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# The Beacon, January 22, 2008

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## A NEW PLANNER

Events coordinator elected

## THE REAL RON PAUL

Inaccuracies, lies dispelled

## CIRCUS TIME

Fair carries carnival theme

## VERSATILE PANTHER

Football player tackles the court

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

OPINION PAGE 5

LIFE! PAGE 6

SPORTS PAGE 12

## AIN'T IT THE LIFE



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

**TIMES LIKE THESE:** Foo Fighters lead singer Dave Grohl performs during the band's concert at Bank Atlantic Center on Jan. 16. Against Me! and Jimmy Eat World also performed during the concert. Read a review of the concert in the Life! section on page 6.

### FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Board joins fight over travel ban

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO  
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, the Florida Board of Governors agreed with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Faculty Senate of FIU that the Travel to Terrorist States Act - which, among other things, bans university research travel to Cuba - should be reexamined to determine if it has constitutional merit.

"These professors saw this law as a restriction on their ability to meet their obligation as professors in their fields," said Bill Edmonds, director of communications of the Florida Board of Governors. "We are agreeing that the court needs to look at the issue of non-state dollars [in the act]."

Signed into law by the Florida Legislature in 2006, the Travel to Terrorist States Act forbids the use of university state and non-state funds to travel to countries deemed "sponsors of terrorism" by the U.S. Department of State. The countries deemed "sponsors of terrorism" are Iran,

TRAVEL BAN, page 3

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT COUNCIL

## Proposal looks to combine councils

BEN F. BADGER JR.  
Asst. News Director

A proposal submitted by the University Park Student Government Council could combine the Student Organizations Council, the Honors Council and the Graduate Student Association into the Student Involvement Council if approved on Jan. 23.

Sergio Ibarra-Bolaños, comptroller of SGC-UP, said that SIC would streamline financial processes, making them more efficient and easier to do.

"Instead of a giant three-headed monster, it would only be one giant monster," Bolaños said.

The merger would save \$17,000 between the three councils.

Currently, an organization could underspend its budget while another could be in need of those unused funds, Bolaños said. SIC would make it easier to move funds

to a group in need.

SOC President Maria Cedaño has concerns about the SIC proposal.

"I believe it is in the best interest of students that [the three councils] have a more active input into the proposal," Cedaño said.

After the proposal was drafted and presented to SGC-UP, the three councils were asked to give input during a meeting, according to Cedaño.

However, the meeting was cancelled due to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

"It concerns me that the proposal is being rushed," Cedaño said.

If the proposal for SIC is passed, all SOC programs will continue as normal for the rest of the year.

"We are finishing our full year," Cedaño said. "We were elected for a full year of service."

While Cedaño does not have the

So you know...

### HC, SOC, and GSA Budgets

\$197,000 - SOC  
\$47,000 - HC  
\$23,000 - GSA  
\$73,000 - Council Expenditures  
Total: \$340,000  
- \$23,000 in U-wide spending  
Total: \$317,000 overall budget

### Proposed SIC Budget

\$180,000 - individual groups  
\$80,000 - special allocations  
\$40,000 - SIC Executive Board  
Total: \$300,000

Source: SIC Proposal

power to call for a tabling motion, which would postpone voting until the next SGC-UP meeting, she hopes a representative will call for one to allow more time for the proposal to be discussed by SOC, HC and GSA leaders with SGC-UP.

### AFRICAN NEW WORLD STUDIES

## Yoruba leaders reveal written canon

CATHERINE KAIMAN  
BBC Life Editor

After years of criticism for not having a written religious canon, leaders of the Yoruba religion have decided to reveal two original texts that were kept for decades in the hands of privileged priests.

The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Working Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18.

This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, the syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The Book of Diagnosis in Ifa Divination was written in 1940 by a group of priests and recopied by the same authors within the next ten years.

The original was revealed to

the selective members invited to the meeting, hosted by FIU's African New World Studies Program.

"It is very important to reveal these texts at this time because people tend to think of African knowledge as a knowledge without texts, and we live in a digital society where people have access to everything," said Akin Ogundiran, director of the ANWS Program.

African knowledge is a term that encompasses African history, culture and philosophy.

"It is time for the world to see that we do have a religious canon that is written down," said Oba Ernesto Pichardo, an African leader. "This book was a long process; slaves, Afro-Cubans, and priests took the oral tradition and documented it over a long period of time."

TEXT, page 4

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### TUESDAY • JANUARY 22

#### SOC- Spring Club Fair 2008:

11a.m. - 4 p.m., The Lawn in front of GC Ballrooms

#### Honors Council Society Orientation:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 140

#### Bring your resume to school day:

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

### WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 23

#### The Chill Skill:

10 a.m. - 11 a.m., WUC 255 (BBC)

#### SOC- Spring Club Fair 2008:

11a.m. - 4 p.m., The Lawn in front of GC Ballrooms

#### Welcome Reception:

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., WUC 2 1/2 Balcony

#### Asian Student Union General Meeting:

6 p.m., Gracies Grill

#### ”So You Think You Can Dance?” Auditions:

Noon - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

#### SGA General Meeting:

4 p.m., Graham Center 150

#### SPC BBC- Jerry Springer Lecture:

8 p.m., WUC Ballroom (BBC)

### THURSDAY • JANUARY 24

#### How to prepare for a Career Fair Workshop:

12 p.m. - 1 p.m., WUC 255 (BBC)

#### Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Location TBA

#### Italian Club General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

#### SPC BBC General Meeting:

4 p.m., Campus Life Conference Room (BBC)

### FRIDAY • JANUARY 25

#### Resume Writing Workshop:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m., WUC 255 (BBC)

#### ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Graham Center 305

#### Interview Skills Workshop:

1 p.m. - 2 p.m., WUC 255 (BBC)

#### Dance Marathon’s “So you think you can dance” Auditions:

12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

#### SPC BBC Movie- “Dan in Real Life:”

7 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

#### SPC UP Movie- “Dan in Real Life:”

7 p.m. & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

### SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

#### Morale Captains Special Event:

10 a.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool / Beacon Staff*

## CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 17th issue of *The Beacon*, the story titled “Jerry Springer to defend show at lecture series” incorrectly listed that money for the lecture was provided by the Student Government Council’s lecture series at Biscayne Bay Campus. The lecture is sponsored by the BBC Student Programming Council.

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

## RECREATION SERVICES

# Fourth annual ski trip planned

**AMANDA MASSA**  
Staff Writer

When an infrequent cold front hits South Florida, students and faculty around campus pull out their winter wardrobe from the back of their closets for a few days.

For those who wish to have a real winter experience, Recreation Services has a solution: a ski trip. The trip is scheduled for Feb. 22-24. The registration deadline is Feb. 1 at 5 p.m..

For the fourth year in a row, RS is presenting a ski trip for students, faculty and friends.

The trip offers an outdoor recreation program for 50 guests.

Anyone can attend, according to Matt O’Connor, intramural and club sport coordinator.

A non-FIU attendee must be accompanied by an FIU student or faculty member.



**Natasha Davila**, FIU Alum

Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before.

“Living in a place like Miami, there are a lot of people who have never seen snow before,” said Natasha Davila, a graduate student who went on the trip last year. “When they finally see snow, they go crazy.”

Included in the \$225 fee for FIU students and a \$250 fee for all others is bus transportation, lodging, a lift ticket, equipment rental, a wristband for the amusement area and a beginner’s

ski lesson.

“The lesson is included, so if you’ve never skied before, it makes it easier to learn,” Davila said.

Davila and Stephanie Pita, who also went on last year’s trip, says that although

students can bring friends to accompany them, new friendships are also made during the trip.

“You don’t know a lot of people at first, but you’ll make a lot of friends on the trip,” Pita said. “I still see people I know from the trip walking around today.”

The deadline for early registration is Jan. 25. Students who apply by the early deadline will receive \$25 off the trip.

“It’s affordable, fun and you meet a lot of people you’ll become friends with,” Pita said.

For more information, contact O’Connor at 305-348-7530 or, via e-mail, at [matthew.oconnor@fiu.edu](mailto:matthew.oconnor@fiu.edu).

## Police Notes

**Jan. 7:** An officer was dispatched to the PAC building after being told that a suspicious female - non-FIU student - was sleeping in room 150, trespassing on school property. The officer on scene recognized the female, having warned her about trespassing at the school.

After giving the female another warning, she stated that she would not leave the campus because she “had to dance,” and she felt she had done nothing wrong. The female was arrested for trespassing, after being warned, and was sent to the FIU station for processing. The female was transported to the TGK correctional center.

**Jan. 8:** A female housing student said that, while sleeping, she heard an unknown male tapping on her bedroom window from the outside, saying “I see you. I see you.” The female checked the window, but there was no damage. She gave a delayed report to the Campus Safety.

**Jan. 9:** While playing basketball at the Recreation Center on UP, a male victim was hit in the head with an elbow. The victim refused medical attention and a friend transported him to see his doctor. The victim signed a medical release waiver.

**Jan. 10:** Police were called after a male student reported that his 2000 Honda Civic 2-door was broken into while parked in the Gold Garage. The victim said that his radio, cash and gear shift knob were the only items stolen from the car. No further information was given.

- Compiled by *David Barrios / Beacon Staff*

## SGC-UP Notes

Call to Order: 4:10 p.m. • Adjournment: 5:40 p.m.

#### President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez):

- RUCKUS music downloading software contract has been approved.
- Student Involvement Council proposition voting is on Jan. 23.
- New Gmail interface for student accounts launches on Jan. 28.

#### Comptroller’s Report (Sergio Ibarra-Bolanos):

- Student organizations must properly spend allocated funds. If organizations do not spend funds correctly, they could be cut.

#### Old Business:

- Resolution “In Support of the Continued Tradition of Gracie’s Grill” passed. Restaurant location will now retain the name “Gracie’s” regardless of food vendor present.

#### New Business:

- Linda Arellano unanimously voted as new SGC-UP clerk.
- Appropriation of \$1,000 passed for “Focus the Nation.”
- New SGC-UP constitution proposed.

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

## THE BEACON

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### INFORMATION

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# Board struggles to establish authority in university system

TRAVEL BAN, page 1

North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.

The ACLU, in conjunction with the Faculty Senate of FIU, brought a lawsuit against the state and the Board in 2006, arguing that the travel ban is unconstitutional.

In the latest chapter of the case, in January 2008, the Board filed its own lawsuit against the state declaring the lack of differentiation between state and non-state dollars in the act is unconstitutional.

"We asked the court to look at the question of [whether] the legislature overstepped its authority," Edmonds said.

According to Brandon Hensley, director of communications for the ACLU, the travel ban manages solely to "hamper academic research" and "displace intellectual capital" from Florida universities since professors and graduate students have moved to other national universities where research travel is not restricted.

"There is an important distinction between aiding terrorist states and conducting research in these states and using state funds and non-state funds," Hensley said.

Professors believe the Univer-

sity is particularly affected by the ban because a number of the academic research programs at FIU focus their work on Cuba.

"A Cuban institute needs to know what is going on in Cuba and the best way to know is to go there. For serious, scholarly research there is no other way to do it," said Uva de Aragon, associate director of FIU's Cuban Research Institute.

Rep. David Rivera, who co-wrote the Travel to Terrorist States Act, insists that travel to these countries, even to conduct field research, serves to aid terrorists by indirectly providing them with monetary resources.

"Any travel to a terrorist country necessarily subsidizes that terrorist regime because money will be spent ... in that country ... that ultimately goes into the coffers of the terrorist regime," said Rivera during his April 26, 2006 testimony in front of the Florida Legislature. "So, I don't believe anything good could come out of [researching in] Cuba, like for example, researching agriculture in Cuba."

Rivera's opponents disagree and even suggest the travel ban not only threatens to decrease Florida's academic output, but also threatens the federal govern-

ment's ability to deter terrorism, one aim of the act.

"There are serious implications in national security. We might be in a better position to diffuse the terrorist situation here if we could have better information from these states," Hensley said.

Though the Florida Board concurs with the ACLU over the issue of using non-state funds and that "it is in the best interest of the state that academic leaders stay current in Cuban affairs," the Board insists it has not sided completely with ACLU. Rather, the Florida Board insists that the main issue is the struggle to establish authority over the university system.

According to Edmonds, the Florida Board is trying to assert its independence through a lawsuit against the state, claiming the right to raise public university tuition without necessarily having the state's approval.

Therefore, the Board viewed the travel ban as an opportunity to cement its argument that the state cannot control what is done with non-state money, Edmonds said.

"We did not want to ignore that argument in this [travel ban] lawsuit. We wanted to be consistent in the Board's expression of its principles," Edmonds said.

## ONLY THE BEST



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**BEST IN CLASS:** Alejandra Alberti, FIU student and winner of last year's "Best New Artist" Latin Grammy Award poses at a banquet at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House on January 17.

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## SOC-BBC elects new events coordinator

**SAMIR AHMED**  
Staff Writer

The Student Organizations Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus elected Magaly Estrella, a senior majoring in advertising, as its new events coordinator during a special election held on Jan. 17.

"I feel happy because this will give me experience in what I want to do when I graduate, [which is] to open up my own event planning business," said Estrella, who will apply the skills she has learned from working directly with the events coordinator of magazine 944 as an intern.

The election was held at 4 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center room 155, and was over seen by all five executive board members and all registered members of the SOC.

"We held a special election because the current events coordinator, [Jessica Castillo], resigned. She is going to graduate and wanted to focus on her education," said SOC President Joe L. Mintz.

The list of applicants consisted of nine FIU students studying a variety of disciplines. The applicants were Barbara Hawkins, a senior majoring in humanities;

**Ivy Siegel, Campus Life Coordinator**

I was surprised that so many people applied  
It's nice to see so many showed interest.

Debby Nilsson, a junior majoring in public relations; Keish Bazile, a junior majoring in journalism; and Carla St. Louis, a junior majoring in psychology.

"One of the applicants was a former member, and one was a former peer advisor. We had a lot of variety; this definitely was a good pool of candidates," said Ivy Siegel, coordinator in the department of Campus Life and Orientation.

The rest of the group consisted of Dayamis, a senior majoring in advertising; graduate students Jody A. Miller and Diana Maldonado; and junior Angela Araya, all majoring in hospitality management.

Siegel was also pleased with the turnout.

"I was surprised that so many people applied. It's nice to see so many showed interest," said Siegel.

The election process consisted of each of the 41 FIU clubs casting one vote, with the winner receiving the most votes. The applicants were required to have a minimum

grade point average of 2.0 and each had to be enrolled full-time at the University in order to participate in the election.

"There really wasn't a particular date that we wanted to have the position filled by, but we thought it would be important to have it filled by the next SOC meeting," said Mintz.

Some of the responsibilities of the events coordinator include being accountable for the initiation and programming of SOC-sponsored events, and recruiting committee members for the production of special events.

The events coordinator is also responsible for carrying out any official assignments given by the president.

Estrella hopes to come up with different events that will promote student involvement through careful planning.

"There's a lot involved in [planning]. You have to think every possible detail through, you have to be prepared for the good that can happen, the bad. You have to be very methodical," she said.

### NEWSFLASH

#### Scholarship winners to be announced at Breakfast

Jose Marti Scholarship winners will be announced Jan. 28 at the BBC Wolfe Center Ballroom at 8:30 a.m. over breakfast. Hosted by FIU and Miami-Dade College, the prizes will be awarded to two contestants: one for an essay in English and the other in Spanish. The event features keynote speaker Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research Institute. For more information, call 305-919-5543.

#### Dancing with the Wolfe steps into Spring

Dancing with the Wolfe will offer dancing lessons Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. in WUC 155. Mondays feature Ball Room dancing, Tuesday's Salsa, Wednesdays Belly Dancing, and Thursdays Hip Hop Dancing. Call 305-919-5280 for details.

#### Middle East Society to present "Beyond the Veil: The Status and Role of Women in Islam"

Aisha Musa, professor of religious studies, will lecture "Beyond the Veil: The Status and Role of Women in Islam" as presented by the department of international relations' Middle East Society. The event will be held in Academic I, room 194 on Jan. 27. For more information, call 305-919-4839 or e-mail [MES@fiu.edu](mailto:MES@fiu.edu).

#### SJMC to host Spanish-language, bilingual media review

SJMC will present Mark Fitzgerald's presentation of "Dos Rios, Dos Puentes: The Unique Dual Transitions Facing Hispanic Media," a review of the current state of Spanish-language and bilingual media on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Fitzgerald is *Editor & Publisher* magazine's Editor-at-Large. Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information call 305-919-4411.

#### Osher Lifelong learning Instititue to present sound tour

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will present a tour of the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Collection and the Judaica Sound Archives at Florida Atlantic University Libraries in Boca Raton. The event will be held Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For members, the fee is \$40 and for non-members, \$50. Register at 305-919-5910 or [www.caps.fiu.edu/olli](http://www.caps.fiu.edu/olli).

- Compiled by Susana Rodriguez and Catherine Kaiman

## Africana group hosts inaugural meeting at BBC

TEXT, page 1

The meeting's general consensus was that the sharing of the sacred text is not only beneficial for Yoruba, but African history as well.

"[These texts] are not about religion, but about knowledge and culture," said Ogundiran. "We can not afford to not take the Africana knowledge seriously."

In a 1993 landmark Supreme Court decision, the justices unanimously ruled that a law passed in Hialeah that banned religious animal sacrifice rituals, was unconstitutional because it overly suppressed the Church of Lukumi Babalu-Aye's right to religious freedom.

"We have progressed enough legally and academically at this point to bring out the texts and integrate it so that the study of the religion can be now taken to another level," Pichardo said. Besides revealing the

original texts, the meeting inaugurated the Africana Knowledge Working Group of South Florida. This group is comprised of delegates from the Smithsonian, botanica owners, priests, healers, performers and spiritualists.

"One of our church's fundamentals is education," Pichardo said. "The trouble we have had over some years is not being able to find an academic institution that we could call home to begin such important research and the [African New World Studies Department] has now embraced us and therefore our goal is finally met and this is the kickoff."

The group's goal is to create and foster collaboration for research about African history as well as spread awareness of African knowledge and religions within the ANWS Certificate program.



**A DIVINE PRESENTATION:** Orlando Ramos (left), Ubaldo G. Porto (center) and Ernesto Pichardo (right) display the original sacred texts of the Yoruba religion to the public for the first time in history.

Ava Purkiss, a graduate student in the department of ANWS, also believes education is the best way to enlighten mainstream culture about historical African issues.

"I think it's a first step

towards legitimizing African religions and will serve as a conduit - a foundation to some of the goals like engaging the mainstream, shifting paradigms, enabling tolerance, combating fear and ignorance and incorporating

these traditions into academics," Purkiss said.

The group hopes that by expanding the curriculum of classes that is taught in the ANWS program, students and professionals across all majors will be prepared to

understand the diverse cultures in the world.

"I am hopeful that FIU can be the first university in the nation to have a certificate in what I think should be under Yoruba studies," Pichardo said.

EDDITH SEVILLA/THE BEACON

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### SIC merge causing unnecessary trouble

In an effort to save a dime, the University Park Student Government Council proposed to combine three prominent student organizations: the Honors Councils, Graduate Student Association and Student Organization Council.

If approved on Jan. 23, at the SGC-UP meeting, the three councils, while still be technically operating as they had before until the end of the semester, but under the combined auspices of the Student Involvement Council.

The merger of these three councils, while regarded as illogical, serve different purposes to the students of FIU, appears to be of a purely financial motive: The combined budgets of the councils will be cut by \$17,000 which would be utilized if the councils remained independent of one another.

The official motive, as relayed by Comptroller, Sergio Ibarra-Bolanos, was apparently to streamline financial processes, and therefore make them more efficient as well as simplistic.

Bolanos described the merger as tackling a, “giant monster” rather than a “three-headed monster”. He continues by explaining that if the merger were to go through and one council under-spends its budget, the remainder could be allocated elsewhere where unused funds could be put to good use.

The obvious dilemma is that with a lowered budget—even lowered only by \$17,000—some councils may have to completely reconfigure financial practices of years past.

While \$17,000 doesn't account for a majority of the respective council's budget, a collective like the SOC could suffer dramatically from a cut that size: the SOC currently represents over 150 organiza-

tions on the University Park campus.

Another detail of this merger that may signify a steadily widening chasm between the two FIU campuses is that this merger is only being implemented on the University Park campus and the current structure will remain at the Biscayne Bay campus.

A move as hastily implemented as this could adversely affect the future activities of many of the student organizations, and with this “simplicity”-drive merger, the results may have the reverse affect on the student population: the cut funds would potentially hurt promotion initiatives for the councils, and fail to get more students involved.

A failure like that may result is a loss much bigger than the dime the proposed Student Involvement Council has its death-grip on.

Finances aside --as \$17,000 is a rather small amount for the councils as a whole—the formal structure of the SOC is the model for the new Student Involvement Council, with the Graduate Student Association and Honors Council tantamount to just two more organizations under the umbrella of the SOC, just with a new name and fewer managerial duties to pay for. This practice is ultimately ineffective because the GSA and HC are catering to a very different part of FIU's student base, and therefore would not come to expect the same things from a possible Student Involvement Council as members of the 150 (and continually rising) clubs on campus.

In the larger scope of what the benefits are to this proposal, the list is very limited and essentially can be summarized by the dictum, “If it's not broken, don't fix it.”



RICK MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

**CAMPUS SUPPORT:** Ron Paul advocates set up a booth to promote their favored Republican candidate.

## Misconceptions of Ron Paul

ERIC FELDMAN  
Staff Writer

As the Florida primaries draw nearer, Rep. Ron Paul remains one of the most enigmatic figures of the upcoming presidential race.

Paul supporters tell the success story of a humble Constitutionalist OB-GYN who has out-fundraised top-tier candidates in a “revolution” set to return the government back to its people.

Skeptics of Paul point out that his policies are not only out of touch with the mainstream but implausible in today's world climate, and even accuse him of being a racist conspiracy theorist.

Ron Paul is not a savior. However, an objective look at his stances will show that he is a sensible politician whose policies can appeal to a majority of voters.

First off, Paul is not a racist. This allegation largely stems from newsletters attributed to Paul's name published over a decade ago which contained negative comments about blacks. Paul has repeatedly stated that he did not write the comments, and when asked by Wolf Blitzer on CNN

if he repudiates the newsletter's remarks, he stated that he did not. In fact, the Austin president of the NAACP has decidedly supported Paul on this issue.

During the Jan. 10 GOP debates on Fox News, Paul urged that America use restraint and reason when dealing with Iran, stating that we must not let our guard down against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Meanwhile, Iowa caucus-winner Mike Huckabee warned that if Iran ever “put their sights on an American vessel,” the next thing they will see will be the “gates of hell” in response to an isolated incident with an Iranian vessel.

Paul, on the other hand, simply pleaded for restraint and demanded that we not look for reasons to launch a new war.

Mediator Brit Hume proceeded to ignore the warmongering of Paul's opponents and attempted to rip into his answer.

He insisted that Paul's opponents had just advocated a passive response to Iran, when in reality, Fred Thompson had just stated that the offensive Iranians would be “introduced to the virgins they've been looking

forward to seeing” if they had taken “one more step.”

The desecration of Paul's cautionary stance comes despite the fact that pre-emptive war with Iran is an unpopular idea nationwide, especially since the release of the most recent National Intelligence Estimate, which suggests that the country's nuclear program has been halted.

Paul would have a profound effect on domestic policy.

His plans center on constitutionality and states rights, such as eliminating the federal Department of Education and nullifying federal drug laws. The U.S. would save countless amounts of money and end Washington's inefficient control of these institutions.

Of course, many of Paul's policies would have a difficult time passing through Congress, but it seems that the buzzword for this year's elections is “change.”

A Ron Paul nomination would be a mandate from the people for a new course, and would symbolically do more to spur the change of conventional politics in America than the election to office of any candidate who uses “change” as their platform.

## GOP candidates support Bush, yet keep their distance

CHRIS CABRAL  
Asst. Life! Editor

With our economy hurtling toward a recession, an unpopular war raging overseas and a broken health care system, you can find few people in this country who are less popular than George W. Bush.

In a poll conducted by Gallup, 79 percent of those who responded said that the country needed to change direction from his policies. Yet as the 2008 election approaches, it is important for people to remember: Bush did not single-handedly lead this country to ruin. He had a lot of help. Many of the people who did everything in their power to keep him in office are seeking to become

the next president.

With Bush's approval ratings in the tank, you can expect the Republican candidates to distance themselves from Bush. They'll insist they are a “different” kind of Republican. Yet when it mattered most, they defended and helped him.

Take the so-called maverick John McCain for instance. Senator McCain voted for the Iraq war and now says he'd be willing to keep American troops there for “one thousand years.”

Though he has differed with Bush on a few issues, he is far from a moderate. Last year, he received a glowing 90 percent grade from the John Birch society, one of the most radically right-wing think tanks in

the country.

Don't let McCain or his surrogates convince you that his policies would be dramatically different from those of the Bush administration. As he told the Republican National Convention in 2004, he thinks “President Bush deserves not only our support, but our admiration.” Expect him to take that admiration and promises of an endless occupation of Iraq all the way the White House in 2008.

Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney have both lauded Bush. Giuliani said in 2004, “Thank God George Bush is our president.” Considering Giuliani's foreign policy views, Bush and Cheney might be thanking God for him, since he clearly wants to keep their neo-Conservative way of

thinking in the White House.

Giuliani has repeatedly alluded to the possibility of invading Iran and includes neo-Conservative mastermind Norman Podhoretz among his top consultants.

Ironically, Romney attacked the Democratic nominee for being inconsistent in his views in 2004, while now in 2008 he is the one being called a “flip-flopper.” He has a habit of making misleading and embarrassing statements, not unlike one President George W. Bush.

Romney said he saw his father “march with Martin Luther King” (never happened) and on his website claims he will “end energy dependence.” Not dependence on oil, dependence on energy itself.

Good luck with that, Mitt – and oh, did I mention his actual name is Willard?

It would be difficult to point out all the flaws with each of the many GOP candidates. Of course, it's not like the GOP candidates are all bad. In fairness, McCain deserves credit for opposing torture, and Giuliani and Romney deserve credit for being somewhat moderate the last time they held office.

Yet when you examine their heir plans for the country, all the Republican frontrunners would perpetuate Bush policies. And that would be disastrous for the country.

Chris Cabral is also the President of the College Democrats

## Your health in a nutshell



Model of Health  
a wellness column  
Sandra Mateu

I am always looking for new ways to improve my diet. Like most of you, I do not own a portable kitchen that goes with me from school to work, and then back home to follow the same routine day after day. I simply do not have the time to deal with that. I am always on the run trying to keep a healthy diet.

It is easier for me to pick a healthy meal at lunchtime because I do not like being involved in greasy and sticky situations.

When lunch is over my body asks for dessert. Since I do not get it, I crave it and most likely get it after as a snack at least once or twice a day.

Couldn't I enjoy a food that tastes good and cheers me up during the lows of the day and that is as filling as chocolate or cake and actually nutritious?

Research has proved that nuts are one of those foods. Nuts combine great taste with great properties.

Nuts are crunchy, filling and good for you. Many people do not include them because they are high in fat content, but as *Muscle & Fitness Magazine* explains, the high fat content is complemented by a lot of protein and the fats are comprised of mono and polyunsaturated fats, which make nuts a healthy food.

When talking about nuts we are referring to almonds, walnuts, peanuts, hazelnuts, Brazil nuts and pistachios mainly.

Almonds are recognized as the "king" nut, according to an article in *Men's Health* by Bill Stieg.

"An ounce of almonds provides half the vitamin E you need daily, 8 percent of the calcium and 19 percent of the magnesium," Steig said in the article.

If the shells or the aspect of the nuts bother you, nut-based products, like peanut butter, are good for your diet too. Do not confuse them with items that have added nuts such as ice cream or chocolate, according to *WebMD.com*.

According to *Muscle & Fitness Magazine*, almonds are high in protein and fiber and they boost heart health. Walnuts provide almost all the omega-3s you need for the day and improve the ratio of good to bad cholesterol.

Peanuts are an excellent source of mono-unsaturated fat and Brazil nuts are high in selenium, which regulates thyroid function and, in turn, metabolism.

Ideas to include nuts in your diet, as recommended by *WebMD.com*, to sprinkle cereals, yogurts, vegetables and breads with nuts.

Something to be careful about is the intake amount. Nuts are like popcorn. You may sit in the couch with a bag to watch a show and, without noticing, you had the whole back during one episode.

One ounce is the perfect measure. A small handful is about one ounce which, depending on the nut, could be from 150 to 200 calories.

According to *WebMD.com*, a handful of almonds is about 160 calories, walnuts are 180 calories and dry roasted unsalted peanuts are 160 calories.

Do not make nuts an addition to your diet as an extra intake. Include them in your diet in the right amount and, as a replacement for sweets or greasy snacks and dressings.



## Annual club fair to move outdoors

JONATHAN DAVILA  
Contributing Writer

The annual Student Organizations Council Club Fair will be taking place this Jan. 22 and 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unlike previous semesters when the fair was held in the Graham Center pit, the fair will be taking place outdoors, on the GC lawn, and will be sporting a carnival theme.

Stefano Boulos, President of the Chemistry Club, is excited about the move to the outdoors. "We are already planning many things that usually we wouldn't be able to do indoors," said Boulos.

"We're going to be doing some chemistry demonstrations that we usually wouldn't do inside GC - it's not that they are dangerous, but being outside will allow us to accommodate ourselves a lot better."

The fair was initially scheduled to run for four days next week but SOC Event Coordinator Nivv Oudit explained that by condensing the fair into two days there would be more clubs on site together at the same

time.

"It would be more interesting to have two days packed with intense activities instead of four less active days," said Oudit.

"We hope that clubs will take advantage of all that's being offered to them and do a brilliant job in representing themselves."

To go along with the carnival theme, the fair will be decorated with circus-like inflatables and feature many outdoor activities such as rock climbing and dunking tanks.

There will also be free food provided by Shorty's BBQ, as well as popcorn, cotton candy, and sno-cones.

However, SOC Treasurer, Robert Chung, advised that students must prove their participation in the fair in order to obtain the free food.

"Each prospective member will be given a passport. For each person to get free food they must visit five clubs and get [the passport] signed," said Chung.

On Jan. 22, the Academic, Business, Cultural/Social, and Law/Political clubs will be represented.

Clubs representing the Arts, Engineering, Health/Wellness, Religious, and Ser-

vices will be exhibiting on Jan. 23.

Sports clubs will not be represented on either day because these clubs are not registered under SOC.

In order to encourage clubs to participate in the Club Fair and other events and activities, SOC created the SOC Point System.

"[It] ensure[s] that the registered organizations remain active and visible on campus in order to receive funding and have access to services on campus clubs must attain a minimum of twelve points in order to be eligible for funding," said Oudit.

Clubs that participate in the fair will receive one SOC point. The best represented table gains another point. Last semester, the Chemistry Club won. "For sure we will be part of the race again," said Boulos.

Oudit has high expectations for the Club Fair this semester. "We at SOC are extremely excited about this year's Club Fair and really look forward to seeing our clubs representing themselves in all their glory."

At the risk of sounding completely pretentious, I reckon it's going to be the best Club Fair yet" he said.

## Foo Fighters open 21-city tour

FALLAN M. PATTERSON  
Staff Writer

In a world overtly saturated with rap and hip hop music, it was comforting to know that, for one night at least, rock and roll was not dead. A nearly full house packed the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise Jan. 16 on the opening night of the Foo Fighters 21-city tour. Joining them on stage was Against Me!, a Gainesville, Florida punk rock band singing songs of political rebellion, and Jimmy Eat World, an emo/alternative band from Mesa, Arizona.

Against Me!, with odes to Condoleezza Rice and optimistic lyrics about looking toward the future, commenced the evening with full-throttle energy to a half-packed

crowd. Although the band has been around for a decade on indie labels, they have begun to see major-label success off their latest album, *New Wave*.

Frontman Tom Gabel half screams, half sings to the audience as his band thrashes to the sound. Jimmy Eat World, touring for their new album "Chase This Light," is best known for its 1990's record "Bleed American" which featured the MTV over-killed hit "The Middle."

While some of their songs can be considered harder than others, this band was definitely the lull between the previous hardcore punk and the yet-to-come good

ole American rock n' roll of Foo Fighters. They resurrected a few old songs including "Sweetness" off of "Bleed American" and introduced many to the slightly softer and more emo sound of "Chase This Light", including the new single "Always Be."

The main course ran out on stage full of energy and ready to rock. With a dynamic frontman like Dave Grohl, former drummer to 1990's grunge gods Nirvana, you better be off your seats and singing along. The large stage was extended on either side to allow Grohl room



# Solving your way out of the puzzle that is "Puzzleland"



**F.R.E.E**  
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**ASHLYN TOLEDO**

As a gamer, I know the game I'm playing at the moment depends greatly on the sort of mood I'm in. Happy, sad, frustrated; there's always that game that hits the spot. For those of you just looking for a laugh, I give you "Puzzleland".

"Puzzleland" is one of those gems you rarely come across and could easily overlook. A charming, hand-drawn, point-and-click adventure that, at first, may seem like a badly drawn flash game, but there is so much more to this game than meets the eye.

Meet James Mahogany, a yellow, crudely drawn man who wears a grey suit with a red tie and walks strictly sideways.

Throughout "Puzzleland's" five unique levels, the goal is to help Mahogany defeat his arch rival Gregory.

To do so, you must point and click on everything in the window to figure out what it does and, ultimately, what sequence of pointing and clicking will get Mahogany to the other side safely.

Sounds pretty standard, but this isn't like any other point-and-click adventure.

The graphics and sound alone would be enough to set it apart, but "Puzzleland's" gameplay is so out of the box it takes a while to actually start thinking as unconventionally as you really have to in order to solve the puzzles.

Even in the very first level, you probably wouldn't automatically assume that



COURTESY OF HEAVYGAMES.COM

in order to cross the chasm, you have to find a way to wake the lumberjack to cut the tree down, which falls on him, and then release a boulder to knock the tree down over the chasm to serve as your bridge.

Every level is more complex, more ridiculous and more satisfying than the last.

Even after you have defeated Gregory, you will come back again and again for more.

This game is easy to get hooked on. It's not only fun, it's a completely free flash game which means no downloads and no waiting.

As far as point-and-click puzzle games go, "Puzzleland" is innovative in its challenges and unique in its sense of humor.

You can save Mahogany online at <http://www.mostplays.com>.

It is listed under the Puzzle section of the main page.

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# Sailing through a Semester at Sea

**CHRISTIN ERAZO**  
Contributing Writer

For most students, semesters are usually spent cooped up in classrooms, listening to boring lectures or sticking their noses in books.

A more creative and interactive way of learning — the Semester at Sea study abroad program — allows undergraduate students to see world landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, the pyramids of Egypt, and other famous places.

The program is offered through the University of Virginia and is sponsored by the International Shipboard Education.

Students are sent abroad to learn about different societies and cultures.

Undergraduate students are targeted for the program, but opportunities for high school students are available as well.

Recently, a group of FIU students embarked on the Fall 2007 voyage on the MV Explorer to tour Japan, Thailand, Croatia, and Spain. This 100 day voyage spanned three continents and gave these students an experience of a lifetime.

Lily Trelles, alumna, recalls some of her best memories. “Seeing the Taj Mahal at sunset, visiting the pyramids and my camel ride through the desert were by far some of my favorite memories,” Trelles said.

Joining Trelles, Veronica Caballero and Lissette Trelles traveled to thirteen different ports while following curriculum that required each student to take a minimum of 12 credits.

The undergraduate program allows students from all different majors to take required courses and electives in order to fulfill their course work.



COURTESY PHOTO

SEAVOYAGERSFIUstudentsLilyTrellesVeronicaCaballeroandLissetteTrellestookpartintheSemesteratSeastudyabroadprogramlastFall.The girls visited countries such as Japan while earning college credits.

One class, entitled Global Studies, is an upper-level geography course required for all students on board.

The importance of the course is that it highlights the complexity, dynamics and interdependence of world systems. Curriculum coin-

cides with the different port cities visited throughout the semester so they are introduced to the city before docking.

The University of Virginia and its Semester at Sea program features transferable credits, allowing students to transfer credits to

their home university.

The program recommends students to follow up with their university's registrar office to assure that Semester at Sea classes count toward their degree.

**STUDY ABROAD, page 9**

## REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

### MOVIE

#### *Cloverfield*

# New York escape film not for the faint of heart

**SUSANA RODRIGUEZ**  
Asst. News Director

When Rob walked into his going away party, he thought he would finally get a chance to tell his friend Beth how he felt. But when an earthquake strikes Manhattan, Rob's night is cut short as the streets surge with people running away from the tremor's source — a skyscraper sized monster that rises from the Hudson Bay and begins its rampage through New York City.

Sound familiar? It's not. Director J.J. Abrams' "Cloverfield" transforms the Japanese monster genre into a human drama when he chooses to render events from his protagonists' point of view.

The audience shares eyes with Hud, Rob's best friend and the most unreliable cameraman at the end of the world, as they flee from the gargantuan creature as it terrorizes the city.

Rob and Hud are joined by fellow party goers and friends Jason, Lily and Marlana in a journey to escape from New York and save the stranded Beth (because, naturally, Rob alienates her at the party causing her to run home and giving us a story to follow).

"Cloverfield" isn't for the faint of heart, much less those who have just had a meal. Shot using a single, hand-held camera, the screen jumps and jolts with the protagonists as they run through the city. Even the opening scenes of Rob's going away

party are shaky as Hud works the crowd gathering farewells and last thoughts for his number one dude before he flies off to Japan to begin a new life as a company's vice-president. And every time you so much as think you're going to see the beast, Hud panics and runs — the camera convulsing with each stride as the pavement shakes and streaks on screen.

If you're wondering where the monster comes from or what it is you won't find these answers in "Cloverfield." Rather, knowledge is limited to only what the

characters know and where they're going.

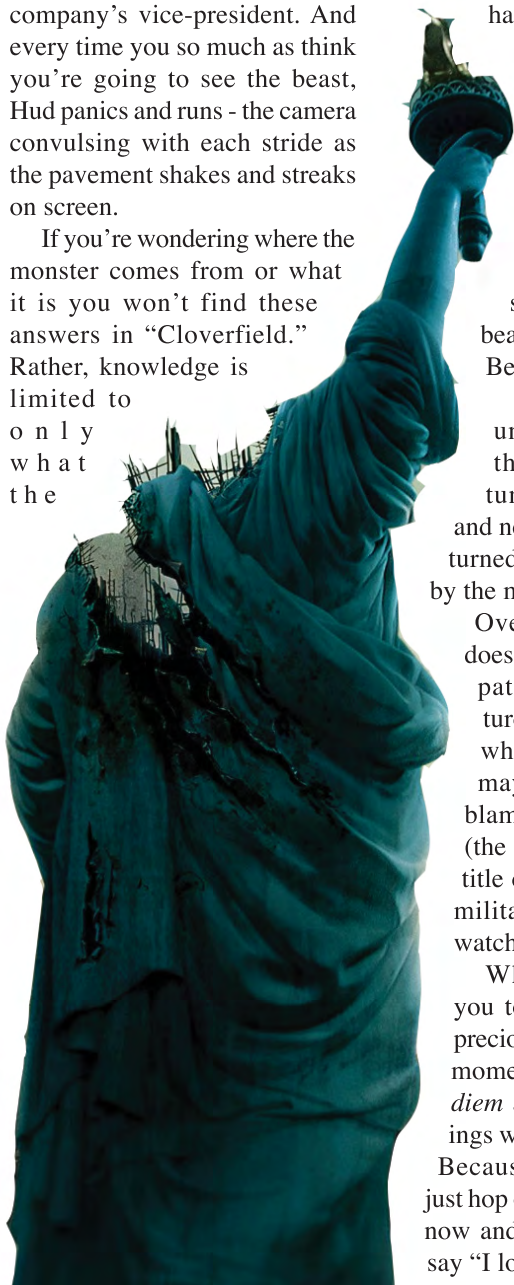
Once life as they know it shatters at the appearance of the monster, Rob realizes he has to let Beth know he loves her come his or his friends designated survival rights.

Rob goes so far as to put his crew through the middle of a military fire-storm against the beast in the journey to Beth's apartment.

He takes them underground, hiking through the subway tunnels as a shortcut and nearly gets his friends turned into shish-ka-bobs by the monster's spawn.

Overall, "Cloverfield" doesn't want you to sympathize with its creature or point fingers at whatever organization may or may not be to blame for its apparition (the movie opens with a title card that this is U.S. military property you're watching).

What it wants is for you to realize that life is preciously short, that every moment counts, so *carpe diem* and share your feelings with the one you love. Because a monster could just hop out of the ocean right now and steal the chance to say "I love you."



### MUSIC

#### *Canoe*

# Indie folk-pop group going "Places"

**CHRIS TOWERS**  
Asst. News Director

For the most part, when I review music, I review albums by artists whose work I am intimately familiar with. This time, though, I've decided to review an album by a band that is all but unknown outside the city of Portland, Oregon.

Canoe is a five piece, folk-pop group whose independently released debut album, "Places" (available from iTunes or canoe-music.net), came out earlier this month. Musically, they sound like Sufjan Stevens fronting The Decemberists by way of Badly Drawn Boy, if you can follow that slightly disjointed musical lineage. With his pleasant voice and affected falsetto style, it is almost impossible to not think of Stevens whenever lead vocalist Matt Hoiland sings.

Many of the songs on the album are James Taylor-esque, finger picked ditties, which even Taylor has trouble making sound interesting. Canoe runs into that same problem. Repetitive, finger picked chords do not make for interesting musical sounds, unfortunately.

Fortunately, a number of the songs that do begin with the delicate finger picked style pick up. Midway through the record, the band really begins to swing, beginning with the final 40 seconds of "Drip, Drip, Drop", and culminating in an extremely impressive cover of one of the best songs of the past decade, Neutral Milk Hotel's "Holland, 1945".

While staying fairly faith-

ful to the original's melody and chord change, Canoe's version adds an anxiety missing from the original, moving from the falsetto and finger picked first verse, to a more rocking third verse when the normally timid Hoiland let's loose for a cracked and emotional outburst that reveals an emotional core previously unseen.

In between those two songs you have "Anxious Jenny", the only downright danceable song on the album, and "Ugly Girls", arguably the album's best song.

"Ugly Girls" is what would've happened if Randy Newman was in a bluegrass group, and is one of the best country inflected pop tunes in a long time.

Unfortunately, outside of that 5 song run, many of the album's songs run together and are easily forgettable, suffering from a sameness in sound and philosophy, preferring to pacify the listener rather than challenge.

There isn't a bad song amongst the 17 here, an impressive feat for a debut album to be certain, but much of the record is simply forgettable, which is made all the more apparent by sticking the best songs in the middle.

Despite these shortcomings, this is an impressive debut album for a band that has a fan base of no more than a thousand listeners in their native Portland. If they can strike a balance between the rawer, more exciting moments in the middle and the subdued pretty stuff surrounding it, they won't stay unknown for long.

# Foo rocks the Bank Atlantic Center



PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA / THE BEACON

**EAT FOO:** Foo Fighters (bottom right) rock out with Jimmy Eat World (above) and Against Me (top right) in Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise on Jan. 16

## FOO, page 6

to run across the room and a catwalk protruded out the middle of the stage, breaking up the large group in the pit ready to mosh. At the end of the catwalk was a large circle covered with a black tarp and another tarp suspended 200 feet into the air covering a surprise.

The jaw-dropping began when the lights dimmed and an entire new set lowered onto the end of the catwalk. The band then played a mini concert within a concert of acoustic versions of their songs, including "Marigold" and "Everlong." Foo Fighters played a seven city acoustic tour in the summer of 2006. Grohl mentioned that they thought they would bring a piece along since "he couldn't be everywhere at once."

With more than a decade of music to choose from, the Foo had no problem filling a two hour set, including a five song encore.

Since forming in 1995 after the suicide of Kurt Cobain, Nirvana's creator, lead singer and guitarist, Foo Fighters have released five albums and are touring for the latest "Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace". The show was an exciting, raucous tribute to the power of rock n' roll and the artistry of Dave Grohl.



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# Worldwide excursions lead to knowledge

## STUDY ABROAD, page 8

Caballero explains the difficulty she had in transferring her credits to FIU. "To make sure that my semester abroad would count was extremely tedious," she said.

Veronica spent weeks before her trip filling out forms in different departments to ensure that her credits were accepted.

"Even two days before I left, I received a phone call telling me to fill out more forms," Caballero said. Now that her semester abroad is over, Caballero claims there are still inadequacies with the program.

"My transcript was received by FIU on Dec. 13, 2007. After calling FIU's registrar's office several times, they told me it's going to take three more weeks for them to process. Now that I'm back, I still haven't seen my grades," she said.

Though difficulties ensued, all students agree their experiences were magnificent. "We met in San Diego and drove down to Ensenada, Mexico to board the ship," Trelles said. "Next thing we knew we were off to Hawaii, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Egypt, Turkey, Croatia and Spain for a 100-day experience of a lifetime.

I would recommend this program to each and every student in the United States and abroad."

Despite her hardships with both universities registrar offices, Caballero still holds wonderful memories from her excursions and describes them as memorable and unique.

"The chance to visit all these countries back to back and compare the diverse cultures was amazing. This is what stands out the most when I think about the voyage I made."

Unlike Trelles, Caballero would not recommend the program on an academic basis. "I don't know if I'd recommend the program," Caballero said. Due to the heavy course load and strict administration, Caballero believes that it "took away from the trip."

"However, I recommend everyone to experience cultures different from our own and travel to eastern countries that we normally wouldn't dare to visit." Every semester, the Semester at Sea program changes their itineraries to include different cities throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

In order to be admitted into the program, students must submit an essay, be in good academic standing and pass a disciplinary clearance.

For students needing financial assistance, ISE accepts FAFSA and also provides awards for qualified students.

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# Dream of making team stems from high school

ABBEY, page 12

but my bold response was, "I'm going to walk on at FIU."

When I said that I usually got a sarcastic-sounding "good luck" as a response. I think from the beginning, this didn't exactly make sense to many people.

I always played good defense at Florida Air Academy, but there were times where my focus was right-fully in question.

I believe it came from my weird positioning. Flor-

ida Air Academy soccer had four coaches in four years.

All of them were different in their methodology, but they pretty much used me in the same fashion.

My coaches usually used me as a wing back that would pick and choose his spots to join the attack.

That gave us another weapon with the attack, but there were times where I became greedy and neglected my defensive duties.

In my eyes, inconsistency would have defined my high school career if I didn't put

it all together during my senior year. So from the beginning, I already felt like I had a mental hurdle

“ “ When you're sitting down, the game looks a lot slower from than stands than playing on the pitch. ” ”

to jump over.

I also realized that I would be playing against these same guys that I have been watching over

the past few months, and there is always a difference between the two, mainly the speed difference.

job at *The Beacon* where I was able to get up close and personal with both of the school's soccer teams.

This gives me more of an idea of what to expect whenever these tryouts are scheduled - usually in late February. There has been no official announcement yet, but I'm doing everything to stay ready.

Just a couple days ago, I realized I was doing too much.

My body couldn't resist going to the gym though my mind wanted to relax and I decided to play some

basketball for a while.

Soon enough a knee comes ramming into my lower thigh, right above my knee, and the pain came immediately.

I still feel pain, but I can get back to 100 percent in the next three or four days.

Luckily, I've never broken anything in my body, so healing fast has never been a problem.

After the long weekend, I will be back on the intramural fields to practice.

I'm very ready and just patiently waiting for my opportunity.

# High school athletes angered over return of their coach

ABUSE, page 12

said a parent of one of the plaintiffs. He's a police officer and a lifelong resident of this town, population 17,000, a little more than an hour's drive from Kansas City.

The situation dates back to 2004, when a softball player accused Hough of improper physical contact. More complaints were lodged with school officials in 2006, and with the Warrensburg school board last summer.

The school system placed Hough on administrative leave with pay in September, but reinstated him two months later after concluding the accusations lacked merit. The six players now suing - all of whom are basketball players - say that during the internal investigation they were never interviewed by school

officials. They filed their lawsuit the day after Hough's return.

Supporters cite the school system's internal inquiry, and a more narrow investigation by the state Department of Social Services, as proof that Hough is innocent.

They say the players' real motivation is vengeance against a demanding coach, fueled by parents who were unhappy over their daughters' lack of playing time, though four of the players started last year and two were key subs off the bench.

"I think they're very unfair," said Donna Warden, whose daughter is not among the accusers and continues to play for the Lady Tigers. "It ended up being a collaboration because they want a different coach."

The lawsuit also names the Warrensburg R-VI district, Superinten-

dent Deborah Orr and Scott Patrick, assistant superintendent for student services, as defendants. Hough, who also teaches physical education at a Warrensburg elementary school, did not respond to requests for comment.

Patrick, whose daughter is on the Warrensburg basketball team, defended the school system's decision not to interview the youths before Hough was reinstated, noting that some were questioned when they voiced their concerns initially.

"At that point it was contentious enough," he said. "We didn't feel it would be productive."

The teens are identified individually only as Jane Doe in the suit. The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sexual assaults or those who make such accusations in court. Their parents also are not

being identified, to avoid revealing the youths' identities.

"I've lived here all my life," he said. "I can't believe how many people turned on my family."

The youths' attorney, Ronnie Podolefsky, has been a particular target in a town long-accustomed to cordial relations with the Central Missouri campus.

"She's the first lady of education," said Greg Hassler, a local radio station owner and sportscaster whose on-air broadsides against Podolefsky have fueled the criticism. "She's supposed to be a community leader."

By the estimation of Hough's supporters, the college president's wife is out of line.

They want her to stop representing the players, and if that means firing her husband - Aaron

Podolefsky - then so be it.

Some Warrensburg High parents are going one step further, circulating a petition asking the board of governors to fire Aaron Podolefsky, an anthropologist by training who became the school's president in July 2005 after 15 years at Northern Iowa, the last eight as provost.

"It's nothing new when the disgruntled resort to the old stereotype of an uppity wife who doesn't know her place," Ronnie Podolefsky said. "My career is independent and separate from the university."

The rancor in Warrensburg is not uncommon when trusted teachers are accused of sexual abuse, said Robert Shoop, a professor of educational administration at Kansas State University who has testified in over 50 court cases involving accusations of sexual misconduct.

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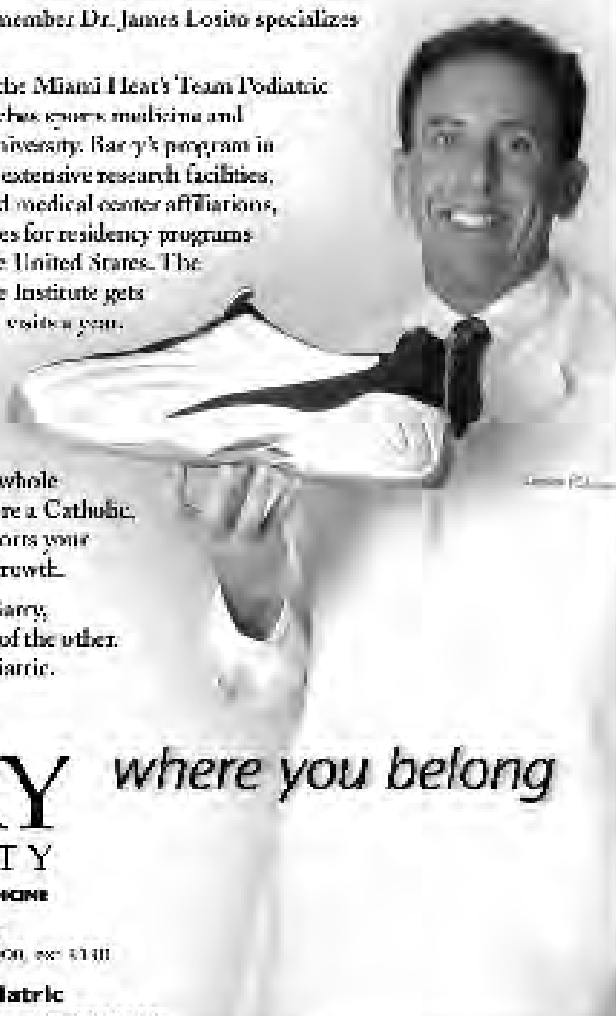
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# Hinton uses physical talents as small forward

HINTON, page 12

did not have strict weight limits," Hinton said.

"I started playing organized basketball at 6 years old and I would practice by using garbage cans and simulating the game the night before a big match up."

As a forward, Hinton is undersized at his position.

However, he feels playing football was the best physical preparation for transitioning onto the court.

"Basketball just comes a little easier for me because the physicality of football has put me in a great position to perform on the court," he said.

Playing two different sports also means adapting to two different coaches, but Hinton sees no fundamental difference between coach Cristobal and coach Rouco.

With Hinton's childhood dream coming true in his fourth year of college, he explains that football still has precedent over basketball.

"Really, my goal for the last half of the basketball

season is to do my best to contribute to the basketball team in order to grow as much as I can as a player," he said.

Personally, Hinton has defined his own future success as being able to utilize his sports management

degree to raise a family.

"I'm just going to use what my coaches have taught me, what I learned on the field and the court, and in the classroom as I continue at FIU," Hinton said. "I just want to always better myself."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**NEWEST ADDITION:** Moses Hinton's 265 pound frame is unusually robust among basketball players.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY



JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SWITCHING SIDES:** Former Golden Panther center Xavier Shannon is attending graduate school at UM where he will play for his father, Randy Shannon.

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## Making men's soccer team no simple process



Commentary  
Ryan Abbey  
Staff Writer

All of my experiences playing soccer since I was 12 years old have been challenging yet positive.

Switching to defense in high school was challenging and positive.

Playing Division I soccer? At this point I find it more challenging than anything else.

Ball drills, trying to reduce my 40-yard dash time and watching a lot of soccer is just a small taste of what I'm preparing for both physically and

mentally.

Why do I do this? Because for almost an entire year, I have had only one goal regarding soccer: make the men's soccer team as a walk on.

It all started on Senior Night last year at Florida Air Academy. We found a way to win 3-2 against our archrival Melbourne Central Catholic and every senior was interviewed after the game.

When it came to my turn and I was asked, "Where do you take your soccer game from here?"

Well I had no reason to think that it could happen,

**ABBEY, page 10**



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SOCCER TRYOUT:** The men's soccer team finished with a 3-1-2 record in 2007.

## Missouri divided over sexual abuse case against coach

ALAN SCHER ZAGIE  
AP Writer

Like many high school athletes, the Warrensburg High Lady Tigers were admired throughout their small town. Then they accused their basketball coach of sexual misconduct.

Now the six female athletes who sued the school district and coach Russell Hough — after an internal investigation cleared him — are pariahs.

The bad feeling has gone well beyond a spirited defense of Hough, who also serves as the softball coach and insists he's innocent.

The teens have been called liars, bullies and even white

trash (three of the players who have sued the white coach also are white, three are black). They've been insulted to their faces and on Facebook and MySpace pages.

Their parents' jobs have been threatened. And the involvement of their attorney, who also happens to be the wife of the University of Central Missouri's president, has sparked a backlash that includes efforts to oust the college leader.

"They tell us we're tearing apart the community. They've told us to leave town, (that) we don't love this place,"

**ABUSE, page 10**

# DOUBLE DUTY

## Tight end Moses Hinton splits his time on the field and on the basketball court

AUDRINA BIGOS  
Contributing Writer

As the newest addition to the men's basketball team, Moses Hinton transitioned in a matter of weeks from a Division I-A tight end to playing his first three minutes against Troy State on Jan. 9.

"The game against Troy was my first time playing an officiated game of basketball in over four years, and I was nervous and even shaking," Hinton said. "Coach [Sergio Rouco] just told me to go out and play, but all I could hear was my teammates from the football team cheering me on in the stands and being really supportive."

While remaining to train with the football team, Hinton began practicing with his new team just prior to the start of the spring semester.

"During Christmas break, while discussing fifth-year eligibility, [football] coach [Mario] Cristobal asked me my interest in playing on the basketball team because coach Rouco felt that I could be a positive addition to the team at that point in the season," Hinton said.

After careful consideration, Hinton decided to begin practicing with the team a week prior to their victory over Troy.

"Even after his first practice with us, I could tell he was going to help us out," said junior forward Alex Galindo. "I am used to seeing him with a helmet on, but obviously he has brought us some luck with us winning his first two games with us, so that's a plus."

Hinton's transition from the gridiron to the basketball court came as a shock to some of the team's basketball players.

"It definitely surprised me. I have never heard of a football player coming onto the basketball team halfway through the season," said junior center Russell Hicks. "Regardless, I knew him before and I liked him, and he definitely fits right in."

Coming out of American Heritage High School, Hinton's uncle explained that he would have a greater



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**TIGHT END/FORWARD:** Moses Hinton practices with the basketball team as a forward. Hinton suffered an injury in 2006, but now he plays for the basketball team.

chance of receiving a scholarship with a Division I-A football team due to the large number of players.

Soon after, he received a scholarship from former Golden Panthers head coach

3, 265 pound tight end has definitely made his contribution on the football team. Having to sit out six games as a result of an injury in 2006, Hinton became more cautious and realized

spent the majority of his college career playing football, he says basketball is the sport he loves the most.

"I would say my biggest passion is for basket-

“Moses Hinton, Basketball Forward and Football Tight End

I would say my biggest passion is for basketball because growing up I was always too heavy to play football and basketball did not have strict weight limits.

Don Strock.

Scoring the Golden Panthers' first touchdown of the 2007 season and averaging 15 yards per catch, 6-foot-

that protecting his physical health had to become a priority.

Although Hinton has a football scholarship and

ball, because growing up I was always too heavy to play football and basketball

**HINTON, page 11**