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The Beacon, January 14, 2008

Florida International University

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DIGGING FOR TRUTH
Exploring African diaspora

FANTASY BASEBALL
Sports have never been pure

LEGAL DRUGS
Hallucinogen still permitted

HUGE WIN
Mens B-ball crushes Troy

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

OPINION PAGE 5

LIFE! PAGE 6

SPORTS PAGE 12

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

CHANGE OF HEART

Negative feedback leads to new unpaid ticket policy

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

registered with the OPT. These citations will still be sent to external collection agencies.

"Ticketing is a means to enforce our parking regulations for the benefit of the entire University community," Foster said.

Freshman Courtney Roberts, who received a ticket for parking in housing, disagrees with the shift in policy.

"That's stupid," Roberts said. "Parking has nothing to do with classes."

Roberts is currently appealing the ticket and says that she has a good chance to win the appeal because she lives in housing.

"I have a hard time finding parking and have to go park by the [statue in front of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center]," Roberts said. "I have a reason for parking [in housing]."

Foster believes the shift in policy to be an effective one.

"Placing holds complies with a requirement set forth by state auditors, who mandate that the Office of Parking and Transportation have an effective collections mechanism in place," Foster said in the letter. "I call on our students and the entire University community to please observe our parking rules and regulations that permit access to campus and ensure safety to students, faculty and staff."

For more information on the OPT's current policies, visit its Web site at www.parking.fiu.edu.

Students and faculty can also call the Parking and transportation office at 305-348-3615 for University Park and 305-919-5558 for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Starting this year, the Office of Parking and Transportation will no longer be using collection agencies to collect unpaid parking tickets issued to FIU students and faculty.

"As a result of student, faculty and staff feedback, the Office of Parking and Transportation has modified its collection policy as it relates to outstanding parking and traffic tickets," said Bill Foster, the director of parking and transportation, in a letter to *The Beacon*.

Previously, OPT would turn-over unpaid citations to the NCO Financial Systems collection agency after 210 days.

This policy had been in place since 2006.

Starting in Summer 2008, students will not be able to register for classes the following semester until they have paid all citations or successfully appealed them, while faculty will not be able to purchase a parking decal.

"The goal here is two-fold: to comply with state auditors and to provide quality service to our students, faculty and staff who pay for parking on campus," said Maydel Santana-Bravo the director of FIU media relations.

According to Foster, there are 67,000 unpaid tickets going back to 2002.

The funds from the unpaid tickets would help expand parking access, enhance transportation services and provide maintenance and security for all parking areas, according to Foster.

The majority of citations were issued to vehicles not

JAZZY JAMS



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

HIGH NOTE: Senior music majors Yahoteh "Red" Kokayi (left) and Hari Salazar (right) play for the welcome back event at the School of Education on Jan. 11.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

On-campus arrest made after man displays firearm

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

A man was arrested on Jan. 9 for showing a gun after a verbal confrontation in the lobby of Lakeview Housing Complex with three residents and a desk assistant.

According to Bill King, chief of Public Safety, the suspect, who was not an FIU student, was visiting an acquaintance in the building before getting into an argument with the residents.

The suspect was charged with aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm, both of which carry felony designations, according to King.

"The people involved did not know each other, so there was no prior provocation for the incident," said King.

His department could not disclose the names of the parties involved or why the argument began, citing an ongoing investigation.

Following the incident, the desk assistant who was assaulted called Public Safety. According to King, officers responded within minutes.

"Everyone involved responded in the way they have been trained to, and that is important for

students to understand," said Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, in whose division Residential Life falls.

When Public Safety arrived, the suspect was taken into custody and moved to the Miami-Dade County "PGK" lock up where he is being held pending further investigation.

This isn't the first time Lakeview

throughout the residence halls and in building entrances, lobby areas and elevators. These cameras are not monitored by the staff and are used to document daily activities in the event a record is needed to aid in an investigation.

"We have a very good camera system," King said. "We are still investigating to see if there are any images we can use."

Cathy Akens, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs

Everyone involved responded in the way they have been trained to, and that is important for students to understand

Village residence hall has had security concerns. In September, police had to escort a resident off campus after discovering he lied about past arrests on his housing agreement.

All residents must sign a housing agreement which requires students to provide accurate information and abide by housing rules and regulations.

According to the general information page on the Housing and Residential Life Web-site, "The Housing and Residential Life department has deployed several surveillance cameras

In the United States, 38 states do not allow guns at schools, and 16 states, including Florida, expressly do not allow students to carry concealed firearms on campus, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. According to King, this holds true at FIU, where only Public Safety officers are allowed to carry firearms on campus.

Public Safety's Campus Security Report states that FIU police reported 23 instances of aggravated assault at FIU, from

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • JANUARY 14

Pre Vet Society General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Location TBA

Panther Rage General Meeting:

4 p.m., Graham Center 140

TUESDAY • JANUARY 15

MLK Youth Forum:

9 a.m., Wolfe Center University Ballrooms

Music Saves Lives General Meeting:

Noon, Graham Center 241

Honors Council General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 140

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 16

Asian Student Union General Meeting:

6 p.m., Gracies Grill

“So You Think You Can Dance?” Auditions:

Noon - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

Catholic Student Union - Holy Mass:

Noon - 1 p.m., Graham Center 150

Delta Sigma Pi General Meeting:

9 p.m., Graham Center 343

Graduate Student Association:

1 p.m., Graham Center 140

THURSDAY • JANUARY 17

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:

8 p.m., Chemistry and Physics 197

Italian Club General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

Una Noche con Albita Rodriguez:

7:30 p.m., Marc Building 2nd floor

Panther Promotions General Meeting:

3 p.m., Graham Center 241

An hour upon the stage: The brief life of the federal theatre:

7 p.m., Wolfsonian

FRIDAY • JANUARY 18

MLK Breakfast:

8 a.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

SPC Movie “The Kingdom”:

7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

Last day to register for the CLAST exam (paper-pencil version) and Essay subtest in time for Summer 2008 Graduation.

Last day to have passed CAT-CLAST (computer version of ELS, Reading, and Math subtests) for Spring 2008 Graduation.

-Compiled by Kassandra Pool/Beacon Staff

THEORY MEETS PRACTICE

First Annual International Business Symposium “treads across a flatter globe”

CHRISTINA VEIGA
News Director

Sorry Christopher Columbus, but the world is getting flatter, according to the International Business Honor Society and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity at FIU.

On Jan. 16, IBHS and Alpha Kappa Psi will host the First Annual International Business Symposium, “Treading Across a Flatter Globe,” to discuss the business and cultural issues that arise as the result of an increasingly globalized world. The event will focus on Asia, Latin America and Europe, with business leaders from FIU and abroad representing each region.

“The symposium is basically theory meets practice – the students have the theory, and [the speakers] have the practice,” Dawid Pozniak, director of public relations for IBHS said. “Students will be able to compare if what they know in theory matches practices in the international business world.”

Speakers will share their experiences and insights about doing business abroad through lectures, debates and questions posed by the audience.

“These guys have experience that students have been learning about in their books,” said Jacob Dobb, president of IBHS. “I think that will allow the students to go through experiential learning, which is basically taking things that they’ve learned

in class, and apply it to everyday life.”

Speakers on Asia include Peter Levenda, manager of a telecommunications company in Asia and author on occult history, and Steven Heine, director of the Institute for Asian Studies and FIU professor.



Jacob Dobb, IBHS president

It’s not only business that were going to be talking about, it’s also how culture affects a lot of things, which is intertwined with business.

Heine specializes in religion and social sciences, bringing a different dimension to the event.

“It’s not only business that we’re going to be talking about, it’s also how culture affects a lot of things, which is intertwined with business,” Dobb said.

Representatives for Latin America include Carl Cirra, Summit of the Americas Center director at FIU, and Jerry Haar, associate director for the Knight Ridder Center for Excellence in Management in the Department of Management and International Business.

There are no speakers listed yet for the European region.

“The business leaders that we have coming are experts in their field. They have the experience and have authored books based on that experience. We let the speakers know the topic and that we are really

trying to help the future professionals of F.I.U. with the elements they can expect in their fields. Our speakers identified with the issue and agreed to contribute,” Alan P. Rivera Vice President of Professional Development.

The Symposium will

focus on these three regions due to their importance in the Miami business community.

“Those continents—Asia, Latin America and Europe – are the most important when it comes to business, especially in Miami,” Dobb said. “China’s rising, and Miami is the central point of doing business with Latin America.”

Dobb echoes what many experts are saying about Miami, and the growth of Asia and Latin America.

Miami seems to be happening place for party-goers and traders alike, recently being named by *Trader* magazine as one of the top 20 cities for traders, according to the *Economist*. Meanwhile, Krishnan Dandapani, professor and co-director of the Asian Studies Center at FIU, estimates that Asia’s population is growing at an average rate of 10 percent, while the rest of the world is growing at only three to

four percent. Also growing are business opportunities in Latin America, with an increasing amount of people joining the ranks of the middle class and the region’s economies growing at an average rate of five percent since 2004, according to the *Economist*.

Although Pozniak and Dobb think that the majority of attendees will probably be international business majors, the event is open to all majors.

“Just because your not an international business major, doesn’t mean that you’re not interested in what’s going on around the world,” Dobb said. “It’s good to be updated all the time.”

And for those international business majors, the symposium presents a learning opportunity beyond that which can be taught in the classroom.

“Students should show up to help themselves understand what they will be getting into on the professional level,” Rivera said. Working on the international level is not a simple task; therefore, students can help themselves by taking opportunities, such as the International Business Symposium, to help themselves prepare for the modern globalizing business world.”

The symposium will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Graham Center ballrooms. For more information, visit <http://www.ibsymposium.com/index.htm>.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 7 issue of *The Beacon*, Fernando Figueredo should have been named as interim department chair.

The subhead for the lead Sports story was also incorrectly listed.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

SGC-UP Notes

January 9, 2007 • Call to Order: 4:13 p.m. •
Adjournment: 5:19 p.m.

President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):

- Introduction of The Student Involvement Council resolution. The SIC would replace and combine the Student Organization Council, Honors Council and Graduate Student Organizations. Voting for resolution will take place Jan. 23.
- Five members from SGA and five students from the University of Miami will be meeting with mayors from different South Florida counties to discuss voting awareness initiatives, local government and education.

Comptroller’s Report (Sergio Ibarra Bolanos):

- Publix purchase orders will no longer be used. Student clubs can be reimbursed for expenditures up to the amount in their overall club budget with a valid receipt.

Chief of Cabinet’s Report (Kenneth Gelok):

- FIU will host the Florida Student Association on Jan. 18. Business casual attire is required.
- Requests all SGA members submit their class schedules.
- Cram Jam will take place on Dec. 10 and Dec. 11.

Student Organization Council:

- Special election to be held on Jan. 22 for open position. Stop by SOC office for application.
- Club Fair will take place Jan. 22 and 23 and will be the largest club fair to date.
- The ICS website program used to manage all SOC clubs is successful.

New Business:

- Resolution “In Support of Gracie’s Grill” shelved for revision until Jan. 16.

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff

THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.beaconnewspaper.com

NEWSFLASH

The Wolfsonian-FIU hosts Lin Arison and Neil Folberg

The Wolfsonian-FIU will host author Lin Arison and photographer Neil Folberg on Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. The two will discuss their recent book, "Travels With Van Gogh and the Impressionists: Discovering the Connections," published by Abbeville Press in Sept. The discussion is free and will be followed by a book signing in The Dynamo Café. E-mail anne@thewolf.fiu.edu for more information.

Library and Museum accept Ronaldo Lopez Dirube collection

On Jan. 11, The Cuban Research Institute and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum accepted the only collection to span the career of the late painter and sculptor Ronaldo Lopez Dirube.

The collection includes more than 60 sculptures, drawings and mixed media pieces and is one of the few collections by Lopez Dirube to be in public hands.

Memorabilia of the artist was also donated to the Special Collections Department of the Green Library at FIU.

The Frost Art Museum plans to eventually sponsor activities designed to highlight the significance of the Lopez Dirube Collection, one of the leading Cuban artists of the 20th Century.

Kauffman Campus Initiatives Logo competition

The Kauffman foundation, who has been holding a competition for students to design its official seal, has extended the deadline for the competition.

The winning seal in the competition will be used by all universities who participate in the program, which includes FIU.

Complete information can be found at the official competition Web-site, www.DesignTheSeal.com.

-Compiled by Christina Veiga/Beacon Staff



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

TROUBLE IN THE DORMS: An unidentified man was arrested at Lakeview North after displaying a firearm.

Akens: Be alert, in any community something bad can always happen

HOUSING, page 1

2004-2006. Only three of these instances took place at residence halls.

Following the shooting at Virginia Tech last year, many universities set up emergency plans

in case of emergencies. When asked about a plan to lock down the housing buildings in the event of an emergency, neither Emergency Management nor Public Safety were willing to comment.

One thing emphasized

by both King and Akens was the resident's responsibilities to be alert and aware of their surroundings.

"Often in a community setting, comfort causes us to put our guard down. That is one thing we always

emphasize with students," Akens said. "We want them to feel like the halls are comfortable and safe and feel at home, but we also want [students] to be alert and understand that in any community something bad can always happen."

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MD CLINICAL



Book tells slaves' story

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Contributing Writer

Akin Ogundiran and Toyin Falola give a voice to the voiceless with the publication of "Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora", the first book to explore African slaves' experiences in their own words.

In 2003, a group of scholars led by Ogundiran, an FIU associate professor of history, and Falola, associate professor of history from the University of Texas, realized through meetings and conferences that there was no book on the subject.

"The fact that there are almost no publications on the archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora that bring the experience into one volume is the main reason we decided to write this book," said Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies department.

Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora pioneers the use of archaeology to delineate a slave's perspective - an innovation - since most information comes from a slave owner's point of view,

according to Ogundiran.

Presenting their own compilations, 21 scholars r compensated for, as Ogundiran refers to it, "the silence of African voices."

"Given the lack of transcripts from a slave's perspective in historical archives, the material culture - the objects of everyday life with its emphasis on the combination of material records and words, both written and oral - becomes very valuable in formulating new questions and answers," Ogundiran said. "Not only on how Africans contributed to the foundation of modern capitalism, but also on its impact on their daily lives, cultural development and thus the shaping of 'African character' in the past five hundred years."

Ogundiran has analyzed the American economical system and sees the African Diaspora as a microcosm of the era's international commercial surge.

"Slaves were engaged in the local economies. They were expected to raise their own crops for self-nourishment, some went as far as to sell goods and consequently buy their freedom," Ogundiran said.



SUSANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

PLANNING AHEAD: The Disability Resource Center's Kathryn Trionfo and Theodore Hall, Disability Resource Center's Career Services, work with Lenroy Jones, Career Services director, to help students with disabilities find employment.

diran said.

Toyin Falola, co-editor of the book and a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, explained the roots of the modern economical system.

"The Atlantic slave trade and American slavery laid the foundation for the modern economical society, therefore you cannot tell the story of the rise of capitalism without including the

African contributions to that," Falola said in a phone interview.

Ava Purkiss, graduate student in the African New World Studies program, understands the book's impact.

"Many students who study the African Diaspora can appreciate the importance of a text that examines material culture," Purkiss said in an e-mail interview.

"In this book lie some core ideals that are the basis for students' research as well as their identities as Black people. As a Caribbean-American, I can appreciate how archeology, as well as other disciplines in the text, is used to demonstrate the connectedness between African peoples across the Atlantic."

Ogundiran wants to impress upon students the

book's contribution to ongoing scholarship.

"The book speaks through the recent trends of transnational history. The same forces that created colonial America created Atlantic slavery and colonialism in Africa," Ogundiran said. "We need to make people realize you can no longer separate the African Diaspora experience from the African experience."

SJMC raises HIV/AIDS awareness through contest

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

In order to boost awareness and prepare journalism students in health issues, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has launched the SJMC AIDS Journalism Competition.

The competition, which requires a 700-word essay with the theme "Why Should We Care?" must include the scientific, social, cultural or personal aspects of AIDS. It will give two winners the opportunity to travel to Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa to interview, record, video and write stories about AIDS.

"It's basically to get hands on experience in an area devastated by the disease and come back and use what they've learned to hopefully positively affect our community," said David Berry, marketing coordinator for SJMC.

Intrigued by the *New York Times'* Nicholas Kristof's annual competition, in which he takes

students to Africa to exercise backpack journalism, and after reviewing "Age of AIDS," a four-hour program of the history of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and the need to train in AIDS journalism, Allan Richards decided to launch the competition.

"Increasingly, journalism has changed from just either a print or a broadcast or a video to the multimedia approach which is also called backpack journalism," said Richards, chairperson for SJMC's department of journalism and broadcasting.

A backpack journalist carries a laptop, a satellite phone and a digital video camera with editing skills, said Richards, who will accompany the winners.

The winners' work in South Africa will be posted on the SJMC's Web site and may air on PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service.

"I've had conversations in the past with [PBS'] vice president of programming and he said 'if the

students really produce something watchable, and of high quality we can see if it's good enough to go on the air locally,'" Richards said.

The essays will be judged by a group of local television producers and editors.

Applicants must submit an application, essay and two letters of recommendation from a faculty member and/or supervisor from a media organization where the applicant has worked or interned. Clips, photos or videos should be submitted by Feb. 18.

Richards views the trip to South Africa as a fit for the University's international approach.

"This also fits into FIU's approach to internationalize the school and reach out to other parts of the world," Richards said.

Berry also sees the trip as an international effort on the school's behalf.

"This is the school of journalism's way of doing the I in FIU and our students will directly benefit from that," Berry said.

NEWSFLASH

A fair for volunteers

The Biscayne Bay Campus' Spring Volunteer Fair will be held Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square. Nonprofit organizations will be looking to recruit volunteers. For more information call 305-919-5360.

Free coffee on Late Day Latte

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation will host Late Day Latte on Feb. 14 in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square and March 27 in Academic I. Free coffee will be offered 5-7 p.m. For more information call 305-919-5804.

One World Celebration 2008

The Student Programming Council will be sponsoring events for the One World Celebration in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square from Jan. 28-31, noon-3 p.m. Each day will showcase diversity and culture. Free food will be offered.

- Compiled by Catherine Kaiman

Check out The Beacon and Radiate FM's on new Web site at FIUSM.COM



THE BEACON | Editorial

Unpaid traffic citations no longer a threat to your credit score

The Office of Parking and Transportation has finally seen the light. In an effort to comply with the angry responses from students, faculty and staff due to the practice of referring those ticketed in FIU parking lots to creditors, the department has taken overdue steps to expedite the collection of unpaid parking tickets while simultaneously heeding the will of the FIU community.

Rather than complicating matters by referring individual violators to collection agencies, the OPT has chosen to deal with violators internally beginning Summer 2008. Presently, the OPT refers unpaid citations dating back 210 days or more to NCO Financial Systems, a private collection agency.

The improved system that will be implemented involves the issuance of holds on the PantherSoft student registration system. These holds will prevent student violators from registering for classes at the start of the semester until the ticket is either appealed or paid. While some may also view this method as harsh, it is a

vast improvement over referring students to collections agencies. Students are already burdened by student loans. The last thing they need are credit scores ruined by an institution whose primary function is to educate. Universities should improve their students' prospects for future success, not hinder them with ruined credit scores, so these changes are laudable.

Faculty will also be affected; unable to purchase decals until outstanding fees are paid. A large amount of the citations issued were given to individuals not registered at the University. Such citations will continue to be referred to the collection agency.

The revamped collection mechanism gives every indication that the OPT is dedicated to taking the interests and opinions of the student body into consideration when making administrative decisions. It will ease the payment of citations through PantherSoft's built-in payment system and, best of all, enable students to pay for tickets without fear of having a blot on their personal credit.

THE SOAPBOX:

An Op-Ed Column

Ticket policy re-examined

BILL FOSTER

Special to The Beacon

As a result of student, faculty and staff feedback, the Office of Parking and Transportation has modified its collection policy as it relates to outstanding parking and traffic tickets. Current students with outstanding tickets will no longer be sent to a collection agency, but rather will be dealt with internally, through a process similar to what was in place several years ago.

Starting summer 2008 semester, current students who have unpaid parking tickets will have to either pay or appeal tickets before they are permitted to register for the following semester. Likewise, current faculty and staff with outstanding tickets will not be able to purchase a parking decal until tickets are settled.

We believe changing the collection agency's involvement will be welcomed by the University community. At the same time, placing holds complies with a requirement set forth by state auditors, who mandate that the

Office of Parking and Transportation have an effective collections mechanism in place.

We have approximately 67,000 unpaid tickets going back to 2002.

The majority of these were issued to cars that are not registered with our office. These will continue to be sent to an external collection agency. Only tickets issued to cars that can be matched to a Panther ID number will be subject to the internal process. Ticketing is a means to enforce our parking regulations for the benefit of the entire University community.

However, accumulated unpaid tickets currently add up to a significant amount of money. If collected these dollars will help expand parking access, enhance transportation services and provide maintenance and security in our parking areas. I call on our students and the entire university community to please observe our parking rules and regulations that permit access to campus and ensure safety to students, faculty and staff.

This guest column's author is not a member of The Beacon's staff. This week's guest is Bill Foster, who is FIU's Director of Parking and Transportation.

FIELD OF FARCES



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP PHOTO

PHOTO CAPTION: Roger Clemens listens to his lawyer speak during a news conference about alleged steroid use on Monday, Jan. 7, 2008 in Houston.

There's no crying in baseball and no honesty in it either

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

Let's face it, there is no such thing as a pure record or performance by any athlete today or in the past. What's legal today probably could have been considered cheating in years past.

Cheating and honesty are hot topics in among today's professional athletes and those who enjoy watching competitive sports. Unfortunately, pure and clean competition is a naive fantasy that is preached to children in Little League.

Let's keep it real here.

Athletes have been cheating since sports have been around.

Recently, on a "60 Minutes" interview, retired baseball pitcher Roger Clemens denied ever taking steroids or any illegal performance enhancing drugs after being named in the Mitchell Report which investigated the use of performance enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball.

Throughout Clemens' 24-year career, he pitched 4,916.7 innings winning 354 games and 7 Cy Young awards, an award given to the best pitcher in each league.

Drug use in baseball isn't a new thing.

At 42, he won his final Cy Young when most baseball players his age are retiring or trying to figure out what to do with the rest of their lives.

“ Who could blame them after playing a 162 game season where players have to play games back-to-back-to-back and fly all across the country. If you worked for four weeks straight without a break, would you look for a little more of a boost? ”

Performance enhancing drugs have helped athletes extend their careers to later in their lives.

Methamphetamines were highly used in baseball all the way back to World War II. Players would regularly pop methamphetamines before a game to give them a boost of energy.

Who could blame them after playing a 162 game season where players have to play games back-to-back-to-back and fly all across the country. If you worked for four weeks straight without a break, would you look for a little more of a boost?

I'm not just talking coffee or caffeine here. Why is it that athletes aren't held to the same standards as Joe Schmoe working in an office in Downtown Miami?

They make millions of dollars because they were born with a unique talent but, let's face it, they're job can be just as monotonous as your's or mine. Just because you're making

a good amount of money to play a game and have fans cheering for you doesn't mean you can't have a bad day.

Sports isn't the fairy tale movie that Disney and Hollywood make it out to be. It's a ruthless job where people are trying to take food off of your plate by taking your roster spot or eliminate you from competition.

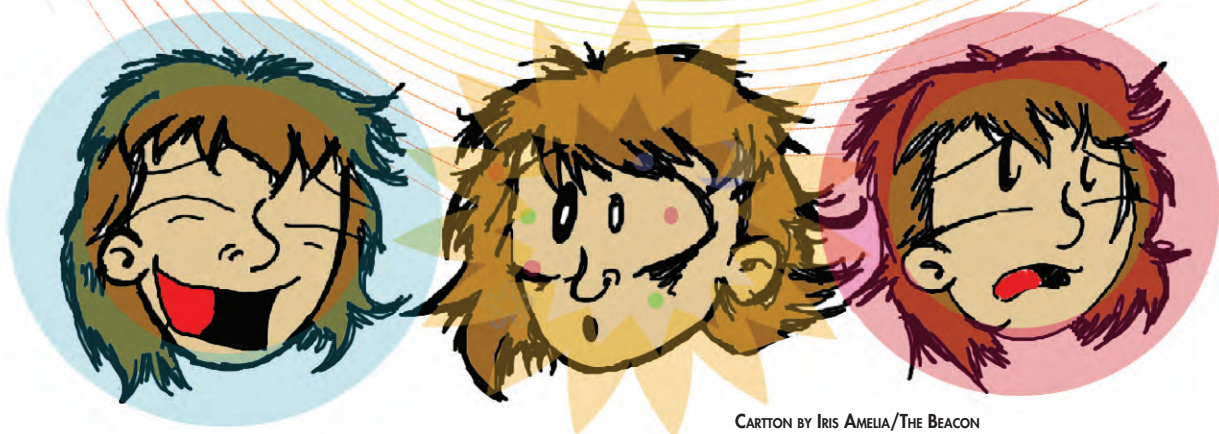
I can't really say I blame an athlete for cheating to get an edge over the competition. I'm sure most people would do it.

In essence, there really isn't a big difference between an athlete making millions and another person getting paid \$68,000 a year, except their salaries.

Both employees may hate their boss or their profession, but both went into their line of work because they possessed a specific set of skills that allowed them to enter their craft. At least one of the team is making an honest living.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say? Contact us at beaconopinion@yahoo.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.



CARTON BY IRIS AMELIA/THE BEACON

Psychedelic Salvia a controversial substance



Commentary

Leoncio Alvarez
Copy Chief

There is a drug out there so legal that your 6-year-old brother could order some ... if he really wanted to. Yet that same drug is so potent, so mind-altering, that researchers are classifying it under the same category as LSD.

I've tried some. I've tried some right on campus, in a friend's dorm. The effects of *Salvia divinorum* lasted about 10 minutes, but have left so much of an impact on me that I felt urged to write this article.

People are catching on to salvia, its more common name, though. The drug has been outlawed in Australia and several U.S. states, but that does not prohibit salvia from entering your home via your local post office.

"I ordered 20x salvia Online and I got it in the mail in like three days," said Juan Villareal,

a junior. "There are some places like Yuckies in the Grove that sell it to you right there, but it's really expensive."

Salvia has different strengths – ranging from 5x to 80x and up – and was used as a healer to the sick and for religious purposes by the Mazatec Indians of the Oaxacan Mountains in Mexico. A 1962 expedition by Albert Hoffman and Gordon Wasson to find the *hoja de Ska María Pastora* – the Mazatec name for salvia – brought the plant to the U.S. for scientific research. After several years it was deemed legal to import.

Hoffman's expedition can be read in detail in his book "LSD – My Problem Child."

Salvia leaves can be smoked or chewed, with the latter having longer effects. While under the influence of salvia, uncontrollable laughter and the inability to talk

seem to happen to many; as well as out-of-body experiences.

"I prefer chewing it than smoking it," Villareal said. "It's a nicer high. I've had bad trips smoking it."

The long-term effects of *Salvia divinorum* are unknown, since its use is relatively new to the States, but when tested on mice, mice entered a sort of depression state that lasted several days.

However, there are no reports relating human depression to salvia.

Botanist Daniel Siebert, sometimes referred to as the 'guru of salvia', has been studying the history and chemistry of the drug since 1991.

"A lot of people would say even if you don't have any evidence of psychological harm, just the fact it causes intense hallucinations is dangerous in itself. That can be a dangerous thing to do. You could

jump out of a window. In that sense you could make an argument that there is a legitimate concern," Siebert said in a BBC-News interview.

Siebert believes the drug's widespread availability and teenagers being over indulgent with it may lead to its potential ban.

In the same interview, Siebert describes his first experience with salvia: chewing raw leaves.

"I noticed some shifts in visual perception, objects had a glow or colored aura. I looked up at the hills. There were Hobbit-like houses nestled into the hillside. There was light coming from the windows. There was something fairytale-like about the scene, there was something very comforting about the whole thing," he said.

Siebert does not recommend doing the drug without supervision.

Despite absolutely no reports of human deaths occurring under the effects of salvia, Brett Chidester's mother said it had to do with her son's suicide in 2006, and fought to get it outlawed in her home state

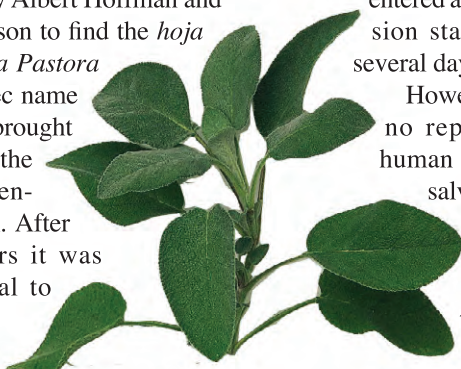
of Delaware.

Kathy Chidester told *NBC10.com* that her son was taking an acne medication linked with depression, alcohol and *Salvia divinorum* when he committed suicide; he killed himself by carbon-monoxide poisoning. She does not blame salvia for his death, but said her son told her he 'had learned the secrets of life ... he went to another realm' when under the influence of the drug.

"I just think, with all the things he had going on, and to add *Salvia* to that mix, it was a lethal combination," Chidester told the Web site.

Brett's law was passed three months after the boy's death, prohibiting the use of *Salvia divinorum* in Delaware.

Salvia is not a drug to abuse. I probably won't do it again. *Salvia* had its 15 minutes of fame, or shame, with me. Hopefully, with more research and less irresponsible teens, the effects of *Salvia* will be fully understood and the drug won't have to share a home with its close cannabis cousin in a far away land called Amsterdam.



REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

GAME

Heli Attack 3

Online game mimics success of shooter "Metal Slug"



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ASHLYN TOLEDO

"Heli Attack 3" is the third installment in a series of games from developer Squarecircleco for the Flash gaming portal *Miniclip.com*. It is a run-and-gun shooter in the tradition of games like "Metal Slug" and "Contra." The Heli Attack series has received much critical acclaim and has gained a very large fan base.

"Heli Attack 3" is regarded by most as the best installment in the series due to the developer's success in building upon the previous games in the series as well as the addition of many new weapons. It received the Miniclip Game of the Year award in 2005.

In "Heli Attack 3" you play as a paratrooper who has just landed into battle and must make his way through various areas while fighting any enemies he crosses along the way.

You begin the game with a training level which allows you to familiarize yourself with the controls. You can change the control set-up



in the options menu but you'll probably find the default controls work best.

At the start of the actual game you are given three weapons; a pistol, a knife and grenades. Throughout the game you will acquire up to 32 new weapons including the GooGun, the Sparkplug and the Black Hole Generator.

Completing each of the 16 levels in the game will give you one new weapon and you can earn secret weapons that are unlocked by performing certain tasks.

There are eight kinds of enemies

found throughout the four "zones," four of which are ground based enemies, the other four being airborne.

Besides the addition of nineteen new weapons, "Heli Attack 3" introduces time powers. There are three different types of time powers: TimeDistort, TimeRift and TimeBreak. TimeDistort will slow down both the player and the enemy. TimeRift will slow the enemy but not the player and TimeBreak will completely stall the enemy and have no effect on the player.

There is also a TimeSink ability,



COURTESY OF MINICLIP.COM

a power up that falls from a defeated aircraft and allows the player to use any combination of the three time powers.

The time powers can only be used for a limited amount of time and must recharge before they can be used again. While this does take a while, you can speed up the process by defeating any kind of enemy.

The game is a fairly long, in-depth game. A good two to three hours of gameplay, along with great sound and graphics, make this third installment a worthy addition to an

already outstanding series.

Perhaps not as challenging or visually striking as "Metal Slug", fans of the series and the shooter genre really owe it to themselves to give this game a try.

Squarecircleco.com features the game on the games page of its site and *Miniclip.com* has a full game list on its main page which lists all available titles in alphabetical order.

Look for "Heli Attack 3" as well as its predecessors on either site and join the thousands who have already fallen in love with the series.

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REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

MOVIE

There Will Be Blood

Captivating performance propels intense drama

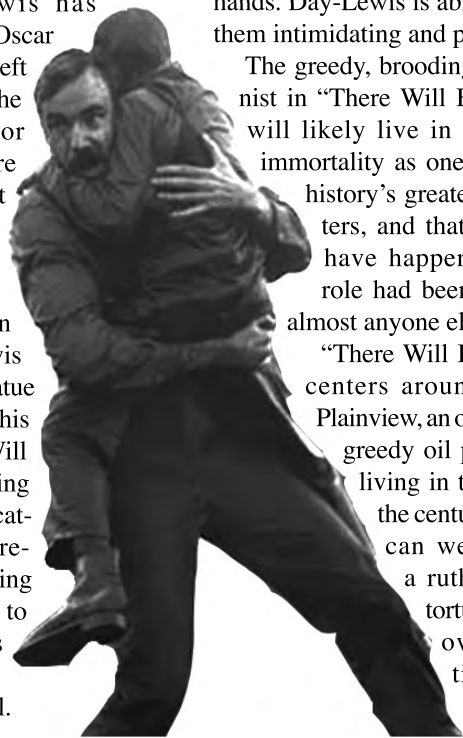
CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. Life! Editor

Daniel Day-Lewis is arguably the greatest actor working in film today.

Few actors are as able to immerse themselves completely in a role and bring as much intensity and depth to a performance as he does.

Mr. Day-Lewis has already won an Oscar for 1987's "My Left Foot," in which he played an author with such severe cerebral palsy that his only functional appendage was his foot.

Now we can expect Day-Lewis to add another statue to his mantle for his role in "There Will Be Blood," making the Best Actor category largely predictable and adding another category to the list of reasons why the Oscars are boring as hell.



In "There Will Be Blood", Day-Lewis is able to draw intense meaning and tension out of long periods of silence, glowering lines that occasionally border the absurd, with a role that easily could have been ruined by a lesser actor. Lines like "I drink your milkshake" and insults such as "Bastard from a basket" could easily become cheesy and hilarious in the wrong hands. Day-Lewis is able to make them intimidating and powerful.

The greedy, brooding protagonist in "There Will Be Blood" will likely live in cinematic immortality as one of movie history's greatest characters, and that wouldn't have happened if the role had been given to almost anyone else.

"There Will Be Blood" centers around Daniel Plainview, an obsessively greedy oil prospector living in the turn of the century American west. He is a ruthless man tortured by his own ambition and a growing

sense of revulsion toward all of humanity outside of his blood relatives.

Plainview is drawn to the sparsely populated town of Little Boston, California after a mysterious man named Paul Sunday (Paul Dano) tips him off to the presence of oil on his family ranch.

Accompanied by his son H.W., Plainview not only buys the ranch, but pretty much every other tract of land in sight.

Almost as soon as he sets foot in the oil rich settlement, he begins to clash with Eli Sunday, Paul's brother and a young evangelical minister whose histrionic sermons have attracted a following.

Determined to build up his Church of the Third Revelation, he convinces his father to demand a larger sum when Plainview comes to buy his family's farm.

This film is unusual thanks to the idiosyncratic style of writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson ("Magnolia", "Hard Eight"), who fills the film with long stretches without dialogue and dramatic images of the desolate plains of Little Boston, a town whose barren land would be worthless without what lies beneath it. Based on

the novel "Oil!" by muckracking author Upton Sinclair, the script's strangest touches add a certain level of unpredictability to the somewhat familiar story of the rise and fall of an ambitious tycoon.

While the proud and self-righteous Eli seems to have delusions about being a vessel for the Holy Spirit, Plainview sees him as nothing more than a weak charlatan.

As Plainview discovers the massive amounts of oil beneath the surface, he finds that its discovery comes with a personal price.

Over time, he becomes more and more isolated and, as his distance from humanity grows, so does his resentment.

Throughout the film, Plainview's rage seems to always lurk just beneath the surface periodically bubbling up from time

to time. When he takes offense to an innocuous comment made by a fellow oilman he seethes, "One night, I'm going to come inside your

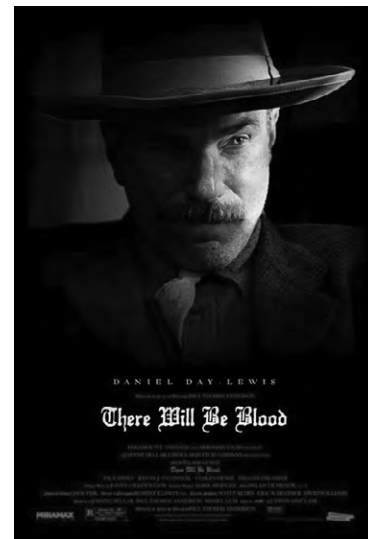
house, wherever you're sleeping, and I'm going to cut your throat." His anger finally bursts forth like a gushing well in the film's spectacularly disturbing final scene, and by the time the credits roll, you'll be left in shock.

The amazing thing about "There Will Be Blood" is how

it stays with you, its more terrible moments seem to seep into your mind.

You'll find yourself thinking about it days later, shuddering as you remember the line "I am the third revelation!"

Some will likely criticize it as overly long – like this review – but "There Will Be Blood" is a riveting film you'll never forget.



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Writers' strike equals comedy gold

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) Earlier this week, David Letterman asked a timely question: How many striking writers could fit into a Jamba Juice store across the street from his studio?

The answer was 23 picketers, complete with their Writers Guild of America signs. There was also room for Spider-man, the prophet Moses and someone in a bear suit.

Since late-night TV roared back to life last week, its returning hosts have done lots to keep the writers strike in front of the audience, and not just out of loyalty to the writers of the strike, now more than two months old with no end in sight, is a gold mine for humor.

After all, late night thrives on taking potshots at the ruling class. And this particular dispute pits guild writers against an aristocracy of networks and studios owned by media behemoths like Viacom, Disney, CBS and General Electric (parent company of NBC Universal).

In that spirit, "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno shared a video clip of the palatial estate he jokingly identified as the home of his boss, NBC Universal head Jeff Zucker. Then the next clip was supposed to illustrate where the TV writers live: a third-world shantytown whose hovels bore the names of prime-time series like "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives." (OK, so the bit wasn't all that funny, it

was Leno.)

But what are the two sides feuding over, anyway?

"Here's what the writers want," Letterman summed up during one of his monologues, "and you tell me if you don't think this is fair: They want a share of Internet revenues and four more years of President Bush."

Well, he was playing it partly straight.

Of course, Letterman could crack wise from an advantageous spot: with a special deal from the guild, his writing staff is back with him at "Late Show."

Not so fortunate is Jon Stewart, whose "Daily Show" resumed Monday on Comedy Central along with the likewise writer-less "Colbert Report with Stephen Colbert."

Stewart took his own stab at explaining the Internet strike issue, pretending to argue the opposition's side: That TV content on the Web yields no revenue thus far, so there's nothing for writers to share in.

Sure, he acknowledged, an episode of "The Daily Show" costs \$1.99 to download from iTunes.

"But that's not a content charge," he said. "That's a shipping-and-handling charge. Should the writers be paid for shipping and handling? That \$1.99 goes for fuel for tiny trucks!"

It was just one of a barrage of clever jabs he delivered in favor of the writers. But maybe they were too clever, raising suspicions they were, um, already written. And if

POSTERS FOR SALE



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

POSTERS GALORE: Senior Alex Soccoras looks at posters as he prepares to make a purchase in the Graham Center from a vendor.

they had been written, that would violate strike rules.

Leno, by his own admission, writes for his show every night: his 10-minute monologue, some two-dozen jokes. He insists he got permission from the guild; the union disputes that and was vowing to take action against him.

That's been the conundrum in late night, where only CBS' "Late Show" and "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson" now have writers on board while all the shows must somehow fill their airtime, even as they maintain support for the strike (every late-night host except for Carson Daly on NBC's "Last Call" is a guild member).

But on one show, at least, there's no hint of a script. Just absurd, make-the-best-of-it tomfoolery with Conan O'Brien presiding. He has gotten traffic updates from a TV station's news chopper flying over Manhattan. Barged in on an NBC tour group visiting his studio. Installed flashing disco lights and played crazy music.

O'Brien, host of NBC's "Late Night," assured his audience that "writers are very important to a show like mine. But without them, we do have a rare opportunity to create a new kind of show ... bold, daring and borderline illiterate."

Having said that, he doffed his suit jacket and clambered up a rope

ladder to the catwalk hung along the lighting grid, high above the studio floor.

"You can't write a moment like this," he cackled. "Obviously!"

How's that for strike-inspired humor? In its abundance since the hosts returned, it has served not only the writers' cause, but also, arguably, the public interest as a wakeup call to Big Media's excesses.

But already there's a steep fall-off in even mentioning the strike on the air. Too bad. Late-night jest has always been anti-authoritarian and self-referential, and the longer the strike goes, the richer the satire dealing with it could become.

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Offensive power leads team to easy victory

MEN, page 12

sparkled, but it was the defense that Rouco was most pleased with.

“To be honest, I never looked at our score,” Rouco said. “I looked at their score.”

The Golden Panthers held Troy, who came into the game averaging 84 points per contest, to 49 points on 27 percent shooting. The trigger-happy Trojans entered the game with 164

O’Darien Bassett, the reigning Sun-Belt player of the week.

“Team effort,” Rouco said. “We committed to it, picked [O’Darien] up high and didn’t let him get comfortable in scoring position. We worked hard on that all week.”

Perhaps the only misstep the Golden Panthers had on the night was the 24 turnovers the team committed, which was second most on the season. Even that, however, can

once and put our heads down. Now, we turn it over once and we’re back at it aggressively.”

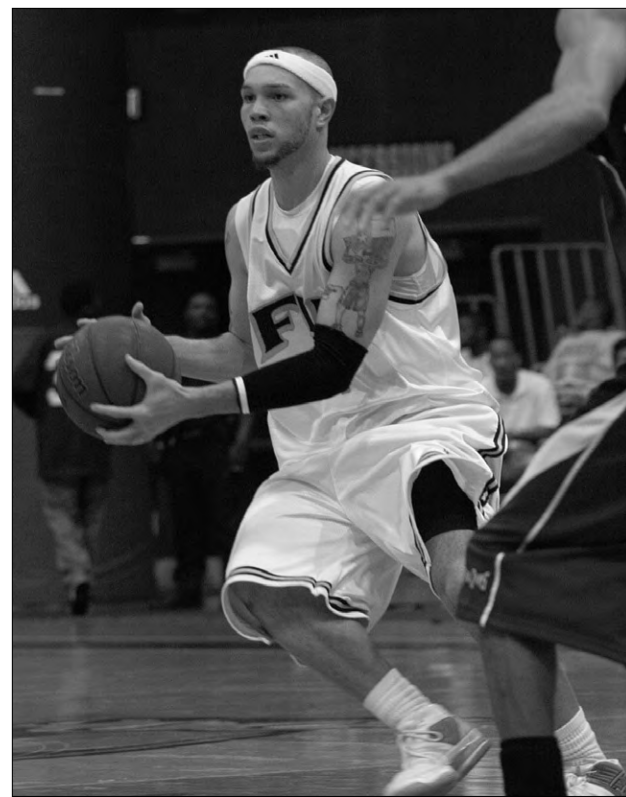
The win evens up the Golden Panthers’ conference record to 2-2 after a 0-2 start, which places them just two games behind South Alabama, the leader in the Sun-Belt East Division.

For the Golden Panthers, the formula for being successful could be getting Hicks some more rim shaking dunks to get the team going.

“Guys are beginning to learn how to play with him and get him the ball where he’s successful,” Rouco said. “He brings the crowd into the game and he lifts our guys when he gets those dunks – high-percentage shots, my friend.”

The Golden Panthers’ next opponent is South Alabama on Jan. 16 at Mobile, Ala. Their next home game is against Louisiana-Monroe at 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Ramos can be reached at jramos@fiustudentmedia.com



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SHARING THE WEALTH: Junior guard Kenneth White sets the offense that scored 74 points.

“Russell Hicks, junior center
I’ve had my confidence build up everyday. I wanted to see if anybody could stop me and since there was nobody there, I went right at them.

3-point field goals in 14 games, only to see the Golden Panther perimeter defense hold them to one 3-point basket in the game.

The key to the team’s defensive effort was stopping 20-point scorer

be a positive for Rouco due to the team’s aggression.

“We had [24] turnovers, but we were aggressive with it and we looked forward to score,” Rouco said. “Before, we used to turn it over

Late free throws seal second straight conference win

WOMEN, page 12

that.

However, the Golden Panthers did manage to pull down 10 offensive rebounds, six of which belonged to senior forward Jasmine Jenkins.

FIU also had some bad luck as many of their shots barely rimmed out of the cylinder.

Troy shot 7-of-26 and was held to 0-for-3 from behind the arc.

Senior guard Amy Lewis came into the game as Troy’s leading scorer, averaging 19.6 points a game.

Lewis also happened to be playing in her 100th career game.

She currently ranks third in the Sun Belt Conference in scoring and was a pre-season all-conference second team selection.

“It was hard; she was running all the time,” said FIU sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who was assigned the task of guarding Lewis. “She is a very good player. She can shoot and she can drive, so I really had to be careful. She got me a few times, but it was not enough for them to win.”

In the second half, the score remained tight as both teams continued to trade baskets.

The Golden Panthers would finally make a run as senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson’s 3-pointer found the bottom of the net to cap a 9-2 run.

Ferguson also hit a field goal during that run, which would be her only five points of the game.

Following that FIU run, Troy would narrow the score as Lewis’ shots started to fall and she scored back-to-back 3-pointers.

A 3-pointer from Troy guard Larelle Roper would level the score at 37 with 8:51 left in the game.

The Trojans scored again on the next position as sophomore Kylie Morrissy added two of her 11 points from the foul

line.

The Golden Panthers responded with a drive to the hoop by senior guard Asha Neal for an acrobatic lay-up.

With the score tied at 39, Bosilj hit a critical 3-pointer to give the Golden Panthers the lead.

With 3:52 remaining in the half, Troy’s Larelle Roper would drive to the hoop, make a lay-up and get fouled in what would result in a 3-point conversion.

After another big shot from Bosilj and a free throw by Neal, FIU would lead 45-42.

Following a 30-second timeout with less than two minutes remaining in the game, Troy had the ball down by three.

Ciglar stole a pass and ran the length of the court before she dished the ball off to forward Fanni Hutlassa for a lay-up.

Because of the close score, FIU put the ball in the hands of Ciglar.

With 26 seconds, left she was sent to the foul line where she put in both her free throws to put FIU up by six.

Lewis responded seven seconds later with a 3-pointer that made the score 49-46.

But Ciglar would again get the ball, was fouled and then hit a pair of free throws.

Lewis again controlled the ball and launched a 3-pointer, but she hit nothing but air and Troy’s final chance to win the



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STANDING STRONG: Senior guard Asha Neal grabbed 7 boards against Troy.

game blew by.

“I was ready for this team” Ciglar said.

“For some reason, I always play well against them. I was so confident about shooting I just knew they would go in.”

FIU WOMEN 55, TROY 49									
FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN		
Ciglar, Iva	5-11	6-6	4	7	4	18	38		
Jenkins, Jasmine	2-7	2-2	11	1	1	6	35		
Bosilj, Monika	5-14	0-0	7	0	1	12	35		
Neal, Asha	1-3	1-2	7	2	4	2	28		
Ferguson, LaQuetta	2-14	0-0	3	2	3	5	30		
Hutlassa, Fanni	3-8	2-2	9	0	3	9	26		
Team Totals	19-60	11-12	47	12	16	55	200		
TROY	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN		
Holman, Laura	1-7	0-0	5	1	3	3	32		
Roper, Larelle	1-4	1-1	4	2	2	3	37		
Lewis, Amy	6-13	5-6	1	3	1	19	40		
Muse, Audrey	5-16	1-2	10	1	2	11	27		
Morrissy, Kylie	1-2	0-0	5	0	2	11	37		
Shearing, Alyce	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	2	10		
Team Totals	18-57	9-11	34	7	12	49	200		

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Parcells won't let anyone steal spotlight in Miami

VILLARMARZO, page 12

given another shot with a much healthier team, and he could have kept Cowher's seat warm at the same time.

Jimmy Johnson also went 1-15 his first year with the Dallas Cowboys before going on to win a Super Bowl, so another year would have been fair for Cameron, who had terrible luck with injuries to running back Ronnie Brown, quarterback Trent Green, Zach Thomas, the first four safeties on his depth chart and very important hot dog vendor.

Even Ricky Williams got injured four plays into his attempt to rescue the team.

Even with a second year, though, there's no way Cameron could have made a turn-around.

Regardless of who is in charge, the Dolphins are winning six games at most next season.

This team needs a complete overhaul, and the two Bills (Parcells and Cowher) would have kept the team relevant during the strenu-

ous process.

Unfortunately, this is now close to impossible to happen because the Dolphins are in the midst of a coaching search - and it's most likely going to be Parcell's boy and current Cowboys' assistant head coach, Tony Sparano.

There's also the ego factor. You really think Cowher would come here knowing that he won't be running the show by himself?

And do you think Parcells would want to share face time with someone else?

There's a reason Parcells is bringing over people who used to work for him that you've never heard of before.

I'm sure he thinks they're highly qualified, but they sure won't be stealing the marquee from him anytime soon.

Parcells is a very experienced football guy with a long track record of success in making personnel moves while coaching the team at the same time.

Every team he ever coached vastly improved under him, whether it was the New York Giants, the New York Jets, the New England Patriots or, more recently, the Dallas Cowboys.

Now that he can concentrate solely on personnel moves, it may be a good thing.

The Big Tuna also has a reputation for skipping town before his contract is up, but at 66 years old, he is literally at age of retirement.

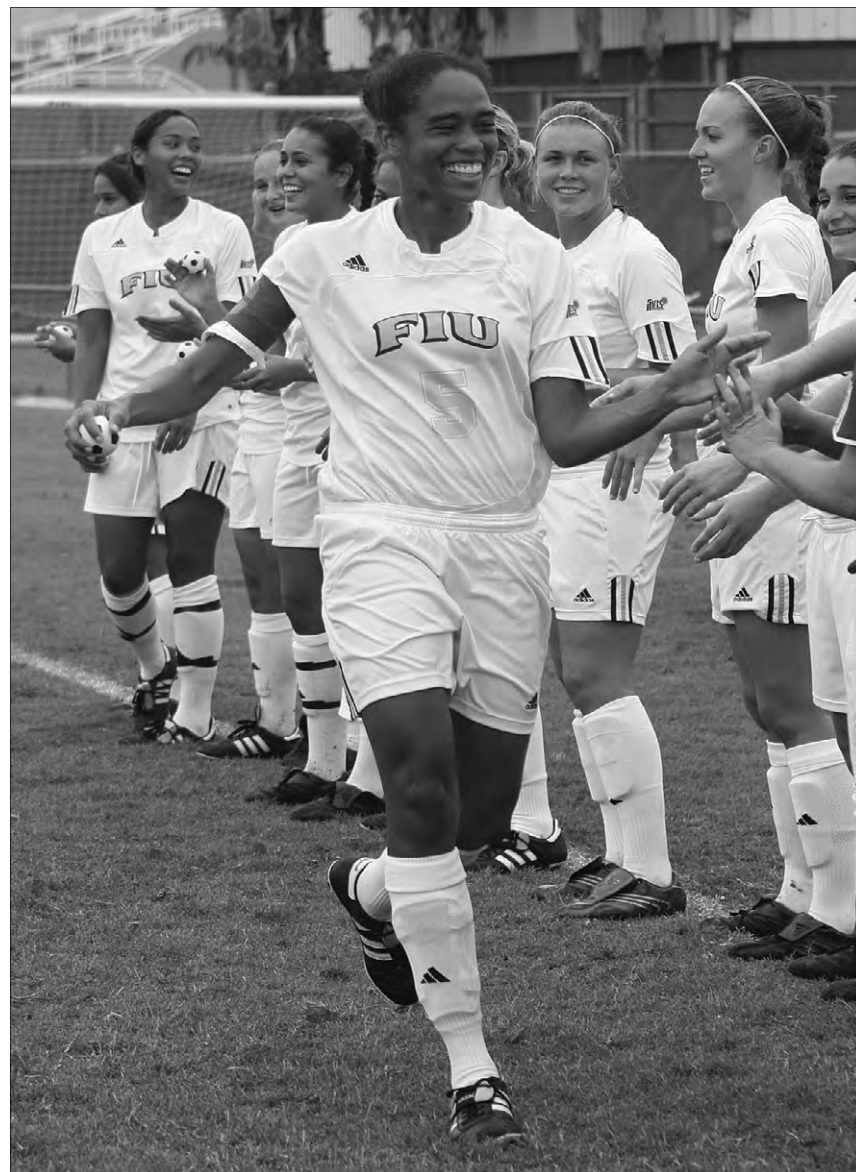
And what better place to come to "retire" than sunny South Florida?

With all the resources he needs being given to him by owner Wayne Huizeinga and the fact the he no longer has to face the scrutiny a head coach does,

I'm sure Parcells will have many reasons to want to fulfill an entire contract for the first time in his NFL history.

Let's just hope his tenure can be the memory-erasing device for the Dolphins' 2007 season, because winning can cure anything.

GRADE A



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

CLASSY: The Golden Panthers women's soccer team averaged a 3.1 GPA this past semester. Fourteen of the eighteen players posted a 3.0 GPA.

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VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STEAM ROLLING: Senior guard Chris Fuller drives to the basket against the University of Troy Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena. Junior center Russell Hicks led the way with 16 points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL FIU 74, TROY 49

NO CONTEST

Golden Panthers shut down high-scoring Troy offense

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

If the first play of a game is any indicator of who would win the game, FIU was victorious just seconds after the opening tip.

The Golden Panthers (5-9) opened the game with a thunderous dunk from junior center Russell Hicks on their way to 74-49 win against Sun Belt Conference rival Troy (8-7) on Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena.

The opening slam by Hicks set the tone for one of the best offensive performances the team has had this season and the junior center saw the green light throughout the game.

"I've had my confidence build up every game," Hicks said. "I wanted to see if somebody could stop me and since there was nobody there, I went right at them."

Hicks had a complete game on both sides of the ball as he went for 16 points on 7-of-15 shooting from the field, in addition to a team-high 10 rebounds and three blocks.

But he was not alone.

The Golden Panthers offensive arsenal saw four players score in double figures at a scorching 55 percent from the field, which included a 6-of-13 output from 3-point territory.

Guards Kenneth "Redd" White and Erick Nsangou complemented the starters off the bench on their way to 28 points combined on 12-of-16 shooting for the night.

White, who has scored 40 points over his last three games, has given coach Sergio Rouco a versatile weapon off the bench.

"We will use him accordingly," Rouco said. "He's a guy that can play three positions for us out there and that's why he played a lot of minutes tonight."

Following a 3-point basket by Troy point guard Jerome Odem to give his team a 3-2 lead with 18:54 left in the first half, FIU went on a 15-2 run to effectively give the Golden Panthers a lead they would not let dip into single digits for the rest of the game.

The Golden Panthers led by as many as 29 points in the game as their offense

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FIU 55, TROY 49

Point guard play gives team upperhand in close contest

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Three hours before tip-off, there was only one person in the Pharmed Arena and she was working on her shooting.

Golden Panther guard Iva Ciglar proved that practice pays as she scored a season-high 18 points and helped clinch FIU's 55-49 victory against Sun Belt foe Troy (8-7) Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers (6-9) evened out their conference record at 2-2.

The game started with Ciglar tracking down the opening tip and hitting a deep 3-pointer.

Troy would keep the score close and the teams would trade baskets for the first ten minutes which saw five lead changes and the score was tied at 12-12.

The first half came to a close with FIU leading 20-17.

Both teams were cold in the first half, with FIU going 8-for-34 from the field. Normally, teams don't go into halftime with the lead after shooting efforts like



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

PASSING THE ROCK: Junior guard Iva Ciglar makes a pass versus Troy. She finished with 18 points and 7 assists.

Cameron deserved second shot with injured roster



Commentary

Xavier Villarmarzo
Copy Editor

After experiencing the 2007 NFL season, I really wish that the memory-erasing device Will Smith used in the Men in Black movies was real.

“ Even with a second year though, there's no way Cameron could have made a turn-around. ”

Don't get me wrong, this was probably one of the most exciting and unpredictable seasons overall that I have watched.

But considering that my favorite team suffered its worst season ever, while the team I despise had arguably the best season in league history, can you blame me for wanting to forget?

Now my beloved Miami Dolphins are looking to start from scratch - at least from the front office down to the coaching staff.

However, firing coach Cam Cameron was probably too premature.

Granted, Bill Parcells, the team's new vice president of football operations, wants to bring in his people to help him right the Dolphins' sinking ship.

But the fact of the matter is that

Cameron should have been given one more year, because the right man for the job said he's not returning to football for one more year.

That's right, iron chin himself, Bill Cowher, said he wanted at least two years off from coaching.

So Cameron could have been