1.3 million.

According to the renegotiated contracts, should Sanchez be replaced

she would continue to receive her \$334,090 salary through 2012 and be entitled to another position at the University.

If the new president decides to replace Berkman, he would be entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical. Berkman, who has been in the running for at least two other campus presidencies, also received a \$3,000 bonus and a \$3,000 raise.

Maidique defended his decision to alter the Sanchez's contract saying that it was important to keep her on-board to

see through her three-year budget plan which lead to the cutting of 23 majors and up to 220 jobs, addressing the \$26 million budget shortfall.

Paul Fain, who reports on executive compensation for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, doesn't know of many high-ranking University executives who receive separation packages.

"That sounds unusual," Fain told the *Herald*. "There might be an example out there, but I haven't heard of too many of them [at that level]."

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

**Federal appeals court rules that Miami-Dade School Board can keep controversial book off its shelves**

A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that the Miami-Dade School Board did not violate the Constitution back in 2006 when it removed *Vamos a Cuba*, a controversial children's book about life in the communist country from the public schools' library system, according to a story published in *The Miami Herald*.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a 2-1 decision that the school board did not breach the First Amendment, and ordered a Miami federal judge to lift a preliminary injunction that had allowed book to be checked out from school libraries.

The majority opinion supported the School Board's authority to set educational standards in Miami-Dade, saying the children's book paints an "inaccurate" picture of life in the small island nation.

NATIONAL

**President Obama says delay in passing \$900 billion stimulus bill inexcusable**

President Obama blasted critics of his stimulus bill, calling the delay of his economic spending bill "inexcusable and irresponsible," according to the Associated-Press. The president also said that he will try to work with lawmakers to refine the bill.

The demand comes at the wake of new figures which shows that the unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent, the highest since September 1992.

"The time for Congress to act is now," Obama said.

– Compiled by Julio Menache

# Forum focuses on academic concerns

**BRIAN ALONSO**  
Contributing Writer

How to recover from a bad semester, how to choose a major and even how to continue studies at FIU if your major was cut were issues addressed at a forum directed at concerned students.

On Jan. 5, the Student Government Council at University Park invited April Lewis, academic advisor for undergraduate education, and Ivette Duarte, assistant director of internships to speak at the event.

The event included three separate discussions concerning cancelled majors, advice to improve GPAs and tips on deciding on a major.

The first panel, hosted by Lewis, was about cut majors. Due to the latest wave of budget cuts, many programs were cut ranging from dance, humanities to health sciences.

Math, music, science and social science teacher education majors were also among the losses.

Isis Casillas, a sophomore and a former speech pathology major, was about to intend her major at advising when she received the news that her major had been cut.

"I started basically freaking out because I didn't know what to do," she said.

Advice included taking courses in a combination of similar areas to the major – in Casillas' case, psychology and liberal studies – in order to meet the current requirements necessary to eventually obtain the major.

"I had gone to advising before and they explained to me what I could do so I'm on the right track now," Casillas said.

"There are very good professors who are being taken out of their nook," said Carla Slon, a freshman, in reference to professors who now must teach out of their niche. The second presentation, hosted by Duarte, focused on undergrads having problems choosing their majors.

Considerations included investigating Web sites such as *salary.com*, applying for internships, attending job fairs, exploring related courses in areas of interest and taking a skills inventory test.

"It helped me a lot because I wanted to be an education major and I learned today that I have many more opportunities with this major than just teaching," said Katherine Perez, an undecided freshman.

Duarte stressed the importance of experience through internships.

Robert Chung, a senior majoring in finance, who also helped coordinate the event added that "employers are always looking for students with internship experience."

He later stated that he had previously worked with Duarte to advance his professional development and that Career



JAVIER DE LA VEIGA/THE BEACON

**COUNSELING:** April Lewis speaks about academic issues and how to overcome them at the SGC-UP forum Feb. 5.

Services is a "great resource" for meeting career goals. Chung said that from his experience in career fairs, employers place more emphasis on well-rounded individuals rather than academically-oriented ones and to an employer, experience is "crucial."

"Now I have more of an idea about my choices and several Web sites to go to," said Marcela Rodriguez, a sophomore debating between advertising and nursing. "Now I know about Career Services and have the opportunity to go back and talk to them"

According to Duarte, the two most common concerns among undecided students is whether they will like what they do and if the coursework is manageable.

"Probably the most important thing is to rule out what they don't like," Duarte said.

She also mentioned that due to the current state of the economy, more internships become available due to employer's needs to fill vacant positions.

"I'll be looking into internships with Duarte and am looking into [the major] more than before," Perez said.

The final segment was also helmed by Lewis and addressed how to recover from a bad semester. This portion dealt with staying or remaining in good standing and dealing with bad grades through several means, including the forgiveness policy.

Many of the questions were directed at the University's forgiveness policy.

A problem that is largely encountered in academic advising is students do not know, or realize the importance, of checking their grades at the end of each semester, according to Lewis.

The forgiveness policy allows a student to repeat a course and substitute the second grade for the first. It can be used up to three times.

To get the word out to students that are in need of help and searching for answers was the purpose of the event, according to Ramirez.

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# Interest in higher-ed rises nationwide, so do expenses

JUSTIN POPE  
AP Wire

The number of Americans who think a college degree is essential for success has risen dramatically in recent years, a new survey shows, but two-thirds of them also believe that higher education is priced out of reach for some qualified students.

The survey, released Wednesday by the groups Public Agenda and the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education, underscores the uptick in public anxiety about college affordability during the current recession.

In the 2000 version of the survey, at the end of the Internet bubble and with the success of college dropouts like Bill Gates attracting attention, just 31 percent of respondents called a college degree the only way to succeed in America.

That figure jumped to 55 percent in 2007 and 55 percent in the latest survey, conducted late last month.

Perceptions about accessibility are moving in the other direction: Just 30 percent agreed that almost anyone who needs financial aid for college can find it, down from 38 percent in 2007.

"These changes are rather quick given what you normally see in public opinion," said John

Immerwahr, a Villanova University professor and senior research fellow at Public Agenda, a nonpartisan group whose mission includes conveying the public's views to policymakers.

Researchers have conducted the survey six times since 1993.

This year's survey was based on telephone interviews with 1,009 adults, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

**... the public is going to be very resistant to policymakers and higher education leaders handling this recession ...**

Patrick Callan, *president*  
National Center

"It seems very clear from this data that the public is going to be very resistant to policymakers and higher education leaders handling this recession as we've handled the last three — that is by passing most of the pain along to students and families," said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center.

College prices rose 6.4 percent

last fall, and a recent, separate report by the National Center flunked 49 of the 50 states on college affordability.

That report found low-income families have been hit particularly hard, with the local college costing the average family in the bottom quintile of income 55 percent of their earnings now — up from 39 percent in 1999-2000.

Prices are expected to rise again as state legislatures plug huge holes in their budgets, but officials in some states, such as Maryland, Kentucky and North Carolina, say they will try to minimize tuition increases next year.

Many colleges are scrounging for money to maintain and even increase financial aid budgets this year, and the stimulus package moving through Congress is likely to boost Pell Grants for low-income students.

As for private loans, while some private lenders have stopped making loans or tightened standards, there have been no reported problems with students seeking federal loans.

Fifty-three percent of the poll's respondents said colleges could maintain high-quality education while spending less, and 55 percent said higher education pays more attention to the bottom line than to its educational mission.

## SGC-UP explores 'green' initiatives including fee, events

DAVID BARRIOS  
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at University Park has a new "green" position filled and is discussing the possibility of a "green fee" to students' tuition, among other "green" initiatives.

Stephany Alvarez, the newly appointed SGC-UP director of Environmental Affairs, is now in charge of overseeing all the environmental initiatives the council does.

The purpose of the "green fee" is to fund environment-friendly energy initiatives and it would cost 50 cents per credit hour for all students attending FIU.

"All things calculated, it would only cost around \$6 per student to help the environment. It's a small fee," Alvarez said.

The money would be used to invest in projects to improve energy efficiency — conversion of waste into potential energy or solar energy.

"Personally, I am against student fee increases. If the student body requests them or needs them, however, I do my job for them," said SGC-UP President, Arthur J. Meyer.

"I am against the cyclical fee increases that continue to present

themselves. It simply subsidizes the costs for the University from the student's wallet to specific areas."

The SGC-UP council meeting on Feb. 4 agenda continued on a "green" theme as other environmentally focused initiatives throughout the University were discussed.

"Black Out — Green On" is a newly planned approach geared toward housing residents to conserve energy by doing simple routines like turning off home appliances when not in use.

The event is planned for Feb. 10.

During the event, Panthers Going Green, a student club, will be giving information on sustainability while plans are being made to have Roary, the Univer-

sity mascot, along with several athletics players go around the residence halls collecting recyclable items.

It was also noted at the meeting that the University entered Recyclemania, a 10-week, nationwide competition in which schools try to collect as many recyclable items as possible.

The event started on Jan. 18 and will end on March 28.

"It's been a slow start in collecting items but we hope to catch up to the other schools that are competing," Alvarez said.

Alvarez, a member of the president's Climate Task Force and co-president of Students for Environmental Action, was appointed to her position after the graduation of her predecessor, David Fonseca.

## ONE STEP CLOSER



JOEY KOSANAKE/THE BEACON

**ALMOST DONE:** College of Nursing and Health Sciences Lab Clinic celebrated the completion of its new building Feb. 6. The construction began last April and a grand opening is scheduled for December.

## Ponce's community ties useful to board

HONORS, page 1

"What we try to do on our community advisory board is bring in people of different walks of life," said Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean for the Honors College. "The resource they bring is themselves. Their enthusiasm for FIU and for students."

The board offers a broad range of disciplines to complement a school with students of various majors. Their involvement depends on their interest, time and prior commitments.

The board is made up of leaders in their profession that strive for excellence, according to Espinosa.

"They are community-minded people who are already involved in the community at large," he said.

Ponce believes this creates "a sense of community between the University and our wider landscape."

The board must raise funds to support the Honors College and its mission.

According to the Honors College mission statement, the college aims to attract the best and brightest students within and outside FIU, and enable them to develop critical, integrative and creative thinking skills.

"We do want our students to be the best that they can be,"

Espinosa said.

The college tries to foster a sense of community among its students and faculty.

In its literature, the school touts its balancing act of offering the close personal environment of a small liberal arts college, while having the resources of a large, research-oriented university.

They also offer a variety of Honors College Scholarships, special study abroad programs and a variety of other benefits to its students' academic maturity.

Ponce will be helping in organizing a special fund-raiser for next September.

She will be instrumental in designing the program and seeking sponsorship.

"Hopefully we can use that event to showcase the talent of the students," she said.

Ponce will work with the Chair and Co-Chair to put the event together.

According to Ponce, the true task of the Community Advisory Board is "making sure that students have leadership opportunities."

As for her personal role, Ponce says she wants to be involved "so I can support the Honors College mission in mentoring, engagement and lifelong learning."



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## BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE



CYNTHIA FRANCISQUINI/THE BEACON

**IT'S GONNA BLOW:** George Santisteban, senior chemistry major (left), and Marvin Dore, sophomore biology major (right), members of the BBC Science Club, demonstrated different chemical reactions at the SOC Club Fair, Feb. 5 in the Wolfe Center.

## Journalism professor lives up to his own name

**CHARLIE GRAU**  
Senior Staff Writer

John Virtue is a man of principle. Virtue, director of the University's International Media Center, also acts on his principles. He quit his job shortly after newly elected Puerto Rican Governor Rafael Hernández Colón took office in 1985.

Colón ordered all daily newspapers to stop investigations of corruption in the government and instead run stories that were flattering to the administration. That prompted Virtue to quit his job as executive editor of *El Mundo*, a Spanish-language daily newspaper in Puerto Rico where he had worked for five and a half years.

"You have to decide whether or not you are going to be an ethical journalist or quit," Virtue said. "You have to stand up for your principles and [my decision] stood me well."

After stepping down in 1987, Virtue landed at the IMC, where he has been ever since.

"It's not easy to jump out a thousand miles in the ocean," Virtue said.

The IMC, a non-profit research and education center under the umbrella of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, offers training to journalists from all over the world and helps them get their work published in professional media.

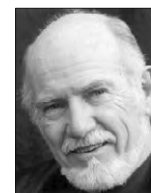
Virtue and other members of the center usually work with independent journalists that operate in Latin American countries where freedom of the press is more restricted than in the United States.

In 1999, the center received a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development that has allowed it to train independent journalists in Latin America.

Virtue and other members of the center teach by holding journalism workshops via video conferences.

They also serve as the journalists' editors and help them get their work published in various newspapers, magazines and Web sites.

Virtue's specialty is conducting ethics and principles workshops. For 17 years, Virtue worked as a foreign correspondent in Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, and has seen first-hand the plights of journalists that don't enjoy the same freedoms as their fellow journalists in the United States.



VIRTUE

On Dec. 16, 2002, he got a chance to give one of his workshops in person to a group of underground journalists in Cuba.

Since he held dual citizenship from the United States and Canada, Virtue was the only member of the center that could make the trip.

"My cover story was that I was a Canadian tourist going down for the jazz festival," Virtue said.

After flying out of Toronto and landing on the island, Virtue was gripped by paranoia with every phone call.

Whenever he went to meet with someone, he would purposely take a taxi to a dummy location, then get into another taxi and head to his original destination.

"They knew I was there, so I just had to be

**VIRTUE, page 5**



## JOIN OUR STAFF!

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

## Ice cream social funds help battle MS

**PAMELA DUQUE**  
BBC Managing Editor

Ice cream and smoothies on a cold night are not what most students had in mind on Feb. 4, but some decided to take one for the team.

Team FIU Biscayne Bay Campus gathered at Cold Stone Creamery in Aventura for their Kick-Off Ice Cream Social from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., to raise funds for the upcoming Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

Last year, Zachary Trautenberg, Team FIU BBC leader and Gregory Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center, decided to join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in the MS Walk, an event taking place March 1 in Aventura to raise money for MS research.

They created Team FIU BBC after Denise Dixon, alumna and former MS Walk coordinator, told them about the cause. Since then, they have raised more than \$1,000.

"The team's goal is to raise \$2,000. That's a little more than double what we made last year," Trautenberg said.

Despite the cold weather, the event's turnout was better than Trautenberg expected. Approximately 30 people showed up.

"I thought the turnout was very good, given it was one of the coldest

nights," Trautenberg said.

Trautenberg himself did not have ice cream because he was too cold, but the attendees, which included students with their families and friends, did take advantage of it.

According to Trautenberg, the most popular flavor was chocolate brownie.

Team FIU BBC, which currently has 12 members, raised \$90 and decided to accept an offer made by the Aventura Cold Stone Creamery manager Abel Ahmed.

"He reached out to us, saying that he would help any student group or organization to raise money," Trautenberg said.

Ahmed also proposed the team give 15 percent of the profits from that night to their cause if at least 44 people attended the ice cream social.

Ahmed chose the number 44 in honor of this year's presidential inauguration, according to Trautenberg.

"Cold Stone Creamery has helped organizations in fund-raising before. They previously assisted the Make a Wish Foundation in their efforts," said Chelsea Case, Cold Stone Creamery employee.

Because there were less than 44 attendees, Team FIU will receive between 12 to 15 percent of the profit.



COURTESY OF ZACH TRAUTENBERG

**ONE FOR THE TEAM:** Bronwen Bares (left), coordinator for Women's Center and Service and Robert Peleaz (right) enjoy some ice cream on Feb. 4 at Cold Stone Creamery.

Attendees also received a 10 percent discount on their ice cream if they brought with them the event flyer. Even those who had not known about the social, but just wanted some ice cream, were able to help the cause.

"It's a wonderful thing to participate in activities that better educate the community on matters such as MS," said Lorette Malik, freshman finance major.

Additional reporting by Natalya Cohen.

# Community seeks campus involvement in new president

FORUM, page 1

tain their namesake while avoiding negative press.

Other concerns addressed in the forums were the unity between the two campuses, and the enhancement of the international aspect of the University, which includes international students, study abroad programs and campuses built abroad.

At the forum held at BBC, Rolda Serieux, senior secretary for the Office of the Vice Provost, wondered about interaction between the two campuses.

"BBC is a very friendly campus. The upcoming president should be able to interact with the campus," Serieux said.

Joyce Peterson, assistant dean of arts and sciences at BBC, said that the new president should be someone who can "articulate and communicate well the University's vision."

Julissa A. Castellanos, director of operations at the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC, worried about the school's reputation among recent high school graduates.

"FIU is seen as a default for local students," said Castellanos, who believes that high school graduates opt to attend FIU when

they can't attend their first choice. "Students say, 'I didn't get into UF but there's always FIU.'"

During the question and answer session, one faculty member was concerned about whether former Chancellor of the State University System Mark Rosenberg's interest in the position and the presumed candidacy of Provost of Academic Affairs Ronald Berkman would complicate the search.

"Does that make your job of flushing out other candidates more difficult if people see very public inside candidates, who people presume have the inside track?" said Alan Gummerson, an economics professor.

Greenwood claims it may or may not complicate the search, but urged that other members within the University system who wish to announce their candidacy not to go through a "running for election" routine and go through the same motions as the other candidates being considered.

Last November, Rosenberg told The Miami Herald he was "very interested" in the position of president, while Berkman said he would wait until the search process began.

The Board of Trustees established the Presidential Search



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS:** Jan Greenwood addressed the audience on Feb. 5 during the forum.

Committee, chaired by Trustee David Parker and the PSAC, headed by Joyce Elam. Consultant firm Greenwood/Asher and Associates was hired to aid in the search.

The BOT PSC will interview Greenwood/Asher's candidates. The finalist will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval.

*Additional reporting by Nathan Valentine and Pamela Duque.*

# Professor helps foreign journalists

VIRTUE, page 4

extra careful," he said.

It was never more apparent than when he was checking into the *Hotel Nacional de Cuba*.

When checking in at the front desk, he noticed a man sitting in the lobby with dark sunglasses reading a

Everything went smoothly, according to Virtue.

He gave his workshop and flew back to Toronto.

On March 13, 2003, many of the journalists who were at Virtue's workshop were arrested.

"As soon as that happened, I said to myself, 'Castro kidnapped my

## You have to decide whether or not you are going to be an ethical journalist or quit.

John Virtue, director  
International Media Center

newspaper.

After Virtue checked in with the front desk receptionist, he headed to his room.

As he was walking away, he heard the man ask the receptionist, "Is that who I am supposed to meet with?"

The receptionist replied, "No, that is John Virtue."

"As soon as I heard that, I knew that was state security," Virtue said.

The next day, Virtue secretly met at the home of one of the independent journalists to give his workshop.

He went over the role of an editor, story ideas and ethics with the small group of journalists.

students," he said.

Despite the arrests, Virtue and his staff continue to train independent journalists and help them get their work published.

To date, there are over 200 independent Cuban journalists registered with the IMC.

Since the trip to Cuba, he's never gone back to the island. He only communicates with the underground journalists there via video conferences, e-mails and letters.

"They have no role models. These are people who have other jobs during the day," said Virtue. "What they are doing is very brave."

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## THE BEACON | Editorial

### MLS franchise could bring prestige, name recognition to University

Major League Soccer, like all professional sports, attracts a tremendous amount of attention.

With the prospect of a professional team making FIU Stadium its home, with the investment aid of FC Barcelona, FIU would be in a great position to reap the rewards of having such a high profile stadium tenant.

One of the best recruiting tools for any university is to have its name on television and with a national television contract, the MLS would bring the name of Florida International University around the country to an expanded base of people.

Having a professional team that gets major national exposure would also make finding a title sponsor for the stadium much easier.

With the backing from the third richest soccer club on Earth, as per the 2007 Deloitte survey, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu is a British professional service firm, and is one of the four largest firms of its type in the world, and releases an annual survey of the richest professional soccer clubs in the world.

Some of the peripheral benefits of having a professional team on campus are the buzz that would be generated on campus and in the community about the team and the stadium.

If the team is able to become successful, the experience of attending a game at FIU Stadium could be something that brings fans back, and in turn, creates new FIU fans.

The attention could turn to the Athletics Department and the school should be able to secure the bonuses that would come with extra community exposure. In turn, the Athletics Department

would be able to expand its product to a broader audience.

The on campus audience would receive a boost. The campus buzz that would be generated would be great for the students and the University, as its growing through its athletic program could continue to blossom.

It isn't necessarily predicted to be a perfect transition, mostly from a traffic standpoint.

This campus has grown accustomed to operating in a certain way and parking could be jeopardized, particularly Lot 6, which is adjacent to the football stadium and used for a housing lot.

There also may be some scheduling issues that need to be worked around, with the MLS season running from April until November, but with FIU playing a home schedule that should be between five and seven games, and the ability to practice in the afternoon or at the FIU recreation fields.

These conflicts should be easy to work around, in a manner similar to the way the New England, New York and Seattle MLS clubs do, as the three all share stadiums with NFL teams in their respective cities.

The issues would be all be workable and the benefits would far outnumber the amount of bumps in the road that FIU would incur with the addition of a professional soccer franchise as an on-campus tenant.

With the backing of an organization like FC Barcelona, the rewards would not only be numerous, they would be apparent far sooner than some might expect.

# 'YOU' TUBE

## Cloning can reawaken history

FIDEL LEBLANC  
Contributing Writer

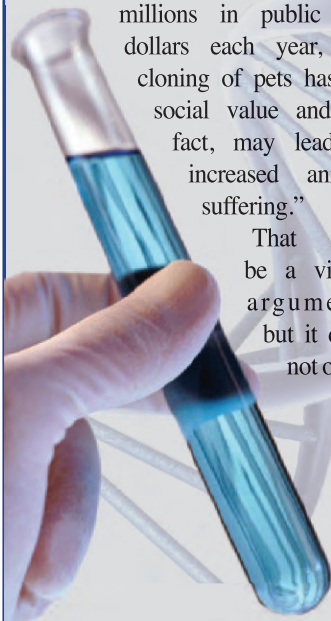
Picture this: A family lives with a beloved dog – a loyal companion. As with all living things, the pet must eventually pass away, leaving a wound upon the entire family.

What would that family give to have their beloved dog back? A Boca Raton couple gave a resounding answer to that question. They paid \$155,000 for a clone of their deceased dog, Sir Lancelot.

The animal was recreated by South Korean genetics company BioArts International. This is undoubtedly a crucial scientific breakthrough in the field of genetics and yet, there are detractors to it.

There are many groups that consider this to be inhumane, such as the Humane Society. This benevolent organization has always stood as a spokesperson for animal rights. Yet now they stand against cloning and restoration of lost life.

The Humane Society said, "Given the current pet overpopulation problem, which costs millions of animals their lives and millions in public tax dollars each year, the cloning of pets has no social value and, in fact, may lead to increased animal suffering."



That may be a viable argument, but it does not over-

shadow the fact that this research in cloning is essential for the preservation of our planet's biological diversity. This goes further than creating a copy of someone's pet; this could lead to the same in humans. Families could potentially clone their lost loved ones.

The Humane Society said that despite the genetic recreation of animals, they would still be different from the original. But does that really matter? To have a child reborn, no matter what sort of personality he develops, may be a relief to a grieving parent. Whether taken by disease, crime or tragic accident, they can be brought back to you. I doubt a parent would care much if their new child's personality was different, as long as they had their child. Unless, of course, they – like the overly religious masses – believe that cloning a human being interferes with God's plan.

Happiness would definitely be achieved if a family who lost their child to a terminal disease or a birth defect could have a second chance.

A more powerful message has been sent to the world about the significance of cloning, one which supercedes the simple copying of a pet's genetic material: the cloning of an extinct species. The Pyrenean ibex, an extinct species of mountain goat, was recently resurrected by geneticists from the University of Zaragoza in northern Spain. This is yet another monumental advance in the restorative field of genetics – and a revolutionary birth.

Imagine bringing back the dodo bird, the allosaurus or the sabertooth tiger. These animals – and many others – could be brought back for research once the process of cloning extinct species

is perfected. Not only would this help us study the lost past, it would allow us to protect the endangered future. In modern times, many species are endangered.

The American alligator, the Florida panther and the giant panda are examples of animals that we risk losing forever. But with the ability to clone, these creatures could be saved and preserved for future generations to admire with the same awe and wonder we do today.

The most exciting, if not controversial, prospect of perfecting genetic cloning for species thought long gone is the cloning of prehistoric man. If paleontologists and archaeologists could find enough DNA on, say, Lucy the Australopithecus' skull, geneticists could realistically create a new Lucy. That would arguably be the most significant scientific success in the history of modern science. This possibility must not be hindered by religious radicals and nay-sayers. It must be pushed as far as it can be pushed and advanced until it is perfected.

There is no excuse for research to be stopped, and it mustn't be. If we want to truly unlock the mystery of the past of humanity, this is integral. So many questions would be answered, including: creationism or evolution? If this goes through, it will be a great indicator of how far we have advanced as a species and it will unravel the mysterious tapestry of human history.

Looking to clone your thoughts?  
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or post them on [fiusm.com/opinion](http://fiusm.com/opinion)

# Michael Phelps is a winner, yes – but also human

MATTHEW RUCKMAN  
Staff Writer

Michael Phelps won eight Olympic medals in 2008. He'll probably receive another award, a Stony Award from *High Times* magazine for taking the most published bong hit of the year. Phelps was recently-caught on camera phone at a college party using a piece of paraphernalia reserved for smoking marijuana. The published photo caused the world to recoil at the golden boy's blunder.

Phelps, after routing the competition in Beijing, enjoyed a level of fame known by few Olympic athletes. The National Aquatics Center even declared that he was "the greatest Olympian of all time."

Sponsorship dollars flowed in to the tune of a \$100 million by such

brands as Hilton Hotels, Kellogg's, Rosetta Stone and Speedo.

Columnists wrote of the lack of judgment shown by one looked up to by so many. A *Washington Post* article declared, "If you want to read that it's OK to take bong hits because you're 23 years old and the best swimmer in history, cast your eyes elsewhere..."

USA Swimming, the sport's governing body, also suspended Phelps from competition and cut off his financial support for three months.

They yelled that he was a spokesman and a role model, exclaiming "we had made an investment in him," and that he had betrayed the public trust.

They're wrong and their outrage is laughable. Phelps' actions are simply those of a young man. Any trust we

placed in him was our own mistake and a lack of consideration for the fact that he is a person, not just a body that swims exceptionally well. If the old adage that every betrayal begins with trust is correct, who's really to blame? When a human being is set up like some heathen totem, one shouldn't be shocked at Phelps' slip.

The only ones in my eyes that have any cause for grievance are the sponsors. They signed agreements with Phelps, agreements that stated he had to comport himself in a manner befitting Nike's sweatshops, Kellogg's cereal or Hilton Hotels.

They are the ones whose reputations are on the line. However, the fault is theirs as it is ours. These companies, before putting Phelps' face on every piece of retail, might perform a little due diligence on the

man they're commoditizing and realize that yes, he may be able to keep up with a small watercraft, but he's no altar for children to worship; Phelps, in 2004, was caught drinking while driving.

One lesson to take away from Michael Phelps is that the commercialization of heroes is an inherently flawed construct. A hero's worth is by their actions, not by how much they are plugged in advertisements. They exist mostly in anonymity, not seeking the spotlight or glory. Phelps just seems to be someone who can swim fast.

There is something positive that can be taken from this incident: You can be an Olympic champion and smoke pot – the two aren't exclusive. And my guess is that when Phelps, who has double the lung capacity,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOSOMETHING.ORG

takes a toke, he pulls down the cloud cover. It may be that what makes a great swimmer also makes a great pothead. Who knew?

## How will you spend your **SPRING BREAK?**

### Alternative Break offers service, humanitarian work over parties

**KASSANDRA POOL**  
 Staff Writer

Forget the partying and tanning on the beach and say hello to community service during spring break.

Alternative Breaks (formerly Alternative Spring Breaks), which began in 1994, is a service organization that allows students to help a community in need and was renamed due to demand of students wanting to go on more trips throughout the year.

Angel Garcia, UP's Center for Leadership coordinator, has been in charge of the program for the past two years.

"We are very excited about the spirit of service our FIU community has shown. In return we have given all of our members an incredible experience that is sure to change their lives," he said.

The program now has 22 different trips to offer students, Garcia said.

This year alone 490

students applied, 220 of which were selected to travel across the world.

Students have the opportunity to work on issues they feel strongly about.

Women's rights issues, animal rights, children's health and addiction rehab are just some of the causes students can select to work for when they apply to AB.

For student and co-director of AB, Rayda Rojas, participating in the program has been an eye-opening experience.

"I have the opportunity to be a part of the 'ripple effect,'" said Rojas. "Working with Alternative Breaks has allowed me to learn about social issues that affect all of humanity. I serve my community, all while being able to empower other FIU students to pay it forward."

Locations for these trips are never disclosed until applicants have been interviewed and selected because the committee wants to ensure that students choose in terms of the social issue they feel passionate about and not the destination they wish to go, according to

Rojas.

Past trips have taken students to Orlando, Washington, New York and, internationally, to the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Thailand.

The next trip will take place in Colorado Springs where participants will have the opportunity to work on animal sanctuaries during the week of spring break.

Sophomore and first-time participant Nathalie Batista is eager to learn about animal rights and discover why people are so passionate about banning animal cruelty.

For students such as Batista, participating in the program is sure to be an enlightening experience.

"I love giving back in any way I can and I'm excited and proud to say that it is what I'll be doing during my spring break," Batista said.

Students interested in the AB program can pick up applications in GC 2210 or visit <http://www.fiu.edu/~abreak> for more information.



PHD: Piled Higher and Deeper By: Jorge Cham

## diversions



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez



## MOMENT OF CLARITY

### Unpredictable Fiasco does not let fans down

It's hard to guess with Lupe industry that, despite his love for music, he was going to call Fiasco now.

First, he said that his next album is going to be his last - which basically ripped his fans' heart out, grabbed a baseball bat and hit it 200 feet.

Then, to ease things, he said the last effort - to be titled LUPend - was going to be a three-disc set, somewhat providing CPR and relief to the fan base.

But now, Lupe wrote on his personal Web site that he plans to cancel LUPend, and drop an album called *The Great American Rap Album*.

The change of plans is surprising since just months ago, the 26-year-old Lupe seemed so fed up enough with the rap

industry that, despite his love for music, he was going to call it quits.



JONATHAN RAMOS

Even crazier, Lupe said the album would have 11 tracks, and one through 10 were going to be called "Song No. 1," "Song No. 2," and so on, with the last joint being called "The greatest rap song ever made."

Now, I know old boy is as creative as there is in hip-hop, but he's just all over the place. And it's great.

Also mentioning that LUPend would still likely drop after this album, it leaves more than one project left for Lupe.

I felt that he was not finished

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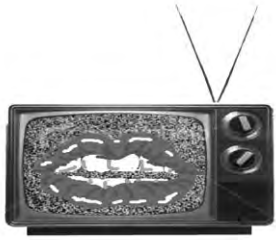
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## POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

# Elitism shuns solid pop songs, limits music range

Since I like to fancy myself a would-be music critic, I would like to pretend that I have far superior taste than the unwashed masses.

There are times when I unconsciously attempt to create an air of superiority by turning up my nose at the latest pop fad or lamenting the plight of some band that all of 35 people in the tri-county area have even heard of.

I have been accused of hating anything that is popular, and I've talked down to friends for their acceptance of whatever the latest band of the moment might be.

While I have mellowed some in my old age, I still, at times, come off as an enormously pretentious, judgmental, musical know-it-all.

This is all a façade, you see.

Beneath my hardened exterior is a side of me that is only recently making its way to the surface. It is a part that I had tried for years to hide. But now, I am trying to embrace it.

There was a point, about 7 years ago, when I put down my Blink 182 and Incubus albums and started listening to "serious" music. I began scorning anything on the

radio or MTV, and this actually helped open me up to all sorts of different sounds I never would have listened to.

While I was being exposed to music that eschewed traditional musical standards of melody, structure and sound, I thought I was happy.

Sure, I couldn't talk to anyone I knew about this music, but that was only because I was so far above everyone and there was nothing to be gained by lowering myself to that level.

Most people see themselves broaden their horizons and move away from the mainstream of pop culture when they enter college, which explains why college radio stations and album charts are so different than their mainstream counterparts.

But I've noticed as I am in the middle of my junior year that something of the opposite has happened to me. As I get older, I find myself being drawn to pop music more and more.

A few years back, I found some of those old Blink 182 CDs and realized just how much I still loved them. Then, for laughs, I downloaded other popular albums from bands like Fall Out Boy and My Chemical Romance.

Much to my surprise, I found myself listening to them way more than I had ever intended and, before I knew it, I was singing along in my car.

It's probably a bit strange to admit that pop punk bands have broadened my musical horizons, but it is what it is. Since that time, I've found myself drawn much more to simple pop music than music I once considered "intellectually challenging."

Most pop songs aren't breaking any new ground, but there is a reason the three-minute pop song has been the dominant form of music for 50 years. In all reality, popular music hasn't changed since The Beatles.

Sure, the elements have changed – going from a simple guitar, drums and bass style to more complex 64 track productions featuring a whole array of instruments – but the overall design of the pop song is still the same as it was when John and Paul wrote "She Loves You." Now, this isn't to say that I don't ever listen to anything but pop music. On the contrary, most of the music I listen to is still found squarely outside of the mainstream.

But that just isn't a prerequisite for me anymore.

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS

# Lupe Fiasco hopeful for Grammy, future unknown

RAMOS, page 7

after one album and would end up coming back to the game, but even better, he realized he wasn't done before he released his so-called last album.

"I hate the music business ... but I love music...Grammy's, here we come!!!," Lupe wrote on his label 1st and 15th's Web site, [fnfarmy.lupefiasco.com](http://fnfarmy.lupefiasco.com).

So Lupe, who was nominated for four Grammy's yesterday, is far from done.

This is significant because Lupe Fiasco is arguably the best rap artist in the game.

I would love to hear from anybody who wants to discuss it, because I feel like there are a few rappers who also deserve that title as well, but I'm kind of a Lupe fan.

After his first album *Food and Liquor* garnered Grammy love, his sophomore effort, *The Cool*, was nearly as good, but different.

It still featured Lupe slicing beats and sending a message, but his rhyme patterns varied more and he finally had a huge breakout hit, "Superstar."

So if you can guess what Lu is doing this time, your name is Wasalu Jaco, because nobody else but him seems to know at this point.

Who knows, maybe he changes his mind in a month, but it looks like



Fiasco fans can breathe and know that the former *GQ* Man of the Year is as inspired as ever.

This looks to be an interesting year for his label with forthcoming projects by Matthew Santos, the singer on "Superstar," set to hit the shelves.

Hopefully, Lu's up-and-coming label-mate Gemstones can also close in on releasing an album of his own.

But the breadwinner of the label is still Lupe.

And whatever he does is an important piece of holding hip-hop together and carrying it into the future.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY •  
FEBRUARY 9

WHAT: BB King Blues Festival  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
WHERE: Kravis Center  
CONTACT: 561-686-7000

WHAT: The Chat Noir Valentine's Show  
WHEN: 11 p.m.  
WHERE: Dream  
CONTACT: 305-674-8018

WHAT: Sex Carnival  
WHEN: 12 p.m.  
WHERE: GC Pit  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHAT: European Film Festival  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 150  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHAT: French Club meeting  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 241  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

TUESDAY •  
FEBRUARY 10

WHAT: A Bronx Tale  
WHEN: Parker Playhouse  
WHERE: 8 p.m.  
CONTACT: 954-764-1441

WHAT: Brendan O'Hara & Komakozie  
WHEN: 10 p.m.  
WHERE: Florida Room  
CONTACT: 305-672-2000

WHAT: Casa De HaHa  
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Sweat Records  
CONTACT: 305-758-5862

WHAT: French Film Marathon  
WHEN: 1:30 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 140  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHAT: European Film Festival  
WHEN: 2:30 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 150  
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

Compiled By: Mariana Ochoa

# He keeps the HEAT on their feet

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Photography by mariapaola 8497 09/08



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

# Hitting may fill up the seats, but pitching wins ball games

**BONILLA, page 12**

tion of pitches we have will really work," Barrett said before the season started.

Offense is something that will show up in enough games to be a .500 team. In the first four games of the season, the pitching staff allowed a total of 10 runs. Home runs may look nice and pump up the crowd, but pitching complete

game shutouts will make any coach smile.

If the team continues to be that stingy on the mound, the offense will not be overwhelmed and manufacture some runs.

Last season, the team posted a 3.93 earned run average (ERA).

If the Golden Panthers can reduce that number to just a shade over three for the entire season, they can start booking their

flights to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Going into the season, head coach Beth McClendon felt her team's offense was going to be its driving force.

Although the season is young, the Golden Panthers may resort to power pitching rather than hitting to post up some Ws on their record.

**SWINGING FOR THE FENCES:** Katie Bell swings from an Auburn pitcher on Feb. 7. The team lost 2-1 in nine innings.

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	17-7	11-2	.708
Troy	15-10	10-3	.600
Middle Tennessee	15-9	8-4	.625
South Alabama	13-11	6-7	.542
Florida International	10-16	5-8	.385
Florida Atlantic	5-19	1-11	.208

\*All records up to date as of Feb. 7

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	20-4	12-0	.833
South Alabama	16-7	7-5	.696
Western Kentucky	13-9	7-5	.591
Troy	11-12	6-7	.428
Florida Atlantic	9-14	6-7	.391
Florida International	6-18	4-9	.250

\*All records up to date as of Feb. 7

# Turnovers spark second half rally

**MEN'S, page 12**

drove for a layup with 0.3 seconds left that forced the game into extra time.

Boone, the Red Wolves' leading scorer, was held to 3-for-15 shooting on the night.

The comeback effort

saw FIU force 13 turnovers in the critical second period, and have just seven giveaways of their own.

In the overtime session, ASU went 2-for-11 from the field as the Golden Panthers sealed the game with a pair of Josue Soto free throws.

Soto led the team with 40 minutes and scored 16 points with four rebounds and three assists.

Freshman center Freddy Asprilla missed the game with recurring back issues.

### FIVE TO PLAY

The Golden Panthers

conclude their regular season schedule with a game Feb. 12 at South Alabama, following a meeting with Troy a week after.

With this win, the Golden Panthers have more wins than last season.

# Rebounds spell two wins in a row

**WOMEN'S, page 12**

overs," Russo said.

The second half was when FIU's defense shined, as they held the Red Wolves to just five field goals the entire half.

Bosilj hit her record tying shot from downtown

at the 18:37 mark to put FIU up 30-27.

Michelle Gonzalez was fouled twice with under a minute to play.

She knocked down all four of her shots from the charity stripe to make the score 55-42 with 33 seconds to play.

Lyndsay Schlup was then fouled for ASU, however, with just 20 seconds to play, her two free-throw shots wouldn't mean much and FIU was able to take their fourth home win of the season.

FIU (6-18, 4-9 Sun Belt) out-rebounded ASU 41

to 28, 16-9 on the second chances, and shot 39.6 percent compared to 30.6 for the Red Wolves.

The Golden Panthers will look to continue their winning streak Wednesday night when they travel to Mobile to take on South Alabama.

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## SOFTBALL SEASON OPENER

# Team drops three of four

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Staff Writer

FIU's softball team's opening games yielded limited offense and tough out of conference opponents.

The Golden Panthers (1-3) lost three of the first four games of the FIU Combat Classic on Feb. 6-7.

Head coach Beth McClendon didn't see much offense against Louisville and had a freshman pitcher debut against No. 18 ranked North Carolina, but she seemed positive about keeping her team focused on winning.

"I think it's going to happen," said McClendon. "I think it's tough when teams rely solely on their offense, which is where we were last year. A team that wins championships, pitch and play defense, your offense has good and bad days."

## LOUISVILLE 5, FIU 1

On the season's opening inning, Jessica Landau singled to right field, scoring Desiree Fink who was on second after smacking a single and advancing on a wild pitch. The University of Louisville responded in the top of the 5th inning when Kristi Cunningham hit a three-run homer to center field, giving UL a 3-1 lead.

FIU freshman Ashley McClain came into pitch in the top of the 7th inning after starting pitcher Kasey Barrett gave up a double to Chelsea Beamis. On the first pitch from McClain, Cunningham hit a ball deep to left field. Jenny Welch went up to make the catch, however it hit the tip of her glove and sailed over the fence allowing UL to win 5-1.

## NORTH CAROLINA 1, FIU 0

Jennifer Gniadek made her freshman debut against No. 18 University of North Carolina; she

allowed just three hits and didn't give up an earned run. FIU had opportunities to back her up on the offensive end but fell short in a 1-0 loss.

Anna Roberts sat on first for UNC after walking. Danielle Spaulding then came up with a line drive to center field where Morgan Huling wouldn't be able to make the play, allowing the ball to roll under her glove. Her throw to home plate was off and UNC was able to make the game-winning score in the bottom of the 7th.

## FIU 10, TEXAS A & M CC 2

FIU was able to pick things up on offense and grab their first win of the season against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Freshman Ashley McClain went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs. Senior Katie Bell also had three and Desiree Fink tapped in two.

Paige Cassidy was the winning



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**WINDING UP:** Pitcher Kasey Barrett prepares to throw a pitch against the University of Louisville on Feb. 6. She gave up four runs in 6.2 innings.

pitcher with four hits and she gave up two earned runs.

"I don't feel like energy is ever this team's issue," said McClendon. "They want to be here and they want to do big things."

## AUBURN 2, FIU 1

Auburn took the first lead in the top of the sixth. With runners on first and second, Amber Harrison doubled to score Katie Colon. FIU

responded in the bottom of the sixth. Fink smacked a single and advanced two second on a sacrifice hit by Katie Bell.

Anna Thompson threw a wild pitch, Fink advanced to third and scored when Landau singled to right field, tying at 1-1. In the top of the 9th, Auburn was able to bat in another run after Carolina Rojas mishandled a throw from Kim Rodriguez.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 80, 76

## COMEBACK TRAIL

Down by 21 points,  
Golden Panthers  
rally for overtime win

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Director

Arkansas State University had every answer in the first half.

En route to a 32-16 deficit going into the locker room, the Golden Panthers could not find a rhythm as they struggled with a 6-for-24 shooting effort, including no player having more than four points.

That was before Tremayne Russell came in.

Russell emerged from the bench after not playing in the first period and scored 11 points, seven of them from the foul line.

Russell also contributed four steals as he injected life into FIU in a second-half in which the Golden Panthers (10-16, 5-8 Sun Belt) came from 21 points down to secure the 80-76 victory in overtime on Feb. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"He got us going off the bench and that's what I need from Tremayne," said head coach Sergio Rouco. "He's a reckless kid and we have to live with his recklessness offensively. He came in and he changed the whole momentum."

The Red Wolves (13-10, 5-7) were led by Eric McKinney's 19 points and also got 11-point games out of Donald Boone and Brandon Ayers.

But Russell led a 64-point charge for the Golden Panthers in what was their highest scoring half this season. ASU held the 21-point lead with 14:03 minutes remaining in regulation.

"I'm ecstatic. With the luck we have had and the games we've lost we could have easily rolled over," Rouco said. "I'm ecstatic for Russell [Hicks] and Alex [Galindo], that are our seniors and I really want them to finish on a positive note. We went with a smaller lineup and it changed the momentum."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**SHOOTING THE J:** Forward Alex Galindo shoots a mid-range shot against Arkansas State on Feb. 7. He scored 23 points and made a critical 3-pointer in the team's overtime win.

### SENIOR STAR

FIU could not muster any offense in the first period, in part due to senior Alex Galindo's struggles.

With former Golden Panther and current player of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats Raja Bell in attendance, Galindo scored 19 points in the second period and hit numerous big plays in overtime.

"We stayed together," Galindo said. "At halftime we talked, and we hit our second half shots. I was trying to do the best that I can to help my team win."

With 1:50 left in overtime, Galindo

converted on a layup and got fouled, resulting in three points for FIU.

"I had to do something different because my three wasn't falling," he said.

That wasn't for long, as Galindo converted on a deep three-pointer that gave FIU the lead at 77-74, and put a dagger into the Red Wolves they could not overcome.

The Golden Panthers looked like they had control of the contest and would not need overtime to win, but Boone

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*Pitching will benefit team's future rather than offense*

From last season to this one, the Golden Panthers may have suffered a power outage.

Losing senior home run hitters should affect a team's offense, but something more telling is evident thus far this season.

The once offense-oriented team now has a pitching staff capable of shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation.

Cue to true freshman Jennifer Gniadek shutting down the University of North Carolina through 6.1 innings.

Losing some hitting may not be something to jump up in joy for, but in the end, more pitching will yield a better season and a better team.

The team's ace, Kasey Barrett, was on an island by herself last season because she did not have help on her staff.

With Gniadek and Paige Cassidy providing some relief for Barrett, the team's No. 1 starter will not be worn out by season's end. The 220.1 innings she pitched last season made a legitimate Sun Belt Conference run a dream.

With more depth on the pitching staff comes a variety of pitching styles.

Barrett herself mentioned that every pitcher is capable of throwing some of the same pitches, but each player has her own go-to pitch.

Barrett's riseball is her bread and butter, but her teammates don't duplicate her mastery of that pitch.

"That's the thing about our pitching staff. We each have a specialty, one of us might have a riseball, another may have a dropball or even a curve. That combina-

### COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 55, ARKANSAS ST. 44

## Second half defense decides game

STEPHANIE GABRIEL  
Staff Writer

Head coach Cindy Russo believes her team is still in the hunt.

"We gained some momentum and confidence," said Russo. "We're going to keep winning; we still have a chance."

The Golden Panthers' womens basketball team will continue to roll on a two-game winning streak after a solid defensive performance that led to a 55-44 victory over Arkansas State University Red Wolves at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Feb. 7.

Jasmine Jenkins had one of her best performances of the season, knocking down a season-high 14 points, seven

rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

Junior guard Monika Bosilj, also with a memorable performance, tied the school record for most three-pointers in a single season with 58.

She scored 11 points along with six boards and tied her career-high for steals with five.

"I don't know what was going on with my shooting but thank god a few threes went in," Bosilj said.

FIU came out and took the first lead of the game on a 7-2 run.

However, ASU responded with a 12-0 run, which included eight FIU turnovers, to take the lead at 14-7 with 11:08 minutes to play in the first half.

ASU's run was stopped after point guard

Michelle Gonzalez made a layup followed by back-to-back shots by junior forward Marquita Adley to cut the Red Wolves lead 14-13 at the 9:14 mark.

Despite turning the ball over seven times, Gonzalez finished the night with 13 points and five assists.

The teams exchanged baskets throughout the remainder of the first half, neither team able to make a three-point shot. It was 17 turnovers that proved to be too much for the Golden Panthers to overcome in the first half as they headed to the locker room down 27-25.

"We're playing some great defense and rebounding but still struggling with turn-

**WOMEN'S, page 10**



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

**BALL CONTROL:** Point guard Michelle Gonzalez dribbles the ball away from a defender. The team overcame 17 first half turnovers.