

SGA presidential race:

The people and the platforms

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The Sunblazer

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Board of Regents approves tuition hike

Mike Saunders

Sunblazer Asst. News Editor

Florida's college students will be forced to dig deeper into their pockets for tuition next year, and may be walloped by a cut in financial aid caused by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law.

Last Thursday, the state's Board of Regents voted 9-0 in favor of a task force's proposal for a tuition increase of up to 60 percent over the next four years.

If approved by the state Legislature, the increase would affect incoming

freshmen during the 1986-87 school year. Fees for lower-level courses would be raised first, bringing them up to the current rate for upper-level courses by 1987-88.

Students at each of the state's nine public universities will bear the brunt of the hike.

"The tuition increase will affect everyone in the system," said Giovanna Welch, FIU student member of the Board of Regents.

Currently, students pay an estimated 22.7 percent of the actual cost of their education; the rest is subsidized by the state. With the new tuition increase,

the student contribution would be raised to about 25 percent. The state expects to raise \$59 million this way, \$7.5 million to be redirected into financial aid programs.

"In a year in which we are expecting severe cuts, any increase will affect the students," said Ana Sarasti, director of FIU's financial aid department. "Even though we will have less funds we will have to spend them even thinner."

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-cutting law, an attempt to reduce the more than \$2 trillion federal deficit through cuts in spending, will result in less money allocated for Pell Grants,

guaranteed student loans and federal subsidies.

"We're seeing a 4.3 to 10 percent decrease in Pell Grants now," said Sarasti. "Everything will be reduced because of Gramm-Rudman... a lot of programs will be affected."

"We expect to see a cut of \$735 million nationwide," Welch said. "As of October 1, 1.6 million students will be cut out of financial aid programs."

The state's plan would also eliminate the lower summer tuition rate, which would increase from the current minimum of \$6.07 per credit to minimum \$21.91 per credit next year.

Students protest tuition increase

Adrian Walker

Sunblazer Staff Writer

Just days before the Board of Regents passed a 15 percent tuition hike proposal, the Florida Student Association held simultaneous press conferences around the state to protest the increase.

The proposal calls for raising lower division tuition to match that of upper division, eliminating the reduced summer tuition and hiking graduate fees. Across the board tuition increases will follow in two years.

"The Board of Regents would make higher education inaccessible to many Florida families," said Chuck Martinez, Student Government Association lobby annex director, at the FIU conference held March 25 in the Presidential Suite on the Tamiami Campus.

"Lower tuition is an investment that is repaid many times over," Martinez said.

Martinez blasted Gov. Bob Graham, saying he has not looked to the private sector for more funding, which would take the burden off the students.

"It is not right that everytime they need more money, they go right to the students," he said.

Giovanna Welch, FIU's student regent, said she is adamantly opposed to increasing tuition this legislative session.

"I do not think we should even look at an increase until we know what the consequences of Gramm-Rudman-

see TUITION, p.3



Wrong way!

photo by Anthony Mentoyo

A student crushes the back of a new Lincoln Continental after driving backward over the curb and onto the lawn in front of the PC Building on the Tamiami Campus.

Board finds presidential candidate in violation of campaign guidelines

Adrian Walker

Sunblazer Staff Writer

The Student Government Association Elections Board last week found presidential candidate Sandy Curtis guilty of violating election guidelines prohibiting campaigning before the March 24 start of the campaign. The board assessed Curtis seven penalty points—three short of disqualification.

The charges stemmed from three speeches Curtis gave before student groups during the week prior to official campaigning. In the speeches, Curtis asked for the groups' "support," politically and financially.

Curtis admitted to the board that he had campaigned, but, in closing remarks, his representative, Juliette Forde, called the speeches "a campaign build-up, not a campaign."

The board cited a statute granting it authority to set a date for the start of campaigning and, based on Webster's Dictionary's definition of campaign, ruled that Curtis' actions constituted campaigning. The board also said that Curtis contradicted himself in statements to the board and was inconsistent in his definition of campaigning.

see CURTIS, p.3

FIU bidding to be site of five-college think tank

Andy Itkoff

Sunblazer Staff Writer

FIU is one of five Florida colleges battling to be the site of a regional think tank that will focus on improving economic and living conditions in North and South America.

Gov. Bob Graham included \$200,000 in his 1987 budget proposal for planning the North-South Center, which would use both public and private universities' resources.

In addition to publishing academic journals and sponsoring conferences and exchange programs, the center will foster research into problems of Latin America and the Caribbean, in areas such as education, health care, agriculture and foreign debt, and their relationship with the United States.

However, some public school faculty members and administrators have ex-

pressed concern that the state provided money will be used as financial support for the University of Miami's three-year-old North-South Center.

Two FIU professors voiced contempt for expanding UM's center with state funds last month at Graham's speech at FIU, and Mark Rosenberg, director of FIU's Latin American Caribbean Center, sent Graham a letter stating that the apparent plug for UM's center followed a notice to public universities that they would not receive any additional funding for area studies.

Although the location of the center is sparking debate, representatives from FIU, UM, Miami-Dade Community College, University of Florida and University of South Florida have met and agreed to work together using resources from the Latin American Studies Program and similar programs at each of the schools.

TUITION

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Hollings law will be because our circumstances are bound to change," Welch said.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment calling for a balanced budget in five years mandates an \$800 million cut in Pell grants nationwide.

While a portion of the increased revenue from the tuition hike is designated for financial aid, Welch said she believes it is not enough.

"Only \$2.5 million is earmarked for financial aid, and that will not be enough to offset the losses resulting

from the budget cuts," she said. "And if tuition goes up, we will need even more financial aid, not less."

Bob Cox, an education analyst for the governor's office characterized the tuition increase as "a transfer of wealth."

"The average income of the family of a college student is higher than the state average," Cox said. "That means that low-income families are paying for higher-income families to send their kids to college. That means that Gov. Graham, who is a millionaire, can send his kids to the University of Florida at the taxpayers expense, and he does not think that is fair."

CURTIS

continued from p.1

The Curtis camp, however, said speeches are not specifically prohibited in the statute that forbids "distribution of campaign literature prior to the commencement."

"We did not distribute material. Under the statutes that is the only thing you can not do. The statutes don't mention verbal campaigning," Curtis said.

Curtis said also that asking for support and money does not constitute campaigning.

"Campaigning is not asking for votes," he said. "I was not campaigning. I was organizing my campaign. If I am guilty of campaigning, then everyone in the race is guilty because there was no way you can organize a campaign in two weeks."

Curtis said he will appeal to the Supreme Court.

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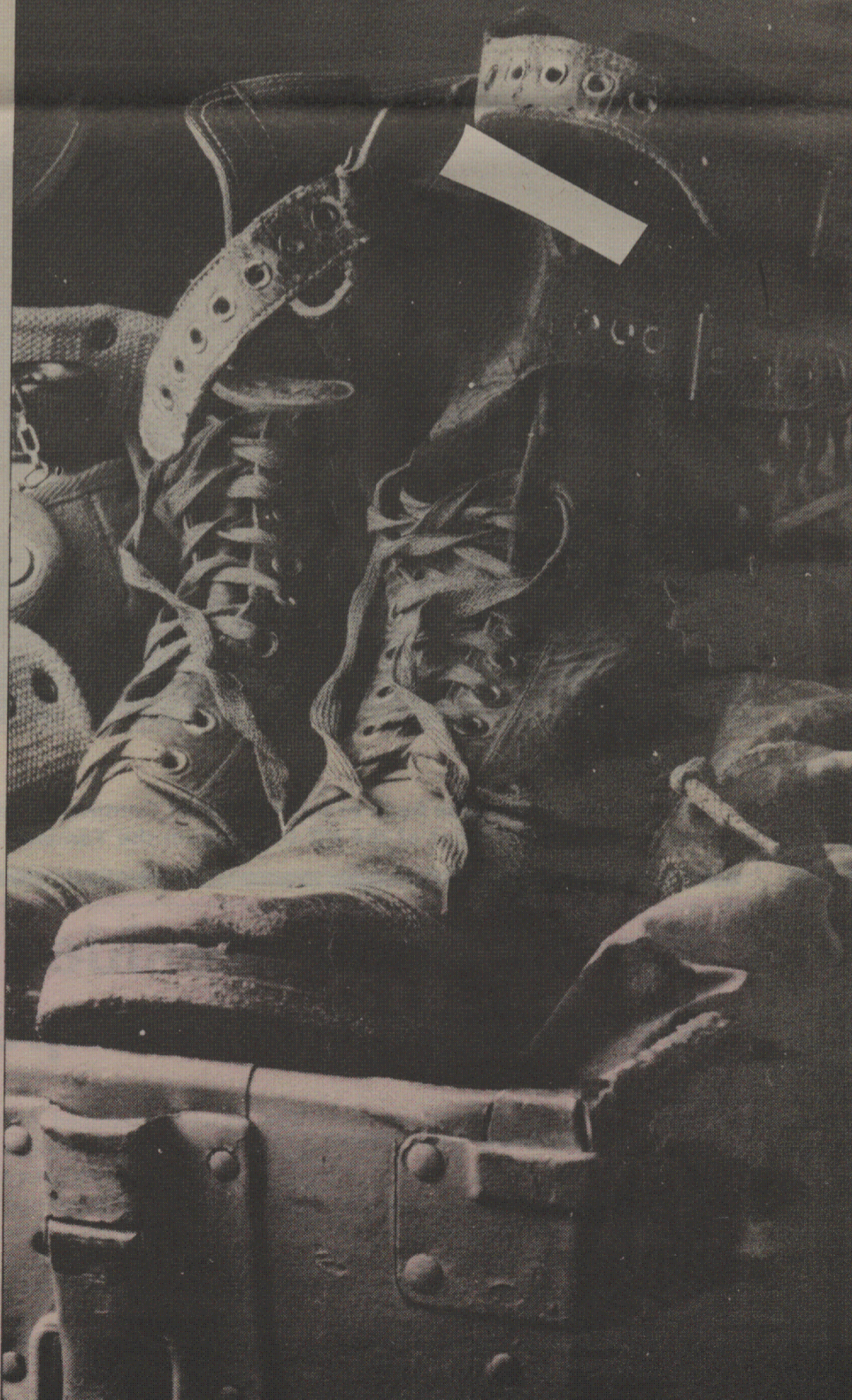
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The SGA presidential candidates and their platforms

Four candidates will vie for the Student Government Association presidency in the April 8-9 election. While the candidates differ somewhat on university related issues, they differ sharply on matters of style.

Sandy Curtis



Sandy Curtis, SGA vice president, said he wants to continue his work of this year.

"Jorge Dominicus has been a great president, and I don't want to take credit for any of his accomplishments, but we have done a lot of things together. I want to continue the projects we have begun this year.

"People ask what you want to do as president," Curtis said. "I can't do anything alone. It is the people who make it happen in the committees who do all the work."

Curtis said he will focus on improving FIU's "image" and public support.

"I want us to be the University of Miami. We are Miami's public university, and I want us get the public support we deserve," he said.

Edward Iturralde



Edward Iturralde, senator from the School of Business Administration and president pro-tempore of the Senate, said he would work on improving SGA's responsiveness to student concerns.

"SGA has been accused of not representing students, and I think to some extent that is true."

Iturralde said one means of heightening SGA's awareness of student interests would be to regularly poll students regarding issues facing the student government.

"I'm amiable. I'm here all the time," he said. "I don't live in the dorms, but I live on the campus. Student government has been my life," said Iturralde, who has also served as Lower Division senator and SGA vice president for one semester.

Joel Montgomery



Joel Montgomery, doctoral student and senator from the School of Education, said he will draw on his 15 years of experience in human resources development to manifest the management potential of FIU's students and administration.

"SGA's purpose and FIU's purpose go hand in hand," Montgomery said. "Our purpose is to make studying here as fulfilling as it could be."

Montgomery said he wants to expand sources of financial aid and develop workshops and similar programs that will allow students to make practical use of classroom learning.

Montgomery said he wants to make SGA's and his own commitment to excellence in attitude and action "contagious."

Shawn O'Toole



Shawn O'Toole, former senator and past vice presidential candidate, said he wants to make student government more accessible to students.

"I want to initiate an SGA newsletter to make students aware of what is going on with SGA," O'Toole said. "That will make it easier to find out what the student body really wants student government to do."

O'Toole said he feels FIU's move to Division I athletics should be strongly supported by SGA.

"I would like to see SGA help get Division I athletics in full swing. I want us to develop a sense of school spirit."

O'Toole said he would incorporate his appreciation for social activity into SGA's approach to dealing with student interests.

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For those students who are dedicated to putting out the best student newspaper possible at FIU, please fill out the form below and return it to SC 253 on the Bay Vista Campus or UH 313 on the Tamiami Campus by April 18.

Name _____
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Positions open: editor, news editor, features editor, sports editor, business manager, advertising manager, photo editor, graphic artist, circulation manager and assistant editors. Staff writers, photographers, artists and advertising sales representatives are also needed for the Fall semester.

THE GREGORY B. WOLFE AWARD.



The Student Government Association is seeking nominations for "The Gregory B. Wolfe Awards".

This award is the highest honor that Florida International University students bestow.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a faculty member, administrator, staff member, student or community leader who:

- [1]. has worked with and served the University for a minimum of 2 years.
- [2]. has a distinguished record of service with the University.
- [3]. promotes understanding and cooperation among people from different nations, cultures, and backgrounds.
- [4]. supports and actively participates in the growth and development of the University.
- [5]. effectively contributes to the development and support of the welfare of students.

Nominations are due: **APRIL 7, 1986** and must be received by the *Student Government Association staff* in UH 311 - Tamiami Campus or SC 259 - Bay Vista Campus.

Students are eligible to submit nominations for the Gregory B. Wolfe award in the following categories:
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SGA presidential candidates have begun to tarnish their armor

Stan Butler

Sunblazer Editor

In the heat of political battle even a knight in shining armor can quickly tarnish himself.

The current FIU Student Government Association (SGA) presidential campaign is beginning to look like King Arthur's Roundtable.

Some behind-the-scenes politics in the SGA senate led to the passage of a bill that stated if there were two or more tickets running, then all the independents would have 24 hours to find a vice-presidential candidate and collect the necessary signatures to be eligible for office.

Fortunately, the independents were able to run alone and the one ticket was split up.

However, the candidates were not officially eligible until the signatures collected on their petitions were verified by the SGA elections board. The board disqualified two candidates (Ed Iturralde and Joel Montgomery) for having signatures from the same students on their petitions.

The SGA supreme court overturned the decision of the board, stating that the decision was unconstitutional.

And with a week to go, Sandy Curtis was given seven penalty points (out of ten before a candidate is disqualified) by the elections board.

Curtis was penalized because he had obtained several groups' endorsements before the official March 24 start of the campaign.

The effect that this will have on the campaign is uncertain. The groups will probably still support Curtis.

Curtis knew the rules of running for SGA president (he is the current vice-president). If he wins the election it will certainly be a tainted victory.

To quote one candidate, "Only those candidates should run that know the rules."

Correction

The time and date of The Sunblazer editorial board elections have been changed to noon, April 18.

Editor's Note: Just a reminder that today is April Fool's Day.



Tigers, not oats, move today's horses

Linda Billetter

Sunblazer Columnist

After centuries of man's reliance on animals for transportation, my grandparents were among the first generation to enjoy the marvelous benefits of the automobile.

They were born and raised in the East Texas piney woods (Texas talk for "the forest primeval"). As children, their only means of transportation was to walk; ride horseback or ride in a horse-drawn wagon.

I wonder what their reaction would have been that exciting day they bought their first car if they had known their granddaughter would use

a Colt, Pinto and a wagon to get from place to place.

Granddaddy probably would have told me to do some horse trading and get a Mustang and Bronco to complete my herd.

It sounds as though I need corral instead of a driveway and veterinarian instead of a mechanic for my modern day horses. For a cleaner, shinier coat, a currycomb certainly seems more appropriate than a can of Turtle Wax.

The biggest irony of all is that automobiles were originally called horseless carriages. Throughout history, many other animals have served man as beasts of burden: mules, donkeys, camels and even dogs.

But granddaddy would have never believed that some of my friends rely on a Rabbit, Cougar, Firebird or Sable for their transportation.

And no one under the big Texas sun could have convinced him that a Beetle could take anybody anywhere.

Granny saddled many horses and pitched her share of hay in her day. She would have known for sure that I was giving the truth just a little Texas twist if I told her that I get my wagon moving by putting a tiger in my tank.

However, I think she would have been "right proud" of me to know that I call my Colt *Silver*.

The Sunblazer

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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.

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

Out and About This Week

<p>1 Tuesday</p> <p>April Fool's Day!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority Student Dynamics--4:30-6:30 pm, SC 245, BVC. • Jazz Night--The Rathskellar • Photo Exhibit--Michael Northrup, thru 4/10, AC II, Room 105, BVC, 11 a.m.-7p.m. FREE. 	<p>2 Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptist Campus Ministry--Meeting/Luncheon, 12:15-1:15 p.m., UH 314. • Wellness Series--A World of Differences, 12:15 p.m., UH 317. • SGA Meeting--3 p.m., UH 150. • Movies at BVC--"A View to a Kill," With Grace Jones and Roger '007' Moore, BVC Pub, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., FREE. 	<p>3 Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGA Academic Committee--Meeting, BVC, 1:40 p.m., SC 259. • American Marketing Association--Meeting, BVC, Noon, SC 245. • Centerstage Concerts--Concert Choir & Sunblazer Singers, 8 p.m., AT 100, Gen Adm. \$3, Students FREE. • Thursdays-on-the-Bay--BVC Pub, 9 p.m., FREE. • Dance/Promo Night--Rathskellar. • Mini-Concert--12:15 p.m., UH Area, FREE. • Movies at Tamiami--"Teachers," starring Nick Nolte, 1:30, 6, & 8:30 p.m., UH 140, FREE. • Poetry Reading--Creative Writing Series continues with Rosemary Catalalos, 7:30 p.m., AC I Aud. (BVC), FREE. 	<p>4 Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Meeting--American Society of Civil Engineers, DM 114, 8 p.m. • Centerstage Concerts--Concert Choir & Sunblazer Singers, 8 p.m., AT 100, Gen. Adm. \$3, Students FREE. • Music Videos--Free hors d'oeuvres, 4-7 p.m., Rathskellar, FREE. • Movies at Tamiami--"Teachers," starring Nick Nolte, 12:30, 6, 8, & 10 p.m., UH 140, FREE. • "The Oracle"--"A thriller," opens today around the country. See it at a theatre near you.
<p>5 Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn CPR--Take a course from the Red Cross, Please. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., American Red Cross South Service Center, 4733 S.W. 18th St., Hollywood. \$15, taught by Joel Montgomery, call 987-3605 for more info. • Centerstage Concerts--Concert Choir & Sunblazer Singers, 8 p.m., AT 100, Gen. Adm. \$3, Students FREE. 	<p>6 Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Showing--"New Images," paintings by Carol Levy and Maria Lino, through Apr. 17, New World Center Campus-MDCC. 	<p>7 Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Fair--Tamiami/BVC. • United Methodist Bible Study/Lunch--12:15-1:15 p.m., UH 317, for more info call 554-2121. 	<p>Get The Sunblazer</p>

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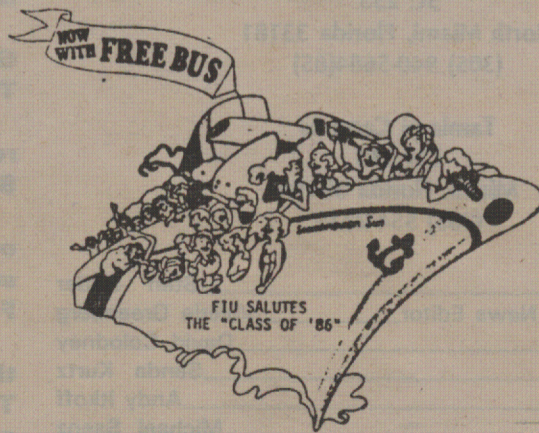
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8:00 am, UH BALLROOM - Tamiami Campus

For more information please call: 554-3334

New campus now open

Stan Butler

Sunblazer Staff Writer

Over 4,500 students will be served at FIU's newest campus. The schools of business, hospitality management and nursing will be moved to the new Everglades Campus in the fall of '87.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the campus, located at N.W. 107 Ave. and N.W. 202 St., were Feb. 29, 1985. Opening ceremonies were held March 28, 1986.

The location was picked for its accessibility from the soon-to-be completed Interstate 75 extension and the Florida Turnpike.

The planned move of several of the schools will allow for more growth on the Tamiami Campus. Initially, sources say, it will be an inconvenience for those students but the location of the campus will better serve the growth of the area.

Projected enrollment for the three campuses should reach 22,000 for the Fall '87 term. Officials say this is the reason for having a third campus with close proximity to Broward County.

If enrollment at University of Florida, University of South Florida

and Florida State University doesn't change, FIU will then be the third largest University in the state.

"We feel that this new campus will bring FIU into the future by serving South Florida's academic needs. The campus will unite the Dade and Broward county areas," the Board of Regents wrote in a recently released memo about the addition.

Joe Smith, junior and future Everglades campus student said, "I feel this here new campus will make it easier for me to get a higher education. Living in the sticks makes it difficult to get to campus, especially since they banned my four wheel drive from South Miami."

FPIRG sends out student warning

Leslie Miller

Sunblazer Contributor

Waiting. It's an action we undertake often in this automated world. But the wait associated with checks clearing is a wait that causes hardships for many people, especially students.

Florida financial institutions put holds on customer checks that are generally several days long for in-state checks and over a week long for out-of-state checks. Holds up to 21 days have been endured. Do banks need to hold checks for so long to protect their losses?

According to a 1985 U.S. PIRG report about check holding policies, banks do not need to protect their losses with such lengthy holds. Banks have access to customer funds in two days, 99 percent of the time.

The banks are not really waiting for the Federal Reserve to inform them if a check is good, instead, the banks are investing your money under the guise of check-holding.

Some banks make millions of dollars a year owing to this process.

Nationally, 18 percent of the banks surveyed grant immediate access to local checks, and 10 percent grant access within two days for out-of-state checks. Unfortunately these figures are much lower for Florida institutions. It is, however, obvious that banks could have fairer practices without jeopardizing themselves.

Have you experienced a problem due to a lengthy check-holding period (i.e. bouncing checks)? If so, please contact FPIRG at 940-5680.

Leslie Miller is the FPIRG representative for FIU. If you have any problems she can help you with you can reach her at the above number.

Greg Wolfe eats cake at campus opening



photo by Andy Itkoff

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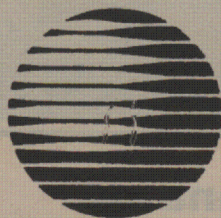
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BASEBALL from p. 12

numbers in the double digits, Price can honestly say that "I'm happy about some of the crowds that we have had this year." The biggest crowd was 874 for the University of Miami game, "while we have had a couple of hundred for Seton Hall and Stetson."

And Price also remains optimistic for the rest of the season. He says that the team's bad breaks are behind it and the Sunblazers are ready to make a run for the playoffs.

"I think we still have a good shot at making the college tournament, because we are starting to play good ball. We are in good shape for our second season."



Lambros

Photo by Michael Saenz

First baseman Andre Lambros is one of Coach Price's tri-captains, along with Albert Garcia and Ken Adderley. "He is a great leader," Price said.

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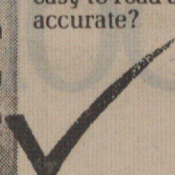
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Name _____
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 Positions open: editor, news editor, features editor, sports editor, business manager, advertising manager, photo editor, graphic artist, circulation manager and assistant editors. Staff writers, photographers, artists and advertising sales representatives are also needed for the Fall semester.

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Classifieds

April 1, 1986

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Arena sets hours for student use

FIU's new Sunblazer Arena now has regular hours of operation for recreational use, Mary Alice Manella, director of the Arena, said.

The racquetball courts will be open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 12 to 4 Saturdays and Sundays. The basketball courts will be open for recreational use between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12 to 4 on weekends.

Manella said that the schedule may change during breaks and holidays. A full list of services provided is available at the Arena office in room 111. A list of fees for racquetball court use is also available.

"There are hourly rates and a multi-purpose package," Manella said.

A valid FIU photo I.D. is required to use Arena facilities. For more information, call the Arena office at 554-2900.

Sports capsules

Boxers, wrestlers, football players to highlight wrestling extravaganza

Wrestlemania II, originating from arenas in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, can be seen live at the James L. Knight Convention Center on April 7, at 8 p.m., via closed-circuit television. All tickets are \$15 for reserved seats.

Tickets are on sale now at the Knight Center Box Office (372-0929) and all BASS ticket outlets including Spec's.

There will be three main events. In the first main event, you have 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper vs. Mr. T in a boxing match. The second main event is a 19-man battle royal, featuring six professional football players, including The Refrigerator, William Perry and NFL Rookie of the Year, Bill Fralic. In the last main event, for the heavyweight championship, Hulk Hogan goes up against the 400-pound plus King Kong Bundy in a steel cage match. What a match that will be.

There will be nine other matches that you would not want to miss, including a ladies match.

(This week's sports capsules were compiled by Terry Willingham and Jeff Brenner.)

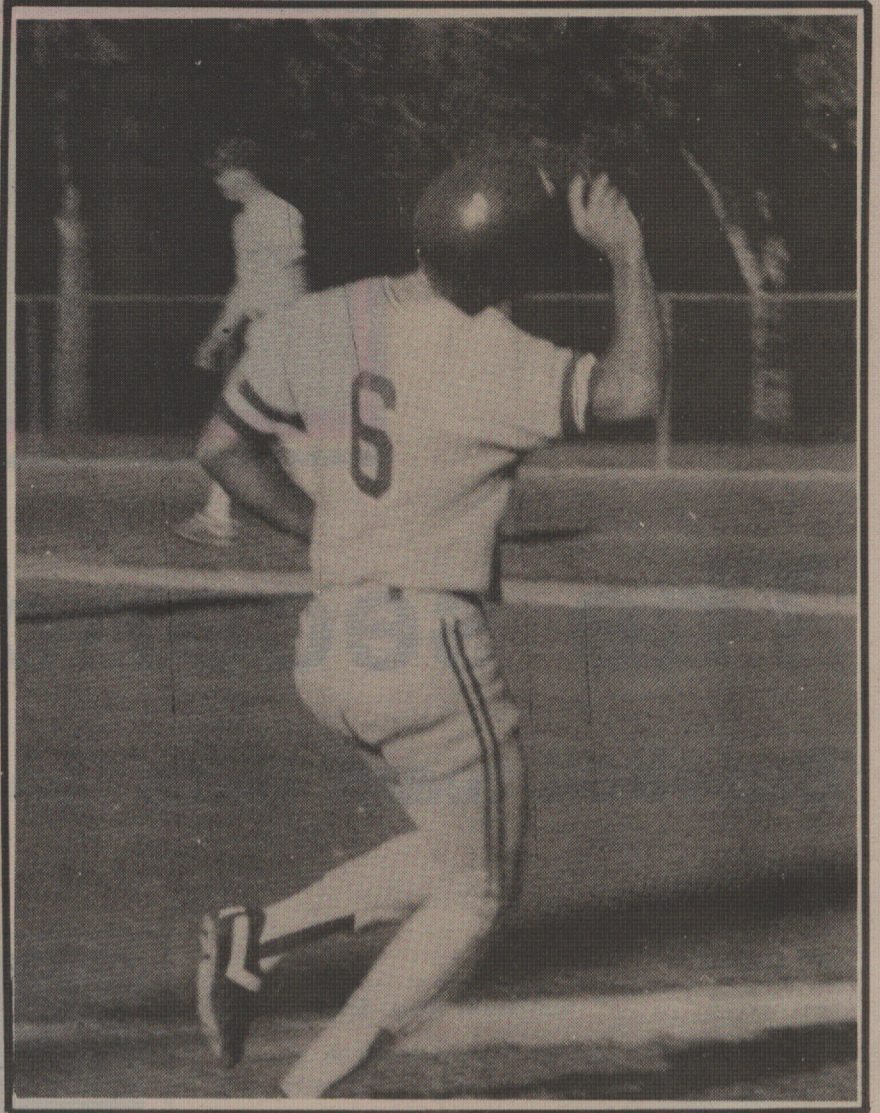


Photo by Mike Saenz

Baseball team in action

Hector Fernandez and the Sunblazers baseball team take on New York Technical at Sunblazer Field today at 3:00. FIU goes against Niagra at the Field tomorrow at 7.

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Dave's Trivia Corner Revisited

1. Who was the only rookie 20-game winner in the majors last season?
2. What is the longest hitting streak for the Sunblazers this season?
3. The Los Angeles Dodgers featured the same starting infield for 10 major league seasons. Who were they?
4. What is Don Larson's contribution to baseball history?
5. Believe it or not, Phil Niekro is not the oldest pitcher ever to have pitched in the majors. Who is?

Answers:
1. Tom Browning won 20 for Cincinnati. 2. Ken Adderley hit in 31 consecutive games for the Sunblazers earlier this season. 3. Steve Garvey (1B), Dave Lopes (2B), Bill Russell (SS) and Ron Cey (3B). 4. Larson pitched the Series history, beating the Brooklyn Dodgers 6-0 as a Yankee pitcher in 1956. 5. Niekro, who just turned 47, is a baby when compared to Satchel Paige, who at the age of 65 made one appearance for the Atlanta Braves in 1969 so he could collect his pension. The oldest pitcher to have a regular job pitching was Hall of Fame reliever Hoyt Wilhelm, who pitched in the majors into his early 50's.

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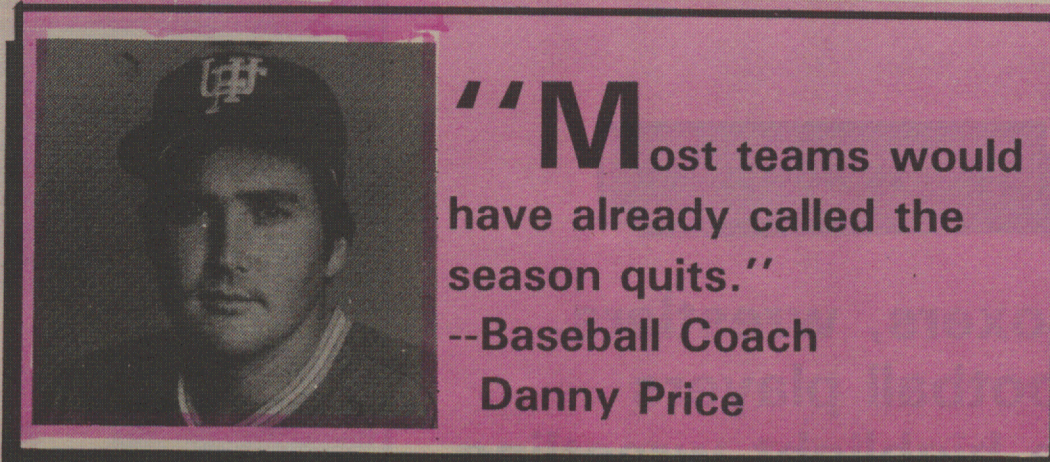
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“Most teams would have already called the season quits.”

**--Baseball Coach
Danny Price**

The second season: Baseball team puts 'tough breaks' behind

Jeff Brenner

Sunblazer Asst. Sports Editor

As the baseball season approaches the midway point in the season, Coach Danny Price looks back on the first half and sees a team that could have won more games if they had received a few breaks and one that is geared up for the second half.

“We’ve had a lot of tough breaks because of some tough losses,” Price said. “Most teams would have already called the season quits.”

Some of the heartbreakers so far this season include the game against No. 1 Florida State in Tallahassee, a game that FIU lead until an 8th inning Seminole uprising toppled the Sunblazers, 12-10. Another was against No. 2 Miami, when the Sunblazers took the Hurricanes 11 innings before bowing, 5-3. “I am disappointed with our record, but not with the players.

“The team has not had a letdown all season, even with the tough breaks,” Price said.

The Sunblazer asked Price to evaluate the team, which enters the second half of the season at 18-11, position by position.

Pitching. “The starting pitchers have really done an outrageous job this year,” Price said. “Especially Danny Cook. He is rising to the top of our pitching staff.”

The starters have completed six games, which is more than Price had expected. The Sunblazers had 20 complete games all last year.

“The middle relief has done a good to adequate job. They have done just what we expected them to. The problem with the pitching staff is the stoppers (short relievers). Kenny Deal has been a disappointment,” Price said. Deal has appeared in ten games and he has saved only two of them. And his earned run average (5.63) is the highest on the staff.

Infield. “I think they are an above average infield, they are better than most infields that we have played against this year.”

Catcher. Nelson Caraballo, is FIU’s catcher of the future. “He has done what we have asked him to do. He is hitting .254 and he is a very good fielder on the defensive side of the plate.”

First Base. One of the team’s tri-captains, Andre Lambros, plays first. “He is a great leader, he is truly the leader we asked him to be.” Lambros also leads the team in runs batted in with 29, which is eight more than the closest teammate. His .384 batting average is second on the team. “Defensively he is like all our infielders-- above average.”

Second Base. Hector Fernandez. “All I can say about him, is that he could possibly be the best fielder we ever have had,” Price said. “He saves a lot of runs from scoring. Without him, we might have lost some of the closer games we played in.”

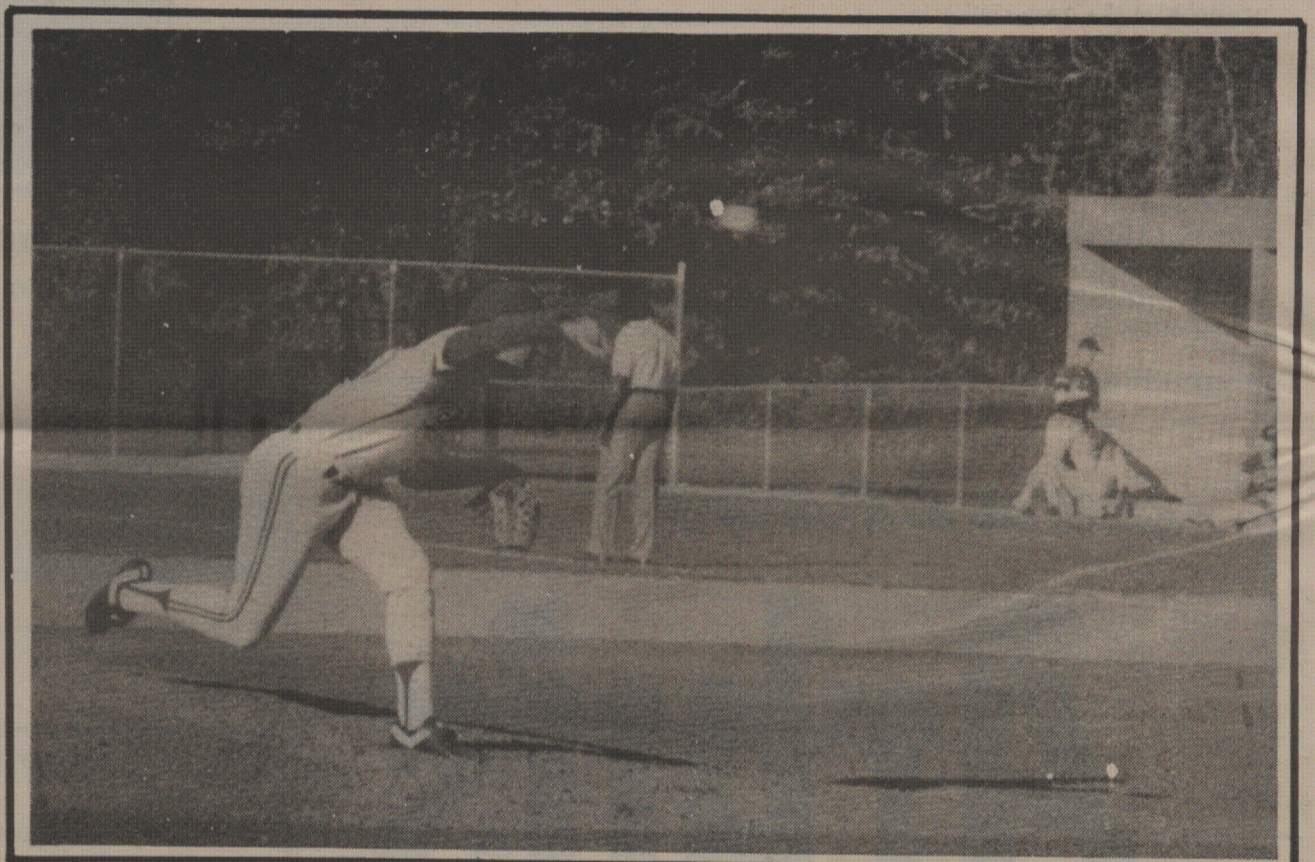


Photo by Michael Saenz

The art of pitching

Starting pitching has been a highlight for the Sunblazers this year, Coach Danny Price said. However, relief has been a disappointment.

Fernandez owns a .988 fielding percentage, having committed only two errors in 160 chances thus far in the season. He is third in RBI and batting average. “I seriously think he will make it to pro ball.”

Shortstop. Ernie Ojea. “We asked him to move to shortstop at the beginning of the season from his normal position of second base. He is starting to make the routine plays, day in day out, and that’s all that we have expected him to do,” Price said. “Each game he is improving.”

Third Base. Mark Krzeminski and Tommy Bogaards have been platooning all season. “I have never seen two players at the same position getting along so well. When the line up goes out for the game, the player who isn’t going to play usually tries to get the other one motivated. They both complement each other beautifully,” Price said.

Krzeminski is hitting .386 with two home runs and 14 RBI and Bogaards is hitting .369 with one homer and 13 RBI. Krzeminski’s .386 average is tops on the team.

Outfield. “What can I say about center fielder Ken Adderley?” Price said. Adderley leads the team in runs scored, hits, doubles, total bases and stolen bases. He is third in RBI and batting average. “I seriously think he will make it to pro ball.”

The two other positions in the outfield have been a toss up between four different players “who have the same ability. Luis Velazquez is probably the best of that group.”

Designated Hitter. Eddie (Wonder Boy) Gonzalez. “He started the season slow and then we sit him down for a couple of games and he comes back hitting up a storm.” In the past few weeks Gonzalez has hit six home runs, which leads the team and has 21 RBI’s which is good enough for second on the club. Gonzalez also has compiled these stats with only 68 at-bats. One thing that had been chocking the Sunblazers early on was the lack of clutch hitting. But Price says that’s a thing of the past. “The team is starting to get the timely hits that we were lacking and I think that we will start to score more runs.”

Attendance is always a problem at FIU sporting events, but Price seems to be satisfied with fan support. At a school where attendance at games often runs scored, hits, doubles, total bases and stolen