



The Independent

International

Florida International University's Official Student Newspaper
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Posey leaving to explore new job opportunity

MICHAEL LEWIS
Staff Writer

Columbus Posey, acting University registrar, is resigning effective February 29 to take a similar position at an Alabama junior college.

Posey will be in charge of admissions, records, financial aid and recruitment, in addition to other duties, at Jefferson State Junior College in Birmingham. He was in charge of admissions

and records at FIU.

Posey said, "I'm taking the new job with broader responsibilities because it represents an opportunity for professional advancement."

In his two years at FIU, Posey felt he made some progress improving the admissions process.

"It was pretty strenuous converting records and getting ready for the new admissions system," he said. "A lot

needs to be done. We got a lot done, but a lot still needs to be done."

Posey, who was appointed to the position by former vice president of Student Affairs Judy Merritt, was attempting to become the permanent registrar at FIU.

Merritt is now president of Jefferson State Junior College.

A request was made for the Search and Screen Committee process, required

by Affirmative Action, to be waived.

That would have meant Posey would have gotten the permanent position, without vying with other applicants.

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Karel King said Student Affairs was told by the State University System Chancellor's office that the search and screening process couldn't be waived.

Rather than go through the process and possibly not be selected, Posey decided to take a definite job offer in Alabama, King said.

Bennie Osborne, spokeswoman from the Office of Minority Affairs and Women's Concerns, said their office handled the request for the waiver and recommended the search and screening be waived. She said the office had not received an answer from the Chancellor's office.

Merritt, the person who hired Posey for the FIU position, also hired him for the Jefferson State Junior College post.



Michael Malanga photo

The new Student Services building at North Miami Campus is scheduled to open July 1. The building will be a haven for students

McDonald resigns from senate post

Jim McDonald, SGA comptroller, resigned from the senate after serving nearly two years as a senator.

McDonald said his reason for resigning the position was because the job as comptroller was a full-time job and he did not have the time for it.

McDonald was voted comptroller in September, 1979. Even though McDonald did not campaign, he received twice as many votes as his opponent, Bob Rodriguez. As comptroller, McDonald was chairman of the A&S hearing committee. The A&S committee determines the amount of money that goes to clubs and committees.

During his time as a senator, McDonald also served on the University Budget Committee; he was the student representative for the Alumni Association, and he was on the planning committee of Academic I and the Trade Center building at NMC.

At times, McDonald referred to himself as the senior senator of the senate because he had been in the senate longer than any other member at the time of his resignation.

Senator Butch Zanitti said of McDonald's resignation: "He had good ideas and worked to pass many beneficial bills, but he intimidated groups with his power as comptroller."

Senator Susan Purcell said, "Jim seemed to work hard and take his job as comptroller seriously, but at times he did not fulfill his duties."

Along with power, McDonald's greatest contribution to the SGA was experience. "He opened the eyes of many senators about their power as senators," Senator Heikki Talvitie said.

McDonald could not be reached for comment.

New NMC bulding to have world flavor

ROBIN BARTLEY
Contributor

The Student Services building under construction at the North Miami campus will reflect the internationalism of the university through its architecture and environment, according to a spokesman for the building committee.

The facilities provide for recreation and leisure, recognizing the unique demands of a commuter university.

Informal study and lounge areas will be accessible throughout the building. Vending and snack areas will be located to conveniently serve student needs.

There will also be a 250-seat general purpose auditorium suitable for university programs, lectures, assemblies, special events and cinema. It will be used primarily as a teaching facility.

Facilities for organized student activities are to be arranged in a cluster of "activity modules." These modules will be located and arranged so they can be assigned individually or in combination.

Student recreation areas are flexibly designed to allow for future changes as student needs change and grow.

There will be a lounge with informal viewing of

films, television and other audio-visual presentations.

Provisions will be made for a game room with pool, table tennis, pinball and electronic games and also chess and cards.

Shower and locker space will also be provided for students.

The cafeteria will have an exterior patio suitable for outdoor dining. This will take advantage of the natural scenic views.

The Rathskeller will allow for informal student/faculty interaction. There will also be shaded outdoor tables and seating.

There will be a general purpose playing area for frisbee, lounging, touch football, wiffle ball, etc. Six tennis courts, four handball courts, a basketball court and a volleyball court will also be provided.

The building will be designed to include pedestrian connections to adjacent buildings, parking areas and other exterior areas.

A pedestrian circulation system will connect all campus facilities. Weather-protected walkways are required between major buildings; perimeter walkways, exterior courtyards and plaza areas will be designed to relate to adjacent buildings.

The Student Services building is scheduled to open its doors July 1.

Short Shrift

Food labeling explored

"Food Labeling and Food Additives Update," will be the topic of a talk given by Lynne Trauba, consumer affairs officer of the Food and Drug Administration.

She will be at Tamiami Campus to answer questions Thursday, Feb. 28 at 10:15 a.m. in PC 113.

Marry me, marry me

Is marriage becoming extinct? Get a Biblical view of the situation by attending the Campus Light Fellowship talk, on the topic Thursday, Feb. 28 at 12:30 p.m. in OE 107.

Charismatic renewal

Father David Russell, pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church, will speak on the charismatic renewal, Thursday, Feb. 28 at 12:30 in UH 210

Volunteer for love

The Museum of Science is looking for volunteers, work-study students and cooperative education students to help present programs in the Burdines' Science Mini-Theater, opening soon at Museum.

The specially constructed and newly equipped mini-theater will have audio-visual shows, science demonstrations and science dramas.

The Museum is looking for people to work days, evenings or weekends for love, federal funds or college credit.

Call 854-4242 ext. 44 to arrange an interview. The only paid positions are for work-study students.

Business women

The Banyan Chapter of the American Business Women's Association is now accepting applications from qualified women interested in receiving scholarship funds to assist in their educational endeavors.

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 1980; awards will be presented at ABWA's Associate Recognition Awards Banquet at the University of Miami Faculty Club on May 15, 1980.

Since the primary goal of the American Business Women's Association is education and the advancement of women, scholarships and loans are made available on a national level as well; ABWA awards over a million dollars per year nationwide.

Applications can be obtained at the office of financial aid through the local universities or by contacting Michele MacBride at 666-6161, ext. 224. Letters of recommendation along with a biographical sketch will be required as a supplement to the application.

Misconceptions exist over University's grading policies

EDGAR CHAVARRIAGA

Contributor

There is some confusion at FIU concerning the grading system, due to lack of knowledge by the students, according to Lourdes Meneses, director of records and registration.

One of the misconceptions students have is that the Office of Admissions and Records assigns students their grades. However, Meneses explained, "We only process the grades given by the teachers."

Some of the most misunderstood grading symbols, according to Meneses, are the following: the R or repeated course, the IN or incomplete course, and the asterisk.

"A student may repeat(R)a course as often as he wants, but only the last grade earned will be recorded and used to calculate the student's GPA,"

Meneses said. "This is contrary to what many students believe; they think the highest grade earned will be the grade used," she said.

The incomplete IN is a temporary symbol used at the discretion of the instructor. A grade of IN may be given to a student who has not completed the course requirements because of a serious interruption in his work, but not because of his own negligence.

Students have two quarters immediately following receipt of an IN to complete the course's requirements. By the end of the second quarter, the IN grade must be converted to the grade earned by the student or a grade of F will automatically be given.

The asterisk is used to indicate that a course was taken again. "But because some universities were interpreting it as a failure grade, it has been

changed to a letter grade T, or taken over, course," Meneses said. The T will appear next to the original grade to indicate that the course has been taken again by the student.

Another misconception has to do with why FIU doesn't have the WP, or withdrawn with a passing grade, and the WF, withdrawn with a failing grade.

Meneses said, "I don't see why anybody would want to show a WF, dropping a course with a failing grade, on their transcript. On the other hand, WP simply means that the student has a D or better grade; it doesn't mean that the student has an A or B."

All errors in grading can be corrected within a year from the end of the quarter in which the grade was received, and must be accompanied by a statement from the appropriate instructor, and the approval of the appropriate dean.



Windy March 4. The ensemble will perform in FIU's windensemble is here preparing for the UH Forum under the direction of their performance at Tamiami Campus Yoshihiro Obata.

Title may be long winded, but group is effective

WENDY COBOURNE

Staff Writer

The title "Office of Minority Affairs and Women's Concerns," (OMAWC), like Smirnoff Vodka, leaves you breathless.

The long-winded title may sound redundant, but, explains FIU director Francena Thomas, "Women are not minorities in terms of population."

However, women and minorities do share the problem of discrimination in the employment field, which is what OMAWC deals with.

"Our purpose is to assure that all persons are able to reach their full

potential," Thomas said.

FIU is required to meet several state and federal regulations regarding employment discrimination based on age, sex, ethnic minorities, Vietnam veterans or ex-offenders.

Thomas said, "We set realistic goals and make every good-faith effort to meet those goals. The plan is not designed to place a black or a woman who is not qualified."

An Affirmative Action plan for FIU was created by OMAWC to be compatible with the federal and state laws.

The plan is presented in a 265-page handbook which includes procedures for handling grievances, more than 100-pages of a detailed work-force analysis, goals for FIU and a system for

monitoring the effectiveness of the plan.

The office investigates grievances made by employees or potential employees where discrimination is suspected.

"Discrimination not only interferes with obtaining a job, but also creates a problem for upward mobility and promotions," Thomas said.

"The Affirmative Action Plan is designed to keep raising the consciousness of decision makers so they are aware of the subtle nuances of the decision-making process in these matters."

A common misconception of Affirmative Action is that the plan is essentially a "quota game," Thomas said.

"Only the Courts can set quotas. Affirmative Action is not driven by

population, but is based on the availability of people in a population who are qualified to do the job," she said.

Students can also use the OMAWC when they have problems "with an instructor, that cannot be pinpointed as discriminatory." Thomas calls such problems AODS — assault on dignity.

The term was coined by her office to refer to problem situations that may not be legally described as discriminatory, but nevertheless, reinforce prejudices.

The OMAWC usually handles "assaults on dignity" in an informal manner.

"But if a student fears reprisals from the instructor for complaining to us, our hands are tied."

Florida Cabinet votes to implement controversial modified semester system

WENDY COBOURNE
Staff Writer

The Florida Cabinet voted last week to convert the State University System to a "modified semester system" in order to bring about a common calendar among the state's nine universities and 28 community colleges. FIU should be operating under such a system by the fall of 1981.

Anticipating the change, FIU's Faculty Senate passed a motion on Jan. 11 to limit the teaching load to two three-credit courses a semester, citing that as the standard at good universities where research is part of the workload.

The *International* surveyed faculty members at random to find individual opinions on both the proposed change and the Faculty Senate's motion.

Many of those questioned "don't care," "hadn't thought about it," or

"could go either way." About half were not aware of the Faculty Senate's motion.

Greta Howard, a home economics instructor, said she favored the quarter system for economical reasons. "The semester has one big drawback. For instance, a class meeting three times a week for 15 or 17 weeks instead of meeting less often for only 10 weeks means a lot more driving — and a waste of students' and faculty's gas."

Jack Sumner, assistant professor of educational leadership, said that the semester system is fine for a residential school, but "The quarter system is more responsive to an urban school. The average of FIU's student is 28 or 29. The short, intensive learning period is more practical for the older, probably working, student."

One faculty member from the School of Business, asked not to be

named and said, "I am for the semester system because it gives students time to absorb the material. Teaching loads should not be increased, though."

"There are both positives and negatives," said Thomas Whitehurst, assistant professor of math sciences. "One positive for adopting the semester is that some courses are too intense for 10 weeks. One negative for the semester is that 10 weeks keeps the pressure on students — they don't have time to lose interest. The Faculty Senate's motion is not unreasonable if teachers are expected to do considerable research."

"What will it really cost, that's my question," said Steve Moll, an instructor in the School of Hospitality Management.

"What will it really cost, that's my question," said Steve Moll, an instructor in the School of Hospitality Management.

North Campus to receive expensive photocopier

If some people argue that civilization runs on wheels, then others might argue that a university runs on its photocopiers.

If so, the North Miami Campus will soon take a leap forward with the installation of a Xerox 9200 duplicator.

The 9200, a machine with an estimated cost of \$57,000, will replace the five photocopying machines now in use at NMC.

"We have planned to move into NMC with a total copy center," said Alexander Zyne, director of Central Duplicating at Tamiami.

"But, until the bookstore is moved into the Student Services building, the copy center can't be set up."

Zyne predicts this will be as late as

September 1980.

Jim Beauchamp, administrative assistant of Auxiliary Services at NMC, said he has received complaints from faculty and staff about the present photocopiers.

"The problem arises because of overloading," Beauchampman said.

It is estimated that monthly copies total nearly 70,000 for NMC and 280,000 for Tamiami.

The one-year-old 9200 coming to NMC from Tamiami is capable of 600,000 copies a month. Duplicating Services is planning to lease a 92000 for Tamiami.

Money for the purchasing and leasing of the machines comes from Duplicating Services, a self-supporting system on the campuses.

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Opinion

Editorial

North Campus name change made in haste

From this moment on, North Miami Campus is Bay Vista Campus.

All the name change needs to become official is the Board of Regents' approval.

Bay Vista is a pretty name, a windy, watery-sounding name.

Too bad it's going to create an icy relationship between FIU and North Miami officials, who did not want the North Campus' name changed.

North Miami officials say the change was not discussed with them. North Miami Mayor Howard Neu sees it as a slap in the face of North Miami and a breach of promise.

Neu said the previous administration had promised not to change the North Campus' name. He is accusing FIU of being a conglomerate with no feeling for the community it is sharing a home with.

The International agrees with the North Miami officials

FIU's administration should have handled the matter with diplomacy. If the North Miami officials had been consulted about the name change, or better yet, not been given a hollow promise, the incident might not have so severely offended the North Miami community.



Michael Lewis photo

Blinded by the Light

A recent article in *The Miami Herald* prompted me to openly express my opinion about the road leading to the North Miami Campus.

For those of you who attend NMC and have been tempted to see where the long-winding road behind the school leads to, I will tell you, having experimented last week.

It leads straight to 135 Street, and to FIU's North Campus — if it were open.

The road for some reason is sealed-off at this end with a metal road block. The residents of the 135 Street area want it kept that way, too. They claim students used the road as a "darn raceway."

This to me seems rather strange. How did these people ascertain it was FIU students? Maybe it was their own children and how about adults, or are all of them the greatest and most cautious drivers in the

world?

Opening this road would help those coming from a southerly direction and would cut at least 10-15 minutes off the time it takes to get to school.

For those of us who work and have families, every minute is appreciated.

It would also be a welcome relief to bypass the intense garbage odors and also sewage plant odor, which we are blessed with on the 151 Street roadway. I admit to having to hold my breath when I am stopped at the long light that controls this intersection.

Let them open the road — after all, what was it built for?

Interama is an eyesore and they should be glad FIU is being expanded and is giving some life and beauty to their area.

North Miami is not a wilderness sanctuary. Let them join the community and open themselves to the needs of other people, such as the students of FIU.

Lise Martin

Students should be allowed to use 135th street

Anti-draft rally shows country is in danger

To the Editor:

After reading the *International* 2/20/80, I saw the announcement of the anti-draft rally. As a college student and patriot, I feel that our once glorious country is in grave danger.

A lot of people take their freedoms for granted, and little do they know, if they were in some foreign country, they would be arrested. I would guarantee that if anyone who attended the rally would go to a foreign country, they would be kissing American soil as soon as they got off the airplane.

A lot of these people want to enjoy the freedoms of this country, but when it comes time to give an obligation, no, they won't do their part! If they don't

want to fight, there are jobs in the military that are non-combat, clubs, PX's, medical, instructors, just to name a few.

But a lot of people won't even do that! They would be giving up their sports car, dope, rock & disco music, and their color TV. That would be too great a sacrifice rather than defend their country. Also, they fail to notice that they are jeopardizing their freedoms to do the things I mentioned above.

A lot of people are probably saying "It's Vietnam again." As far as Vietnam is concerned, our country lost because of the sell-out politicians, and the stab-in-the-back draft evaders on the homefront.

This country was and still is superior to Vietnam militarily and technologically. However, due to cor-

ruption and war profiteering, America's honor was soiled.

God forbid, that if America does not have a satisfactory military force and is defeated, it will be a long time before a high standard of living and a democratic way of life will be around.

If women want equal rights, then they should be trained for combat like a man, no double standard hypocrisies. They should have the same obligations. They made their bed about crying for equal rights, now let them sleep in it!

HARVEY P. KRAVITZ
School of Hospitality Management

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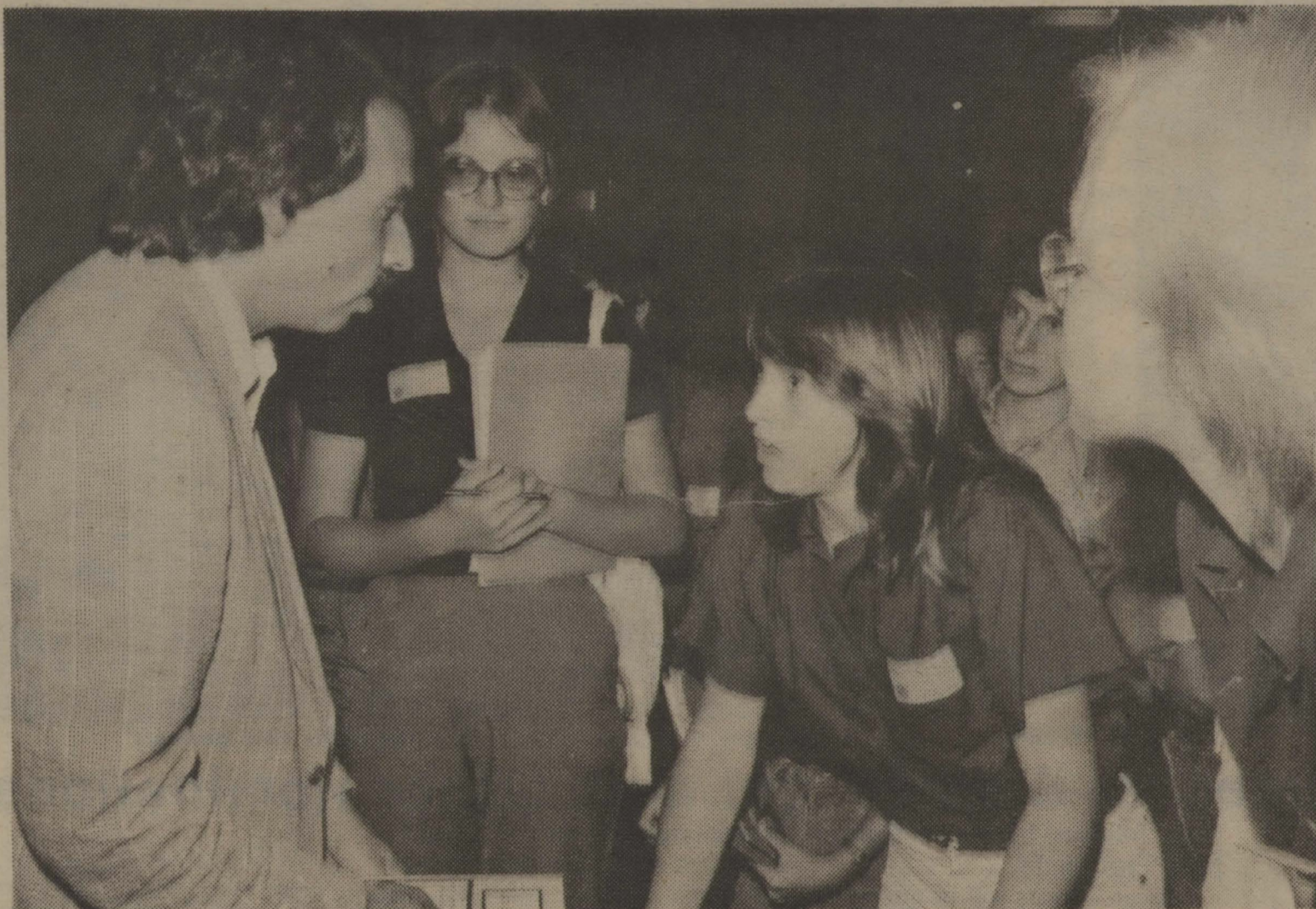
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Views expressed are those of the editorial board.

The International has offices in University House 212A on the Tamiami Campus.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged.



Tony Cotterell photo

Oooh, Morry!

Morry Alter, star of records, TV and Journalism Day at FIU, is pictured here giving the fans a thrill.

Alter was one of many local media professionals who participated in Journalism Day last Saturday at Tamiami Campus.

Ann Bishop, Carmel Cafiero and Bob Mayer represented the television medium in workshops and discussions.

The print medium was examined by Miami News editor Howard Kleinberg, columnist John Keasler, also of the News, and Earni Young and Barry Bearak from the Miami Herald.

The participants, mostly high school and junior college students, benefited from the professionals' expertise.

But Morry was the story, and attracted the largest crowd — for the wrong reason. "He's so cute!" said one excited high school girl.

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SGA News

MOVIE OF THE WEEK LAST TANGO

Thursday 12:30-6-8 p.m.
Friday 12:30-6-8-10 p.m.

Student government forum - Thursday, Feb. 28, UH 150

Students are invited to meet SGA representatives - discuss campus issues
Refreshments will be served. Bring student ID. Forum begins at 12:30

FIU Sotto Voce - Vocal Jazz

Thursday, Feb. 28, barbecue area, 12:30

Panel Discussion

SGA presents representatives of all the presidential candidates
Tuesday, March 4, 12:30 p.m. in UH 150. Get to know the 1980 candidates!

Art Exhibit

February 25-29, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
UH Forum

Lecture of the Week

So, You Want to Go to Law School!!! March 4, 12:30, UH 150
Mary Volcansek, Associate Dean/College of Arts & Sciences

Coffee House

March 4: Robert Mulcahy, from N.Y. Irish Act
8-11 p.m., Rathskeller

March of Dimes Walkathon-March 8, 8 a.m., Orange Bowl

Recital - Richard Provost - VH 118 - Feb. 26, 8 p.m., Feb. 27, 1 - 3 p.m.
Sotto Voce: Vocal Jazz Feb. 28, 12:30, AT 100
Sun Tan Jam, Sunday Feb. 24, 12-5 p.m., North Campus

John Elliott Blood Bank to visit FIU

The blood mobile will be at the bus stop on March 4 & 5.

Discount movie tickets for area theaters available
at UH information center

SGA Meetings every Wednesday, 2:30 p.m., UH 150

PHOTOS BY
Michael Malanga

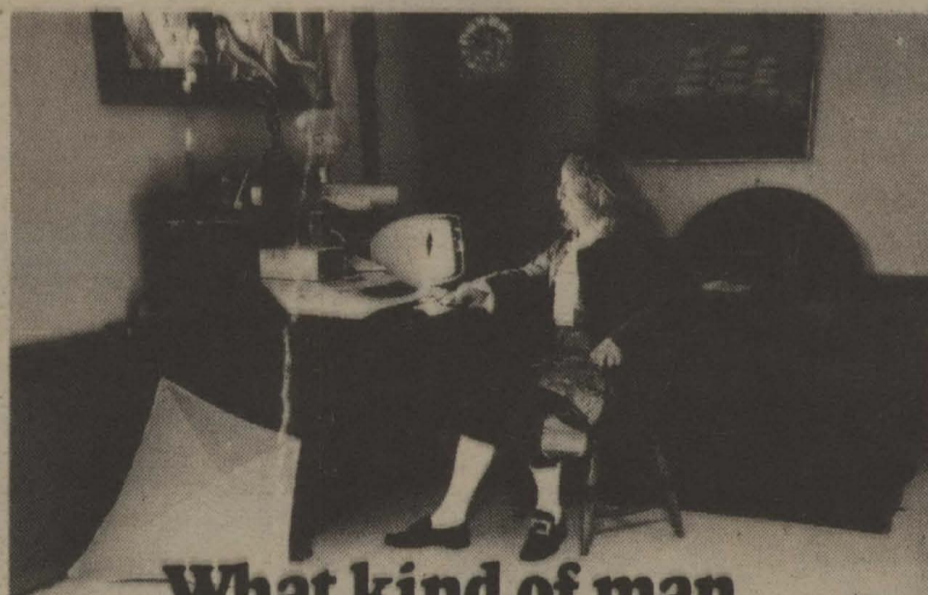
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Michael Lewis Photo

Window dressing

Janero Lastra is a North Miami Campus employe. In case you are wondering what he is doing, it's simple — cleaning the second floor windows of the Academic I building at NMC.

Lastra uses an extending pole to reach the window's crannies. But he doesn't do it all alone, his friend holds the bucket for him.

As soon as the new Student Services building opens, Lastra will have more windows to clean — plenty more.



Phoenix's flight encountering some bad weather

MIRTA ANA NARANJO
Contributor

As the levels of construction rise on the North Miami Campus, next door, the land levels rise as reclamation work is transforming what used to be a garbage dump into what will be Munisport.

Munisport, a blend of the words "municipal" and "sport," will be a 350 acre recreational complex including two championship 18-hole golf courses, 16 tennis courts, a swimming pool and clubhouse.

"Out of the ashes of Interama, a phoenix has risen," said Charles Johnson of Munisport, Inc. about the project.

However, the phoenix's flight has encountered some bad weather.

Sanitary filling is being done in the

project area. The Environmental Protection Agency claims that some of the areas being filled may become environmental hazards because they are wetland areas.

The agency is requiring Munisport, Inc. to file for a specific permit to work in the disputed areas.

"Possible damaging effects may not be noticeable for years," said Robert Johns, environmental planning department engineer at Environmental Resources. "We're not against the building of Munisport. We just want it built environmentally safe, especially since it will be so close to Biscayne Bay.

Munisport, Inc., however, claims that the land is no longer wetland area since no wetland vegetation thrives there. There is the possibility of court

action.

The dispute has delayed the construction of the estimated \$9 million complex.

If it is decided that the land in question is wetland area, the project would be delayed. The Dade County Commission passed a resolution in September, 1979, forbidding the use of solid wastes in wetlands.

Solid wastes, composed of garbage materials, are used in sanitary fills along with clean fill, composed of environmentally safe materials such as soil, rock and construction debris.

Johnson said that Munisport, Inc.

has taken care to preserve wetlands by installing a protective dike and flushing canal around the mangrove preserve that

The complex, being built on public land, is financed entirely by Munisport, Inc. The agreement is that Munisport, Inc. would operate the facility for 30 years, sharing the profits with the city of North Miami. At the end of the thirty years, the complex would be turned over to the city.

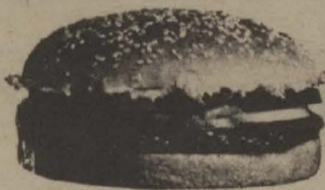
The project area is located west of FIU's North Miami Campus, and south of 151 Street.

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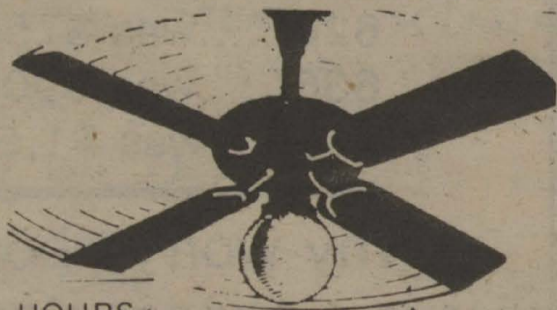
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Sports

Both tennis teams will be active in March

Special to *The International*

FIU's men's and women's tennis programs kick into high gear during the month of March.

Two new coaches, Gary Montour with the men, and Nancy Olson with the women, will attempt to lead squads, full of new faces, to NCAA and AIAW Division II playoff berths.

WOMEN — Injuries appear the only deterrent in the Lady Sunblazers quest of a second straight regional tournament appearance.

FIU won its first four matches of the season but an injury to second seeded Neni Delestre forced the 'Blazers to play shorthanded and drop three of their next four outings.

All three losses were by scores of 3-6 to the University of South Florida, Florida Southern College, and Stetson University, all highly regarded teams.

But with Delestre nearly healthy again, Coach Olson is optimistic about the remainder of the year.

"I believe we could go on and win the remainder of matches on our schedule, if everyone is able to play," she said. "Only Rollins and the Lady Seminole Invitational appear to be our top challenges."

Only two seniors return from last season's 10-3 team. Donna Kocyba, first-seeded from Miami-Dade South, and Debbie Harrit, third-seeded from Pensacola Junior College, are joined by four junior college transfers making up this year's squad.



Donna Kocyba in action

Through the first eight matches of the season, Harrit and the second doubles team of Trish Lagault and Bambi Gallager are undefeated.

"I like working with this team," said Olson, who earlier this month was named FIU's acting athletic director. "Our entire team consists of mature young ladies who are dedicated to the

game of tennis." **MEN** — Indications from a successful fall match campaign and a second-place finish in November's University of Florida Invitational, make Montour believe his Sunblazers will once again be recognized as a top-ranked college division tennis program.

"If the Gainesville tournament is

any indication of what may happen this year, I'm optimistic that we could be one of the top Division II teams in the state," he said.

Even with only one returnee on the nine-man roster, Montour has been blessed with an outstanding crop of newcomers who should be seasoned veterans by the time nationals roll around in May.

John Rullman, a sophomore from Miami, is the lone returning player, so Montour will rely upon the talents of Rich Nakon, Terry Gibson, Cesar Andrade, and Bob Neinken to supply leadership.

Nakon, a top Canadian amateur; Gibson, a distinguished Florida Junior champion; Andrade, a highly regarded South American; and Neinken, who has had previous intercollegiate experience at both Florida State and Marquette University, should all be in top form for a long 21-match season.

Although the Sunblazers (3-3 in 1980) have enjoyed but one winning tennis season in their seven-year history, Montour believes FIU has begun establishing itself as a strong program.

"I believe the tennis program can handle many of the Division I teams around," he said. "Hopefully, we can continue to build and improve upon this reputation."

Besides coaching the men's tennis teams, Montour is also director of recreational sports at FIU.

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Coach's winning touch should aid softball squad

Special to The International

When Dr. Judy Blucker stepped down from her post as FIU's softball coach, Linda Miskovic, Blucker's top assistant of a year ago, was a natural replacement.

Miskovic, the successful Sunblazer volleyball coach, has made a habit of turning good programs into outstanding ones. She's guided championship teams on both the high school and college levels.

The FIU softball program is a good one. In five seasons of competition, it's won over half its games. Miskovic will now attempt to construct a power upon a firm foundation.

With the national growth of women's athletics, the new coach realizes that "beating the bushes" for blue-chip athletes has become a necessity.

"We were able in the past to field a team just from the available talent on campus," she said. "Today, that's no longer true. Like everyone else, we've got to go out and start recruiting if we're going to stay competitive."

Facing a 1980 schedule which contains nearly every college team in the state, Miskovic is approaching the coming season optimistically.

"Being realistic about it, I believe we can finish as high as fourth in the state (only the top three advance into regional competition), if we can stay reasonably healthy," she said.

Miskovic has been stressing fundamentals to her small but dedicated squad.

Seven returnees form a solid nucleus. But while having no "super stars," the coach believes the overall talent is well balanced.

"The FIU softball program has always had the reputation of good defense, weak offense,"

she said. "This year, we hope to have that same good defense and an improved offense."

The Lady Sunblazers open the year against Broward North on March 6, then inaugurate their new Tamiami Campus field against Miami-Dade, New World Center, 3 p.m., on March 10.

Volleyball coach nominated for top honor

Linda Miskovic worked overtime to get FIU's volleyball team into the AIAW National Championship Tournament. It's a good thing her Sunblazer squad worked overtime, too.

The team finished with a 40-14-3 record and advanced to the championship final against the University of Hawaii-Hilo before being eliminated. It was the highest finish ever for an FIU intercollegiate athletic team.

Miskovic's perseverance apparently paid dividends last week when she was nominated as the FAIAW State Coach of the Year.

"It's really quite an honor, of course," said Miskovic, "but what's really important is that this is the first time the award's been given and I want to see FIU's name right on the top line of that trophy."

The winner of the award will be announced at the FAIAW Spring Meetings in Daytona Beach, in April.

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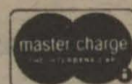
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