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NEW VP FOR SOC
Marketing Director moves up

FOXY FALLACY
FOX news inaccuracies interpreted

VALENTINE'S DAY
What to do if you're single

MOVING FORWARD
Women's B-ball upsets contenders

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ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Second fee increase requested

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

Students reeling from constant reports of tuition and fee increases are in for more bad news.

The Athletics Department is looking for an early increase in

the fee students pay them and has approached the Student Government Association for a recommendation to that end.

According to Cassandra Andrade, vice president of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, Athletics

is looking to make up for a budget shortfall that has the department approximately \$3 million over their budget.

Andrade said she was told the problems had nothing to do with the construction of the new football stadium.

For the current 07-08 school year, Athletics received a fee increase as part of an agreement with the Health Services and Student Activities departments. All three departments receive

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E-show highlights love struggle

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

You probably never heard of the small web-series revolving around three college grads simultaneously dumped and find themselves yearning to be one half of two again. "We Need Girlfriends" is a series many FIU students can relate to, especially with Valentine's Day looming over their heads.

WNG is essentially about the "beta male," as a *New York Times* article labels the series' characters. The first episode begins with three young men – Tom, Henry and Rod – who are completely crushed by their recent break-ups. By the end of the episode, they realize the only way to patch up their broken hearts (and restore their self-worth) is to get back into long-term relationships.

Ivan Arguello, a political science major, believes since all humans are "social beings," wishing to be in a relationship is essential.

"You are always happier when you are in a good relationship than when you are single," he says, concluding that Valentine's Day only heightens that feeling. "[V-day brings] a normal sense of desperation ... you feel you have to be dating someone for Valentine's Day."

He might be right. A 2006 Canadian Mental Health Association news release stated that the "Valentine's Day Blues" are common among young adults to such an extent that "one in 10 felt depressed, insecure, inadequate or unwanted on Valentine's Day."

Marilyn Montgomery, associate professor of psychology, agrees that students might experience "issues of loneliness or self-doubt" during V-day, especially for those who have recently ended their relationships-like the WNG trio.

"[Students] see a lot of people partnered up and, for some students, it brings questions up like, 'Why can't I make [relationships] last?' 'When will I be in a relationship?'" Montgomery said. "It looks like everyone has done it, and every relationship is a healthy one, but it's just not true."

However, for a "gentle, endearingly awkward, self-conscious soul, for whom love is a battlefield" beta-type, as the *NYT* refers to them, achieving relationship status is easier said than done.

According to the series creator Steven Tzapelas, the beta-males of WNG (Tom, Henry and Rod) each have their separate reasons for wanting to get back into "long-term relationships" but all three are rooted in a lack of self-esteem.

"Tom needs a girlfriend ... for status and normalcy. Henry needs a girlfriend because his confidence is rooted in whether or not

V-DAY, page 1

SEXY TIME



GAUDRY PUECHAVY/THE BEACON

KEEP IT SAFE: Students participate in University Health Service's Sex Carnival, an event meant to educate students about safe sex.

WALKING FOR LIFE

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

FIU's Relay for Life has returned with *gusto* and a 1950's theme called "Lucky #7." The name reflects a goal of raising \$70,000 for cancer research, having 70 teams of students and community members participate and 70 cancer survivors attend the relay.

Every year, nearly 500,000 men and women die of cancer nationwide according to the Center for Disease Control. Of those, 40,000 deaths occur in the state of Florida alone.

The American Cancer Society founded RFL to raise funds and hope.

"It's not just about raising money," said Beverly Dalrymple, director of the Center for Leadership Service and FIU's Relay for Life advisor. "It's about raising awareness and showing people what they can be doing in their life to prevent cancer."

Normally, RFL has been held

on the FIU football field but due to stadium construction, it will be held on the Ryder Business building's driveway this year.

"This Relay will be more exciting than previous years," Dalrymple said.

During last year's Relay, FIU was able to raise \$66,000 – just \$4,000 short of their goal. But coordinators hope they will reach their goal this year with the increased number of student and community teams participating. Last year, 52 teams participated; this year, there are 70.

"The teams took to the theme and have really run with it," said Carmen Murphy, RFL chair.

"My family is doing an 'I Love Lucy' tent," Murphy said. "Everyone is really into the 50's theme."

Another goal of this year's RFL is to gain a permanent starting budget. Murphy said that RFL is the largest charity at FIU that does not receive a permanent budget.

"We want to show FIU

what a big impact we make on the community and [why we] deserve to be funded," Murphy said.

This year the Student

RELAY, page 3

GAUDRY PUECHAVY/THE BEACON



EDDIE ZENG/THE BEACON

RELAY FOR A CURE: Participants of last year's Relay for Life walk in support of cancer research.

**70 teams
70 survivors,
\$70,000
dedicated to
this year's
sRelay for
Life**

NEWSFLASH

Networking Night presented by the International Business Honor Society

The International Business Honor Society will host a networking night as part of their bi-weekly meetings. The event will be an opportunity to meet and network with IBHS members.

The networking night will take place in the MARC 125 building on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.ibhsonline.com.

Writers on the Bay Reading Series presents Lee Gutkind

Lee Gutkind, founder and editor of Creative Non-fiction will read passages from his most recent works for the Barnes & Noble Writers on the Bay Reading Series.

The reading will take place on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. at the Biscayne Landing Sales Office. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-919-5857, or visit <http://w3.fiu.edu/writing.com>.

Student Alumni Association accepting applications for Student Ambassadors

The Student Alumni Association is now accepting applications for its Student Ambassador Program. Student Ambassadors provide leadership programs, host alumni events, lead campus tours and participate in presidential hosting.

Applications are due by March 3, and are available in MARC 510 or online at <http://www.fualumni.com/ambassador.htm>.

- Compiled by Christina Veiga / Beacon Staff

White Day makes it possible to celebrate love a second time

NADIA KIJANKA
Contributing Writer

Candy, flowers and jewelry are just some of the many gifts exchanged during Valentine's Day. In Japan, if you like the person who gives you a gift on Valentine's Day, the act is reciprocated one month later on White Day, March 14.

The Anything Goes Anime club at FIU will host a luau-themed mixer March 14 to celebrate this cultural holiday.

"White Day is basically like a confirmation," said Edwin Perodin, an Anything Goes Anime film club member. "White Day is a way to better express and reciprocate affection; it's a way of giving back in their culture."

The holiday is said to have been founded by a Japanese confectioner in the late 1900s called "The Marshmallow Man." Supposedly, this proprietor capitalized on the induction of the Valentine's Day holiday into the Japanese culture.

Ethan Thomas, Student Organizations Council representative for AGA has experienced White Day firsthand.

"It would be the equivalent of having two Valentine's Days here. They have just as much chocolates, flowers and gifts to celebrate it as we do for Valentine's Day."

Thomas plans to attend

the mixer in traditional Japanese attire to help create an authentic environment for the holiday.

AGA hopes to have hula dancers or other dance routines planned for the White Day celebration. Other confirmed events include a limbo competition, karaoke and audio visual presentations, as well as free food and drinks.

Besides offering students a taste of Japanese culture, AGA is also hosting the mixer in an attempt to attract more members.

"Not many people know this club exists unless they go looking for it," Thomas said. "Celebrating White Day is a great opportunity for AGA to make itself known to the public."

The original idea for the mixer was to have an event to raise awareness of the club and find new volunteers to run Yasumicon, an annual convention AGA holds.

The convention will take place in early August this year.

"We hope that we will be more visible to people on campus," said Claire Daniels, AGA member and Yasumicon co-chair. "We're trying to figure out who on campus might want to join us to work on the convention, since they're likely to be interested, and since it's a really fun event to experience."

According to members, AGA has suffered a decline



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KRISTAL BABICH

LUAU FOR LOVE: Anything Goes Anime Club will host White Day celebrations, honoring the Japanese tradition.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Feb. 11, 2008, the story titled "Budget gets cut, paychecks increase, but at what cost to students" incorrectly stated Cristobals' annual salary to be \$1 million. That figure represents his pay at the culmination of his entire contract.

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

in membership the last few years.

"We're looking to reemerge out of what we've been doing in the past, since we've really just been having a good time watching films on Thursday nights," Perodin said. "We're focusing more on FIU as a whole and what influence we have on our university as a club. This mixer is our way of getting to know

prospective and current club members."

The mixer will be held in Gracie's Grill from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. It is free and anyone can attend. For more information, visit the club's Facebook or its Web site located at www.fiu.edu/~soc.

Bringing chocolates to the event is encouraged if you received something special on Valentine's Day.

THE BEACON

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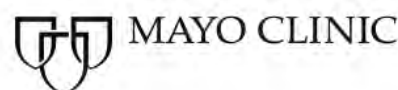
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Athletics attempts to inflate financial dues

ATHLETICS, page 1

funding from student fees.

As part of the agreement, the three fees go through a cycle. Every year, a department goes before a committee comprised of four students and faculty or administration members each, who choose to recommend that department's fee increases to the president of the University.

The President is ultimately responsible for approving the increase.

While the department of Student Activities was up for the increase this year, Athletics has requested their fee be increased again. If Athletics gets the increase, Student Activities will have to wait until the following year to request more funds.

The Athletics fee was already increased for the 07-08 year from \$11.66 per credit hour, to \$13.05 for this academic year.

Last year, Athletics had an operating budget of \$16.1 million.

Dr. Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, is also involved with the process, reviewing the proposals before they reach the president.

According to Jones, there has only been one other instance when one of the departments has gone out of the cycle to request an increase. The last time this happened, the Health fee was increased.

"Some years ago there was one other point when they skipped the cycle," said

Jones. "Similar to now, they were seeing a need in relation to the funds."

While SGA has no power to approve or deny an increase, the departments usually seek their recommendation before moving on to the committee that sends their recommendation to the president.

Athletics is planning to meet with Student Government Council at University Park to provide them with information regarding why they need the increase, according to SGC-University Park President Marbely Hernandez.

Assistant director of media relations for Athletics Rich Kelch said the department had no comment.

Charlie Grau contributed to this report.

Club raises funds for cancer research, RFL

RELAY, page 1

Government Council at UP gave RFL a \$3,000 stipend according to Murphy.

After the gimmicks and fundraising opportunities, the highlight of RFL will take place at 8 p.m. on Feb. 15, the Luminarias Lighting Ceremony.

"This is the quiet and reflective time," Dalrymple said. "The Luminarias Ceremony is in honor or memory of someone who has dealt with cancer."

During the ceremony, a candle is placed inside a bag, decorated with the name and other images of someone who has been affected by cancer, and lit.

In addition to the Luminarias, Murphy said there will also be a Wall of Hope, where attendees can pay to write the names of people who have been affected by cancer.

"This is the quiet and reflective time," Dalrymple said. "The Luminarias Ceremony is in the honor or memory of someone who has dealt with cancer."

The Music Saves Lives club will be mixing fun, fundraising and awareness all at once during RFL and the day before.

"We are going to be having a lot of cool items to be raffled off that were donated to us," said Jackie Gadea, president of MSL.

Items to be raffled include skateboards, Xbox games and Rock Band bundles.

Besides finding ways to raise funds, MSL secured

Rob Dyer, founder of Skate for Cancer to attend this year's Relay.

"One of our members, Tiffany Garcia, attended Warped Tour this year and spoke with Dyer who also attends all of the Warped Tours," Gadea said. "She stayed in contact with him and was able to get him to come down."

A key part of RFL is to have at least one person from every team walking the relay path. To mix things up, some laps will be themed.

One themed lap is for attendees to skate instead of walk, so naturally Dyer will be participating in that themed lap.

Another guest Gadea is excited about is the founder of MSL, Russell Hornsby. He will not only be attending RFL, but also a bone marrow registration event on Feb. 14.

The procedure is painless and only involves a cheek

swab, Murphy said. This free registration would normally cost \$75 and does not constitute any kind of obligation. In the chance a compatible marrow recipient is found, it is up to the registered person if they want to donate their marrow.

The marrow registration will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Betty Chapman plaza in front of the Graham Center.

Gadea commented that a goal of MSL is to raise funds for leukemia research which goes hand in hand with the goals of RFL.

Relay for Life will conclude at 8 a.m. on Feb. 16 when the winner of the Spirit Award will be announced. The award is given to the team who has been the most active in all RFL events.

A closing banquet open to RFL teams will be held on Feb. 20 in GC 242 at 8 p.m. to hand out additional awards such as most money raised.

"We Need Girlfriends" explores love, love lost

V-DAY, page 1

a girl likes him. Rod ... needs a girlfriend because he is emotionally messy and angry without one," said Tsapelas in an email.

Comedy ensues in their search for their "squirrels" (an idiom of Rod's), including wonderfully awkward moments at parties and on the street, in bedrooms and bathrooms, with girls and with each other.

The web-series has been successful - CBS recently picked it up - because it has created comedy out of its characters' emotional needs. Tom, Henry and Rod's mentalities toward relationships transcend far beyond the web-series.

Though Tsapelas agrees "Henry would fret about [Valentine's Day] and write a blog detailing his loneliness," and although special Valentine's Day episode was uploaded last year, the show does not concentrate on the sentimental and even less on the psychology behind each character's desires.

What it does do is possibly solidify a common



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WENEEDGIRLFRIENDS.TV

THREE DUDES, ONE QUEST: Long-term relationships are sought in the web-series "We Need Girlfriends."

college stereotype: the cool "alpha" males, such as those in fraternities, have more success with girls than the rest of the non-frat population.

"I think we have easier opportunities [to get girls]," said Mike Kennedy of FIU's Tau Kappa Epsilon, quickly pointing out that this occurs because of the frequent networking between fraternities and sororities, rather than any automatic advantage that comes from being labeled a fraternity brother.

In reality, Kennedy believes it is all about "game," that elusive ability that some guys have to

attract girls with more ease than others.

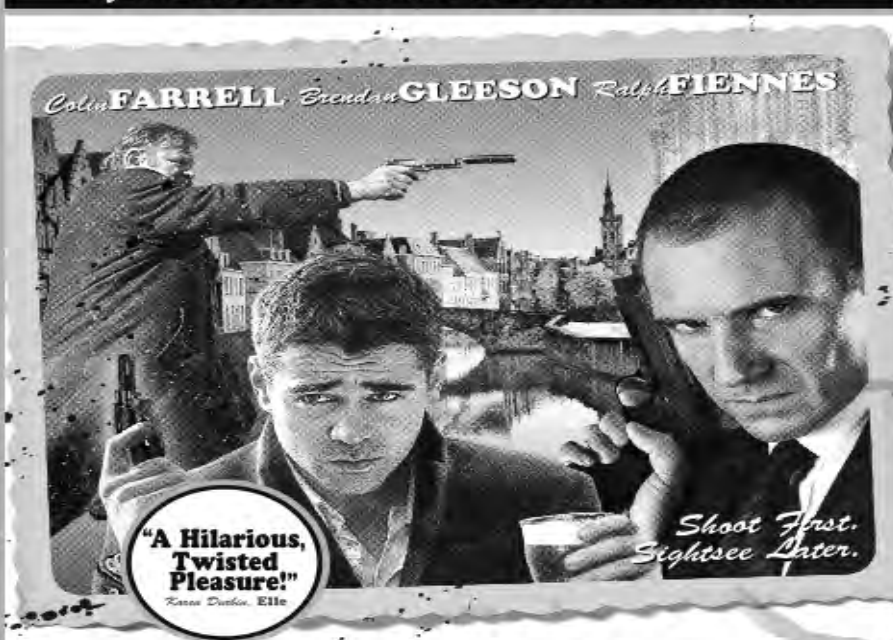
But does this suggest that frat-guys might have more game than non-frats? According to Delio Regueral, journalism major, it is quite the opposite.

"A guy that's not in a fraternity and picks up a girl that is in a sorority has more game than a guy who is in a fraternity and picks up a sorority girl."

But, "Picking up sorority girls" might not be as impossible as the WNG boys might think.

Yami Viera of Alpha Xi Delta points out that she'd "rather date someone outside everyone in Greek."

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SOC-BBC elects new vice president

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

Fifteen student club members unanimously voted Jessica Senorin as the new Student Organizations Council vice president on Feb. 11.

The vice president position became available after Joe L Mintz, the former SOC president, resigned and Didier Georges moved from vice president to president.

"The position is vital to our organization because I'm not here all the time so who will [students] go to if I'm not here? Every club wants to speak to the president.

"They don't want to speak to anybody but the president so if I'm not here I want a vice president who they can talk to," Georges said.

The organization was uncertain as to whether they would leave the vice president position open or hold special elections for it, according to Senorin.

Senorin is the organization's former marketing director.

"I did agree that it would be better to have a president and vice president and the rest of the positions without marketing director as opposed to leaving vice president open.



SENORIN

"I thought vice president was a lot more important to have than marketing director," Senorin said.

The organization will not be holding special elections for marketing director because Georges feels there have been many elections this school year.

Senorin will continue to perform most of the marketing director duties.

However, the executive board will take on those duties as a whole, according to Georges.

Senorin's duties as vice president

consist of making sure that all members of the executive board keep their hours, ensuring members are doing what they're required to do and delegate to the executive board.

Even though the position has been filled mid-semester, Georges is content that Senorin was elected.

"I feel good about this because it is already close to the middle of the semester so to have a new person come in, we have to teach them everything and that takes time and that's more burden on me.

"To have someone that already knows pretty much almost everything makes my job a little more easier," Georges said.

LATIN FLAVOR



AGUSTIN GRACIA/THE BEACON

SPANISH MOVES: Dancing with the Wolfe's salsa class practices routines in WUC 155 on Feb. 12.

Class to serve wine at fest

This is part two of a three-part series leading up to the Wine and Food Festival

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

As tasters swirl and savor wine, students from the Advanced Wine Technology class will be clearing out old wines from glasses and putting in new ones during the Wine and Food Festival's eight seminars.

From Feb. 21-24, students will work a 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift, according to Patrick "Chip" Cassidy, who teaches various wine tasting classes at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

"It's not something you can really prepare for because everything is set up for you when you get there," Cassidy said. "All you do is show up and work as a team; giving it

everything that you've got."

He also said the event takes a lot of energy, participating students will have the opportunity of a lifetime to network with different people and be rewarded for their hard work.

Last year, seven wine and spirit companies handed \$1,540,000 to hospitality programs and scholarships - more than triple what was received in the running of the festival's first two years.

Cassidy said the students' effectiveness is what brings the acclaim.

"Every year we seem to accomplish our tasks without breaking any glasses or spilling anything, and it's because the students are able to pull it off so well that it has gained increasing popularity," Cassidy said. "We show exceptional hospitality to people attending the seminars".

Naomi Speed, a hospitality management major enrolled in

Cassidy's wine class, said she is looking forward to participate in the seminars.

"We've been learning about different wines and how to taste them and serve them so I'm excited to see how it turns out and to see the guests enjoy themselves," Speed said.

In addition to networking and monetary compensation, the event gives students a chance to come closer together.

"There is an astounding amount of camaraderie among the students, and it's at the festival where they truly get to know each other because you're working side by side feverously," Cassidy said. "It's funny. I have even had a several students who have gotten engaged and married after the festival."

For more information, visit www.sobewineandfoodfest.com.

NEWSFLASH

Dancing with the Wolfe offers classes, fun

Student Programming Council is providing a variety of dance classes in the WUC for almost every day of the week at 6 p.m. Ballroom dancing is held Mondays in WUC 155, Salsa is Tuesdays in the same room, Belly Dancing is Wednesdays in WUC 330 and Hip Hop is Thursdays in WUC 160. No experience is necessary.

SPC presents Step Afrika!

As part of the Pan African Heritage Celebration, Student Programming Council is presenting Step Afrika on Feb. 21 and 22 at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. Tickets are available in either Campus Life Office. Located in GC 2240 or WUC 141.

CLS to host leadership conference for women

On Feb. 29 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Center for Leadership and Service will hold a conference designed to enhance the leadership development of female students. Registration is available at www.fiu.edu/~career and is required to attend. The event will be held in HM Auditorium 135 and meals will be provided.

Forum to discuss body image, sex, health

As part of the Wild Succulent Women Series, the Women's Center will host Love vs. Lust on Thursday Feb. 21 from 9 to 11 p.m. This discussion forum, which will be held at the Bay Vista Housing, will include topics such as positive body image, sexuality and women's health.

- Compiled by Ana Perez

Students serve luncheons as part of course project

LORGIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Students can satisfy their hunger without breaking the bank by lunching with the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism.

For \$15, students can enjoy a three course meal, including dessert, accompanied by a beverage and espresso or wine every week at noon on rotating days.

The luncheons are prepared and served by FIU students led by Michael Moran, a chef and instructor at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Manage-

ment.

"The program was here before I started working in 1990," Moran said.

"But there was something that I saw as a vehicle to teach management to the students so that they can get a wide range of experiences similar to what they would obtain in a restaurant."

In order to plan a meal, students enroll in a training session that takes four to five weeks to complete.

Here, they learn how recipes are checked and they can go over the service details.

"I mostly enjoy it when students walk away with confidence thinking they can [cook] great food by themselves," Moran said. "That's the best feeling in the world."

But it's not the students alone who deserve credit for the luncheons' success. Jouven Jean, lead teaching assistant, praised Moran's leadership.

"I call him dictionary because he always has an explanation for everything.

"I like that because nobody knows everything, nobody is perfect, but for me; he is the biggest mentor

I've had in my life," Jean said.

Abid Malik, a former student of Moran's, also shared his experiences working with Moran.

"When I took the course with him, I didn't even know when to use the spoon, where the table knife goes or the way the plates should be positioned," Malik said.

The luncheons are open to the public. For reservations, call (305) 919-4500.

"Students have the opportunity to learn how to become better leaders in this industry," Moran said.

MIX OF NEWS, GARBAGE?

Fox News: only place you can watch a 24-hour circus

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

Watching or reading the news online, Fox News specifically, you get the feeling that you're either watching a re-creation of an early 1900's freak show or you're the butt of some kind of sick joke.

In a lot of ways, the Fox News Web site is something of a time capsule. On Feb. 11, Fox News reported a "wrongful death" suit in connection with John Ritter's untimely demise on their homepage. As shocking as that is, I can only imagine it being more shocking five years ago—when the death and subsequent investigation actually took place. Fox didn't mention when the investigation was finished, CNN reported it concluded in 2004. This is just a prominent example of a typical busy Fox News day.

Apparently cat-fighting is newsworthy as well: Natalie Cole asserted that Amy Winehouse didn't deserve to win a Grammy. She then elaborated by calling Winehouse "crazy" and stated that she is teaching youngsters that behaving badly can be rewarded with a Grammy, according to Fox News. Absolutely breaking news that HAD to be on the homepage above some natural disaster in Virginia.

You get the impression that you're watching "Entertainment Tonight," but a version that is just a lot more entertaining. Where else can you hear about Britney Spears having her children taken away, then moments later, hear about her "long lost cousin," former presidential Candidate Mitt Romney?

Whoever the high school drop-

out in charge of picking Fox News' features is needs to learn how to prioritize. A story about an attempted rapist, who convinced his victim he was both a werewolf and a vampire, was a lead story—appearing under "Latest News" in bold, blue print, as opposed to the thin, black text of "inferior" stories such as the fires in Virginia keeping the presidential candidates from visiting, or a missing Afghani ambassador in Pakistan.

No, those things aren't important, but a lawyer with an overtly firm handshake—See Fox News' report "Death Grip: Lawyer accused of 'Handshake Attack'—is of critical and national coverage.

I'd love to say that all of the other respectable news outlets are just as reckless with their choice in content, but that'd be almost as big a lie as when Fox News declared Florida a victory for George Bush in 2000.

After visiting the MSNBC page, I was shocked at how relevant the articles were. Their feature stories were of some actual importance: a story about the pending death penalties of six convicted terrorists linked to 9/11 and another story about the influence of corporations on the Maryland ballot.

CNN was no different in terms of professionalism and good journalism. It was a different perspective than MSNBC, but there was still a presence of relevant and newsworthy stories, but what stood out the most about these outlets was that their entertainment stories weren't placed on the front page as breaking news or as features; they were in the sections so aptly labeled, "Entertainment".

By what stretch of the imagination did it ever seem like a good idea for



COURTESY OF SWEETNESS-LIGHT.COM

AILES-MENT: Fox News Director, Roger Ailes speaking on a nightly news broadcast.

Fox to have its own news network to begin with?

While every news outlet has its biases and slow news days, Fox News definitely is the most conspicuously irrelevant socially and the most biased from its reporters up to its director, Roger Ailes.

It's coverage like the 2000 election and unprofessional reporting like Ailes' blog (most recently, "BREAKING NEWS: America gives the finger to Mitt") that prompted Fairness and Accuracy In Report (FAIR) to annoy them, "The Most Biased

Name in News."

Ailes himself is no slouch in terms of political biases. He's been described as having, "two speeds – attack and destroy" by George H.W. Bush's aide Lee Atwater, according to FAIR's commentary of Fox News.

Among other things, the network is made up of conservative clones just like Ailes, right-wing editorialist for the *Wall Street Journal* and Fox daytime Anchor, David Ashman. Even Fox's top rated talkshow, "The O'Reilly Factor" is hosted by outspoken Republican, Bill O'Reilly (who

recently won Keith Olbermann's "Worst Person in the World" designation on Olbermann's MSNBC talkshow.

What amazes me is that when Fox News could succumb to slow news days, the rest of the world seems to press on, but at what point does the real journalism begin and the "National Enquirer 24/7 News Channel" end?

There's a time and place for everything, and according to Fox News, it's the right time 24 hours a day.

Government should give the uninsured solutions

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

America's health insurance debacle: does the solution lie with free market enterprise espoused by anarchic capitalists, mandated socialized coverage proposed by big-government statist, or somewhere in between?

Most everyone agrees that health insurance is broken, but there is much disagreement on how to fix it.

Let's start by looking at the claim made by advocates of universal health care, including Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, the American Medical Association, and others clamoring for the implementation of the idea.

Approximately, 47 million Americans are uninsured. This number comes from a report published by the United States Census Bureau.

Within those 47 million are 10.2 million individuals who are not citizens. This already draws into question the use of the term "Americans" when describing those of us who do not have medical insurance. Another 9.2 million of the total have an annual salary of over \$75,000.

Granted, in some parts of the country this is not that much money, but it does call into question whether all of those without insurance cannot afford it, or if they make poor financial decisions. America should ideally be the land of rights rather than that of responsibility.

“

Proponents of the system, such as the National Coalition on Health Care, argues that many Americans who procure insurance do not have an adequate level of coverage

Not surprisingly, the public is misinterpreting the meaning of the 47 million reported.

A Feb. 8 editorial in *The Sun-Sentinel* stated that 47 million "citizens" were uninsured, further adding confusion to the data.

In addition to the millions who are not Americans and who choose not to pay the money to be insured, the statistic does account for those who are uninsured for only a portion of the year (due to a change in employment,

for example) or those who are eligible for government health programs but do not apply, of which the Investors' Business Daily estimates there are many.

These revelations do not necessarily mean government-controlled insurance is not the answer, however, it is important to know

the facts and also to realize that the people purposefully inflating and distorting these numbers are the one that will receive more power if we implement this system.

Proponents of the system, such as the National Coalition on Health Care, argue to the contrary; that many Americans who do manage to procure insurance do not have an adequate level of coverage, that small business owners are seeing a disproportionate rise

in premiums, and that health care spending is far outpacing inflation, all indicators that a government-controlled system could help stabilize costs.

It is also said that the uninsured illegal are already permitted to be treated in our nation's emergency room and that it would be cheaper to insure them under a universal program than to continue bankrupting urgent care centers.

Logically speaking, it makes sense for the government to make sure that health care is accessible, rather than a commodity. After all, the government does run other vital services, such as public safety and education. For example, in Florida, auto insurance is mandatory to prevent the uninsured from driving up the costs for everyone else, so why shouldn't health coverage be the same?

Should the same federal bureaucratic system which has a difficult time administering health services to seniors and veterans be responsible for doing so for the nation at large?

It is not clear which system operates better. Stories are circulating about Canadians having to wait years for surgery to remove a tumor, while Americans have to pay exuberant amounts for a simple X-Ray.

Singles' Solution

COMMENTARY

A survival guide for the unattached

Geoffrey Anderson Jr.
Life! Editor

Valentine's Day is here yet again and American couples nationwide are wasting no time spending their money on Hallmark cards and Godiva ultra-premium imported chocolate truffles. Teddy bears, chocolate strawberries and the color red replace the mistletoes and party hats from past holidays, reinforcing the fact that there are countless couples happily in love - and your loveless self is not a part of one. As your paired-off friends smile widely at you with heart-shaped balloons and Sweethearts emblazoned with "I <3 U" in hand, it's impossible not to feel like you're missing out on a big part of the year.

There's good news for you, however, you're not missing out on anything (besides love). Living in Miami, single guys and girls have an assortment of options to entertain themselves while everyone else is spending their future tax rebate on lavish dinners and gifts.

Here are some suggestions for keeping your mind off the fact that nobody except your mother or father

seems to love you:

STRIP CLUBS

What's an adequate replacement for true love and affection? That's right, fake love and affection. For about \$20, such abstract conceptions can be yours for at least three minutes in the form of a lap dance at a local club such as Tootsie's Cabaret in Miami Gardens. Granted, this V-Day suggestion is aimed toward men, but there are male strip clubs in Miami, too, for those ladies (and men) seeking male attention, particularly Goldfellas in Doral. Just remember that you'll probably end up spending more on a stripper than you would on a significant other during this holiday.

COFFEE SHOPS

For the less foolish and more budget-conscious, stopping at a nearby Starbucks for a cup of joe might help relieve one's feelings of unrequited love. Not only do you have more than enough time to read "Things I've Learned From Women Who've Dumped Me," but also it's a prime opportunity for meeting other people - unless they're already with someone else. Nevertheless, there's bound to be someone sitting alone waiting for that perfect stranger to engage him or her in conversation. More than likely, you aren't that perfect stranger, but it's worth a shot.

BARS

Although I don't regularly condone the use of alcohol to drown one's sorrows, plenty of local bars are offering drink specials to those people seeking some way to

forget about their love lives or just become inebriated. Town Kitchen and Bar just south of Sunset Place is offering martini specials for single ladies all night, and The Roasted Pepper in Pembroke Pines has Bacardi drinks of your choice for \$3.50. Regardless of which drinking establishment you choose to visit on this most dreadful of days, please make sure to bring along some friends for preemptive measures against beer goggles and bad decisions - never a good combination.

ONLINE PERSONALS

Although the previous examples actually involve leaving the comfort of one's own home, this suggestion has only two simple requirements: an Internet connection and desperation. For free, or a slight fee, Web sites such as Friendfinder.com can help track down someone who is an acceptable partner for you (God-willing). As you look through hundreds of fake supermodel pictures in an attempt to find your soul mate, you can upload your own pictures of a thinner you from five years ago - the opportunities for deception in the name of love are endless. Individuals looking for a night partner rather than a life part-

ner can check out the sex community Adult-FriendFinder.com, which lets users upload provocative - sometimes grotesque - photographs and links to other sites such as the ever-popular Bondage.com.

As you can see, singles have a lot of freedom when it comes to Valentine's Day, especially when living in a party city such as Miami and having a fast Internet connection. Even though you might not have a date on what is otherwise known as Single Awareness Day, be content that you have a family that loves you unconditionally or at least a pet that does. Godspeed.

HUGS & KISSES

BE MINE

U R SPECIAL

LUV YA

Group hopes to boost social work's credibility

Tiffany Shelton
Contributing Writer

Exploring FIU's Student Social Workers Association may redefine your ideas about student professional organizations.

Many people join such organizations simply because they look good on their resumes.

Another stereotype looms over social work, with the idea that the social work profession is centered on sorting through government red tape. However, the SSWA reflects a different mission and discounts both myths.

"If you are interested in joining a truly active organization, don't hesitate to join the SSWA regardless of your major," said Valerie Duquette, president of the organization.

She emphasizes that their main activity is active participation in the community. She believes it is a social and advocacy associa-

tion.

The list of their contributions is exhaustive, including a Valentine's Day dance for the mentally disabled held at the Palmer's House.

They sponsor Thanksgiving events that help feed the community and also lead a program called Stockings for the Troops, which rallies donations to send overseas for homesick troops during the holidays.

Currently the most important event is Lobby Day, which furthers the organization's goals.

On this day members travel to Tallahassee to lobby for Social Work Professional Protection.

The group's mission at this event is to protect their rights in Florida that mark social work as a legitimate profession.

In addition to being active participants in lawmaking for the State of Florida, the orga-

nization has many standing events each year that tie it to community organizations.

One example is Relay for Life, where

“ Christianne Ruiz, SSWA Club Member

I wanted to use my skills to empower minorities and to allow them to in turn use their skills to better their lives.

money is raised for the American Cancer Society by volunteering and fundraising.

This year on Feb. 15, FIU will hold Relay for Life where community members as a whole will unite to battle cancer.

When asked why she chose social work as a profession, Christianne Ruiz believes this

group puts the "work" in social work.

"I wanted to use my skills to empower minorities and to allow them to in turn use their skills to better their lives." Ruiz dismisses any stereotypes about the industry being centered on red tape.

According to the Independent Sector in 2005, only 29 percent of American adults actually volunteered, with an average of 3.5 hours a week for those that did.

In comparison, the SSWA members volunteer at least double that amount of time each week.

Duquette encourages any other active students to join SSWA. For more information on the club, visit the Student Organizations Council office on the second floor of the Graham Center.

WEEKEND RUNDOWN

• THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 14

What: Aaron Karo
Where: Miami Improve
3390 Mary St #182
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
When: 10:30 p.m.
How Much: \$21.40

What: Valentine's Day
Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd
Pinecrest, FL 33156
When: 7 p.m.
How Much: \$60

What: Yacht and Brokerage Show
Where: Collins Avenue and 47th Street
4700 Collins Ave
Miami Beach, FL 33139
When: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
How Much: Free

What: Six 21st-Century Chinese Neo-Pop Artists
Where: ArtSpace/Virginia Miller Galleries
169 Madeira Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134
When: Daily
How Much: Free

• FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 15

What: 3 for All Fridays
Where: Grove Isle Hotel
4 Grove Isle Dr
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
When: 12 p.m.
How Much: Varies

What: The 400 Club at The Fifth
Where: The Fifth
1045 5th St
Miami Beach, FL 33139
When: 11 p.m.
How Much: \$20

What: Barefoot at Oasis
Where: Mandarin Oriental Hotel
500 Brickell Key Dr
Miami, FL 33131
When: 6 - 11 p.m.
How Much: Varies

What: Beat Traffic
Where: Soya & Pomodoro
120 NE 1st St
Miami, FL 33132
When: 4 - 7 p.m.
How Much: Varies

• SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 16

What: MMA cage-fighting
matchup: Kimbo Slice vs. David
"Tank" Abbott
Where: BankUnited Center
1245 Dauer Dr
Coral Gables, FL 33146
When: 7:30 p.m.
How Much: \$35 - \$ 700

What: Women Only! In Their Studios
Where: Lowe Art Museum
1301 Stanford Dr
South Miami, FL 33146
When: Daily
How Much: Free

What: Coconut Grove Arts Festival
Where: South Bayshore Drive
South Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
When: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
How Much: \$5

What: Health & Prosperity Day
Where: Mall of the Americas
7827 W. Flagler St
Westchester, FL 33144
When: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
How Much: Free

• SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 17

What: Chasing Tales improv
comedy show
Where: Out of the Blue
2426 NE 2nd Ave
Miami, FL 33137
When: 3 - 5 p.m.
How Much: \$20

What: Ambiance at Uva
Where: Uva
2626 Ponce de Leon Blvd
Coral Gables, FL 33134
When: Evenings
How Much: \$20

What: Free Yoga Classes
Where: lululemon athletica
826 Collins Ave., Second Floor,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
When: 10 a.m.
How Much: Free

What: Karaoke Night with Boogie
Man George
Where: Titanic Brewery and
Restaurant
5813 Ponce de Leon Blvd
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-667-2537
When: 9 p.m.
How Much: Varies

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

Campus Life looks to fill positions for Welcome Week

VICTORIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

The Department of Campus Life oversees most of the student service organizations such as the Student Programming Council and the Student Government Association.

Each year Campus Life teams up with the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Services to host the Week of Welcome. During this week the proverbial red carpet is laid down for new and returning students. In order to make the next W.O.W. a success, Campus Life is looking for new committee members to plan out the event.

"The Week of Welcome student committee has a huge impact on the campus culture at FIU. These students set the tone for how the first semester is going to go," said Sally Gates, coordinator of New Student Programs at Campus Life and Orientation.

In order to qualify as a W.O.W. committee member you must be an excellent representative of FIU and its student body, a good role model for fellow students in all ways and at all times, demonstrate outstanding school spirit, be able to attend all spring, summer and fall meetings, attend all welcome week events from Aug. 22 through 30 and be a dependable, task oriented individual, according to Gates.

"We recruit an entirely new team each year that usually includes some returning Week of Welcome committee members," Gates said.

W.O.W. committee members will have the opportunity to choose the events they would like to offer to students during this first week of the fall semester.

"This is a great opportunity for students to get experience with working in a team setting, managing a budget, event planning, marketing, public relations, as well as having the opportunity to network with other student leaders, advisors and student organizations across campus," Gates said.

W.O.W. committee members are responsible for creating an overall theme as well as planning all of the events for the entire first week of the fall semester and spreading the word about all W.O.W. events.

Last year's welcome week had over 30 different events which were all free to FIU students, as are all welcome week events. Sophia Del Zoppo, president of SPC said that her organization helped out as much as they could during W.O.W.

"We contribute to one or two or three SPC events," Del Zoppo said. "The rest is really [the orientation committee] putting it together. I don't want to take the credit."

During the last set of W.O.W., SPC hosted a pool party, comedy show and a movie on the lawn.

"We had good turnouts at events and it was good working with another organization and having different points of view for hosting events," Del Zoppo said. "We already have plans on working with them."



PHOTO COURTESY ORIENTATION AND COMMUTER SERVICES

PANTHER POWER: Juniors Gabriela Vasquez and Fernanda Garcia pose with Roary the Golden Panther during the FIU VS Penn State watch party, which was a W.O.W. event on Sep. 1.

On Feb. 16 SPC members will be attending the National Association for Campus Activities conference where they will be selecting and booking many of the events for the next year, some of which will be the highlights of W.O.W.

Any students interested in

becoming a W.O.W. committee member can pick up an application in Graham Center room 112. They must be submitted by Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.

"I think that the Week of Welcome is a great opportunity for our students at FIU," Gates said. "I am

very excited about working with a new team of talented, creative and fun individuals to make this year's Week of Welcome a huge success," Gates said.

- additional reporting by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff

Information gap a gulf between generations

RHONDA BODFIELD BLOOM
AP WIRE

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - In type that scrolls up the screen like the preface for Star Wars, a YouTube video reads, "For years, parents could not text message.

They could not figure out how to record a voice mail. They could not even connect to the Internet without using AOL."

Warning that parents are adapting to technological gadgets, it flips to a short clip of a man learning to use the video capabilities on his cell phone.

"Watch with caution," it closes, "and pray that your own parents do not gain these powers."

Techno-tweens and teens relax. According to a new study from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, there's a long way to go before adults embrace interactive online media to the degree that teens have.

An estimated 64 percent of those ages 12 to 17 have created some form of online content.

While only 8 percent of adults have created a blog, 28 percent of teens have.

While 55 percent of online teens have a profile on a social network, such as Facebook or MySpace, only 20 percent of adult users do.

And while 27 percent of teens have created or worked on their own Web pages, 14 percent of adults have.

The report also gives insight into some popular stereotypes.

Boys and Meen do indeed post more video files and play more online games, but girls and women dominate the blogosphere and photo postings.

Teens from single-parent or lower-income households are more likely to blog than affluent teens in more traditional households.

Although e-mail is losing relevance, traditional modes of communication, such as land lines and face-to-face contact, still matter.

And content creators aren't so wrapped up in the virtual world that the real world suffers - they're more likely than their less-creative peers to participate in school clubs and to hold a part-time job.

Amanda Ryan, a 17-year-old senior at Canyon del Oro High School, estimates she spends about two hours a day on the computer, half doing research for college applications and half networking.

She has a blog, where she posts digital photos.

She has a MySpace and a Facebook page (as Amanda puts it, most people have both). She texts, much to her parents' dismay.

"They don't understand texting. If I'm in the car and texting, they'll say, 'I'm talking to you,' but they weren't talking with me at that moment."

She helps her English teacher with computer glitches.

And, since she just got a video camera for Christmas, she will soon be posting her own work on video-sharing sites such as YouTube or Google Video.

Ryan is what the report calls a "super-communicator" those 28 percent of teens who use multiple communication channels, such as texting, cell phones, social network sites and instant messaging to connect with others.

Those who have had an 8-year-old program their cell phone for them could probably tell you that the younger generation is best-equipped to take advantage of Web 2.0.

What this report shows, however, compared with a report in 2004, is that online communications continue to evolve.

The number of bloggers doubled in the short time that elapsed between the two reports.

And posting content, such as stills and videos, often launches virtual conversations, with as many as 89 percent of teens reporting that they get feedback on shared postings.

"The nature of conversation and communication is changing in a world in which young people are becoming very comfortable with expressing themselves through video and audio and mixing it together," said Mary Madden, a Pew senior research specialist and one of the report's authors.

"That's a very different kind of expression. It's not as controlled. It's more chaotic."

"And that's difficult for adults to understand, how teens can navigate these spaces."

One surprise for Madden was that older technologies, such as landline phones, aren't being displaced.

"The traditional media channels aren't going away, but the new technologies are just being layered on what's already there.

The super-communicators are seeing friends face-to-face or calling over the land lines as much as the average teen, it's just they are also using social networking

AN OUTRAGEOUS PARTY



SARAH ALEXANDER/THE BEACON

VOLLEYBALL STARS: Freshman Johayna Witter (left) plays volleyball with fellow residents at this year's Outrageous Pool Party sponsored by Panther Rage.

sites and cell phones as well."

Social implications are less defined, with a plethora of possible outcomes that could result due to the dawn of this unprecedented age of human interconnectivity.

"As has been the case with any new communications technology, there will be trade-offs and we don't know what those will be," Madden said.

"We know that young people are embracing these tools in ways that adults haven't done to the same degree.

What we don't know is how that will change patterns in society and in the workplace over time."

Some of these questions are analyzed in a paper written for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation an organization that hands out grants to people and groups in order to "improve the human condition" according to their website.

In the foundation's report, the authors argue that the educational system must strengthen reading, writing and research skills for students to be able to fully engage with the new participatory culture.

But educational institutions and facilitators of higher learning are also in the position where they need to do a better

job of training students for a new literacy, which will demand experimentation, collaboration and interpretation.

The burden falls to parents, too, in helping children gain competencies.

All too often, though, the report acknowledges, parents are led by anxiety about new forms of media that weren't available in their own childhood.

Katelyn Millette, 17, a junior at Catalina Magnet, said she's fortunate - both her mother and father are unabashed computer nerds with five computers in the house.

Millette, who said cheerleading competitions help balance out her screen time, sends about 3,000 text messages a month and posts digital photos and videos online.

Some of her friends have a greater challenge, she said.

"I have some friends whose parents don't want them on MySpace or don't want them to go on the computer at all because they think something bad is going to happen."

"Parents should know we use it as a tool and that's how we communicate now," she said.

-Additional material added by Christopher Cabral



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STARTING UP



JESSICA MARSHALL/BEACON FILE PHOTO

BEGINNING: The women's softball team commences their season Feb. 15 against Georgia at home under first year head coach Beth McClendon.

Sports Replay

TENNIS

The Golden Panthers tennis team (1-2) won its first game of the season Feb. 10 against the previously undefeated University of Arizona (5-1).

In the singles competition, FIU took four of the six matches from Arizona. Senior Egle Petrauskaite helped the Golden Panthers rebound from their first loss by winning in dominant fashion 6-0, 6-2.

Her victory sparked her teammates as Priscilla Castillo and Marijana Cutuk won their next matches as well.

Sophomore Maria José Vallasciani closed the singles competition with a decisive 6-4, 6-1 win.

During the doubles matches, the No.

17 ranked pair in the country of Egle Petrauskaite and Liset Brito soundly defeated their opponents 8-2.

Marijan Cutuk and Maria Spenceley lost the second match 8-5, but Maria Dolores Pazo and Priscilla Castillo defeated Claire Rietsch and Jane Huh.

The team's first win of the season also marked the first victory for head coach Carlos Casely.

FIU is currently ranked No. 32 in the nation.

The Golden Panthers return to the court on Feb. 17 at home against the University of Central Florida.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

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Florida Panther player fine after neck laceration on ice

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Wire

Upon hearing Richard Zednik's recovery from a life-threatening neck laceration could last six to eight weeks, Olli Jokinen checked his calendar.

That would be playoff time in the NHL.

And suddenly, the Florida Panthers have a huge source of postseason motivation.

Zednik continued what some termed a remarkable recovery Tuesday, when his condition was upgraded to good and he was moved out of the intensive care unit at Buffalo General Hospital. That was just two days after Jokinen's razor-sharp skate blade sliced the 32-year-old forward's neck, cutting his carotid artery and stopping just shy of his jugular vein.

As Zednik recovers, so do the Panthers, who returned to the ice Tuesday, albeit still somber and shaken, yet somewhat uplifted by the continued good reports about their teammate.

"We've got 24 games to go," Jokinen said. "If we do our jobs, there is a possibility Richard's going to play with us and join the team in the playoffs."

The doctors say six to eight weeks ... there's a possibility he could play this year. So every game now, it's going to be big,

big for us."

Zednik playing again this season is a real long shot. Doctors in Buffalo have already told him next year is the realistic return target, and on Tuesday, Dr. Sonya Noor — who operated on the forward Sunday night — said she's recommending he not resume strenuous activity for three months.

Still, the notion just might be enough of a reason for the playoff-starved Panthers to have some hope.

"We have to set it aside now and play hockey," said Florida defenseman Jassen Cullimore, who helped Zednik off the ice. "That's what we do."

The Panthers hope Zednik can travel home to South Florida by the weekend.

He has a photo of his 4-year-old daughter at his hospital bedside, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has phoned to check on Zednik's condition and progress.

"He is awake and in good spirits," Noor said. "He has minimal neck swelling, or discomfort. He is speaking quite well. His voice is not hoarse. He's hungry. He wanted eggs for breakfast."

Noor said Zednik will be asked to sit up and walk a few steps over the next couple days, and if he can do those things, a discharge plan will be discussed.

THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Happy Valentine's Day and thank you for reading Every Monday and Thursday

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	18-6	11-1	.750
Middle Tennessee	14-10	9-4	.583
South Alabama	16-8	7-6	.667
Florida International	11-13	7-6	.458
Troy	10-14	3-10	.417
Florida Atlantic	5-17	1-12	.227

*All records up to date as of Feb. 12

UNO 70, FIU WOMEN 60

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Ciglar, Iva	2-2	0-0	4	8	8	5	40
Jenkins, Jasmine	3-8	0-1	6	0	1	6	27
Bosilj, Monika	13-18	2-3	5	2	5	32	39
Neal, Asha	6-10	1-2	10	2	4	13	30
Ferguson, LaQuetta	3-6	0-0	1	0	3	8	16
Hutlassa, Fanni	3-6	2-3	7	4	2	8	32

Team Totals 31-53 5-9 42 19 26 74 200

MTSU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Lymon, Chelsia	4-13	0-0	4	0	2	11	36
Holt, Amber	6-15	9-12	7	3	4	21	35
Queen, Emily	1-6	9-10	5	2	2	11	27
Brown, Brandi	1-9	0-0	1	4	1	2	25

Team Totals 18-62 18-24 30 10 14 62 200

MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	20-4	12-1	.833
Western Kentucky	19-5	11-1	.792
Middle Tennessee	11-12	8-5	.478
Florida Atlantic	11-14	6-7	.440
Florida International	7-16	4-9	.304
Troy	10-14	3-10	.417

*All records up to date as of Feb. 12

FIU MEN 75, UNO 62

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Fuller, Chris	6-10	2-2	3	2	3	16	36
Galindo, Alex	5-13	1-2	8	1	4	13	34
Russell, Tremayne	1-4	4-6	0	0	1	6	21
Nsangou, Erick	0-1	0-0	1	3	1	0	13

Team Totals 23-49 15-26 30 14 13 66 200

MTSU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Kanaskie, Kevin	4-11	1-2	4	2	1	11	36
Johnson, Nigel	4-8	1-3	4	3	4	9	36
Hair, Dino	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	0	14
Green, Demetrius	4-8	3-4	1	1	0	12	30

Team Totals 22-43 12-20 28 8 17 60 200

Guard scores 20 in second half

WOMEN'S, page 12

"What really set me off was when LaQuetta went out," Neal said. "I knew being a senior I really had to step my game up and do everything I could do."

FIU would remain focused and carry their momentum into the second half.

Bosilj would put in a pair of jumpers that capped off a 16-0 FIU run and put the team up 44-25.

MTSU would finally break out of its slump as sophomore guard Chelsia Lymon knocked in a 3-pointer.

The Blue Raiders' field goal before Lymon's three came in the first half with

9:59 reminding, when senior guard Starr Orr's 3-pointer made the score 20-10.

Since then, FIU outscored MTSU 34-5 and all five of those points came off Blue Raider free throws.

Ferguson would return to courtside on crutches early in the second half with her left knee wrapped in ice and elevated.

She watched the remainder of the game from the FIU bench.

The solid play continued for FIU during the rest of the second half.

When Bosilj hit her fourth 3-pointer it brought her point total up to 32 points, which matched the team season-high set earlier this year by

Ferguson against the University of Georgia.

The shot also gave FIU a 24-point lead, 70-46.

Holt would leave the game with five minutes left to play and would not return.

She came into the game as the nation's leading scorer, averaging 26.7 points a game.

FIU managed to hold her to a team-high 21 points and seven rebounds.

"They executed, they came out ready to play. We did not come out ready to play," said Holt of FIU's performance. "They were communicating and we were not. That's how we lost the game."

MTSU would manage to

go on a 15-2 run in the final three minutes of the game, but it was too little too late and FIU won by a final score of 74-62.

Neal recorded her first career double-double with a career-high 10 rebounds and 13 points, which matched a career high.

Junior FIU guard Iva Ciglar had a game-high eight assists.

"We were concentrating on defense," Bosilj said.

Bosilj was also concerned about the injury to Ferguson.

"I really hope everything will be good, because we don't need to lose another good player," she said. "We already lost two."

Late charge during seven minute span gives Golden Panthers clear advantage

MEN'S, page 12

Panthers made 7-of-10 field goals and out rebounded MTSU 10-3.

Two of Tremayne Russell's free throws gave the Panthers their largest lead, 58-48 with 3:51 remaining. Russell had six points in the ball game.

Fuller and freshman Nick Taylor took over most of the distributing duties without turning the ball over. Taylor dished out four assists without any turnovers.

Taylor, who has had much of the heavy duty following the losses of Mike James and Redd White, has a 20:7 assist to turnover ratio for the season.

Alex Galindo had 13 points, for his 17th double digit game this season, four away from his team-high of 21 last season.

Leading the way for MTSU were Demetrius Green and Des-

mond Yates, each with 12. Also in double figures for the visitors were Kevin Kanaskie with 11 and Theryn Hudson with 10.

Coach Rouco noted the thin roster showing up to the court.

"We play as a team every night, and we're getting there, despite only having eight scholarship guys dressed tonight," he said.

He also hopes the team can gain confidence by defeating a formidable team.

"This was a great win for us. We beat probably the third-best team in our league at this moment," he said.

"Hopefully, we can keep the momentum going"

The momentum from this contest will take FIU into a home on Feb. 13 against Arkansas-Little Rock, who is tied with Denver atop the Sun Belt Conference western division at 7-5 in conference play, 15-8 overall.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

DISHING: Freshman guard Russell Tremayne has taken over point guard duties the last few games.

Players decide whether teammate's injury will affect them negatively or positively

BONILLA, page 12

But, the Golden Panthers control whether to let a breeze or a pigeon bring them down.

With five games remaining, the Golden Panthers could move up on the East Division standings as they play the team directly above them, South Alabama, along with the two worst teams in the division.

Ferguson's 16.7 points per game and 6 rebounds per game will not be replaced overnight, especially when the Golden Panthers' 61.3 points per game is good enough for just ninth out of thirteenth place in the Sun Belt Con-

ference scoring leader board.

Losing Ferguson can lead the Panthers toward either of two paths: inspiration and success, or pity and lack of focus.

The path of inspiration and success can come to fruition with the team winning for their inactive teammate who might have just played her last game as a Golden Panther.

The Panthers can gather determination from their pains, and with Ferguson, take it out on their opponents.

The players would have to use Ferguson's injury as fuel to power the late season run.

Playing with spirited

emotion could make talent disparity against stronger opponents evaporate.

The path of pity and lack of focus could begin with the Panthers concentrating too much on Ferguson's unjust predicament instead of targeting their opponents' weaknesses.

This is the easiest path to follow because it is impossible to not think about the consequences of their friend's injury, not only from a basketball standpoint but from a personal perspective.

The amount of time the players spend on thinking about the consequences of her injury will determine how focused the team will be playing in the most

high-pressured games of the season.

Head coach Cindy Russo will have to find the balance between making her players look to Ferguson for inspiration and not making them dwell too much on her absence.

The Golden Panthers have carried their boulder up the hill before.

Can they do it one more time and heave the stone to other side of the hill to win the Sun Belt Conference? Or will Ferguson's injury be too much pressure to roll over the Panthers flat?

Only the Golden Panthers' response to Ferguson's injury can determine what happens next.



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Big win comes at heavy price



Commentary
Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

The 2007-08 season for the Golden Panthers draws parallels to the Greek mythology of Sisyphus. Like Sisyphus, the Panthers roll their huge boulder of burden up a hill towards victory only to have it roll back down as soon as they near the top.

The Golden Panthers entered the season without a true center after the departure of senior Lasma Jekabsone.

Yet, strong interior play from Elisa Carey and Marquita Adley had the Golden Panthers rolling the boulder towards victory.

Injuries to both players dropped the Panthers to the bottom of the hill.

Playing through injuries and giving freshmen extra minutes allowed the Golden Panthers the opportunity to find a groove – winning four consecutive games. Once again, the boulder was on its way up the hill.

During the first half of their Sat game – fourth straight win – the team's leading scorer, LaQuetta Ferguson, left the court with a knee injury.

In one play, the Golden Panthers found themselves at the bottom of the hill with the boulder on their big toe.

The Panthers lost its leading scorer of the last two years in the same game they captured their biggest win of the season.

With five games remaining, finishing the season strong and entering the Sun Belt Conference Tournament confident really does seem like a Sisyphusian task.

Is it too soon to determine whether the Panthers are down and out?

As of this moment, the Golden Panthers are still pushing the boulder.

They are not holding it with the same firm grip as before. In fact, a slight breeze or a misguided pigeon could make the Panthers lose control.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 74, MTSU 62

SOUND DEFEAT

Team breezes past four-time defending conference champ

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team (11-13, 7-6 Sun Belt) notched a fourth consecutive win on Feb. 9 against Middle Tennessee (14-10, 9-4).

FIU was led by sophomore forward Monika Bosilj, who scored a team, game and career-high 32 points.

The Blue Raiders started the game strong and built a quick 20-10 lead.

Freshman guard Anne Marie Lanning had eight points, including a couple of 3-pointers, in the opening minutes.

Blue Raiders senior forward Amber Holt scored six of MTSU's first 12 points, most of which came in the paint.

FIU's comeback was sparked by senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson who connected on a 3-pointer on FIU's next possession.

Freshmen forwards Liene Jekabsone and Fanni Hutlassa would score the next two field goals as the lead was trimmed to three points, 20-17.

With five minutes left in the half, Ferguson put in a lay-up that made the score 24-23.

On the next play, Ferguson nailed a 3-pointer from NBA range that gave FIU its first lead of the game, 26-24.

That 3-pointer, however, may have been Ferguson's final basket in her outstanding career as an FIU Golden Panther.

With a little less than four minutes to play in the first half, Ferguson was ahead of a fast break and was fouled under the basket by Lanning.

Ferguson fell to the floor in considerable pain.

A timeout was called and Ferguson was helped off the court and into the team training room.

Senior guard Asha Neal would respond to her teammate, friend and fellow senior's injury by scoring six of FIU's final eight points of the half.

The Golden Panthers dominated the final minutes of play and took a 36-25 lead into halftime.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

PRESSING: Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson drives to the basket as she was unable to participate in the second half of the Golden Panthers.'

WOMEN'S page 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL: FIU 66, MTSU 60

Concerted offensive output leads Golden Panthers' to fourth conference victory



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

ANDREW JULIAN
Staff Writer

Chris Fuller's off-season practice paid off on Feb. 9 against the Middle Tennessee St. Blue Raiders (11-12, 8-5). Fuller notched a season-high 16 points helping the Golden Panthers win 66-60.

The Golden Panthers improved their record to 7-16 overall and 4-9 in Sun Belt play.

Fuller, who was 6-of-10 from the floor, including 2-of-4 from beyond the three point arc, raised his team leading 3-point shooting percentage to 42.9%.

"Work," remarked the senior from Las Vegas, Nevada when asked how he was able to up his

percentage from long distance from 29.3% a season ago.

"I worked really hard this past summer," Fuller said. "Teams were playing off me, and doubling down in the post and I needed to make them respect my shooting abilities to give our big guys better looks."

FIU's front court made a living close to the basket with leading scorer on the season, junior center Russell Hicks, and sophomore forward Nikola Gacesa each tallying 11 points. Cedric Essola recorded nine points on 3-of-4 shooting in 22 minutes of action.

Gacesa, who was benched for the previous game, responded well, and head coach Sergio Rouco was pleased with

his team's effort.

"We had to sit Niko for an entire game so that he could get it, and he didn't pout. He came out and played well tonight."

It was a see-saw game throughout the first half with five ties and three lead changes. The Golden Panthers led by as many as six while the Blue Raiders led by as many as four.

FIU headed into halftime leading 30-29. This continued into the second half as neither team was able to mount a run until the Golden Panthers launched a 16-2 charge over a seven minute span in the second half.

During this run, the Golden

BALANCED: Sophomore guard Erick Nsangou recorded three assists and one turnover.