

the sunblazer

Graduation to remain unchanged *Students allowed to march during commencement ceremony*

NICOLE LINSALATA
Sunblazer staff writer

Graduates will be allowed to continue the tradition of marching onstage to accept their diplomas during the commencement ceremony, according to Student Government Association President Ed Iturralde.

FIU President Modesto "Mitch" Maidique made the announcement last Friday

night at an SGA-sponsored student leadership retreat, said Iturralde.

Maidique sought a reduction of the ceremony from five hours to one hour. He planned to eliminate the customary individual handshake and mock diploma, substituting the march onstage by announcing students by department and declaring them graduated.

The proposal caused an uproar among some

graduating seniors, who voiced their opinions to Iturralde and other SGA members and planned a petition drive to combat the plan.

Before his decision to continue the tradition, Maidique felt a change was necessary in the ceremony. "Due to FIU's size, it is no longer physically practical for all the students to march across the stage," said Maidique.

About 2,000 students are ex-

pected to graduate in the April 28 ceremony featuring keynote speaker William Bennett, U.S. secretary of education.

Maidique added that students at other large universities do not march in commencement ceremonies, and that nationally, FIU is in the "top 100 or 150 in student enrollment."

Later, however, Maidique changed his stance on the issue, saying "Ed [Iturralde]

sensitized me to how important the ceremony is for the students. I was impressed by his comments."

Said Iturralde, "Graduation is for the students. Last year's was too long but there are other ways to play with time. He added that this year's ceremony will be "more theatrical, like dimming the lights more and having students carrying flags representing the school."

Feminist leader scheduled to give lecture at Tamiami

IRENE SECADA
Sunblazer staff writer

"Full and equal partnership with men, full and equal opportunity in education... That's why feminism is important to college students," says Molly Yard, political director for the National Organization for Women.

Yard, who began her political activism in the student and labor movements of the 1930s, is the scheduled guest of honor for a celebration to commemorate the birth of Susan B. Anthony, a leading American feminist during the 19th century.

The FIU chapter of NOW is sponsoring the event, to be held Feb. 16 at the UH Ballroom on the Tamiami Campus from 8 p.m. to midnight.

"Women should be concerned about their place in socie-

ty," said Yard in a telephone interview from her home in Philadelphia.

The availability of equal educational opportunities for women is a serious question, said Yard.

"Look at the [U.S.] legislative representatives. Almost 70 percent of them are lawyers. Only since 1972 have women gained in admittance to law schools." Now, she added, women are admitted on almost an equal level with men.

The landmark Title IX provision of the 1972 Education Act granted equal opportunities for women in educational programs receiving federal financial assistance.

However, recent changes in the interpretation of the law have lessened its strength.

During her speech, Yard plans to discuss the connection between Title IX and the Civil Rights Restoration Act, a measure now in Congress

which would strengthen Title IX and similar laws.

On NOW's 1987 political agenda is a renewed push for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell three states shy of ratification to become a Constitutional amendment in 1982.

"We're going to fight for the ERA in this, the bicentennial of the Constitution... this would make it a more perfect document," said Yard.

Another major issue Yard plans to address is access to birth control and reproductive rights.

"If we didn't have birth control we wouldn't have a choice," said Yard, who has entitled her speech "Men, Their Rights and Nothing More... Women, Their Rights and Nothing Less," taken from the motto of Susan B. Anthony's feminist newspaper, *The Revolution*.



■ Molly Yard

Black History Month celebration begins on Tamiami Campus

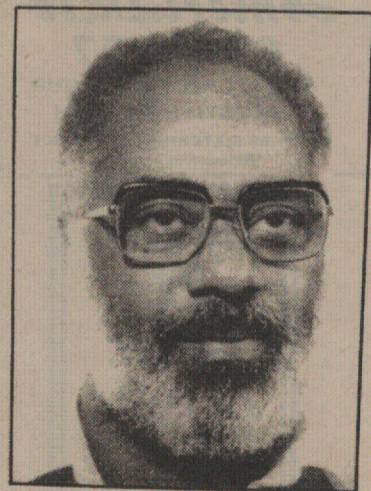
Black History Month at FIU officially begins today at Tamiami, with opening ceremonies held at the UH Forum at noon.

Bay Vista's celebration begins Monday, Feb. 16 at SC 245. Both are free with photo I.D., as are most of the other events.

Highlights of the Tamiami ceremony include a performance by the FIU Jazz Ensemble, the Miami Jackson High School choir, and presentations by faculty members and student government officials.

On Monday, Feb. 23, Martin Luther King III, son of the late civil rights leader, will offer a free lecture entitled "A Dream Deferred" at AT 100 on Tamiami.

Later this month, an international conference on "Negritude. Ethnicity and Afro Cultures in the Americas" will bring together foreign dignitaries, academicians and cultural spokespersons from throughout the Western hemisphere.



■ The Honorable Abdias de Nascimento.

Prominent speakers scheduled to appear at the conference are Aime Cesaire, Leopold Sedar Senghor, and Jacques Rabemanajara, founders of the literary and cultural movement of Negritude; and Abdias de Nascimento, representative of the government of Brazil.

The conference will be held at the Tamiami Campus, Feb. 26-28.

Iturralde named to state post

NICOLE LINSALATA
Sunblazer staff writer

Last week SGA President Ed Iturralde was named President of the Florida Student Association.

The ten-year-old organization lobbies the Florida

Legislature in the interest of state university students.

"The nine state universities needed a presence in Tallahassee," said Iturralde. "Policies were not student oriented."

The association is a non-profit corporation, and it's staff researches state educational

issues. The president's duties include testifying at Board of regents meetings as well as lobbying.

"I'll be going up to Tallahassee to lobby Senators Gordon and Gonzalez-Quevedo against state university tuition increases," said Iturralde.

379-8255 in Dade County
389-8255 in Broward County
Topics currently being considered for discussion include the new federal career criminal act, the media and

see BRIEFS, p. 2

News briefs:

Recent on-campus developments

Criminal justice professor Dr. Bill Willbanks recently began a weekly radio talk show on WNWS (790-AM).

The program airs on Saturdays from 8 p.m. to midnight and covers various aspects of crime and the criminal justice

system affecting South Florida residents.

Studio guests and Dr. Willbanks will answer questions and air listener comments via the telephone.

Those who wish to participate can call:

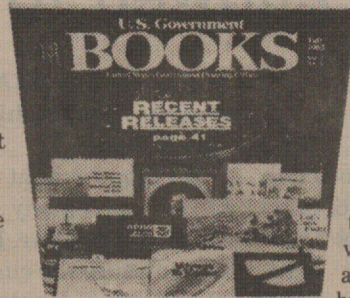


■ Fran Bohnsack-Lee is scheduled to appear at a rally at Tamiami Campus in celebration of Susan B. Anthony's birthday.

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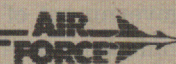
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Letters must be typed and include the writer's name and relationship to the University. Telephone numbers must be included for The Sunblazer to verify authenticity.

The Sunblazer reserves the right to shorten letters and correct errors of spelling and grammar.

Please address letters to: The Sunblazer, FIU Bay Vista Campus, SC 253, North Miami, Fl. 33181.

The Sunblazer is a nonprofit corporation serving the Florida International University community.

The Sunblazer is published weekly and distributed at no charge on the Bay Vista, Tamiami and Broward campuses.

David Broza concert highlights benefit for Soviet Jewry

IRENE SECADA
Sunblazer staff writer

FIU students and community filled the lawns behind the Bay Vista library to listen to Israeli folk singer David Broza on Feb. 1.

The concert, which was part of the Jewish Awareness Festival, was preceded by a 6-kilometer walkathon for Soviet Jewry.

Broza, who has three platinum albums to his credit, sang Hebrew translations of Spanish love songs for more than an hour. He often introduced the songs in English, making references to the war in the Middle East, to his wife Ruthie ("The Woman R. M. Side"), or to the growing concerns about nuclear

proliferation.

Hundreds of fans sang and danced as Broza strummed his guitar or was accompanied with Spyro Gyra pianist Jeremy Wall.

Organizers say that over 100 people participated in the walk for freedom and that over \$1000 was raised in the process. All of the collected funds were donated to the appeal fund for imprisoned Soviet Jews.

During the walkathon, a volunteer walked on a treadmill to symbolize the futility imprisoned Jews feel in their bondage; in other words, although they may be able to walk, they would certainly be unable to leave their cells or exile residences.

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BRIEFS, from p. 1

crime, plea bargaining, mental illness and crime, drugs and crime, poverty and crime, and help for crime victims.

Other topics are under consideration; the audience is invited to suggest topics for future programs.

The Susan B. Anthony birthday events on Feb. 16 include a breakfast with history professor Dr. Joyce Peterson on the Bay Vista Campus at 8 a.m. in SC 245. She is scheduled to discuss Anthony's role in American feminism.

Fran Bohnsack-Lee, project director of a media project of prominent women in American history for Dade County public schools, will be featured guest at a rally at the Tamiami Campus at UH Forum, Feb. 16 at 12:30 p.m.

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Upcoming Events

National Organization for Women Meeting of the Lesbian/Gay Task Force. Rap session featuring the film "Another Country". Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in OE Trailer 5 on the Tamiami Campus.

☆☆☆

AA Meeting 12:30-1:30 Tues. and Thurs. DM 190 at Tamiami.

Art Exhibit "Paintings from Resistance to Renaissance" in honor of Black History Month. Presented by Galeria Antigua, the only African-American art gallery in Southeast Florida. At the Tamiami Campus Library through the 20th.

☆☆☆

Events Con't on p. 5



■ George R. Bucher strums his banjo at last weekend's Miami Beach Festival of the Arts. The native of Cos Cob, Conn., said he hopes to play at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival this Saturday and Sunday.

PHOTO BY Andrew Itkoff

Sid,
You're a lot of fun but I wish you weren't so....stupid. Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Birthday, sweetheart! I love you.
--Nancy

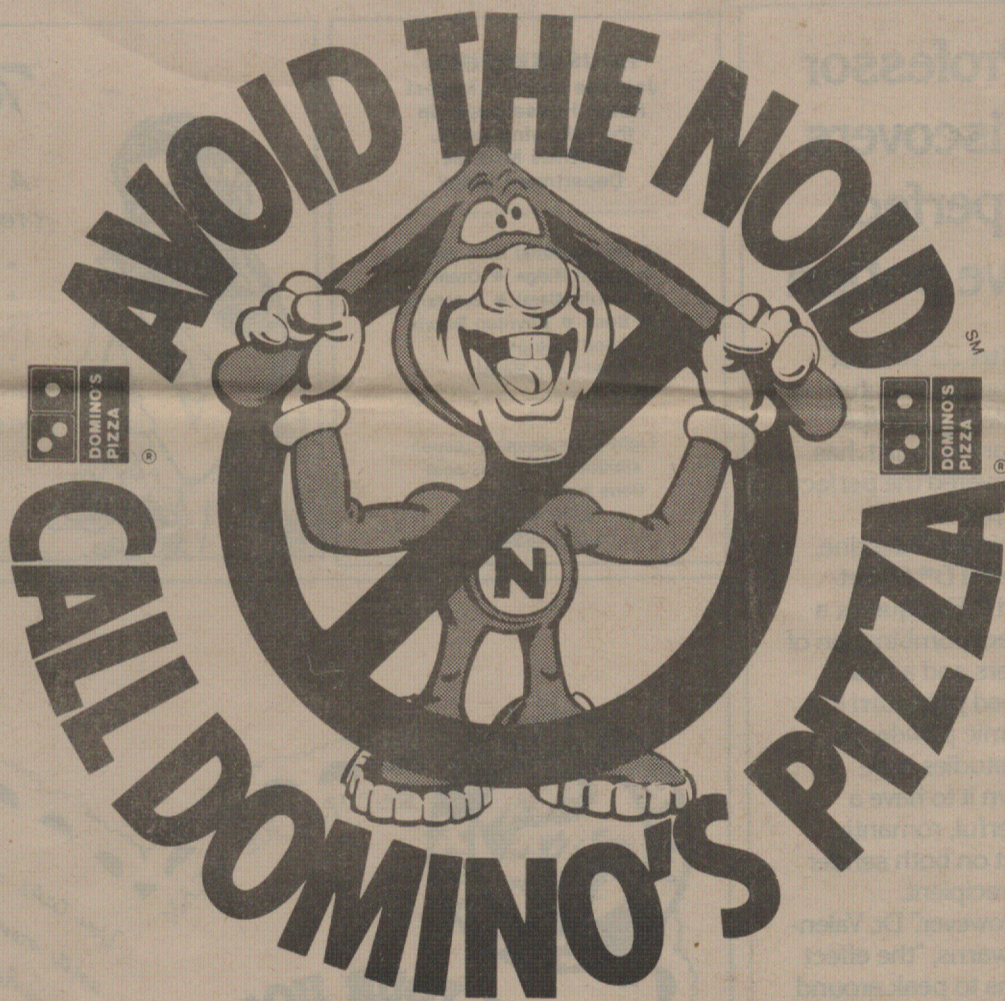
Snorkin: by Darren Hughes Portrait of a Less Than Average Guy



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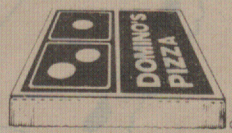


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Black History Month Events abound for this month long celebration. The list is too long to mention here, but there are movies, plays, lectures and musical presentations on both campuses. Check the bulletin boards and flyers for more info on this. Also call 554-2137 for times and events.

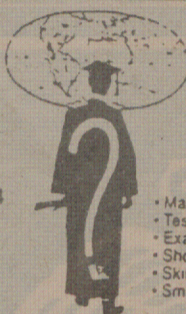
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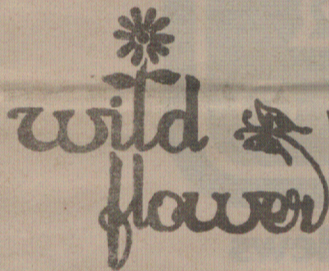


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A: Regardless of your major, there are a number of generic characteristics most employers want to see in their employees. Here are just a few:

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THE NEXT ISSUES OF THE SUNBLAZER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON: February 17, 24; March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14.

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'BLAZIN HEARTS (and other hot stuff!)

Dear VALEntine,
YOU'RE MY LIFE...I Love you.
Schmeckie Man

HAPPY VALENTINE'S CARLOTA..AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Love, Javier...

Dear Val,
Darling, you got to let us know, should we stay or should we go? --Love, The POOR, but dedicated Staff.

Dear Addison,
Don't worry about Mark, just buy him a Coors. Love Maddie.

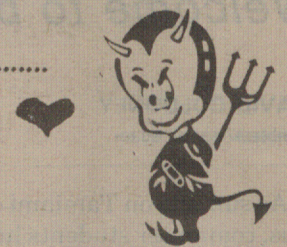
Happy Valentines Day to the Communications Dept. From The Editorial Board.

Dear Humor--Happy 2nd Valentine's Day! I love you more than ice cream, I even love you more than eggs! Don't worry, things can only get better. Love Mrs. C.W.

Love and Lust. Lust or Love. The Great Debate continues.

Dear Baggy--This will be our last Valentine's night together. I hope you stick around. Don't give up now. Love, Batty

To the owner of the "Going Ape" T-shirt. I'm going ape without you at BVC! Love, your injured tennis "Coach".



K, Happy Valentine's Day, with love, the Midnight Lady!

To the dedicated but POOR staff: Our heaven's gonna' be a big hell. And we'll walk through the front door. Big time, we're on our way, we're making it...

--Your POOR but dedicated editor

Stan...Welcome back. michelle.

With Love, on Valentine's Day!...

Baseball opens by sweeping Mercer twin bill

DAVID COLODNEY
Sunblazer sports editor

For baseball coach Danny Price, Friday's 21-run outburst must have seemed heaven sent.

Indeed, after rain washed out the Sunblazers' season-opener Thursday, Price

must have thought the heavens were somehow involved.

"I thought I was in the wrong ball park," Price said.

The Sunblazers' main concern entering the season was hitting. After batting a mere .200 in fall baseball, the offensive firepower displayed Friday must have surprised the Sunblazers as they swept Mercer in the season-opening

doubleheader, 7-3 and 14-4. Newcomers Tony Shade and Ed Colejo hit first-

inning back-to-back homers for FIU in the opener. In the second game, FIU hitters battered five Mercer pitchers for the 14-4 decision.

Saturday, senior Kenny Deal hurled a 2-0 shutout, striking out seven.

"In order for a young team like ours to be successful, we need to reach a level of consistency. We need to stay away from the peaks and valleys," Price said.

Price does have a young

team. Only four players from last year's 41-18 squad return. This year's edition is the youngest ever assembled by Price. The team will

have 21 new players in all.

Bethune-Cookman comes to town Thursday, then Stetson travels south to take on the Sunblazers for a two-game weekend set at Sunblazer Field. Of the 60 games on FIU's schedule this year, 46 will be at the home park.

Sloppy!

Men's basketball team bows to American, 100-78

DAVID COLODNEY
Sunblazer sports editor

It wasn't quite mission impossible. FIU's men's basketball team had beaten Division I teams before, especially at Sunblazer Arena.

But last week, it seemed as if the Sunblazers played one-half of basketball and one-half of football as they fumbled, stumbled and ultimately were sacked by American, 100-78.

In short they self-destructed.

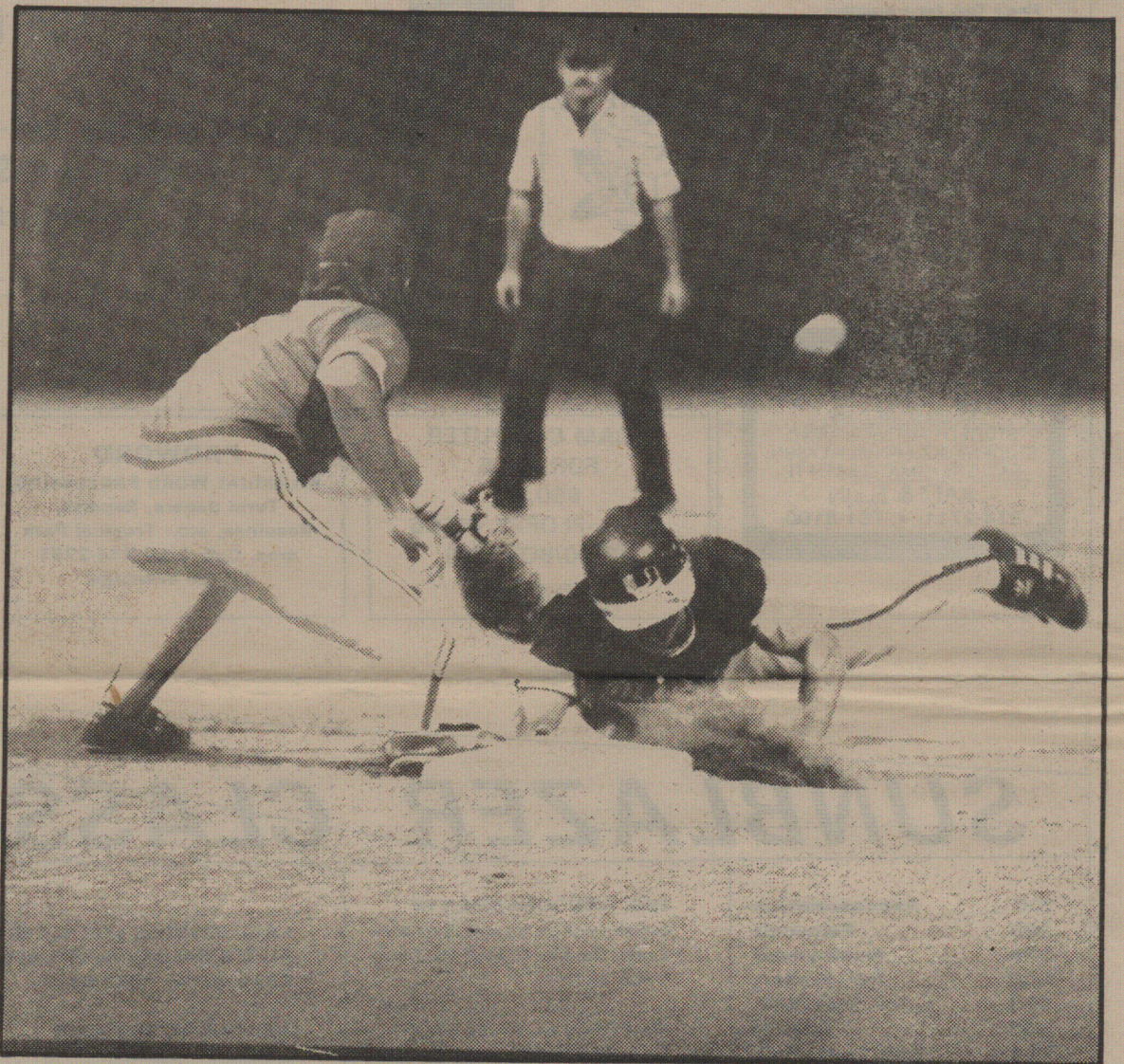
American's Frank Ross, the eighth-ranked scorer in Division I basketball, led all scorers with 23 points. Jerry Nash paced FIU with 19. Elvis Lopez also kicked in 16 for the Sunblazers. "If Ross doesn't play well, we don't play well," said Ed Tapscott, American head coach.

FIU (6-11) played American tough in the first-half. Steven Truett hit a four-footer from the right baseline to tie the game at 19 with 9:06 to go in the first half, and David Banks hit a lay-up to put the Sunblazers up by two soon after. That was FIU's last lead of the game.

FIU went to pieces early in the second half.

Trailing 43-35 at the intermission, the Sunblazers managed to at least hang in there early in the second half. But an 10-2 American run sparked by Chuck West's six points during that span knocked out the Sunblazers and sent FIU reeling to its fourth straight loss.

FIU was plagued by 38 personal fouls that resulted into 35-of-55 free-throw accuracy by the Eagles, who improved to 11-8.



■ FIU's baseball team will take on Miami four times this season. Only one of the games will be at Sunblazer Field, a Sunday afternoon game April 5. Last year, FIU snapped a 15-game losing skid to the fourth-ranked Hurricanes.

New AD must solve promotions, marketing woes

Welcome to big time athletics, FIU

DAVID COLODNEY
Sunblazer sports editor

As sun sets on Tamiami campus, commuter students hustle about for their 6:15 classes. Some are still dressed in suits and ties from work. Some are still tangled in the parking lot, where row after row of cars dance for the few remaining parking spaces.

Their jobs and their classes are their only concerns at this moment. Baseball is as irrelevant as last week's weather.

Meanwhile, on the west side of campus, two baseball teams are warming-up for the night's action.

Their jobs and their classes are put on the shelf for the time being. Right now,

baseball is all that matters.

But for the majority of FIU students, baseball or basketball or any other sport doesn't matter.

Such is the nature of FIU athletics. Once a floundering Division II program with little funding and less support, the Sunblazers now belong to the highest echelon of collegiate athletics: NCAA Division I.

Congratulations, FIU. You've made the big time. Now let's see who notices.

On Jan. 29, a state Board of Regents committee approved a

plan to allow the University's athletic program to move up to Division I-AAA status-- a classification for schools who compete in Division I in every sport except football.

from Fordam to create a Division I program here, resigned a month earlier and will leave this September.

When FIU lands a new AD, he (or she) will have a tough

stimulated as well. Without student support first, community support is out of the question.

If action isn't taken soon, all those students who arrive at

6:15 will rush back to the parking lots to untangle their cars as night's cool settles in. And

they'll never go to the west side of campus.

They'll just go home.

Sports Column

In spite of the fact that the same committee shot down the proposal last year, it really came as no surprise that it was approved this time out.

What was surprising was that approval came with the position of athletic director held by a lame duck. David Rice, the AD brought down

road ahead. First and foremost must be marketing the FIU athletic department.

FIU has an athletic program worth watching. It simply needs promotion in the community.

FIU is now part of the big world of college athletics, and student interest needs to be