

The ^{Independent} Sunblazer

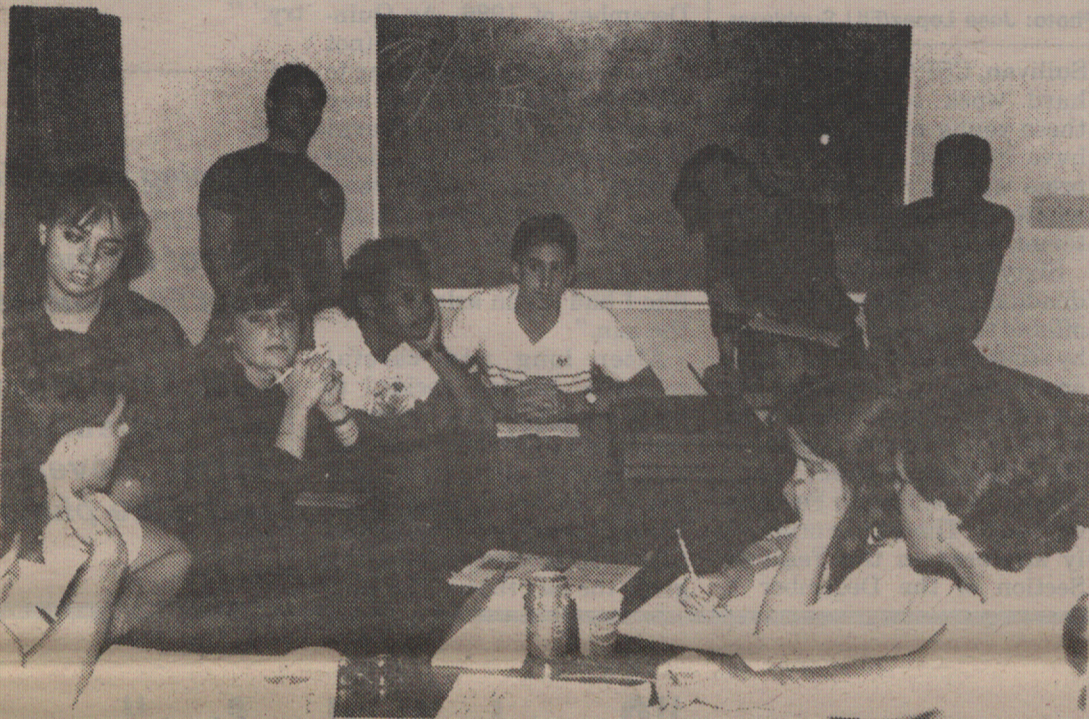
Florida International University

Tuesday, April 19, 1988

Volume 5, Number 25

Benjamin fined for campaign violations

LOURDES RIVERA
ANASTASIA GARCIA
Sunblazer Staff Writers



■ SGA Elections Commission holds hearing to discuss illegal insertion of flyers into the newspaper

Photo: Jose Lopez/FIU Sunblazer

campaign staff confessed to inserting flyers into the Sunblazer.

Tere Lantigua, an English major at FIU and a campaigner for Benjamin, acknowledged at the hearing that she inserted the flyers into the independent newspaper.

"I made the flyers, distributed them and inserted them (into the newspaper) myself," Lantigua said. Benjamin supporters Elaine Donnell and Marcia Monserrat said that they had helped Lantigua distribute the flyers. Monserrat later confessed to having stuffed at least twelve copies of the newspaper with the flyer.

The flyers appeared in the newspaper the morning of Wednesday, April 13, which was the second day of the run-off election. Benjamin won the election with 705 votes to Janisch's 684 votes.

The flyers attacked the ethics of the Sunblazer's editorial board for endorsing Janisch because two members of the board were allegedly on Janisch's campaign staff. The

-continued on page 3

Florida International University's newly-elected Student Government Association President, Tim Benjamin, is being held responsible for campaign violations executed by his staff, the SGA Elections Committee announced in a unanimous opinion Monday.

Rey Quintana, Sunblazer editor, had filed a complaint with SGA after unauthorized flyers, which he believed were connected to Benjamin's campaign, were found in copies of the April 12 Sunblazer. The flyers attacked the independent newspaper's endorsement of Frank Janisch for SGA president in the run-off election.

Following a hearing on Friday, Benjamin was fined four points for "posting (campaign materials) on light poles, street signs or non-university property," according to the SGA elections guidelines (ten points would have disqualified him as president). A member of his

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Women's basketball ends up with winning season- page 10



Sports are back!-see page 10

Complaint dismissed

The Elections Committee dismissed a complaint filed against FIU's independent student newspaper, the Sunblazer, because SGA has no jurisdiction over the newspaper, the committee decided Friday.

"We dismissed [the complaint] on the grounds that it was stupid," said Alex Fernandez, chairman of the committee. "We have no jurisdiction over the Sunblazer."

Tere Lantigua had filed a complaint with SGA requesting that the Sunblazer retract its endorsement of SGA presidential candidate Frank Janisch.

Lantigua, who supports Janisch's opponent, Tim Ben-

jamin, said the endorsement is "a major violation of journalistic ethics" because two of three editorial board members were "actively campaigning" for Janisch's candidacy.

"You need to be objective about who you are endorsing," Lantigua said.

"By definition, an endorsement is biased," Fernandez said.

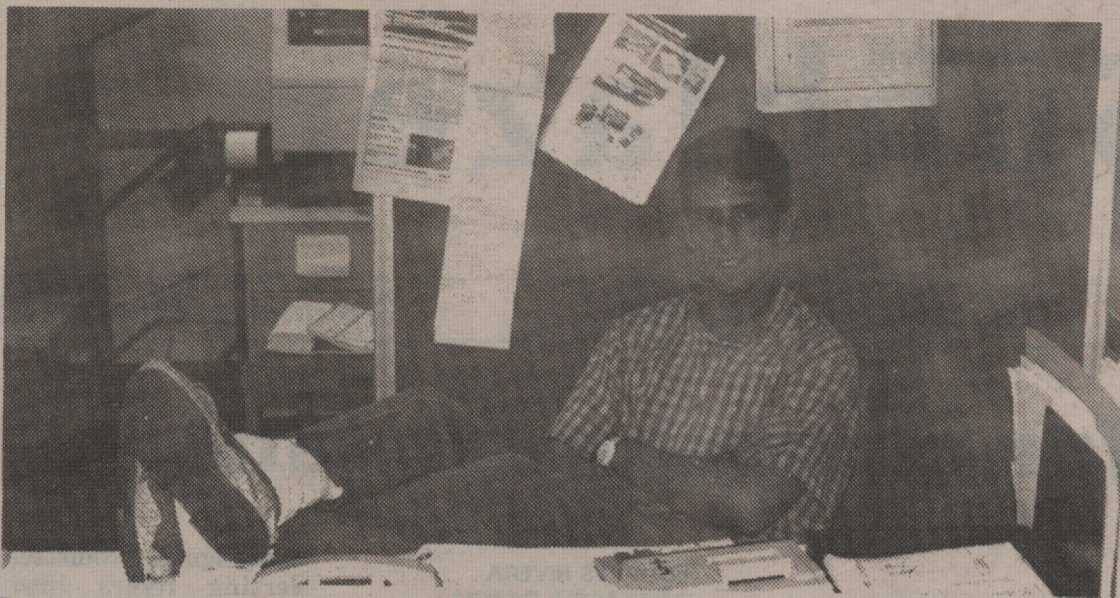
The endorsement was published in the Sunblazer's April 12 issue and will not be retracted, said Rey Quintana, editor of the Sunblazer.

Janisch lost the election by 21 votes. Tim Benjamin was elected SGA President with 705 votes.

-Lourdes Rivera

The complete text of the Elections Commission Rulings is found in a special news section on page 6.

Sunblazer Editor wins journalism prize



■ Rey Quintana, Sunblazer Editor

Photo: Jose Lopez/FIU Sunblazer

JOSE LOPEZ
Sunblazer Staff Writer

An in-depth report detailing one student's battle against AIDS has earned a prestigious Gold Circle Award for Sunblazer Editor Rey Quintana.

"This award is a great honor for me," said Quintana. "But more importantly, it also means national recognition for our school newspaper. I'm very proud to have been chosen."

The Gold Circle Awards program is the largest awards

competition for individual achievement for student writers, editors, designers and photographers. It is sponsored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) at Columbia University in New York. This year's competition attracted 13,578 entries from colleges, universities, and senior high schools throughout the United States.

"Beyond the considerable numbers involved, the Gold Circle program represents a commitment by our Association to encourage and recognize student efforts in journalism," said Edmund J.

Sullivan, CSPA Director. "The hard work and dedication these young men and women have invested in the student press will serve them well in whatever endeavors they attempt in the future."

Sixty-four categories for individual and team entries were offered to recognize excellence by student journalists working on newspapers, magazines and yearbooks. Quintana's article, titled "FIU Student Fights For His Life Against AIDS," was a winner in the Health Features Category. The article originally appeared in the Features Section of the December 1,

1987 issue of Florida International University's Independent Sunblazer newspaper.

Award lists were distributed at the CSPA's two March conventions - the 64th annual Convention for Junior and Senior High Schools (March 16-18) and the 10th annual College Press Convention (March 16-19), both in New York. Quintana did not attend the College Press convention and received his certificate in the mail.

The subject of Quintana's report is an FIU student who was diagnosed with AIDS in December of 1986. As Quintana found out, "Johnny" (not his real name) is attempting to fight the disease without any medication after several prescriptions he was given caused severe allergic reactions. "I turned bright red, and I itched all over," Johnny is quoted as saying. "I looked like I had fallen asleep under the sun."

After long and careful research, Johnny decided to try a rehabilitation program consisting of aerobic exercise, a balanced diet, rest and prayer. "He's still doing it, and it's still working," Quintana said. "His recovery is amazing given the fact that at the time

of his diagnosis doctors gave him less than six months to live."

Quintana is planning a follow-up article on Johnny and his progress for publication in the Fall '88 semester. He feels it is important to document Johnny's story so that others may benefit from his findings. "My article was a tribute to a young man's incredible courage," Quintana said. "I hope that it can help and inspire other people to fight against diseases like AIDS. As Johnny himself put it, 'It certainly can't hurt to try.'"

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-Flyers, from page 1

editorial board consists of five members, four of whom were present and voted to endorse Janisch.

Quintana said Janisch's endorsement is valid because if only three of the five editorial board members had voted, the vote still would have been unanimous.

When asked his reaction to the flyers, Janisch replied, "They (Benjamin's supporters) thought the endorsement was unfair and a direct attack against Tim, but it wasn't." He plans no action against Benjamin's campaign.

Quintana also said the Sunblazer considers inserts paid advertising and the flyers were not paid for.

"They took the advertising space without buying it, so whoever put the flyers into the newspaper was stealing," he said.

Chairman Alex Fernandez said the Elections Committee decided to add the minimum advertising charge of \$210 to Benjamin's campaign expense account, making the total \$336. Campaign accounts are limited to \$480.

Benjamin stated that he was not aware that the flyers were being printed or inserted into the Sunblazer. He said his term, which begins in August, would not be affected by the outcome of the hearing because the election is a separate issue.

"The students have spoken," Benjamin said. "It (the insertion of the flyers) wasn't done for the betterment of the Tim Benjamin campaign. The flyer didn't say 'Vote for Tim Benjamin' or 'Vote for Frank Janisch.'

"I didn't insert them," Benjamin said, asserting that he should not be held responsible. However, Fernandez said the committee is recommending that Benjamin pay the Sunblazer for the advertising space.

Lantigua said in an interview following the hearing that she made the flyers because she believed the endorsement was unfair and students should be aware of the bias.

"It's not fair for someone who decides on the endorsement to campaign for [Janisch]-that's basic journalistic ethics," Lantigua said. "What you're making a decision about, you don't get politically involved in."

Lantigua said she created the flyers with the intention of distributing them to students, not inserting them into the Sunblazer. "Inserting them was an afterthought."

"I should have paid for the advertising, but at the time, I didn't even think of that," Lantigua said.

Benjamin said Lantigua acted "emotionally" because the endorsement had been handled "unethically."

"It was a judgement call," Benjamin said. "I think she felt she was doing the right thing."

The Elections Committee decided a candidate is responsible for the actions of those campaigning for him. Said Fernandez, Benjamin is "responsible because it is his campaign."

"Not at all," said Benjamin. "I should not be held responsible at all. I didn't insert the flyers."

When asked if he had known about the flyers' existence, Benjamin said, "No. I had no idea."

However, Connie Cano, one of the members of the Sunblazer's editorial board and a supporter of Janisch, said Benjamin knew about the flyers.

"I saw him passing out the flyers himself," she said.

Cano said she does not see serving on the Sunblazer's editorial board and campaigning for Janisch as a conflict of interest.

"Any endorsement is biased," Cano said.

Guy Shir, the other member of the Sunblazer's editorial board who campaigned for Janisch, said his decision to support Janisch had nothing to

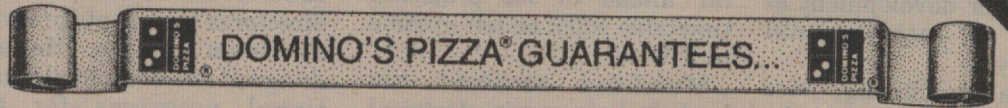
do with the Sunblazer. "My decision to support Frank was a result of the meetings the senators had with both candidates," Shir said.

Because of his recent election to the SGA Senate, Shir will resign his editorial board position effective with the Summer term, as required by the Sunblazer's bylaws.



■ Tim Benjamin: "I had no idea"

Photo: Jose Lopez/FIU Sunblazer



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Scott Muirhead appointed to assistant vice presidency at FIU

FIU News Release

Scott Muirhead, director of corporate and foundations programs at Syracuse University, has been named assistant vice president for development at Florida International University.

Dr. Walter Strong, vice president for university relations and development, announced that Muirhead has joined his division. The new assistant vice president will coordinate all fundraising activities.

"Dr. Muirhead is very well prepared to provide leadership for our development and fundraising initiatives, including the Cornerstone Campaign," said Strong.

FIU President Mitch Maidique said, "Scott Muirhead has a broad range of administrative and teaching experience at four distinguished private institutions. He has been particularly effective in working with deans and faculty to attract private support for innovative, interdisciplinary academic programs. His experience parallels our own efforts to enlist new sources and

increase existing private sector support for the university's outstanding academic and research programs."

While at Syracuse, Muirhead played a key role in a \$100 million capital and endowment campaign which was far ahead of its projected timetable when he left to come to FIU.

Muirhead received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Union College in New York. He earned his master's degree in experimental psychology and a doctorate in social psychology at Northwestern University.

"It is an exciting time to be at FIU," Muirhead said. "The University is emerging as a regional and national leader in many important fields, including business administration, accounting, engineering, hospitality management, biological sciences and communications, among others.

"I sense that the community is very receptive to supporting its local public university and that FIU offers many quality programs which impact important community needs," he added. "I look forward to working with the University's alumni and friends and with

area business leaders to help FIU become an even more vital resource and a significant partner in the economic development of this region and the state."

Muirhead had been at Syracuse University since 1983. Prior to that, he was director of the grants program at Union College. He also designed and evaluated educational programs for the Chicago public school system and taught at Northwestern University, Union College and Oberlin College.

Dates of summer publication for the Independent FIU Sunblazer: Tuesday, May 10 and Tuesday, July 5, 1988.

New assistant director of communications

FIU News Release

Todd Ellenberg has been appointed associate director for the newly-created Office of University Communications at Florida International University.

University Communications replaces the former Publications Department and will produce primary university external publications.

Before joining FIU, Ellenberg was director of public relations for CreatiVision, a Miami-based creative communications agency, and operated his own public relations firm, Tropic Communications.

"We feel very fortunate to have Todd Ellenberg join our staff, not only because of his expertise in the field of public relations, but because of his wide experience working with different sectors of the Greater Miami community," said Walter L. Strong, FIU Vice President of University Relations and Development.

Originally from the New York metropolitan area, Ellenberg has worked as publications editor for the

University of Miami Office of Public Affairs. He has also been associated with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Prior to moving to Miami in 1982, Ellenberg was a reporter for several newspapers in the New York area. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton.

"For years FIU has been one of the most valuable educational and cultural resources in the Greater Miami community, and it is now evolving into a public university of national distinction," Ellenberg said. "It's really an exciting opportunity to join this university at such a dynamic time in its development."

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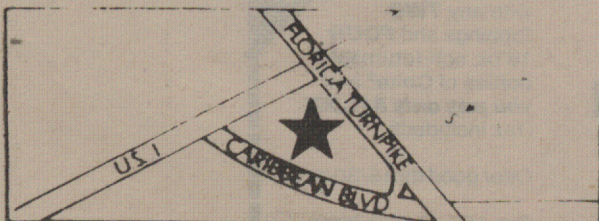
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Speak out!

JOSE LOPEZ
Sunblazer Staff Writer

This week's question:

"What do you feel is the biggest problem at FIU right now, and what can be done to solve it?"



"It seems that the faculty and administrative staff really can not be bothered with students. Anytime you have a question they really get put off. I know that there are a lot of students and problems, but being courteous to other people won't hurt."

-Pam Meditz
Marketing major



"The biggest problem at FIU right now is the school cafeteria. The food served there is not good and rather expensive. There should be a greater variety of foods. It seems to me the menu they offer is the same from week to week."

-Silvia Alvarez
Medical Technology major



"I would like to have faster and more organized service during registration. I also would like to see more classes being offered in the Spring and Summer terms. The choices are much too limited. I also would like to have better food in the cafeteria."

-Janina Marcenaro
Biochemistry major



"Definitely the library. We don't have a place to study because it's so crowded. We need more tables."

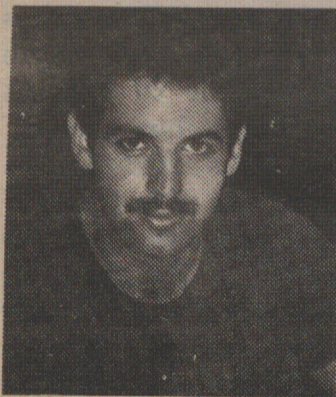
-Gina Diaz
Accounting major

Have a terrific summer!



"The cafeteria is a main problem. Students spend most of the day at the University and there is not a good place to eat. The food in the cafeteria is terrible and the prices are unreasonable for the kind of food you get."

-Silvia Diaz
Marketing major



"I believe that the biggest problem FIU has right now is that it has little or no national reputation; or for that matter a statewide reputation. No one I have spoken to outside of South Florida has ever heard of FIU. The usual response is 'F-I-what?!'"

-Walter Krewer
Marketing/Management major

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Subversion and doubt

Commentary

Ann Boyd, Sunblazer Advisor

There were two disturbing aspects of the incident reported in this edition's lead story. Both relate to unfortunate attitudes toward two important institutions: the press and government.

The attack on the press wasn't surprising; many people resent the power that the media wield in this country today. But it was unusual in its technique and rationalization. The student who has admitted inserting flyers into the Sunblazer said that it never occurred to her to ask the newspaper's editor if she could do so. It is beyond reason that she could have believed that the newspaper would have condoned the insertion of this anonymous and inaccurate assault.

No, this was an obvious attempt to affect the outcome of the election through dirty tricks. And therein lies the second insult to the student body. Was your vote influenc-

ed by the flyer? Did you think Tim Benjamin knew about the flyer and did you vote against him for such underhanded actions? Did you vote for him because you believed the flyer and did you thus cheat Frank Janisch of victory? Or did you get disgusted and not vote at all? We will never know the truth, and that will harm Student Government.

It would be easy for me to close ranks with the Sunblazer staff and deny any wrongdoing on their part. As advisor to the newspaper, I cannot do that. My job is to help them learn accepted journalistic practice. So I must say that I feel that the endorsement was ill-conceived. I counceled against it at the time. I did not think that it was carefully thought out and reasoned. The fact that two of the four editorial board members present were active supporters of Frank Janisch seemed to me to be a violation of journalistic ethics, although it did not violate the Sunblazer's corporate bylaws.

To prevent any future pro-

blems, the Sunblazer will be creating and adopting a code of ethics that will address, among other things, a policy on political endorsements. We need this written policy to assure that never again is there a perception on the part of the students that the newspaper has been biased.

There was one bright spot in this controversy: the SGA Elections Committee, especially Chairman Alex Fernandez, responded in a responsible, fair manner. It addressed the complaints quickly and professionally. Fernandez maintained decorum despite the emotional proceedings, even politely putting me in my place at one point. Now that the board has rendered its decision, I can commend him for his professional manner and understanding of the seriousness of the matters at hand.

The FIU Sunblazer

554-2315

The Independent FIU Sunblazer

Florida International University

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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.

Special News Section

The FIU Sunblazer

Tuesday, April 19, 1988

The following is the text of the rulings handed down by the SGA Elections Commission in reference to the complaints filed against the Tim Benjamin Campaign by the Independent Sunblazer and against the Independent Sunblazer by Teresa Lantigua.

Ruling Number 1:

Case: Sunblazer v. Benjamin Campaign

Opinion: Alexander Fernandez, Commissioner, Board Concurring.

Vote: Unanimous

Upon careful considerations of the facts, the Commission has decided that the flyer in question (exhibit A) is indeed a campaign material that was used by the Tim Benjamin campaign committee. The reasons are as follow:

1. Lantigua admitted to drafting the flyer and copying it with the intent of affecting the elections.

2. Lantigua, by admission, is a member of the Benjamin campaign committee. She has additionally stated that on occasion, she has discussed

campaign strategy directly with Benjamin.

3. Since we were in a run-off situation, with only two candidates involved, the Commission found it "de facto" that a flyer that discredits one party automatically endorses the other.

Since the flyer in question was found to be a campaign material, the Commission ascertained that it had the right to hear the case in question.

The Commission ruled the following:

1. Tim Benjamin is responsible for his own actions as well as those of his staff/committee members.

2. Since according to SGA statute 223.04 campaign material cannot be posted on "light poles, street signs or property not belonging to FIU," the Commission holds that these flyers were illegally placed in the Sunblazer receptacles.

The receptacles are not FIU property. As such, 4 points have been assessed to Tim Benjamin in accordance with the SGA point system on page 7 of the

Elections Booklet.

3. If the Benjamin campaign had actually paid for the stuffing of the newspapers, the minimum cost incurred would have been \$210. This amount has been tagged to his expense account. Although the Commission realizes that it cannot force Mr. Benjamin to pay the Sunblazer the disputed amount, it strongly encourages Mr. Benjamin to do so. The Commission feels that it is the appropriate thing to do under the circumstances.

4. Last, by way of REPRIMAND, the Committee finds it inexcusable that Mr. Benjamin could not exercise sufficient control over his staff/committee to prevent this occurrence. A candidate that seeks the office of president should be able to exercise sufficient authority to stop incidents such as these. Ignorance of the fact only contributes to the problem and should not be taken as adequate defense. A candidate must be aware, not only

of his own actions, but of those taken by his agents on his behalf. Asking anything less would undermine the effective enforcement of established rules and regulations.

Ruling Number 3:

Case: Teresa Lantigua v. Sunblazer

Opinion: Alexander Fernandez, Commissioner, Board Concurring.

Vote: Unanimous

In the case of Teresa Lantigua v. the Sunblazer, the Elections Commission decided not to hear the complaint for a variety of reasons. The Commission used its discretionary power granted under SGA statute 222.30 which states: "Upon receipt of a complaint, the Elections Board shall make a determination as to whether a hearing is necessary. This determination shall be based upon whether there has been shown to exist probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred." The reasons for denial are as follows:

1. Since the Sunblazer is published by the FIU In-

dependent Student Newspaper Inc., a non-profit organization established under the Florida Statutes Chapter 617, the Florida International University Student Government Association (or any agent thereof) has no right to order the publication to retract anything it has printed.

2. Miss Lantigua's claim that the endorsement presents a bias, is redundant. The Commission holds that by its very nature and/or definition an endorsement is a biased statement. As such, it is classified as opinion.

3. Last, an alleged violation of "Journalistic Ethics" is one that cannot be addressed by the Commission. It is not our place or position to dictate morals or ideals. We serve merely to uphold SGA statutes and regulations that directly relate to the elections process.

Released by the SGA Elections Commission on Monday, April 18, 1988

Profile: Harry Hunter leads I.V. Fellowship

TERRY PENARANDA
Sunblazer Staff Writer

His knowledge and personality make up for what his body cannot do.

"His mind is so quick and sharp. You forget about his problem when you listen to him," said Martin Pearman, a senior at Florida International University.

Harry Hunter has been confined to a wheelchair since he was 10. Today, at 32, Hunter will be president of Interservice Christian Fellowship, an interdenominational religious group at FIU, beginning this summer.

Hunter was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, a disease which prevents the normal growth of bones, and causes them to become brittle and fragile.

At 3'6", Hunter brings people down to his level as he sits in his wheelchair and talks about many things, including God and his fascination - history.

He is doing a double major at FIU: history and social studies education. "I would like to teach someday," said Hunter.

His love for history played a big part in a decision he made five years ago. Today Hunter is a born again Christian, but his faith was one which took quite a while to reach.

After Hunter was born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, he and his parents moved to Cairo, Egypt. After living there for 7½ years he came to Miami. He said he has been here ever since.

Hunter said his wheelchair never determined the way he saw himself.

"You should concentrate on your strong points instead of feeling sorry for yourself," said Hunter.

"My parents gave me a good sense of self-confidence as I was growing up."

Although he had confidence, there was something missing in his life, and he began a search for God. As an only child, he never went to church with his parents.

"I always wanted to know who God is," he said.

He finally found out after trying many religions.

"Over the years I checked out different things: Buddhism, Hinduism, the occult that today they call 'the New Age,' and others," said Hunter. "But a friend of mine answered many of the questions I had about Christianity."

His knowledge about history gave him insight about Christianity. He said he was able to identify some historical pieces of writing with books which he read in the Bible.

"Christianity is a historical truth. There is a lot of sound reason in it," he said. "And my faith is based on this truth."

Hunter has been involved with I.V. for two years. He at-

tends both the First Evangelical Free Church and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.

Interservice's executive board voted for Hunter to become the new president for the 1988-89 school year. The board votes once a year for leadership positions, said Bill Patuca, the board's secretary.

Patuca said: "Harry brings a lot of enthusiasm to the group and a real desire to see the campus reach for Christ."

Past president Jim Capen said it was time for him to move on. He was president of I.V. for one year, but he's been involved with the organization for almost six years.

Hunter said: "I look forward to doing it. I feel good about the organization and what it stands for." "I see Harry as a no-nonsense person. He sets his mind on something and he does it with Christian love. There's something which makes Harry so special; he knows what needs to be done, but he's also flexible when problems get in the way," said Pearman.

Beginning this summer, Hunter will lead I.V. through a new year of Bible studies, community outreaches, and campus ministries.

If you would like us to profile your organization, drop us a line at the Sunblazer office in UH 315 or call 554-2315

Commentary:

Give us campus life!

RALPH DEL RIO
Special to the Sunblazer

The sixty-four million dollar question is: How long do we (the students) have to wait until we get some campus life at FIU? I'm talking about everyday walking around and socializing with students; you know, campus life - the day in/day out interaction we expect. I get a little perplexed sometimes as I wonder what the University administrators are thinking about when they talk about the future of FIU. Just listen - it's kind of obvious: give us some campus life!

With the 8 million dollar UH expansion coming up soon I expect to have things such as a swimming pool and patio, large cafeteria, record store, unisex hair cutters, FIU clothing store, and a student-oriented Rathskeller, to name a few.

Another thing: why are the FIU library hours similar to our neighborhood Walgreen's? It is after dark and my University looks and sounds like a cemetery!

Don't you think the library should be open 18-24 hours a day? It would surely give us a reason to stick around. The university's priority is to cater to the students' educational needs. Example 1: There is no way in the world a student can go to the FIU library at 10 pm to study because by the time he gets his thoughts in order, it's time to pack your bags and go home. This is especially frustrating to our commuter

students.

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Kurt Vonnegut lectures at FIU

MICHAEL MALONE
Special to the Sunblazer

Just what had brought this disparate group together? Long-haired, shabbily-dressed hippies, anachronisms from the sixties: well-kempt young professionals; bearded and spectacled intellectuals; prepily dressed university students; fashionably punky new-wavers - earringed, dressed in black, and sporting the most exotic, latest hair style; and the silver-haired elderly. Why had they jammed, standing room only, into AT-100 on the evening of April 1st?

They had come to hear Kurt Vonnegut lecture and they were of liberal persuasion - that's why. Kurt Vonnegut - charismatic author, radical in his approach to both literature and life, outspoken, honest, and in search of that elusive American dream.

Most who came were familiar with Vonnegut's works. Those that weren't were curious about this man who has become legendary for his unique style of writing and thinking. "Newsweek" recently published an expose on Vonnegut's ten suggestions to better our modern world. The list was headed by a reduction in revenues in the race of the two superpowers to destroy the world.

Kurt Vonnegut is a man people listen to, an important member of the literary, intellectual vanguard of this country. He has come to be a spokesperson for our time, unconcerned and unlimited by vote-seeking motivations.

Did I say the audience was liberal? How could it be? I mean, this is Miami, right? It's true, not all were liberal, and at Vonnegut's insistence the conservatives in the audience raised their hands - all eight of them. Vonnegut had been forewarned that Miami and FIU are conservative strongholds. Was this an attempt on his part to belittle those few who would have the audacity to attend his lecture? Not in the least. You see, Vonnegut has little time for senseless categorizations. Conservative or liberal, "blue jersey or green," these petty differences only serve to divide us and keep us from addressing issues that are immediately menacing. The author cautioned the audience about problems of survival: population control, arms escalation, global destruction, and losses of liberty (doesn't matter so much what color your jersey is when faced with those type of problems.)

Vonnegut's lecture was titled "How to get a job like mine?", yet his message for the evening had little to do with this topic. Few in this country choose to read as a pursuit of intellectual endeavor, and even fewer people attempt an author as challenging and thought-provoking as Vonnegut, so he certainly was not suggesting that anyone imitate his unique professional calling. Instead, Vonnegut used a cynically, poignant delivery style flaked with good-natured humor to point out how greed, ignorance, and small-mindedness have weakened the foundations of "the American dream."



Kurt Vonnegut

Realizing that many in the audience were aspiring authors, Vonnegut dedicated a section of his lecture to the finer points of writing, i.e., what it takes to be a good writer. One of the first steps he recommended in writing was to throw away the first six pages so you can be assured of "starting at high energy." "No need to introduce yourself," he said. "The important thing is to get your story moving." He recognized the wealth of talent found in English departments across the country but lamented that one essential factor seemed to be missing in most young writers: something to say. The technical skills are often there, but the urgency, vision, and sensitivity necessary for good writing are in short supply.

Using a masterful display of his scientific and mathematic genius - at his own admission he is, after all, a physicist - Vonnegut took an unusual approach on the blackboard to diagram the "flow" of the rise-

and-fall elements necessary to produce a verifiably good work.

Shakespeare's "Hamlet" was a shoe-in as a favorite for the "masterpiece" award. The winning formula? We learned that absolutely nothing happens in this accepted classic work. We can't even tell the good news from the bad news. "Hamlet" is a masterpiece not because it fulfills the requirements of a good story, but because it is a genuine replica of life itself. Anything can work as a formula for a good novel, but it must carry that magical "duende" - that special quality that instills interest.

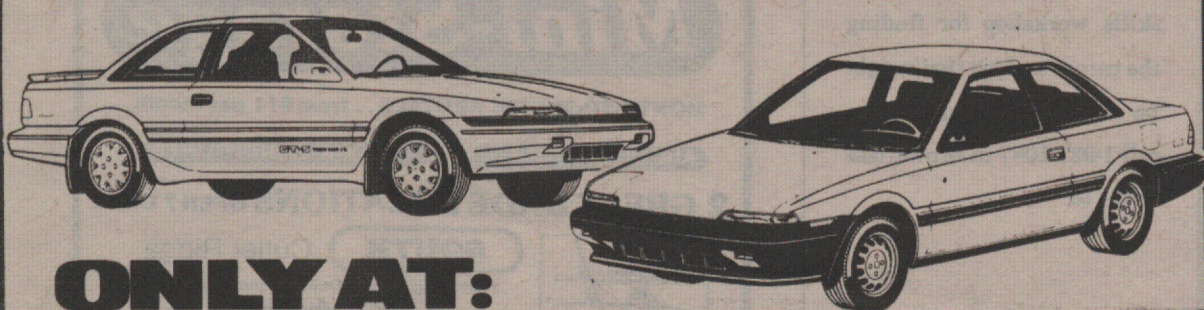
Kurt Vonnegut commands respect as a writer and as a world citizen. His ideas are not mere imitations of another nor regurgitations of rhetoric, and what he says is not always what is most pleasing. He has spent a lifetime painstakingly studying the world and its inhabitants. He has traveled and read extensively. He ridicules, criticizes, and incites with the

sole purpose of opening eyes and minds. He is a protestor in the purest sense of the word. He is close on the heels of the American dream as it was meant to be.

Vonnegut's message of April 1 was refreshing and powerful; he is a voice to listen to. There is no lack of content in his dialogue. Why, then, wouldn't those two in the row ahead of us stop jabbering for just a second? Didn't they realize Vonnegut's message was meant for them? Actually, they did stop, but only for a second when Vonnegut prepared to answer that burning question: "Does penis size really matter?" He was even honest about that.

Next issue: FIU student wins trophy in culinary competition

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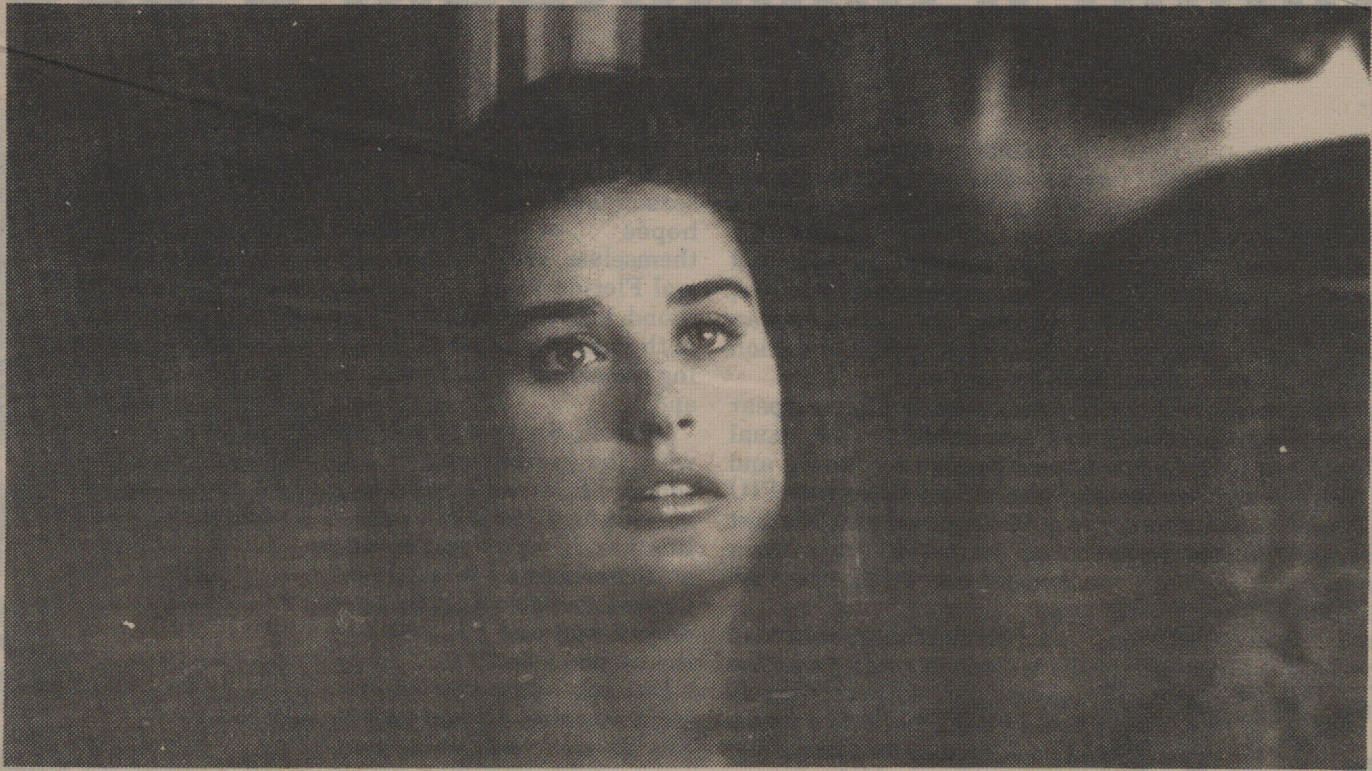
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Review: "The Seventh Sign"

JON MOSS
Sunblazer Staff Writer



■ Demi Moore stars in "The Seventh Sign"

Centuries ago it was foretold in the book of Revelations that the advent of the Apocalypse would be heralded by Seven Signs from God. These signs range from natural disasters such as hailstorms and solar eclipses to the execution of innocent martyrs. "The Seventh Sign" stars Demi Moore, Michael Biehn, and Jurgen Prochnow. An apocalyptic thriller, it tells the story of a young woman, Abby Quinn, who slowly discovers how she and her unborn child play an integral role in the chain of events that is the beginning of the end of the world.

Demi Moore plays the part of Abby Quinn, an ordinary woman who gets caught up in an extraordinary situation. Abby is in the last trimester of her pregnancy when she comes in contact with a mysterious stranger (played by Jurgen Prochnow) and a Catholic priest (played by Peter Friedman) who have been following the signs. The deliverance of the first six signs lead the priest and the stranger to Abby. When Abby comes to the realization that she and her unborn child are the seventh sign, time is already running out. She learns that if the chain were to be somehow broken the Apocalypse would be avoided. The movie deals with Abby Quinn's attempts to stop the seventh and final sign.

The movie is filled with suspense and it is quite good. Demi Moore and Jurgen Prochnow give commendable performances as Abby Quinn and the mysterious stranger David Banner. The best part of the film, however, is the unpredictability of the script. The individual fate of each character is left up in the air until the very end.

The cinematography added to the suspense. Particularly effective was the final camera shot of Demi Moore. And Jack Nitzsche's haunting musical score added the perfect touch of suspense.

Perhaps the aspect of "The Seventh Sign" which offered the filmmakers their greatest challenge was striking a balance between telling a story which was both realistic and, at the same time, mythological. If you're intrigued with ancient mysticism and legends of the past like I am, then you will no doubt enjoy this film as I did.

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Women's basketball: a good year

FIU Sports Release

The women's basketball team enjoyed a great deal of success during the course of the 1987-88 season. Despite many obstacles, Head Coach Cindy Russo once again rallied the troops and put together another fine unit. The Lady Panthers finished the season with a 21-7 record, including a 9-3 New South Women's Conference mark.

After finishing 26-3 in 1986-87 and making a second consecutive NCAA Division II

Tournament appearance, FIU began this year without four of its top six players from a season ago. Senior forwards Debra Bullock and Rosalind Jones were the only holdovers, and when the season began there were many question marks.

At the start, it didn't appear 1987-88 would be the usual 20-win season for Russo and her squad. After leading FIU to a 74-11 record over the last three years, Russo's team struggled out of the box to a 3-3 start.

FIU turned things around in the seventh game of the season against Iona. After trailing by nine at halftime, FIU scored a season high of 60 second-half points to claim a 92-84 victory—the first of what would be eight consecutive wins. Included in that stretch was the championship of the FIU Sun and Fun Invitational. FIU defeated 19th ranked and NCAA tourney-bound Houston for the title as Jones scored a career high 24 points. Bullock was named tournament MVP as she tallied 67 points and 31 rebounds in three games.

"Winning that tournament was a big boost," said Russo. "Defeating two quality teams in Radford (FIU defeated the Big South Conference Champions 76-61 in the semi-finals) and Houston were two highlights of the season."

Next came FIU's quest for its first ever conference championship in its very first season as a member of the New South Conference. But the Golden Panthers fell short of that goal by finishing second to Georgia Southern.

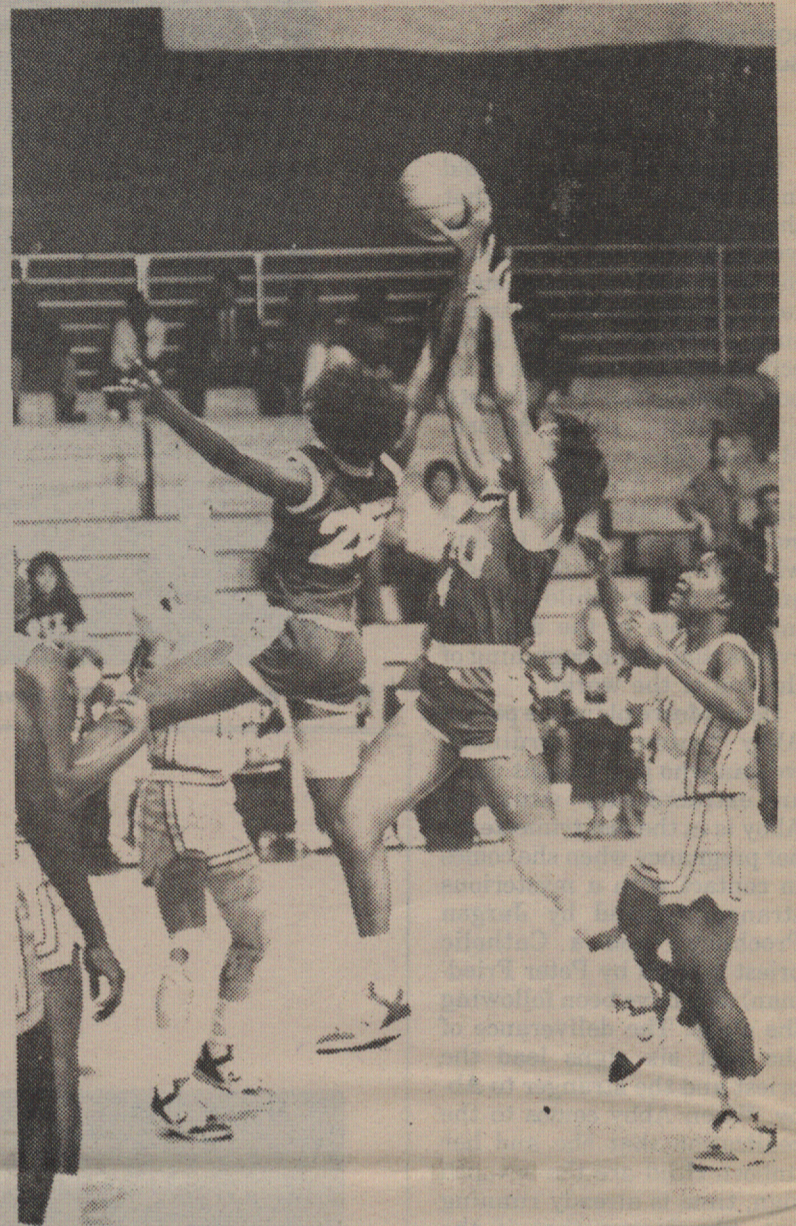
The Golden Panther squad entered the conference post-season tournament with high hopes of redeeming themselves. FIU defeated Central Florida 73-57 in the first round, but fell to Florida A&M in the semi-finals, 65-63, bringing the season to a premature end.

Overall, Russo was pleased with the performance of her squad. "It was disappointing not winning the conference," Russo said, "but when you look at the season as a whole, I was extremely pleased. The girls played well and got better as the season went on."

Bullock was the team's leader throughout the season. She finished her senior campaign averaging 20.8 points and grabbing 9.1 rebounds per game. She was named first team All-Conference and was runner-up for Conference Player of the Year honors. Bullock ended the season in fourth place on the FIU career scoring chart with 1,020 points in only two seasons. "She amazed everyone with her style and her play," Russo said. "She was a treat to coach."

Jones and junior point guard Adrienne Jackson received post-season honor as well. Jones was named second team All-Conference, while Jackson was an honorable mention selection. Jones finished the season averaging 11.9 points and grabbing 8.5 rebounds, both second-best on the team. She also set a school record for steals (120), and ranked sixth nationally with 4.3 steals per game. Jackson ended the season averaging 10.3 points, but scored 13.2 points per game for the final 18 games.

"This team just decided to get better this season," Russo added. "We found out what it took to win and started to get the job done. The girls played above and beyond their capacity and this season was a real success."



■ FIU's winning women's basketball team

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Have a good summer!

Men's tennis team has winning season

BETTY NUNEZ
Sunblazer Sports Writer

The Golden Panthers men's tennis team is approaching the end of an outstanding season. Its record, 18-6, is one of FIU's best posted.

The team presently consists of nine athletes, but only six of them play in most of the matches.

Allen Manusoff, senior, occupies the number one singles position on the team. Just recently, though, freshman teammate Eduardo Scherer, a native of Brazil, was voted most valuable player by his teammates for his overall outstanding season.

Mike Marrou, junior, and Marcos Perez, freshman, share the top record for singles matches at 17-4. The two join to make the team's number one doubles team.

The Panther tennis team recently visited Jacksonville for a week and faced five NCAA Division I opponents. The FIU contingent won three

out of the five matches, and the two losses were by only one point each.

First-year tennis coach Peter Lehmann stated that although their schedule is fairly competitive, next year's will be much tougher. "I basically feel that it will take three years to turn the program around," said Lehmann, who began his first season by setting a goal of 20 victories. "There's no reason why our team can't rank among the top 25 in the country. And the NCAA championship in the near future is not an impossibility."

To further enhance the program, a proposal has been approved for a new varsity tennis complex to be built at the North Miami campus. Completion is scheduled for March 1989 at a cost of approximately \$414,000.

Lehmann is quick to voice his approval of the proposal. "This creates a great opportunity to get some quality teams to come down and play us. I'm very excited about the future of the tennis program here."

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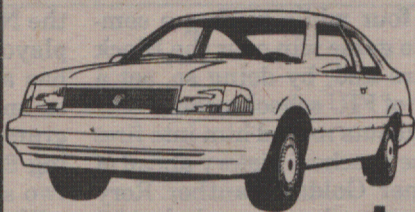
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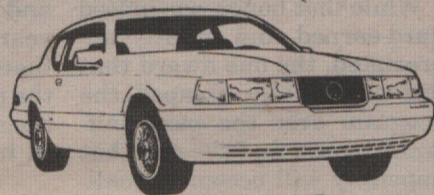


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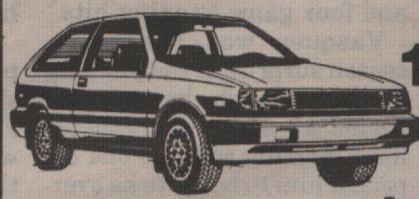
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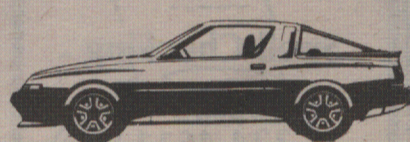
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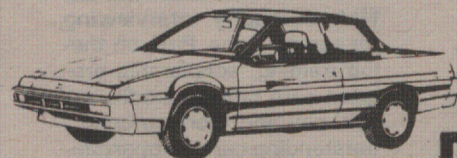
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Baseball team seeks NCAA playoff invitation

FIU Sports Release

Prior to the start of this season, baseball coach Danny Price predicted his 1988 team would possess more talent than any other Division I baseball team in the history of Florida International University. Price's prediction has certainly rung true.

As the team steamrolled its way through the month of March, the Golden Panthers reached the 30-win mark after just 42 games.

Following two wins over perennial Division I power Maine (March 15-16), FIU was on a streak that saw it win 12 of 13 games. Part of the reason for this success could be traced directly to the play of designated hitter Freddy

Varela, shortstop Zac Valade and pitchers Aaron Vasquez and Denny Wiseman.

Hobbled by a knee injury early in the year, Varela came on with a vengeance, giving Coach Price the kind of power production he expected. Playing in 17 of the Golden Panthers' first 26 games, Varela had six home runs, 20 RBI and a .339 batting average. Even more impressive, however, was his play over an eight-game span (March 9-16). The 5'9", 230-pound junior from Key West had six homers, 15 RBI and four game-winning hits.

Vasquez was the early-season surprise of the pitching staff. Although he was expected all along to challenge for a starting spot, no one expected him to be quite as overpowering as he was. Take away one relief outing where

he gave up five runs on four hits in two-thirds of an inning, and his numbers have been impressive. Through mid-March, Vasquez was 4-0 with a 2.19 earned run average. He hadn't allowed a run to cross the plate in 15 consecutive innings. But, unfortunately, in the sixth inning of a no-hitter against Stetson University on March 12, Vasquez experienced a pain in his right side later diagnosed as a muscle strain. While it was not a serious injury, it was one that disrupted a player who was at the top of his game.

No surprise has been the play of Valade. The senior shortstop and co-captain led FIU in batting average and was second in doubles throughout the month of March. Over a nine-game hitting streak (March 4-13), Valade hit .552 (16 for 29) with two doubles, two triples, and two home runs; a slugging percentage of .911 and an on-base average of .611.

Wiseman's leadership role in the pitching rotation was just what the doctor ordered. All season long, it was Wiseman whom Price called upon when a victory was a must. On March 15 versus the University of Maine, Wiseman struck



FIU's Golden Panther Baseball Team

Photo: Maria Padron/FIU Sunblazer

out four while tossing a complete game win over the Black Bears and, by doing so, set a pair of FIU school records. The strikeouts moved him into first place in school history ahead of former Golden Panther Rory Brown who recorded 155 strikeouts in 1981 and 1982 while the complete game moved him into the University top spot in front of Brown, Chris Lein (1979) and Ken Deal (1986-87).

While that honor was indeed hard-earned and greatly appreciated, the one award that has continually escaped the program over the past half-dozen years, and the one that hopefully will become a reality in 1988, is an invitation to

the NCAA Division I regional playoffs at season's end. FIU has already established itself as one of the winningest programs in the division, amassing 82 victories over the last two seasons.

With good showings the rest of the way against programs like Florida State (at home on May 4th), Miami (in Coral Gables on April 22-23) and Tennessee (in Knoxville on May 10-11), Price, his players and staff hope this will be the year when the Golden Panthers can make their mark on the rest of the country. Invitations are expected to be extended in mid-May.

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