

The ^{Independent} Sunblazer

Florida International University

Tuesday, April 12, 1988

Volume 5, Number 24

Benjamin and Janisch battle in SGA runoff

ANASTASIA GARCIA
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Florida International University students have a choice between two Student Government Association presidential candidates. Tim Benjamin aims to increase awareness of SGA and improve existing programs. Frank Janisch wants to personalize the relationship between SGA and the students and create new programs.

Senate president pro-tempore Benjamin and SGA senator Janisch are vying for the open presidential seat in the runoff elections on April 12 and 13.

During the SGA elections held on March 29 and 30 Benjamin received 612 votes and Janisch received 572 votes. The winner must receive more than 50 per cent of the majority vote.

Benjamin said the SGA president should set the tone of the university.

"I want to be a strong leader because that is what the students deserve," Benjamin said. "I want to portray an energetic tone."

Janisch said communication between the SGA president and the students is a must.

"I want to talk to people and see what's on their minds. The SGA president is there to communicate with the students," Janisch said. "He is not supposed to be in his office with no one knowing who he is."

Making students more aware of SGA services tops both of the candidates' list of goals. But they differ in their approach towards realizing this objective.

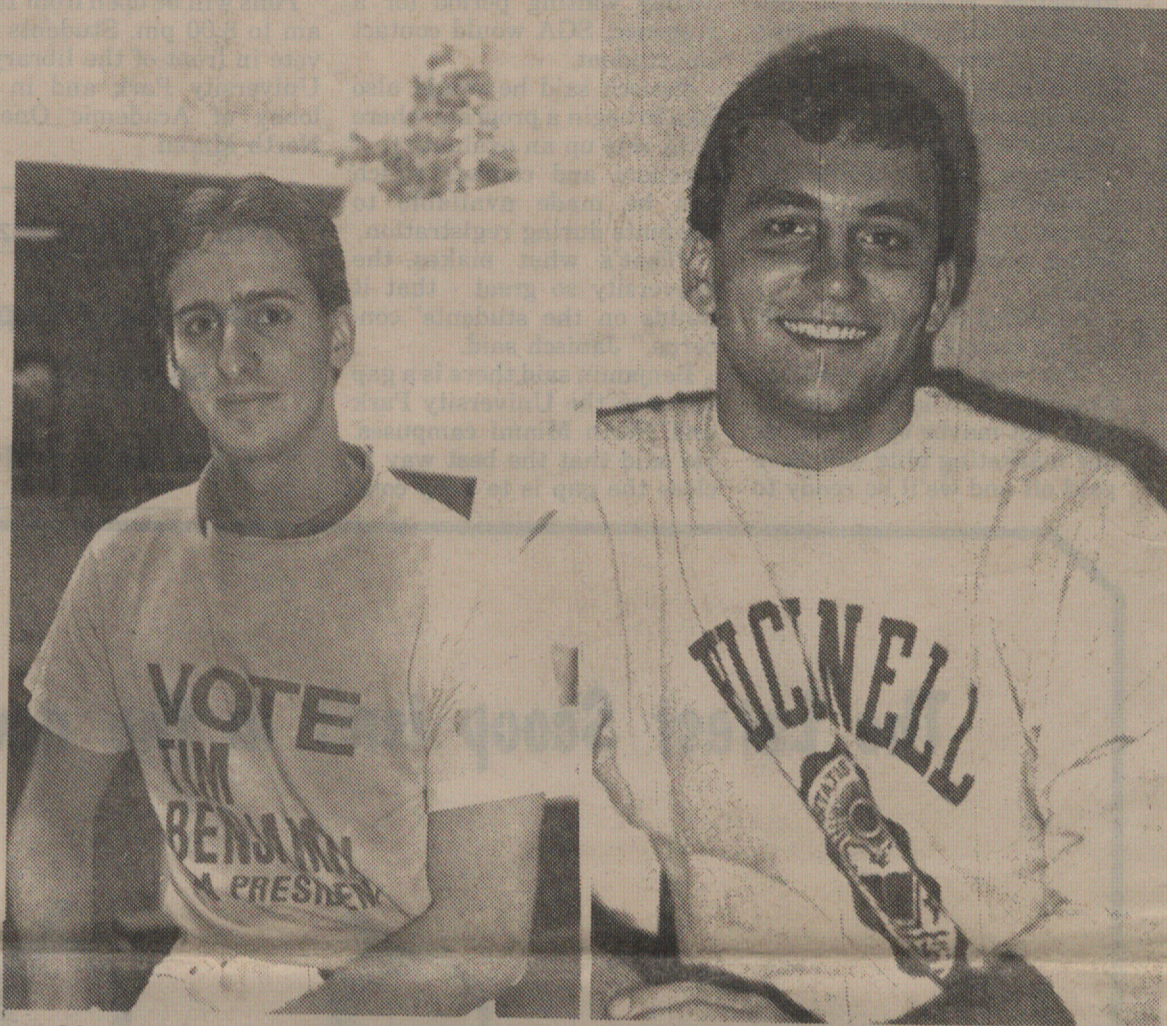
Benjamin, who has participated in student government for four years, said there is an apathy problem between students and student government. His resolution: showcase SGA.

"Marketing SGA is important," Benjamin said. "Students need to know what SGA has to offer."

Janisch, who is chairman of the Board of Governors at University Park, said that aside from having students know about SGA services, the way student fees are spent is a top priority.

His slogan: "Putting student fees to work for you."

-continued on page 2



■ SGA presidential candidates Tim Benjamin (left) and Frank Janisch (right)

Photo: Jose Lopez/FIU Sunblazer

STOP rally held to protest tuition hike

LOURDES RIVERA
Sunblazer Staff Writer

A student organization called Soaring Tuition Oppresses People (STOP) rallied at Florida International University last Thursday to protest the State's proposed tuition hike.

"We think it's unfair that the hikes are imposed on students year after year. It's about time students unite and protest," said Frank Janisch, organizer of the new group.

A 15 per cent tuition increase for the 1988-89 academic year is part of Governor Bob Martinez's budget proposal. If approved by the legislature, tuition for an in-state student taking 30 credits of upper division courses would jump from \$1,124 a year to \$1,293 a year. For an out-of-state student taking 30 credits of upper division courses, the jump would be from \$3,638 to \$4,184 a year.

More than 100 students gathered around the fountain area outside the UH building at the University Park Cam-

pus to support STOP members in protest. The area was decorated with red and gold balloons which were released at the end of the rally to signify the rising cost of getting a college education.

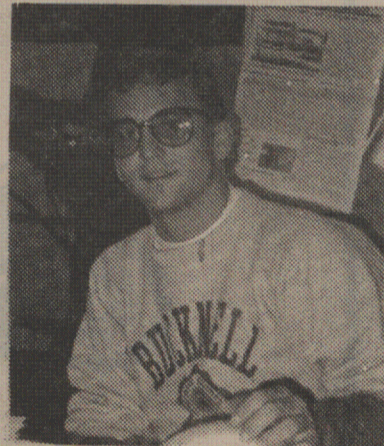
The group was organized two weeks before the rally and is currently composed of about 20 students. Janisch said the group hopes to have its voice heard in Tallahassee before the Legislature votes, sometime within the next five weeks.

Although he said he supports the protest, Albert Sanchez, a political science major at FIU, said he thinks the rally should have been better advertised.

"I don't think it was too well organized. More advertising would have turned out a bigger crowd," Sanchez said. "We need a larger force."

"I certainly understand their concern," said Richard Correnti, vice president of student affairs. "Whether or not it will have an impact is hard to say."

Don't forget to vote in the SGA elections today and tomorrow!



Endorsement

The Editorial Board of the Independent FIU Sunblazer has decided to officially endorse the candidacy of Frank Janisch for the office of President of the Student Government Association at Florida International University.

Janisch is aggressive and not afraid to complain when there's a problem. His ideas for new programs to make SGA more visible to students are in line with the Sunblazer's view that SGA is not doing enough to inform FIU students of important issues.

Janisch is fighting for an end to tuition hikes and wants to see that student fees are properly spent. FIU students stand to benefit from his attitude and his energy. Where the SGA presidency is concerned, Frank Janisch is the best man for the job.

Inside:

FIU students "speak out!" about the new ambiance of the Rathskeller. Turn to page 8



-SGA, from page 1

"Helping students out, always being available for the students - that's what SGA is all about," Janisch said.

Benjamin said that the job of SGA is to "enhance student life," and he feels that before any new programs are started, SGA should concentrate on improving existing programs such as the student book exchange.

In the SGA-sponsored book exchange, students can sell books to SGA, often for more than the book store will offer, and SGA resells the books at less expensive rates than the bookstore charges.

"Before we lay down the groundwork for more programs, we should solidify existing programs," Benjamin said.

He added that this attitude is only temporary.

"For now making students aware of SGA is most important, but maybe by December our marketing blitz will have paid off and we'll be ready to

start some new programs," Benjamin said.

Janisch sees new programs as the key to SGA awareness among students. He wants to implement a "student grievance system" where students can file complaints about administrators or professors and SGA would be in charge of mailing a copy of the complaint to the dean and to the vice president. After the 10-day waiting period for a response, SGA would contact the student.

Janisch said he would also like to begin a program where SGA sets up an evaluation of teachers and courses which can be made available to students during registration.

"That's what makes the university so great - that it builds on the students' concerns," Janisch said.

Benjamin said there is a gap between the University Park and North Miami campuses. He said that the best way to close the gap is to keep com-

munication open between campuses.

Janisch feels that North Miami students need to have a student advisor representing them in the SGA executive board, "to make sure their voices are heard."

"Students at the North Miami campus need someone to look out for their views," Janisch said. "I know this and I understand this."

Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Students can vote in front of the library at University Park and in the lobby of Academic One in North Miami.

The FIU Sunblazer

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National organization honors FIU professor

FIU News Release

Martin L. Tracey, Jr., professor of the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida International University, has been elected to the rank of Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Tracey is director of the FIU Biomedical Research Program.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is a Washington-based national association dedicated to advancing the cause of science and related technologies.

"We are very proud of FIU's level of excellence extended over a wide scope of disciplines and of this national recogni-

tion of one of our fine faculty members," said FIU President Mitch Maidique.

According to Alvin W. Trivelpiece, AAAS executive director, a fellow of the AAAS is defined as "a member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished."

The citation for Tracey's nomination read: "For research and teaching of the evolution of sex and sexual differentiation, recombination, genetic polymorphisms, and the genetics of speciation."

Before coming to FIU in 1977, Tracey was an assistant professor of biology at Brock University in Ontario and he directed genetic studies of marine organisms for agriculture and breeding programs at the University of California.

Tracey attended Providence College and Brown University, where he obtained his doctoral degree in biology.

"We are pleased but not surprised by this important recognition by his scientific colleagues," said James A. Mau, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at FIU.

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FIU professor to debate Contra leader Adolfo Calero

FIU News Release

"What should be the United States policy toward Nicaragua?" will be the subject of an April 16 debate by Mark Rosenberg, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) at Florida International University and Nicaraguan Resistance leader Adolfo Calero.

The debate, which will be followed by a question and answer period, will take place at Miami Coral Park Senior High School at 10:30 am as part of a two-day educational conference co-sponsored by the FIU Global Awareness Program, LACC, and Dade County Public Schools.

The conference, which will be held April 15 and 16, will culminate with students voting on the issue of U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. About 350 high school students are expected to participate.

The Calero-Rosenberg debate on April 16 will be preceded by a keynote address by Rep. Dante B. Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who will talk to the students on "The History of the Relationship Between the U.S. and Nicaragua."

The afternoon session will consist of small group discussions led by Ambassador Alvaro Taboada, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Soviet-East European Studies, University of Miami; Dario Moreno, professor, department of Political Science, Florida International University; and Chaplin Morrison, director, American Friends Service Committee. Students will consider different options for U.S. policy in Nicaragua, such as military assistance to the Contras, humanitarian aid only, or stopping all aid.

Final presentation and debate on the groups' proposal is scheduled for 1:45-2:30 pm. Results of the vote which follows will be included in "The Congressional Record," through Fascell's participation.

The Washington-based Close Up Foundation is one of the sponsors for the April 16 program.

"The Caribbean Basin: Its People and Cultures" will be the central theme of the April 15 session, which will be held at FIU's University Park Campus. Registration will begin at 7:30 am at UH 243. An audience of approximately 250 teachers is expected.

The different Caribbean cultures - African, British, Dutch, French and Spanish - will be discussed.

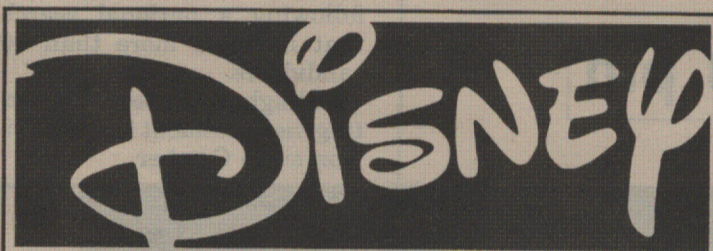
Participants in the morning session also include Anthony P. Maingot, professor, who will deliver the keynote address, Lisandro Perez, chairman of

the FIU Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Dorothy Fields, educational specialist for the Dade County Public Schools. Tanya Saunders-Hamilton, associate director of the Multilingual/Multicultural Center at FIU, will talk on "Women of the Caribbean."

The afternoon session will be devoted to the theme of "Teaching about Learning from Other Cultures" presented by Seymour Fersh, professor, Brevard Community College. Gail S. Wrubel from the FIU Global

Awareness Program will serve as facilitator for the elementary teachers' session while Toni Fuss Kirkwood from Dade County Public Schools will serve as coordinator of the secondary teachers' session. The conference will adjourn at 3:00 pm.

In next week's issue: a profile of the new SGA President



Audition

WALT DISNEY WORLD Co. is casting full-time Characters for a new show in the MAGIC KINGDOM. Auditions will be held:

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If you require further information, please call (305) 345-5724, Monday through Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

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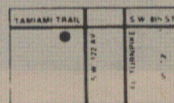
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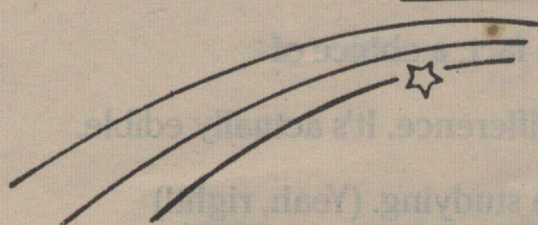
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15, 1988, in the Sunblazer office at
UH-315. The following positions
will be available:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Editor | Advertising Manager |
| News Editor | Business Manager |
| Features Editor | |
| Sports Editor | |
| Photo Editor | |

2:00 pm

The Sunblazer

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Gallagher appointed vice president of business & finance

FIU News Release

Paul Gallagher, an administrator at Florida International University since 1971, has been appointed vice president for business and finance following a national search that included more than 70 candidates.

Gallagher has served as acting vice president for the division since October.

President Mitch Maidique announced Gallagher's appointment, saying, "Paul has had an extremely positive impact on the university in every job he has performed - from assistant dean in the College of Education to acting provost and vice president. He will play a key role in the future of our university. Paul's appointment completes the top level restructuring and restaffing that has been one of my priorities."

Dr. Gallagher will have responsibility for the university budget, computing services, institutional research, personnel and employment, campus safety, purchasing, financial operations and auditing, and the physical plant. He will provide leadership in policy development and implementation in the areas of personnel and administrative affairs.

Gallagher will also serve as the liaison with the Florida Board of Regents for all administrative matters.

"The growth of this university is a national phenomenon, in terms of enrollment, academic excellence and community service," Gallagher said. "I've been a part of its development from the beginning and I am honored to be selected to serve FIU in a new capacity. Educational leaders across the region and the nation are watching FIU with great interest. We intend to see that these high expectations are realized."

During 1985-86, Gallagher was acting provost. Prior to that, he was acting vice president for academic affairs.

Gallagher came to FIU in 1971, the year before the university began operations at University Park. He was assistant dean of the School of Education and assistant professor of educational research. In 1974, he was promoted to associate dean and associate professor. He then served two years each in the positions of assistant vice president for academic affairs and director of the Florida Essential Academic Skills Project (which developed the concept for the CLAST, the College Level Academic Skills Test). From 1982-1985 he was associate vice president for academic affairs.

Gallagher earned his master's degree in 1968 and his doctorate degree in 1970, both in educational research. He is a graduate of Florida State University. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Pennsylvania State University in 1966.



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"i" on campus: get rid of speed zones!

FLORA SCHULE
Sunblazer Staff Writer

School speed zones are the dumbest idea since New Coke. Cars must slow down to a speed less than the rate at which ketchup pours, for hours at a time, under the pretense of saving the kiddies. This is nonsense.

First of all, the hours are much too long. At 4:00 pm our cars crawl past school building which seem as if they have not been inhabited for centuries. The only people in danger of being hit at that time are the old crossing guards with their "Stop" sign flags stuck in the path of our on-coming vehicles.

Even if the hours were shorter, the speed zones are not only useless, they are downright harmful. Drivers are being trained to look for tiny bodies only in certain areas. And the kids are taught that traffic slows for them. So a child used to 15-mph traffic runs out into the street on his way home (he no longer has to look "left, right, left" since cars remain in his visual field in front of the school for upwards of half an hour) and the unsuspecting driver mows him down. The result is road pizza. Size small.

Granted, the zones make loading and unloading of cars in front of schools safer, but what about weekends? Or when children play around home after school? Parents have the added duty of teaching them that they are only protected while at school and that in the real world (which is what school is supposed to prepare them for, right?) cars do not normally travel so slowly.

At slower speeds, too, drivers seem more careless. Certain people late for work who are forced to slow down take advantage of the extra time. After all, if you can't put on the make-up at home, there are three school zones between you and the office: one for the lipstick, one for the blush, and one for the eyeshadow and hairbrush. I spoke to a cop recently who swore he saw a woman putting on mascara while driving slowly.

Men, too, are able to tie ties, eat their breakfast, read over notes, and accomplish any number of other things in the slow-down spots of the tedious daily drive. Most of the time there are no kids around, so drivers do not feel guilty using the extra minutes. But a child can be injured at 15 mph, especially one popping out from between parked cars. Well, you say, better at 15 mph than 55, right? Wrong. Kids are likely to assume the drivers are looking at them and that drivers have plenty of time to stop. With the pressure on drivers to ensure the safety of kids instead of on the parents to teach their children

to be cautious, the roads are actually becoming more unsafe.

And let's talk about speed zones in front of high schools. C'mon, these "kids" are old enough to take care of themselves. They are old enough to go out for lunch (a time when cars are zooming by) and many of them drive their own cars. There is no possible justification for speed zones in front of high schools, except maybe insuring that the teenagers' Camaros and Trans-Ams won't be scratched right in front of the school.

Junior High is different, since those people are still juiced up with the adrenalin of puberty; they're more likely to show off and take risks. But speed zones give them added opportunities to play "chicken." There is a junior

high near my home. They know we have to slow down for them and they take advantage of it. They sassily run in front of my car ON PURPOSE to make me brake hard. They know I now have time to stop. Another favorite game besides "race in front of the slow-moving cars" is "walk next to the car and talk dirty to the driver." You cannot escape by speeding up, and they have no problem keeping up with the pace. I sometimes fantasize about following them to a point just outside the speed zone (but only I know it is outside) and one of them darts in front of my car as I floor it. Unfortunately, he does not learn from his experience, but his friends sure do.

And who is footing the bill for all this harmful stupidity?

The taxpayers, of course. At first, it was just the expense of signs and workmen to put them up on the side of the road. Then came painted roadways, signs strung up across the road, flashing lights, and crossing guards. In addition to the costs of the actual materials and the manpower hours for installation, precious police hours are wasted as patrol cars sit one or two per school just waiting for a maniac driving at 25 mph.

I do not have children. But when I do, I plan to instill in them the dangers of moving traffic. I won't rely on other drivers for their safety, and they sure won't wear walkmans on their way to school as I've seen kids doing. Hopefully, the law will be repealed by then as statistics

show an increase in road accidents involving children, and policemen testify to the insanity of the practice. Either that or the brilliant minds in government may decide to make 15 mph mandatory everywhere at all times. A chopper seems like a good investment.

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Get to know the Sunblazer

What do you expect from your campus newspaper? Have you considered how much more you could get out of it by putting something into it?

The purpose of the Sunblazer is to inform the students, faculty, staff and interested members of the community of events and other news concerning Florida International University. In addition, its mission is to provide students with educational opportunities in journalism. But unlike many other college newspapers, the Sunblazer is not operated by the university. It is published by FIU Independent Student Newspaper, Inc., a non-profit corporation, and it is governed by a seven-member student editorial board. The company was organized specifically to produce a newspaper to serve the needs of the FIU community without interference from the university. Although FIU supports the concept of an independent student newspaper, the university does not contribute financially to the Sunblazer; it is financed solely by advertising revenues.

A lot goes into producing any newspaper, even a weekly such as the Sunblazer. Writing, editing and photography are only the obvious work involved. Behind the scenes, there are weekly planning meetings to decide which stories to cover, background research, advertising sales, proofreading, typesetting and much more. A great deal of time, effort and dedication is necessary to create even eight pages each week.

It is the nature of student publications that there is a high turnover in staff, and the Sunblazer recognizes that by electing certain members of the editorial board on a yearly basis to provide continuity. Other board members are elected each semester to allow as many students as possible the opportunity to learn and to contribute.

Next Friday, April 15, at 2:00 pm, the Sunblazer will hold elections for its Editorial Board. The editor, advertising manager and business manager will be elected to serve for one year. The news editor, features editor, photo editor and sports editor will be

elected for the Fall semester. The commitment required to serve in any of these jobs is simple but great: a sincere resolve to do what needs to be done to see that a thought-provoking, informative, objective and economic newspaper is published, on time, each week of the school session. The hours can be long, the pay is low, the rewards for someone seeking to learn and contribute to his school and its future are limitless.

If you don't have the time or experience to give as a member of the board, staff writers and photographers and sales representatives also are needed. You don't have to be a communications major to work for the Sunblazer; you just have to have a commitment and a willingness to learn.

Call the Sunblazer at 554-2315 or drop by the office at UH 315, University Park Campus, to discuss how you can contribute to your campus newspaper and to your own growth and professional development.

The Independent FIU Sunblazer

Florida International University

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Letters to the Editor

FIU bat girl responds to "false assumptions" about the program

To the Editor:

The articles written about the bat girls by Matthew Penzer and Tere Lantigua were both loaded with false assumptions regarding the baseball team as well as the bat girl program.

Initially, Penzer's article did not cause alarm. Penzer's word choice could use some work, but I don't think his intentions were to insult anyone.

Lantigua's letter to the Editor, however, left much to be desired. She was so far off on her tangent (equal rights for women) that she forgot to find out who her subjects are and what they do. She obviously had no idea who she was dealing with.

Lantigua claims that "the idea of bat girls for a baseball team perpetuates the perception of women as submissive to men." She goes on to say that the baseball team's "caveman mentality" portrays women as secondary citizens, and she questions the ability of the players to pick up after themselves.

The idea of the bat girl program for the baseball team is only one of the many ways in which we as students can promote our athletic department as well as school spirit (which, incidentally, we have very little of. Been to a ball game recently, Lantigua?)

Perhaps if Penzer and Lantigua would put their pens down, close their mouths and open their eyes and ears, they would realize that the FIU bat girls are a group of vivacious young women with leadership qualities and positions throughout the campus. We are on the baseball diamond because we want to be and because we enjoy it, not because we are expected to be there.

Just for the record: many players on the baseball team do pick up after themselves. But the real issue isn't who does what in the dugout. If Lantigua has a problem with Penzer's article, then she should discuss it with Penzer rather than go on a rampage like a chicken with her head cut off. Lantigua did not get her in-

formation from the bat girls or from the baseball team.

The FIU bat girls would appreciate it if these two writers settled their arguments elsewhere.

Betty Nunez
FIU bat girl

Letters policy:

Letters to the Editor must be signed and dated. Drop your comments off at the Sunblazer office in UH 315.

The Sunblazer reserves the right to edit letters for content and style. Written opinions are encouraged.



Rey Quintana, Sunblazer Editor

There is no KFIU!

To the Editor:

Please check your sources - there is no such thing as "KFIU" call letters. The correct call letters for the radio station still have not been chosen. We (at the station) refer to it as "the radio station at FIU." So please, to avoid further confusion, do the same.

Yes, we will be going FM and reaching all those eager ears awaiting new and progressive music. But I am still taking applications for those colorful and progressively educated personalities to host shows like "Music from Down Under" and our "International Music Show."

Please direct all inquiries to the FIU Radio Station in UH 212-C or call 554-3575.

Lauren Gangl
Program Director,
FIU Radio Station

Watch out, UM!

To the Editor:

We may have lost the game, but we're winning the war. I'm proud to be an FIU student and I'm sick and tired of being undeservedly overshadowed by the University of Miami. Experiencing the overflow of enthusiasm at the ball game April 6th overwhelmed me and assured me that it won't be long before we dig their grave and bury them under once and for all. It's funny how the University of Miami claims FIU is an overglorified high school. Gee?! Hey, UM! Get your fanny off the toilet seat and face the facts. This time you've dodged a bullet; better yet, a machine gun in rapid fire. Pretty damn lucky, I guess. But next time, you're DEAD! The Golden Panthers are number one - keep up the spirit!

Ralph E. del Rio
SGA Senator

Catholic Campus Ministries: understanding through faith

REY QUINTANA
Sunblazer Editor

Students of the Catholic faith who wish to learn more about their religion make up the group known as Florida International University's Catholic Campus Ministries.

"We seek understanding through faith," says Father John Mericantante, Associate Pastor at St. Agatha's Catholic Church and Associate Director of the FIU group. "Religion and education have been together since the dawn of time. It's a perfect marriage."

Mericantante has been with the group since coming to St. Agatha's last December. He and the nine students currently involved with Catholic Campus Ministries meet on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Rectory of St. Agatha's, across the street from FIU's University Park Campus. The group is small in size, but Mericantante doesn't see that as a liability. "We're not worried about large numbers," he said. "It's better to gather a small set of dedicated kids than it is to have a larger group where nobody knows each other."

The organization sponsors several activities on a weekly basis. Mericantante spends Monday afternoons in the school cafeteria talking to students, staff, and professors. On Tuesdays, a mid-day mass or prayer meeting is held in DM 164 at 12:15 pm. Wednes-

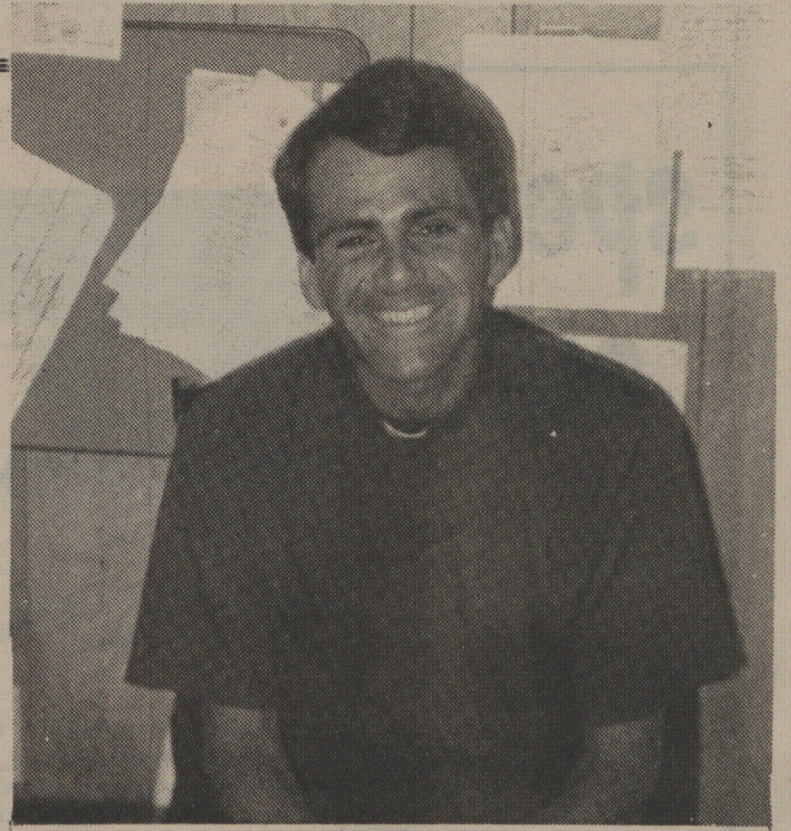
day evenings are set aside for an AIDS counselor training seminar conducted by the Reverend Roger Miller from Jackson Memorial Hospital. The 16-week course is offered at the St. Agatha School and it is free of charge. The Catholic Campus Ministries meeting follows on Friday evenings at 7:30, and the week is ended with the FIU Mass at St. Agatha's on Sunday at 8:00 pm. The mass is followed by a presentation from an FIU student or staff member dealing with issues of importance to today's society. "We discuss topics like women in the priesthood, sex, and alcohol and drug abuse," said Mericantante. "It's a great way to end a busy week."

The Catholic Campus Ministries also sponsors other projects in addition to its weekly calendar of events. This coming Friday, April 22nd, the group will be attending a concert at St. Mary's Cathedral in northwest Miami. And a Summer Retreat is being planned for the weekend of August 26th. The retreat will be open to individuals of all faiths, and Mericantante hopes to attract students returning to school in the Fall '88 semester. "We hope to encourage people to explore their beliefs, whatever they are," he said.

Plans for the future include working with the performing arts departments at FIU to produce special performances with religious themes during holidays such as Easter and

Lent. "I would love to be able to incorporate some liturgical dancing or other similar art forms into our FIU Mass," said Mericantante. "And the presentation of religious plays and concerts during special holidays would promote both the university and the church."

Anyone wishing information about the Catholic Campus Ministries can contact Father John Mericantante at the St. Agatha Rectory. The number is 223-5982.



■ Father John Mericantante heads Catholic Campus Ministries

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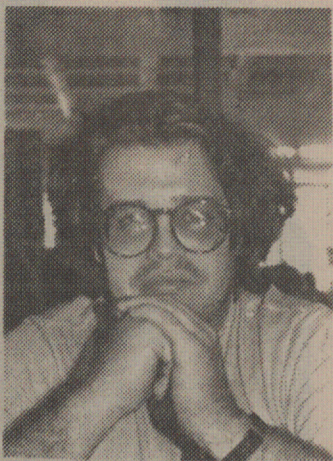
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Speak out!

JOSE LOPEZ
Sunblazer Staff Writer

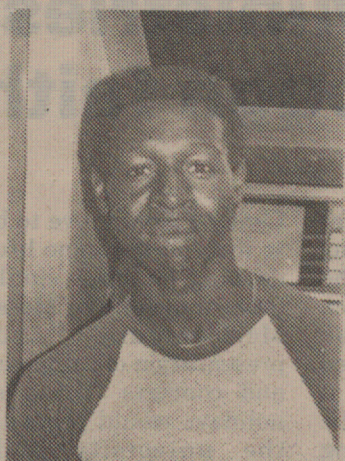
This week's question:

"What do you think about the new atmosphere of the FIU Rathskeller?"



"It's bad enough that the students have no place to go. Now we have to put up with bad flute music and agonizing food. Why should the Rat become the 'Teacher's Lounge?'"

-Charles Michaels
Electrical Engineering major



"I've been going to the Rat for four years now and it has definitely changed. What is this about being 21 to get in? Everyone should have a place to party. And the music!..."

-Patrick Williams
Spanish major



"It sucks! The school and its services are here for the students. The students are not here for them. This is a university, not a nightclub for professors who have nothing else to do with their spare time but haunt us in the Rat."

-Harvey Hyman
Finance major



"The Rat was a very homey place. Now I walk in and I feel like an outsider. The rat belongs to us. It should have been kept that way!!"

-Marcia Monserrat
Elementary Education major



"The Rat is definitely in need of changes. It has gone from 'is' to 'was' in regard to being the place to be on Thursday nights. It has gone from being the college bar to an overpopulated bar & grill. It's time that the future of the Rat be placed back in the hands of the only people that count-the students."

-George E. Alvarez
International Relations major

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