

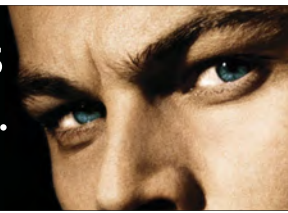


Heat team could affect local teams, including FIU.

SPORTS, PAGE 3

The Beacon reviews DiCaprio's new film.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Opinion: Citizens need to be informed and active

OPINION, PAGE 7



ONE-STOP SHOP



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS & BUSINESS SERVICES

The new parking garage on the North side of Modesto Maidique Campus will offer more than just parking; PG5 Market Station will offer a variety of new restaurants, a cyber café and classrooms. Market Station is expected to open in the fall.

FIU to hire more advisers as enrollment rates increase

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Despite tuition increases and budget cuts, FIU will hire about 100 new faculty members, with one-third being incremental hires and two-thirds replacements.

Increasing enrollment along with pursuing research initiatives within the University brings the need for new faculty while replacement hires are the result of retirements and resignations, according to University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok.

"We've hired or will hire about 106 new faculty members and I don't think you can find any university outside of Florida that is doing that this year, or the next," said University President Mark Rosenberg during a Budget Forum at the Modesto Maidique Campus on June 2.

Among the faculty growing during the coming semesters are academic advisers. The advising staff began its increases last year with nine new advisers. Ten more will be hired this year, with 12 more being planned for next year.

"The University has placed a greater emphasis on advising over the last couple of years as the administration has looked for ways to improve the success and retention of our students," said Charles Andrews, director of the Academic Advising Center for Undergraduate Studies. "The Academic Advising Center has focused on adding more advisers and standardizing our training efforts."

This is the first time that they will be having this type of staff increase, as the department usually only hires one adviser at a time over several year.

"The original plan was to have all of the additional advising staff in place by next summer," said Andrews. "The recent decision to continue increasing our enrollment means that we will continue to add more advisers each year over the next few years."

The additional advisers "were deemed critical to achieve a workable ratio of students to advisers," according to Andrews. The appropriate ratio of students to advisers is 300-to-1, according to the National Academic Advising Association. Prior to the new hires, the ratio at FIU was 800-to-1, though by next year it should decrease to a little less than 300-to-1.

With the introduction of new faculty also comes new job titles. A number of recently hired advisers are now called Bridge Advisers. These advisers initially report to the central advising center but are placed in the different college advising offices of the University.

Having around eight Bridge Advisers to date, they will be responsible for aiding students who are exploring the majors in their respective colleges and provide guidance to those who are working to be accepted under such majors.

"Most of the changes will focus on new outreach initiatives for students who are struggling or need

ADVISING, page 2

Creole course highlights Haitian culture

BRITTANY BARTLETT-PINA
Contributing Writer

FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center has experienced a notable increase in student enrollment for its six-week course program, the Haitian Summer Institute.

Since its inception in 1997, the program was designed for people interested in learning Haitian Creole as well as further development in Haitian cultural understanding. Any student is eligible to enroll in the intensive summer program that is offered every year.

Professor Jacques Pierre, a native of Haiti, has been working with the institute since 2005. Pierre has a Master's degree in translation studies and has been teaching Haitian Creole for ten years. He believes the program's purpose is to give people a chance to know Haiti in a better way.

"People tend to view Haiti in a negative way and this is a way to learn what it is really about; to shed light on the positive aspects of the culture" said Pierre.

HSI has grown in class size since it began 13 years ago and unlike the gradual increases witnessed in most

People tend to view Haiti in a negative way and this is a way to learn what it is really about; to shed light on the positive aspects of the culture

Jacques Pierre, Professor
Latin American and Caribbean Center

years, the difference from 2009 to 2010 was a change from 16 students to 23 students. While Pierre believes that this year's increase has been affected somewhat by the attention Haiti has received since being hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan 12, he does not have the data to back those claims.

The program, which also incorporates guest lectures, had initially been divided into two segments in which the first three weeks were language acquisition while the following three weeks were based on field research in Haiti.

However, due to recent study abroad adjustments, the program is now conducted entirely at FIU with options in dividing the course into Accelerated Beginner's Haitian Creole followed by Accelerated Intermediate

HSI, page 2

Advising staff increases to better serve students

ADVISING, page 1

assistance finding an appropriate major,” Andrews said. “With more staff, we will also be able to promote our services more so that all students utilize advisers to stay on track.”

The growth of the AAC will also allow first-year students to be paired up with

a specific adviser in order to develop a relationship throughout their academic years.

“Students should expect advising to be more visible and [have] shorter wait times. New students will receive more outreach from their advisers to check on how things are going,” Andrews said.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 83 of The Beacon, the ‘Panther Power’ article in the At The Bay section incorrectly states that Panther Wonderland is for graduating seniors. Panther Wonderland is actually for all graduating football players. Also in the same article, Ana Perez is graduating in 2011, not in the summer.

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

College of Business now offering Healthcare MBA

LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA

Contributing Writer

The Healthcare Master of Business Administration at FIU’s College of Business Administration has not held its first session yet it is already contributing to FIU’s global learning initiative through collaborations with Southern Medical University, one of the top medical universities in China, located in Guangzhou.

The partnership resulted from a coincidental conversation between an FIU Business faculty member, Weidong Xia and a former colleague of his at SMU, an associate dean of the School of Humanities and Management at SMU.

“It just happened that she was looking for opportunities in overseas collaborations. I told her we had just started a new HCMBA program and the opportunity to develop a strategic partnership occurred,” said Xia.

The HCMBA program begins this fall and sessions will be held at FIU’s downtown campus every Saturday over a period of 20 months. Around 30 Chinese students will be arriving at FIU in fall 2010 to complete the second year of their studies. Most of these students are sixth year medical students who have already received their medical degrees. In China, students will take four classes at SMU during their first year and then they will finish the remaining 30 credits in the MBA program at FIU in order to receive an HCMBA degree from FIU.

Aside from an internationally diverse classroom, FIU HCMBA students will have the opportunity to travel to China to complete their Master Project by doing research at and visiting Chinese health care facilities for three months.

“They’ll be able to see how large health care systems operate. Some hospitals in China have around 2,000 beds, what their problems are and bring our knowledge to the table. Ultimately, a higher sense of

sensitivity to cultural differences will be an invaluable lesson to all the students,” said Dr. Nancy Borkowski, director of the Healthcare Management Programs in the Chapman Graduate School of Business.

SMU students will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn about the FIU College of Medicine’s distinctive curriculum consisting of teams that adopt communities and engage with local health care professionals in hospitals, long-term care facilities, outpatient facilities and even local health care programs. Through the “Fundamentals of the U.S. Health Systems” class, students gain real-world experience in their field throughout the entire program as opposed to waiting until their final year.

By facilitating the earning of two complementary degrees in two different locations, FIU is aiming to remain a world leader in international business education.

“It fits FIU’s new strategic directions very well, we want to become global and this just adds to what we’re already doing to make it even better by increasing visibility in China and in turn increasing revenue for FIU at home,” said Xia.

Borkowski travelled to SMU with Xia for a kick-off event officially announcing the agreement. SMU administrators will visit FIU this fall.

“It makes perfect [sense] for FIU to collaborate with a Chinese university because it’s being said that China is the growing economy that’s going to take over,” says Monica Ruiz, a Public Relations Senior who participated in a semester study abroad hospitality program at FIU’s China campus in Tianjin.

“The rest of the world has been investing time and money into learning the American way and now it’s time we invest in learning their ways because the language of business is changing and China is at the forefront of that, so it’s a good move,” Jose Coloma, an International Business and Economics senior.

Summer Haitian Creole program gains popularity

HSI, page 1

Haitian Creole or Accelerated Intermediate Haitian Creole followed by Accelerated Advanced Haitian Creole. Undergraduate students can earn up to six credit hours.

Russell Jones, a newly enrolled student at HSI, has decided to take advantage of the availability of this institute after years of hearing about the program. Jones acknowledges and appreciates the workload of the program that consists of “very intense long days, but good days.”

The program has even attracted attention outside of FIU. The institute’s easily accessible website allowed Philadelphia social worker Kathleen Nealon to find the program. Nealon, a sister of the Catholic Church who has specialized training in trauma therapy and homeless assistance, has begun to learn Creole for an upcoming mission to Haiti.

The mission, which will begin in August, could last up to two years, as Nealon plans to work with those in need.

FIU Law School Student, Sanjeev Sirpal, believes the program allows access to a large Haitian community within Miami.

“In order to be an effective advocate for the community, an understanding of Haitian Creole is necessary”, said Sirpal.

This emphasis on Haitian culture can be seen throughout the FIU community. During the Fall ‘09 semester, FIU hosted an event entitled “International Creole Day” which showcased Haitian foods and films.

The institute’s emphasis on Haitian culture has given students like Ginette Clarke an opportunity to learn more about their own backgrounds. Clarke, more commonly known as Gigi, is visiting from Canada while attending the summer program in order to better her language skills for communicating with her family in Haiti.

Having been adopted at age 4, Clarke, who recently found her biological family, had not grown up accustomed to Haitian Creole.

After yearning for a better connection with her family, whose English language capabilities are limited, Clarke decided to enroll in the program.

“I felt like I lived in two worlds [Canada and Haiti], HSI was the beginning of bridging that gap,” Clarke said.

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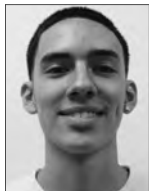
SOUTH FLORIDA SPORTS

INFUSION OF STARS SETTLE IN

Miami Heat coup will impact neighboring teams

The unfathomable reality of LeBron James and Chris Bosh uniting with Dwyane Wade on the rising Miami Heat is settling in amongst fans and critics around the country and the world. People's minds are still ringing with optimism or criticism as they try

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS

to evaluate the team's potential for a dynasty.

Soon, it will begin to immerse itself on the South Florida sports landscape too. The media phenomenon the Heat is will heavily affect the region, whether it completely overshadows its neighbor teams or helps them by shining a light on the city, which is known for its event atmosphere and bandwagon fans.

The Miami Heat can potentially have an octopus effect on South Florida. It can touch everything. It can bring publicity, attention and expectations. For its fellow professional teams, it can provide intangibles such as motivation and competition to achieve the same thing. As far as its college teams, it could be a background attraction for recruits, and raise the profile of the area as a sports town with the countries eyes on it.

One of the Heat's new monstrous limbs could touch the University as well.

"What they did by signing those guys could possibly make Miami the sports town it hasn't been," said former FIU baseball player Kris Garcia. "The majority of athletes and recruits look for somewhere to play where they know people will be paying attention.

In this case, there's a lot of it in Miami."

A POTENTIAL PLUS

Garcia, a former infielder for the Golden Panthers in 2008, said that he would enjoy the opportunity to be around the glitz of the Heat, because it can enhance his exposure.

"That puts them in the spotlight being an athlete in the same city as these guys [in Miami]," Garcia said. "Every athlete wants positive attention to their sport."

Former Golden Panthers quarterback Paul McCall thinks there are some parallels there.

"There is some truth to that because just like Garret Wittels showed," McCall said, "if you do something special you will get a lot of attention because of the amount of media and publicity in Miami. As for recruiting, it makes Miami more attractive, but there are a lot more important factors to that as well."

The other factors should be accounted for. Unlike Wittels' unprecedented streak, the Miami Heat do not directly affect the University. But does that mean they cannot benefit?

If the University wants to capitalize on the situation, they could attempt to create promotional events at FIU games, such as giving away tickets to Heat games at Golden Panther events, or inviting Heat point guard and former FIU alumnus Carlos Arroyo to as many FIU sports games as possible, which they have already done.

They could also have game night watch parties at the Graham Center's new Chili's restaurant. The University partnered with the Heat last season to have pep rallies at school and send large groups of FIU students to Heat games, but that may be more difficult to accommodate for next season with a higher demand for tickets.

And that doesn't include the minor help in recruiting this unprecedented Heat team can give FIU. Golden Panthers coaches, especially in basketball, can always tell the athletes, "Do you want to play in the backyard of the biggest media circus in sports?"

RECRUITING

How could it help lure recruits to

SPORTS, page 4



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU mens basketball coach Isiah Thomas is already reeling in top talent to the team, but the South Florida region may have more to offer now.

SPORTS REPLAY

Hilton, Serini and Gaitor named to preseason team



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU infielder Garrett Wittels [above] did not capture an ESPY last week in Los Angeles.

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

FOOTBALL: THREE GOLDEN PANTHERS NAMED TO PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

Looking at the newly released preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Team, the list is a perfect case of déjà vu for the Golden Panthers.

Sun Belt coaches and members of the media honored T.Y. Hilton, Anthony Gaitor and Brad Serini for the second consecutive year. All three players were named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt squad in 2009.

Hilton, who was limited by an injury for a good part of the 2009 season, still put up good numbers when he was on the field, including opening the season with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Alabama. In addition to being on the team as a wide receiver, Hilton was also on the squad as a kick returner.

On the defensive side of the ball, Gaitor recorded two interceptions in 2009 as opposing quarterbacks continued to look for ways to throw passes in the other directions. Serini has also been the anchor of the offensive line for FIU, starting in 36 consecutive games for the Golden Panthers as he enters his senior year.

SOFTBALL: PAIR OF SOFTBALL RECRUITS RECEIVE ACCOLADES

Erika Acuri and Mariah Dawson are finishing their high school careers on high

notes as they prepare to suit up for the Golden Panthers softball squad next spring.

Acuri was named a MaxPreps Softball All-American after hitting .500 during her final season as an outfielder at HB Plant High School in Tampa. She was also named the Florida 6A Defensive Player of the Year and earned a spot on the First Team All-State squad for the second year in a row.

Dawson, a record-setting pitcher who will travel across the country to lend her pitching skills to the Golden Panthers for her collegiate career, received Washington 3A All-State First Team honors. During her time at Union High School in Camas, Wash., Dawson became the Washington state high school record holder for most career strikeouts.

BASEBALL: WITTELS FALLS SHORT OF ESPY

Garrett Wittels came up short of bringing home an ESPY on July 14 as the Best Male College Athlete award went to former Kentucky basketball standout John Wall.

Wittels, who was in Los Angeles for the awards ceremony, was looking to become the first FIU athlete to earn an ESPY after hitting safely in 56 consecutive games during the 2010 season while helping the Golden Panthers win the Sun Belt Conference tournament and reach their first regional since 2003.

The Golden Panthers infielder is currently playing summer ball in Alaska with the Peninsula Oilers of the Alaska Baseball League.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Russo not considering retirement; Rodgers ready

IGOR MELLO
Contributing Writer

Plagued by injuries the past few seasons, the FIU women's basketball players are knocking on the hardwood in hoping the team stays healthy this season.

According to coach Cindy Russo, the team never had a single game where all the players were healthy or eligible to compete.

"I can really say that I don't think that any other teams in the nation has experienced the amount of injuries that we had in the last few years," said Russo.

Russo and the rest of her team are poised to change the program around into a winner after a 14-16 season in 2009.

Russo is not used to losing. In fact, she's won over 600 games in her 33 years of coaching, 31 of them with the Panthers. Including last season, Russo has only had six losing seasons. The coach says she has unfinished business, until she sees this team back in the national spotlight. She is also hoping she doesn't run out of time.

"I want to get this team back in to the national rankings and go to at least a few more NCAA tournaments and go as far as we can," said Russo, who is headed into her 34th year as a coach for the University. "I guess [I'm here] as long as you'll have me."

Experience should not be an issue for the 2010 season. With only three newcomers, the team will consist of mostly returners.

Russo anticipates the 6 feet 2 inch forward Elisa Carey to carry much of the responsi-

bility. Carey led the Panthers in scoring and rebounding with just a little over 13 points and nine boards per game.

Point-guard Michelle Gonzalez however will provide the most experience. Gonzalez, the two-year starter, is the only player on the team that played all 30 games for FIU last season. She averaged 11.7 points a game and led the team in steals.

Out of all her players though, Russo expects the most improvement out of Rakia Rodgers, who only played a third of the team's games last season due to transfer rules and a knee injury. The former Hofstra transfer should provide a huge scoring boost to the Golden Panthers.

"I look for her for strong leadership. She's a great athlete, probably one of our best. She's going to be a big part of our mix this year," said Russo.

According to Russo, she feels that Rodgers has the ability of earning a starting position on the team but also goes on to say that nothing is guaranteed.

"I don't have anyone penciled in as one of my starters. Everyone ... has to come back every year and earn that position, but I am pretty sure that she will come back this season and earn that position. Let's just say that we want her to be there," said Russo.

In 10 games, Rodgers averaged 11.7 points and 3.4 rebounds. Although becoming a starter is important for most players, Rodgers is more concerned on being on the court for the last play of the game.

"I feel it's not who starts the game, it's who finishes. Starting isn't important to



CHRIS ADAMS/BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU women's basketball coach Cindy Russo [center] is looking forward to having a healthy group of players next season and hopes to make a return to the NCAA Tournament.

me. The coaches have had me in the game during critical times and gave me great responsibility," said Rodgers. "I'm not working to be a starter, I'm working for us to be winners."

FIU showed some signs of a winning program late last season when they recorded a season-high six-game winning streak. But the team also lost to a lower seeded North Texas for an early exit in the Sun Belt Conference tournament. Lack of injuries and consistency should determine the fate of the team this upcoming season.

"So we lack some continuity and some consistency, as a result of that, they may

lack some confidence. Once they gain that confidence, this is a very talented team," said Russo. "You're going to see a real big jump in the way they behave, they way that they play, and how they believe in themselves and each other."

Russo and her squad seem confident that they can make that big jump, possibly become Sun Belt conference champions and go dancing in March at NCAA tournament.

"I definitely believe that we can compete in the NCAA tourney," said Rodgers. "Other schools always worry about beating other teams. Well, these other teams better worry about beating FIU."

Heat's buzz may help recruiting

SPORTS, page 3

FIU?

Most prep athletes don't base their decisions on the city they are going to live in or the dominance of its professional sports teams, so ultimately recruiting will depend on the success of the programs and its coaches. But it could give recruits a small incentive to come here.

Like Garcia said, some players would enjoy being in a city surrounded by sports

glamour and success.

Freshman basketball player Dominique Ferguson believes that the city factors in depending on a players personality.

"Just because it's Miami, and you don't want to be bored in a small town like some of these schools are located," Ferguson said. "But then you don't want to be somewhere where you'll easily get in trouble."

That doesn't mean

Ferguson ignores the positives it could bring though: "It's a big plus that will hopefully draw a lot more attention and hopefully more fans to the city to watch games."

OPPOSITE REACTION?

With every fan that the Heat lure to the American Airlines Arena, every team that plays on the same night the Heat do could be drowned in all the Heat's interest.

Garcia doesn't think the University has anything to lose, however. With a fair-weather fan base in the region and a miniature fan base of its own, FIU could only win in this situation.

It is why when the Heat's influence stretches across South Florida, it should have a positive impact on the Golden Panthers, as well as every other Division I program and professional team in the area.

INTRAMURAL MENS BASKETBALL

TEAM	OVERALL	PD*	PCT
Six Rings	4-0-0	52	1.000
Bohica	4-0-0	17	1.000
We Lost To...	4-0-0	48	1.000
Wu-Tang	3-1-0	32	.750
I'm Too Drunk...	3-1-0	15	.750
DSU	2-2-0	8	.500
Gamma Phi Gamma	2-2-0	9	.500
White Chicks	1-3-0	-15	.250
Sigma Chi	1-3-0	-48	.250
Buncha Guys	0-4-0	-62	.000
ChoriPan	0-4-0	-69	.000
Who Dat	0-4-0	-17	.000

*PD: Point Differential

MIAMI HEAT

Wade unfazed by negativity surrounding roster

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Dwyane Wade is keeping track. He's heard analysts say this Miami Heat lineup will be a flop. He's heard other players lash out over the way LeBron James made his decision. He's heard executives from other teams list Boston and Orlando as the teams to beat in the Eastern Conference.

All duly noted in Wade's mind.

He's not bothered nor angered, he says. But at the Summer Groove charity game Wade co-hosted Sunday with Alonzo Mourning, he acknowledged that when the Heat convene for training camp in late September, the naysayers will serve as motivation for himself, for James, for Chris Bosh and everyone else inside the reloaded Miami locker room.

"My whole career is built on fuel," Wade said. "It's always been there. It's not going to change what I do with my life. It's not going to change the way I am as a person. But it

fuels you. And we all need that. Every athlete, every competitor needs something to fuel them."

After an offseason with little time to relax, Wade got back to doing what he prefers Sunday — playing basketball. With a dozen NBA pals, Wade entertained a crowd of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of dunking, 3-pointers and a halftime concert by Flo Rida. Common, the Grammy-winning rapper, was on one bench and boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. coached Wade's team.

Mayweather wouldn't talk about the status of talks with Manny Pacquiao for the fight that the boxing world most wants to see. But ask him about the prospects of Wade, James and Bosh playing together, and Mayweather spoke volumes.

"Hopefully, LeBron James has the same chemistry with the Heat that he had with the Cavaliers," Mayweather said. "Maybe a little bit better."

James wasn't there for the festivities

Sunday, nor was Bosh. But there has clearly been a giant spike in Heat buzz since they all announced they would play together. Outside the arena for the charity, parking lots that typically charge \$10 a spot for NBA games wanted \$20. Fans begged for autographs, and Wade said there was more excitement than after the 2006 title.

The Heat kept Udonis Haslem, Joel Anthony and Jamaal Magloire, traded Michael Beasley and added Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Mike Miller. Deals with Magloire and Juwan Howard will be announced later this week. Carlos Arroyo is on the cusp of returning, and James Jones said Sunday that he'll be coming back as well — even though it'll be at a lower salary.

In a few days, Miami has gone from a young team to a veteran one with title aspirations.

"When it comes to the top players and the excitement of players, you can't put a price tag on experience and we're bringing that in with guys like Juwan and Big Z and Mike

Miller and of course UD coming back," Wade said. "We went last year and the last two years of having a pretty young team of guys. Now we're a veteran-type team."

And that team will have a bulls-eye, Wade said. He expects that when the NBA schedule comes out in a few weeks, teams around the league will check first to see when they're playing the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, then when they'll face the Heat.

"We're not even the champions but we're going to get that kind of attention from teams," Wade said. "It's a respect factor."

That "respect factor," as he put it, is what matters more than any doubters.

"I'm not really concerned about what people say any more," Wade said. "I've made my comments. Inside here, we know how competitive we're going to be. At the end of the day, we've got to play the game of basketball. We'll all see then. There's not much to say."

Choir boys coming to Miami

DENISE RODRIGUEZ
Asst Life! Editor

The Principality of Monaco Boy's Choir will offer a series of free concerts around the U.S. for its annual summer tour and the group is making a stop at FIU's Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

The award-winning boys' choir, which is a part of the Monaco Cathedral Choir, was founded in 1973 under the sponsorship of H.S.H. Prince Rainier III. The choir was created to showcase the choir's historical association with culture and the performing arts.

The choir is composed of over 30 gifted children as young as eight years old, which have undergone scrupulous examinations to become a part of this esteemed group.

The performance will include classic musical works by Charpentier, Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Fauré and Franck; French and Monégasque folk songs; English-language songs such as "My Love is a Red, Red Rose," "Joshua," and patriotic American songs including "God Bless America," "America The Beautiful," and "The Star Spangled Banner," directed by Pierre Debat.

The choir also donates its talents to concerts organized by humanitarian associations throughout the world as a result of the support of the Monégasque government.

Admission is free and open to the public. The performance is July 24 at 7 p.m.



AP PHOTO FILE

THE BEACON REVIEWS: INCEPTION

INCEPTION PLANTS A GOOD FEELING IN MY MIND

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Christopher Nolan, director of *The Dark Knight* and *Memento*, has solidified himself as one of the premiere storytellers of his generation with *Inception*.

Inception is the best movie of the year so far. It takes you inside the world of dreams unlike any movies you have seen before. Leonardo DiCaprio's performance, Nolan's direction and the film's special effects all deserve Oscar nominations.

Dom Cobb (DiCaprio) is a professional thief whose job is to steal ideas by breaking in to people's dreams. This rare ability has made him a must-hire in the seedy world of corporate espionage, but it's caused him to become a fugitive preventing him from seeing his family.

Cobb's new client, Mr. Saito (Ken Watanabe), offers him one last job and if done successfully, Cobb's past will be wiped clean and he will be able to go home.

The job is inception, the concept of planting an idea in a person's subconscious, and the target is Saito's corporate rival (Cillian Murphy).

Inception is Nolan's best, a visual and intellectual cinematic experience.

Inception may require a little bit of brain power to take in, but there are enough entertaining elements to satisfy all moviegoers.

Leonardo DiCaprio delivers another great performance as a tortured and tragic character haunted by his own subconscious.

Despite having a small role, Marion Cotillard is effective as Dom's wife and the femme fatale of the film. DiCaprio and Cotillard complement each other



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

with their performances to tell the tale of a doomed love story.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ellen Page are great in their respective roles, but Tom Hardy really brings humor to the tension-filled and serious film.

Inception employs several fascinating special effects that include Gordon-

Levitt walking on walls and ceilings while fighting a bad guy, DiCaprio and Page having a calm conversation with explosions going off around them and the city of Paris folding in on to itself.

Inception hit theatres nationwide July 16.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

It's not you iPhone 4, it's me. I need to try new things.

I am sitting here writing my column, staring at my iPhone 4. I'm a little sad.

This sadness though isn't because of what you think. My iPhone 4 has actually been pretty good in the reception department. My attempts to "death grip" the iPhone 4's reception to hell have been unsuccessful for the most part.

Sitting in my office here at The Beacon, my desk at my other job, my home; I can get it to drop, but never below two bars. Again though, this is not why I'm sad.

I am sad because in my mind, the iPhone and iOS 4 for the most are starting to get a tad bit predictable.

Let's go ahead and assume for a moment that the iPhone 4 is absolutely flawless, no reception problem, no proximity sensor problems, just perfect.

Holding it in your hand, you know how

much of a massive design feat this was for Apple. The industrial design, the glass body, everything is built with an amazing amount of detail. Even the faulty antenna is a bold step in design.

But once you get passed the design, it's basically the same phone.

Sans a few new software features like multi-tasking and FaceTime, the whole experience still feels the same to me.

When I bought my iPhone, I came to the understanding that this would be my last one. As my mouse hovered over the "buy now" button for the last time; no more iPhone for me.

Don't for a second think that this was an easy decision for me or anyone making a switch from an iPhone.

The problem with leaving the iPhone, much like leaving the Corleone family, is that once you are out they'll find a way to pull you back in.

Aside from leaving something you have used for three years, the sheer investment I have made in the platform alone sends chills down my bank account's spine.

The average iPhone user has no idea how much money they have dished out to developers and Apple while they've tapped away at their iPhones.

One dollar for an application here, three dollars for a game there; after a while it adds up to a lot.

In the three years I have used an iPhone, I have spent over \$100 in apps and ringtones. That's a lot. To start fresh on a new platform seems mad, but there is a method to this madness, which I'll get to in a second.

So where will I end up? Well for me, Android seems like the logical choice. All the Google features and services I use would integrate best with the Android OS, obviously.

Though Android is iterating at an alarming rate, with some phones being obsolete in a matter of weeks in some cases, I think the Android experience overall is on the right track.

Not only does the company plan a complete OS refresh in the fall with their new update code named Gingerbread, but the hardware coming out featuring that OS

is sick.

Also something of note, because AT&T is squashing anything that is not an iPhone on it's network, Android OS devices are really growing on reliable networks like Verizon Wireless, who has fully leveraged it's Android phones to lead the pack in terms of smartphone options on it's network.

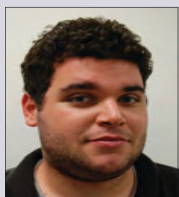
With the Droid X released last week, a Droid 2 on the horizon, and the HTC Incredible, Verizon is the place for Android with Sprint and the EVO 4G at a close second.

So why am I making the switch? Well, I think it's time for a change. I'd like to have a little more control over my device, and I think its time to start moving on a bit. Android has withstood the test of a difficult market, and come out the other side without a scratch.

With Android's App Market approaching 100,000 apps, enough to find what I am looking for and to keep me busy while I rehab from my iPhone addiction.

It's not that I don't love my iPhone, I just think it's time to move on. It's not the iPhone - it's me.

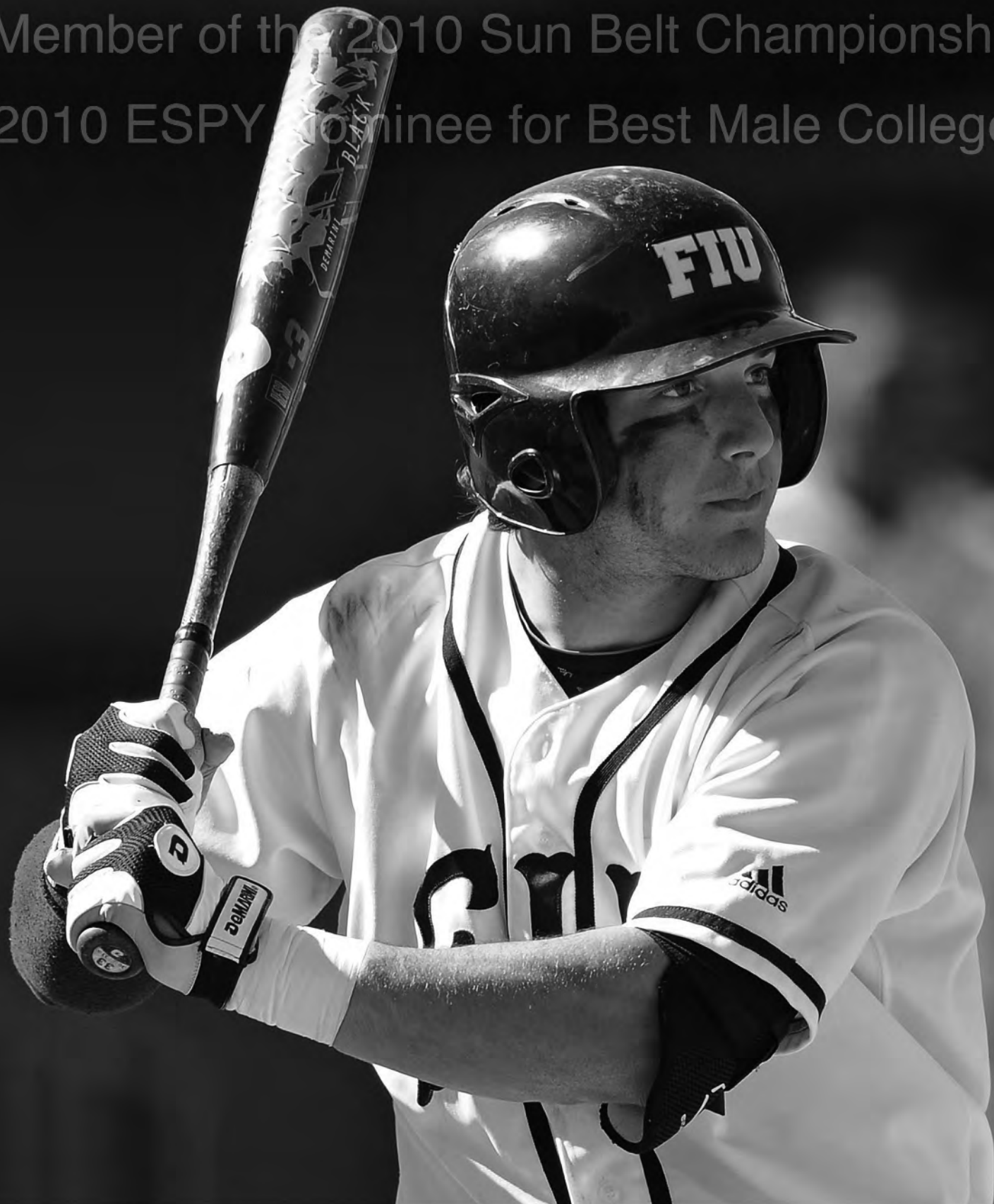
COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIU'S GARRETT WITTELS

All-American infielder, A Record-Breaking Season,
56-Game Hitting Streak, Sun Belt Player of the Year,
Member of the 2010 Sun Belt Championship Team,
2010 ESPY nominee for Best Male College Athlete



FIU is proud to celebrate Garrett Wittels, a Worlds Ahead student-athlete who finished the 2010 season with the second-longest hitting streak in Division I history and earned a place among college baseball's greatest players.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Green fee welcome, but need answers and continued student input

In our July 14 editorial, The Beacon discussed the referendum that passed on June 30 which approved the consideration of the Student Green Energy Fund by the Board of Trustees. If approved, students will pay an extra 25 cents to a dollar per credit hour to support this effort, which could potentially raise \$900,000.

We briefly mentioned that this fund is one that should not be the responsibility of the students. However, if students are to assume the obligation for this fee, The Beacon believes that the following must occur in order for the green energy fund to be a fair and advantageous investment for students for the University at large.

By Spring 2011, the tentative time in which students will vote to approve the green energy fund, the Sustainability Committee should have a clear plan in place for how the funding will be spent and should share this plan with the student body when the voting takes place.

If this is not done, then there is no reason why students should support it, as they have the right to know where the money is going.

Furthermore, the money should be put towards eco-friendly investments that have a direct and tangible improvement on the quality of student life. The University may argue that a certain item or service will save them money, but what difference does it make if it doesn't benefit the benefactors of this fund?

According to Cara Cooper, president of Students for Environmental Action, there is no outline for how the green energy fund will be spent; the only stipulation is that the funds must be used towards "energy efficient and clean energy technology." For the committee to know what eco-friendly initiatives will directly benefit the student body, student input should be a major part of the plan's development.

Hopefully the Sustainability Committee will not echo the evasive behavior of the Steering Committee, which was charged implementing smoking ban policy.

Instead, they should encourage student opinion by making this option readily available by way of open forums and allowing students to submit suggestions either in person or via email. Granted, students may propose unreasonable or unaffordable initiatives such as implementing campus-wide solar power or the installation of wind turbines by the end of the next semester.

However, students will also have feasible, beneficial ideas that should not be ignored or lost in the shuffle of the more extreme requests. Conversely, the Sustainability Committee shouldn't include items that students actively oppose or did not request.

Furthermore, the green energy fund should be used for cost-effective items, which will ultimately save the University money overall. Given that the University has complained about budget woes for some time, it is only to their benefit to use this money for items that will cut down on operation costs while being environmentally friendly.

If the opposite is done, then the University will ultimately fail in their efforts to reduce spending do to the current budget crunch, thus creating more debt and difficulties overall.

Of course, these requests come with a responsibility. When the Technology Fee was implemented in 2007 students actively submitted suggestions and clarified their needs. Likewise, it would benefit the students to voice their opinions as to how the green energy fund should be spent.

The implementation of the student green fund will by no means be perfect. However, if these measures are taken, they will at least have the responsibility to use this funding wisely and to the benefit of the students.

We deserve the government we get

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Opinion Editor

Politicians pull strings and we dance. We curse them, yet we allow ourselves to be puppets.

We do so every time an important issue or bill comes before Congress or the Senate and we are oblivious. We accept our strings every time we are moved by speeches with no substance and quick sound bites that appeal to our emotions.

It is through both our ignorance and lack of action that we tacitly accept the fractured government we currently have.

Action without knowledge can do more harm than good. Members of both major political parties are guilty of this. The Tea Party, a spin-off of the Republican party, for all its vigor has shown repeatedly than many of its members are ignorant on matters they complain about.

During one interview held at a Tea Party rally, a woman complained about President Obama having czars, and said that we are not Russia. When asked if she knew what a czar does in the U.S., she admitted she did not. When told that Republican President Reagan had a czar, the drug czar, she admitted she didn't know this.

Democracy only works if we have an informed and responsible public. This requires sacrifice because it takes time and energy and many of us lead busy lives.

However, its hard to fathom that most

“Without an informed and energized public to hold officials accountable, our government will be a pale imitation of democracy.”

people can't spare a little time each day to be informed.

For some, time isn't the primary factor. They say they don't like politics. They are discouraged by how inept, slow, and corrupt some officials have been. But this is all due in part to our failing to be responsible citizens.

Without an informed and energized public to hold officials accountable, our government will be a pale imitation of democracy.

When some do get involved in politics, many rally around talking points and rhetoric. Instead, we ought to demand officials to have substance when they speak about issues and bills. They need to do so in ways that most people can understand.

The Health Care Reform Bill that passed earlier this year, and now The Wall Street reform bill that passed on Thursday, July 15th, are complicated and hard to follow. Yet, politicians failed to explain either one.

While we shouldn't look to politicians to tell us what the truth is, if citizens do their

due diligence, then they can compare what they've learned with what their representatives are saying.

We are at fault when we elect politicians solely because of their party affiliation and when we respond to their appeals to our emotion. We are at fault when we don't show up at the polls and when we don't write to our representatives. We are at fault when we leave politicians to their own devices, free of the public's leash.

A politician is going to work towards his or her own self-interest, therefore we must arm ourselves with knowledge and make our wants his or her chief concern.

I understand many of us lead busy lives. However, through the decisions of politicians our freedoms wither or thrive and our wallets burst at the seams or slowly deflate.

As long as we are satisfied with soaring rhetoric, sound bites, and minimally responsive officials we will have a government that doesn't serve in our best interests. Instead, it will serve our shallow expectations.

Freshmen groups limit, stifle growth

BRANDON THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

Florida International University's First-Year Interest Groups are not the way to go when entering college as a freshman, unless they want their hand to be held during their first semester and be given an inconsiderate schedule in which your options are limited.

Beginning in 1999, FIU found a way for incoming freshmen to branch out, make new friends, and make their first experience in college a little easier with First-Year Interest Groups or FIGs for short.

In a FIG students are scheduled the same number of classes, depending on semester, with twenty-four other students.

The University encourages all incoming freshman to participate in a FIG to make the transition from high school to college easier and

to streamline the registration process so they can just throw students into a group and be done with it.

The downside to what seems like the picture-perfect program for freshmen is the number of FIGs that are offered to students here on campus. In college they tell you that you get to pick your own schedule, and that you get to choose the classes you want.

If a freshman registers in a FIG, all of those choices are thrown out of the window, because the classes you may want to take may not be an option.

Furthermore, when registering for a FIG your choices are especially limited especially if you are leaving high school with AP or Dual Enrollment credits.

Even though it is a summer term, there should be more course options available for freshmen. Being stuck with two liberal arts classes and a

First-Year Experience course are no fun at all for students such as myself.

Personally, I think taking two liberal arts classes is pointless at this time because I will satisfy my liberal arts credit requirement and then receive elective credits for the other class that I did not want to take in the first place.

Another advantage that FIGs are supposed to provide is communication amongst your professors. This is supposed to help your various professors understand your schedule and make sure that tests or assignments are never due on the same day.

Two of my professors did not even know my class was in a FIG until we told them. This discredited the guarantee that all of our professors talk with one another.

Although FIGs try to provide freshmen with an easier transition from high school to college, isn't college supposed to be about doing

everything on your own?

Isn't college about trying new things and being independent? Enrolling in a FIG shelters freshmen from going out and experiencing FIU for themselves.

When freshmen participate in a FIG, they won't be exposed to other students in classes that are not in a FIG, who may have college experiences in which they may be able to learn something new.

Students may not be able to take that one class they knew they wanted to take when these freshmen got to college.

First-Year Interest Groups shelter freshmen from experiencing college classes on their own and from taking the classes that they would like to take.

Ultimately, FIGs are a waste of energy and time. They shelter freshmen when freshmen should be allowed to experience what college has to offer.

PUBLIC REASON

A radio show gathering opinions and promoting discussion every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. on Radiate FM, 95.3 in Miami, 88.1 in Homestead, 96.9 in North Miami and streaming live on FIUSM.com.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Jesus conquered death. He wasn't victimized. He chose to give his life....If he was a victim, and this theology was true, then Jesus would've come back from the dead and made the Jews pay for what they did."

Glenn Beck
Conservative Pundit

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

A Pirtle construction crew works on installing new hurricane resistant windows on July 19 in the Wolfe University Center, one of many renovations and new construction being performed on the building.

HOSPITALITY

Millions reinvested into school

JACQUES ROZIER
Contributing Writer

When the Florida Wine Extravaganza debuted on a Sunday afternoon in 1997, it lasted a few hours at the Kovens Convention Center and raised \$23,000.

Nine years later, the name is now South Beach Wine and Food Festival, it lasts four days and the 2010 festival raised over \$2 million.

In the earlier years of the festival, the school reinvested the funds to pay for the event. Around \$800,000 ensures the event is ongoing. However, according to Mohammad A. Qureshi, assistant dean of facilities and administration for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM), most of the money is used for scholarships and school renovations - almost \$1.6 million in scholarships to University students, to date, including over \$400,000 from this year.

The remainder of the money that is not reinvested into the event or given in financial aid has been set aside for improvements to the facilities of HTM.

"We want the building to reflect the quality level of the school and the quality level of Southern Wine and Spirits as well," says Joan Remington, interim dean of HTM. The school is currently waiting on a Cortelis match approval [please explain what a Cortelis match is.] from the state for their funding. Even with out the match, they have just under \$850,000 saved. The money will be used to build a 150-seat restaurant at BBC. The school is also renovating and expanding the Advanced Food Production lab, which will include replacing and upgrading all equipment.

The Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center will also benefit from the funds. For their beverage management classes, they will build a new, full service bar. They also will maintain a barista station, allowing them to incorporate coffees and teas to the classes.

In addition to these two projects is a new

brewing science lab. Students currently create their own beers, which are available at the Wine and Food Festival alongside the other vendors.

There will also be a new entry for the school. Future funds will be directed towards renovating the kitchens. Most of the design and planning phase is complete and the renovations and expansions are set to finish by the fall of 2011.

The 2012 festival will include a dedication to the new facilities, sponsors, vendors, and families who have made it all possible. They are planning a groundbreaking ceremony in mid October.

There are interdisciplinary fundraising projects at the University, but the Wine & Food Festival is not one of them. Most departments on campus handle their own funds and the event is one way HTM raises their money. It is visibly the largest fundraiser on campus.

"Someone can come and give \$10 million, but this is consistent, involves students, allows networking; that's what makes this one unique," said Qureshi.

The festival is a vision of executive director and founder Leesh Rager, who is also the vice president of communication for Southern Wine and Spirits.

The partnership pairs the knowledge of HTM with the capability of Southern Wine & Spirits. According to Remington, the purpose of the festival is basically community service, which is a focus of the University. Thanks to collaboration between HTM and Southern Wine and Spirits, this event reflects the quality education of students in HTM.

Students are provided with opportunities to network and gain experience at the side of top name chefs from all over. This event also leads to job applications and references. In the end, the school gets the proceeds,

but it also serves as a learning venue for over 900 students from various majors across the University.

"It is a win-win situation for the community and for the school," said Remington.

94 charged in Medicare scams totaling \$251 million

KELLI KENNEDY
TOM HAYS
Associated Press

Elderly Russian immigrants lined up to take kickbacks from the backroom of a Brooklyn clinic. Claims flooded in from Miami for HIV treatments that never occurred. One professional patient was named in nearly 4,000 false Medicare claims.

Authorities said busts carried out this week in Miami, New York City, Detroit, Houston and Baton Rouge, La., were the largest Medicare fraud takedown in history — part of a massive overhaul in the way federal officials are preventing and prosecuting the crimes.

In all, 94 people — including several doctors and nurses — were charged Friday in scams totaling \$251 million. Federal authorities, while touting the operation, cautioned the cases represent only a fraction of the estimated \$60 billion to \$90 billion in Medicare fraud absorbed by taxpayers each year.

For the first time federal officials have the power to overhaul the system under Obama's Affordable

Care Act, which gives them authority to stop paying a provider they suspect is fraudulent. Critics have complained the current process did nothing more than rubber-stamp payments to fraudulent providers.

"That world is coming to an end," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told The Associated Press after speaking at a health care fraud prevention summit in Miami. "We've got new ways to go after folks that we've never had before."

Officials said they chose Miami because it is ground zero for Medicare fraud, generating roughly \$3 billion a year. Authorities indicted 33 suspects in the Miami area, accused of charging Medicare for about \$140 million in various scams.

Suspects across the country were accused of billing Medicare for unnecessary equipment, physical therapy and other treatments that patients never received. In one \$72 million scam at Bay Medical in Brooklyn, clinic owners submitted bogus physical therapy claims for elderly Russian immigrants.

Patients, including undercover agents, were paid \$50 to \$100 a

visit in exchange for using their Medicare numbers and got bonuses for recruiting new patients. Wiretaps captured hundreds of kickback payments doled out in a backroom by a man who did nothing but pay patients all day, authorities said.

At a brief appearance in federal court Friday, Mushinskaya was released on \$30,000 bond and ordered not to return to the Solstice Wellness Center, scene of an alleged \$2.8 million scam.

Authorities called Mushinskaya one of the clinic's "serial beneficiaries," with phony bills totaling \$141,161 paid by Medicare.

In Miami, Daniel R. Levinson, inspector general of HHS, which oversees Medicare, said the arrests "illustrate how health care fraud schemes can replicate virally and migrate rapidly across communities."

Cleaning up Medicare fraud will be key to paying for President Barack Obama's proposed health care overhaul. Federal officials have allocated more money and manpower to fight fraud, setting up strike forces in seven cities with a plan to expand to a dozen more. So far, the operations are responsible for more than 720

indictments that collectively billed the Medicare program more than \$1.6 billion.

Around the country, the schemes have morphed from the typical medical equipment scam in which clinic owners billed Medicare dozens of times for the same wheelchair. Now, officials say, Medicare fraud involves a sophisticated network of doctors, clinic owners, patients and patient recruiters.

Violent criminals and mobsters are also tapping into the scams, seeing Medicare fraud as more lucrative than dealing drugs and having less severe criminal penalties, officials said.

For decades, Medicare operated under a system that paid providers first and investigated later. That pay and chase method was a boon for crooks, giving them 90 days lag time to milk the system and flee with millions before authorities were aware a crime had been committed.

Sebelius toured vacant storefronts in Miami on Friday where Medicare fraudsters set up shop, including bogus clinics operated by Cuban immigrants Carlos, Luis and Jose Benitez. The brothers are the agency's most-wanted fugitives,

charged with bilking \$119 million for costly HIV drugs that patients never received — and buying hotels, helicopters, boats and even a water park with their spoils. They allegedly fled to Cuba, where authorities believe they remain.

A new joint effort by HHS and the Department of Justice enables law enforcement to view Medicare claims in real time and flag suspicious patterns. More stringent screening methods, including more comprehensive background checks, have also been put in place. The agency gets roughly 18,000 applications daily to become a Medicare provider. Now they can put a moratorium on new applications in certain areas, like physical therapy, if they notice a spike in fraudulent activities.

The changes are paying off.

Investigators visited 1,600 providers in Miami in the past few months, making sure legitimate businesses were operating at the addresses. In 2008, authorities required all medical equipment providers in Miami to apply for new certification, hoping the paper hurdle would deter scammers. The number of claims dropped by \$1.6 billion.