

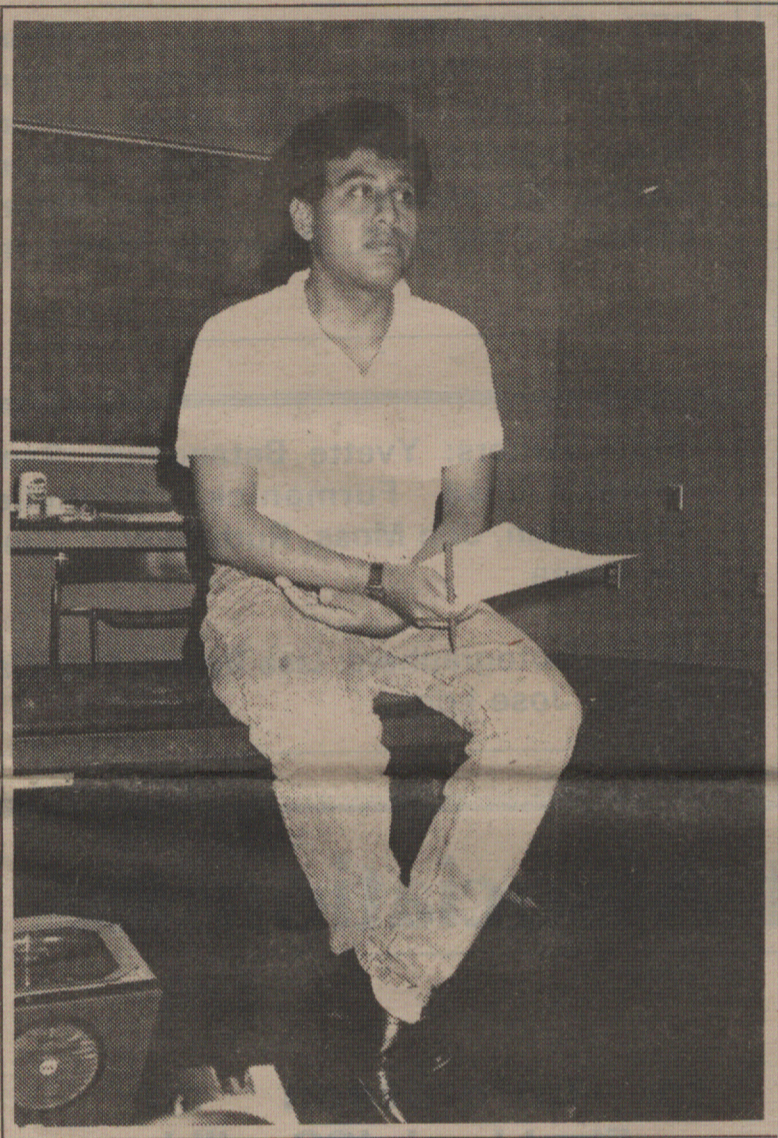
# SUNBLAZER

Florida International University

Tuesday, September 27, 1988

Volume 6, Number 5

## Law Society officers under investigation



■ FIU Law Society President Luis Novoa

Photo: Rey Quintana/FIU Sunblazer

REY QUINTANA  
Sunblazer Editor

Members of the Law Society at Florida International University are wondering where all their money is, and nobody seems to have a satisfactory explanation for them.

At a special meeting of the Society held on Wednesday, September 21, President Luis Novoa responded to charges that revenues collected through club fundraising activities were being used for personal entertainment. "All expenses in question were valid," Novoa said. "It's just that some of them came up unexpectedly and we didn't have a chance to tell all the members."

But the members didn't buy Novoa's story. At the Law Society's meeting of September 14 Yvette Perez-Almeida, the club secretary who claims she was kicked out of the Society because she missed a meeting, requested a financial report from Treasurer Barry Zabelinski. When Zabelinski was unable to deliver the report, members of the Society demanded an

audit of the organization by an independent third party. "We knew something was very wrong when Barry couldn't tell us how much money we had in the bank," Perez-Almeida said.

Accounting students Sandra Melo, Elizabeth Cata and Mike Hamersley were called in to perform the audit. "It was frustrating to say the least," commented Melo. "All we had to work with was what they gave us. We had no way of tracking down the money because they have a savings account and they paid cash for everything."

Two of the most questionable expenses reported by Novoa and Vice President Diana Cordoba are \$478.38 for office supplies and \$109.14 for what they term "entertainment." "How can we spend so much money on office supplies when we don't even have an office?" yelled member Elizabeth Delgado. "\$478 for pencils—come on!"

Novoa claims that the entertainment expense represents the cost of several receptions and "gatherings" which were planned at the last minute. Delgado claims that she and several other members were deliberately not told. "You in-

cluded the people you wanted to invite," she said. "And quite frankly I don't think it's fair for the members of this club to work and generate income for the Society so that you can spend it without telling us."

The auditing committee submitted a report of cash receipts and expenses to the FIU Law Society along with a list of recommendations designed to keep the problem from reoccurring. Among these is the conversion of the Society's savings account to a checking account with two separate signatures required on each check. "With a checking account there will always be a cancelled check that can verify an expense," said Melo. "That way nobody can spend money that cannot be traced later on."

Meanwhile the controversy continues as to how the club funds were spent, and the general opinion seems to be that Novoa and Cordoba tampered with the books in order to cover up several personal expenditures, including a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando. "They are definitely trying to hide something," said Mike Hamersley of the auditing committee. "She (Cor-

-continued on page 2

## Enrollment at FIU reaches record figure of 17,624

Fall semester enrollment for Florida International University has increased 8.27 percent to 17,624 students, the largest enrollment figure throughout the history of FIU.

"We are delighted that such a large number of students have selected FIU," said President Modesto A. (Mitch) Maidique. "This increase is an indication that FIU is serving the needs of our community. It also underscores the fact that the university's expansion plans respond to the realities of a rapidly growing community," he said.

The increase this fall also surpassed the projected number of students expected to enroll. In the 1987 fall semester, FIU, the largest university in Southeast Florida, had 16,176 students. Officials had estimated that the university would be serving 16,816 students this fall. The actual figure is closer to the 17,657 students expected

to attend FIU by the fall of 1989.

"A higher enrollment makes us even more aware of our responsibility to achieve excellence," said FIU Provost Judith H. Steihm. "We are committed to keep pace with the increasing educational needs of South Florida, not only quantitatively, but qualitatively, by maintaining high academic standards while at the same time offering a variety of programs which meet the demands of modern society."

Full-time enrollment (FTE) at FIU has also increased from 9,510 at this time last year to 10,489 in 1988, a 10.29 percent increase. The FTE has increased 49.8 percent in the last five years, from 7,003 in 1983.

Florida International University opened its doors in 1972 with 5,667 students. The following year, the number jumped to 8,807, a 55.4 percent increase. Since then, the

number of students has steadily increased at an annual average of 6.5 percent, leveling off during the last two years. This year's increase is the highest jump since 1983-84, when the enrollment went from 14,540 to 15,875, an increase of 9.18 percent. FIU expects to serve 30,000 students by the time it reaches its 30th anniversary in the year 2002.

"The demand for university programs in South Florida has been increasing for some time," said Richard J. Correnti, vice president for student affairs. "These enrollment numbers substantiate this need and reflect the fact that our admissions and registration areas, as well as academic units across the institution, have cooperated to meet it."

No figures are available yet regarding the composition of the student body by ethnic groups, sex, age, or study level.

### Inside:

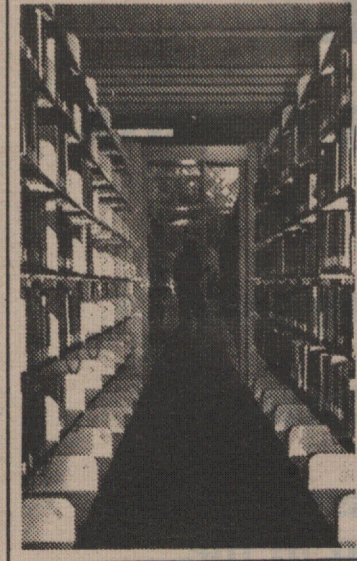
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doba) got very defensive everytime we asked her a question about a receipt. And what bothered me most of all was that for some of the bake sale revenues they reported there were no receipts whatsoever. We can't prove that they actually made what they said they made."

Yvette Perez-Almeida is considering going to the Student Government Association's Supreme Court and pressing charges against Novoa and Cordoba. If they are convicted of misappropriation of funds their aspirations of getting into a reputable law school would probably vanish. At the very least they are likely to lose their present positions when the next general elections come around. As one angry member put it, "When a government doesn't work because of the people that are running it, you get rid of the people, not the government."



■ Law Society member Elizabeth Delgado: "\$478 for pencils - come on!"

Photo: Rey Quintana/FIU Sunblazer

The Independent  
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# Research at FIU focuses on the eye

Photo: Patricia Frank/FIU Sunblazer



■ Dr. Richard Bone of FIU's Biology Department

**RON LEE**  
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Because the eye plays a key role in the vital process of visual perception it is no surprise that the eye itself is an object of much research and study. Here at Florida International University, Dr. Richard Bone of the Department of Physics and Dr. John Landrum of the Department of Chemistry have combined their resources to analyze specific compounds found in the eyes of primates, including man. These compounds apparently aid in sharpening the images we see and probably help prevent the occurrence of potentially harmful reactions within the eye.

The compounds are pigments (molecules that absorb light) that are found in a part of the eye called the retina. A distinct yellow spot exists at the center of the retina and is known as the macular pigment. It is these pigments that are being studied.

"The role of the macular pigments may be two-fold: to improve visual acuity (sharpen the picture) and to protect retinal tissue against some harmful chemical reactions," reported Dr. Bone. "Knowing the structure of the pigments may enhance our understanding of how these pigments perform such functions. The scientific community has known since the 1940's what class of compounds these pigments belong to, but no one has properly identified them. Our research has led to definitive characterizations of these pigments," he added.

After identifying the pigments, the researchers mapped the distribution of the pigments within the retina.

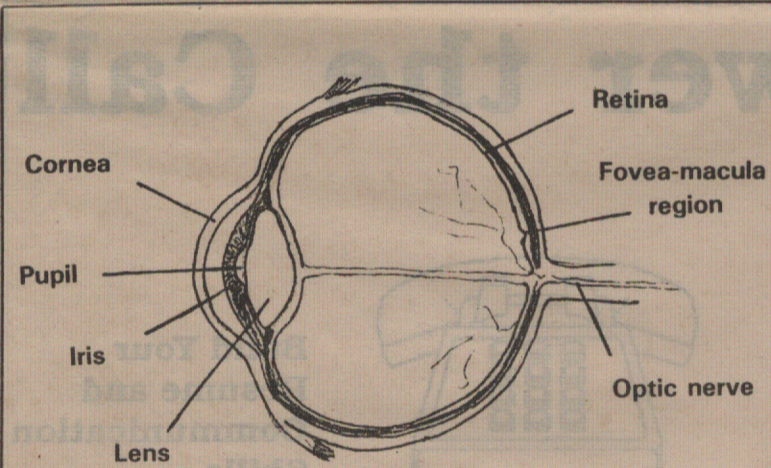
The study showed that the pigments are concentrated in the macula region and become less concentrated as you move further away from the spot. The pigments' link to vision is made by the fact that the point of sharpest vision is at the macula region, where the density of the pigments is greatest.

The discoveries made by Dr. Bone and Dr. Landrum may help provide a clearer picture of how the macular pigments affect vision. The data is important because it might contribute to understanding the process of vision as well as understanding some vision disorders.

Dr. Bone is currently studying the organization of the pigments within the retina and how this organization may affect vision. Studying the organization of the pigments will provide more information, from a physical point of view,

of how these pigments are related to vision.

Taking part in experimentation is very beneficial to science students, and several students helped with the research. Before going on to medical school, Lilia Fernandez, Sara Tarsis, and Jose Martinez participated in research that led to the publishing of a paper dealing with the distribution of the pigments within the retina. These students also had the opportunity of presenting their results at a national convention. Current research is being performed with the help of students Sheila Guzman and Ana Marino dealing with the physical effects that the pigments have on visual perception.



Structure of the eye in cross section - Light enters the eye through the pupil, the image is focused onto the retina and is then converted into electrical impulses. These impulses are transported, via the optic nerve, to the brain for processing. The fovea within the macula region is the point of sharpest vision, and it is here that the macular pigments identified by Dr.'s Bone and Landrum are most concentrated.

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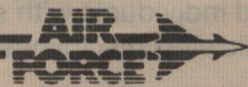
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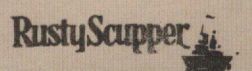
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## Art Museum reopens after \$75,000 facelift

The Art Museum at Florida International University, now larger after a \$75,000 facelift, officially opens October 21 with a lecture by a celebrated art critic and a larger-than-life exhibition—one that would not have fit inside the museum prior to renovations.

Now in its 11th season, the museum has become a popular gallery for art lovers at FIU and the community as well. "Thousands of people visit each year to see the exhibitions and to hear the Critic's lecture series," commented William Humphreys, museum curator.

Past outstanding exhibitions include Treasures from the Norton Gallery, Marcel Duchamps and Michael Graves. Noted critics who have lectured are Susan Sontag, John Simon, Hilton Kramer and John Cage.

"The lecture series has also sparked our appeal," said Humphreys. "We have top-rate speakers. That's why we

are open on Saturdays to accommodate more and more visitors." Award-winning Time Magazine art critic Rob Hughes, a favorite with university audiences, will give a free lecture on the day of the opening.

The newly enlarged museum also can accommodate larger shows, such as the William Tucker Exhibition, which will run from October 21 to November 19. The massive work crafted by Tucker, one of today's most significant sculptors, has impressed critics throughout the world. "At the student show last year, we had to put some things out in the hall because of the limited ceiling height," said Humphreys. "The expansion enables us to exhibit huge works like Tucker's with ease."

The expansion of the museum began immediately after it closed last summer. An additional 1,000 square feet were added to bring the total square footage to 3,000. The

ceiling was raised from 12 to 16 feet, and the walls were stripped of carpeting and plastered. Track lighting and a new air conditioning unit were installed. Work was completed just in time for a pre-reopening show on September 16.

"We thought we'd be ready in time for the show, but we were cautious," Humphreys said. "That's why we delayed the grand opening until October."

Hughes will give a free lecture open to the public on October 21 at 8:00 pm at Athenaeum (AT) 100 at the University Park campus.

The Art Museum at FIU is located in Primera Casa (PC) 112 at University Park. Hours are Mondays from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm., Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays from noon to 4:00 pm. For more information, call the museum at (305) 554-2980.



■ Museum attendants hang pictures in preparation for water-color exhibit currently on display

Photo: Patricia Frank/FIU Sunblazer

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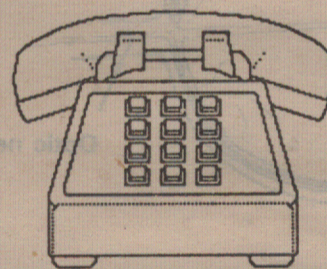
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## The Fund for FIU

## Profile: Coach Mike Becker

JUAN GONZALEZ  
Sunblazer Sports Editor

Two years ago Coach Mike Becker took over the reins of the men's and women's cross country teams at Florida International University. Since then, the difference in performance and attitude can be seen both on and off the course.

After coaching four state runner-ups and indoor state champions at Palmer High School in Miami, Coach Becker took over a cross country program at FIU that was in shambles. The school administration was considering terminating the program for lack of runners and a long history of inefficiencies.

After neutralizing the program's problems, Coach Becker is looking ahead with high expectations. "Basically, I consider this the first year of a five year program for both the men's and women's team, simply because we are so

heavily packed with freshmen," he said. "Our women's team consists of seven runners and six are freshmen. Our men's team consist of nine runners and five are freshmen. At this time, because the team is so young, I'm not putting any pressure on them to perform. What we have is a goal that for each of the next four years we are going to get better and better and get more competitive with the top Division I cross country powers. All this leads to our ultimate goal of getting to the National Championships in four to five years.

"The biggest difference since I've taken over would be in the enjoyment of the sport," Becker explained. "When I came here they were not enjoying what they were doing; some of the kids weren't going to run the next year. Now they look forward to coming out everyday. They enjoy the practice and they look forward to going to races although they know we're not going to be

winning most of them. Still, they enjoy it because they know we're improving and moving toward our goals."

But perhaps the transformation that demands the most accolades has come in the runners' performance in the classroom rather than on the cross country course. When Becker, a Princeton University graduate, took over the team it had an average GPA of 1.7. Currently, the team's GPA is 2.5 and they're striving to attain a 3.0.

It seems as though Coach Mike Becker is on the right "track" on all counts.

For any information on the cross country team contact Coach Mike Becker at the Sunblazer Arena. The numbers are 554-3411 and 387-5624.

## Arena goes public

Florida International University has swung the doors of the Sunblazer Arena and its athletic facilities open to the public. According to Dr. Dick Young, FIU Athletic Director, the University is attempting to play a larger role in the community and to become more civic minded.

"Dr. Young thought that by opening some facilities to the general public more people would know that FIU is here," said John Pederson, director of campus recreation.

The availability of facilities to the community has several purposes. First, it will enable FIU to play a larger role in the community and identify with the people of South Florida.

The second purpose is to increase the attendance at the athletic events at the university. "The feeling is that once you get the public into the

arena and using the facilities, they will in turn begin to identify with the university's athletic teams," Pederson said. "Response has been good. We have had quite a few calls already about the costs and schedules for using the Arena."

The facilities at the University Park campus will not be the only ones available to the public. Those of the North Miami Campus will also be open for public use. Both campuses offer access to tennis and basketball courts, aerobic classes and locker rooms. University Park also offers access to indoor raquetball courts.

For information about use of the facilities at University Park, call (305)554-2951 and at the North Miami Campus call(305)940-5800.

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## North Miami Library enters computer age

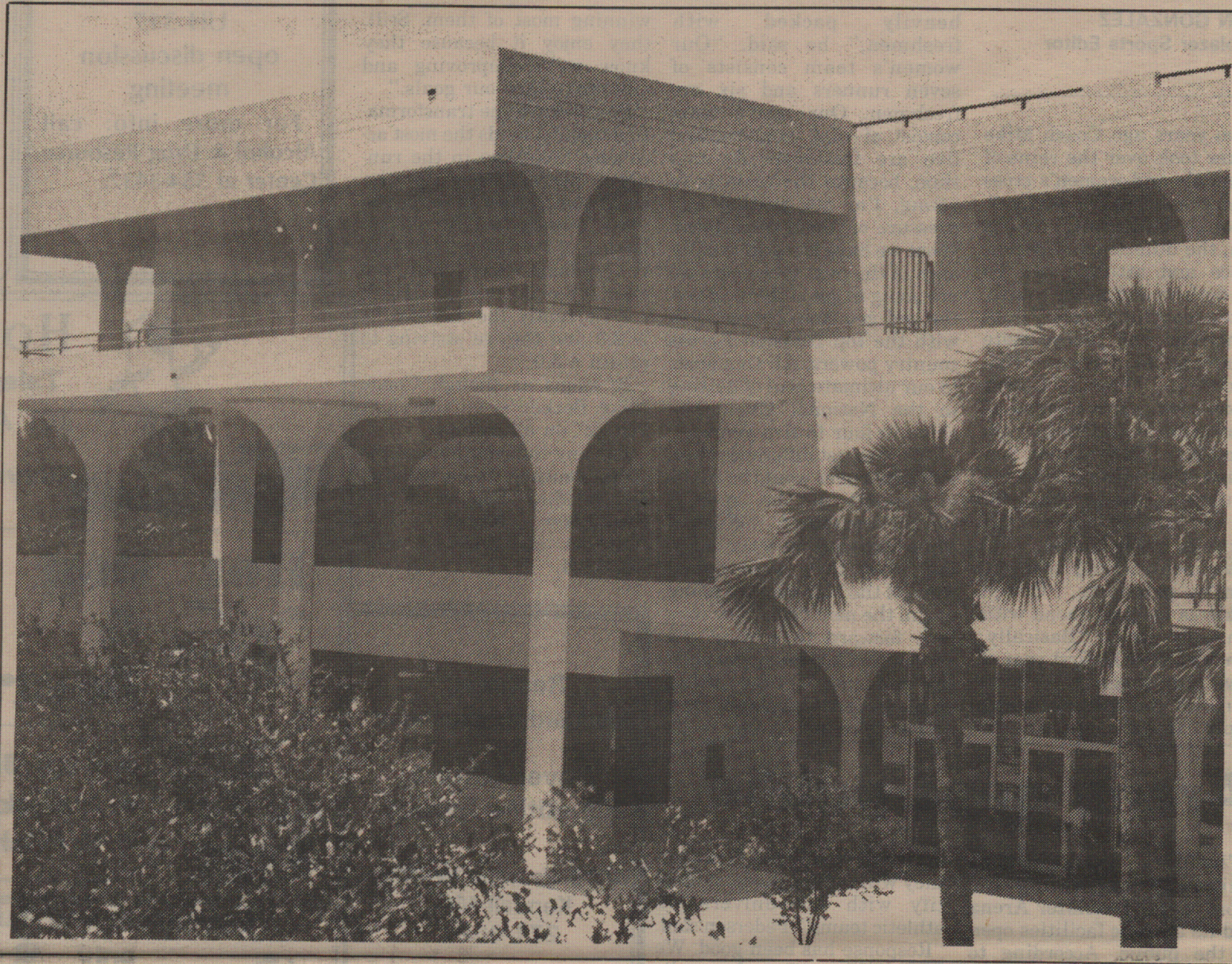
**JULIO LORA**  
Sunblazer Features Editor

A new era at Florida International University began last January 20th with the opening of the North Miami Campus Library. In this \$8,000,000 complex, the latest technology and information is put at the finger tips of the FIU community.

The building itself is a structure designed to foster a perfect learning environment. Huge picture windows at every turn allow for sunlight to bathe the environment and bring it to life. The windows offer panoramic views of the wooded areas which surround the North Campus. The spacious layouts on all three floors offer the most precious of commodities, solitude.

The library accommodates over 232,000 volumes. It is equipped with the latest information retrieval technology available. The LUIS computer terminals, conveniently located at every turn, can locate any book or publication at any of the state universities. Also offered are several INFOTRAC terminals listing a wide assortment of periodical articles and government publications. Movies and government films are readily available for viewing on the premises.

A new computer system called SEFLIN can track down any book or magazine in any South Florida Library. Another system, known as SOLINET, allows you to locate a book or periodical in any university or public library in the entire country. The most fascinating piece of equipment housed at the library is the new Silver Platter Compact Disc System. It's composed of a computer which is used to read computer discs with mind boggling amounts of informa-



■ The new library at the North Miami Campus features the latest in computer equipment

tion. One particular disc has everything written in the entire world in the field of psychology from 1974 to the present. The library also has compact discs on medicine and education. Once you find the location of the information you need with any of these systems it may be acquired through the Inter-Library Loan program if it's not in the FIU collection.

These new innovations have rendered the traditional card

catalogue obsolete. "We want people to become comfortable with computers", said Reference Librarian Scott Kass, "because card catalogs are on their way out and computers are here to stay."

Another form of storing vast amounts of information in a compact fashion is with the use of microfiche and microfilm. Available on microfiche is every university catalog in the country and all the out of town

telephone directories. A wide variety of newspapers are stored on microfilm.

To help with those simple but crucial tasks involved in writing research papers and reports, there are eight copy machines. The Student Government Association has also donated to the library six new typewriters. The facility also offers a computer room with a well-stocked software library and of course plenty of

computers and printers. Many students choose to do their own word processing with this excellent equipment.

The big advantage of the North Campus Library is that because of the smaller student population, all the great facilities, equipment, and staff are readily available to aid the individual in his or her endeavor. As Scott Kass pointed out, "Only 30 percent of college students in America ever use their library."

## Sunblazer Classifieds

### 000-ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thursdays-Club 94 Aerosquadron** is the FIU getaway. Before 11pm we admit ladies in for **FREE** and give each lady **1 FREE** bar drink. Also, Bud 12 oz. drafts are only 50 cents and bar drinks are \$1.00. Club 94 is located at the end of Red Road under the 836/Red Road exit. Call 261-4220 for more info.

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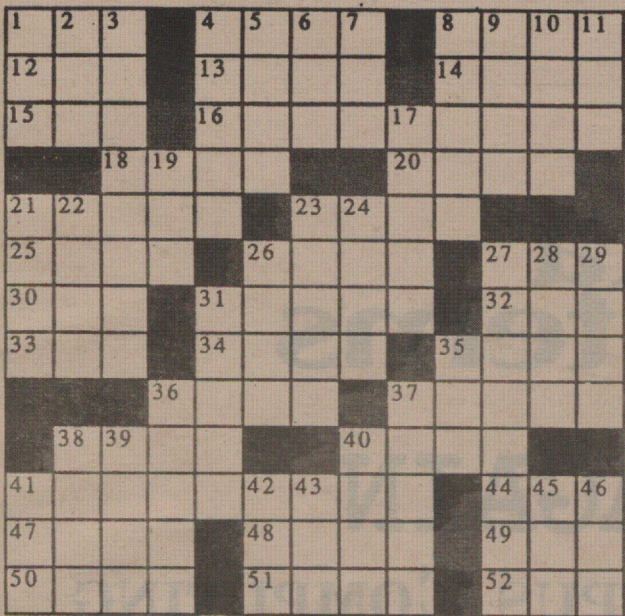
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**Next issue: FIU's Cafeteria is under new management, but is it getting any better?**



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**ACROSS**

- 1 A \_\_\_ FOR ALL SEASONS
- 4 FRESH-WATER FISH
- 8 "THE YOUNGER"
- 12 FOUND IN NUCLEUS OF CELLS
- 13 ALTER OF AH GOD!
- 14 CORROSIVE
- 15 MOTOR OIL BRAND
- 16 FLOWER SMELLING BULL
- 18 WOODWIND INSTRUMENT
- 20 PHYSICAL PERSON
- 21 TO MISREPRESENT
- 23 EXAMPLE
- 25 PARADISE
- 26 PIECE OF CLAY
- 27 GENDER
- 30 PAST
- 31 IRRELIGIOUS
- 32 IRON
- 33 S 'OUT GROUP
- 34 LACKADAY
- 35 PIMPLE
- 36 VENISON
- 37 ESTIMATES
- 38 GK. GODDESS OF THE EARTH
- 40 DESERVE
- 41 DECLINED 1939 NOBEL PRIZE (GER.)
- 44 ORRA
- 47 DRY
- 48 KEG
- 49 TOY
- 50 OWINGS
- 51 SCORCH
- 52 GK. NUMBER SEVEN

**DOWN**

- 1 OPERATIONAL DEGREE
- 2 FORMICIDE
- 3 PARTY
- 4 HYMN TO THE "PILORY"
- 5 TO ONE SIDE
- 6 PULLMAN
- 7 RESPECTED IN ACADEMIA
- 8 KIAK
- 9 PLATO
- 10 PETITE
- 11 \_\_\_ MAN OUT
- 17 NORW POET
- 19 GRAIN
- 21 DROP
- 22 MARGIN
- 23 CUBAN
- 24 JUNEAU
- 26 FALSEHOOD
- 27 ANNATATE
- 28 CANAL
- 29 DRIVE-IN ("AMERICAN GRAFFITI")
- 31 HYMN
- 35 FORBID
- 36 FEAT
- 37 YACHT
- 38 TEACHER
- 39 CRAVAT
- 40 ICELANDIC LITERARY WORK
- 41 BASE
- 42 REJECT
- 43 A BOOK OF THE BIBLE
- 45 PERIOD
- 46 ALUMNI DEGREE

## Speak out! - Student opinions

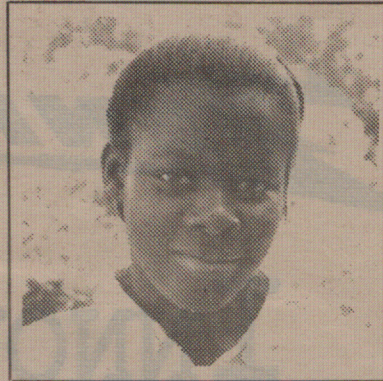
This week's question:

**"What do you like most about studying at FIU?"**



"The convenience of being able to take classes and hold down a full-time job at the same time. I also like the variety of people that I meet."

**-Brian R. Rick**  
Public Relations major



"I like the fact that they make minority students have a sense of belonging. This makes the student want to learn and achieve. At other colleges and universities they sometimes leave the students to fend for themselves. Here they understand and help us with whatever problems we may have."

**-Johanne Manestime**  
Biology-Premed major



"First of all its convenient location (5-minute drive from home) and shuttle service between the campuses. I am also very impressed with the facilities and diversified curriculums available to the students. There seems to be a very high emphasis on being up-to-date with the latest in all fields."

**-Robert M. Chamberlin**  
General Engineering major



"It challenges me after being away from the books for a number of years."

**-Esther Lewis**  
Social Work major



"Friendly and caring professors who challenge you to be the best you can be-especially in the biology department."

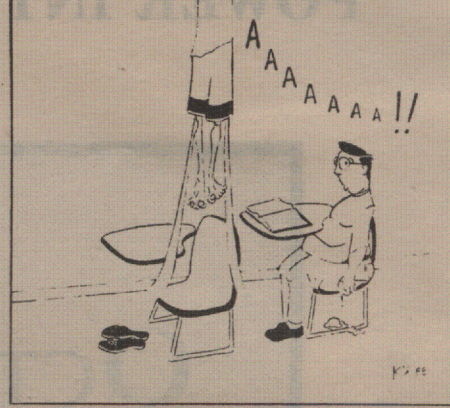
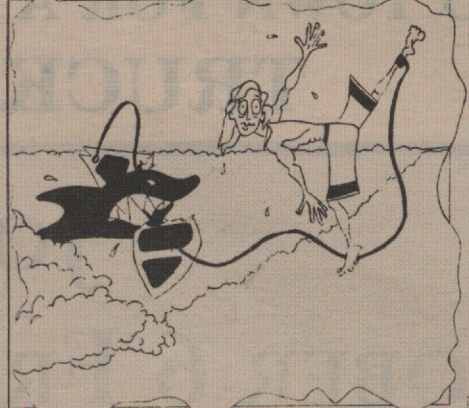
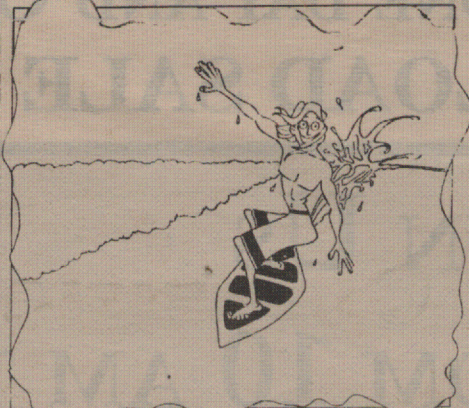
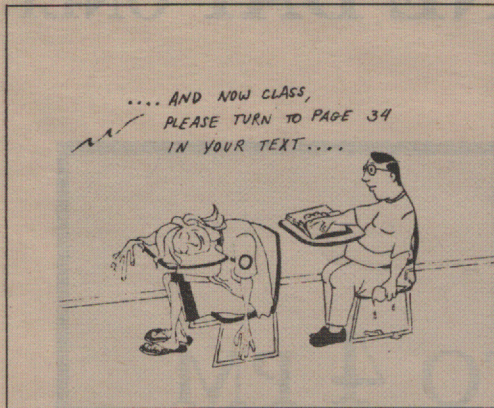
**-Marilyn Batista**  
Biology major



"The reciprocity agreement our library has within the South Florida University System."

**-Ivette Perez-Almeida**  
English major

### "i" on campus



by Kevin Kaufman

## Career Corner-Interviewing for information

**Question:** I have chosen a major but I don't really know what I want to do with it. How can I find information on careers that will be open to me when I graduate?

**Answer:** For the best information go to the pros! Interview professionals in the field to help you gather the information you need. Interviewing for information is a helpful career planning technique that allows you to gather first-hand information and make personal observations about career fields you are considering.

Here are some tips to follow to get started:

- Identify areas of interest through reading/research and make a list of potential contacts.
- Make it easy on yourself and begin practicing this technique with easy targets such as relatives, neighbors, roommates, parents, etc.
- Request an appointment by letter or phone call. Personal referrals are most effective whenever possible.
- Prepare questions to ask, such as: "What is the best preparation for this field?"

"What skills are required?"  
 "What is a typical day like in your job?"  
 "What are the rewards and frustrations of working in this field?"  
 "How did you get started in this field?"

Remember - your purpose is to gather information. You are not asking for a job! You will be doing the interviewing. Keep a record of everyone you contact and remember to send each person a thank-you note after the interview.

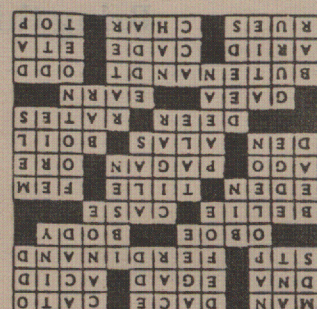
Why do all this? Information interviewing will give you in-

formation that won't be found in a book. You will be able to clarify your career goals and develop confidence in your interviewing skills. The network of contacts you develop can lead you to other contacts and someday even to job opportunities!

For more suggestions on interviewing for information, contact our office in UH 340.

**Got a story? Call us at 554-2315**

**Below are the answers to the crossword puzzle found in the top section of this page. More crossword puzzles in the weeks to come.**





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