

# Sunblazer

Florida International University

Friday, July 15, 1988

Volume 5, Number 27

## Tuition will not increase next year

Florida students win big victory at legislative session - proposed tuition hike is not approved

REY QUINTANA  
Sunblazer Editor

Students registering for classes at Florida International University this fall have a big reason to smile - a big fat zero, that is.

After an intense statewide lobbying effort conducted by the Florida Student Association (FSA), the state legislature has approved a zero

per cent tuition increase for the nine schools of the State University System, including FIU, during the 1988-89 school year.

"This decision represents a major victory for the students of our state universities," said FIU Student Government Association President Tim Benjamin. "We have shattered the 5-year plan of 15 per cent tuition hikes proposed by the Board of Regents and supported by Governor Bob

Martinez."

Benjamin attributes the success of the FSA campaign to the total cooperation of the SUS universities. "Our part was only one of nine," he commented. "This effort worked because students across the state got involved."

FSA worked all year long preparing fact sheets and speaking with legislators to get ready for the session held last April and May in Tallahassee. The group also

held several meetings with Florida House Speaker John Mills to discuss tuition policies. When it was all over, Mills stated that FSA was largely responsible for holding tuition at its current level.

In addition, more than 2,000 petition cards were obtained from students protesting the 5-year plan's 15 per cent tuition hike. Phone banks, press conferences and lobby tactics all contributed to the final victory. "This all goes to show

what students are capable of accomplishing when they work together," Benjamin said.

FSA was also successful in having the Board of Regents agree to the establishment of a tuition task force. This board will be made up of FSA and BOR staff, legislative analysts and other higher education entities and it will discuss Florida's tuition policies. The intent is for the BOR and FSA to come to agreement on a

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## FIU student sues over bad grades

ANDREW DODGE  
Sunblazer News Editor

Laura Douglas says she doesn't want revenge. But she does want justice.

After many years as a housewife and mother of three, Douglas, 37, began her pursuit of a career as a special education teacher. She transferred to the FIU College of Education in her junior year and expected to earn a Bachelor's Degree by the end of this summer.

Everything was going as planned for Douglas, who had a 3.1 grade point average and just a few more credits left before graduation.

Then disaster struck last fall in the form of what she describes as "a misunderstanding" with one of her professors.

The resulting sequence of events has brought Douglas' hopes of a college education to a screeching halt. It has also cost her several thousand dollars in legal fees.

"I tried to work through the normal channels within the university system," Douglas said. "I spoke to everyone from the Dean to the President of the University, but after getting no response, I had only one choice left. I had to take my case to court."

And so begins the story of case number 88-18109, filed in the Dade County Circuit Court. *Laura Douglas vs. Col-*



■ Laura Douglas

leen Ryan and the Florida Board of Regents is what Douglas describes as a battle over fair treatment and student rights.

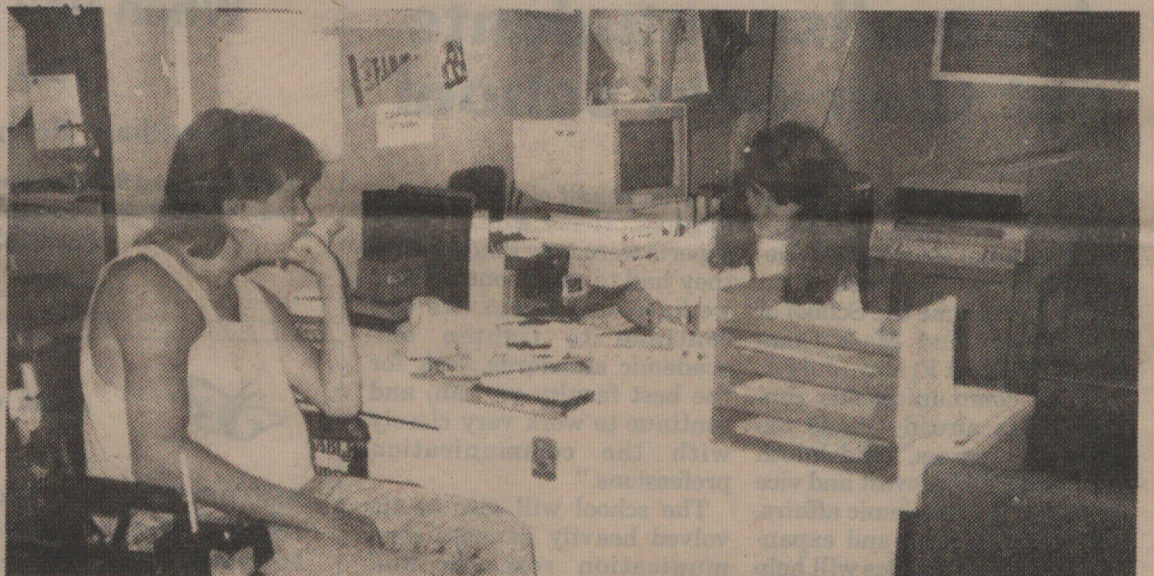
According to Douglas' deposition filed with the original complaint, the story begins on November 23, 1987. Douglas had an appointment to see her professor, Dr. Colleen Ryan, to discuss her progress in one of the two classes she was taking with Professor Ryan.

The deposition states that as Douglas entered the building, "Dr. Ryan shouted: 'I am very angry with you. Get in my office!'"

Douglas alleges that Ryan continued to yell at her once she had entered the office, in a voice clearly audible in the hallway outside, and accused Douglas of being dishonest and a liar.

Douglas said that she was surprised and upset by Ryan's

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■ Disabled students could face real danger if a fire broke out

Photo: Rey Quintana/FIU Sunblazer

## "Serious deficiencies" found in State Fire Marshall's inspection

YVETTE BETANCOURT  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

On May 21, 1988, the fire alarm went off in the PC building of Florida International University's University Park Campus from 6:15 to 6:25 p.m. Students hesitated and looked at one another about what to do. At least one instructor entered class and proceeded to give his lecture, speaking loudly to compete with the blaring noise. Fire alarms go off all the time here, and this one was totally ignored. Ignorance may be bliss, but it can also kill you.

How safe would you be in FIU if there was a serious fire? That is a question most people don't think about until they hear a fire alarm bell sounding

off. Any momentary fears are usually shrugged away with the belief that all alarms are false ones. But fires are real and they do occur.

Most FIU students and faculty are not aware that there is a way to distinguish a real alarm from a fire drill. According to sources in FIU's Environmental Health and Safety Department (EH&S) two rings of the alarm mean that all is clear and three short rings mean one should get out and at least 300 feet away from the building.

All the classrooms should have evacuation procedures easily visible on the wall. Most people in the offices don't know where the extinguisher and fire alarms are, and those who do know the locations often don't know how to use the equipment. EH&S, responsible

for complying with all federal, state, county and city fire safety codes, hopes to have 90 per cent of the faculty instructed on the use of fire extinguishers in the near future. An emergency bridge is also being planned to carry out safety procedures in critical areas. Professors are being encouraged to teach their students evacuation procedures at the beginning of each course.

Florida statutes require that the school be inspected for fire safety once a year. In the last inspection by the State Fire Marshall seven months ago, FIU received approximately 120 violations. Missing panels, inoperable exit lights and missing fire extinguisher cabinets were the most common type of violation cited. According to EH&S, most of the

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-Fire Safety, from page 1

problems have since been corrected. The only ones pending are those that require a considerable amount of appropriations. For example, the bookstore needs to have steps built for evacuation from the second floor.

Tom Mutchler, regional supervisor for the State Fire Marshall's Office, Southern Region, was one of the five inspectors who performed the last Fire Safety Inspection at FIU. When asked about the University's level of fire safety he could not really compare it to other schools because it was the only university he had inspected, but he did recall that there were some "serious fire safety deficiencies" present. Mutchler says that by the time people reach college they should know what a fire alarm sounds like and learn to get out. "There should be no distinction made between a fire alarm and a drill," Mutchler said. "Complacency about fire alarms is not unique to FIU and is in fact a nationwide problem."

Mutchler also feels that although students are adults and ultimately responsible for themselves, teachers also have some responsibility. "They

have a responsibility as leaders to stop the teaching process and ensure the safety of the students," he said.

Jennifer King, coordinator of Disabled Student Services, has never seen a copy of the sheet that gives evacuation procedures and is not completely aware of evacuation procedures for her office. King's office deals with disabled students with some temporary or permanent disability. Many of her students rely solely on the elevator in the UH building to get to its third floor location. In the case of a fire the elevator would be shut off, and disabled students would require assistance to get out. EH&S is drafting plans to assign key people to certain critical areas of FIU such as the Disabled Student Services office, but King says this is not enough. "We need drills and we need to go through the procedures," she commented. "My students are having trouble getting to my office with the UH elevator constantly breaking down. If a fire was to occur who knows what would happen."

## Journalism students get their own school

Following recent approval by the Board of Regents, Florida International University's Department of Communication officially became the School of Journalism and Mass Communication on Friday, July 1.

"Our communications program has already made exemplary progress," said Judith H. Steim, FIU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "This recognition and expansion of its capabilities will help us meet the needs of our community in one of the most sensitive and rapidly-changing professional fields."

The new school will offer a Master of Science in Mass Communication degree this fall. It already offers programs at the undergraduate level in advertising, print and broadcast journalism, public relations and telecommunications production and management.

J. Arthur Heise, who has chaired the communication department for the last three years, will become the director of the new school. "We do not want to build a large school, but we do want to build one of the best in the country in years to come," he said.

"We will continue to put very heavy emphasis on quality writing in every one of our programs," Heise continued. "The day is approaching when FIU communication graduates will be sought out because of their abilities as writers. We will also continue to nourish one of our greatest assets, the large number of minority students in our program."

Referring to a recent review of FIU's communication programs by experts who examin-

ed it on behalf of the Board of Regents, Heise said, "Those experts were very kind in what they had to say about us. But we have only begun. We will continue to tighten our academic standards, look for the best faculty we can, and continue to work very closely with the communication professions."

The school will also be involved heavily in mass communication research and education in Latin America and the Caribbean, an area that has been largely ignored by other U.S. universities. "We plan to capitalize on being located in the 'Gateway to Latin America' - Miami - and do a lot of work south of the border," Heise said.

The communication program's successful work in Latin America was recently recognized when it was awarded the largest grant in FIU's history. A \$9.3 million grant from the United States International Development (USAID) will finance the first five years of a seven-year \$13.9 million program to strengthen journalism education, research and training in four Central American countries.

Construction has already started to provide the school with a fully computerized writing laboratory, a graphics and design laboratory, a teaching television studio and control room, radio and television editing facilities, and additional offices. For the time being, the school will remain administratively within the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

## AIDS Committee promotes education

NICHOLAS WINSET  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Although perhaps not the most well-known organization at Florida International University, the AIDS Committee will continue to be one of the more important groups on campus this fall.

Started two and one half years ago as an administration-faculty group active in preliminary work and policy-setting, the Committee, now with student representation, acts with the goal of increasing AIDS awareness and education. Its efforts focus on safe sex through the use of condoms.

The Committee has distributed information through lectures, programs, and written material, and it also distributes prophylactics (Condoms are now available free of charge in the waiting areas of the clinics on both the

University Park and North Miami campuses).

Despite recent studies linking lack of sexual education to teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, student and parental taboos continue to be a concern. Rusty Belote, assistant vice president for student development and AIDS Committee chairperson, comments: "People today need to make choices which are life and death decisions. This committee does not promote one choice over another. We promote education to allow people to choose with all the facts. We are not promoting sex. We are promoting responsibility for those choosing to have sex."

Extensive fall programs proposed include interactive AIDS workshops added onto freshman English courses, peer counseling with support systems, bilingual training of FIU employees, AIDS lecture speakers, faculty seminars, and increased access to condoms including condom

machines and distribution of condoms to Resident Assistants in the campus dormitories.



■ Rusty Belote, chairman of the University AIDS Committee

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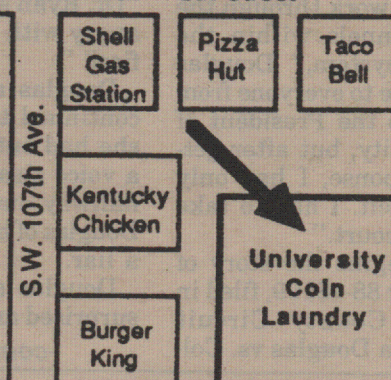
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**-Lawsuit, from page 1**

behavior and left the office in tears.

The deposition goes on to state that during subsequent classroom periods, Ryan spoke rudely to Douglas in front of other students and intentionally upset her just before important tests were to begin.

When the semester ended, Douglas received her grades from Ryan. In both classes, Ryan had given her incompletes.

"It is my understanding that an incomplete is only given under certain circumstances," Douglas said. "She never discussed my grade with me, and I knew I had completed all required assignments and tests. There was no reason for me to receive an incomplete."

Douglas said that when she tried to discuss the grade with Ryan, her request for a meeting was ignored.

"She would give me no explanation for the grade. She refused to even tell me what the grades on my tests and other assignments had been," Douglas said.

Douglas' first move was to

speak to Dr. Luis Martinez-Perez, chairman for education. She asked to have her work reviewed by an independent board of professors. "I felt that if my work were judged by an impartial group of professionals, it would stand up to their scrutiny. If they agreed with Dr. Ryan's opinion, I would be satisfied that I needed to take the class over again," Douglas said.

When Martinez-Perez could offer no help, Douglas went to the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Emma Rembert, who also seemed unable to offer assistance.

Finally, Douglas went to the President of FIU, Mitch Maidique, who offered no assistance in solving the problem.

"Most students probably would have been defeated at that point," said Douglas. "But I'm a lot older than your average student and I'm not so easily intimidated."

Douglas enlisted the services of Miami Attorney Clay Reiner of the law firm Spencer, Bernstein, Seemann and Klein which specializes in non-

**"She would give me no explanation for the grade. She refused to even tell me what the grades on my tests and other assignments had been."**

**-Laura Douglas**

routine or "custom" litigation. "This case is highly unusual if not unique," said Reiner. "In all my research, I've not come across anything that quite fits the pattern of this case," he said.

The case, which Reiner hopes to take to court before the end of the year, brings several counts against Ryan and the University.

The first count is intentional infliction of emotional distress, and alleges that Professor Ryan's actions "represent either a deliberate or reckless attempt to inflict mental and emotional suffering and distress upon Douglas."

It alleges that "Ryan's conduct is particularly outrageous in view of the unequal positions of the parties in the relationship of student and teacher, since Ryan asserted and possessed the power to severely damage Douglas in her professional endeavors."

It continues by alleging that Ryan's conduct was the direct and actual cause of severe mental and emotional distress suffered by Douglas.

Douglas demands judgment against Ryan for compensatory and punitive damages together with costs of the legal action.

The second count alleges a breach of contract against FIU, asserting that "FIU entered into an agreement for educational services, and agreed to provide those services... and to monitor and promptly report to Douglas on her examination progress."

It states that "FIU agreed to provide competent and professional professors to provide the said educational services in accordance with customary University practices, expressed and implied University policies and rules, and school accreditation requirements."

"It's really sad that all this had to happen," said Douglas, "because I think it was all a result of a misunderstanding. I think I just happened to get in the middle of some sort of disagreement that was happening within the college, and it all got blown out of proportion."

Douglas said that the entire misunderstanding is centered around the signing of a student teaching application that was mistakenly signed by another professor, Dr. Wendy Cheyney.

"Dr. Ryan apparently became aware that Dr. Cheyney had signed the student teaching application and apparently viewed this as some sort of subterfuge on my part or some sort of usurpation on her perceived authority by Dr. Cheyney," Douglas said in her deposition.

After she discovered that the application had been signed by another professor, Ryan allegedly became "exceedingly hostile and uncooperative" towards Douglas, and she eventually changed the original incomplete grades to F's in both courses.

FIU lawyers and representatives were unavailable for comment on the case when

contacted by the Sunblazer.

"I can't graduate from FIU with two F's on my transcript," Douglas said. "And the college has told me that they won't accept credits earned at another college."

"Obviously it would be a waste of time to take the classes from Dr. Ryan again," she continued. "Especially in light of the pending lawsuit."

Douglas is hoping that the case will be settled out of court before it has to go to trial.

"All I really want is to graduate and get on with my life. This has all been such an unnecessary ordeal. I just want to be treated fairly. Every student should have that right."

**-Tuition, from page 1**

reasonable tuition policy for the next several semesters so that the students and the regents will not have to fight this issue every year.

In other major legislative budget decisions, financial aid and student support services remained largely underfunded. A \$2 million enhancement to the present financial aid program was cut to \$1.5 million, and student support services received only \$1.3 of the \$4.8 million that FSA had lobbied for. Minority recruitment efforts were awarded \$0.5 million, and no monies were granted for the funding of full-time academic advisor positions on the SUS campuses.

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**Wanted: Cartoonist**

The Sunblazer, FIU's independent student newspaper, is considering running a single- or multi-panel cartoon, beginning in the Fall 1988 semester. It should be related to life at FIU and either humorous or satirical in nature. Publication would be weekly during school sessions.

Applications should be sent to the Sunblazer, UH 315, University Park Campus, Miami, FL 33199. Include two sample cartoons, a list of cartoon ideas and a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish materials to be returned.

The decision as to which, if any, cartoons will be published will be made by the Sunblazer Editorial Board.



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## FIU student and faculty groups travel abroad

Prosthetics & orthotics students visit London; women's group visits India

Six students and two faculty members from the Prosthetics and Orthotics department at Florida International University are taking a nine-day trip from July 11 to July 20 to visit prosthetics and orthotics research and academic facilities in London.

The group is headed by Ron Spiers, program director; Geza Kogler, instructor; and it includes six students in their senior year at FIU: Frank Dourado III, Robert Gooljar, Thomas McClary, William Moore, Michelle Lovet, and Victor Bustamante.

Professor Geza Kogler says the trip is a wonderful opportunity for students to view first-hand the latest developments in prosthetics

and orthotics materials and components. Prosthetics are artificial devices used as replacements for missing limbs. Orthotics devices are braces, back supports and other products used for supportive or corrective purposes.

"Not many people are given this kind of an opportunity so early in their study or career," Kogler said.

Two firms, Charles Blatchford & Sons of London and Arthur Finnieston, Inc. (AFI) of Coral Gables, are sponsoring the trip and are splitting the travel expenses.

"We see the trip as a beneficial gesture to the prosthetics and orthotics students," said Karen Hewitt, AFI administrator. "Along

with Charles Blatchford and Sons, we thought it would be a great opportunity for students to see where technology is going."

The group will spend the first 2 days of their visit in instruction courses learning about new componentry systems. The students and teachers will visit the University College of London which has a bioengineering department conducting research in prosthetics and orthotics.

FIU is one of only four universities offering a baccalaureate degree program in prosthetics and orthotics. In the fall, the department will install high-tech computer equipment that will assist the practitioner in the design of

prosthetic interfaces.

The students work regularly with a group of amputee patients who volunteer their time allowing students to conduct mock patient evaluations and design and fit prosthetic and orthotic devices.

"The situation of an amputee is so challenging that students must work with live patients in order to understand all of the special considerations involved in designing prosthesis that are functional and comfortable," said Kogler.

**Coming in the Fall: a brand-new edition of the Independent FIU Sunblazer.**

## FIU professor wins award for research on Haitian immigrants

Alex Stepick III, associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Florida International University, is the recipient of the 1988 Margaret Mead Award for his outstanding work on Haitian immigrants in the United States.

The award, given by the Society of Applied Anthropology, was presented to Stepick at the society's annual meeting in Tampa.

"I am pleased that such a prestigious academic honor was bestowed on one of our faculty members," said Lisandro Perez, chairperson of FIU's sociology and anthropology department. "Stepick is a dedicated and energetic member of our department. The Margaret Mead Award is a fitting recognition of his outstanding work."

Stepick began his comprehensive legal and social research on Haitians in 1981. During the last seven years, he has published more than 20 monographs and articles dealing with United States immigration policy, demographic trends and socioeconomic processes affecting the Haitian community. His work on this topic is frequently cited in publications on immigration law and is used as a definitive reference in classrooms at major law schools around the country.

Stepick has also testified on immigration issues before Congress and has acted as an expert witness in more than 200 asylum hearings. His socioeconomic research, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation, has served as a valuable tool both for refugee service organizations in South Florida and for agencies operated by Haitians.

Stepick has spoken before television and radio audiences, church groups and civic organizations with the purpose of dispelling prejudices against Haitians. He has conducted workshops for occupational groups, such as police and school teachers, who have frequent interaction with Haitians.

John A. Young, chairman of the 1988 Margaret Mead Award Committee, said when presenting the award to Stepick: "Dr. Stepick's work has made a significant difference in changing national policy affecting refugees, and as a consequence, lives have been saved. He has combined research, scholarship, advocacy, and community service in a way that exemplifies the best in applied anthropology."

A team of fourteen individuals from universities throughout Florida, including five professors from Florida International University, has received an international travel grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program. Marilyn Hoder-Salmon, director of the FIU Women's Studies Center, is the project director.

The grant involves travel to 11 cities in India, including New Delhi and Bombay, on an international women's studies project aimed at investigating changing status roles of women in India. The group will remain abroad for six weeks this summer. During the academic phase of the project, the participants will take part in lectures and seminars given by Indian scholars.

"India, with its enormous complexities, diversities and challenges, encompasses every aspect of women's social quests," said Holder-Salmon. "From the ancient rural village to the cosmopolitan urban center, Indian women are working with passionate commitment to transcend centuries of oppression."

Program participants hope to review the changing role of women in India over the past 10 years; to discuss long-term trends in women's roles with distinguished Indian women; and through this interaction to develop an updated curriculum on international women's issues that will serve to enhance women's studies programs at FIU.

Each member of the group will focus on a different aspect of Indian culture as it pertains

to women ranging from bibliographic materials on Indian women novelists and story writers to women in education and their role in the educational process.

"The problems are overwhelming," said Hoder-Salmon. "Yet with a purpose that is truly awe-inspiring the women of India are working together. We want to observe and learn from their tireless devotion to improve the status of women in every sector."

"We hope that by this intense submersion into India's approach to changing the status of Indian women, we can initiate research and curricular development that will help to expand the international curriculum of the participating universities," Hoder-Salmon added. "India is, after all, at the hub of the developing na-

tions with programs in every sector to advance the status of its women."

Project participants from FIU, in addition to Hoder-Salmon, include Paulette Johnson, Ph.D., statistical consultant, Academic Computer Services; Janet Lineback, Ph.D., chairperson, medical laboratory sciences; Sue Anne Toms, M.A., English as a Second/Foreign Language specialist; and Susan Waltz, Ph.D., assistant professor, International Relations.

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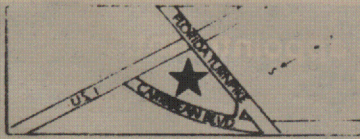
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# Review: "The Great Outdoors"

**NATASHA PEREZ**  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

There are some movies that you would gladly pay to see over and over again. And then there are those that you should be paid to watch. "The Great Outdoors" is the type of movie you'd only want to see if it were a lazy Sunday afternoon, you were bored to death, and someone offered you a free ticket.

It is not the fault of the cast-the acting is not bad. The problem is the plot (whatever it was...).

The movie is supposed to be a "raucous" comedy about the adventures of two families headed by Chet Ripley (played by John Candy) and Roman Craig (played by Dan Akroyd) on a lakeside vacation in Wisconsin's North Woods. The basis for the humor of the movie arises when Roman's rich, snobbish family crashes in unannounced and unexpected on Chet's dream vacation, ruining his plans for a quiet, meaningful soul-searching experience between his family and nature.

Akroyd and Candy portray extreme opposites: Chet's family drives up to the cabin in an all-American station wagon, singing "Yakkedy-Yak." His wife, Connie (Stephanie Faracy) is blond, blue-eyed, sweet and supportive (typical of today's TV sitcom wives). His two sons are Buck (Bryce Lynch, the nerdy computer whiz-kid from "Max Headroom"), the eldest, and Ben (Ian Giatti, Nick from

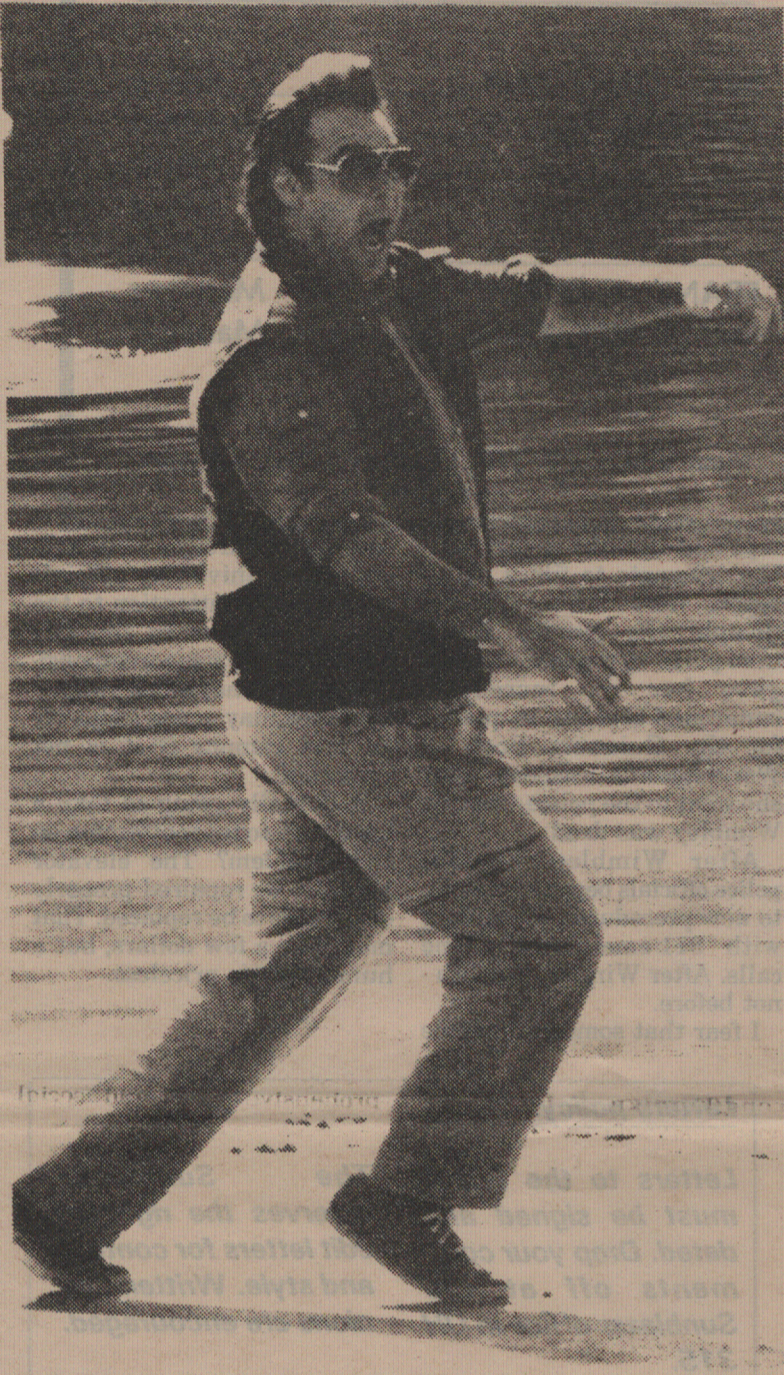
Falcon Crest), the youngest. Together they're your basic Brady Bunch. The Craigs (Akroyd's family) are strictly imported, from their imitation Rolex watches to the Louis Vuitton matching handbags for their red-headed twin girls, Cara and Mara (Hilary and Rebecca Gordon from "The Mosquito Coast") to their Mercedes with European plates.

The wives usually take a back seat to their husbands in this movie, as most of what takes place is about Chet and Roman. The humor consists of the following: Chet water-skiing, Chet being chased by a 1400-pound grizzly bear, Chet being bounced upon by same bear, Roman clipping his nose hairs, Roman barbecuing lobster tails while Chet longs for some good old hot dogs, Roman and Chet being attacked by a bat and, finally, Roman and Chet arguing towards the end of the film. In between, we are bombarded with a quickie romance between Chet's eldest son, Buck, and a local girl named Cammie (Lucy Deakins, Lilly from As The World Turns), a couple of roly-poly raccoons who speak English and attack the garbage every night, and a recurring motif about grizzly bears, namely an 8-foot "bald-headed killer bear" which finally reveals itself at the end of the film when the freckly-faced, wierd-looking twins, who don't utter a word until the very end of the movie, get stuck in the animal's cave. It turns out to be the same bear that chases Chet.

The truth is that Roman has

actually gone bankrupt, and his motive for barging in on Chet's vacation is to crank some money out of him in order to make some risky investments and get himself back on the fast lane. This little added twist to the plot is crudely thrust in right at the end. But everything turns out peachy-perfect after Roman admits his scheme, and that's all, folks!

It amazes me how millions of dollars can actually be spent on such concoctions as "The Great Outdoors." Then again, what can you expect from the writer of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off?" It's a cute little PG family movie, but I suggest that those of us over the age of twelve look for more serious entertainment.



■ Dan Akroyd stars in "The Great Outdoors"

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Interested applicants should bring samples of their work to the Sunblazer office in UH-315.

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The Independent FIU Sunblazer has openings for advertising salespersons, especially at the North Miami Campus. Account executives are paid commissions on sales. They are assigned accounts and prospects for sales.

If you are interested in selling advertising space for the Sunblazer, please contact Frank Castro, advertising manager, or Ann Boyd, advisor, at 554-2315 or come by UH 315, University Park Campus.

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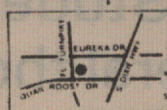
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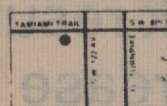
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# Broken elevator poses real threat

Rey Quintana, Sunblazer Editor

The other day, as I was making my way to the newspaper office, I found myself waiting for the elevator in the UH building. As I waited, a young lady in a wheelchair pulled up next to me and we began to talk. She told me that she was headed up to the Disabled Student Services office on the third floor to take a very important examination.

After a short waiting period pleasantly spent in conversation, the elevator arrived. Its doors opened, and we got inside. I pushed the button marked "3" and it lit up as the elevator doors closed. We continued our conversation as we waited to reach the third floor of the building, where both our destinations were.

But the elevator wasn't moving. It made no effort to leave the ground floor.

After several minutes I tried pushing the button again. The elevator doors opened and closed, and, once again, the elevator did not move. My companion was becoming visibly upset.

Realizing that remaining in the elevator would literally get us nowhere, I wheeled my friend to the pay phones next to the bookstore and we called the FIU police. Seventeen minutes later, two officers came and hand-carried the girl up the stairs to the third floor. Needless to say, she missed her appointed exam time and had to reschedule.

Anybody who works or plays in the UH building can identify with the story I've just told. The building's elevator constantly breaks down and traps people between its doors. For those of us that are blessed with good health, it's no big deal - we take the stairs. For a disabled student in a wheelchair, it can be a life-threatening situation.

The most frustrating thing of all is that it happens ALL THE TIME. And we always hear the same line from the maintenance guys: "A service call has been placed. They'll be out to fix it in a couple of hours." And usually the elevator does get repaired. The problem is that a "couple of hours" later it breaks down again.

What kind of a sad excuse for

a school is this? An office for disabled students is placed on the third floor of a building and the only elevator which provides access to it doesn't work. If you're in a wheelchair, the stairs are out of the question. And if you're visually impaired, the stairs are a pain in the you-know-what.

Even worse - suppose a serious fire broke out. The elevator would be shut off, and any disabled students would have to be carried or led away. That means that an individual in a wheelchair would have to be hand-carried down the stairs, and a blind student would also have to find his way down three flights of stairs. The potential for serious and even fatal accidents is obvious.

Fortunately, no serious accidents have occurred, and people are content to let the elevator continue to break down and be serviced by apparently incompetent repairmen. This attitude is perhaps the greatest danger of all.

A few weeks ago, I remember reading in the Herald about a young girl named Tammy Wimbley who was murdered by her boyfriend after he made

**The Independent  
FIU Sunblazer**  
Florida International University

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**EMMA REYNOLDS** \_\_\_\_\_ Business Manager

Main office: UH 315, University Park Campus  
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repeated threats on her life. Her attempts to file a police report were futile. No one thought the murder would take place, and police officials gave her an incredible runaround that has to qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records. Five days after she went to the police, Tammy Wimbley was dead.

After Wimbley's death, police officials began to look into new procedures for dealing with 911-emergency phone calls. After Wimbley's death - not before.

I fear that someone may be

seriously injured, or even killed, before university officials decide to pay attention to the broken elevator in the UH building. The same irresponsible attitude that killed Tammy Wimbley may cause a fatality on this campus if it is not corrected.

Is it really going to take a dead body to focus attention on this problem? The elevator needs to be repaired properly or it needs to be replaced. That may take a few dollars, but a human life is priceless.

## Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters

### Don't cut funds for Art Museum

To the Editor:

The International Students Club is an active student organization, not only concerned with the quality of academics but also the artistic and cultural aspects of the educational environment provided by FIU.

The FIU Art Museum plays an important role in developing the students' awareness and interest in artistic and intellectual matters. We, the

members of the International Students Club, were extremely distressed to learn about the new budget proposals which would not only decrease the funding of the Museum but in the same process decrease its capability to provide the students with the standard of excellence that it has established.

The Student Government Association has implemented many important projects for the benefit of the students. We feel that the funding of the Art

Museum is essential.

We hope that SGA will reconsider the budget cuts affecting the Art Museum and allow what has been one of the finest features of FIU to remain so.

Please heed the concerns of the many students who support the SGA and the Art Museum.

**Kirsten Hunter, President  
International Students Club**

#### 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.**

### A little "elbow grease"

To the Editor:

How many times have you heard, "All that's needed is a little more elbow grease?" It would seem that elbow grease is a valuable commodity or hard to find. Well, I've found a vast, untapped supply of this grease and it's right here at our university.

The beautiful thing about it is the availability of this resource. No, we don't have to drill down hundreds of feet below the PC building. No, we don't have to strip-mine beside the cafeteria. This resource can easily be harnessed with a simple tool, known even to the cavemen and some members of the SGA.

I hit upon this revelation as I sat in the auditorium in AT-100. It was a particularly exciting lecture, but still my attention somehow wandered and I began to contemplate the arm rests. What was this dark goo that covered the arm rests? People had written their names, drawn pictures, and embedded answers to upcoming tests in this mysterious layer of slime.

Then it hit me. This was no ordinary layer of slime. This was the elusive and coveted elbow grease. That quintessential elixir of life, that liquid of which maxims are made. And with nothing more than a small scraper or the traditional fingernail, free for the taking.

Now that we have this resource, it is up to us to use it wisely. And so that we do not deplete our supply, I call on all students to boldly put both elbows on the arm rests. No more sitting with our arms at our sides. I urge a ban on long-sleeve shirts in the lecture halls.

I envision a day when elbow grease rises like stalagmites off the arm rests, layer upon layer, used only for good and humane benefit. With your help, we can succeed.

Steve Battard

### A special salute...

To the Florida Student Association, Inc, and the several thousand students whose hard work resulted in a zero per cent tuition increase for the coming school year. This victory does indeed show what students are capable of accomplishing when they work together.



# Career Corner

**Question:** I have found lots of information on the types of questions to anticipate in a job interview. But what kinds of questions should I ask the interviewer?

**Answer:** Intelligent questions help you get a better feel for the job and reveal your enthusiasm. Save questions about sick leave, benefits, and vacation until you're actually offered the job. Keep some of the following questions in mind:

*Why is this job open?* Your objective is to learn the fate of your predecessor. Was he/she promoted, fired, or did the individual quit -- and why? If the last person to hold the job resigned, you may want to inquire about employee turnover at the company; a high rate could be a sign of trouble. For

a newly-created position, ask why the company has decided to increase staff in this area.

*To whom would I be reporting?* To be a serious player at a company, you have to understand the power structure -- and your interviewer will interpret your question as a sign of ambition. Asking about the track record and background of your future boss is also a subtle way to gauge the chances for advancement.

*What attributes would you hope that I'd bring to the job?* Use this question to locate the interviewer's hot buttons, then subtly stress how well you fit the profile during the rest of the interview.

*When can I expect to hear from you?* Why leave yourself in suspense? This question makes your interest in the job

evident, and you'll learn whether more interviews are required.

**Question:** Is there any question that an interviewer cannot legally ask?

**Answer:** The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission considers these types of questions to be "suspect:"

*Do you plan to have a family?*

*What are your child-care arrangements?*

*What are your plans for marriage?*

*Were your parents born in the United States?*

*Are you married, single, divorced?*

*Are you pregnant?*

*How old are you?*

*Have you ever received psychiatric or psychological treatment?*

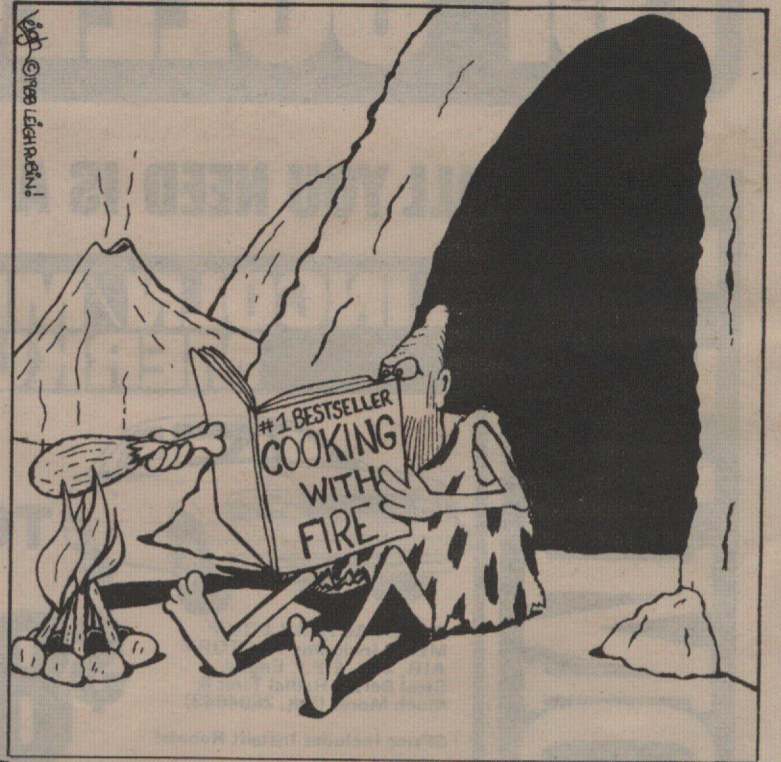
*Do you belong to any union?*

Suppose your interviewer does touch on a taboo topic. You might try asking the interviewer how this relates to competency for the job. Or, if

you think the answer will help rather than hurt your chances, you may choose to answer the question.

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By Leigh Rubin



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- 200 Personals
- 300 Employment
- 400 Job Seekers
- 500 For Sale: Misc.
- 600 Rentals/Roomies
- 700 Real Estate/Sale
- 800 Autos/Boats/Sale
- 900 Typing Services
- 1001 Events
- 1002 Services
- 1003 Tutors: Services
- 1004 Rides/Carpools

## 100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVERTISING MAJORS:** Positions open in the Advertising Department of The Sunblazer Newspaper. Layout/Paste up skills a bonus, but we will train you. Get experience before you graduate. Openings for the Fall Semester. Contact: Frank Castro, Advertising Manager at 554-2315

**ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, WRITERS WANTED:** To cover events on campus. Send your name, address, and phone to The Sunblazer newspaper, UH 315, University Park campus, SW 107 avenue, Miami, FL. 33199.

**SEVERAL SPORTS WRITERS WANTED:** To cover events on campus. Contact REY QUINTANA, 554-2315 or leave your name, address and telephone number C/O SPORTS, in UH 315, University Park or SC 253 at North Miami.

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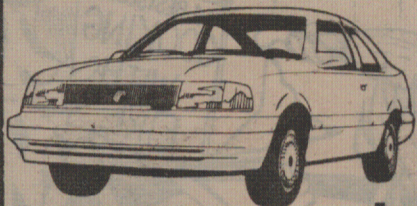


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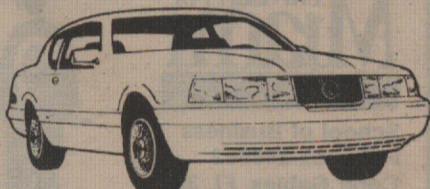


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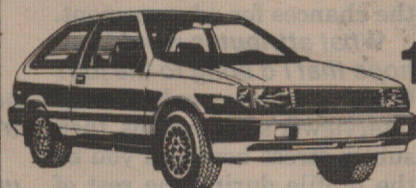
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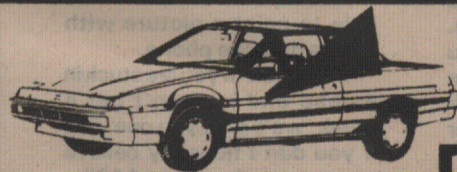
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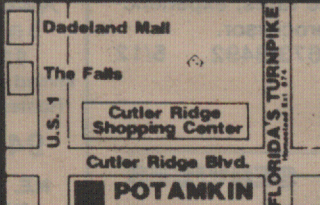
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