

## SGA votes Yeung out of office

WENDY COBOURNE  
Managing Editor

Elvis Yeung, Student Government Association president, was voted out of office by the SGA senate at a meeting last Wednesday on the grounds that he is not a registered student this quarter.

But Yeung said he will "still go on and not be intimidated." He'll step aside for the summer, even though he contends the vote was not legal, and says he will resume his position in the fall.

In the meantime, he said he's going to urge the senate to select someone besides Vice President

Audrey Weintraub, "who is not fit, nor capable nor qualified" to take his place.

Weintraub, who has sent memos to administrators indicating she is now president, says Yeung will be replaced with an election in the fall. She won't run for the position.

Yeung says that while the SGA may vote him out for this quarter on the grounds that he isn't enrolled now, it can't vote him out permanently.

Yeung was registered at the beginning of the quarter for two classes and has a validated fee card to prove it. He dropped one class, he said. However,

Lourdes Meneses, director of records and registration, said Yeung is no longer enrolled.

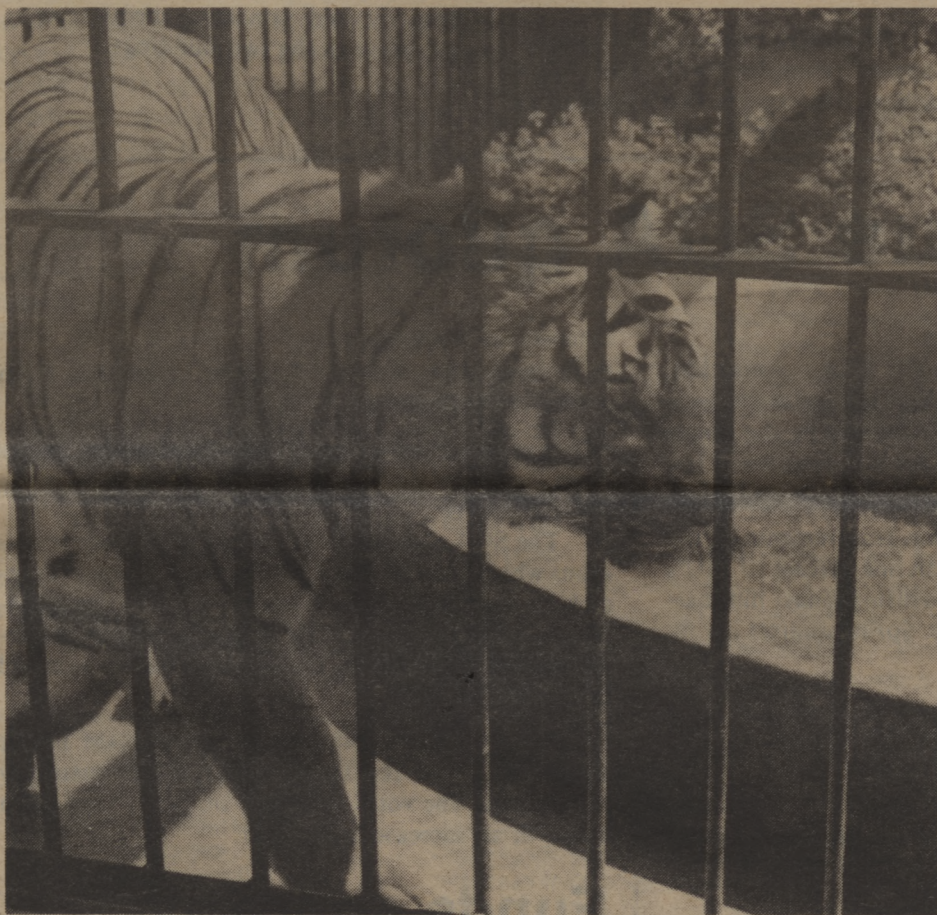
Yeung's student status was also in question last quarter, soon after he took office. Both he and the registrar's office maintained he was enrolled, but Hospitality Management Dean Gerald Lattin said he had been dismissed from FIU and wasn't reinstated until after the election.

Later Yeung's competency was questioned. *The International* obtained records showing Yeung had a cumulative grade point average of 1.33 after the fall

continued on page two

## Caged for now...

James Quigley/International



...but not for long

It might have been a sad day for sentimentalists when the Crandon Park Zoo on Key Biscayne closed last week. But for these

animals, it meant an end to their purgatory in cages. The animals were moved to the new Metro Zoo in southwest Dade. At the Metro

Zoo, the animals roam free in large areas and the people look in from enclosed areas. The zoo is open Saturdays and Sundays.

## Health and parking fees may be raised

The administration has made some proposals to the SGA about raising the health and parking fees and Henry Thomas, vice president of student affairs, hopes any increase can be resolved in time for the fall quarter.

Students currently pay a \$5 health fee and a \$1.25 parking fee each quarter. The parking fee funds maintenance and beautification of the parking lots at each campus. Most of the health fee supports the health clinic at the Tamiami Campus; the rest, \$1.50 of every \$5, pays for a \$1,000 blanket insurance policy for every student.

The administration has proposed raising the health fee to \$7.50, \$10 or up to \$12 per quarter, according to

Thomas. Currently, FIU has the lowest health fee in the State University System.

The increase, according to a well informed SGA member, would cover the costs of adding five positions to expand the clinic's services. New positions proposed are a part-time physical therapist, a consulting pharmacist, a counselor for the Bay Vista Campus and two psychologists contracted to serve students.

The additional positions are part of a plan to change the health clinic, now primarily a treatment center, into a "wellness center," which would focus on preventative medicine, Thomas said.

Raising the parking fee has also been proposed. Thomas said the increase would go to cover the cost of an inter-campus bus system.

The SGA has not passed any legislation approving or disapproving any fee raises.

## Aid funds may be cut off

WENDY COBOURNE  
Managing Editor

If former students who borrowed money from the federal government through FIU don't start paying it back, students next year may not be able to get the low-interest rate loans, according to Ana Sarasti, newly appointed director of financial aid.

The federal government already refused to give FIU the usual \$600,000 for National Direct Student Loans (NDSL) last year because of a high default rate. Only an appeal gave FIU a second chance.

Sarasti says if FIU reports a default rate of 30 percent or close to it again this year, there probably won't be a third chance.

"We can always appeal again, but when they see such a high default rate

two years in a row...I think they're going to deny the appeal."

The NDSL is offered to students at an interest rate of three percent. Students are not required to begin repayment until nine months after graduation.

The government thinks only 10 percent of the borrowers should be in default at one time. But, unfortunately, says Sarasti, screening students to avoid potential defaults is hindered by government regulations.

"If a person is qualified, unless we have substantial proof of high risk — an unpaid loan from another school, for example — we cannot hold back a loan."

The problem began about eight years ago when FIU opened, but apparently is just beginning to surface,

continued on page seven



## Bids open for new BVC buildings

FIU will begin accepting bids for the construction of two buildings at the Bay Vista Campus this week, according to Dan D'Oliveira, director of physical planning.

The fourth and fifth major buildings for Bay Vista, Academic Two and the campus support complex have been designed and now just need to be built.

Academic Two will cost about \$5.8 million to complete, D'Oliveira estimated. He expects it will open almost a year and a half from now, in January 1982.

It will house classrooms, laboratories and academic offices. A health clinic will also be established there. Laboratories will be provided for programs in nursing, physical science, biological science, safety and fire science, visual arts and performing arts.

The fourth major building at the Bay Vista Campus, Academic Two



Artist's rendering of Academic Two.

will join the existing Trade Center, Student Services and Academic One buildings.

Construction bids will open Thursday for the campus support building, which will primarily house administrative offices.

The public safety, physical plant

and purchasing department will have offices in the building, which will be located near the entrance to the campus.

D'Oliveira estimated the campus support complex will cost \$2.4 million. He expects that complex to open in less than a year.

Both buildings have been designed to take advantage of the view of the bay and climatic conditions. Landscaping has been planned to beautify and conserve energy consumption in the two buildings.

## T-shirts bait for overdue SGA quorum

Last week, the SGA made history.

It held a legal forum, something the SGA hasn't been able to do for more than three years.

The SGA has tried to hold the forums before but never enough students attended the meetings to conduct any business. It's been a problem of forums without quorums, a problem of apathy.

The SGA solved the problem this time, though. Past attempts to lure students to the forums with free food didn't work. But giving away 100 free T-shirts did. More than 125 students attended the forum last week, although only about 90 voted. One hundred students are necessary for a quorum. The students passed all but one of the nine bills on the agenda. That bill would have made the comptroller the chairperson of the A & S hearing board which would then be comprised of the presiding board and budget

committees from each campus.

The forums, required by the SGA constitution, allow students to have input into the legislative process of the student senate. Bills passed by the senate which affect the constitution are not considered law until approved by a majority of students at the forum.

According to current forum requirements of 100 students for a quorum, less than one percent of FIU's students can pass into law a qualified senate bill, based on an enrollment of 10,000. Spring quarter enrollment was 11,432.

Forums used to be held twice quarterly, but a bill passed that changed it so that forums will now be held once a quarter.

Other legislation enacted was:

- Changing chairperson and vice-chairperson to presi-

dent and vice-president.

- Changing the names of senate members from associates to senators.

- Change the election of international court justice from the winter quarter to the general elections in the fall and spring.

The SGA also conducted a survey of student opinions which showed that 49 students want the proposed Nautilus exercise equipment for the Tamiami Campus to be located in the UH building. Sixteen preferred it be located near the tennis courts on the west end of the campus.

Forty-three students oppose an increase in the mandatory health fee, which is currently \$5 quarterly per student. The votes were split on how to use extra money if an increase is imposed.

## Yeung says he'll be back on job in fall

continued from page one

term of 1979 and had been academically dismissed from FIU at least two times.

A few efforts by SGA members to get Yeung out of office did not succeed. Until now.

Weintraub says he "did not meet the criteria to remain president. He must be enrolled and he's not. And he knew for damn sure he had to be." Last week's vote was "just implementing the [SGA] constitution."

Yeung was not at that meeting. He was in Oregon, attending a week long United States Association convention.

He "gained a lot of knowledge there and has learned a lot" since he became president and thinks that he can benefit the SGA.

"Look, they weren't even successful in getting me out, that's how bad they are. It would be a loss to this University to send me away without benefitting from my knowledge.

"It was no party (in Oregon). Everyone was working, and working hard. While I was there I thought, 'I wish my senators were like this.' They were willing to work.

"The administration is not sending anyone down to our meetings anymore. Why? Because they're not



Elvis Yeung

worried about the senate anymore. The senate has been too bogged down with getting me out. Nothing is being done."

Yeung thinks the senators have to change, "to get people involved. I don't think that social activities are everything. And calling a meeting every week is not enough.

"And the funniest thing happened last quarter. The senate made an award for 'outstanding senator.' We shouldn't be rewarding ourselves."

## Funds approved for 3rd floor of library

Now that the state legislature has awarded FIU the \$800,000 it has been requesting for three years to complete construction of the Tamiami Campus library, it will probably be another year and a half before the third floor actually opens, according to Dan D'Oliveira, director of physical planning.

D'Oliveira expects an architect will be selected in the next week. Then the project needs to be planned and approved. After that, it must be opened for construction bids. When a builder is approved, construction can finally begin. D'Oliveira doesn't envision the third floor opening until January 1982.

Library Director Howard Cordell has indicated in the past that when the third floor is completed, some sections will be moved. The general collection now on the second floor will probably move upstairs, allowing the periodicals and government document sections to expand.

Meanwhile, library personnel have been storing back-up files of periodicals on the third floor. There's no room to put them anywhere else.

Of the 400,000 volumes now in the library, 100,000 have been acquired since 1977, when plans to expand the library first won top-level approval by FIU.



**Last chance to register**

Last chance to register for fall quarter classes is September 22. Next to the last chance is August 26 on the Tamiami Campus. Students can register beginning at 8:30 a.m. or for the next twelve hours. Two orientation sessions will be held in UH 140, one at 11:30 a.m. and one at 7 p.m. Advanced registration took place two weeks ago and FIU's admissions office reports that already enrollment for the fall has increased by more than 400 compared to enrollment figures from last fall. Classes start September 23.

**Business workshop**

FIU's Small Business Development Center is hosting a workshop on increasing small business profits. The three-hour workshop will be held six times during September at various locations. Call 552-2272 for additional information.

**Scholarship winners**

Maria Zaragoza and Kristie McClure, June graduates of FIU, were among 460 students nationwide to win National Science Foundation graduate fellowships. The fellowships will provide \$4,320 a year.



**High Holy Days**

The Hillel Jewish Student Center will hold Conservative High Holy Days services beginning September 10 at the Tamiami Campus. Admittance to all services is by ticket only. Free tickets are available to all FIU students, faculty, staff and their immediate families. For additional information, call 552-2215.

**Extra library hours**

Is the prospect of studying for all those final exams getting you down? Fret not, for the libraries at both campuses will stay open until 2 a.m. beginning Sunday through August 28. Regular library services will not be available during the extended hours.

**Registrar appointed**

Bill Younkin was appointed last week as University Registrar, effective September 1. He has been acting registrar since Columbus Posey resigned during the winter quarter. Younkin received his master's degree in educational research from University of Miami and his completing work on his Ph.D. there.

**International migration**

Speakers from around the nation will come to Tamiami Campus Thursday to talk about international migration. The free Conference on International Migration and Refugees: The Caribbean and South Florida will take place in AT 100 at 8 p.m. Co-chairpersons are FIU professors Anthony Maingot and Antonio Jorge.

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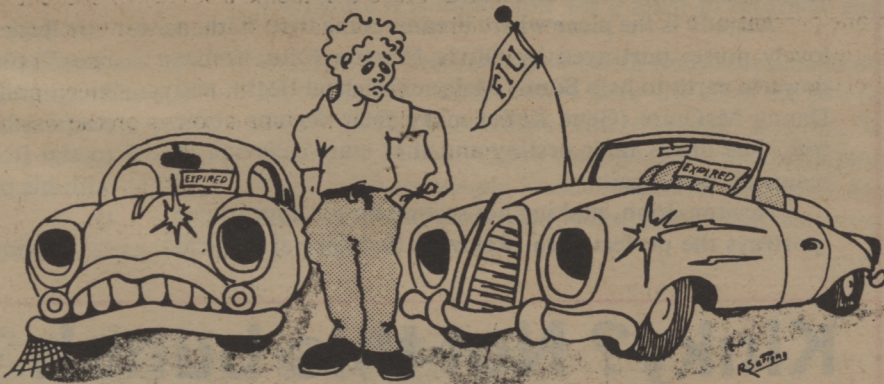
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Olivia Newton-John strikes several different poses in 'Xanadu'

# Newton-John sizzles in 'Xanadu'

TERESITA ORTIZ Contributor

Magic is the key definition of Lawrence Gordon's production where fantasy becomes reality. And that is "Xanadu."

Special mention should go to all involved with this extravagant film and especially to Robert Greenwald in his first film debut, proving to be a fine director. Choreographers Kenny Ortega and Jerry Trent outdid themselves. Both John Farrar and Jeff Lynne managed to compose successful hits for the Electric Light Orchestra and Olivia Newton-John.

Xanadu is the place where dreams come true. Kira, a lovely muse, portrayed by Olivia Newton-John, comes down to earth to help Sonny Malone (Michael Beck), and Danny McGuire (Gene Kelly) make their dreams come true. She unites their destiny and they start believing in magic all over again.

Newton-John, making her second major appearance portrays the perfect Kira. Reviving that special magical

belief in fantasies and love, she sings, dons dazzling costumes and dances like a pro.

Kelly portrays a wealthy man who remembers the 40's like it was yesterday, living and loving only in his dreams. He plays his clarinet and dwells in his past, but never actually does anything about his dream to return to show business with his own band. Until Kira and Sonny appear.

Kelly is a living legend: a great actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, producer and director. He seems as fresh as when he danced with Leslie Caron.

Beck (who has not been in a film since the "Warriors") plays Sonny, a painter who seems to have lost his imagination and creativity as an artist. He lives without a purpose because he has killed all his dreams. Beck is new to the field of musicals but adds a fresh, strong mood with his presence, and gives his character a special quality.

Sonny and Kira then fall in love with a fantastic

display of special effects, beautiful costumes, and terrific music that sets all types of moods.

Danny, who represents the era of yesterday and has been known as the greatest dancer of them all, proves he is as good as he ever was. Kelly and Newton-John make a sensational duo while tap dancing and singing to the beat of the 40's. And then Kelly demonstrates he has not lost his touch by roller skating just like he did in the 50's.

Xanadu is Danny's dream where "nobody dared to go." Sonny is part of that dream and actually is the one who makes it real, but his feelings for Kira stand in the way, since it is impossible for a muse to return to earth.

The exciting fantasy in which Kelly sees a band playing the Fab 40's tunes, while Beck visualizes the 80's rock group (Tubes), eccentric and stunning as ever, is a wonderful climax. The two merge into a one and Xanadu finale, making people wonder whatever happened to all those movies of yesteryear, when going to the movies was a pleasure.

# Kinky? Not this bunch of brash British rockers

ONDA SCHECK Staff Writer

The second day tickets for the August 22 Kinks concert went on sale, all of the center section of Sunrise Muscial Theater had been purchased.

The Kinks have been around more than a decade and enjoy a loyal, intelligent following that has forced the Miami engagement to become a two-parter with an extra show Saturday, the 23rd.

Ray and Dave Davies are the power of the Kinks, but the band is a solid one. Dave

has a new solo album that is excellent. The Kinks' recent live album is no let down.

The Kinks' first successful recording effort was "You Really Got Me," a fine album. The title tune was a big single hit and has been "covered" with some success by Van Halen. Other early Kinks material will surely grace the Miami gig.

All day and all of the night listeners can laugh, sway and pray with the classic Kinks tune "Lola."

Then there was "Sleepwalker" and "Captain America" and "Juke Box Music" and so many more classy, sassy rock and roll efforts.

A while back the brash Britishers hit

the charts with a cheap trick called "Low Budget," which was good music and a good time despite trends toward disco. Calling anything connected with the Kinkdom "disco" is sacrilege and the band makes that clear in their hard rockin' concerts.

The August 22 concert is sold out but the Saturday show might still have seats available. The Kinks' show is highly recommended.

The opening act is Louisiana Laroux. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.



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Letters

# Onda's humor all mixed up

To the editor:

In the August 6 edition of *The International*, Onda Scheck made an attempt to be humorous, with mixed results. His three ethnic jokes were excellent but his subsequent mockery of philosophical beliefs was, at best, sophomoric.

He wrote: "Any religion is stupid and the thought that there is anything beyond what we know, we being us, is silly." This is not only insulting to many people but also arrogant because it assumes that there can be nothing beyond our knowledge. Consequently, I assume that the above passage was written as a joke in which case Onda's failure to amuse is, of course, forgivable.

However, I cannot understand why a newspaper, that is directed to students with an average age of at least 28, can, at times, seem so childish.

I am not questioning the quality of *The International*; I am merely suggesting that you keep in mind that most FIU students are beyond adolescence.

*FRANKLIN ROSELL*  
FIU student

# Here are some ideas for OE

To the editor:

As wasted spaces go, the Owa Ehan building on the Tamiami Campus is a prime example. Take a walk over and observe the useless square footage under the building's west wing (faculty offices), next to the landscaped patio. This area now grossly filled with pea rock and wasting away has on the west a magnificent view of the lake, and on the east the referenced landscaped patio. It is a significantly large area extending the full length north-south of the office building above it.

Somebody ought to propose the following, even though the funds for it could be short coming:

1. A concrete slab poured over the now pea rock-filled ground, of the same width as the building above it.
2. Benches added.
3. Murals painted on the walls of the utility room in the middle of the expansion, perhaps using science themes, since OE is a science building. (Perhaps other murals could be created elsewhere in the area).
4. Covering up the exposed insulation above the area (floor slab insulation) which looks horrible anyway with perhaps a metal grid ceiling similar to the one used on the building's east wing, ground floor.

This would of course be the base proposal for converting a dead area into a relaxing area for campus inhabitants. It could be done in steps as funds become available, and other features could be added to it, such as planters, etc. to make it more attractive.

But obviously the most important feature is the pouring of a slab over that perfectly horrible pea rock which is truly a great eyesore. It could even be turned into a campus project with students and faculty invited to participate and offer ideas as for mural themes and location, landscaping, arrangements, etc. (Perhaps they could also offer ideas as to where to get the funds). In fact, perhaps a contest could be started.

AUDI ARNAND



# Registration was disorganized

To the editor:

Disorganized or disorganized! That does not even describe the registration process at FIU.

I do not often write letters to the editor, however, I was so angry that I just wanted to get my feelings out.

First of all, the people at the registration counters are not in contact with the other departments and vice versa. I went through all the paper work, got up to the front of the line, only to be told that I needed to go to the DM building to get an official department stamp. What would it have taken for someone in charge to put up a few signs saying, "Get Your Forms Stamped Before Registering, Pay Your Fines," etc.?

Well, needless to say, I was slightly aggravated.

So, I then trotted to the DM building to get the stamp, only to be told that all I needed was a woman's signature.

Feeling slightly uneasy, but accepting, I then jogged down to the registration line again, got up to the front of the line, then... "You can not register yet," she said, "you have a fine." That means going to the cashier's office and coming back.

I did not need to say a word. I am sure that my body language told all. My eyebrows arched to my scalp, my jaw dropped open.

"Where is the cashier?" I said after 45 minutes.

The girl in front of me said, "I am beginning to get angry."

"How can they only have one person on duty during a registration period?" came a voice from the line.

Twenty minutes later... "Only two more people," the girl in front of me said.

Finally.

"I am going to write a letter to the editor," I said half laughingly, half threateningly.

Today, the "threateningly" took over. If I did not do this, I would lose respect for myself.

*BARBARA RAISEN*  
FIU student

# Kaminsky is a hell of a teacher

To the editor:

One of the things in life that I treasure the most is having had the pleasure of being a student of Howard Kaminsky.

Thanks to him, I have become a more educated person. This is true in the sense that thanks to the example he always gave me, I have acquired a higher level of scholarship and personal dignity.

FRANK J. FERNANDEZ

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*The International* is the official student newspaper at FIU and is funded solely by advertising revenue.

The paper is independent and the editor is the chief administrative officer.

The administration, faculty and student government association at FIU cannot and will not dictate the editorial policy of the newspaper.

*The International* is published by FIU students for the benefit of the entire FIU community. Views expressed are those of the editorial board.

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

Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged.



## Letter

# Yeung says most SGA members deserve pay

To the editor:

As students of FIU, we are shocked indeed. However Mr. Martin Vester somehow overlooked the fact that he himself served as Chief Justice to the Student Government Association for almost a year. Mr. Vester's pay was \$25 per case. This petition is somewhat belated since Mr. Vester is no longer part of the SGA and did enjoy part of the \$48,000 of last year's administration of the SGA.

That's not all. Mr. Vester again forgot to mention that he filed suit against the SGA, actually FIU if technicality is necessary, to recover \$75 for three cases he heard last year that he did not receive payment for. Stunning, is it not?

The actual amount that SGA receives from a student is \$2.65 per credit (full-time, 15 credits is \$39.75) of which 20 cents goes to the Women's Intercollegiate Athletics, to bring women's sports to par with men's sports. The criteria behind financially compensating members of the SGA was to promote participation to combat the apathy that for so long has plagued this organization. It is clear that pay is not motivation, but it gets things done even though many people are taken for a free ride.

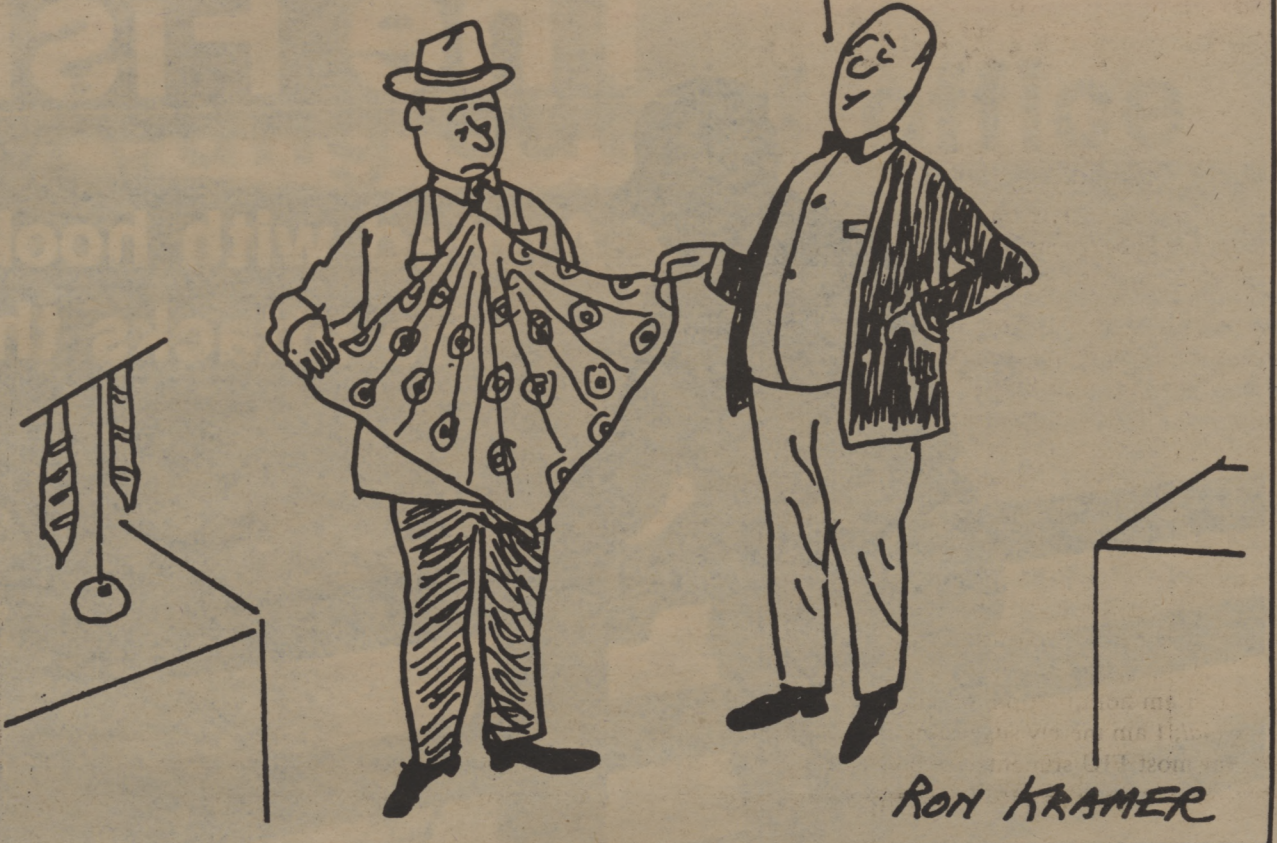
Furthermore, this would not hold forth if those elected to the SGA would do what they were elected to do; represent not only those that voted for them, but the entire student body.

When those elected don't do their share of the work then the load is dumped on the few that work. Education is the main purpose of any university, but when the above situation frequently occurs, when the work has got to be done, we find ourselves with the unwanted student representatives taking on more than their fair share, along with their standing load. This brings to light the grade point average "academic competence." So you see, there is more to this issue than just what this petition, dated August 6, 1980, calls for.

**ELVIS YEUNG**  
SGA President

## Kramer's Cartoon

## MEN'S WEAR



RON KRAMER

## FIU in danger of losing financial aid

continued from page one

after compounding for that time. So far, more than 700 people who have taken NDSL through FIU since 1972 haven't paid them back, according to Mike Sementa, assistant comptroller.

But he feels that even if the high rate is not rectified in time for the annual report in October, FIU won't be denied the \$600,000.

"I think the rate is holding steady, not going

down," he said. "But the government will be looking for what it calls 'due diligence' to correct the problem. We feel we can prove that.

"We're collecting the debts more conscientiously now. We've stepped up our collections department and hired a collections manager. So now we handle the 'soft core' process — cranking out letters to delinquent borrowers — and we leave the 'hard-core' to a collections agency. And they're much nastier."

## The International will be back Sept. 22

*The International* will be taking a short vacation the next week, but will return September 22 with the first issue of the fall quarter. The paper will resume its regular publication schedule then, coming out every Wednesday after the first issue.

Several staff positions are open on the paper. News editor, features editor, entertainment editor, sports editor and copy editor positions are all open.

Anyone interested should contact Jim Carson, editor, or Wendy Cobourne, managing editor, in UH 212A on the Tamiami Campus.

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# The Fisherman

Armed with hook, line and sinker, he attacks the sea with gusto

TERESITA ORITZ  
Contributor

In Florida, fishing is a billion dollar a year activity, practiced by millions. Some do it for relaxation while others enjoy the competitive side.

While thousands of outdoor and indoor activities exist, fishing is a splendid way of resting and a national pastime, a hobby.

The fisherman is usually a full grown adult, who as a child chose this hobby and has grown to love it with each passing day, dressed with a funny battered hat on his head and more gear hanging from his body than an explorer.

A fisherman begins by forgetting the purpose of fishing, which is to catch fish. He has no faith in the simple and productive method.

The fisherman has an incurable ego, which must be fed by eliminating the odds in favor of the fish.

Most important, the faithful fisherman distorts fishing in his mind until it becomes an art and not just a hobby.

It becomes a battle with superhuman efforts of will and might against an unconquerable adversary.

He is the protector, and with flaring nostrils and gleaming eyes, he must convince himself of that fact; and only after the conquest of the adversary will he uncurl his mouth.

Most fishermen could not tell the difference between various fishing rods, but they read all the books and even fish by methods shown in these books.

The fisherman must have a dozen lines: lines with long tapers and torpedo-head lines, lines that sink with wet flies and lines that float with dry flies.

The average fisherman can not wait for that precious moment when man and fish first meet.

The calendar is marked and it sustains him through the frustrations of his everyday living.

He goes on cheerfully doing his job without snapping at his employees, agrees with his wife about everything and is so enchanted about his plans that if he is asked an outrageous question or favor, you can better believe that it will be automatically approved.

This man is an ordinary, simple man, who in a matter of hours will be wearing a short jacket with pockets, from here to eternity.

There are pockets for: cigarettes, baits, hooks, mosquito repellent, and even one which acts as a resting spot for his rod while changing bait; in a box, he will carry more hooks, fishing knife, beer, spinners, and anything else that will be needed.

Of course, there's also an extra reel, along with a rod, reel, net, and the hat.

The hat must be as individual as a brand new house, for he will dip it into each stream, lake, or ocean he has ever fished, it is a symbol to the "society that shapes his everyday life."

When fishing, he feels alone, even though there are millions of him throughout the land doing just about the same thing, but the fact remains: this is his moment.

According to experts it is crucial to be conscious of the action of his rod, of the tension in his wrist, of his elbow tight against his side, while relaxing.

He sees the fish in the depths stalking his offering, but too late, it is gone.

It would be hard to lose face, but after all, he is not having luck, it is getting uncomfortable; yet he can not go home with an empty reel, and tell his wife and employees that he was beaten by a smart fish, so, he stays.

Suddenly, a tug at the line, feeds more line, another tug, feeds out more line, and finally lifts the tip of the rod because he has a fish!

## Her husband sits in Cuban prison as U.S. ignores him

JIM CARSON  
Editor

Karen Bennett is a cheerful woman. Her bright smile and pleasant demeanor give her the look of a happy person.

But sometimes, looks can be deceiving. Bennett is sad. And she's hurt.

She's hurt at the United States government because it will do nothing to help get Bennett's husband Robert out of a Cuban prison.

Karen has written her congressmen. She's called the White House. She gathers signatures for a petition which will be presented to President Carter. She hopes the petition will get some action. Nothing else has seemed to work.

The standard government answer has been, "Since we don't have formal diplomatic relations with Cuba, we cannot negotiate with their government."

Karen was at FIU last week circulating the petition and telling the Bennetts' story to anyone that would listen.

The story goes like this:

On March 1, 1979, Robert Bennett, an airplane broker and pilot, was flying over the Bahamas in a twin engine Beechcraft with a friend, Walter Clark, when the navigational equipment failed.

Bennett landed the plane on Crooked Island in the southern Bahamas to take a look at the problem. He saw that he couldn't fix it and decided to fly to a bigger island nearby and radio for help.

The island was a little further south and a little closer to Cuba. Bennett knew about where the island was but needed his navigational equipment to pinpoint it.

All of the sudden, Cuban MIG jets were all around the Beechcraft. Shots were fired, warning Bennett to land. Bennett put his landing wheels down to indicate surrender and the MIGs escorted him to Havana.

Bennett and Johnson were accused of violating Cuban airspace and were convicted and sentenced to two years in El Combinado del Este prison.

Karen Bennett, married to Robert for just seven months at the time, was worried sick when she hadn't heard from her husband late that day. She called the authorities to report her husband missing.

Seven days later, the Cuban government informed the United States it had detained Bennett. The Cubans would only say Bennett was on the ground in Havana and that he was safe.

Little did Karen Bennett know that her husband was safely locked in a jail cell.

But she found out a couple of days later. And ever since then, she's been fighting for Robert's release.

Robert Bennett has served a year and a half of his sentence. Karen thinks that is a year and a half too long.

"My husband is sitting over there in jail just because some airplane equipment malfunctioned," she said. "I've been in contact with every elected official I know of, but nothing has helped.

"The government simply will not get involved. No matter how much I plead, they won't do anything.

"And that's not right."

But Karen vows to keep fighting for her husband's release as long as he remains in the Cuban prison.