

# The Sunblazer

Florida International University

Tuesday, March 15, 1988

Volume 5, Number 20

## Vice President Bush visits FIU

REY QUINTANA  
Sunblazer Editor

Vice President George Bush began the road to his massive Super Tuesday victory at Florida International University last Tuesday, March 1st.

One week before the elections that established him as the Republican frontrunner in the race for the presidency, the nation's second in command visited FIU's University Park Campus and spoke to a gathering of students and faculty in AT-100. The hour-long lecture focused on the role of force in America's foreign policy.

With Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater at his side and Florida Governor Bob Martinez in the audience, the Vice President voiced his belief that it was the military buildup of the United States during the Reagan years that finally

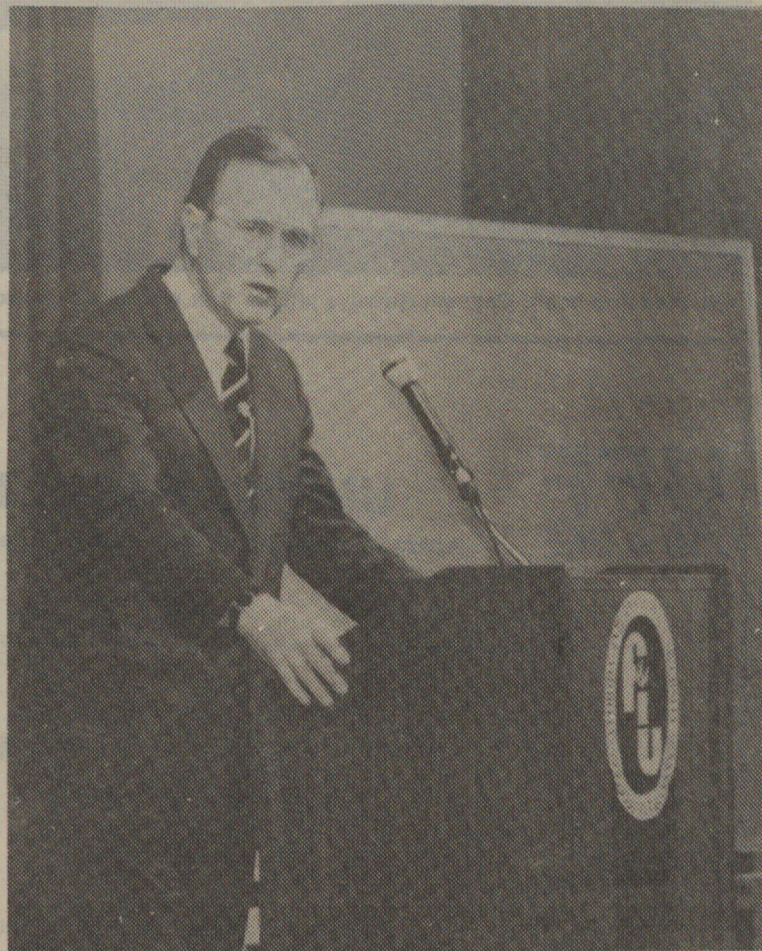
brought the Soviet Union to the bargaining table and resulted in the success of the INF treaty. "Foreign affairs and national security are the number one responsibility of the President," he said. "It was our military buildup that led to the Summit and the arms reduction treaty."

Bush went on to say that force should be available for use when needed (in other words, when the national security of the U.S. is at stake) and pledged to continue to strengthen the country's defense if elected President. He stressed the importance of protecting the freedoms that Americans enjoy, and he also suggested that sometimes these freedoms are taken for granted. "Everyone should live in a Communist country for a while, where even the basic liberties are denied," Bush said. "Then you'd count your blessings."

A question-and-answer session followed the lecture, with the Vice President responding to student inquiries concerning human rights violations in Cuba, Sino-American relations and the war against drug abuse both in the United States and abroad.

Bush ended his visit to FIU by speaking to a large crowd in front of the DM building. At this pep rally of sorts he predicted a big presidential victory for himself, and so far his prediction seems close to reality. In this week's Illinois primary, Bush again scored a decisive victory over Senator Bob Dole (he captured 55 per cent of the vote and most of the delegates), and the Republican nomination now seems to be resting comfortably in his pocket.

One student's opinion of George Bush-see story on page 5



■ Vice President George Bush addresses FIU students in AT-100

Photo: Jose Lopez/FIU Sunblazer



### Inside:

FIU's Golden Panthers lose to the University of Miami Hurricanes. See story on page 12.

## Supreme Court rules against FPIRG

ALBERT TORRES  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Florida International University's Student Supreme Court held a meeting on Friday, February 26, to arbitrate the grievances presented by the Student Government Association against the Florida Public Interest Research Group (FPIRG). SGA is claiming that FPIRG committed serious campaign violations during last semester's "negative option" controversy.

Negative option is the process by which FPIRG receives funding from FIU students. By not checking the appropriate box on registration forms, students are automatically charged a fee which goes to support FPIRG. Last semester a referendum was introduced that proposed the elimination of the negative option and called for a positive check-off system, whereby students would be assessed the FPIRG fee only if they checked the appropriate box on their registration cards. The referendum was defeated in a schoolwide election, and FPIRG's tactics during that election are now under fire.

The grievances, aired in an SGA Elections Commission meeting held last January 15,

include: 1) oversized flyers at University Park; 2) campaigning by the dormitories; 3) banners hung in undesignated areas; 4) banners left hanging in back of the UH building; and 5) polling within 50 feet of the voting booth.

The Student Supreme Court decided that in spite of the lack of existing regulations, FPIRG should not have campaigned in the dorms. FPIRG had handed out flyers for other issues prior to the Fall semester referendum and had assumed the regulations covering candidates did not pertain to them.

Basing its decision on FIU's housing policy, which precludes any campaigning in university dormitories, the Supreme Court held that last semester's election was invalid, and the Optional Fee Assessment Referendum will be placed on the Spring ballot, 1988.

When asked to react to the decision, Mark Phagan, chapter president of FPIRG, responded with "I'm getting frustrated with the whole process. It seems that the opposition won't stop until they get what they want. The people have clearly shown their support for FPIRG. It's just a matter of finally getting somebody to accept the results that the people have mandated."

Last semester's election had one of the highest voter turnouts on record, an act many attribute to student interest in the FPIRG issue. The referendum had two questions: the first was whether or not FPIRG should keep its negative option system; the second asked whether FPIRG should be allowed to assess a fee. Students voted 55-45 per cent in favor of the negative option fee. The fee assessment question also resulted in a victory for FPIRG, 65-35 per cent.

When asked why FPIRG follows the negative option system, Phagan replied: "The negative option fee is in the bylaws. A negative option fee is an actual fee, while a positive option fee is, in fact, a donation. We have never worked off donations and we aren't about to work off donations now."

A positive option system would signal the deathknell of FPIRG on the FIU campuses. A negative option would allow FPIRG to remain at FIU but does inadvertently penalize absentmindedness. The issue will be decided on the March 29 ballot.

**Next week:**  
**SGA Elections: who's your choice?**

Photo: Tere Lantigua/FIU Sunblazer



■ Students board Cayman Airways jetliner that will take them to the tropics.

## FIU students visit Cayman Islands

TERE LANTIGUA  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Twenty-one members of the Hotel Sales Marketing Association chapter at Florida International University spent Friday, March 4, learning about the Cayman Islands, and it wasn't by reading brochures.

They departed on a Cayman Airways 727 to Grand Cayman compliments of the airline and the Department of Tourism of the Cayman Islands. The islands are a British Crown

Colony located 480 miles South of Miami in the Caribbean Sea.

The free trip was part of a massive sales blitz coordinated by Mike Kells, Director of Projects for HSMA. Kells said the students visited the island so they could better market its beauty to travel agencies in Miami. The group was required to follow up by visiting 1,000 travel agencies during Spring Break (50 per student). Students presented the agents with promotional packages for the Cayman Islands and requested their business. Tourism accounts for 75 per cent of the Cayman economy.

"My main job was getting 23 people here (Miami International Airport) on time and in the plane," Kells said. He did much more than just get people on a plane, however. By negotiating with Cayman Airways, Kells was able to secure for HSMA members the one-day trip to Grand Cayman, a marketing seminar, the 1,000 calls (visits) to travel agencies (mileage paid by Cayman), and a three-day, four-night trip to the Cayman Islands any time after the blitz, absolutely free.

"I convinced them to work with us by stressing FIU's

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On February 2, 1988 the FIU-UFF wrote a letter to you advising you of the Summer Course offering situation. That letter requested that you sign an attached petition expressing support for a plan to provide a full academic program in the summer, and petitioning the University to seriously discuss with the UFF the development and adoption of such a plan. Since the publication of that letter, and the receipt by FIU-UFF of your petitions, two events occurred.

First, we were informed on February 17, 1988 that 1988 Summer allocations were up 25% over 1987. While this increase includes a newly implemented "research grant program" and an increase in faculty size, we anticipate an significant overall increase in Summer course offerings.

Second, the FIU-UFF was informed that the State of Florida, acting through the Board of Regents, had filed formal charges of violating Florida Law against FIU-UFF for sending the February 2, 1988 "Open Letter" to you. The University's "bosses," staff persons in the Board, felt the advertisement was an illegal solicitation of support for our discussions with the FIU administration. Their charges were filed with the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission on February 19, 1988. Shortly thereafter, PERC informed UFF of its intent to hold a formal hearing on this matter.

FIU-UFF will challenge this effort by our State government to prevent us from communicating with you. Our attorneys have committed themselves to "vigorously defend" this union's Constitutional right of free speech. Shortly, if not already accomplished by the time you read this, our attorneys will file action in Federal Court challenging the right of the State of Florida to so limit constitutional rights at FIU.

We thank you for the interest you have shown. We will continue to exercise our rights under the U.S. Constitution and keep you informed as events occur.

FIU-UFF

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■ Life's a beach if you're a reporter...

-CAYMAN, from page 2

reputation for hospitality management. I also pointed out that their small sales staff could never visit so many agencies in so short a time, and I ensured them of our professional attitude," Kells said.

"We wanted the students to have a mini-tour, a taste of the island," Cheri Vega, Cayman Airways marketing representative, said about the free trip. "It was important for them to see the island so they could talk about it more enthusiastically."

The sales blitz was a pilot program for Cayman Airways. Because of its success, the airline plans to expand the program in the near future. Cayman Airways has requested a list of all HSMA student associations. According to Vega, they plan to contact students in their three other gateway cities: Tampa, Atlanta and Houston.

While on the 22-mile island, Majestic Tours guide Buddy Wood drove students to various key sights. Students visited a turtle farm where Caymanians breed turtles for consumption. "I never thought I would pick up turtles at the Caymans," said Tanya Hendricks, Hospitality major from Jamaica. Hendricks hopes to work for the tourism board in her own country. "Learning to market the Cayman Islands also teaches me how to market Jamaica," she said.

Students also learned about the history of the Cayman Islands by visiting a marine museum. They met Desiree Hunter, Miss Cayman Islands 1987, and they also walked along the beaches wearing high heels and loafers as they listened to the reggae sounds of a nearby band. They also saw the hotels they would later market to the travel agencies. A scheduled submarine dive was cancelled due to technical difficulties.

Most students feel the educational experience they receive while working on a sales blitz is invaluable. "They could tell you a million times how to do something, but you don't really learn until you do it yourself," said Sue Cascio, Hospitality major from Pennsylvania. "Plus, you make a lot of job contacts," she added.

"The sales blitz was a lot more tiring than I thought, but it was a lot of fun and a good learning experience," said Barbara Nieto, Hospitality Major from New York. "The agents were all very receptive and welcomed the information. I learned how to approach people and deal with them at an equal level," Nieto said. "The trip to Grand Cayman helped me to be much more knowledgeable about the package we were offering. It was great."

"Both the Regional sales office and this office are very happy about the program," said Vega about the sales blitz. "It was a big success." Cohen Associates, Ltd., a public relations firm representing the Cayman Islands, videotaped the trip and has already mailed video and press releases to local media for coverage.

The Cayman Airways sales blitz is the fifth one the organization has sponsored this year. Previous efforts include the cruise ships Norway and Sovereign of the Seas and the Hotel Intercontinental.

## Income tax help available

For the second consecutive year, Beta Alpha Psi, Florida International University's national accounting fraternity, has joined hands with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The program helps non-English speaking taxpayers, low-income members of the community and students in filing their 1987 tax returns and answering tax questions.

Prior to the start of the program, volunteers (members from Beta Alpha Psi and the FIU Accounting Association)

participated in two half-day IRS training sessions. Over 20 volunteers alternated schedules to assist at two sites: one on the University Park Campus Library at FIU and the other at the West Dade Regional Library.

The FIU library site operates on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon and from 4 to 6 pm. The West Dade Regional Library site (9445 Coral Way) is open on Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm. Both sites opened February 8 and they will remain opened until April 15 for those last-

minute tax return filers.

The public's response to this volunteer service has been very positive. The volunteers feel they are providing a necessary service and look forward to helping more people this year and in the future.

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INTERVIEWS MARCH 31, 1988

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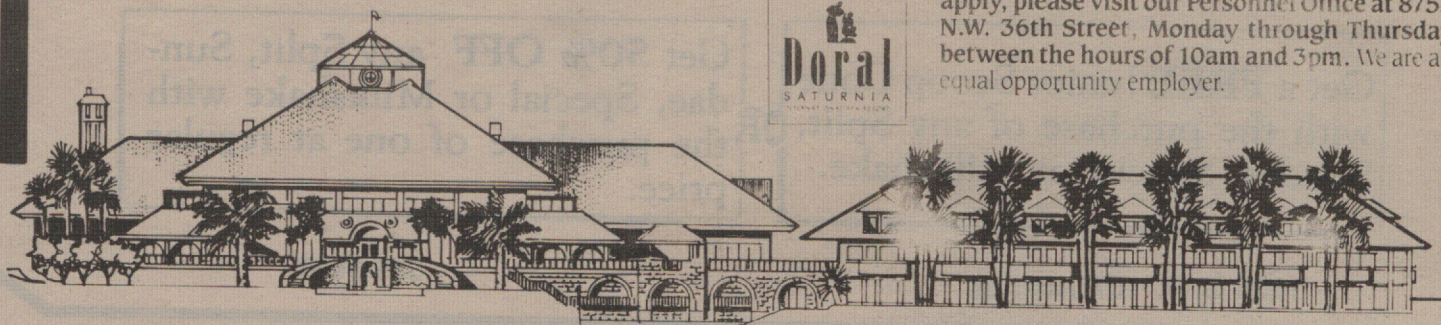
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# News briefs...News briefs...News briefs

## FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE TO BLACK GRADUATE STUDENTS AT FIU

Black students who have been accepted or who anticipate being accepted in a graduate program at Florida International University for the Fall semester are encouraged to apply for a Dolores A. Auzenne Fellowship.

The program, named in honor of the late Director of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs for the Board of Regents, will award eight \$5,000 full one-year fellowships to FIU graduate students.

All applications must be submitted no later than April 15, 1988. For more information, contact Bennie Osborne, FIU Affirmative Action Coordinator, at 554-2785 or 940-5545.

## FIU TO HOST A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE ON — PREPARING FOR THE YEAR 2000

Florida International University will play host to several state officials, community leaders, and distinguished academicians during a one-day conference titled "Preparing For the Year 2000: Future Policy Directions of Florida."

The conference will take place on Friday, March 18, on the North Miami Campus and will focus on the concerns and challenges facing state and local governments.

The conference is free but there is a limited capacity. Those wishing to attend must call 940-5840 to register.

Additional information can also be obtained from Uva Clavijo, Media Relations Office, at 554-2231.

## PUBLIC HEARING TO BE CONDUCTED AT NORTH MIAMI CAMPUS

A public hearing on the mission and role of the North

Miami Campus of Florida International University will be conducted at that campus on Monday, March 21, at 1 pm.

The hearing is one of several being held throughout Florida by state universities with satellite or branch campuses. These hearings were requested by the Board of Regents to involve the general public in the process of planning and defining the role of such campuses.

The hearing will take place in Academic I, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call 940-5700.



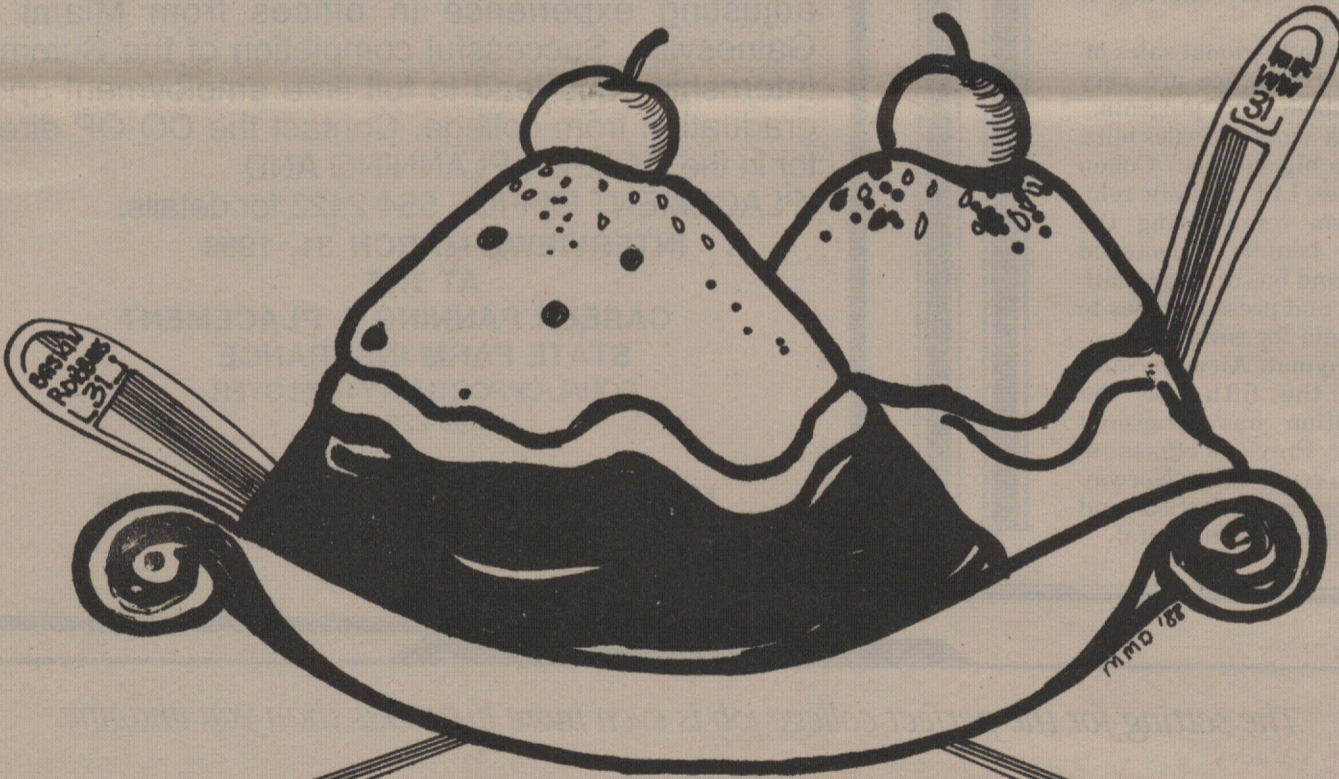
Who will succeed SGA President Fred Jorgenson? SGA elections in our next issue.

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Sunblazer News Writer

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Written by two Florida college professors, the guide is a complete refresher course in all the skills tested by the CLAST. It also includes three full-length practice tests which simulate the content and directions of the actual CLAST. Unlike the ACT or SAT, no sample CLAST exams are made available by the state, so the reliable practice tests in the guide provide a useful preview of what one can expect on the exam.

Co-authors Dr. Richard Goldfarb of Manatee Community College in Bradenton and Ben E. Johnson of the University of South Florida in Tampa have based their approach on their classroom experience preparing Florida college students for the CLAST. The writers provide a minute-by-minute program for composing a timed essay as well as practical tips that have helped students improve their scores in each of the other areas of the CLAST.

The 425-page "Cliffs CLAST Preparation Guide, priced at \$8.95" is available through the university bookstore.

Commentary:

## President Bush? No way!

**MICHAEL MALONE**  
Special to the Sunblazer

In the recent voting for Super Tuesday, George Bush swept the South. He won 16 of 17 primaries and now has most of the delegates necessary for the Republican nomination. His credentials he will be glad to tell you range from combat experience to successive terms as Vice President. A recent USA Today survey reported that he is a favorite over any of the Democratic candidates at this point in the race. In his appearance at FIU, students turned out to vociferously voice their support for this clear frontrunner. His credibility, then, must be beyond question, right?

No way. How can we be so short-sighted, so willing to believe a few words when his actions speak so differently? Because we are privileged to be America's select educated youth, closer analysis is demanded.

Bush is following on the heels of the Reagan administration; it is, in fact, his entry ticket to the nomination. Therein should lie his downfall. Bush, like Reagan, is an anti-drug crusader, no? Then why is it that while Bush headed the CIA, Panama's General Noriega appeared on the payroll of that organization? How has that man become so wealthy and powerful, anyway? Didn't the administration recently sever the funds of the Coast Guard, the most effective drug limiting agency in the country? Wasn't the sale of weapons via arms sales to Iran tied in to drug sales through the Latin American region? It would be nice to pass that one by, but we can't afford to.

I'm a little leery of someone who can't remember his involvement in so momentous an operation as the Iran-Contra scandal. An explanation is demanded. A government that does not answer to its people quickly begins to serve its own interests and not those of the populace it purportedly represents. Bush's involvement demands an explanation.

Both Reagan and Bush are staunch supporters of education, right? Didn't Bush tell us that the other day? Then why have financial aid resources for upper education been cut? Why are fewer minorities attending universities now than before the present administration took office? Why are the school systems on almost every level in a worse mess than when the Reagan/Bush ticket stepped in? The words...the facts.

Didn't Ronald Reagan tell us the other day in his State of the Union address that everything is in grand shape? Isn't the federal deficit higher now than it has ever been in our history? We talk a lot about the debt of third world

countries in Latin America, yet our debt is many times greater than theirs. American businesses are suffering the world over. We have not allotted the funds or the concentration for research and development that other nations have. Yet, many large corporations have fattened their pockets at the expense of America's future. And with the go-ahead from Reagan and Bush.

In 1980, Reagan said he would "get the government off our backs." Yet the federal government has grown over the past few years. Federal spending (mostly military) has accelerated at a faster pace than ever before. At a time when programs for low-income families have been cut back, along with many other social service programs (food stamp benefits reduced by \$20 million, employment and training down from \$9 million to \$4 million), the spending for the military in the period between 1981 and 1985 was the largest peacetime buildup in U.S. history. Social service programs, education, research and development account for a small percentage of the federal budget; military buildup, a large percentage. The government is certainly not "off our backs."

Foreign policy decisions have fared no better. A recent vote in the United Nations to try and obtain an investigation of human rights violations in Cuba was circumvented. The votes by Latin American countries were not so much against the investigation as they were against U.S. heavy-handed policy in Latin America. We are not that well-liked in spite of the fact that other countries like the American way of life. Interventionist policy has made us very few friends and a lot of enemies. Bush proposes a furthering of these same type of policies. America won't you



■ Vice President Bush

think again?

We must demand that the promises of our leaders march in step with what they have done and what they stand for. Dig a little deeper and step away from single issue politics (i.e., an anti-Communist), analyze the situation, and don't be drawn into generic political platforms. George Bush does not represent your best interests. Corporations, yes; university students, no. I will not tell you how to cast your vote in November, but at least have a closer look at the different possibilities. As America's future, it is your responsibility.

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**Editorial**

Rey Quintana, Sunblazer Editor

## Down, set...Hike!

If I didn't know any better, I'd swear that the Board of Regents of the State University System of Florida was now a professional football team. The Regents' favorite word these days seems to be "Hike!"

Unfortunately, I do know better.

In a press conference last Tuesday, SGA President Fred Jorgenson announced that BOR members are proposing yet another tuition hike, the fourth such hike in the last two years. This one would increase the present tuition figures by about 13 to 15 per cent, depending on who you talk to.

This is damn unfair. In the last 6 years tuition has risen over 45 per cent for in-state students and over 50 per cent for those coming from out-of-state. Yearly increases in financial aid are not keeping up with these hikes. As a result, a college education is quickly becoming a luxury available only to those who can afford it.

And yet this same Board of Regents, during its visit to FIU last February, expressed a deep interest in the advancement of minorities in our state. Who the heck do you think is going to be hardest hit by another tuition hike? Sorry, folks, but in this case the word "hike" is not characteristic of a football team. It is characteristic of a bunch of hypocrites.

Nevertheless, if the Regents wish to continue to sound like a football team, let's treat 'em that way. I suggest a good defensive "blitz." Get in touch with the Student Government Association office and complain, complain, complain. Adam Underwood, SGA's Lobby Annex Director, will be happy to provide assistance. He can be reached at 554-2121.

Please don't let this football team carry out its proposed offensive play. It looks like they're planning a long bomb to the end zone, and this one is going to land right in your checkbook.

## Letters to the Editor

### SGA travel policy defended

To the Editor:

I am responding to the article on the SGA travel policy appearing in the Feb. 16 issue of the "Sunblazer." I feel that many points discussed were not clarified.

My response refers to the opening quote which emphasized the point that "SGA didn't foot the bill. They couldn't." The problem didn't lie within SGA's travel policy. SGA is responsible for \$1.5 million of student's money. This money is paid by all FIU students regardless of their major or classification and is to benefit all students.

The funding of student clubs comes from a budget which supports a radio station, yearbook, ID program, lectures, movies, staff, operating costs, etc.... Although student organizations are a priority to SGA, the burden of supporting all clubs and organizations is too great for SGA. Our job is to help enhance clubs in order for them to grow and develop.

SGA's travel policy is not as black and white as it appears. It is only right that SGA produce a policy which looks out for the best interests of student money and sees that it is spent in accord with state law (i.e., to benefit the entire student body). For example, it wouldn't be right for a Nursing Club to take a trip to a hospital on student money, because a business student paying student fees does not benefit. Thus, the present policy for club travel applies.

The problem with the funding of the College Bowl team didn't stem from policy, but from procedure. The procedure for student travel is as such: Documentation of the trip must be filed no later than 15 days prior to the trip. Documentation includes departure date and time, mode of travel, agenda of event, estimated date of return, transportation, registration fees if applicable and miscellaneous expenses. In order to receive money in advance, proper paperwork must be filed with the SGA Accounting office at least 2 weeks prior to the event, which is in adherence with University policy.

SGA has two possible accounts that can be accessed for traveling, both of which require SGA Senate approval. Last Spring the Senate granted the FIU Debate team nearly \$2,000 to compete in a North Carolina meet.

Unfortunately, the Administrators responsible for the [College Bowl] club submitted a vague proposal which contained incorrect amounts to the SGA Senate three days prior to the trip. Although I am in support of the College Bowl Club and am an advocate of academic programs, it was unfortunate that procedure was not followed.

Tim Benjamin  
SGA President Pro-Tempore

# The Independent FIU Sunblazer

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### Bat girls article discriminatory

To the Editor:

Any female who read Matthew Penzer's article on FIU bat girls in the February 23rd issue of The Sunblazer should be insulted and angered by Penzer's discriminatory remarks.

The idea of bat girls for a baseball team perpetuates the perception of women as submissive and secondary to men. Why aren't there bat boys to "retrieve" bats during a baseball game? Or better yet, why don't the baseball players pick up after themselves?

Penzer amplifies an archaic image of females being weak and non-athletic. He implies women are ignorant of the sport, while the baseball players enlighten the bat girls when they get "confused."

And isn't it thoughtful that "usually the players apologize for any abusive language that may slip out." In case Penzer isn't aware, women use abusive language, too. Using abusive language is not a gender trait, but a trait of the ignorant and uneducated.

As for the bat girl who joined bat girls because she loves baseball, why doesn't she join a baseball team? Women have been excelling in sports once thought to be exclusively for males for many years now.

The bat girls article, as well as the bat girls idea (I thought 19 and 20 year old females were women) is a subtle reminder of how much women still need to achieve in equal rights. But it's more than the ERA. Women need to demand cultural changes in our society

to attitudes which are sexist.

The bat girls article portrays women as inept, secondary citizens who can barely dodge the bats which are thrown in their direction. I abhor the cave man mentality exhibited by Penzer and, inadvertently, the baseball team.

Sincerely,

Tere Lantigua

**Letters policy:**

Letters to the Editor must be signed and dated. The Sunblazer reserves the right to edit letters for content and style.

Written comments are encouraged.

## FIU Pep Band ignores women's team

Your money is being used to fund sexual discrimination on campus.

The list of those who know about the problem and continue to condone the situation is long. It includes, but is not limited to: Dr. John Brick and others in the Music department, Dr. Dick Young (FIU's Director of Athletics), members of the FIU Pep Band, and the Student Government Association (SGA).

In the last two years, SGA has given the Music department approximately \$30,000. At least \$3,000 of this total was specifically earmarked for a pep band to play at various athletic events. During the 86-87 basketball season, the band played only at men's games despite the fact that the women's team was having a record year.

At the beginning of this basketball season, the NOW chapter and others expressed their concern over this inequity. This season, the band has again played only at men's basketball games. Dr. Brick, the band's director, claimed that he had no control over the schedule. He suggested I speak to Dr. Young.

Dr. Young was openly frustrated by the situation, but said that he had requested that the band play at women's games. Young claims that the band plays wherever its members want to play and admitted that there was no written contract between departments.

This lack of a written agreement has become an excuse. No one claims responsibility for the situation and no one has remedied it. The professional impotence displayed by these two men is appalling and probably wouldn't occur if it was the men's team that was being shafted.

If these departments can't cooperate, it is time for SGA to take action. Our student government should refuse to fund a pep band unless there is a contract guaranteeing appearances at both men's and women's games. If the band agrees to play ten games, then five should be men's and five should be women's. Both teams equally deserve the benefits and support a pep band can offer.

**-Diana Oaten Lalani  
President, FIU Chapter  
National Organization for Women**

## Presidential name games...

Now that the political season has enveloped the nation in its innocuous grasp, it is appropriate to present some political analysis and commentary. The trend towards mediocrity in our highest elected office has exploded into an epidemic, especially when one considers this year's crop of presidential hopefuls. Retrospectively, things haven't been all that brilliant: Jerry Ford's infamous "WIN" buttons designed to mysteriously counter inflation, Carter's inept handling of every foreign crisis, and Reagan's skuttling of the nation only prove that a new technique for selecting our president must be designed. After careful consideration and analysis, the reason for all these presidential failures becomes quite evident: names.

Ford's monosyllabic surname conjured visions of poorly manufactured domestic vehicles. Carter's handle reminded everyone of constipation, and our present commander-in-chief sounds like something from a Buck Rogers episode. So this new political observation needs to be applied to our present group of candidates, before any one of them can do irreparable harm.

Can you imagine the leader of our country being named Dukakis? Even worse, a first lady being named Kitty Dukakis? Sounds like the order one gives a vacillating pet feline while she's hovering

over the litter box. We've already had a Jackson in office, so that eliminates the Reverend Jesse, and the only way that Paul Simon can win is if he gets someone named Garfunkel as his running mate. Albert Gore's cognomen just doesn't have the right ring to it. "President Gore" sounds more like the host of some cheap all-night movie show. That leaves Dick Gephardt. There's a unique, impressive name worthy of being added to the roll of presidents. But the question now is: who will he run against?

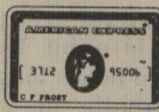
On the GOP side, the name game gets even worse. First there's George Bush. I've got serious reservations about this one, especially since it's so ripe for sexual innuendo. The KGB will probably assign an entire bureau just to come up with new genital analogies. Pat Robertson possesses a fine, upstanding name, but after years of being God's personal emissary, the presidency seems like a step down. Bob Dole is next. He can't win because he reminds everyone of fruit cocktail. That leaves the Republicans in a serious name-game gap. My suggestion is to resurrect Richard Nixon to run against Gephardt. That way the '88 elections will be a battle of two Dicks, which is what most people say anyway.

**-Albert Torres**

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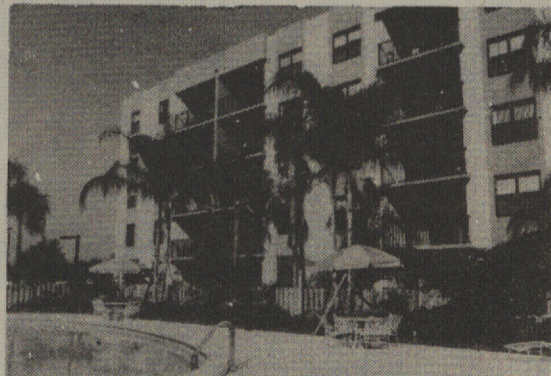
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# Review: "The Unbearable Lightness of Being"

MARIA FRESCO  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

During the first half of 1968 Czechoslovakia was in the midst of what came to be known as the "Prague Spring," a period of artistic and intellectual freedom which was quickly stifled on August 21 when Russian troops invaded Czechoslovakia. This is the setting of director Philip Kaufman's "The Unbearable Lightness of Being." The film brings to the screen Milan Kundera's celebrated erotic novel. It offers a glimpse behind the Iron Curtain and examines how diverse personalities cope with the demands of love and how they contend with suppression.

The story explores the lives of three individuals who must confront a suffocating loss of freedom. The British actor Daniel Day-Lewis plays Tomas, a young, eminent brain surgeon and incorrigible womanizer. On a trip to a small town he meets Tereza (Juliette Binoche), a shy young woman bored with her life in the country and with the lack of intellectual challenge. They fall in love and, despite Tomas' dedication to bachelorhood,

they marry. They are happy for a short time but eventually Tomas returns to the arms of his former lover, Sabina (played by Swedish actress Lena Olin). Sabina is the perfect antithesis of Tereza. She is sensual, carefree and she enjoys uncomplicated sex as much as Tomas does.

Although it may seem unlikely, the three become friends - brought together by political circumstances. Tereza's character comes to life under the stifling conditions of military oppression. She daringly photographs the Russian invasion and the Czech revolt. When she is interrogated about her part in the revolt, she boldly refuses to give any information. But the growing political tension forces Tomas and Tereza out of Czechoslovakia to begin a new life.

Daniel Day-Lewis' performance is good, as one might expect. He is cold and aggressive as Tomas (a far cry from his role as Lucy's geeky fiance in "A Room With a View"), but he is also kind and gentle to Tereza. Lena Olin, with her deep voice and her derby hat (which she wears to make love), gives a strong performance as the lusty and sassy Sabina. The French

actress Juliette Binoche, in her American film debut, transforms Tereza from a sweet, shy country girl to a confident young woman.

Eroticism plays an important part in the film. "The erotic climate in Prague had become the only arena for freedom and self-realization," wrote Milan Kundera. Yet several sexual scenes may be described as gratuitous. In one scene Tereza and Sabina photograph each other in the nude. In another, Tomas and Tereza demonstrate some sexual acrobatics. These scenes may hide some symbolism, but the film would have worked just as well without them. More vital to the movie were the music and cinematography. Czech composer Leos Janacek's airy compositions were blended beautifully with shots of the picturesque countryside. Reproducing the Soviet invasion of Prague was trickier: newsreel footage was combined with the filming and the results were quite effective.

The film is a bit lengthy (almost three hours long) and overly symbolic at times. Nevertheless, it is worth seeing.



Swedish actress Lena Olin gets kinky as "Sabina."

# "Switching Channels:" severe disappointment



"Switching Channels" stars Christopher Reeve, Burt Reynolds, and Kathleen Turner.

CONNIE CANO  
Sunblazer Features Co-Editor

I was late and I was upset. I hate missing part of a movie and then having to patch it up. But by the time it was over, I did not bother to wait for the next showing, grateful to have been spared at least part of the torture.

"Switching Channels," a new Tri-Star picture starring Burt Reynolds, Kathleen Turner, and Christopher Reeve, is a remake of the old classic "My Girl Friday," starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. The film is supposedly a witty depiction of a love triangle involving two news reporters previously married and an "outsider." The source of the humor is the tension

that exists between the couple due to their unresolved feelings for each other and the intrusion of an outsider to a world he does not and cares not to understand. The new version of this film, as usual, does not hold a candle to the old. "Switching Channels" is a disappointment from beginning to end.

The problem does not lie within the plot. The potential

is there: married couple splits up, girl meets dream man and they plan to marry, ex-husband meets husband-to-be and wants wife back. Throw in the women's lib element (Blaine does not want Christy to work as a newscaster) and an interesting capital punishment case (Christy knows a man is being executed solely as a political move), and the result should make for a good flick. Wrong!!

Reynolds plays the role of John Sullivan or "Sully" as he is affectionately known, an eccentric cable television news director. Turner stars as Christy Colleran, a reporter at the station where Sully directs and Reeve stars as the obnoxious husband-to-be, millionaire Blaine Bingham. All three of them overact, making their characters seem one-dimensional; more like caricatures than real people. Perhaps the reason for this was the director's adherence to slapstick comedy throughout the film. It was carried to the extreme, especially in an era where this type of humor is not highly appreciated. All the warmth that should exist between two people who still care for each other was lost; the chemistry was not there.

The characters that Reynolds and Reeve portray are so despicable that had I been Christy, I would have married neither. Sullivan is a snippy, self-centered man and Bingham is a pompous fool,

not leaving her much choice. And you know from the beginning that there is now way she's going to marry Bingham when his idea of a romantic gesture is to give her eight pints of his frozen blood. Yes, this was actually in the movie. There's not one moment in the film that feels real or endearing, and forget about funny.

Apparently, somewhere along the way, someone must have noticed the deficiencies and tried to remedy them by resorting to used-up cliches. For example, when first we hear about the man who is to be executed he is described as a big fearsome criminal, a raging lunatic who shot a cop. Who should walk out but the exact opposite: a meek, quiet man, the wimpiest-looking guy they could possibly have found, who killed a drug-dealing cop that had sold his son some bad dope, turning him into a vegetable - our hero. Yet another instance of the use of this technique is having Reeve, who is most famous for his role in the "Superman" sagas, the "Man of Steel," be afraid of heights. The joke was just not appreciated.

If you are a Reynolds, Turner or Reeve fan do not go to see this movie. You will see your idols fall off their pedestals. And even if you are not a fan don't waste your money or your time.



# Profile: "An Evening With Beverly Sills"

REY QUINTANA  
Sunblazer Editor

Opera legend Beverly Sills visited Florida International University last Friday, March 4th, as part of the SGA-sponsored International Festival Week.

Sills was invited to FIU to lecture on "The Arts in America." Her presentation included the story of her pursuit of a career in the opera, but it was her charm and sense of humor that captured the audience's attention. "I'm a compulsive talker," she said. "Therefore, I'm an ideal lecturer."

A press conference in the Presidential Suite of the UH building was followed by an invitation-only dinner in the Ballroom on the second floor. Guests paid \$75 a ticket to dine on spinach and mushroom salad, filet mignon, vegetables, potatoes, and fresh strawberries and vanilla ice cream.

*"I'd always thought of myself as a singer. I knew at a very young age that I was going to be an opera star."*

-Beverly Sills

In the lecture hall in AT-100, an emotional Sills told the story of a little girl who dreamed of becoming an opera star. "I'd always thought of myself as a singer," she began. "I knew at a very young age that I was going to be an opera star."

Her parents, both immigrants from Eastern Europe, had other ideas. "Daddy wanted to marry me off to a nice boy, and Mother took me to a 50-cent school to learn how to sing, tap dance, and play the piano," said Sills. "These talents supposedly came in

handy in the quest for a husband."

As a young child, Sills worked on radio stations to help pay for her singing and piano lessons. Her big break came when she won first place on the Amateur Hour. "That was when I was first noticed," she recalled. "My career really took off after I won the Amateur Hour."

Her big debut came in 1955 with the New York City Opera in the classic "Rosalinda." She has since gone on to star in countless productions, but the highlight of her career, she

says, is the television special she filmed with Carol Burnett at the Metropolitan Opera House several years ago. "That was the most challenging performance of my life," she said. "I had to do things I'd never done before."

In 1980, Beverly Sills was the highest-paid opera singer in the world. It was then that she decided to retire. "I wanted to go out on top," she said. "I wanted to be remembered as the best."

Sills no longer sings, but she is now the Director of the New York City Opera. She

remembers vividly her struggle as a young artist, and she wants to help other performers achieve success. A member of the audience asked her for a few words of advice for a young singer just starting out, and she immediately offered him an audition with her company. "Come to New York and audition for me," she urged. "Everyone who writes to the New York City Opera gets an audition."

It is this kind of attitude, along with her enormous talent, that has endeared Beverly Sills to the entire

world. Her art is a universal form of communication, understanding, and compassion. She remarked: "Art has broken down more barriers than any weapon ever used. In the 1950's this country was a cultural desert. In recent years, the arts have grown tremendously. We've come a long way."

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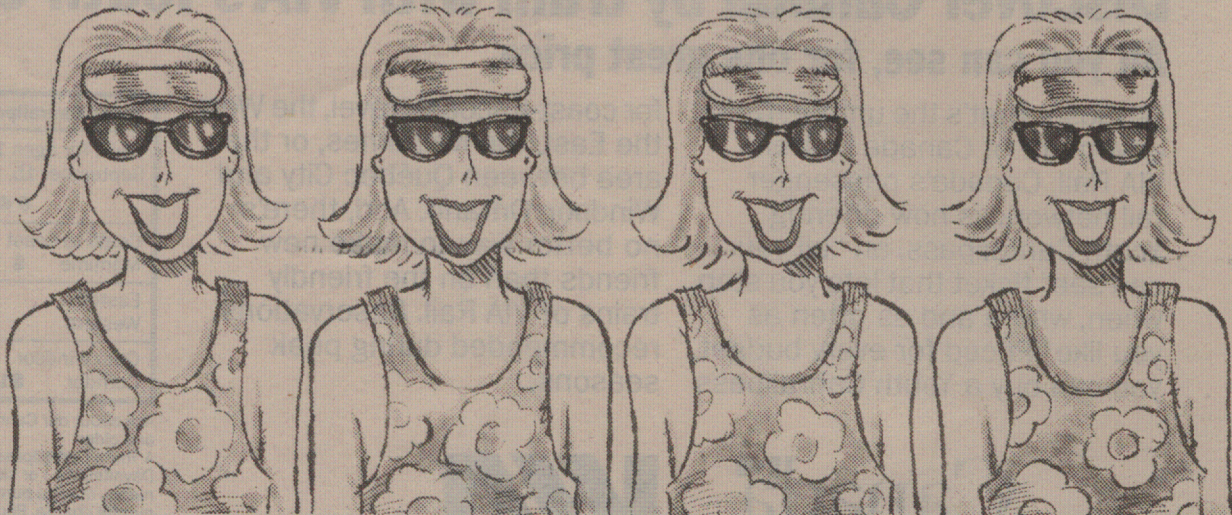
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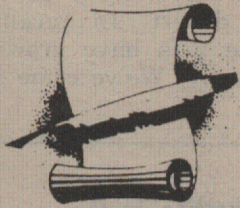
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# ANNOUNCEMENT

The Independent FIU Sunblazer will be holding elections for its Editorial Board for the coming year during the month of April. At that time, the following positions will become available:



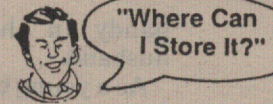
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Job descriptions for each of the positions listed above will be presented in future issues. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Sunblazer office at 554-2315. Our office is located in UH-315, and we encourage interested students to come by and visit.

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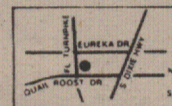
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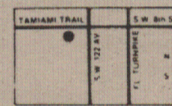
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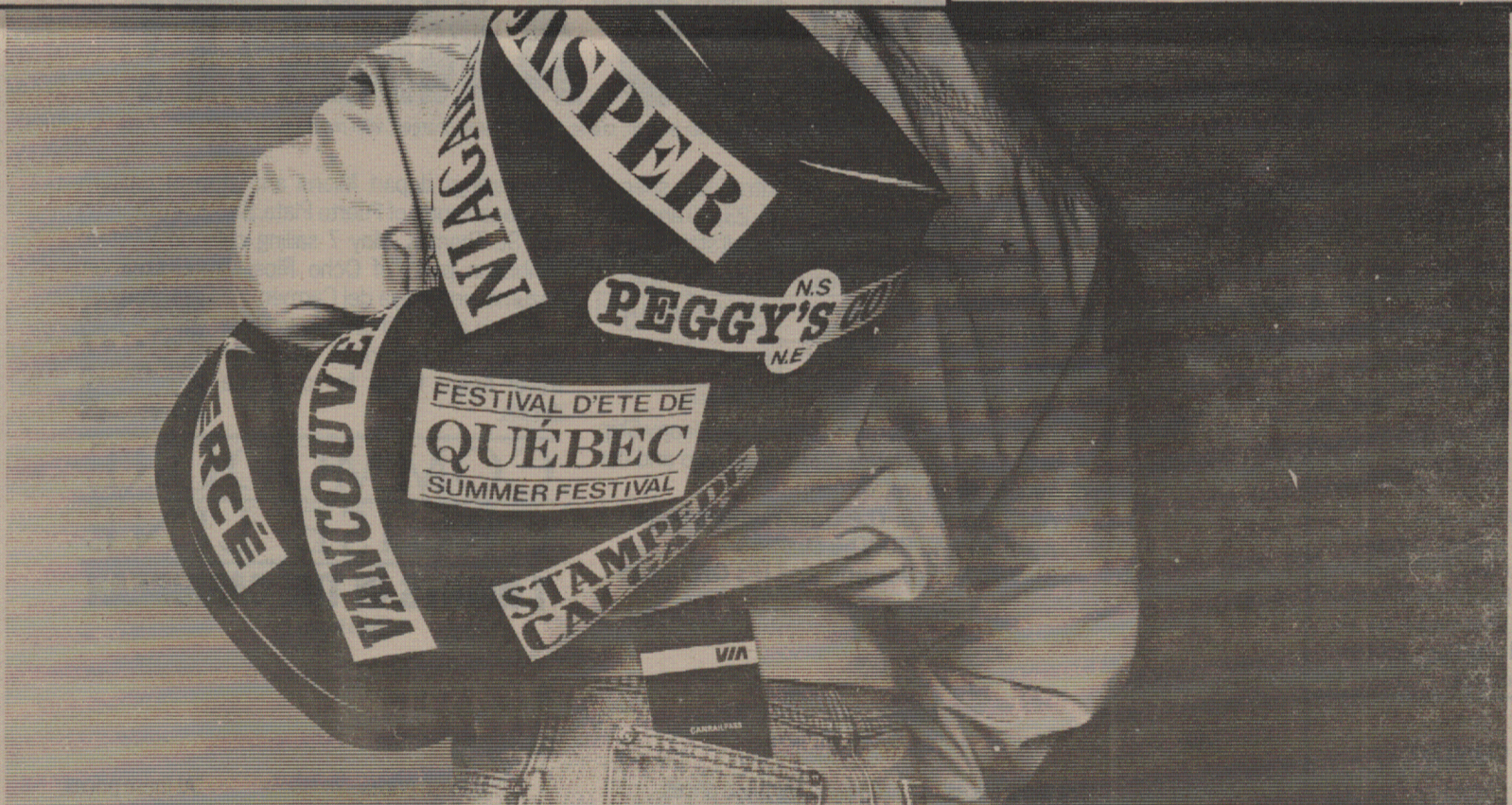
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## Dade County Youth Fair opens

CHRIS PROIETTI  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

It's time for food, rides and excitement right next door to University Park.

The Dade County Youth Fair opens Thursday, March 17 and runs through Sunday, April 3. The 37th annual extravaganza, located at Tamiami Park, is the largest fair in all of Florida. A showcase of entertainment, food, exhibitions, and midway rides, the DCYF attracts more people than any other expo in the state and ranks among the top 15 nationally.

Below is a guide on some of the many highlights the Youth Fair has to offer:

**Midway rides and amusements-** The fair has a mile-long midway made up of 65 rides and 16 games of skill the second largest attended midway in the entire country behind the Texas State Fair.

New to the expo this year is the gigantic Log Flume ride, a European import of twisting waterways and plunging drops that's sure to add excitement. The Log Flume joins familiar thrillers such as the dipping Double Looping Star Rollercoaster, the swinging Tidal Wave, and the spinning Graviton. On the tamer side there's the Giant Ferris Wheel, Flying Swings, and Bumper Cars.

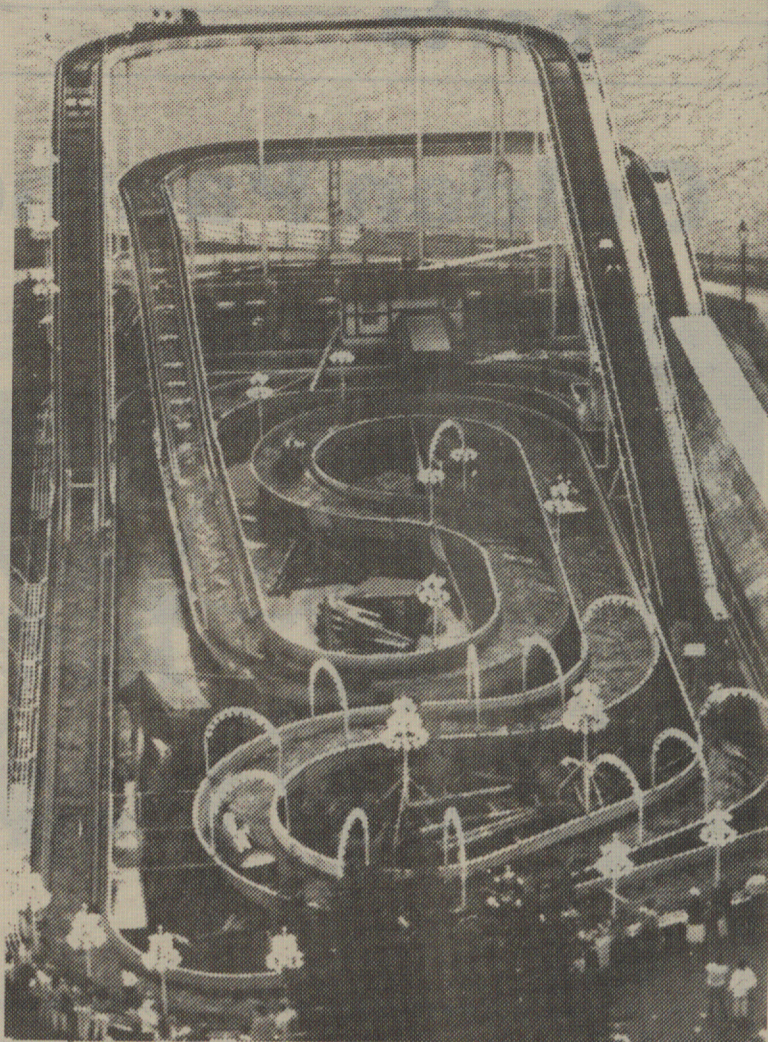
**Exhibits-** 50,000 student exhibits will be on display in 30 categories ranging from fine arts to writing and photography. This is the area that puts the "Youth" in the Youth Fair because the exhibits showcase prize-winning youth achievement. Most of the exhibits can be found in the indoor exhibition halls.

**Food-** When it comes to eating at the Fair, don't even think about diets. The food showcase will wear down any efforts for calorie counting. The variety of food offered is

staggering. If you like foreign and ethnic dishes you can choose from gyros, conch fritters, tacos, and shish-kabob plus Polish sausage and Oriental specialties. The standards are also there: hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, pizza, roast corn, onion rings, and fresh fruit. For your sweet tooth there's enough cinnamon rolls, ice cream, elephant ears, fudge, and cotton candy to put anyone into a deep sugar coma. If you're into chowing down on a zen level the Fair is the place to come to.

**Entertainment-** A spectrum of professional entertainment will be staged at 7 different centers in the fairgrounds. Returning from last year is Olympic gymnastics champion Kurt Thomas with his "Gymnastics America" production. Thomas and his troupe will be performing March 17-25 in the Park Square showplace. Also appearing from last year will be "Adventures on Ice," a skating review featuring professional stars. The all-new show will feature ice dancing, routines, and musical numbers. "Adventures on Ice" can be seen in the Amphitheatre March 17-April 3.

Several acts will be making their debut this year. The Chinese Golden Dragon Aerobats of Taipei will perform sensational acrobatics and balancing acts combined with the magic of the East and



■ The Dade County Youth Fair's newest ride: the Log Flume

costumed ceremonial dances. The Golden Dragons will be at the Mall Arena March 26-April 3.

Dragons of another kind will also be performing. The Pendragons, a husband and wife team, will bring their magic and illusions to the Mall Arena March 17-25. The Pendragons performed on the Harry Houdini television special last Halloween and should put on an electrifying performance. Also new this year is the Ramp

and Tramp Flying Circus, a troupe that combines daredevil ski-jumping and trampoline acrobatics. The Flying Circus will ski-leap, flip, and take off March 26-April 3 at the Park Square showplace.

Whether it's the rides, food, or exhibits, the Dade County Youth Fair has something for everyone. Admission is \$4 for those 13 and older, \$2 for those aged 6-12, and free for children under 5.

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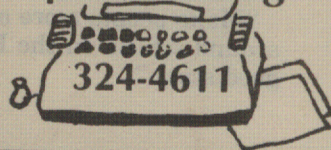
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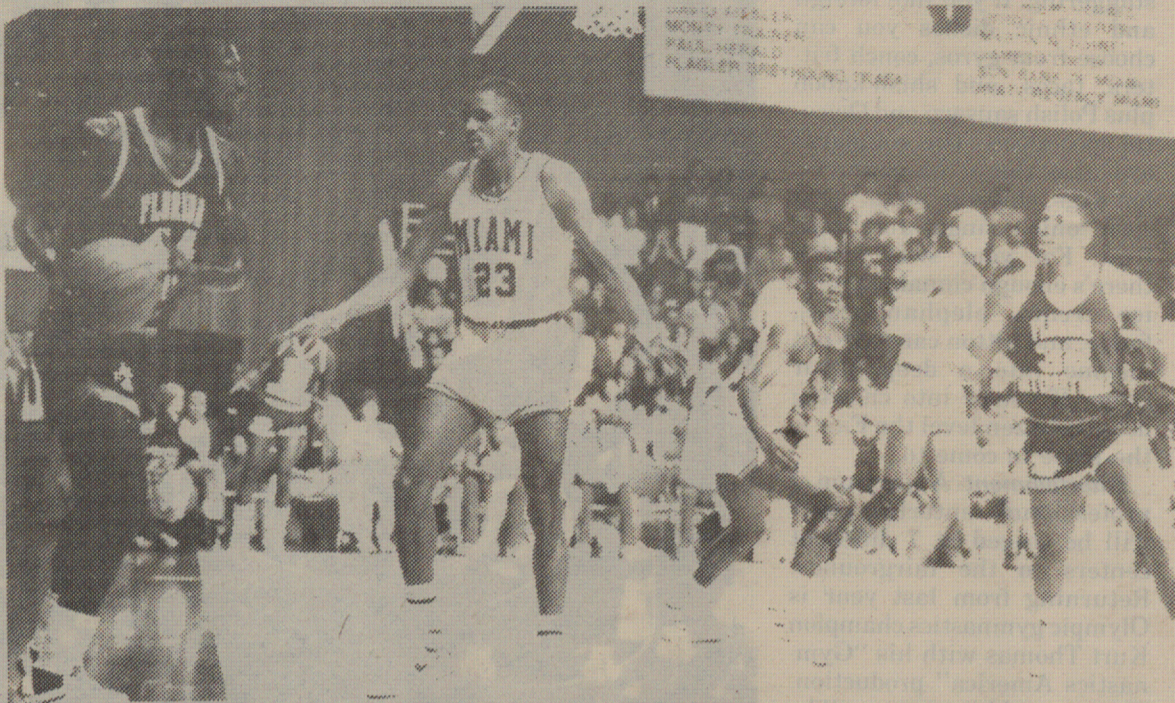
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# Golden Panthers lose to Hurricanes



■ The University of Miami Hurricanes ended the FIU basketball season on a sour note. The final score: 92-76.

**JON MOSS**  
Sunblazer Sports Writer

The FIU men's basketball team ended their season last Saturday night at the James L. Knight Center by facing the Hurricanes of the University of Miami. The Golden Panthers fought bravely but came up short as UM triumphed 92-76.

The first half of the game was exciting. FIU put on a good effort for the first 30 minutes of play, but after that the team's offensive attack began to weaken. The Canes led by two points at halftime. UM took the game from FIU at the 10-minute mark in the second half, largely because the Panther squad gave it away. FIU had the oppor-

tunities but failed to capitalize on them. Our field goal percentage was not good, and most free throws were off.

Commendable performances were turned in by Sylvester Wigham who set an FIU season record (472 points) by scoring 20 points that night. Steve Truiett also had a good night with 14 rebounds and 16 points.

FIU's record for this season ends up at 9 wins and 19 losses, which is better than it sounds considering the fact that this was the Golden Panther team's first year in Division I competition. The basketball program promises to have a much stronger showing next season, and maybe then schools like Georgetown and Clemson will get a run for their money.

## Speak out!

**JOSE LOPEZ**  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Welcome to "Speakout!," a new column to be featured in the FIU Sunblazer.

Every week we will ask an important question and we want you, our readers, to offer your views and opinions. The questions will deal with issues that concern FIU students, faculty, and administration.

"Speakout!" will allow for the expression of thoughts and ideas that will hopefully contribute to the improvement of our school. If there is a question you would like us to ask, please write it on a piece of paper and drop it off at the Sunblazer office, UH- 315. Questions may also be suggested by calling 554-2315.

This week's question:

**What should FIU do to improve attendance at athletic events?**

"Advertise more often in UH (banners, posters). Especially on Thursdays."

-Francisco Gambin (Gumby)  
Finance Major

"Make people more aware of the events that are going on around school. In the Rat or on bulletin boards would be a good start."

-Stephen McDowell  
FIU Baseball pitcher

"If there were more coverage in the Miami Herald, there would be more knowledge about the games-therefore, more people would attend."

-Jeanne Belin  
Intended major-Accounting

"Advertise in the dorms; provide transportation for students to the games; get corporate sponsors."

-H. Hoffman  
FIU Faculty

"Announce the events and publicize them more."

-Ray Cespedes  
Pre-Med

## FIU Athletics Calendar

Week of March 17-22

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time	Site
March 17	Men's Tennis	Glassboro State	2:00pm	Home-FIU
	Baseball	University of Maine	7:00pm	Home-FIU
March 18	Men's Golf	University of South Florida		Tampa
	Men's Tennis	Barry University	3:00pm	Miami
	Baseball	Princeton University	7:00pm	Home-FIU
March 19	Men's Tennis	Hobart	10:30am	Home-FIU
	Women's Tennis	Samford	2:00pm	Jacksonville
	Baseball	Rutgers	7:00pm	Home-FIU
March 20	Women's Tennis	Jacksonville	10:00am	Jacksonville
	Baseball	Michigan State	2:00pm	Home-FIU
March 21	Men's Tennis	Missouri	9:00am	St. Augustine
	Women's Tennis	Dartmouth	2:00pm	Home-FIU
	Baseball	Monmouth	3:00pm	Home-FIU
March 22	Men's Tennis	Flagler College	2:30pm	St. Augustine
	Baseball	Monmouth	7:00pm	Home-FIU

"Sponsor contests, give incentives, and attract major teams to stir up anticipation by the fans."

-Maria Miro  
Volleyball team

"Make people aware of the events."

-Adam Cort  
Programming major

"Make the student body aware of events by advertising and pep rallies. FIU also needs more media attention. More financing is needed for athletic scholarships."

-Mike Thompson  
Marketing major

### Next week:

**Sunblazer Sports will feature the men's and women's tennis teams.**