

Seagrasses are disappearing at an alarming rate

PAGE 8



Is there a reason behind Honduras' single terms?

PAGE 4



SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

A forum at the Kovens Center in BBC showcased how you can get a part of the economic recovery package by next semester.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

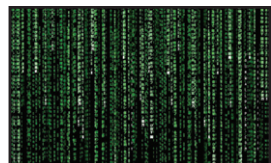
The CLAST examination's repeal will leave students with inconvenient circumstances.

OPINION PAGE 4



The "go green" movement, though noble, has become overbearing in advertisements.

LIFE! PAGE 6



New Web site uses an algorithm to make your decisions for you, freewill becoming obsolete.

LIFE! PAGE 5

A college age-old tradition comes to stage in the new version of *Reefer Madness*.

SPORTS PAGE 8



New martial arts inspired exercise program keeps students in shape at the Rec Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contemporary Art Boot Camp, July 22, 7:30 p.m. Come out to the Museum of Contemporary Art and free with your \$12 admission listen to a lecture about "Pleasure Principle in Art".

Hemingway Days Festival, July 22-26, 3 p.m. It's a haul but if you're looking for something this weekend, who doesn't like Key West? It takes place on Duval Street and is free!

International Bullriding Bash, July 25, 6 p.m. Taking place in the Davie Arena you can go watch a bunch of cowboys get tossed off bulls; all for the low price of \$15.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89



THURSDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 91



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 80 HIGH: 90

CONTACTS

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

MC 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

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

SHE THINKS SO

Student vies for top spot on popular TV dance show

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

In 2008, Syesha Mercado was a finalist in American Idol. This year, fellow Golden Panther Janette Manrara, 25, is making dance judge Mary Murphy scream as she graces the stage of "So You Think You Can Dance."

Manrara is competing for the title of "America's favorite female dancer", a national tour with the top 10 of the show and \$250,000.

On July 15, 20 of her close friends and family gathered at Don Shula's Athletic Club to watch the show at 8 p.m. Karen Alvarez, one of her cousins, said they gather religiously to watch Manrara perform ever since she auditioned for the second time to be on the show.

"Janette is definitely one of the hardest working people I know and the fact that she made it to the green mile last year and got cut at the top 30 only added more fuel for her to better herself and secure her spot in Season Five's Top 20," said her brother, Alex Manrara.

Her brother Alex described the emotions he felt when he heard of news that she had been selected at the auditions.

"At around 6:30 p.m., while driving home from work, I received a call from my sister letting me know she was the first person in Vegas to find out she made it into the top 20. It's hard to describe the mixture of emotions I felt. I completely stopped my vehicle and started yelling, crying, smiling, a little bit of everything. I was definitely the proudest brother in Miami at that moment, I could tell you that," he said.

The group at the watch party cheered as she received rave reviews from the dance judges when she performed a Bollywood dance number with the five remaining female dancers, and after



PHOTO COURTESY: FOX

DANCE, page 6

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COUNCIL

Councils aim to boost alumni membership

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Both Student Government Councils came together to create a committee to study the merits of special elections, unveiled plans to make every current FIU student part of the Alumni Association, and among other things, tweaked the constitution at their first University-wide Council meeting on July 15.

Anthony Rionda, SGC-Maidique Campus president, motioned for the council to be against special elections after the SGC advisors of both campuses recommended to do away with them.

Speaking on behalf of both advisors, SGC-MC advisor Jose Toscano pleaded his case to the UWC that special elections, held after the spring general election, cost both University campuses upward of \$1000 in coordinating and administering while only attracting around a combined 250 student voters. His suggestion was for the senate to approve or reaffirm students seeking office.

"To save all that time on both the administrative side and the student that wants to get elected or reelected into the senate, we are looking for you as the UWC to adopt the idea to have students come and be reaffirmed through the senate," Toscano said.

During discussion on the motion, it was brought up that certain consequences may arise from eliminating special elections. One of them might be that students may circumvent the election process for the chance at an easier appointment in the fall, as well as the prospect of having officials in seats that were not voted upon by the entire student body.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein argued against the notion that the student body would be adversely affected seeing how not enough students run to fill every seat.

"Four people ran when there were 20 senate positions," said Neistein referring to past BBC elections. "If there were 20 people running, they would have been elected."

Rionda then withdrew his motion in favor of creating an election committee to evaluate the election process. It passed unanimously.

Neistein and Rionda presented the idea of making every current student a basic member of the Alumni Association.

"Everyone would be an automatic member, and get all the discounts and perks," said Rionda. "But if they wanted

SGA, page 3

BUDGET CRISIS

Institute to award scholarships

JOSHIMAR GARCIA
Staff Writer

Public educational institutions are facing deep budget cuts, but through an economic stimulus package, University students can expect help from the U.S. government.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc. hosted the "Economic Recovery Forum" in the Kovens Conference Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The lecturers spoke about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the

economic stimulus package.

CBCF is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy, research and educational institute founded in 1976, which aims to improve the socioeconomic situation of African Americans, as well as poor communities around the country.

The event was free and open to University students and the general public. Multiple information sessions were held, ranging from the green recovery efforts in South Florida, to the impact of the ARRA on the community.

Hashim Benford, a sociology

and anthropology alum, spoke at the forum about the economic crisis. Benford is a community organizer at the Miami Worker Center, which helps working-class people build organizations, and organize campaigns and educational programs. Benford's latest project is to launch campaigns to study the impact of the recession in different communities.

"There are educational implications for the work that we do because when you talk about the FIU cuts, those are just emblematic of state-wide cuts that are

STIMULUS, page 3

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Alumni Association challenge exceeded

The challenge set by FIU President-designate Mark Rosenberg exceeded its goals.

According to the University, Rosenberg set a challenge of recruiting more than 2,000 members for the Alumni Association in less than two months.

The deadline was June 30, and by that date, more than 2,000 people have joined the Association.

"We recruited more new members in two months than many other schools recruit in a full year," said Duane Wiles, executive associate director of the FIU Alumni Association, to *news.fiu.edu*.

LOCAL

State University System elects new chancellor

Florida Atlantic University President John Brogan was chosen by the Board of Governors as chancellor for the State University System.

According to *The Sun-Sentinel*, Brogan's background ranges from education and politics as he has served both as education commissioner and lieutenant governor.

Brogan will serve as FAU president until mid-September. The FAU Board of Trustees will meet on July 22 to discuss plans for a national search.

Turtle-hunting ban now in effect

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed a strict ban on the commercial harvesting of freshwater turtles.

According to CBS4, turtle meat is in high demand in Asia which makes freshwater turtles an attractive target for hunters.

The ban also prohibits the collection of turtle eggs, however it will exempt local turtle farms, who will be allowed to harvest turtles for breeding.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

CLAST repealed by legislature

Skills requirements still to be met through alternative classes

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Staff Writer

After new legislation passed in March this year, the state of Florida has made the decision to discontinue the administration of the College-Level Academic Skills Test.

Effective July 1, 2009, Senate Bill 1676 repealed the use of the CLAST to measure academic proficiency in areas identified by the College-Level Academic Skills Project.

Since August of 1984, the CLAST has been administered to all undergraduate students enrolled in state post-secondary institutions in order to ensure they possess the necessary communication and computation skills for higher education. The test satisfied the mandates of Section 1008.29, F.S.

According to Gabriel Medina, a senior History major working the front desk at the Center for Academic Success, administration of the CLAST was discontinued for a simple, familiar reason.

"Funding. [The state of Florida] took away the funding for the office that tracks the scores," Medina said.

"They didn't get rid of the office, but they've trimmed it down," said Maria Kulick, the director for the Center for Academic Success.

"What's been eliminated is the option to test for [CLAS]. The requirement is still in place."

According to Kulick, methods available to FIU students for satisfying CLAS requirements are limited to course work and satisfactory SAT

or ACT scores.

According to FIU's online academic advising guide, scores yielding CLAS exemptions on the SAT are 500 or above for both the verbal and math sections.

For the ACT, scores yielding CLAS exemption are 21 or above on the English and math sections as well as 22 or above in the reading section.

Coursework exemptions at FIU require a 2.5 GPA in ENC 1101 and

Miami Dade College belongs to the Florida College System, both of which are separate entities functioning under different protocols.

The Board of Governors, at the head of the SUS, have yet to approve of the use of the CPT as a means of satisfying CLAS requirements.

"The Articulation Coordination Committee (a committee in the Florida Department of Education) is coming together to see how to come up with alternatives," Kulick said.

Kulick is expecting a directive from the Board of Governors by the start of the Fall semester, but it is not a certainty.

Kulick stresses that students must understand that, despite the repeal of

Now, more than ever, [students] need to focus on coursework and doing well so they can satisfy this requirement...

Maria Kulick, director
Center for Academic Success

1102 (or their equivalents) and a 2.5 GPA in a pair of math courses, of which there are multiple options. The options are available on the FIU Web site.

According to Kulick, there is a possibility that the CLAST will be replaced by another exam, the College Placement Test.

Florida colleges, such as Miami Dade College, are already utilizing the CPT as a CLAS alternative.

"We don't do [the CPT] at FIU," Kulick said.

The reason being that FIU belongs to the State University System and

the CLAST, the CLAS requirement is still in place. It is of utmost importance that students take the CLAS requirement into consideration and ensure they have fulfilled it before being barred from their majors' upper division classes.

"Now, more than ever, [students] need to focus on coursework and doing well so they can satisfy this requirement before going into their majors," Kulick said.

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

CHRIS ADAMS

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JULIA CARDENUTO

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PAMELA DUQUE

LIFE! EDITOR

CHRIS CABRAL

SPORTS DIRECTOR

SERGIO BONILLA

OPINION EDITOR

IRIS FEBRES

PHOTO EDITOR

ALEX GARCIA

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

JORGE VALENS, DAIANA KUCAWCA

ASST. LIFE EDITORS

RACHAEL CONGDON

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS

JONATHAN RAMOS, CHRIS TOWERS

ASST. OPINION EDITOR

MATTHEW RUCKMAN

ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

COURTNEY BAAS

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE

PAGE DESIGNERS

ANGIE ESPOSITO, JASMYN ELLIOTT,
CHARLES GRAU, ASHLEY SALAMANCA

COPY EDITORS

ASHLYN TOLEDO, STEPHANIE PI,
ERIKA PEREZ, JASONN GONZALEZ,
CARLA GARCIA, CHELSEA FRANCO

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

ROSALYN DELGADO

BUSINESS MANAGER

TATIANA CANTILLO

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO

INFORMATION

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, Room 210, at the Maidique Campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, Room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com.

Cheerleaders make first stride as club

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

The FIU cheerleaders have partnered with MiamiFC, a Miami-based United Soccer League team, as their first sponsorship since becoming a University sports club.

The cheerleaders will sell tickets to home games both on and off campus and will be able to keep some of the proceeds to fund their program.

"We are still working through some of the process," said Tommy Knapp, director of Ticketing and Hospitality for MiamiFC.

Knapp went on to say that the cheerleaders would be taking 50 percent of the ticket revenues that they raise.

Also, as part of the deal, 15 FIU Cheer members will don MiamiFC uniforms and cheer at home games beginning on Aug. 1 against the Montreal Impact at FIU Stadium.

MiamiFC was founded in 2006 and is part of the

ULS's first division.

As of this year the team splits its home games between FIU Stadium and Lockheart Stadium in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Freshman cheerleader Drita Dokic sees the partnership as "mutually beneficial."

"It's a great opportunity," Dokic said.

The cheerleaders will be selling tickets throughout South Florida and also Monday through Thursday in the Graham Center for the rest of the month.

Head cheerleading coach Maria George was unavailable for comment at the time this article was written.

The cheerleading program was recently eliminated by Athletics due to the department's budget cuts, totaling \$1 million.

However, Student Affairs organized a meeting on July 7 to announce plans to convert FIU Cheer into a campus sports club under the funding and support of Recreation Services.

The move would allow

the cheerleaders to continue on, however, they would need to work with Student Affairs with regards to organizing and maintaining a budget and also looking for donors and sponsors.

Athletics will continue to allow the cheerleaders to perform at athletic events.

The team was also allowed to keep their uniforms and will be given practice space in the U.S. Century Bank Arena when available.

The cheerleaders continue to explore different opportunities for fund raising, which include holding regular car

washes.

Information on the newly formed sports club and a schedule of fund-raiser events can be found on the cheerleaders' Facebook group, "Save FIU Cheer".

The cheerleaders will be making appearances at both home games on July 17 and July 19 against the Portland Timbers.

According to the MiamiFC Web site, tickets for games will cost \$12 for adults and \$7 for children under seven and students with valid identification.

CORRECTIONS

In the article titled "SPC hopes to attract more students with Summer Splash" published July 15, it was stated that the Summer Splash will take place July 23. The event will take place Aug. 6 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the pool area of the Aquatic Center. For more information, call 305-919-5280.

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

SGA councils meet to update constitution

SGA, page 1

a card or a shirt, you would pay maybe \$5 a semester."

The hope for this move would be to raise both student pride and the number of the University's alumni base.

"We would automatically have 40,000 extra members," Neistein said.

The cost of such a move has yet to have a fixed figure.

Rionda answered questions on the changing of University Park's name by calling it a petty issue in the face of more looming concerns that faced the Board of Trustees at that meeting, such as program cuts.

As a member of the BOT, Rionda had a vote in the renaming of University Park, which he voted in favor of. Had he voted differently, the outcome would have remained the same.

"I did not show any objection to it," Rionda said. "It is better than us naming something that would take away from future fund-raising opportunities."

Rionda was referring to the fact that campus buildings are usually named or renamed to honor outgoing presidents, making it impossible for them to be renamed for money in the future.

"We are Florida International University, not a campus," Rionda said. "We have to get over it."

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, acknowledged that there was sentiment among the faculty, staff and students that they were not consulted.

She said, however, that the BOT was within its power to rename the campus. She told the UWC that she believes the renaming of the campus was not a thought-out process.

"I think this occurred as a response to certain trustees who put the motion on the table to be able to honor Dr. Maidique," Jones said. "It's not like they went into this months or weeks thinking about the process."

When SGC-MC senator of College of Arts and Sciences Gabriel Medina asked Rionda on his stance on the BOT's recommendation to raise outgoing President Modesto Maidique's bonus to \$100,000, Rionda would not comment on his

I did not show any objection to it. It is better than us naming something that would take away from future fund-raising opportunities.

Anthony Rionda, president
SGC-MC

vote. Rionda was not part of the BOT committee that recommended the bonus raise, the money for which would come from the FIU Foundation.

The constitution was also tweaked at the meeting without the need of a student body vote.

The first change was the striking of all mentions of University Park in the constitution to Maidique Campus.

According to Toscano, Roberts Rules of Order allows for such minimal changes without a formal process. Jones, who could grant waivers to the process, allowed it as it had no real impact on the constitution and the students.

The second change revolved around the constitutional prescribed date for UWC meetings. According to Article 7, the UWC is to meet on the last academic calendar Wednesday of every month.

The UWC leadership saw a problem with meeting the last Wednesday of August as it conflicts with the first week of Fall semester.

Rionda read Article 13 of the constitution, which allows the UWC and the vice president of Student Affairs to grant a waiver, lasting no more than a semester, of any provision of the SGA constitution.

Seagrass vanishing at alarming rate

Study co-lead by University professor finds reasons why

IVAN FLORES
Contributing Writer

A new study said the alarming rate at which seagrasses are disappearing not only threatens their existence, but also the quality of the world's water.

The study, which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences *Early Edition* on June 29 and was co-authored by University professor James Fourqurean, showed that the world's seagrasses are disappearing at about 42 square miles per year since 1980, and humans are one of the main causes.

The comprehensive study looked at findings from more than 200 other studies that documented the loss of seagrasses around the world, the earliest record extending back to 1879.

Justin Campbell, an FIU alum working on a Ph.D. in marine science, is studying the impacts of climate change on seagrass communities, which provide homes for aquatic life near the Florida Bay, such as snappers, barracudas, spiny lobsters and manatees.

Seagrasses reduce the effects of beach erosion by slowing down waves before they crash on shore, and by trap-

ping sediments that would otherwise wash out to sea.

"A decline in seagrasses could lead to an increase in beach erosion," Campbell said.

The problems seagrass communities face are chronic, according to Fourqurean. There is an excess of waste being discharged into the water, making it difficult for the seagrasses to survive, he said.

Another major problem facing seagrass communities is boat scarring. As boats pass through shallow waters, their hulls and propellers destroy the communities, which take at least a decade to return to their original states, according to Campbell.

Forty-five percent of the world's population lives on 5 percent of the land near the coast, according to Fourqurean in a press release. Since seagrasses are located in shallow coastal waters, like the Biscayne Bay, overpopulation in these areas place seagrass communities in a vulnerable position.

"If there was a decline in the seagrasses around FIU, the water would not be as blue or as clear as it is now," Fourqurean said.

Seagrass communities are disap-

pearing at an alarming rate, said William Dennison, professor of marine sciences at the University of Maryland and one of the study's co-authors, in a press release.

"Globally, we lose a seagrass meadow the size of a soccer field every 30 minutes," Dennison said.

Reducing the amount of waste discharge and fertilizer in the water, and not walking through or boating over seagrasses, can help protect these endangered communities.

"Supporting legislative efforts for clear and clean water are also key to protecting the seagrasses," Fourqurean said.

While it does take seagrass communities a long time to recover after they have been destroyed, there are ways of replacing damaged seagrass with seagrass that has been grown in a laboratory. But this method has been met with difficulties.

"The problem with growing and planting seagrass is an issue of scale," said Campbell, adding that it would be difficult to grow and plant enough seagrass to repair an already damaged ecosystem.

"It is terrible that the seagrasses are disappearing," said Gloria Lynch, a sophomore environmental science major. "More should be done to save them because they preserve our beaches by being one of the first defenses against erosion."

Recovery Act to ease budget cuts

STIMULUS, page 1

happening in various sectors," said Benford. "For too long, we built our spending systems on very fragile structures, and now that those structures are crumbled, people are getting laid off."

The ARRA will help prevent thousands of expected teacher layoffs by allocating resources for school repairs and improvements, and increasing financial assistance for college students, according to the CBCF Resource Guide for African Americans.

"Tax dollars can be used by the states to supplement these budget shortfalls, so they can direct them to universities like FIU to either create programs or save programs," said Alana C. Hackshaw, senior research and policy analyst for CBCF and project coordinator for the event. "The point of the money coming to the states is to help prevent things such as professors being laid off."

States will be receiving \$48.6 billion, according to the CBCF resource guide; 82 percent of dispersed money will go to elementary, secondary, college and early childhood programs from 2009 through 2011.

"President Obama is trying to expand the resources being allocated to the schools," Hackshaw said. "He is trying to increase the amount of money going to college students through Pell Grants."

Under the ARRA, \$17.1 billion will be allocated for Pell Grants. In 2009, the maximum Pell Grant award will increase to \$5,350 for students. In 2010, the grant will increase to



JOSHIMAR GARCIA/THE BEACON

REACHING OUT: Hashim Benford, an FIU alum and community organizer, spoke to attendees about the impact of the recession on different communities on July 18 at the Kovens Conference Center.

\$5,550.

CBCF also offers scholarships. They currently have eight scholarship programs, which are partly funded by CBCF's annual Golf and Tennis Tournament hosted every January, which raises \$700,000 for scholarships.

The types of scholarships range from two that are open to all majors, one for the performing arts, one for visual arts and two for health sciences.

"FIU students would definitely be eligible because they are in the district of Representative Kendrick B. Meek, a black member of Congress," said Ja'net Y. Carter, scholarship coordinator for CBCF. "We promote our scholarships

for students who either go to school or live in a CBCF district."

FIU is eligible for all of the scholarships, according to Carter. Eligibility is determined by GPA, major and whether students meet the requirements for the particular scholarship.

"I hope that whatever struggle FIU is dealing with that some of the money from the Recovery Act will be able to offset or alleviate that," Hackshaw said. "This is my first time being here, and I hope that the University will continue to get the resources it needs to support its students."

For additional information about scholarship requirements and how to apply, visit www.cbcbfinc.org.

THE BEACON | Editorial

CLAST repeal indicates financial smarts, but students will suffer

The price of a low score on the SAT just went up.

As of July 1, 2009, Florida's university system will no longer administer the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST). Until recently, students who had scored less than a 500 on the SAT on either the verbal or math section or below a similar threshold on the ACT could take the test to fulfill Florida's higher education requirements.

Now, thanks to the passage of bill S.1676 by the Florida Legislature, students who score below the minimum requirements on either test will be forced to take two additional classes.

Given the current state of Florida's university system, it is easy to understand the logic behind such a move. Requiring students to take the CLAST, which cost \$80, would have brought substantially less revenue into the university system than requiring them to take two classes.

A university like FIU stands to bring in hundreds more per student under the new rules. Throw in the windfall earned from the increase in textbook sales, and FIU and the rest of Florida's public universities stand to reap substantial financial benefits.

Yet this added revenue comes at a price. Current students who were accepted to the University and other state universities expecting to be able to take the CLAST and had planned their schedules accordingly are now being asked to take two additional classes. Those who had put off taking the CLAST and are close to graduation now find themselves six credits further from a diploma.

This increased financial burden is far from beneficial for these students. FIU, and Florida's other public institutions, accepted these students under pretense that they would only have to spend \$80 to make up for their low scores.

Now they are being forced to spend ten times as much money, and far more time than the five hours it would take to complete the CLAST.

While the changes certainly make financial sense for Florida's underfunded university system, their sudden and rigid implementation is unfair to students already admitted to their colleges.

There is nothing wrong with applying these requirements to all students who have yet to be admitted to the University or other institutions. The state has a right and a responsibility to impose high standards on students attending public universities.

Moreover, some students no doubt stand to learn much more from taking an entire class rather than cramming for a five-hour test.

Current students, however, deserve to be given the option of taking the CLAST or a similar test. Asking them to take on the added expense of two classes does more than hurt them financially; it betrays their trust. Students who were accepted and told they would only have to take an additional test should be held to the standards under which they agreed to attend the University.

Florida universities shouldn't get students to attend their institutions under one set of requirements and then impose another.

The Beacon believes that the repeal of the CLAST is justified and financially savvy in the long term, but students who were admitted expecting to be able to take the CLAST exam should not be forced to take additional classes instead.

WASTE OF TIME

'Green' movement necessary but overdone

ANA AROCHA
Contributing Writer

It seems as if the days of choosing paper grocery bags as an earth-preserving precaution are long gone. Now, with all the emphasis on going "green," even the eco-friendly reusable canvas bag option does not seem to be enough.

There is no doubt about it: our eco-negligence is burning a hole in our atmosphere and we are knowingly depleting all our earth's natural resources. But this is not a new concept.

The idea of a possible "greenhouse effect" was proposed in 1896, though scientists believed it would not happen for another thousand years.

However, in the 1950s and '60s, scientists realized that global warming was beginning to take its toll.

Naturally, precautions were put into effect to help minimize carbon footprints; hybrid cars were developed that would reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses released into the air, global warming education was brought to the masses and there came about an emphasis on recycling.

Small steps like these kept people aware of the need for reform and pushed us gently into a "greener" tomorrow.

But apparently these precautions were not enough to satisfy the eco-obsessed. In the past few years, "green" advocates have made it their mission to drive the population crazy.

Al Gore's 2008 documentary about global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*, unearthed a wave of fear we have been harvesting since scientists first discovered that all of our technological advancements have been breaking a hole in our atmosphere.

Suddenly, demand for more eco-friendly products soared and producers responded powerfully.

There are green alternatives to all products hygienic, disposable and edible. The television, radio and Internet are constantly force-feeding us recycling tips such as composting pet feces and making the switch from non-biodegradable to re-usable.

Stories of ice caps melting and disappearing species are broadcasted constantly. Books on earth-saving advice are printed by the thousands every year and celebrity-endorsed "save the earth" projects are everywhere.

Don't get me wrong: It's great that we are finally doing something for our planet, but this sudden global toxic purge that the environmental groups are suggesting is a bit much.

Pushing the "go green" movement down the consumer's throat is going to have the same effect that repetitive commercials have: They will be ignored. They become background noise and will either go over people's heads or completely annoy them to the point of purposely not buying the earth-friendly products.

What the environmental groups need is to go back to the good, subtle encouragements. They can scare us every once in a while with stories of the polar animals searching frantically for a way to survive the alarming rate at which the poles are melting. But they have to be smart about it.

Incessant advertisements will only annoy us and will honestly not get them anywhere.



SAY WHAT?!: Do you think the "Go Green" movement has become overbearing?

"It's a good message but it's overdone. I don't even pay attention anymore, really."

Jon Gonzalez
Senior, Computer Science

"It's important but it's time to tone down the green message. There are too many advertisements."

Roberto Pereira
Sophomore, Computer Engineering

"I don't pay attention to commercials, but I appreciate the effort!"

Maria Santella
Senior, Anthropology/Asian Studies

"Of course it's important - I don't think they should stop. They should keep trying to spread information."

Marjan Towfighi
Graduate Student, Business

There is reason behind Honduras' one-term policy

DOUGLAS RIVERO
Special to The Beacon

This article is in response to Matthew Ruckman's piece, which was published on July 8. For the full version of this article, visit fiusm.com/opinion.

Many support the June 28 coup undertaken by the Honduran military against President Zelaya in Honduras. Matthew Ruckman's July 15 article cites Zelaya's attempt to alter the Honduran constitution and his desire to form a closer bond with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as legitimate reasons for removing President Zelaya from power. Ruckman's

article however, just as FIU Professor Eduardo Gamarra in a recent FIU panel of "experts," fails to truly understand the events that led to this coup in the first place. Their biased analyses, fueled by a strong hatred for anything hinting at communism, ignores the behavior of the Honduran oligarchy and the U.S. in fueling Zelaya's push for greater social and economic justice in Honduras.

In 1982, the Honduran oligarchy, together with the United States, underwrote an extremely limited and biased constitution in Honduras during the height of Ronald Reagan's genocidal war against the indigenous people of Latin America. The constitution was intended

to protect the power of the upper classes in Honduras. The overall goal was to crystallize the economic and political power of the rich and their self-serving economic trade agreements with the U.S. It even calls for a one-term presidency.

Now does anyone even question the logic of having an executive possibly elected for just one term? Why? The oligarchy in Honduras did not want to have their people elect their own FDR who would push the drastic, necessary changes for the country in order to improve the most impoverished nation in Central America. It gives them time to remove a "populist" should one come to power.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

WINNER/LOSER

👍 **Accio millions!** *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, the sixth film installment of J.K. Rowling's book series, grossed \$159.7 million since its opening on July 15. As of July 20, the film has a rating of 84% on RottenTomatoes.com.

👎 President Barack Obama hasn't been so magical lately. Last week he was booted at the 2009 MLB All-Star Game during his first pitch, and CNN reported on July 20 that his approval rating on handling health care has dropped.

OPINIONPIECE

40

The number of years it has been since the Apollo 11 mission, where man first walked on the moon.

QUOTATIONATION

"I dealt with my past, and my future and my present by writing about it ... It's a gift."

Frank McCourt (d. July 19, 2008)
Author of "Angela's Ashes"

REEFER MADNESS

A cult classic hits the University stage

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The shuffling feet of actors, the smell of cheap incense and the sounds of singing emerge from DM 150 as members of the theater program prepare for the looming production of *Reefer Madness*, their new musical production.

On this Friday night, less than a week before the preview performance on July 22, the cast is doing a complete run-through of the musical without costumes.

Based on the 1936 anti-marijuana cult classic film of the same name, this is the first time the musical will be performed in the Miami-Dade area.

At this rehearsal the cast runs through the song, "Listen to Jesus, Jimmy," in which Jesus Christ performs a song and dance number to warn the play's protagonist, Jimmy Harper, that his pot-smoking habit will lead him to eternal damnation.

"I floated down from heaven when I heard a lamb had strayed. Look at you, Jim, your brain has turned to marmalade," sings Christ (played by Fernando Lamberty) accompanied by a full chorus line.

At this point it is evident that this is not your typical musical. Certainly, no other musical can promise you sex, marijuana, satire and cannibalism all under the same roof. Not even *Sweeney Todd*.

"We're going to be doing some pretty risky things up there," said Joshua Dobarganes who plays Jimmy Harper, not wanting to go into details.

"This is a period piece based in 1936. Jimmy is a 16-year-old, all-American, goody-goody boy. Naïve and very willing to grow up and do wonderful, wholesome things. The typical cookie cutter American boy," Dobarganes said.

Sadly, Harper is lured into the seedy drug world after being offered "dancing" lessons by the local drug lord, Jack Stone (played by Jose Urbino). Harper takes the offer, hoping to be able to dance with his best girl, Mary Jane (Andrea Bovino). Of course, after taking one puff of a joint, he becomes a "reefer fiend."

The musical then traces Harper's downfall into a realm of hellish madness, reminiscent of Faust or Dante's *Inferno*, and shows the destruction the demon weed inevitably inflicts, not only on Harper himself but on those who surround him.

Reefer Madness is based on the 1936 film of the same title, released as anti-pot propaganda during its time; it soon faded into obscurity before being revived in the early 1970s, when pro-pot groups discovered the film and mocked its over-the-top depiction of marijuana addiction, terrible screenplay and mediocre production values and acting.

The musical was later written by lyricist Kevin Murphy and composer Dan Studney in 1998. It was then released in Los Angeles, produced off-Broadway in 2001 and, finally, adapted to film by the Showtime network in 2005.

Despite the original film's intention, its camp value has made it a staple of cult-cinema, and the musical it inspired serves as a satirical statement on society, authority and ignorance.

"It's about how people in power can use fear to manipulate and intimidate the public," said Marina Pareja, director of this production.

"The show conveys the idea that authority and power can be dangerously abused, and it asks audiences to be aware of propaganda messages," Pareja said.

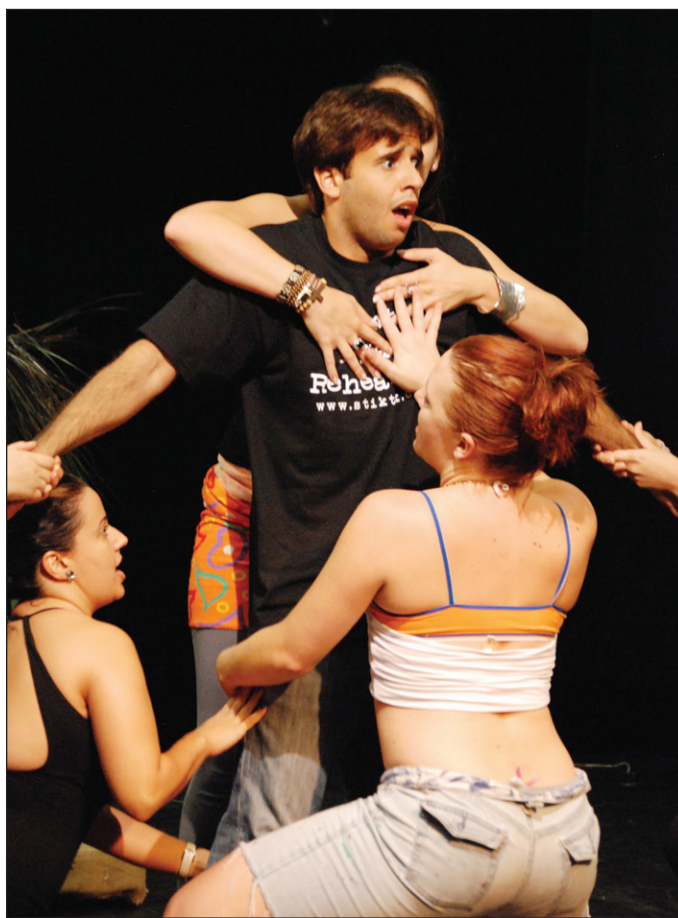
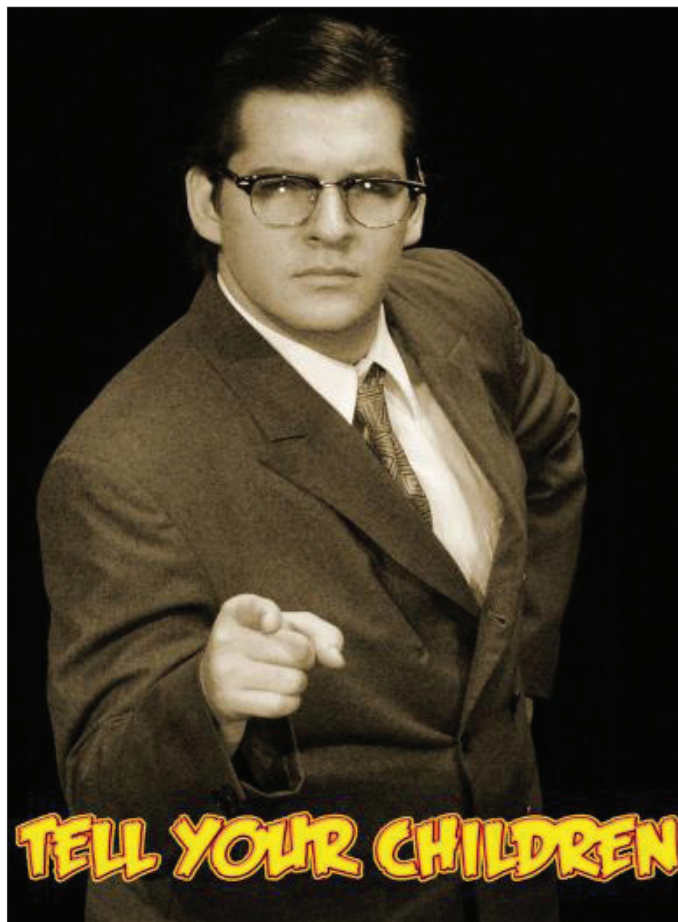
The show is being produced by the Alternative Theater Summer Festival, consisting of actors, directors and designers from the theater department looking to gain experience and continue performing during the summer.

The ATSF, however, is financially independent from the theater department and has been operating since 2006.

"We try to show students how to build shows with very little resources. For Alternative Theater, we have a revolving budget from each summer. Our shows are quite small and we reuse all of our props," Pareja said.

Despite the low budget, *Reefer Madness* promises great entertainment, biting satire and a singing and dancing Jesus Christ.

The show's preview performance will be held tonight, July



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

SHOW TIME: Joshua Dobarganes (center) plays Jimmy Harper in the upcoming play *Reefer Madness*.

REEFER INFO

Dates & Times: July 23-Aug. 9, 8 p.m. (5 p.m. on Sundays)

Where: DM 150

Prices: \$5 for preview on July 22, \$10 afterward

22, in DM 150 and will then run from July 23 - Aug. 9, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sunday performances will also be held at 5 p.m. Tickets for the shows will cost \$10 while the preview performance price is \$5.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Game wages war on rap legend Jay-Z

Game must have no sense.

The California rapper recently apologized for the highly-publicized "beef" he has with his former label-mates on his former group, G-unit.

A few years ago, Game blew up and released dozens of songs dissing 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks and the rest of G-unit, only to retract it all. Game has done other questionable things, such as publicly contemplate suicide, and consider retirement. But Game might be on a one-way street to ending his career without even having to retire.

In a performance last weekend at the Hammersmith Apollo in London, Game went into one of his frenzies and attacked rap legend Jay-Z, all while getting the crowd to chant every profanity they could toward him.

The problem is, Jay is as good as ever. After the bump of his 2006 album, *Kingdom Come*, he responded in 2007 with the release of a classic, *American Gangster*. On the eve of the release of Jay's new project, *Blueprint 3*, Game is trying to bring attention to himself with overseas disses in front of a fan base that mostly doesn't know better. It is why, this time around, he seems to have split personalities.

On his debut album, *The Documentary*, released in 2004, Game specifically brought up Jay-Z in order to clarify a diss to another rapper, Ja Rule, and said he "respects legends."

Game has changed his angle, and his new act has made the headlines he was looking for. On the other side of the news, Jay-Z has remained completely mum. This is not the first time Game has chanted Jay's name negatively, but it surely is the loudest. In light of these recent attacks, Jay-Z could release a single in retaliation.

Fans would love to hear one more diss record from the man who made "Takeover" and survived Nas' ferocious blow in "Ether." Of course, Jay will probably continue to take the quiet road, and ignore the less talented Game.

I can't blame him for that, he has a reputation that could get worse if he feuds publicly with Game. But should he answer Game's provocations, it could cement his place as one of the best rappers ever.

Similarly to basketball legend Michael Jordan getting a sixth championship with the Bulls in his mid-30s, if Jay-Z could destroy Game in just one song, it would be a perfect way to punctuate his career.

Jay can pick any producer he wants, and get the perfect beat for it. If it is effective, and up to his potential, another slew of mediocre tracks from Game will not make any noise.

It would take another, well-made, ether-type song to singe Jay's sterling reputation. Jay might not want to take that risk, because Game, while not among the best, is very capable. But if Jay-Z could end his career by triumphing over Game, and give hip hop another gift like "Takeover," it would be the defining moment in the career of one of the genre's best ever.



JOHNATHON RAMOS

Manrara gives playful nod to family joke

DANCE, page 1

a hip hop duet with Ade Obayomi.

Her tight-knit group of cousins and friends always wait for a signature gesture.

“If you ever see her roll her hands around, kind of like a tumbling gesture, that’s for her family. It’s an inside joke,” said her brother.

Cousin Leo Ponton, along with girlfriend Julie Vanegas, wore shirts that read “Team Manrara.”

“She will definitely be in the top four, she has never been at the bottom, so I think that says a lot,” said Bianca Lastra, a fellow dancer at studio DanceTown.

“She has been able to handle everything they’ve thrown at her, dance styles she has never even seen before,” she added.

Manrara, a junior finance major, began performing in musical theatre at the age of 12, but her formal dance training did not begin until age 19 studying ballroom, ballet, pointe, jazz and hip hop.

Manrara told FOX that her strongest dancing style is salsa with a bit of ballroom flare.

“She is amazing as a dancer, always the one focused and setting the example for the class,” added Lastra on Manrara’s dedication to dancing.

“I loved watching how much fun my parents and family would have dancing at parties,” she said in a statement to FIU. “Dancing and music always made their worries and problems go away for a while

and allowed them to just have a great time.”

Before becoming part of the show’s top 20, Manrara worked at a bank.

When asked by the show what she would do if she were not a dancer, she said that she would be a loan processor, but her passion

She is an amazing dancer, always the one focused and setting the example for the class.

Bianca Lastra, dancer
DanceTown

has always been dancing and acting.

“I would love to support myself and make a living through dancing or acting and never have to return to the corporate world,” she told FOX.

“I think the biggest impact for me was attending the first week’s live taping and hearing Cat Deely announce ‘Janette,’ and seeing her shake and shimmy her way to the center of the stage,” said her brother.

There will be a watch party today, July 22, at 8 p.m. at FIU’s Graham Center Pit.

On that show, the top eight will compete to stay in the top six.

Site takes the guesswork out of everyday decisions

TREVOR NICHOLSON
Contributing Writer

For years, mankind had to think for itself. The question of what car to buy, what candidate to vote for had to be made by the individual.

Thanks to *hunch.com*, all these tough decisions can be made by someone else.

All this thinking could put people in pretty uncomfortable situations where they could make the wrong decisions which, in some cases, could cost them large sums of money or even their lives.

The advantages of a Web site that attempts to make decisions for a person are obvious.

Hunch.com takes the guesswork out of decision making. Upon arriving at the Web site, you answer the preliminary 20 questions; these questions are used to get a base understanding of your personality.

Then, you are released into its extremely diverse and ever-growing number of quizzes, each one comprised of less than 10 questions to offer some solutions for your problems.

After completing a quiz it will present you with either percentages weighing in the two options or, for multi-option decisions, it will present the top three and a wild card.

Don’t like the suggestions? You

also have the option to disagree with the results, this will help Hunch hone in on the best suggestions.

So how does Hunch do it? No, it’s not magic and it’s not Skynet from *Terminator*, at least not yet. The assumption Hunch has taken is along the lines of “two heads are better than one.”

Basically the site absorbs the knowledge from its users, runs it through an algorithm created by some computer scientists, and then uses machine learning to increase the relevance.

Apart from answering practical questions regarding what products to buy and the like, the site also answers important questions about the self. Users who are curious about how feminine they are or what character flaws they may have can answer a series of questions and find their answer.

Even the ethical questions humans have wrestled with for centuries can finally be answered. One *hunch.com* test tells users whether or not they should believe in god, while another answers whether or not one should baptize their child.

So quit being an individual using free will and let the collective power of the human population and an algorithm decide for you- because flipping a coin is so last month.

To try it for yourself head to <http://www.hunch.com>.

Chance meeting sets the dream of five in motion

ANA ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

For most college students, the thrill of commanding an audience as part of a rock band never comes closer than playing Guitar Hero.

For a pair of FIU students, members of the band Baker Acted, that dream is becoming a reality thanks to a fateful encounter in a Little Haiti parking lot.

The band first came together only a few months ago and the members had casually known each other from going to live shows all of the time.

“One night, we were in the parking lot of Churchill’s Pub in Miami, and I had mentioned to “Baker” (real name Ranses Fundeora) that I wanted to start a punk band,” said lead singer Ashley MacLaren.

“Then [future band member] Raul said, ‘Baker plays drums’, then Baker said, ‘Raul plays bass’, so we decided to start rehearsing and give it a go for the next show.”

Baker Acted consists of five members.

The singer is Ashley MacLaren, Jorge “Spaz” Sola and Danny Escobar play the guitar, Raul Hernandez plays the bass and “Baker” plays the drums.

MacLaren and Sola are both students at FIU and work hard to balance both school and their musical aspirations.

MacLaren, a junior at FIU, is studying political science and may minor in environmental studies. Sola is a senior and is receiving his bachelor’s degree in environmental studies.

“At times it can be tough to juggle everything, but I need both in my life. I try to balance them out but they can get in each other’s way,” Sola said.

Baker Acted has performed in venues all over South Florida and is quickly becoming something of a staple in the punk music scene.

Places where they have performed include clubs and bars such as The Firefly, Goo, H.O.M.E. and The Yard.

Although their musical influences range collectively from other bands such as The Dead Kennedy’s, Blatz, Choking Victim, The Dresden Dolls and Subhumans, they try to fuse several different styles together to form their own sound, which they describe as “eclectic” and “in your face.”

While balancing the responsibilities of band member and student can be difficult, lead singer Ashley MacLaren has developed a system to deal with both, and she offers advice for



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYSPACE.COM/BAKERACTED305

BAKED: From left, band members Jorge “Spaz” Sola, Raul Hernandez, Ranses “Baker” Fundeora, Ashley MacLaren and Danny Escobar.

aspiring rock singers at FIU.

“Set aside specific days or times during the week that are for making music. Setting a reward and goal is good too. Tell yourself you can focus all of your attention on your music once you finish your homework for the next few days or something along those lines. It tends to push me harder to get my work done.”

While the promise of working on her music can be a powerful

motivation to finish homework and other academic responsibilities, MacLaren says that her academic life influences her music as well.

“I would say that the things that I learned in school have influenced my lyrics, which range from talking about politics, human rights and so forth.

“At the same time I am going to live my life to the fullest. I figured out a while ago that there is way more to life than

just going to school, getting a career, raising a family and dying.”

Baker Acted is booking more shows for the rest of July and throughout the summer, which are being announced regularly on www.myspace.com/bakeracted305.

Their next confirmed show is taking place at 8 p.m. on Aug. 28 at Goo, located at 150 N.W. 54th St. Miami, Florida 33137.

Center has right to leave team despite possible fan backlash

RAMOS, page 8

mentioned things very well, it is different. The school sees potential to use his ability to its advantage, and naturally, will not let him go.

But it doesn't work both ways.

According to NCAA bylaws, the school has no obligation to renew the scholarships of their athletes every offseason.

In fact, former Golden Panthers guard Erick Nsangou finds himself playing at Barry University for that reason.

Coach Rouco decided not to retain his scholarship during the 2008 offseason.

So it is unreasonable for the school to hold any athlete hostage after he already made it clear he would not like to return, especially since Asprilla can be released if he does not perform.

THE FAN VIEW

The fans, however, will never be happy with Asprilla's decision.

But that's what fans do. Losing a player of Asprilla's caliber will usually result in concern and scrutiny from

their point of view, even among the most objective ones.

I have heard the opinion of many students and faculty on campus. Most will say Asprilla made a commitment he should stand by. Optimists will utter that Asprilla should give Thomas a chance and come back to a revamped roster.

Everybody will say that except for Asprilla. The facts that Freddy has not publicly commented and left the country so suddenly are signs that he has not handled the situation in a mature

way.

But if he could not dunk the ball with force, snag rebounds, and deviate opponents' shots, people would barely notice.

Nobody can speak for him, and nobody can make decisions for him.

As disappointing as it may be, fans should brace for the likelihood of losing a promising young athlete to what is part of the nature of college athletics.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

BACK AND FORTH: Center Freddy Asprilla left to Colombia after Athletics hired head coach Isiah Thomas.

Non-stop aerobics engage students twice a week

BODYCOMBAT, page 8

fight opponents in everyday settings.

"We do martial arts movements but it's not a self-defense class," he said. "It's not a true martial arts class, but we mimic martial arts movements."

He said hopeful participants should expect to be challenged by the workout program but not overpowered.

"People who come into the BodyCombat class for the first time often feel very achieved for their first session," Ryan explained. "It's a very intense class, but it's not overwhelming even to the beginner because the BodyCombat instructors are trained to help participants

to choose an intensity that is appropriate to their level of fitness."

With obesity increasing rapidly across the United States, aerobic exercises could help control the spread of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancers and type 2 diabetes. Adults in Florida have a 24.4 percent obesity rate, according to a 2008 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Eddie used another statistic to demonstrate the importance of a demanding physical class like BodyCombat.

"Less than 65 percent of the adult United States population does any type of continuous physical activity, and

this is a great opportunity for FIU students not only to burn calories, but to be taught by tremendous instructors."

Eddie believes the class he helps teach can also bring people closer to three health-oriented goals: "Manage weight, get in shape, live a healthy, long life."

"More intense than any kick, jump or punch is the determination to not give up, because we do not stop throughout the class," Eddie said.

Visit our Web site for footage of the BodyCombat class in action this Thursday, July 23.

www.FIUSM.com

Student: Heat should develop young players

HEAT, page 8

Shaquille O'Neal.

It's not known if the addition of Odom will satisfy Wade's request of a roster change, but the 27-year-old guard wants Odom to come home.

"I want Lamar to do what's best for him and his family because we love him as family, but on the other hand, we want him back home, to come home," Wade said Friday in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. "His house is still there. It'd be exciting to see what happens."

Aside from Odom's offer, the Heat have also

been rumored to be in talks with the Utah Jazz to bring veteran forward Carlos Boozer to Miami.

The Sun-Sentinel reported the Heat "has not entered talks ... but is monitoring" the Boozer situation.

But one University student thinks the Heat should not make any moves this season and instead wait for the coveted class of 2010.

"Stick it out another year. In 2010, there will be more free agents. Develop Chalmers and Beasley, then try to get Chris Bosh, Ama're Stoudemire, Josh Smith or even LeBron James," said Robert Fenton,

a senior criminal justice major. "Boozer won't solve the Heat's problems of defense in the paint. I don't think Riley will make a move, period."

But Bell thinks Boozer would be a good addition for the Heat.

"I think Boozer would help. It'd put two big men on the roster for the playoffs," he said.

If Wade opts out of his current contract next year, he could seek a contract through 2015-2016, one that could be worth up to \$45 million more.

The Associated Press' Tim Reynolds contributed to this report.

SUMMER B INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

MEN'S OPEN LEAGUE					
TEAM	OVERALL	WP	PF	PA	PD
Vinsanity	4-0-0	1.000	230	178	52
ELE	4-0-0	1.000	212	136	76
Average Joes	2-1-0	.667	169	110	59
PIKE	2-2-0	.500	229	193	36
Doppler Effekt	2-2-0	.500	185	188	-3
RageNBallers	1-2-0	.333	126	156	-30
CNT	1-1-1	.333	134	157	-23
Bohica	1-3-0	.250	132	187	-55
Fresh Kicks	1-2-1	.250	115	185	-70
FIJI	1-3-0	.250	94	112	-18
DTF	0-1-0	.000	40	60	-20
Rasta's	0-2-0	.000	0	4	-4

All standings for intramural basketball leagues are up to date as of July 20.

Work Study Students

JOIN Student media TODAY!



We offer flexible schedules and positions.

For more information:

E-mail beacon@fiu.edu

Or call **305-348-6993**

Apply Today!



Panther Sports

Talk LIVE!

Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 12-1 p.m.

Tune in to 88.1 95.3 96.9 wrgp.org



Athletics should release player if he wishes to leave

Freddy Asprilla gave Golden Panthers fans plenty of reasons to head to the U.S. Century Bank Arena for men's basketball games last season.

What made him stand out?

Thunderous, rim-plowing dunks, the ability to inhale any rebound that came near him and a penchant for swatting opponents' shots away.

When new head coach Isiah Thomas speaks of the colossal Colombian, it is no surprise he is quite a fan himself. That's why

Thomas would like to have Asprilla around while he attempts to reconstruct a Golden Panthers team that has failed to earn a winning season this decade.

Lost in the optimism of Thomas' hire is the Golden Panthers' star big man, who has requested a release from his scholarship.

The school did not grant Asprilla the release, and he reportedly missed the deadline to appeal. As of publication, Athletics has no update on this situation.

With the sophomore not giving in, his attorney William Sanchez has indicated that a lawsuit could be in the works, *The Miami Herald* reported on July 7.

It can only get worse for both parties, and ultimately Asprilla should be let go if he desires.

A SIMPLE REQUEST

Athletes are granted releases from their athletic scholarships relatively often in college sports.

In most cases, a student athlete leaves an institution when he becomes aware that he will not play much, or he leaves a lesser known program in search of a bigger spotlight.

Some student athletes request an exit when they see the coach that recruited them took another job or got fired.

When former Golden Panthers coach Sergio Rouco was reassigned within Athletics in April, point guard Josue Soto left to play professional basketball overseas.

It was a direct result of Rouco's demotion. The school did not waver, and made it easy for them to leave FIU.

However, Asprilla ran into trouble when he left to his home country in May. He left to Colombia soon after the Spring semester and was not as forward as he could have been.

But he could have been released by now, if not for his domination of the Sun Belt Conference.

The 6-foot-10 center listed at 280 pounds, is a smooth athlete for his size who did not see a Sun Belt Conference defender stop him last season.

During his lone campaign at FIU, he flourished into one of the most dominant offensive players in the conference, and one of its most intimidating defenders.

He is the team's best player, and he is just a sophomore. That's enough reason for Athletic Director Pete Garcia to hold onto Asprilla.

At FIU, any student can transfer at any given time.

An engineering student with a 3.5 GPA can leave at the completion of a semester without any problems.

A dean's list regular won't have a problem transferring to another school.

If Asprilla is a "student athlete," he should have the same right. Since Asprilla can do the three afore-

RAMOS, page 7

COMBAT CRAZE



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

STRIKE A POSE: Phillip Edie demonstrates one of the many martial arts movements students learn in the BodyCombat class.

Class pairs students with invisible opponents

LUIS ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Students test their endurance by throwing punches, performing side-kicks, knee strikes and other martial arts movements for roughly an hour without stopping.

However, these students are not fighters.

They are participants of a free cardio workout class, BodyCombat, offered at the Rec Center twice a week on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

BodyCombat students do not deal with a person or a punching bag, but rather an invisible opponent which they have to attack with high-intensity martial arts moves.

"Our motivation is to try to get [the students] to visualize an opponent, or

more than that, take prior episodes in their life that have caused them stress or harm and stomp them out using our techniques," said Phillip Edie, a fitness instructor at the Rec Center.

Junior Bianca Cagigal has been attending the classes for several weeks, and she feels attacking an invisible opponent is a good fight simulation for students who may not have prior experience in mixed martial arts.

"I'm more of a dancer, but this is a great way to get your cardio done without having to use a step machine," she said. "It's very engaging and energetic."

Another benefit of the class is having instructors who guide the students throughout the workout.

"I don't always do the punches correctly, but there's always someone there to correct you. You learn a lot and

it's a lot of fun," Cagigal said.

The 75-minute class consists of 10 segments, varying from strength training to endurance and conditioning. The intensity of each segment is based on the speed of the music track. To start the class, students warm up by learning the moves that will be incorporated in the other tracks. By the fifth track, the energy level reaches its peak, then the next track slows down the pace. The final track gives students a chance to stretch and cool down.

Edwin Ryan has been managing fitness classes at the Rec Center for more than five years and is the main instructor of the Wednesday evening class. Ryan clarified that BodyCombat is not a class that will equip students with the skills to

BODYCOMBAT, page 7

MIAMI HEAT

Free agents have decisions to make

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

After a 42-win turnaround season in 2008-2009, the Miami Heat are worried about losing again - but this time, it's the team's franchise player.

NBA scoring champion and Heat guard Dwyane Wade can become an unrestricted free agent after the 2009-2010 season if he does

not accept an extension to keep him in a Heat uniform until 2014, a move the 2006 Finals MVP has said he's in "no rush" to commit to.

He wants Heat President Pat Riley to turn the Heat back into a championship contender before he commits to an extension.

"He works hard, and he deserves to get the best offer," said Antoine Bell, a freshman business manage-

ment major and safety for the Golden Panthers football team.

But Riley, who expressed his intentions to re-sign Wade in a text message to him at 12:01 a.m. on July 12, the day the Heat could formally offer the All-Star guard an extension, has said the team can't make any moves unless they know their star player is in it for the long run.

"There can't be any major franchise changes made without his commitment," said Riley at a press conference on June 18.

But that hasn't stopped the Heat from offering a five-year package worth around \$35 million to forward Lamar Odom, who played with Wade on the 2003-2004 Heat before being traded for

HEAT, page 7