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## The Beacon, January 21, 2009

Florida International University

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## SPOTLIGHT

### EDITORIAL PAGE 4

University's decision to hire executive search firm unnecessary in light of budget crisis, other options.

### AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Students can now cool off at the new Recreation Center Aquatics Complex! SGA promises campus improvements will continue.

### SPORTS PAGE 8



Six-game losing streak snapped at home in highly contested game.

### LIFE! PAGE 6

COLUMN: Eddith Sevilla registers for HOPE. The Hispanic Obesity Prevention and Education program gives her pointers on how to lose weight.

### OPINION PAGE 4

For kids to get back outside and into reality, parents need to pull the plugs on their electronic obsessions.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Film Club Meeting, Jan. 21, 5:00-6:00 p.m.:** Hang out with the cool kids and get your celluloid on at the FIU Film Club's meeting tonight in GC 340. Bring your inner film critic.

**Women's Basketball, FIU vs. North Texas, Jan. 21, 7:00 p.m.:** Bust out your panther pride and come out to support the women's basketball team at U.S. Century Bank Arena as they take on the North Texas' Mean Greens. Show them who's fierce!

**Flow: Triangulation, Jan. 21, 7:30-11:30 p.m.:** Swing by the Graham Center Piano Room to catch the latest student art show, Flow: Triangulation. The exhibition is free so do your pockets a favor and get cultured.

**So You Think You Can Dance? Finals, Jan. 21, 8:00 p.m.:** The final 10 contestants in Dance Marathon's "So You Think You Can Dance?" competition are going head to head in the GC Ballrooms in the final battle. Come cheer on your favorite dancer.

For the complete calendar, please see page 5 or visit FIUSM.com.

### WEATHER

**WEDNESDAY**  
Few Showers  
LOW: 50 HIGH: 70

**THURSDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 55 HIGH: 72

**FRIDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 56 HIGH: 74

### CONTACTS

Editor in Chief ..... 305-348-1580  
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

UP Office ..... 305-348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office ..... 305-919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections ..... 305-348-2709  
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising ..... 305-348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

# FIT FOR A KING



MICHAEL UPRIGHT / UTS

**STONE OF HOPE:** The keynote speaker for the 2009 MLK Commemorative breakfast, Julianne Malveaux (left), president of Bennett College for Women, meets Trustee Al Dotson (right).

## Dream still alive 45 years later

**LAUREN AGOSTO**  
Staff Writer

The 18th Annual Commemorative Breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. took place on the morning of Jan. 16.

The event's theme was "Stone of Hope" and "Hew a stone of hope from segregation's mountain of despair" was the primary message of the event where students, faculty and members of the community gathered to commemorate a man known for his fundamental role in the American civil rights movement.

"Dr. King symbolizes the civil rights movement. He left us a legacy that we have not yet attained, but he certainly laid out the fundamentals for what social and economic justice is," said Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women.

Malveaux, the keynote speaker, delivered a message of hope and faith in the midst of a recession, speaking about the activist work the students of her college have done and are doing.

"Our whole nation is celebrating the prophetic genius of a civil rights organizer, preacher and teacher who sparked our imaginations, galvanized our spirits, transformed our nation from one that took segregation

for granted to one that has now elected an African-American man as president," Malveaux said. "What a difference 45 years makes."

Malveaux spoke about cases where slaves were able to pay their owners to let them go.

"Whenever you hear the words 'buy themselves back,' a chill ought to run through you," she said. "How could someone have to buy them-

from the education budget and increasing the interest rate on student loans, the nation is not investing in its future.

"If we don't educate students now, who will run America in the next 20 years?" Malveaux asked. "Anyone who has a brain and wants to perform ought to have that opportunity. We can't lock young people out."

She called for a more exper-

*"If we don't educate students now, who will run America in the next 20 years?"*

Julianne Malveaux  
president, Bennett College for Women

selfes back?"

She spoke of a man called "Free Frank" who made a deal with his master and was able to buy himself and 16 of his relatives back. The master went back and changed the deal, but he was never deterred.

Malveaux then explained, "That is what is meant by 'The Stone of Hope.'"

Malveaux referred to the increased need for food stamps, the lack of jobs and the fact that one in every five Americans is facing foreclosure. She said that by cutting so much

imental approach to education, one which immerses students in their field of interest.

"I thought the event was fabulous, the thing I enjoyed about it most was Dr. Malveaux's suggestion that everybody get involved and push for 1 percent interest [rate on] student loans," said Cheryl Nowell, director of counseling and psychological services. "I was really interested to hear her perspective on education and how economy ties into

MLK, page 6

## THE FIFTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

# Firm hired to facilitate search

**JULIO MENACHE**  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 12, the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Committee took one step closer to finding a new University president by choosing an executive search firm. The six-person committee voted unanimously to hire Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. to work with the committee to create a short list of suitable candidates for the presidency.

The firm, which is based in Miramar Beach, Fla., was praised by committee members for its past assistance to the University such as helping to hire faculty for the School of Nursing and for its experience in hiring other university presidents for schools across the nation, namely University of Florida and University of Texas at Austin.

According to an e-mail sent by the committee's Chairman David Parker, the firm is led by former Longwood University President Jan Greenwood and Betty Asher.

"My colleagues on the search committee and I feel that their [Greenwood/Asher] experience and understanding of FIU's environment, together with their willingness to personally work with us through this process, make them the best fit for us," Parker said in an e-mail.

The firm was among the top two presented to the committee, after a thorough evaluation process spearheaded by the Request for Proposal Evaluation Committee, headed by Senior Vice President and CFO Vivian Sanchez.

"It became very clear to us that people are not going to find us. We really need to go out and find a search firm that will have an outreach mechanism," Sanchez said during the meeting.

The evaluation committee contacted 22 executive search firms that had helped place a university president and/or chancellor in the last year.

"We scheduled conference calls to make sure the RFPs were clear," Sanchez said. "Many if not all the vendors were present - it was very interactive: good questions and answers."

The evaluation committee later received 12 responses and narrowed the list down to the top four firms, which included R. William Funk and Associates, Issacs and Miller, Parker Executive Search and Greenwood/Asher.

Each of the four firms was graded thoroughly by a set of criteria, including technical information, the firm's experience, personnel and the fixed fee proposal. The evaluation further narrowed the pool to Funk and Associates and Greenwood/Asher.

The search committee then spent a good portion of the meeting debating the merits of the two firms. Both had worked with the University in the past and had favorable rates. What separated the two, however, was the fact that William Funk and Associates' search for a vice president of advancement had come up dry, in what Sanchez described as a more "hands-off approach" to selecting candidates.

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## NEWS FLASH

FIU

**Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2008 through 2011 reached**

The Board of Trustees and the American Federation of State reached an agreement on the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2008-2011. President Modesto A. Maidique announced in an e-mail sent to the University community Jan. 15.

Employees hired on or before July 1, 2008, who remained employed through Dec. 23, 2008 and received a “satisfactory” performance on their annual report, are eligible for a 2 percent salary increase for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Also, 0.5 percent pool of funds has been allocated to give merit bonuses to employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance.

For the 2009-10 year, employees hired on or before July 1, 2009, who will remain employed through Dec. 23, 2009 and receive a “satisfactory” performance on their annual report are eligible for a 1 percent salary increase for the 2009-10 fiscal year. In addition, a 1 percent pool of funds has been allocated to give merit bonuses to employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance.

Any questions should be directed to the Division of Human Resources at (305) 348-7259.

## LOCAL

**Two men kill store manager, escape police**

Police are searching for two young men wanted for murder of a Miami-Dade video game store manager during an attempted murder, according to *cbs4.com*.

Justis “Juice” Martin, 20, and Valery “Valet” Pierre-Toussaint, 20, are wanted for the murder of 24-year-old Corey Robinson.

Both men and a third person, Daniel St. Surin, entered the Multivest Xtreme Video Games store on N.W. 183rd Street shooting and with the intention to rob the store on Aug. 15, 2008. Robinson fired back and Surin died inside the store. Robinson was taken to Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood where he died. The surveillance tape shows a white SUV leaving the area, police said. Anyone with information call Miami-Dade Crimestoppers at (305) 471-TIPS or the Miami-Dade Police Department Homicide Bureau at (305) 471-2400.

– Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

## Local Democrat rallies student support

**MILVIONNE CHERY**  
Staff Writer

The University College Democrats welcomed Democrat B.J. Chiszar to its meeting to speak about the 2008 national elections, local governments and the current budget crisis.

Chiszar, the chairman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, started off the evening by thanking students for voting in the 2008 presidential election.

At the meeting, held Jan. 15, Chiszar praised the Democratic Party’s huge success in the national 2008 elections. However, he could not praise the fact that the party failed in most of the Florida elections.

“It doesn’t feel like a blue state,” Chiszar said.

Florida went to Obama in the election, but the majority of Florida’s government positions went to Republicans.

Chiszar believes that citizens should not lose their energy for the Democratic Party after Obama won the presidential election.

“Local parties need you,” Chiszar said.

He encouraged students to take part in the Miami-Dade County Democratic Executive Committee. At the end of the meeting, he handed out membership applications to all students. Chiszar also handed out absentee ballot request forms.

“Democrats need to get in the habit of filling out absentee ballots instead of

waiting in lines at the polls,” he said. “Republicans have a lead over the Democrats in absentee ballots.”

Chiszar continued by stating that if anyone fills out an absentee ballot and turns it in, they will receive the mail-in ballot 21 to 28 days prior the election. According to him, voting in local elections is just the starting point in which people can get involved in their local government.

Chiszar stated that he was impressed with how Miami-Dade public school teachers, children and parents were coming together to rally the government against budget cuts.

“At the end of the night, it all comes down to taking some action,” Chiszar said.

Currently, the DEC is working on getting signatures on a petition to make it easier for employees to unionize.

He also mentioned that legislatures will listen to a group of college students who write letters or rally for fewer budget cuts.

“Chiszar did an excellent job and got me really excited for local politics,” said Savannah Altvater, a member of College Democrats.

“I thought it was fantastic,” said co-President of College Democrats Christopher Cabral. “It was a great opportunity for students to meet one of the most important figures in local Democratic Party politics.”

At 29, B.J. Chiszar is the youngest chairman of any political party in the county.

## Search for qualified president no easy feat

BOT, page 1

“The firm’s approach was more of an external relationship, more than internal approach by working with our committees,” Sanchez said during her report.

In the end, after reviewing the criteria used to rate the firms, the search committee moved to employ Greenwood/Asher and Associates.

According to Parker, the total cost for hiring the firm will be \$98,000, in addition to incidental expenditures such as travel. The University has not provided details regarding the sources of funding to *The Beacon* as of press time.

Members of the committee spent the last half of their meeting discussing certain qualifications they would look

for in a candidate. Chairman Parker read a draft of desired qualifications that had been compiled in previous meetings, such as the ability to transform the University from a publicly funded one to a publicly supported one, increase academic excellence and community engagement, among others. A list of qualifications, however, is still being drafted.

Committee members Claudia Puig and Patricia Frost stressed that the new president should have an immense understanding of the local community.

“This is a Hispanic/international community. [The new president] needs to be able to navigate through this diverse community,” Puig said.

While the committee is about to undertake a nationwide search for quali-

fied candidates, one may be much closer to home: Mark Rosenberg, the current chancellor of the State University System of Florida. Earlier this fall, Rosenberg announced he will step down this February from his post and will return to teaching at FIU. After President Maidique’s resignation on Nov. 14, Rosenberg was quoted in *The Miami Herald* expressing interest in the position. He has already served as provost, vice president and as acting president for a short period in 1999.

“Rosenberg will go through the search and evaluation process if he is a candidate,” Parker told *The Beacon* in an e-mail. “The same will be for any candidate who self-nominates or is nominated by others.”

## SGC-UP discusses upcoming projects

**DAVID A. BARRIOS**  
Senior Staff Writer

The executive and legislative branch of Student Government Council-University Park, convened in a joint session Jan. 14. The meeting, chaired by A.J. Meyer, SGC-UP president, stated the overall goals of the council for this semester.

Meyer announced an upcoming meeting with Felecia Townsend, director of Business Services, about the new Chili’s Too, the franchise establishment that is to replace Gracie’s Grill.

“There were some mixed reactions about removing Gracie’s from that area and replacing it with a Chili’s, but overall, it’s a great opportunity for our student body to know the name of Chili’s and have that on our campus,” Meyer said.

Meyer also warned the body that he would be unavailable at certain points throughout the semester.

“There may be times where Paige [LaPointe, vice pres-

ident] will have to convene some of the student government executive board meetings,” Meyer said.

He cited prior responsibilities with the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Florida Student Association as cause for his absences.

Marlon Bright, director of special projects, commented on the status of establishing the proposed PantherTV project, one of the platforms that Meyer ran on.

“Basically, what we ran into last semester was a bit of a struggle but nothing that we cannot persevere through. We’ve just got to work with Student Media and make this really happen,” Bright said.

He promised that more information on the project would arrive in the coming weeks.

Comptroller Robert Chung spoke about upcoming budget proposals for the 2009-2010 school year to the joint body. All budget requests will need to be filed by Jan. 27, with a separate discussion to be held mid-February.

## POLICE NOTES

Jan. 10

Between Jan. 6 and Jan. 10, Jose Placeres was victim to vehicle burglary while parked in the Panther Hall parking lot. Along with his PlayStation 3, both PlayStation 1 and PlayStation 3 games were stolen, tallying a \$2,000 value.

Jan. 12

Michael Nobili discovered criminal mischief in the Primera Casa men’s restroom, Room 401. “Smoking city forever high” was written with a marker.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue was called to the scene when the main doors to the library caught Judicaelle Michel’s foot, causing a laceration to her toe. Michel was advised to go to the Student Health Clinic after refusing aid from Fire Rescue.

Jan. 13

Anna Alvarez left her Sony laptop in room 265 of the BBC Library. Alvarez did not know the serial number or model number of her machine and the report could not be made to the Florida Crime Information Center or the National Crime Information Center.

–Compiled by Cheryl Malone

## NOTICE

*The Beacon’s* Customer Service Initiative, which usually runs regularly every Wednesday, was not included due to the irregular week. It will return to regular publication on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

## THE BEACON

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## CORRECTIONS

In the story titled “Volunteer fair aims to capture students’ help,” published on Jan. 14, Allison Gianino’s name was misspelled.

In the article “Meyer’s life balancing act of responsibilities, students’ voices,” published Jan. 16, the article incorrectly stated that a SGC-UP Senate meeting took place on Jan. 2. The meeting was held on Jan. 12.



## Campus Recreation makes splash with pool reopening

**ANDREA CRUZ**  
Staff Writer

After a two-year wait, the University community will finally have access to the new Bay Campus Recreation Aquatics Complex.

"I think it is an exciting milestone for the University," said Mara Moline, a Recreation Center front desk assistant. "First, the new cafeteria opened and now the pool, which had been out of commission for a while."

To celebrate the completion of the new complex, an open house and reopening ceremony will take place Jan. 22. in the Aquatics Complex. The Open House will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Re-Opening ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m.

According to a press release written by Christina Reddick, BBC aquatics coordinator and Rebecca Dinar, outreach coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost, the Open House will include free food, prizes and entertainment and will be open to the public.

The new Aquatics Complex will consist of an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a separate diving well. The renovations include a new deck surface, updated diving blocks, landscaping, new paint and furniture.

"Just the beauty of it, after the renovation, adds a great feature to the campus," said Reddick. "There was a strong desire from the students to



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**GOODIES:** Andrea Reynoso and Evensky "EJ" Joseph assemble free, day gym passes for the pool inauguration.

have an aquatic facility."

According to Reddick, the Student Government Association was heavily involved in supporting the renovation of the pool when it first closed down. SGC-BBC funded the improvements to the Aquatics Complex.

"It was originally a \$6 million project," said Elias Bardawil, director of Campus Recreation. "But it was done with around \$800,000."

According to Bardawil, they did not expect the renovation of the 25-year-old facility to take two years.

"It was a process to really deliberate on how to get the job done right," he said.

The pool was closed down to repair leaks within the pipes.

"There was no major infrastructure funding over the years. When you have a facility that is run every day, all year, since 1984, eventually something is going to happen," Bardawil said. "From the leak, it allowed us to proceed to renovate the entire facility."

The Aquatics Complex will host different recreational

swimming activities, such as aqua aerobics and scuba diving, as well as swimming classes and lifeguard training courses, all of which will be free to students, according to Bardawil. Those outside the University community can use the Aquatics Complex by paying a \$5 fee for a day pass.

The complex will also feature full web access, lounge furniture and an audio system.

"It will be a relaxing place, a major Panther point on campus," Bardawil said.

It will also be available to campus clubs and organizations.

"We already have bookings for events," Bardawil said. "It will really highlight what a fantastic place this is."

Michelle Souza, the assistant director for Panther Power, which is responsible for increasing campus pride, confirmed the future usage of the Aquatics Complex.

"We will use it for things like pep rallies and other pool events," she said. "It just gives more possibilities for what we can do on campus."

The Aquatics Complex will be open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's just a nice calming place," Reddick said. "You can come out and swim, you can use it for a workout, you can relax or you can just socialize."

For more information, call (305) 919-5678.

## Annual breakfast honors Cuban journalist, poet

**DAVON JOHNSON**  
Contributing Writer

Speakers and performances on campus will honor one of the fathers of the Cuban Revolution.

The José Martí Club, along with the Science Club, will be hosting the Eighth Annual José Martí Scholarship Breakfast in recognition of José Martí and his accomplishments.

The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, eight days before Martí's birthday, in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater and Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center.

Martí spent 24 years in the late 1800s fighting for Cuba's freedom from Spain. He also wrote articles and poems to inspire people to resist an oppressive regime and helped organize the Cuban Revolution of 1895. Martí was killed during the first battle of the revolution.

The breakfast, held each year to commemorate his legacy, started as a vehicle for funding scholarships for University students, according to the club's Web site.

"We will be serving food such as Spanish and American coffee, croquettes and pastries, among other [Cuban] foods," said Anabel Gonzalez-Gil, a senior chemistry major and José Martí Club president.

Other foods being

served include *pastelitos* and Caribbean fruit, such as watermelon, pineapple and cantaloupe.

Students from David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center will be performing at the breakfast.

"We are doing this because we want to support the entire FIU campus and because we have a bond with the school," said Bernard L. Osborn, the principal of the school.

Ernesto Travieso, a Cuban Catholic priest at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, will deliver an invocation before the breakfast. The event will also feature guest speaker Dr. Eduardo Lolo, professor of Spanish and Hispanic literature at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn. Lolo has written several books about Martí, such as *Mar de espuma: Martí y la Literatura Infantil*.

In addition to the Science Club, students and the Office of the Vice Provost are also lending their support by donating funds to the José Martí Club for the breakfast.

Other funding sources include bake sales and donations from the community.

"We encourage everyone to come out to this event and learn more about José Martí and his contribution to the Hispanic culture," said Karen Prieto, a sophomore biology major and José Martí Club treasurer.

### SGC-BBC

## Renovations, recycling bins on the way

**BARBARA QUIJANO**  
Staff Writer

Jan. 7 marked the first meeting of the new year for the SGC-BBC members, though vacant seats still filled the room due to open council positions.

But one thing still remains: the SGC-BBC goals set forth last year are overflowing into this year's agenda.

"Along with [Vice President] Kenasha Paul and the council, we have been able to voice various concerns dealing with parking, classes, services, budget cuts and others," said Ana Maria Silva, president of SGC-BBC. "We understand there are many more things to accomplish. Our goal is to work to the best of our abilities this semester."

Other projects: the renovation of the bathrooms in AC I and AC II; the installation of stronger lights and the intern program, which is still running smoothly, according to Paul.

More recycling bins will

The council stays busy by focusing on academic issues, improving library policies, executing a beautification project and launching an SGA marketing campaign.

"We try to do the best we

include Education, Honors College, General Undergraduate, Lower Division, Graduate and Hospitality Management.

The council is working to establish its Web site as part of its marketing campaign.

A library enhancement committee was established last semester by retired senator at large Michelle Souza. This committee is working to extend the check-out dates for books, as well as creating more reserved study rooms for all students.

"Any of our goals are continuous," said Paul. "We present them to administration at any time, but it's then responding, or having the resources available, that slows us down, both on the part of administration and SGA."

be available on campus due to a partnership between David Fonseca, legislative committee member of Environmental Affairs and World Waste Services, Inc., a corporation responsible for waste and recycling debris removal.

can for the year, but we all have our limitations," Paul said.

Open council positions include executive assistant, director of legislative affairs and student union board chairs. Senator positions

**We understand there are many more things to accomplish. Our goal is to work to the best of our abilities this semester.**

Ana Maria Silva, president  
SGC-BBC

### SHOOT 'EM UP



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**SCORE:** BBC Recreation Center hosted a free paintball event for students Jan. 16 on the soccer field.



**THE BEACON** | Editorial

## *Funding for search firm could be used for other, more beneficial purposes*

The Board of Trustees Search Committee announced at a Jan. 12 meeting their plans to hire an executive firm to aid in the search for the fifth University president.

The firm, Greenwood/Asher and Associates, has aided not only FIU but also other state and private universities with the search for presidents, provosts and even deans. The University has announced it will be paying the firm \$98,000 in addition to incidental expenditures for its services.

In a time of unprecedented budget shortfalls, *The Beacon* is not convinced that this is the best use of funds, regardless of the source.

Sources tell *The Beacon* that the funding will come from the FIU Foundation, but this information has yet to be verified.

The FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation that receives and disburses gifts and grants for scientific, educational and charitable purposes for the advancement of FIU.

Although significant efforts should be put into the search for a new University president, *The Beacon* feels that in the midst of a budget crisis, the hiring of a firm seems to be somewhat unnecessary.

Currently, the University has two committees in charge of the efforts; the BOT Search Committee is composed of six members from the BOT and is chaired by David Parker. The Presidential Search Advisory Committee is composed of 25 members of the FIU and South Florida Community. Both will be working closely with the firm to create a shortlist of candidates.

Including a consulting firm in the search for university presidents is, however, a common practice.

Institutions such as Oklahoma State University, West Virginia University and Eastern Michigan University have, in the past, utilized the services of a professional firm to aid in the search of a new chief executive.

On the other hand, universities such as Rice University in Houston and Idaho State University had a similar process of nominating search and advisory committees to perform the search, yet without hiring a consulting firm.

In the past, universities have successfully found qualified candidates by placing an ad in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a highly regarded and widely read publication in the world of academia.

With both the search and advisory committees sharing the workload and the placement of an ad in higher-ed publications, *The Beacon* thinks that the funding for the consulting firm can be used more wisely.

The task of selecting a new president to replace Modesto A. Maidique is, obviously, of high importance and *The Beacon* feels that students should be able to get more involved and give their input.

In our research to familiarize ourselves with presidential search practices, we came across many interactive Web sites from state and private universities exclusively designed to not only inform students and the community about developments in the search, but also to allow them to participate and offer their ideas and thoughts.

Establishing a Web site will not only aid the search process, but also give students the chance of directly participating in what is possibly the most important decision the University will be making this year.

## Kids tune out when plugged in

**KATY HUDDLESTUN**  
Contributing Writer

All we wanted to do as kids was play outside. You'd meet up with your neighborhood friends and spend all day running around and riding bikes until your parents forced you inside for either sustenance or sleep. It scares me now, merely 10 years later, to drive around and witness the lack of children outside, knowing that they are just behind the walls of their houses - plugged into electronics.

According to statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation, kids and teens eight to 18 years old, spend nearly four hours per day watching television. This is in contrast to advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recommends that children under two not watch any television and those older than two watch no more than one to two hours a day of quality programming.

The large number of children glued to the screen can be explained by a scenario that I witness all too often working as a hostess: a couple and their 7-year-old having a "family" dinner at a restaurant, yet the child is mesmerized into silence by the portable DVD player on the table. Put more bluntly: it keeps them distracted.

To a parent, it sounds too good to be true to have something that will keep kids busy long enough for them to regain their sanity, but it comes at a cost. Beyond the obvious side effects caused by excessive time spent watching television - like the childhood obesity epidemic in America and the overexposure of children to violence and advertisements - there are numerous other consequences.

The AAP states, "The first two years of life are considered a critical time for brain development." When in front of the TV set, kids are also being disconnected from their friends and families and conditioned into learning various undesired social conventions, in terms of gender roles and stereotypes.

What's worse is that today's chil-



WYNAND DELPORT/COURTESY PHOTO

dren have so much more than just television to be enticed by. Now there is a whole world of different types of social networking Web sites, video game systems and cell phone technology that is drawing them further away from reality.

With less than 25 percent of children getting 30 minutes per day of exercise and the decreasing number of schools requiring physical education, the state of the matter seems to be worsening.

It's time for parents to demand changes in the school system, as well as take part in their own changes at home. A television is not a sufficient baby sitter for a child who is absorbing everything that goes on around them, especially with the type of brain-numbing content pervading the channels.

We need to monitor what children are watching and how long they are watching it. Buy them a book instead of a DVD; encourage them to play football outside and see if it isn't twice as much fun as "Madden." Businesses and advertisements will always be out to sell something to your kids and all of their friends might already have it, but you're still allowed to say "no."

It's a sad day for society when the trees we used to climb are replaced with cable boxes and the fields we used to run in are filled with electric poles. Yes, there are educational TV programs and, of course, there are great advantages to having technology that we could have only imagined a decade ago; but there is something sacred about just living life unplugged.

## Madoff dupes South Florida investors with Ponzi scheme

**NEDA GHOMESHI**  
Staff Writer

We've all heard the saying, "If it's too good to be true, then it probably is." The Madoff scandal proves this lifelong proverb. With over \$50 billion lost, investors are suffering, including some in South Florida. When money from new investors is being used to generate returns for old investors at the huge rate of 14-18 percent every year - even with the economy in the worst down-turn since the depression - there's something fishy going on and everyone should be suspicious.

Instead of being completely shocked by this scandal, investors should have questioned Madoff's investment strategies in the first place and wondered how it was possible to get such high returns for so long. Accounting professor Vishal Munsif believes that investors should have questioned these continuous and unusually high returns.

"[Investors should have looked further into] the amount of returns that Madoff produced especially in a bear market," Munsif said.

In the early 1920s, Charles Ponzi duped thousands of New England residents into investing in a postage stamp speculation scheme. Ponzi told investors that he could provide a 40 percent return in just 90 days, compared with 5 percent for bank savings accounts. His trick was to pay old investors with money received from new ones. But the problem with any Ponzi scheme is the lack of infinite newcomers.

Any Ponzi scheme could come to an abrupt end when a large number of participants decide to cash out. With the most recent economic downfalls, investors were seeking to withdraw over \$7 billion from the Madoff fund, money that he simply did not have.

A large percentage of Madoff's clients reside in South Florida, in and around Palm Beach County. According to *NPR.org*, "Over the weekend, at least one new multimillion-dollar

**Instead of being completely shocked by this scandal, investors should have questioned Madoff's investment strategies.**

condo near The Breakers was put on the market by an investor reportedly hit by the fallout." However, this is just the beginning of investors selling their assets. Many investors invested all of their savings, including their retirement funds, into Madoff's company, leaving them in dire financial conditions.

During an interview with CNN on Jan. 5, 2009, Larry Leif, a resident of Riviera Beach who had invested with Madoff since the early

1980s, explained his shock at this scandal: "Where are the checks and balances in this nation ... did Madoff not report to the IRS?"

Leif, as well as many other victims of this scandal, are seeking compensation. Because Madoff operated a brokerage firm, some of his investors may be covered by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. The SIPC is a federal fund created to cover fraud losses in brokerage accounts. However, most of his clients invested in various "feeder funds," which in turn invested with Madoff. Those clients are not eligible for reimbursement by the SIPC and may end up losing all of their money.

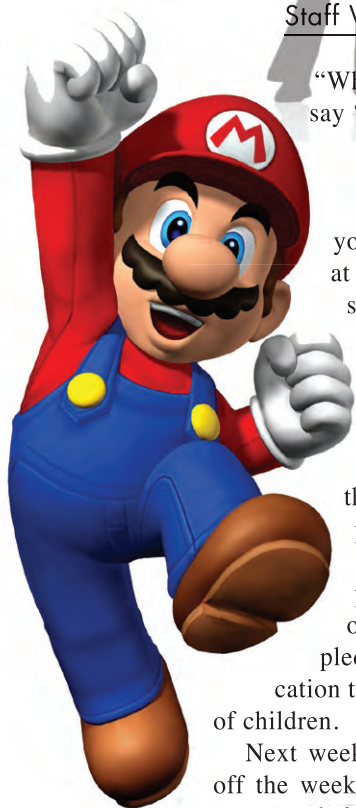
This scandal only proves to investors not to take advantage of pleasurable and unreasonably high returns but to look more at the fundamentals. It also teaches us a major lesson for our future investments and reminds the government of its watchdog responsibilities. The Madoff scandal should have been somewhat expected and prevented had it not been for greed.



## Wii like to dance

# Dance all night in the name of charity, children

**KASSANDRA POOL**  
Staff Writer



“When I say DM you say ‘for the kids!’”

“DM!”

“For the kids!”

This is what you typically hear at events when students speak about Dance Marathon. Running on its 12th year, Dance Marathon is a 25-hour philanthropic event in which participants stand on their feet, pledging their dedication to saving the lives of children.

Next week, DM is kicking off the week with a series of events to help raise funds for

the Children’s Miracle Network in order to reach the committee’s set goal of obtaining \$125,000 by Jan. 31.

On Tuesday at noon, morale captains will be “tabling” in Graham Center with the Chick-fil-A cow, promoting their Spirit Night event taking place at the Chick-fil-A in Doral from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will go toward the CMN.

Morale captains are in charge of creating the spirit to keep dancers going for the 25-hour pledge period, as well as performing the line dance that is shown to participants throughout the event.

Students interested in becoming dancers for DM will have the opportunity to register for the event at the tables in Graham Center.

At the restaurant, the committee has booked a disk jockey who will be playing last year’s line dance to continue to raise funds to meet the \$125,000 goal. There will also be raffles and prizes for those who choose to participate.

Students who auditioned and made it to the final round of “So You Think You

Can Dance?” will be performing one more time on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms. The winner will get a sponsored gift. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.

“Super DM-do” will take place Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Graham Center pit.

At this event, students can play a variety of Nintendo games based on the theme for this year. Prices are \$1 for one game, \$4 for two games and \$6 for an unlimited number of games.

On Jan. 26, the DM committee will be sharing the pit with one of their sponsors, Student Alumni Association, to continue promoting the event.

All of the money raised at this year’s events will benefit the local CMN hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital.

Registered dancers and dancer teams can accumulate spirit points that count toward winning the Miracle Cup. Teams can obtain these points by canning, hosting fund-raising events and showing support at different DM events hosted throughout the year.

The team with the most points is awarded the Miracle Cup toward the end of the event; individuals are also honored for going above and beyond in raising money for CMN.

Coordinator for the Center for Leadership Services, Mariela Campuzano, is the current advisor for DM and is excited about this year’s event because of her students’ hard work despite the financial and economic adversity faced this year.

“They’re benevolent, they have given a year up of their college life to do this — it will be a good one because their heart is in the right place,” Campuzano said.

Students can register to be a dancer up until the day of the event, which will take place at the Recreation Center on Jan. 31 starting at 12 p.m. and ending Feb. 1 at 1 p.m.

For registration information please visit <http://www.kidsmiracles.org/fiudm>.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 21

WHAT: Wake Up & Spin  
WHEN: 7:00-8:00 a.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Blue Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2951

WHAT: Flow: Triangulation Student Art Show  
WHEN: 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.  
WHERE: GC Piano Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Guitar Hero Competition  
WHEN: 4:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Kendall Branch Library  
CONTACT: 305-279-0520

WHAT: Film Club Meeting  
WHEN: 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 340  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: College Democrats  
WHEN: 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 243  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Women’s Basketball, FIU vs. North Texas  
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.  
WHERE: FIU Arena  
CONTACT: 1-866-FIU-GAME

WHAT: Body Combat  
WHEN: 6:40-7:45 p.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Gold & Blue Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2591

WHAT: South Beach Comedy Festival  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Colony Theatre  
CONTACT: (305) 808-7468

WHAT: Ultimate Core  
WHEN: 8:00-8:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Gold & Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2591

WHAT: So You Think You Can Dance? Finals  
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.  
WHERE: GC Ballrooms  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2149

### THURSDAY • JANUARY 22

WHAT: Wake Up & Spin  
WHEN: 7:00-8:00 a.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Blue Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2951

WHAT: Truth for Life Meeting  
WHEN: 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 305  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Italian Club Meeting  
WHEN: 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 343  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Panther Promotions Meeting  
WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
WHERE: GC 340  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Super Step  
WHEN: 6:15-7:15 a.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Gold Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2951

WHAT: Latin Fusion Dance Workout  
WHEN: 6:15-7:20 p.m.  
WHERE: GC Atrium  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Men’s Basketball, FIU vs. North Texas  
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.  
WHERE: FIU Arena  
CONTACT: 1-866-FIU-GAME

WHAT: Ultimate Core  
WHEN: 7:20-7:50 a.m.  
WHERE: Rec Center, Gold Fitness Room  
CONTACT: (305) 348-2951

WHAT: Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy  
WHEN: Call  
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock Cafe  
CONTACT: 954-327-7625

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

## Opportunities for charity work abound on campus

We’re all getting into Spring’s full swing and this is the time of year that charity events around campus are thriving. With Dance Marathon and Relay for Life coming up, the Greeks on campus tend to stand out since most of them have philanthropic events of their own.

Even if you’re not Greek, there are so many opportunities to get out there and do some good for your community and other causes.

Dance Marathon is Jan. 31 at noon to Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. You don’t need to be a morale captain — those in charge of keeping dancers up all night — to help out either. You can just go to Dance Marathon, which will be taking place at the Recreation Center at University Park. The proceeds from DM will go to Miami Children’s Hospital. You can donate money there or just hang out and have fun. Besides dancing, there will be rock climbing, laser tag and many other forms of entertainment.

“It is very motivational knowing that you have helped

save millions of children’s lives and knowing that they can grow up and enjoy life,” said Kate Stuart, director of communications for DM.

Relay for Life is a little later, on March 6 and 7. The proceeds raised will go toward cancer research. If you know someone who has had, fought or passed away from cancer, you can purchase luminaries to acknowledge them at the relay and you walk the lumi-

### GREEK LIFE



AMANDA BATCHELOR

*“Even if you’re not Greek, there are so many opportunities to get out there and do some good for your community and other causes.”*

naries lap. Or if you’d like to represent a cancer survivor, you can walk the survivor lap. This is one of my favorite charity events of the semester because I think many of us can relate to it, having known someone that has suffered from any type of cancer.

“At Relay, most of the Greeks have their own team and each team fund-raises before and during the event,” said sophomore humanities

major Sam Andino, who is one of the team captains.

Aside from Greeks, most organizations at the University get involved and make a team for Relay, but anybody interested may sign up and put a team together. It’s a lot of fun and you get to help others as well.

Besides these events, most sororities and fraternities are having philanthropic events of their own to raise money for their individual charities. Pi Kappa Phi has a pageant called, “Miss Push” to raise money for children with disabilities. Any girl at FIU is eligible to run. Also, Alpha Omicron Pi is having Strike Out Arthritis which is held

at one of the home baseball games.

Be sure to walk through Graham Center from time to time, usually about a week or two before a new event. The specific Greek organization will have a table set up where you can find more information about its event or donate money. Remember, it’s always the time for giving, so let’s make one of this year’s resolutions to help others in need.



# Pulse

## Stalled weight loss helped by prevention, education

Losing weight is tough, especially for a Hispanic woman like myself who just can't seem to let go of her *arroz con frijoles*. Since I embarked on a weight loss journey, I've only lost one pound. And that was two weeks ago.



EDDITH SEVILLA

On the other hand, my boyfriend Charlie has already lost 7 pounds. Now, you can only imagine my frustration when he tells me this and my jeans still fit snug.

Granted, no one can exercise for me or monitor the kinds of food I eat, but a little free help from an organization specializing in weight loss might definitely give me the push I so desperately need.

The Hispanic Obesity Prevention and Education Program promotes increased physical activity, healthy nutrition and appropriate food portion sizes among people living in Florida through its Web site: [www.hopeflorida.org](http://www.hopeflorida.org). The program is not limited to Hispanics.

Here's how it works. You fill out an evaluation with personal information such as your height, weight and date

of birth. Then you input how many times per day or week you consume cereals and starchy vegetables, fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy products, meat and proteins, fats and sugars and water. Last, you input how much time you spend

working out. The evaluation results will include your body mass index, a detailed evaluation of your food consumption, and the recommended amount of calories you must consume per day.

My results screamed, "Overweight!" And according to my personal information, physical activity and goals, my meal plan recommended 1,200 calories per day, not the almost 2,000 I was consuming including afternoon and midnight snacks.

Once you know where you stand in terms of nutrition, you have the option to begin the MyDiet program. This, my fellow losers, is the best part.

With MyDiet you can create a nutrition plan based on what you want to eat. Trust me, the options are delicious. Foods range from smoothies to curry-style tuna and tomato

soup with whole wheat bread.

The plan gives a detailed description on how to prepare each meal and includes nutrition facts for them. It also gives you substitute options in case you prefer fish over pork.

The exercise plan allows you to design your own routine with your select activities and frequency of exercise. What's best is that the plan comes with exercise videos created by personal trainers.

Your personal plan allows you to track your progress week by week.

Now don't forget, this Web site won't do all the work in your weight loss journey

The answer is in you.

Today as I worked on this column, my co-worker Gio flaunted a Samoas Girl Scouts cookie in my face. And let me tell you, I was really tempted to snatch the coconut-covered treat from his grip.

But I didn't. I immediately remembered my goal: lose 30 pounds before graduation.

Will I do it? Yes.

Check your Pulse for health, wellness and fitness every Wednesday. E-mail Eddith at [eddithe.sevilla@fiusm.com](mailto:eddithe.sevilla@fiusm.com).

## COMMUNING WITH NATURE



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

**FEEDING THE WILDLIFE:** Freshman Diana Samitier feeds one of the many ducks that live and wander around campus on a sunny afternoon at University Park.

## MLK breakfast inspires award winners, attendees

### MLK, page 1

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's whole legacy."

Nowell was also the winner of the 2009 Faculty/Staff Service Award for exemplifying the goals and ideals of King.

Afiya Mathews, a junior, recited a message for the occasion entitled "On the Wings of God."

"This whole experience was just awesome; the speaker was phenomenal. I

got goose bumps!" Mathews said.

In her closing statement, Malveaux reminded the audience of the importance of King's message of working toward our dreams.

"When he talks about poverty, when he talks about equality ... fairness and justice, until we've attained those things, it's important to come together to realize that we have a lot of work to do, but also to celebrate the genius of the man," she said.

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# Team steps it up in second half

## WOMEN'S, page 8

exactly what we did," said forward Elisa Carey.

FIU came on early in the second half with a 9-2 run and put themselves within one point of the lead after Gonzalez hit a jumper at the 13:01 minute mark.

However, the Pioneers were able to go up 47-41 after Culberson connected on a three-pointer with 5:09 minutes remaining.

"In the second half, we took our time. We passed the ball and looked for our shots better to win," Carey said.

Down the stretch, Traugott was fouled with 1:51 minutes remaining and knocked down

both of her free throw shots to put the Golden Panthers up 53-52.

The Pioneers wouldn't score another basket, but they did foul Gonzalez with 13 seconds remaining.

Both of her shots were good and Denver walked off the court with the loss after a missed three-point shot by Andie Mason in the game's closing seconds.

Carey, who grabbed a critical offensive rebound late in the game, acknowledged that it was a hard-fought game between both teams.

"It wasn't a pretty win, but when we come together we can do anything," she said.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**LIMITING DEFENSE:** Forward Elisa Carey defends a Pioneers player. She had eight blocks for the game.

# A win is a win, despite how it appears

## JULIAN, page 8

Belt Conference standings, to get a home game in the opening round of the conference tournament.

And just at the right time too.

With FIU trending up, even as unprepossessing

as it may have been, it's a good sign for the Golden Panthers that they have been able to win close contests, as it shows all of that cliché stuff: heart, determination, mettle, etc. and that FIU has lots of it.

Coach Rouco told me earlier this season that this

is the best character group he's had during his tenure group.

Contextualizing that with the last few weeks for FIU, it appears that coach Rouco made the right call, looking at this team as one that really fit together.

Now it becomes an

issue of something the Golden Panthers appear to have become quite adept at: finishing.

Over the next month and a half, I'm not so sure that FIU will become "Best in Show" in the Sun Belt, but becoming a consistent winner for the duration of the season is well within the grasp of the Golden Panthers.

The team, still missing 7-footer Russell Hicks and Florida State transfer Josue Soto, is loaded with character.

And after all, didn't mom tell you how much more important what's on the inside is than what's on the outside?

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	12-6	6-1	.667
Middle Tennessee	11-7	5-2	.611
South Alabama	11-7	4-3	.611
Troy	9-10	4-3	.474
Florida International	8-12	3-4	.400
Florida Atlantic	4-15	0-7	.211

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 18

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Troy	19	1485	78.2
North Texas	18	1381	76.7

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 18

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	15-4	7-0	.789
Western Kentucky	10-7	4-3	.588
South Alabama	12-5	3-3	.706
Troy	8-8	3-3	.500
Florida Atlantic	6-11	3-4	.353
Florida International	4-14	2-5	.222

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 18

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Middle Tennessee	18	1299	72.2
South Alabama	17	1156	68

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 15

## AMIGAS

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### MISCELLANEOUS

**HONOR STUDENTS:** Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: [Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org](mailto:Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org)

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MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 59, DENVER 57

## SWEEPING WEEKEND



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**BIG MAN ON CAMPUS:** Freshman forward Freddy Asprilla led FIU with 20 points in their third win in four games.

## Golden Panthers squeak by another conference foe

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. Sports Director

Before forward/center Freddy Asprilla began playing against Sun Belt Conference teams in late December, he said he was not concerned about the conference big men he would face.

"The Sun Belt doesn't have many big men," Asprilla said on Dec. 30 during the women's East Carolina game.

Against the University of Denver Pioneers (7-11, 2-5 Sun Belt), the freshman from Villavencio, Colombia outweighed their heaviest player by 65 pounds, and showed little concern on his way to a 20-point game.

The Golden Panthers (8-12, 3-4) defeated the Pioneers 59-57 on Jan. 17 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

In addition to the mismatch Asprilla created, the team made 27-of-38 free throws, including two game-winning free throws by guard Michael Dominguez.

During the last five minutes of the game, the Golden Panthers trailed 57-51, but they slowly inched their way closer by going inside to Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers closed out the game on a 7-0 run.

The team won its third win in four games as Puerto Rican native Alex Galindo played in his sixth game of the season, despite nearly

aggravating his ankle against Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 15.

With the Golden Panthers in the thick of conference play, the team has benefited from having Galindo and Asprilla on the floor together.

Early on in the game, the duo combined for 22 of the team's 29 first half points. Asprilla knocked down 4-of-5 free throws despite shooting 43 percent from the charity stripe coming into the game.

The team vanquished its 29-25 lead six minutes into the second half. Forward Nate Rohnert from the Pioneers lit up the Golden Panthers with 17 points on 7-of-12 shooting, but FIU's defense would come back strong and the free throws would come down.

"Good teams find a way to win and we didn't roll over when we were down five late in the game and we made shots," said head coach Sergio Rouco, according to *fiusports.com*. "I'm very, very happy for my guys."

The Golden Panthers shot 71 percent from the free throw line. The team was shooting 62 percent from the line entering the game.

"FIU did the things they needed to do and that was reflected on the scoreboard," Pioneers head coach Joe Scott said, according to *denverpioneers.com*.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 55, DENVER 52

## Six-game losing streak over

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**  
Staff Writer

Finally, after a six-game losing streak, the women's basketball team was able to pick up their second Sun Belt conference win of the season.

A back and forth game ended with a Golden Panthers' (4-14, 2-5 Sun Belt) 55-52 decision over the Denver Pioneers (9-8, 4-3) on Jan. 17 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Guard Monika Bosilj led all scorers with 19 points.

Senior forward Elisa Carey put up eight points and eight rebounds for the Golden Panthers.

Guard Andie Mason led the

Pioneers with 15 points, while forward Brianna Culberson came off the bench and put up 13 points.

The inside play of Carey and forward Jasmine Jenkins disrupted the Pioneers.

The forwards combined for 16 rebounds and five blocks.

"FIU played a great game down the stretch and their posts did a great job of asserting their presence in the paint and making it difficult for us to get to the basket," said Denver head coach Erik Johnson.

The Golden Panthers took on a 5-0 run at the beginning of the game with a jumper from Bosilj and a three-pointer by guard Ashley Traugott.

The teams exchanged the lead

throughout the first half until Pioneers guard Jenny Vaughn hit a three-pointer to put her team up eight points, 29-21, with just 11 seconds to play in the half.

For the Golden Panthers, point guard Michelle Gonzalez wasn't able to respond as she missed a three-pointer just before the teams headed to the locker room.

The Pioneers shot 11-of-19 in the first half and 4-of-6 from behind the arc while the Golden Panthers shot just 9-of-29 from the field and 3-of-8 from the three-point line.

"During the half, coach told us that even though we're down, we need to come together and that's

WOMEN'S, page 7

## Pretty or ugly, it's all about getting the win

There's winning and then there's winning ugly - and I'm sure as far as men's basketball head coach Sergio Rouco is concerned, there's no difference.

Consider the last 85 minutes FIU has played in its last three victories; a two-point win against conference heavyweight Western Kentucky; escaping a road struggle with a Florida Atlantic University team missing its best post player, and getting an off-night from its top scorer and a home win over a team severely outmanned in the

front court, in which FIU led for just 43 seconds in the second half.

No biggie though - the Golden Panthers have won three of their past four games.

They now will have a home date with the North Texas Mean Green, which is just as important as the one against Denver.

North Texas is a team near the same level of the conference standings (UNT 3-3, FIU 3-4) with whom FIU is fighting,

among others packed tightly among the middle of the Sun

JULIAN, page 7

COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN