



Butterfly garden set to bring beauty to campus

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Isiah Thomas recruits six players this season

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

With SGC-BBC funds, a new butterfly garden is set to bring beauty to campus.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4



At the end of the day, campus safety boils down to awareness, precaution and common sense.

OPINION PAGE 4

The GOP must redefine its image and stances on social issues in order to attract independent voters.

OPINION PAGE 4



Can CNN rely on Twitter as a news source?

OPINION PAGE 4

The GOP must redefine its image and stances on social issues in order to attract independent voters.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Cheap party ideas for students on a budget valuable during recession.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Three years removed from playing for the University of Miami, tennis coach Melissa Applebaum is building FIU's program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dive-In Movies, July 8, 7 p.m. A free screening of a recently released film will be shown free to swimmers of José Martí Park pool.

John Legend, July 9, 07:30 p.m. The performer will be playing at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino; tickets to the event start at \$38.

TattooLaPaloza, July 10-12, 12 p.m. A weekend filled with tattoos, motorcycles and art; tickets to get in are \$15. Event runs until midnight except Sunday at 9p.m.

Yasumicon 2009, July 11-12, 12 p.m. Entrance is free to this Anime convention held in our very own Graham Center and Green Library.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 92



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 90

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Public Safety: Robbery no cause for alarm

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

College of Law graduate Derrick Storms was robbed at gunpoint by two minors who took his laptop outside the Green Library on June 29.

According to FIU Public Safety, they chose to not use the University's emergency alert system that night because students weren't in danger; one suspect was apprehended and the other was outside the campus already.

Storms said that Public Safety was negligent in not alerting the student

body to the possible dangers of being on campus during off-hours.

"I was lulled into a false sense of security," said Storms in a written statement to Student Media.

According to him, as he sat in the tables outside GL at 4:30 a.m. on Monday, two minors approached him; one held their bikes while the other held Storms at gunpoint and demanded his belongings.

Storms called Public Safety minutes later. Public Safety, working with the Sweetwater Police Department, arrested both suspects shortly after.

The incident was made known in a report on the late night edition of a CBS4 newscast. And the following day, the channel's "I-Team" broke the story that students in the University were "surprised" that the University's Public Safety failed to inform the community about the dangers in and around campus.

The University has an alert system that can notify students of an emergency through text message, e-mail and broadcast devices placed in large traffic areas and classrooms in both the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay

Campuses.

However, Lieutenant Ricardo Torres, the University Public Safety officer in charge of the investigation, said in an interview with Student Media that the decision not to alert the campus was made after apprehending one suspect and knowing that the second suspect had fled the campus.

In the same CBS4 article, it is mentioned that campus police arrested a student in May after discovering he had a semi-automatic weapon and 110

POLICE, page 2

BROMANCE



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

RECRUITMENT: David Dial, Gerald Young, Max Schmekel and Justin de Jesus of Delta Lambda Phi interact during Rush Week in Graham Center.

Program cries foul over numbers

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

The numbers used to justify the possible closing of the Recreational Sport Management degree were inaccurate and "outdated," according to program head Robert Wolff.

Wolff claimed that the degree program, which was saved from being cut in the last Board of Trustees meeting in June, is estimated to have 189 undergraduate students, instead of the 62 students that were reported by Interim Provost Doug Wartzok at the meeting.

"I knew that was way off," Wolff said.

Wartzok told the BOT that the degree program had 62 enrolled

majors and 40 enrolled intended majors.

According to the numbers Wolff found using a query from Panthersoft, the program has, as of June 25, 93 students fully admitted for this Summer term, as well as 14 students who were admitted but have not been placed in the program yet.

In addition to the discrepancies in the numbers for their undergraduate students, Wolff said that as of June 25, the Recreational Sport Management program has 31 students, not 19 as reported by the provost in the same meeting.

Wolff also found that there were seven graduate students who are taking graduate courses or are looking to change their major to Recreational Sport Management,

as well as 20 who have applied for the Fall semester, but have their applications under review.

REORGANIZATION

Wolff said he sees recent measures taken by his major degree program as part of the reason for the incorrect numbers.

"We changed our curriculum substantially last year," he said. "We raised caps, we got rid of excess courses, we lowered the number of adjuncts that were teaching ... Most of the professors took on a heavier load to try and meet these budget woes that we're having within the University."

In addition, last summer, the Parks and Recreational Manage-

NUMBERS, page 2

SGC-MMC

Outdated bylaws raise concerns in council

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Concerns over outdated bylaws, the lack of printed additions and the absence of a written description of some of the student government committees' responsibilities worried members of the Student Government Council's judiciary branch.

The issues were addressed during a June 29 SGC-MMC senate meeting.

The lack of an updated set of bylaws, which is a set of campus-specific policies and procedures that govern how SGC-MMC is to run, has created a conflict between how the senate currently operates and how the document states the body should operate.

"Today I am forced to highlight the fact that the resolution passed on June 1, in support of the Religious Studies Department, is lacking a written copy of the Senate Speed Pass Act that permits its legal force," said Luis Robayo, justice for SGC-MMC when reading an e-mail sent by Chief Justice Juan Gil, who wasn't present at the meeting.

As the procedures are currently written in Article 11 of the bylaws, a bill or resolution needs to be read twice, at two separate senate meetings, in order to be passed.

However, the Senate Speed Pass Act, which was approved Spring 2009, allows bills or resolutions to pass with only one reading.

The way the Religious Studies resolution was approved fits the procedural model under the Senate Speed Pass Act, but is in violation of the printed laws.

"You can't make null and void what they've passed last year," said Robayo.

BYLAWS, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

PantherSoft: view only mode until July 12

The PantherSoft Financials system is down for upgrade and maintenance and unavailable through July 12.

The system is being upgraded to version 9.0 and, according to its Web site, will also include the PantherSoft Contracts and Grants version 9.

The current version of the software, version 8.4, will be available in a “view only” mode.

According to the press release from PantherSoft, any “emergency procedures on processing transactions related to Accounts Payable, Purchasing and Travel” can be handled through a separate site.

The scheduled downtime will not affect the PantherSoft Campus Solutions, the student version of the system.

The new version of the Web site will be available July 13.

Both instructor-led and online training for the new system will be available on the PantherSoft Web site at <http://panthersoft.fiu.edu/financials>.

LOCAL

Accused cat killer’s affidavit released

Tyler Weinman pleaded not guilty to all 19 counts of animal cruelty and improperly disposing of an animal body and four counts of burglary related to the cat deaths.

The affidavit recently released stated that police officers found a cutting object outside his car after stopping him to search his car. They also found marijuana and scratches on Weinman’s neck.

The suspect’s attorney, however, said that “there’s not one single witness in there that says Tyler Weinman touched a cat.”

– Compiled by Jorge Valens and Julia Cardenuto

Grad student robbed at gunpoint

POLICE, page 1

rounds of ammunition in his car.

In an interview with the University’s Office of Media Relations, Torres reiterated that in that situation there was no threat to the general campus population. The weapon and ammunition were discovered during a routine traffic stop.

In both instances, Public Safety told the University that there was no need to activate the emergency systems.

“No students were ever in danger in either incident,” Torres said in the same interview. “In both cases, FIU police reacted quickly and kept the situation from affecting the rest of the University. Students, faculty and staff are safe. Fortunately, incidents such as these are extremely rare on our campuses.”

Storms said that students should be made aware of the various crimes that occur on campus.

“I feel that the crimes [occurring] on campus are not being advertised,” he said.

The CBS4 article noted that the case log University police keep online had “not been updated since late May.”

Torres told Student Media that Public Safety is “making strides” to ensure that

the log is kept as up to date as possible.

At the time this article was written, the case log had been updated to include all cases up to June 30.

Storms, however, thinks that Public Safety should take further action to alert students of crimes, or the possibility of crime on campus.

“I feel students should know of the propensity of violent crimes committed at FIU, so they can avoid the plight I recently went through,” Storms said.

“We take every incident seriously and will use appropriate measures to respond to each emergency,” said Torres. “Our community policing, around the clock patrols and our emergency training keep this University safe.”

Torres said that the University is a safe place, but also an open place and therefore susceptible to outsiders. According to the Public Safety Web site, police officers are in patrol 24 hours in both campuses.

The University Police Department is located in the Tower building on Modesto Maidique Campus and at the SO II building on Biscayne Bay Campus.

For emergencies call 911 or UP (305) 348-5911, BBC (305) 919-5911.

SAFETY TIPS

- Carry only the amount of cash or credit cards that you need.
- Carry money and identification separately.
- Eliminate spare keys from purse.
- Keep your bag on your lap when dining or at meetings.
- Avoid displaying valuables such as jewelry or large sums of money.
- Be aware of where you are and where you are going at all times.
- Look for potential danger before entering your house/dorm.
- Do not walk alone, especially in deserted or dark areas.
- Get to know the campus locations and its hours.
- If you think someone is following you, change directions or go to a safe location.
- Avoid carrying a lot of packages, it can make you look defenseless.
- When using the ATM, retrieve money and count it later.

New senate to work on council bills

BYLAWS, page 1

“For whatever reason [the Senate Speed Pass Act] did not pass in its written form. It is still there though; there is still recorded document of this.”

The fact that there was a recorded document was a point of contention according to the chief justice’s e-mail. Robayo read passages that recalled Gil’s conclusion that the Senate Speed Pass Act was in fact in possession of no one in the current administration.

“The Senate Speed Pass Act is not included in the current written copies of senate bylaws available at the SGA office; nor is it in possession of any of the senators, including the speaker and the speaker pro-tempe; nor in the hands of the SGA advisor Jose Toscano,” said the e-mail.

According to the e-mail, when the chief justice confronted senate Speaker Helena Ramirez, he was told it was in the hands of the former Speaker Jean Roseme.

“According to your current speaker, Helena Ramirez, it is in his e-mail. The resolution is lost in cyberspace,” Gil said in the e-mail.

“I have all that legislation,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez stepped in last year as speaker pro-tempe when her predecessor resigned. As a result, she said, the former speaker didn’t specifically give her copies of all legislations. She called Roseme after receiving Gil’s e-mail.

“It was in the office, under a lot of piles of work,” Ramirez said.

This hasn’t been the only time Gil has raised issues with the bylaws. At a senate meeting June 15, the chief justice told the senate that the available written version of the bylaws had peripheral commentary and that was unprofessional.

These comments are dotted around the document pointing out vagaries, and give suggestions for the bylaws.

An informal meeting was called at the start of the new administration to look over the bylaws. Ramirez said it was only a primary look-through for grammar and syntax.

“It was just mainly to edit,” Ramirez said. “To see what was necessary.”

One of those necessities were the

lack of stated responsibilities for four out of five senate committees.

These four are new to the legislative branch, written in the constitution, but given no definition of their function. So the June 29 senate meeting was adjourned quickly, with no new business, to give the senators time to get together in their committees and come up with their responsibilities.

“These definitions and responsibilities will be then used to have those senators write them into council bills,” said Ramirez in an e-mail.

The council bills will then be voted upon, and if passed will become the edits to the bylaws. According to Ramirez, a draft of the updated bylaws will be available in two weeks.

“The whole history of American government was founded upon a written document – the Constitution,” Gil said through the e-mail. “Laws must be written in order to be accessible to the public.”

Copies of the current bylaws and SGA constitution are not currently online, but are available at the SGA office in GC 221.

Provost revisits previous numbers

NUMBERS, page 1

ment degree program, as well as the Physical Education/Sport Management degree program merged to form the Recreational Sport Management program. Before the merger, both programs had classes that overlapped and professors who would teach both majors.

“They said our combined number of graduates, both bachelor’s and master’s, were nine each year,” Wolff said. “Well, that was true of Parks and Recreation, now that we merged, our numbers were 41 undergraduates and nine graduate students. They didn’t include the 2008-2009 graduation numbers ... Pretty big difference between a total of nine and a total 50.”

Wolff also pointed out that the

program benefits various groups and individuals, such as professional teams like the Miami Heat and Florida Marlins, who hire interns from the program as well as FIU Athletics.

“We put about 15 interns into Athletics every semester,” said Wolff. “Those are kids who are not getting paid and providing a service to our athletic program.”

After it was announced that the Recreational Sport Management program was going to be cut, Wolff contacted Wartzok, who said that even with the new numbers, the program still falls short of the University average for degree programs.

“As I stated at the BOT meeting, on average, a bachelor’s degree program at FIU has 200 majors. We do not include intended majors in that count, so the

Recreation and Sports Management program has somewhat less than half as many majors as the average bachelor’s degree program,” said Wartzok in a recent e-mail to Student Media.

Yet Wartzok would not speculate whether the program would be cut in the Fall, when the BOT will meet again to determine the future of many of the programs that are being considered to be cut.

“We are following the direction of the BOT and looking at other ways of cutting expenses,” Wolff said. “The BOT expects us to consider all alternatives and then make a recommendation to them sometime this fall.”

“It would be premature to speculate what that recommendation will be until we have considered alternatives.”

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

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Butterfly garden project enhances go-green effort

JOSHIMAR GARCIA
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus has been going green for the past years, adding trees, recycling bins and cleaning the bay, but its latest endeavor promises something new.

"This project will inspire environmental awareness around campus and the University as a whole," said Sholom Neistein, president of the BBC Student Government Council. "We also want to be known as one of the most environmentally friendly campuses around the country, and maybe in the global community."

SGC-BBC allocated \$5,000 for a butterfly garden, which was proposed by the Office of the BBC Vice Provost. The butterfly garden will be located next to the walkway that connects the library's second floor to the Wolfe University Center.

"It's called the butterfly garden because hopefully these plants will attract butterflies, which will make the garden more aesthetically pleasing," said Neistein. "Butterflies represent peace and serenity."

The butterfly garden was an idea proposed by people from different departments, according to Neistein, which include the Office of the Vice

Provost, Office of Campus Life and Orientation and SGC-BBC.

"BBC cares about its environment and the numerous animals that inhabit it," Neistein said.

The project is scheduled

and anthropology; Joyce Peterson, associate dean of Arts and Sciences; Elie Bardawil, director of Campus Recreation and Michael Heithaus, assistant professor and director of the Marine Sciences program.

The goal is to create a vibrant academic life that incorporates BBC's unique settings.

Julissa Castellanos, director of academic support services
Office of the Vice Provost

to be completed by the end of this year.

Grechent Ampie, junior biology major, says having a butterfly garden will benefit the campus.

"The addition of a butterfly garden in BBC would completely recreate the environmental structure. It would definitely attract new species, other than the butterflies, who would also be able to make a home in the garden," Ampie said. "FIU would be supporting the new environmentally friendly era that we are currently living in."

In 2006, former BBC Vice Provost Damian Fernandez started a project to remodel BBC, with the help of students and a committee of faculty and staff, including Hugh Gladwin, director and associate professor of sociology

"The goal was to create a thematic focus around a coastal and environmental initiative that could help to unite the campus," said Peterson. "We wanted to focus on the academic, aesthetic and recreational opportunities offered by our location on Biscayne Bay."

The committee wanted to implement different techniques that would use the natural resources on campus, according to Julissa Castellanos, director of academic support services and operations at the office of the BBC Vice Provost,

"The goal is to create a vibrant academic life that incorporates BBC's unique setting, and offers environmentally friendly experiences and opportunities to the entire BBC community," Castellanos said.

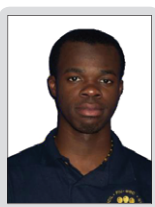
ENJOYING THE SILENCE



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

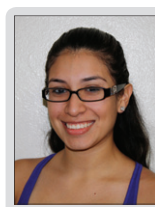
RELAXING RUB: Shari Little gives a free massage to Nadia Monteago, a senior enrollment officer in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, on June 6 outside the Recreation Center. The Wellness Center offers free massages on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SOC-BBC goals



GEORGES

We want to increase the number of clubs on campus. The clubs are important for students because it's their little projects, and they get more involved.



MARTINEZ

I want to be more involved in campus life and leave a legacy. I want to try to do something for the school and help SOC-BBC be bigger and better.

MARIAN MARVAL DÍAZ Contributing Writer

The Student Organization Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has new members with one goal: maintaining all clubs and getting new ones to enhance campus life.

SOC-BBC is the governing body of all student organizations on campus, and also funds and regulates student clubs, according to its constitution. It is funded by the Student Government Association, and its budget is distributed among all clubs.

The 2009-2010 executive board started the school year wanting to increase student participation at BBC.

"We are different from the other organizations because we work with a lot of clubs and make events fun for everybody. We basically care for the clubs and their needs," said Patricia

lanos said.

Projects that are already underway include restoring the mangroves, removing invasive species, creating a marked nature trail and adding Florida wildflower beds around the gazebo outside of the library. Some of the flowers, which are native to Florida, include yellow beach sunflowers, pink and yellow blanket flowers, and blue-eyed grass.

For Ampie, these projects will make the campus more beautiful, and provide additional resources for his

biology studies.

"The marked nature trail is a great benefit to biology students, who can use it to their advantage during laboratory sessions," Ampie said.

The Office of the Vice Provost also hired Jennifer Grimm as environmental coordinator in November 2008 to help the new projects come to fruition.

"These are just a few of the projects that have spun off from the original initiative to make the campus green," Castellanos said.

The primary funding for

these projects came from the Janes Trust Foundation, the BBC Circle of Friends, private citizen donations and SGC-BBC.

Mariela Quintanilla, senior public relations major, is pleased with the developments so far.

"I think it's an excellent idea the campus is finally doing something positive toward the environment," Quintanilla said. "In the long run, it does not only make the campus look good, but also safer to FIU students and professors."

More clubs to improve campus life

Martinez, SOC-BBC vice president and a sophomore psychology major.

Other SOC-BBC members include Mais Kayyali, treasurer and freshman finance major; Lorraine Henderson, events coordinator and sophomore international business major; Mary Humprey, marketing coordinator and graduate student from the Integrated Communications: Advertising and Public Relations program; and Vincent Yuen, secretary and a finance major.

Didier Georges, who was SOC-BBC president during 2008-2009, was re-elected in April. Georges, a junior international business major, is the only SOC-BBC member with previous experience in the field.

"I decided to run again as president because I wanted to help the new executive board and teach them what I know about SOC," Georges said.

As president, Georges

said his goal is to increase the number of clubs on campus.

There are 15 registered clubs under SOC-BBC, but only eight of them are active this summer, according to Georges, who said the rest will be back for the Fall and Spring semesters.

"We hope to get 45 or 50 clubs at the end of Spring 2010," Georges said.

Clubs that are now active during the summer are: On Point Poetry, BBC Science, Marine Biology, Tau Sigma Alpha, Film Union, Public Relations Student Society of America, Students for the Poor and Invitational Scholars.

Students are concerned with the lack of activities on campus during the summer, according to Georges. SOC-BBC is therefore trying to attract students to new clubs through a marketing campaign, which includes sending e-mails, contacting students through a Facebook group (facebook.com/

socbbc) and handing out fliers.

"For this summer, we only have a club fair and a general meeting, but we are going to have a lot of activities for fall. We will have a networking activity consisting of other clubs coming to BBC and networking with each other, but we don't have a date yet," Martinez said.

A Summer Fun Club Fair will take place July 22 at 1 p.m. in Panther Square, where registered clubs will set up tables to recruit new members.

Students interested in creating new clubs must have a minimum of five members, a faculty member to serve as club advisor and a constitution.

This year's SOC-BBC members have high expectations about what the new school year will bring.

"We are excited for what we are going to do, and being part of the campus life," Martinez said.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Campus safety goes beyond text messages: common sense is needed, too

When Derrick Storms was held at gunpoint and robbed in the early morning hours of June 29 while studying outside the Green Library, he expected the University community to at least hear about it.

When Public Safety did not broadcast a warning to students via text message, after deciding there was no imminent threat, Storms was outraged.

"I was lulled into a false sense of security," Storms said. "I would not have been studying outside the Green Library had I known of the danger."

Considering the circumstances under which this crime occurred, Public Safety's decision not to alert the campus was a wise one.

"The decision to not alert the campus was made after apprehending one suspect and knowing that the second suspect had fled the campus," said Lieutenant Ricardo Torres, who was in charge of the investigation, in a statement.

The second assailant was soon apprehended with the help of Sweetwater Police.

"I feel students should know of the propensity of violent crimes committed at FIU, so they can avoid the plight I recently went through," Storms said.

Although relevant enough for a story, a mass panic resulting from a stale message would be unnecessary, waking people up early in the morning and distressing students in the residence halls. However, it does raise questions about students' safety awareness.

For one, students shouldn't trust Public Safety to watch out for them 24 hours a day. If you study with an open laptop outside in the predawn hours, you take your chances.

According to FIU Public Safety's Web site, in 2007 there were five cases of robbery at MMC, 75 cases of burglary at MMC and 15 at BBC.

Students need to realize that FIU will always be an open campus, with the Frost Museum, various sports events, public gatherings, speeches, the Fair and even bathrooms that attract the attention of the public.

Second, students shouldn't leave their personal belongings unattended. Many familiar stories have spread about students who have walked away to use the library bathrooms only to return and find their laptops missing. Also, do not leave expensive objects visible in your cars - leaving anything valuable in plain sight is basically asking for someone to break in.

Finally, be careful when walking alone at night. FIU is well lit during the day, but the night houses a lot of dark areas that can become potential crime scenes. Students can call Panther Tram at (305) 348-6173 to come and pick them up and safely escort them to their car or dorm.

It is students' responsibilities to keep their eyes and ears open for suspicious activities and to report anything they see to the Public Safety officials.

If students do not receive text alerts and wish to do so, they would need to have their number registered for alerts online at Panthersoft. "We take every incident seriously and will use appropriate measures to respond to each emergency," Torres said.

In the end, no one is responsible for their own lives but themselves.

In this instance, *The Beacon* trusts that the Public Safety officers made the right choice when it comes to the safety of FIU's students and hopes that students will take more precautions around campus.

Republicans must let go of past ideologies

JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ
Staff Writer

Ronald Reagan's great Republican Party - at first defined by its conservative spending - is becoming extinct.

The GOP has turned into a scapegoat for the current economic crisis. It has become an increasingly divided party in which each man is on his own, and its top representatives have become the "genius" Sarah Palin, Dick Cheney (or rather, Dr. Evil), and the notorious Rush Limbaugh.

It started with George W. Bush, when the party that was known to advocate small government and conservative spending suddenly betrayed its principles and increased national debt to \$4 trillion, using Sept. 11 as an excuse. Bush subsequently decided to invade Iraq for its terrorist ties and "weapons of mass destruction."

We all know how that turned out.

The reality is that many politicians who sell themselves as Republicans really belong to "the Bush Party," where the line between government interests and personal agendas has become blurred.

What began as the war on terror in Afghanistan became the Iraq War - where controlling oil seems to have become the main goal.

After all, no weapons of mass destruction were found.

The real cancer of the party is its position on sensitive subjects like the economy, social issues and its own radically conservative stance. Cutting taxes for the super rich that are the minority of the electorate hasn't helped the GOP's image in recent elections, especially with the nation's current unemployment rate at 9.1 percent. In 2003,



taxpayers with incomes greater than \$10 million reduced their investment tax by an average of \$500,000, with a total tax savings of \$1 million by the end of the Bush term, according to *The New York Times*.

In an increasingly liberal society, opposing gay rights and abortion has rewarded them with animosity. Opposing the universal health plan that would benefit 46 million Americans doesn't make sense, unless their intention is to serve insurance agencies rather than voters.

It's simple, at least theoretically: Republicans must stop being the party of old issues that are meaningless. *Roe v. Wade* is an issue of the past, so are gay rights - ignoring environmental problems and other policies only

serves to poison the party.

The Republican Party must stop preaching to the extremely conservative, white Protestant population and appeal to minorities. Most importantly, they must appeal to the independent voters, who decide elections.

They have to start defending the middle class, and not with rhetoric - they need to act via legislation. Health care reforms, green policies and employment opportunities and reduction of the national deficits are a good way to start.

Of course, with the current Democrat-run Washington, bipartisanship is a must. The Republicans simply have to stop being the party of "no" and offer feasible alternatives in the case of dissent.

Media should not consider 'tweets' a legitimate news source

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

Twitter has erupted since its start in March of 2006. The service distributes a lot of information to millions of people, but how reliable is that information?

News agencies and media outlets have begun taking advantage of Twitter, a popular social networking site, as a means of delivering breaking news.

But recently, some agencies, particularly CNN, have used it as more of a source, commonly referring to information broadcast on it during news coverage. This was especially apparent during the coverage of the

Iranian elections, where Ayatollah-backed candidate Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won in a contested election against reformist candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi; ballot fraud is believed to have taken place.

Because of the foreign media's inability to report freely on what's going on in Iran due to government censorship, CNN turned to Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube for the bulk of its information. During the Iran election coverage, CNN anchors would openly refer to "tweets" from people who were supposedly in Iran at the time. Meanwhile, a large red banner ran at the bottom of the screen reading "unconfirmed information."

If you are reporting unconfirmed informa-

tion, then why am I watching? I turn to CNN for hard, reliable news. It wouldn't be too farfetched for Iranian government officials to use sites such as Twitter to spread false information that CNN would unknowingly report.

Citizen journalism has its pluses and minuses: it gives media outlets omnipresence, especially during events that require intense, ongoing coverage. However, I would hardly consider "@DiscoDan227" a credible source.

CNN looked to Twitter for instant viewer feedback, but later realized the possibilities of millions of citizen journalists reporting local information all the time. In the end, I'll take a seasoned, educated journalist over a "tweet" any day of the week.

SAY WHAT?!: Should Public Safety have alerted students of the incident that happened June 29?

"[Public Safety] should have let students know about what happened. I don't think many students know about it."

Johnny Vazquez
Junior, Public Relations

"Not only should students be updated about these incidents, but we should also be more knowledgeable about the Campus Safety system itself."

Mariana Stevenson
Junior, History

"[Public Safety] should make more of an effort to let students know about these incidents; this is our second home."

Danny Tamayo
Junior, Nursing

"It's really dangerous to not know what's going on, especially when you have late classes. If you don't know what's going on, you don't think about taking precautions."

Jillian Torres
Senior, Liberal Studies

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

QUOTATION

"It's amazing what sort of shots he can come up with from impossible positions ... It's an unbelievable effort to have 15 grand slam titles."

Tennis Athlete Rod Laver
On Roger Federer's July 5 Wimbledon win

OPINION PIECE

140

The number of people killed (at least) in Xinjiang, China, highlighting the region's worst case of ethnic unrest in years.

DAILYQUERY

Sarah Palin resigned from her gubernatorial office on July 3, stepping down a year and a half before her term ended. Was this a good move for her to make if she plans to run for the presidency in 2012? Let us know! Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com.



Vans Warped Tour set to rock South Florida this month

ROSALYN DELGADO
Recruitment Director

While most Miami residents are gearing up to spend their summer hanging out at

the hottest beach-side clubs, others are looking forward to something more warped.

The alternative/punk music community is preparing to make a pilgrimage to the one summer tour that is sure to quench their musical

thirst. The Vans Warped Tour 2009, one of the few large touring festivals left in the music world, kicked off on June 26 in Panama, California and will run across the United States and Canada for 46 tour dates, making one very anticipated stop in South Florida on July 25 at the Cruzan Amphitheatre. Punksters and alternative music lovers all over South Florida will be treated to a new festival setup, but with the same musical dynamics that has made the warped tour as popular as it is today.

Fans will be able to enjoy headliners such as Bad Religion, NoFX, Anti-Flag, Flogging Molly and even current radio chart toppers like 3OH!3 on one main stage for 40-minute sets as opposed to two main stages with bands performing for only 30.

Bad deal some might say. But, when most people watch punk veterans like Bad Religion play, they'll thank the heavens they have 10 extra minutes to soak in a newly invigorated love for punk music.

Aside from the quality of the performers, what sets this festival apart from most other summer festivals is the price. While other festivals suck about \$100 to \$200 out of fans, entrance to Warped Tour costs around \$25. That's \$25 for more than 40 bands, free bags of goodies at every sponsor's tent, countless band autograph signings and the chance to say "You saw so-and-so before they hit the big time."

That leads to another reason this festival's sets have the potential to be so memorable. Heavy hitters like Fall Out Boy, Panic! At the Disco, Paramore, Blink-182 and Sum 41 all have something more than platinum records in common, they all got their start at the warped tour and, like them, every year many up-and-coming acts use the tour as their launching pad

to popularity.

If the warped tour is known for anything, it's its uncanny ability to find talent in a sea of bands, all thirsty for a chance to showcase their music.

Warped Tour founder Kevin Lyman, who is affectionately known as the grandfather of punk among warped tour bands, has been hand picking the bands since 1994, when he grabbed ska bands such as No Doubt and Sublime, picked up some skate teams, shoved them on a bus and took them on the first ever warped tour.

Now, as the tour celebrates what some of us in Miami would refer to as its *Quinceañera* it follows the same process, with Lyman himself going out to find the talent that punks across the nation can enjoy.

From national acts like 3OH!3, We the Kings and All Time Low, to punk rock vets like Bad Religion, Alexisonfire and the Bouncing Souls, this year's Vans Warped Tour is sure to have something to offer most music lovers.

If you're into more obscure, yet-to-be-popular bands, check out the "Kevin Says Stage." You might leave with a new favorite "I saw them before anyone knew who they were" act. For those who are warped tour virgins, there is even a "Warped Tour Survival Guide" on *warped-tour.com* that lists all the dos and don'ts and "OMG! NO WAYS" for your first warped tour experience.

The 2009 Vans Warped Tour will hit South Florida on July 25 at the Cruzan Amphitheatre. Tickets are still available on *ticketmaster.com*. For the full band lineup check out *www.warpedtour.com*.

THE CINEMATIC

This summer's potential surprise box-office hits

The summer box-office season is usually the time when Hollywood unleashes big-scale and big budget films such as *Star Trek* and *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* which predictably become huge hits.



STEVE MESA

Sometimes, however, a movie like *The Hangover* goes on to become a surprise success, despite a much smaller budget and less initial promotion. Here are a couple of films that might not be as highly anticipated as the new Harry Potter movie, but could become "sleeper hits." More importantly, they could turn out to be good movies that might make a worthy alternative to the typical summer fare.

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On the far side of the moon in the near future, Astronaut Sam Bell (Sam Rockwell) is about to complete a three-year contract with Lunar Industries to mine for Earth's new alternative energy source. Sam has no way to communicate with anybody outside of the moon station other than Gerty (Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey), a robot that expresses emotion through a cartoon smiley face displayed on a computer screen.

As he has weeks before he can be reunited with his wife and young daughter, Sam starts to have frequent headaches and hallucinations and suffers from a lack of focus. This causes him to have a near-fatal crash in a lunar rover.

While recuperating at the base while suffering some memory loss, he meets a younger and agitated version of himself that turns out to be a clone.

JULY 10
MOON

JULY 17
(500) DAYS OF SUMMER

When an unlucky greeting card copy writer (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is suddenly dumped by his girlfriend (Zooey Deschanel), he looks back at the past 500 days when they were together to try to figure out what specific event led to their break up. Ultimately, his reflections on the great time they spent together lead him to fall in love with her all over again. *(500) Days of Summer* marks director Mark Webb's first full length feature film after directing several music videos.

JULY 24
THE HURT LOCKER

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow (*Point Break*), *The Hurt Locker* is a fictional tale inspired by real events in the life of journalist and screenwriter Mark Boal, who was with

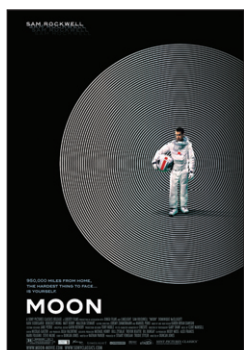
a special bomb unit in Iraq in the summer of 2004. In this movie, three members of the Army's elite Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad (Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie and Brian Geraghty) battle insurgents and each other as they disarm several roadside bombs on the streets of Baghdad. The movie features cameo appearances from Oscar-nominee Ralph Fiennes (*The Reader*), David Morse ("John Adams"), Evangeline Lilly ("Lost") and Guy Pearce (*Memento*), and was filmed in Amman, Jordan and the cast was provided with security from the Jordanian military at the hotels where cast and crew were staying.

JULY 31
THIRST

A priest (The Host's Song Kang-Ho) volunteers for a secret vaccine development project intended to stop a deadly virus. The priest comes in contact with the virus and a blood transfusion is given to him. Unfortunately, the operation turns him into a vampire. Already a box office smash hit in Korea, *Thirst* was honored with the Jury Prize at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

AUG. 14
PAPER HEART

You may not have heard of Charlyene Li, but you might remember her from her role as Seth Rogen's roommate's girlfriend in *Knocked Up*. In *Paper Heart*, Li travels



Moon



(500) Days of Summer



Thirst



The Hurt Locker



Taking Woodstock

Indie films dominate summer movie lineup

CINEMATIC, page 5

the country to make a documentary about love, a subject she is skeptical of. With her friend (and director) Nicolas Jasenovc, they talk to several friends and strangers on the diverse views of modern romance.

As soon as filming begins, Li begins to fall in love with actor Michael Cera and their relationship develops in front of the cameras. *Paper Heart* premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival and won the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award for its writers, Jasenovc and Li.

TAKING WOODSTOCK

Directed by Oscar-winning director Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*) and inspired by a true story, *Taking Woodstock* tells the story of Elliot Tiber (Demetri Martin) and his family, who played a pivotal role in the making of the famous Woodstock Festival. In 1969, Tiber moves from Greenwich Village, New York upstate to help run his parents' motel in White Lake, New York. When the bank is about to foreclose on the motel, Elliot hears about a hippie festival getting a permit pulled from a neighboring town.

He convinces the producer to come to their town instead in order to attract guests to the motel and

prevent the bank's foreclosure on the family business. The festival that comes to his small hometown ends up attracting half a million people and becomes a defining moment for a generation.

Taking Woodstock has a cast that features Oscar-nominee Imelda Staunton (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*), Eugene Levy (*American Pie*), Emile Hirsch (*Into the Wild*) and Live Schreiber (*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*). It was nominated for the prestigious Palm D'Or award at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

AUG. 21 WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

Fresh from the 2009 Sundance Film Festival is writer/director Bobcat Goldthwait's film about a man (Robin Williams) who dreamed of becoming a famous writer, but settles for being a high school poetry teacher. His son (Daryl Sabara) treats him with contempt and the fellow faculty member he is dating (Alexie Gilmore) is ashamed of their relationship.

In the wake of a freak accident, he is faced with the possibility of having all the fame, fortune and popularity he'd always dreamed of while living with how he got into that position.

Facebook applications to help you waste the day away

TREVOR NICHOLSON
Contributing Writer

Ever found yourself on Facebook chatting it up with friends, posting photo comments or using any of the thousands of applications when you should be studying?

If you have and want to put a stop to it, stop reading now!

But, for the rest of you, the following list of Facebook applications may offer you many more hours of procrastination and amusement.

Honesty Box – Do you feel like your friends never quite give you their honest opinion of you to your face? Or do you want to express your secret love in an anonymous message?

If so, this application could prove useful. It gives you the ability to send and receive anonymous messages, ask questions and discover what people really think and let that crush of yours know someone admires them. Potential users should be careful however, since this application will enable all your Facebook friends to tell you what they really think of you, and that's not always a good thing.

Sheep Tycoon – This game is for those of you who love sheep (I know you're out there). This butter-churning, milk-collecting, cheese-fermenting, money-making, sheep-saving game offers almost as much amusement as being an actual shepherd, without the danger of being eaten by hungry wolves.

MyPersonality – College is a time when many people learn more about and sometimes even "find" themselves.

What better way to do that than through a Face-

book application?

If you want to know more about your own personality and then compare it to your friends', this application is sure to get you through a lull.

It offers several different quizzes to pinpoint your personality traits, some of which are more than 300 questions long and are supposedly used in actual psychological research.

How Well Do You Know Me? – This application appears to be particularly popular. It enables users to create quizzes about themselves for their friends to take and vice-versa.

Finally, Facebook has provided a proven scientific way to find out which friends "really" know you and which ones just can't remember what your "dream car" is.

Free Rice – While many Facebook applications like the one mentioned above seem self indulgent, at least one application serves more than just your ego and need for constant amusement. Based on the Web site, *freerice.com*, this vocabulary game is intended to feed your vocabulary and, more importantly, feed the hungry.

For every correct answer, the United Nations World Food Program will donate 10 grains of rice to help stop world hunger.

Sure, it's not as fun as "Sheep Tycoon," but pretending to be a shepherd won't feed a hungry child.

All in all, these applications are a good way to cure your boredom, expand your vocabulary and live out your long-held fantasies of sheep herding.

Of course, these aren't the only interesting applications, and more are being created every day. With all the options, there is a Facebook application for everyone, and a new way to waste valuable time.

Budget-friendly potluck parties provide stress-free fun

ROBERT VICENS
Contributing Writer

At a time when it is hard to find money to pay bills, or even buy a girl roses, people are looking for something inexpensive to do on weekends to keep up their spirits. What better way to do that than to organize a party and invite friends to share a potluck?

Throwing a party in your home can seem like a daunting task. The responsibility of being a host can be a tedious sport of sprinting from end to end of one's property, serving cocktails, cooking last-minute treats, cleaning up broken dishes and chasing down the house cat that someone carelessly let out.

While there may not be a set of instructions to guarantee that everything goes right, here are a few general tips to keep money in your wallet and have a good time.

A potluck, if executed properly, is an economical way to bring people together, entertain them and stock up on leftovers for next week. Guests are responsible for bringing food for themselves as well as to share with others. Don't forget to assign folks to bring paper plates, cups, cutlery and ice. In theory, a potluck alleviates the pocket of the host and ensures a variety of foods to keep the stomach happy while guests engage in whatever activities you've arranged for the evening. If you're feeling creative, invite friends to bring traditional food from their home country.

One way to keep costs down while throwing a potluck party is to delegate responsibility. Part of the fun of a party is planning it and then enjoying the festivities. The planning stage can be a good opportunity to bond with a pal while relieving some of the burden of organizing everything. Pick one or two reliable friends to help. They can

decorate the house with last year's Christmas lights, make calls off your guest list to assign what food or drinks to bring and, most importantly, stay with you once the party's done to help with the cleanup. Be sure to give credit to your party planners, they'll appreciate you all the more for it.

Having a themed party is an easy way to get your guests committed to showing up by getting them to think about what to wear days before the event. A black and white, wacky tacky or 60's hippie theme can add a new dimension to your bash.

Another important part of recession proof partying is to invite generously. The fact is, no matter who you may be, not everyone that you invite to your shindig will show up. It can be quite stressful and disappointing if at the end of the night your party is emptier than you wanted. Don't be afraid to invite a lot of people. If you explain to your guests clearly that they are responsible for bringing food and drinks, the more people you invite, the better.

Control the focus of your groups. Have activities prepared to keep guests entertained. Uno, Apples to Apples (a very fun game), Pictionary or a party game for the Nintendo Wii are all fun ways to keep people having a good time. No party game is too silly among friends. Even if your guests spend all night in the hot tub or dancing to whatever music you're playing, it's good to have ideas and be prepared for a sudden shift in mood among your guests.

There is deep satisfaction to be had in bringing people together, watching them bond and laugh whether they knew each other beforehand. Be brave and give it a shot. You'll be surprised how things have a way of working out.

GOOD

Themes

1960s
Wacky Tacky
Disco

Games

Twister,
charades, beer pong,
spin the bottle

Snacks

Chips and dip, pizza,
hummus

BAD

Themes

1930s
Donner Party
C-SPAN

Games

Bingo
Duck, duck goose
Monopoly

Snacks

Spam, tuna,
hard-boiled eggs



BRONZE PANTHER



CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

SERVED: FIU volleyball star and three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa and the Puerto Rican national team earned the bronze medal at the VIII Pan-American Volleyball Championships on July 4 at the BankUnited Center.

Thomas hopes center returns; five scholarship players gone

BASKETBALL, page 8

according to Athletics.

WAITING GAME

Center Freddy Asprilla is one of coach Rouco's players that Thomas would like to see in uniform this upcoming season.

Following Rouco's reassignment, the Sun Belt Freshman of the Year requested a scholarship request and flew back home to Colombia for the summer.

"Let's give it some time. I do understand [Asprilla's] emotions. I told him 'The door is always open here,'"

Thomas said in an interview with Student Media on May 8.

As of this week, Athletics said there is still no update on Asprilla's situation. If he does return, he'd be one of five scholarship players remaining from last year's squad: forwards Nikola Gacesa, Cedric Essola and J.C. Otero and guard Tremayne Russell.

Guards Michael Dominguez and Harley Fuller transferred out of the University to play closer to home before Thomas' hiring.

After the coaching change occurred, starting point

guard Josue Soto decided he wanted to play professional basketball in Puerto Rico and requested a release from his scholarship. Athletics granted it.

"We will do everything to assist Josue in his pursuit and decision to play professional basketball in Puerto Rico, and we will not stand in his way," Thomas said in an e-mail sent to Student Media in April.

Athletics would not disclose how many more scholarships Thomas is allowed to distribute, but he is still actively recruiting players.

Applebaum completes first recruiting class

TENNIS, page 8

was finally forced to end her playing career.

"My bicep was completely detached and located down in my arm," she said. "At the time it hurt, but it was nothing compared to the match. I could have blown out my knee and I would have been playing like Superman."

After a few months of thinking the events were for the worst, Applebaum found that helping young tennis players develop their skills in a team-oriented environment was as fulfilling as playing.

"I now wake up every morning and have that feeling that I can accomplish something today. For me, I can make a difference in each of these girl's lives."

SCULPTING THE FUTURE

After taking the Golden Panthers to another Sun Belt Conference Championship and the second round of the NCAA Regionals, Applebaum must now look toward building the program.

"As a team, we're only gonna get better the more players we have that are ranked," she said. "I want players who are the best that they can be, but they need to be team players."

Going into her first season of recruiting, Applebaum has had some advice from others who have been there before.

"Lucky for me, I've had a bunch of

mentors in [FIU football head coach] Mario Cristobal and [Athletic Director] Pete Garcia who have given me little tips of advice as I've gone along."

For the upcoming 2009 Fall season, Applebaum is ready to debut her first two recruits in her collegiate coaching career.

The first of the two players is an incoming sophomore from Virginia named Christina "Chrissie" Seredni. She won the Richmond City Adult Open when she was 14 years old, making her the youngest player to win the tournament in 25 years.

The second is Magali Holt, a true freshman from Quebec, Canada. Holt was ranked as the No. 43 Canadian female tennis player under 18 years of age at the end of 2007.

"On the court, Holt is soft spoken, sweet and hell on wheels," she said.

Teammate Priscilla Castillo believes that the new additions will need to work as hard as ever.

"Everything went really good this year. We need to work hard and keep doing what we have been doing," Castillo said. "I think that the biggest thing is that they are gonna have to get used to the intensity of practice."

Applebaum is in the middle of hiring an assistant coach to help her continue improving the program's prestige.

"You haven't seen anything from FIU women's tennis yet."

Conference rival wins recruiting battle on paper

RAMOS, page 8

On the other side of the wall are conference trophies, 21 NCAA tournament appearances, Sweet 16 appearances, NBA first round draft picks and a top incoming class that includes a 6-foot-10 recruit to counter Asprilla.

That wall is the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

STRIKING FIRST

The Hilltoppers have already handed the Golden Panthers a loss, even though a game has yet to be played.

While Thomas scrambled to put together an incoming recruiting class of six unranked junior college players, the Hilltoppers pounded on with arguably the best class in the conference.

Thomas arrived late in the process and is still trying to learn the ropes of the college game from a coaching perspective. With all the optimism his arrival aroused, some would say it was a valiant effort for the position he was in.

His first recruiting class cannot be judged until it gets on the court, and shouldn't be held to huge expectations anyway.

The war is still to be fought on the court, but the Hilltoppers won the battle of recruiting on paper.

It can't be overlooked that Western Kentucky acquired the only four-star recruit that will see the conference this season in forward Terrence Boyd, and also added three more prospects with three-star ratings, according to *rivals.com*.

Those type of players generally do not

find a way into the Sun Belt, but the Hilltoppers landed a handful.

One of those players is 6-foot-10 Cliff Dixon, who could put a body on Asprilla in a conference where he swatted most opponents away like flies.

Also, most of the players in that class are coming in as high school freshmen, assuring they will be around for longer than the array of two-year players FIU attained.

The king of the hill might be so far off that Thomas would need binoculars to see even a blur of the Hilltopper logo.

DOMINANT

Western Kentucky defeated FIU last season en route to their fourth conference tournament title of the decade, the most of any Sun Belt team.

The Hilltoppers also advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament where a two-point loss to No. 10 ranked Gonzaga stopped them from reaching their second straight Sweet 16.

New Jersey Nets guard Courtney Lee was a Hilltopper in 2008 for that deep postseason run, but the team did not skip a beat after his departure.

The incoming class of recruits will add on to starters Steffphon Pettigrew, Sergio Kerusch and A.J. Slaughter and put WKU in position to close out the decade with five SBC tournament titles.

Indeed, the SBC runs through Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The bricks on the wall are getting stronger with time, and Western Kentucky has the conference in a tight grip that will take, at this pace, years to climb.

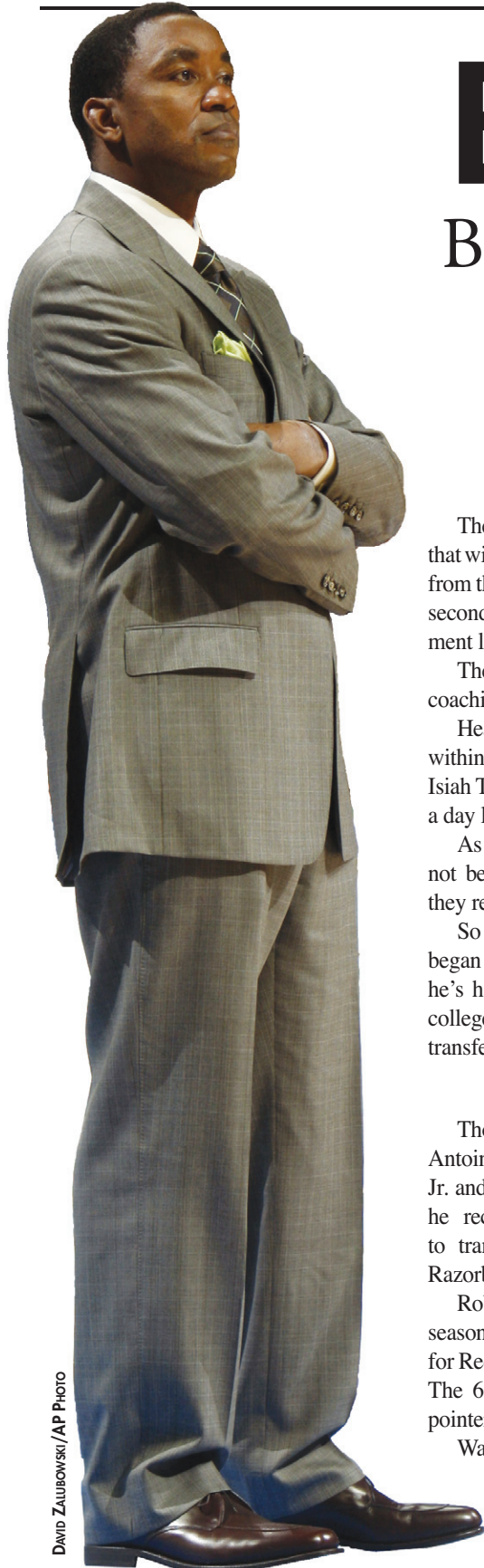
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DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP PHOTO

BUILDING BLOCKS

Basketball team almost complete with junior college transfers

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers men's basketball team that will hit the court this fall will be very different from the one that lost to Western Kentucky in the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament last March.

The most notable change will come from the coaching staff.

Head coach Sergio Rouco was reassigned within Athletics, and basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas was given the reins to the program a day later.

As of now, five players from last season will not be returning due to graduation or because they requested scholarship releases.

So with holes to fill in the roster, Thomas began his rookie year of recruiting, and, so far, he's handed out six scholarships to five junior college athletes and one University of Arkansas transfer student.

NEW FACES

Thomas began by signing Marvin Roberts, Antoine Watson, Stephon Weaver, Phil Gary, Jr. and Kavon Lytch out of junior colleges, and he recently got sophomore Brandon Moore to transfer from the University of Arkansas Razorbacks.

Roberts, who led the NCJAA in scoring last season, averaged 29.6 points and 4.6 rebounds for Redlands Community College in 2008-2009. The 6-foot-5 guard also knocked down 47 3-pointers in the 2008-2009 season.

Watson, a teammate of Roberts' at Redlands CC, was the fifth leading scorer in the NCJAA with 24.8 points per game. The 6-foot-3 guard also led the league

in steals at 4.7 a game and shot a scorching 72 percent from beyond the arc, making 54 of his 75 attempts.

Weaver, a 6-foot-3 guard from Connor State, averaged 17 points and six rebounds per game last season and led his team to the NCJAA Final Four. He was named Player of the Year in his conference and was a Third Team Junior College All-American.

Standing at 5-foot-10, Gary, Jr. averaged 19 points with nine assists per game for Malcolm X Community College last season. The undersized guard also tallied three triple-doubles this past season, scoring at least 30 points in those three contests.

"We are excited about these four student athletes," Thomas said in a press release sent to Student Media in April. "I look forward to coaching all four players both on and off the court."

Lytch, a 6-foot-7 power forward, spent his sophomore season at Midland College in Midland, Tex. after playing for Redlands CC in El Reno, Okla. his freshman year. He led his team in scoring with 17.7 points a game on 66 percent shooting and grabbed 9.3 rebounds per game.

The transfer from Arizona, Moore, is the No. 32 power forward from the recruiting class of 2008, according to *rivals.com*.

He didn't play much during his freshman campaign as a Razorback, averaging 9.1 minutes with 1.9 points and 1.6 rebounds. Moore will have to sit out the 2009-2010 season, per NCAA transfer rules, but will be eligible to play for three seasons, beginning with the 2010-2011 season,

BASKETBALL, page 7

RECRUITS

- Marvin Roberts
Redlands Community College
6-foot-5 guard
Averaged 29.6 points and 4.6 rebounds last season.
Led the NCJAA in scoring.
- Antoine Watson
Redlands Community College
6-foot-3 guard
Averaged 24.8 points per game last season.
Fifth leading scorer in NCJAA. Led NCJAA in steals (4.7 per game). Had a 72 percent three-point field-goal percentage.
- Stephon Weaver
Connor State
6-foot-3 guard
Averaged 17 points and 6 rebounds per game last season.
Led Connor State to NCJAA Final Four and was named a Third-Team Junior College All-American.
- Phil Gary, Jr.
Malcolm X Community College
5-foot-10 guard
Averaged 19 points and 9 assists last season.
Tallied three triple-doubles last season, scoring at least 30 points those games.
- Kavon Lytch
6-foot-7 forward
Midland Community College
Averaged 17.7 points and 9.3 rebounds last season.
Shot 66 percent from the field.
- Brandon Moore
University of Arkansas
6-foot-9 forward
Averaged 1.9 points and 1.6 rebounds in 9.1 minutes last NCAA season.
Was the No. 32 ranked power forward in *rivals.com's* class of 2008 recruiting class. Will sit out 2009-2010 season per NCAA transfer rules.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Head coach gears up for Fall

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

First-year Golden Panthers tennis head coach Melissa Applebaum led her University of Miami team to the 2006 NCAA National Championship Finals. But a lingering shoulder injury brought her career to an abrupt end in 2006.

Now, in 2009, she is realizing a new dream she never even considered.

"As a player you grow up wanting to play at Wimbledon and all the majors, and I've done that and loved it," the former UM standout said. "Then I got injured. Now, three years after graduating college, I'm

the head coach of a top 30 [ranked] Division I women's tennis program."

Nearly three months ago, she became the official head coach and took control of the FIU tennis program. She was the interim coach throughout the team's 15-5 regular season.

For the first time in the past few years, the 25-year-old Applebaum will be able to provide Golden Panthers tennis continuity in the form of an established head coach with no plans of leaving the program anytime soon.

"The whole year has been wonderful," Applebaum said. "For some of these girls, I'm their third coach in four years of college. They



CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

ADVICE: Head coach Melissa Applebaum hopes new recruits will help team advance more in the NCAA tourney.

believed in me and my thoughts, and everything I told them we would do this year, we did."

Liset Brito, the team's highest ranked player, said that playing under Applebaum has helped her improve in her sport.

"This past year was great," Brito said. "I want to improve my ranking and I believe that coach Apple-

baum can help me do that."

PLAYING DAYS

Applebaum had never given a second thought to coaching as a career when she was in college at the University of Miami.

Foregoing shoulder surgery her sophomore year through her senior year, she

TENNIS, page 7

Golden Panthers have Hilltoppers to climb

Golden Panthers football head coach Mario Cristobal understands how to build a team from scratch.

When the Golden Panthers made the leap from one win in 2007 to a near season bowl game in 2008, Cristobal placed the program in a promising direction.

The team followed that up with the second best recruiting class in the Sun Belt Conference, second to Troy University. Second.

A distant finish from a Troy team that cushioned itself with 40 new recruits which recruiting database

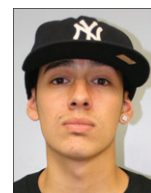
rivals.com ranks as the strongest group in the Sun Belt.

There is a wall there. In Troy, the Golden Panthers face the daunting task of trying to keep up with a power in the conference that is in position to stay there.

Basketball coach Isiah Thomas can seek counsel from Cristobal, but the first-year, controversial coach has an even greater Goliath to overcome.

That program faces a wall that 6-foot-10 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year Freddy Asprilla and 7-foot giant Russell Hicks could not climb last season even if they stood on top of each other.

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JONATHAN RAMOS