

An Independent Student Newspaper at Florida International University, North Miami/Miami, Florida

Engineering building set for 1988

Theresa Willingham

Sunblazer Staff Writer

The Florida Legislature has approved \$750,000 in funding for the hire of an architectural firm to design FIU's new \$14 million engineering building to be completed by Fall 1988.

While there have been numerous financial delays and building money is currently "on hold" by the state, project coordinator Manuel Cereijo is confident that the problems will be resolved shortly and expects a design for the building by the end of this year.

"The building will be completed in two phases," said Cereijo, associate dean of engineering and applied sciences. "Phase I is construction of the 94,000 square foot building. In three years, we expect to begin Phase II, moving in the Electrical, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Departments."

Civil and Environmental Engineering Departments, along with a new department to be created next year, will remain in the VH Building, he said.

The new building will house offices ,teaching labs, research labs and six classrooms, he said.

"Weneed that space tremendously. The average space available to engineering students nationwide is 60 square feet per student. Right now we have 17 square feet per student," Cereijo said.

The new building will be located between the OE and VH Buildings, adjacent to Southwest Eighth Street.

College Bowl team keeping chins up after regional games

FIU's recently formed College Bowl team went to the regional competition with high hopes Feb. 21 and 22, but returned with a 7-10 record and



Hold on tight!

Thrill seekers dare to take on the ups and downs of the massive rollercoaster at the Dade County Youth Fair open until March 30. See story p.4.

New president will choose student affairs administrator

Adrian Walker

Sunblazer Staff Writer

The search for a vice president for student affairs has been delayed until FIU's new president takes office, following orders from Chancellor Charles Reed.

Judy Blucker, who has filled the position on an interim basis since 1984, will continue to do so.

"I think the next president should be allowed to put together his own management team," Reed said. "My general philosophy is that if you're talking about a period of months, not years, the decision should be that of the new president."

Blucker said she believes the decision to halt the selection process may be a result of a recently released report blasting the University's hiring practices.

"I think the politics of the University played a part in the decision" Blucker said. "The report might have been a factor."

Blucker, one of the five finalists for the permanent job, said she is committed to remaining in her acting position until an appointment is made.

"I will stay on. I think I have done a good job with the department, and I think the people in the department want me to stay," she said.

Reed said he expects a new president to be named by September, at which time "the new president will have the option of selecting one of the current finalists or starting the process all over again."

Army ROTC classes to be offered on campus by Fall '86 semester

Valerie Greenberg

"Applicants do not have to be Rhodes scholars or star athletes to win" Staubach said

mixed feelings.

In the two days of regional competitions in Gainesville, FIU's College Bowl team, only a semester old, competed against 17 teams from colleges ranging from Georgia Tech and the University of Alabama to their more familiar rivals Miami-Dade and University of Miami.

"We were disappointed we didn't win, of course," said College Bowl President Pedro Lopez. "But under the circumstances, we feel we did pretty well."

While the seven-hour drive to Gainesville was extremely fatiguing, and the team plans to fly to future long distance competitions, Perez said he feels inexperience was the team's major drawback.

The team is already practicing for local competitions, said Perez, and is planning to host an invitational tournament open to all state universities and colleges during the fall semester. The team will also be sponsoring competitions within the University.

by Theresa Willingham

Sunblazer News Editor

Beginning next fall, FIU students who want to become Army officers when they graduate will be able to take Army ROTC classes on campus.

Army ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) training features both classroom instruction and outdoor combat exercises to teach students basic military subjects and provide practical leadership experience. Many FIU students are already enrolled in ROTC classes at the University of Miami, according to Maj. Jim Staubach.scheduled to be the primary instructor at FIU.

"FIU is now a major university with tremendous potential for growth, and we want our program to grow along with it," Staubach said. "We believe that more students will inquire about what Army ROTC has to offer if there is a permanent representative on campus."

The Army offers full tuition scholarships that pay for books, fees and up to \$1,000 for expenses per year. Recipients must serve on active duty as officers or in the Reserves or National Guard for eight years.

work contraction of theme, work contraction

The scholarships are also awarded to students attending the Army ROTC Basic Camp, held each summer in Fort Knox, Ky.

The FIU Army ROTC Office is now accepting applications for the Basic Camp, which prepares students for the last two years of the ROTC program. The camp is designed primarily for college sophomores who did not take the course during their first two years of college.

Last summer, of the 3,245 students from around the country who attended the camp, 495 received scholarships for exceptional performance and leadership potential. Each student was pre-screened medically and had at least a 2.0 grade point average.

While earning more than \$670 during the training, each student at the camp learns to read military maps, navigate with a compass, fire a M-60 machine gun, qualify as an expert marksman with an M-16 rifle and perform drill and ceremonial exercises.

Transportation to and from camp is provided and tuition is free. There is no military obligation for students attending the camp.



Living with someone for the first time can be an "educational" experience.

And living with a long distance company isn't any different. Because some companies may not give you all the services you're used to getting from AT&T.

For instance, with some companies you have to

With savings of over 50% during weekends until 5pm Sundays, or nights from 11pm to 8am, Sunday through Friday. And 40% discounts evenings between 5pm and 11pm, Sunday through Friday.

With AT&T, you'll continue to get services like immediate credit for wrong numbers and collect calling. And long distance operators to help you anytime there's a problem on the line. So when you're asked to choose a long distance company, choose AT&T. Because whether you're into Mozart or metal, quality is the one thing everyone can agree on. Call **1 800 222-0300** for more information or to choose AT&T.

spend a certain amount before you qualify for their special volume discounts. With some others, voice quality may vary.

But when you choose AT&T, there won't be any surprises when you move in. You'll get the same highquality, trouble-free service you're used to.

With calls that sound as close as next door. And discounts off our Day Rate on your state-to-state calls.

Reach out and touch someone."



© AT&T 1986



FITS reactions causes more hassles

Stan Butler

Sunblazer Editor

Reacting to stories in the in the media is nothing new. Most everyone, at one time or another, has said they were going to write a letter to the editor.

Some reactions take the form of new restrictions, such as no standing on the FIU Transit buses (FITS). Yes, this is safer for all concerned, but it was done without warning to the riders.

After the March 4 issue of The Sunblazer ran a story on the overcrowded conditions on the buses, no one was allowed to stand on the buses.

Because no notice was given, several students have since been turned away and missed their classes and exams.

Currently, several of the routes are frequently overcrowded. Up until the story ran, riders were allowed to stand if they couldn't find a seat.

Now, if you don't get a seat you have to either wait for the next bus (which ranges from a one to three hour delay) or drive to the other campus.

If FIU is going operate a transit system it should serve all its potential riders, not just those who arrive thirty minutes ahead to catch a bus.

According to Juan Argudin, assistant vice president for administrative affairs, money is the problem. Well, that's true for all parts of the University.

If FIU wants to continue to operate the FITS buses in an adequate manner, they need to lobby for money, or begin to charge riders a fare for the ride.

A fare may not sit well with the

Spoiled Donahue trip not worth story

To the Editor,

After reading Kolumn in the Feb. 25 edition of The Sunblazer, I have to wonder why the writer ever went to see The Phil Donahue Show?

Editorials

How can abybody be so naive?

When you attend an open forum, such as the Donahue Show, it's common knowledge that "It's No Holds Barred". Thin-skinned people should stay away.

What does she expect from people who are constantly bombarded by the media in a town where both talk show hosts and newspapers constantly arouse hidden prejudices and passions of the population?

Why did you waste the space in the paper just to tell us something that most of us already know?

I suspect that the readership of The Sunblazer would have been better served if some kind of social commentary were made other than my feelings were hurt.

Just don't bring up an issue and drop it without any substance or further investigation. Do some background investigation and tell us, if you can, why this apparent attitude prevails and why?

In other words, do your homework and share with us something of stu-

new Art Deco studies of concrete and resistance of materials; and Liberal Arts is still trying to figure out how liberal is liberal.

The Bay Vista Campus is a beautiful place that is going to waste. It's a hybrid between abandonment, neglect, selfishness and beauty. Why not just turn it into a historical site, or a casual government silo.

The Communications Department dwells at the obscure Bay Vista, therefore, rumors of moving are circulating.

The fact is FIU is suffering from lack of funds to make it all happen, unlike Miami-Dade and other large state universities. I ask, "Who is taking all the money?"

Philip Murera Student

Bazaar allows chance to shop and study

To the Editor,

I would like to thank the SGA, the University administration and all the other people responsible for providing FIU students with an invaluable service. I'm speaking about the on-campus open-air Bazaar which seems to be developing inside and around the UH building on the Tamiami Campus.

I'm writing this letter to thank this University for the invaluable lesson of haggling. A lesson I'll remember

he

forever. I'd also like to thank the University for providing this timesaving service. In a University where one has to wait over ten non-interest earning weeks for a refund, it is nice to know that the administration is interested in allowing a student maximum study time by allowing them to shop and learn at the same location.

dent interest, not just why my field trip was spoiled by a bunch of nasty and hostile people.

The Sunblazer

Page 3

Have you ever thought about conducting a student poll? We have opinions on this subject.

How deep rooted is this problem? We all do kneel at the collective altars of The Miami Herald or Neil Rogers, nor do we subscribe to their views.

Give us some information.

You're not just writing stories to see your names on a by-line -- or are you?

Joe Krokos Student

Radio station due to hard work of SGA To the Editor,

Well, it's about time. FIU is about to go on the air with it's own WFIU-FM, nothing to drive thousands of South Floridians to call the FCC for interference with such FM giants such as Y100 or WSHE, for 100 watts are just enough to pump some tunes on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius.

Thanks to the vision and hard work of the SGA's Radio Subcommittee funds have been allocated, location provided, some equipment requistioned and a technical support team procured. Nothing but actual interior construction and engineering work separates FIU's immediate community from some creative radio programming, which, by the way, you can contribute to with ideas and suggestions by filling out the radio survey in The Sunblazer's March 4 issue. Those of you interested in prospective air positions in news, sports or being a disc jockey, feel free to contact Ed Iturraulde at 554-2121 to arrange for interviews and recording.

After going through the FCC paperwork, then we'll go on the air, hopefully by the Fall.

Steve Martinez Student

The Sunblazer is a non-profit corporation serving the community at Florida International University and is funded solely by advertising revenue.

The paper is independent of the university, Student Government Association and all university faculty. The editor is the chief administrator and publisher. Unsigned editorials are written, supported and represent the present views and ideas of The Sunblazer's editorial board.

Student: problems rampant at FIU

To the Editor,

Florida International University... I never thought about enrolling here until circumstances beyond my control brought me here from a college in Southern California.

Today, my concerns have shifted a bit. FIU claims to be a forward-looking institution, which seeks a place among the best universities of the United States, Latin America and Europe, but there are several problems.

Hospitality is not all that hospitable; Business Administration is having a low tide; Economics and Finance are tied-up with a minute budget; Engineering hasn't picked up on the

Bruce Budwig Student nblazer **Bay Vista Campus**

riders, but you can't get everything in life for free.

Even a nominal charge of a dollar per fare would be much cheaper than having to drive to and from the other campus.

Whatever happens, lets hope they plan on giving notice to the riders before they implement a new policy.

Turning away students without warning makes the system look even worse than it is.

Corrections

Due to an error with our printer, the March 4 issue of The Sunblazer was printed in the wrong page order. We realize how difficult it was to read and we regret that it happened.

Tamiami Campus **UH 313** Miami, Florida 33199 (305) 554-2315

SC 253

North Miami, Florida 33181

(305) 940-5684(85)

Editor	Stan Butler
Managing Editor, News Editor	Valerie Greenberg
Sports Editor	David Colodney
Features Editor	Sanda Kurtz
Co-Photo Editor	Andy Itkoff
Co-Photo Editor	Michael Saenz
Advertising Manager	Michelle Dreseris
Business Manager	Hugh Moore
Asst. News Editor	Mike Saunders
Asst. Sports Editor	Jeff Brenner
Distribution	Stan Butler

Staff Diana Aiello, Lourdes Alonso, Ernie Bastillo, Natalie Butto, Sue Cafolla, Greg Campbell, Lissette Campos, Phillip De Seusa, Rick Del Toro, Sandy Dimitriou, Yolanda Estrada, Martin Gonzalez, Holly Goodman, Orlando Guiterrez, Jeff Kleinman, Steve Martinez, Carolyn Salata, John Schuster, Sophia Sniman, Robert Stark, Karen Turner, Adrian Walker and Theresa Willingham.

Guest articles do not necessarily represent the view of the editorial board. As of Jan. 21, Guest article status is granted only to students, staff or faculty at FIU. Written responses are encouraged.

The Sunblazer is published weekly, (except during the summer) and is distributed free on the Bay Vista, Tamiami and Broward campuses. The staff of the paper prepares its own typesetting and layout work.

Letters policy

The Sunblazer welcomes your views on the basis of timeliness, interest, clarity, taste and space.

Letters must be typed with the writer's name and his relationship to the university. Telephone numbers must be included so we may verify your letter.

We may condense and correct errors of spelling and grammar. Please address letters to: The Sunblazer, FIU Bay Vista Campus, SC253, North Miami, Fl. 33181

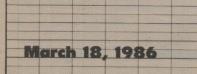


We give you quality color prints that are larger, brighter and sharper...FAST with no compromise in quality.



Precision Haircut & Style - Only \$10

Terrific campus cuts at super savings with



Dade Youth Fair is a success year after year

The just-for-the-record book at the Dade County Youth Fair in Miami, Florida, is full of 'firsts' for 1985. According to Jack Metzger, Communications Director, gate attendance topped all previous years with an 8.6% increase over 1984 bringing the total of Youth Fairgoers to an official 792,482.

Other record breaking statistics: gate receipts rose from \$1,242,522.00 in 1984 to \$1,399,336.00 in 1985 (up 12.6%); ride gross (including the advance ticket sale) went up 14.6% from \$2,384,392.00 last year to \$2,733,985.00 this time out with the ! arly Bird Special (the advance ride coupon sale) up from \$432,000.00 to \$669,000.00; food sales operating on a percentage rose 21.8% from \$1,771,777.00 in 1984 to \$2,158,737.00 in 1985.

Per cap spending jumped, too, from \$2.48 to \$2.72 on food - and from \$3.26 a year ago on the midway rides up to \$3.44 this time out.

But there were other 'firsts' for the Youth Tair besides its impressive figures.

ABC spotlighted the expo coast-tocoast on its weekday 'Good Morning America' television magazine show with two young fairgoers touting the Dade County spring festival of fun from atop the country's largest portable ferris wheel.

On the opening day following the ribbon cutting ceremony, a local high school marching band led fairgoers through the two giant exhibition halls, which were then officially dedicated to outstanding contributors J. Lawrence Fdwards (the late founder of the Youth Fair in 1952) and Walter B. Arnold, Jr. (presently a director and officer after 25 years of service). The two structures previously known simply as Building I and Building II became the Edwards

YEAR	ATTENDANCE	GATE RECEIPTS	MIDWAY RIDE RECEIPTS
1975	342,504	233,966	416,897
1976	418,031	331,205	629,227
1977	443,855	367,458	825,309
1978	476,983	433,377	1,028,950
1979	566,103	592,908	1,302,122
1980	548,828	572,294	1,359,926
1981	625,297	863,260	1,717,054
1982	681,254	879,234	1,916,532 (18 days)
1983	760,916	1,149,672	2,303,480 (18 days)
1984	731,300	1,306,374	2,380,000 (18 days)
1985	792,482	1,398,335	2,733,985 (18 days)

Features

Youth Fair figures

Graph shows increase in revenues for the Dade County Youth Fair since its inception.

Exhibition Hall and the Arnold Exhibition Hall.

Expanded by 26,400 square feet during the past year, Arnold Hall gave birth to the Coliseum, which can act as additional exhibit space during fairtime or a separate entity unto itself during the other ten months of each year. With movable walls, this versatile facility can be either part of the main hall or function as a center for athletic events, concerts, trade shows, or even graduations with independent entrances and exits, locker rooms, box office, staff offices, rest rooms, and that most important Florida summer ingredient, air conditioning.

If bottom line funds appear sufficient in the near future, the construction of a service building will get underway at a site on the new mall, which provides fairgoers a shopping/ eating/rest area between the midway and the exhibition areas. Projected at a cost of \$800,000.00, this structure would house banking offices, police and fire department headquarters, offices for DCYF security and 4-H staffs, public rest rooms, show facilities for showpeople, and a laundromat While showcasing the 48,116 exhibits in the two exhibition halls and four new space frame tents (student work representing 33 varied areas of creative interest), the Exhibits Division was obviously pointing with pride at the new look of the Greenhouse, the home of the horticulture department. Matching funds from the private sector of the local horticulture community, the 1985 Dade County Youth Fair was able for the first time to offer a professionally working, climaticallycontrolled greenhouse for students who cater their exhibits.

The Greenhouse was a lush garden spot filled with flowers and plants ranging from begonias to bromeliads all set among shaded ponds and gurgling waterfalls. And to further showcase the Greenhouse, the commercial industry lushly landscaped the surrounding grounds and pathways.

To lure the public to this massive showcasing of student exhibits, the Youth Fair iced its cake with intertainment, food & finery shops and a colorful midway featuring 71 Conklin rides and amusements. The star attraction on the midway was undoubtedly inst that - the star, the Double Looping Star to be exact, and its immense size (26 semi trucks were needed to haul it to the Tamiami Park Fairgrounds from Canada) dwarfed fellow amusements. This Miami booking was the thrill ride's only U.S. date this year to be followed by a summer stand in Toronto.

Page 5

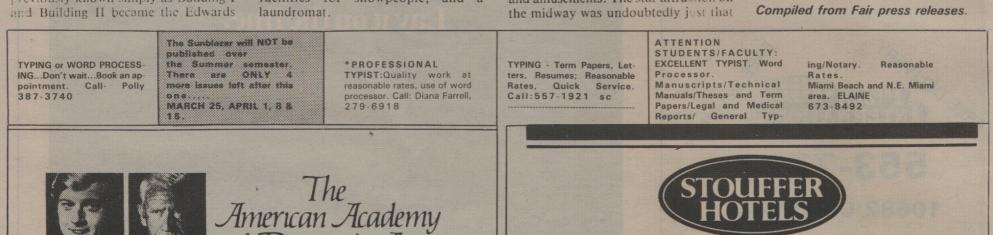
The Sunblazer

Entertainment-wise, the opening weekend's separate admission Grandstand attraction was Billy Ocean, the recent Grammy winning rhythm & blues singer. But the emphasis this time out was definitely on the free-aftergate-admission show policy in seven entertainment centers strategically located around the fairgrounds. A total of 432 free shows played during the 18 days.

Several of the entertainment centers took on new looks for 1985. The previously tented Amphitheatre went open-air to accommodate famed aerialist, Carla Wallenda, one of several acts comprising the Aerial Thrill Circus. The Agricultural Arena added country/western music & dance to a locale earlier dominated by livestock judgings and horticulture auctions all to great audience approval. And on that previously mentioned mall a new showplace came into being called the Oasis where fairgoers looking for an area to sit with their food and drink could enjoy light entertainment.

One of the truly heart-warming, glow-producing 1985 happenings for manager Fuchs occurred when a Canadian tourist lost her wallot containing \$81 and those all-important licenses, credit cards, etc. A short time later, an organ grinder's monkey stopped his master to hand him a wallet he found on the midway, which the gentleman turned in to Lost & Found where one very delighted visitor was reunited with her wallet, contents and all.

As for managerial disappointments? Well, the personal loss in the VIP division of the annual Cow Chip Throwing Contest to a local radio personality was an ego blow. Manager Fuchs immediately went into training, determined to regain his title next year.





Spencer Tracy of Dramatic Arts

Robert Redford



Founded in 1884, the Academy has trained more professional actors than any other school or college in America. Academy alumni have won nominations for 80 Oscars, 62 Tonys and 95 Emmys.



One hundred years of training actors.

The Academy offers a six-week summer program and a two-year Associate Degree program. You may receive Academy training in New York or in California.

Kate Jackson



John James

AUDITIONS IN MIAMI MAY 12

For an application and further information call THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS (212) 686-0620 120 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

HOTEL RESTAURANT MAJORS!

HAVE YOU TALKED WITH A STOUFFER HOTELS REPRESENTATIVE YET?

WE WILL BE ON CAMPUS:

MARCH 21

Contact Your Placement Office For Complete Information

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Cleavon Little

March 18, 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BALLADARES INSURANCE A GENCY...IMMEDIATE COVERAGE. HERE IS THE PLACE TO SAVE ON IN-SURANCE. AUTO-LIFE-HEALTH...6401 SW 87 AVE., SUITE 129 TEL:274-6891

EMPLOYMENT: JOES

DAUR PRODUCTIONS is Rec -ruiting individuals to sell tickets to a Major Fashion Show! Work your own hours. Commissions plus Bonus Contact: Duncan or Julio by March 26,1986

\$\$\$\$: Interested in making money? Pleasant voice is all that's required. I will train you our leads or sales in department. Call 9:30 - 4:30, Monday-Friday 484-1879

ACCOUNTING MAJORS Growing Accounting service company needs an exper ienced Full-Time Bookkeeper. Good Career Opportunity For more info, Call:592-7747

Monday thru Friday. Debits & Credits, Inc.

Help Wanted: RECORD DISTRIBUTOR seeks people interested in Music to work in warehouse. Long hours. Must be ambitious. Please 651-0687 Call:

OPPORTUNITY: \$10-\$360 Weekly/Up, Mailing Circulars! No quotas! Sincerely interested rush self-addressed envelope: SUCCESS, PO BOX 470CEG, Woodstock, IL 60098

Classifieds

SERVICES:

EXPERT TUTORING: Both Campuses. STATS, QMB, BASIC. First Lesson \$5.00 Call: Rick 983-8747

596-4848

PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY...Now working at home. Letters, Term Papers, Resumes...Excellent Rates! CALL: MELODEE 552-7844. ONLY MINUTES FROM TAMIAMI CAMPUS!

GMAT: GRE: SAT: Preparation courses are offered by the UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, SCHOOL OF MIAMI, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Saturdays, Sundays, or Evenings). Com-prehensive MATH/VERBAL Reviews, test-taking strategies, and short-cut techniques. Call: 529-3999 for brochure

JOB WINNING PROFES SIONAL RESUMES Emphasiz-ing your Academic Training and Professional Potential. Each Resume Custom Designed! *Free Consultation * Expert Writing * Word Process-ing * Coral Gables 441-1667 Downtown Miami 757-7700 North Miami 966-7742 Fort Lauderdale 583-2726. Boca

428-4945

The Sunblazer

TYPING SERVICE: Over 30 Years Experience...Term dissertations. papers, resumes, manuscripts, casset tes, reports, stats, letters, medical. Same day service in many cases. 448-2152/442-0946

Raton

551-6866

WIZARD WORD PROCESSING-Fast and

Page 6

Reliable. Reports, term papers, theses. Resumes

repetitive letters, and mailing lists professionally designed. Full service Foreign language typing, custom typefaces specialized formats, and expert editorial assistance available. Get it done right! CALL: A WIZARD 893-7500

NEED TYPING DONE? Term Papers? Word Processing? Reports?...Kendall Area Phone: 238-7099 mb

G

123 S.W. 107 Ave.

Miami, FL 33174

Holiday Plaza

(Flagler St. & 107 Ave.)



Which early pregnancy test is as easy to read as red, no-white, yes?

Which is a simple one-step test?

Test yourself.

Which has a dramatic color change to make the results unmistakable?

Which is 98% accurate, as accurate as many hospital and lab tests?

Which is portable for convenience and privacy?





0

Sun. - Thurs. 11:00 - 1:00 am Friday - Saturday till 2:00 am

FREE 12" CHEESE PIZZA

WITH ANY LARGE One Item PIZZA PURCHASE -

SAVE \$5.47

Limited Delivery Area. EXPIRES APRIL 2,1986

One Coupon Per Visit

Cannot Be Combined With Other Offers

Ask any Navy pilot. It doesn't Navy pilots and flight officers this. Landing an F-14 on the is a challenge that tests the skills of the best.

Navy flight training.

College graduates get leaderat Aviation Officer Candidate School. It's challenge and

responsibility. The satisfaction let your pride fly high. Contact call 1-800-327-NAVY.



LEAD THE ADVENTURE.

YOU MADE IT THIS THIS FAR.

YOU DESERVE A NEW CAR.

Introducing the Enterprise "Graduate Lease Plan" Gives you a new car with no payments for 3 months!

Through a special financing arrangement, Enterprise Leasing can put you behind the wheel of a brand new GM car or light-duty truck with no money down, no outof-pocket expenses,* and no payments for the first 3 months after delivery. (Maximum allowable lease term - 48 months.)

Eligibility Requirements: You must lease 6 months prior to (or 1 calendar year after) graduation from a 4-year degree or graduate degree and be employed, or have a verifiable commitment for employment.

But hurry. This special program expires April 30, 1986. For more

information, call or visit the Enterprise office nearest you.

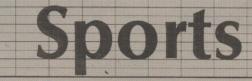
Nobody knows leasing like Enterprise.



S.Florida's Largest with 14 Locations DADE: 576-1300 BROWARD: 764-3221

*Refundable security deposit required.

March 18, 1986



COLUMN STREET,							
	Ine	NUM	blaz	er		age	8
	1000	-			-		-

Play ball:

Mets, Yanks meet in 'Subway Series'

David Colodney

Sunblazer Sports Editor

It takes place every year at this time. It captures the collective imagination of baseball fans everywhere and gets them charged up for a full year of action. After all, there are only 162 games a year.

It's spring training, which in baseball terms, is synonomous with a new beginning. A time for everyone to say, "Hey, we've got a shot at the Series this year," until the harsh realities of the regular season sets in and it's "Wait 'till next year" all over again.

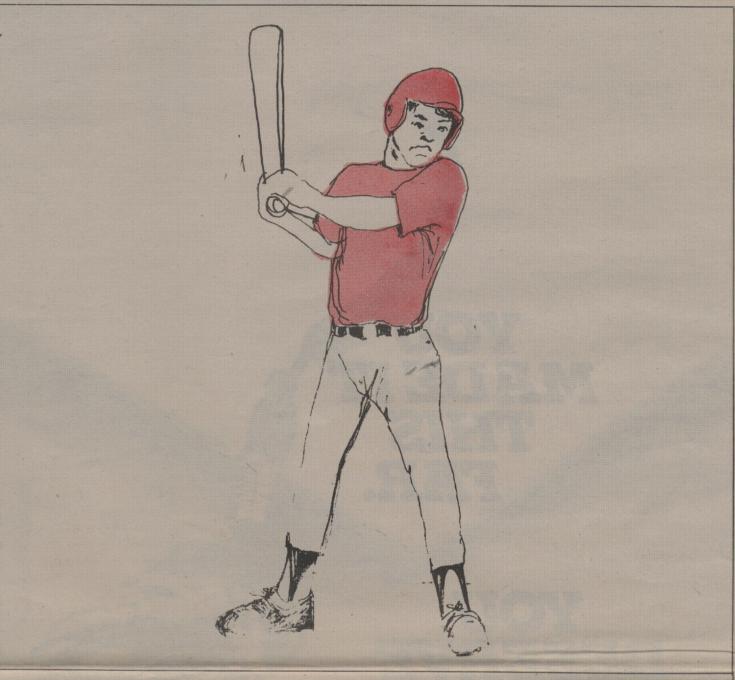
It's like the annual rites of spring delivered to wide open fields across the Grapefruit and Cactus Leagues from early March to early April.

Along with spring training comes the inevitable pre-season predictions, which have become a sport in itself. Every magazine from "Sports Illustrated" to "Ladies' Home Journal" picks their opinion of who's going to finish where and why.

Baseball lends itself to such things because it's such a major spectator sport. It's our national past time. And it's always on T.V., so if you don't like it, you're stuck with reruns of tripe like "Dynasty" instead.

This is the year of the Subway Series. Long-suffering New York fans will finally see that dream come true. I am one of those long-suffering fans. I've been humiliated since the day I was born because of my Mets fanaticism. I love this team. I pick them to win their division every year, and every year I get laughed at.

But this is the year. In the National League East, the Mets are the team to beat. And when you talk Mets, you're talking pitching. Dwight Gooden (24-4, 1.53 ERA, 268 K's) won the pitcher's triple crown last year, leading the league in wins, earned-run average and strikeouts in only his second season in the major leagues. He's only 21 years old. Ron Darling (16-6, 2.81 ERA), Sid Fernandez (who had a strikeout to-innings pitched ratio of over one per inning), and second year man Rick Aguilera (10-7, 3.24 ERA) round out the rotation. In the bullpen, look for comebacks from Jesse Orosco (whose elbow problems dropped his save output from 31 in 1984 to 17 last year) and Doug Sisk. who went down early with a shoulder problem. They're both young, they'll be back. Rookie Roger McDowell came in and took up the slack. The three make the bullpen solid. Last year's N.L. pennant winning St. Louis Cardinals won't finish any higher than third. Look for the resurgance of the Chicago Cubs, who will have a healthy Rick Sutcliffe, Steve Trout and Dennis Eckersley. They may be getting old, so they'dbetter do something fast.



Mets, Yanks choke; Look for Cincinnati

In the American League East, go with **Baltimore**. Weaver is back, Orioles back in contention.

***Toronto**--Will lose race in the middle of the season.

***Detroit**--They need one more year, to get back on top.

*New York-Lou Pinella gone by mid-season. So are the Yanks.

*Boston--No pitching. *Milwaukee--No hitting.

*Cleveland--No team.

cieveland--No team.

In the West, **Kansas City** should win this weak division. They're the best of the worst.

*Seattle--Surprise of the year. They

In the N.L. East, **St. Louis** still has the chemistry to win the division.

*Chicago-Everyone is healthy. *New York--Like most New York teams, they will find a way to lose. *Montreal--Still playing between the white lines.

In the N.L. West, **Cincinnati** will win if they get the pitching they expect.

*Los Angeles--One of the top pitchers will get hurt.

***San Diego**--A steady third place team.

***Houston**--Nice uniforms don't win games.

*Atlanta--Needs to stay healthy.

Editor's note: As you may have guessed, there was considerable disagreement over some of the picks. We argued for hours and hours and days and days on who was going to take it all. My story announces the "Subway Series of '86;" Brenner figures both the Mets and Yanks will choke. (Not a chance). We did both agree on the bottom team in each of the four divisions: Cleveland, Texas, Pittsburgh and San Francisco, perennial losers all, so those weren't too tough. The Texas Rangers are perhaps the worst team there ever was. To the prospect of Pittsburgh finishing any higher than last, we responded with.

In the N.L. West, the Los Angeles Dodgers should have a dynasty for the could win the division if they get some breaks.

***California**--Angels will not be with them this year.

***Chicago**--Needs all around improvement.

next 10 years. Orel Hershiser and Fernando Valenzuela lead the top pitching staff in the majors last year. Mike Marshall, Pedro Guerrero, Greg Brock and Mariano Duncan are great young players. They should do it.

In the American League, the Yanks will take the division. Their run production is tremendous. Don Mattingly and Dave Winfield have been terriffic

for two years. The Yankees' biggest problem is pitching. Ron Guidry was a 20-game winner, can he do it again? Phil Niekro is 46, can he do it at all? Phil's kid brother, Joe, is 41. ***San Francisco**--They play more like the Bad News Bears than a major league team.

--Jeff Brenner, Sunblazer Asst. Sports Editor

Baltimore, with Earl Weaver back at the helm, displays some outstanding power with Eddie Murray, Cal Ripken, Floyd Rayford and Mike Young. Mike Boddicker, Scott MacGregor and Mike Flanagan had ineffective campaigns in '85. The degree that the O's contend rests on these three plus Tippy Martinez.

In the West, Kansas City really displayed their character in the World Series. Largely the same team returns. Bret Saberhagen leads the pitchers, George Brett leads the hitters. They shouldn't have trouble in this, the weakest major league division. Look for Seattle and Oakland to sur-

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" A few of the selections were toss-ups, especially in the A.L. East, and a few were just gut feelings. So, kids, please don't try this at home, unless there is an adult supervising...

prise people with their good, young talent.

In the playoffs, the Yankees will send the Royals home in a close, sevengame playoff. The Yankee bats will just be too strong for the Royals. Saberhagen will pitch three times for K.C. in this series, and those will be the only games the Royals will win. Look for Guidry to strikeout 14 Royals in game seven.

In the N.L., Dwight Gooden will shut out and strike out 16 Dodgers in the opener and L.A. will never recover. The Mets sweep, 4-0.

Now, the World Series. Hmmm...let's go with New York.

How's that for prediction?