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## The Beacon, January 12, 2009

Florida International University

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## Rec center offers a multitude of adventures

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## Men's hoops: biggest win of the season

PAGE 8

### SPOTLIGHT

#### EDITORIAL PAGE 4

With the replacement of Gracie's Grill with a Chili's Too, the University is losing as much history as it is gaining a well-known establishment.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Students get real world experience at The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute.

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



COLUMN: Jonathan Ramos walks you through the top five hip-hop albums of 2008.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8



Women's team comes close, but loses fourth straight game.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Body Pump, Today, Jan. 12, 7 a.m.:** Bring your sexy back for 2009 by getting rid of that holiday fruit cake paunch by pumping your body up at the UP Rec Center's Gold Fitness Room.

**Yoga Club Meeting, Today, Jan. 12, 7:45 p.m.:** Align your chakras as you stretch and pose your way to a new, healthier you.

**Wake Up and Spin, Tomorrow, Jan. 13, 7 a.m.:** Ride until the stationary bike's gears burn out or your thighs give in. The choice is yours at the UP Rec Center's Blue Fitness Room.

**Dance Auditions at GC Pit, Jan. 13, 11 a.m.:** "So you think you can dance?" Come prove them wrong. Audition tomorrow and get a chance to show off for Dance Marathon in the name of charity.

**Club Fair, Tomorrow, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** Overachievers, find a new hobby! Social pariahs, make new friends! There is something for everyone at the SOC Club Fair in the GC Ballroom Lawn.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit [FIUSM.com/calendar](http://FIUSM.com/calendar).

#### WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Scattered showers  
LOW: 60 HIGH: 75



**TUESDAY**  
Scattered showers  
LOW: 60 HIGH: 74



**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 62 HIGH: 73

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# Living the dream

## University celebrates the legacy of Dr. King

**LAUREN AGOSTO**  
Staff Writer

A dream and a message of unity came together in a speech by one of the most influential people of the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy is being remembered and celebrated this week, and the University will take part in the commemoration.

This year marks a dream coming true.

"Jan. 19, 2009 is the date this year and we celebrate the life of Dr. King, who will forever remain a symbol of what the best of America can be," said Rev. Dr. Preston W. Marshall, a civil rights activist, educator and international ambassador in a press release. "In a way, what President-elect Obama has done is really in the wake of and in the spirit of Dr. King."

This historical moment deserves historical celebrations and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services will be hosting its 18th Annual Breakfast and Youth Forum to commemorate King.

"All of our events encompass his message of unity. We have fun events, educational events, community service. It's just a plethora of events that I think he would be proud of us putting together," said Janice Spann-Givens, associate director for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services. "Everyone has New Year's resolutions and likes to begin the year on an upbeat. After these events, everyone is left feeling energized and is left with a sense of camaraderie."

The weeklong celebration will begin Jan. 13 with a showing of "Little Rock Central: 50 Years Later," hosted by the Counseling Center.

The movie and discussion about King will take place

**KING, page 2**

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Search for president continues

**NATALEE GIL-DEL RIO**  
Staff Writer

The search continues for a new University president as multiple committees prepare to gear up for what looks to be a long process.

On Dec. 18, David Parker, chairman of the Board of Trustees, sent an e-mail to the University community informing them about the efforts and advancements taking place in the search for the next president.

President Modesto A. Maidique asked the BOT in November to begin a search for his successor. He agreed to continue his role as president until someone is found to replace him.

Since 1969, FIU has grown to high standards with the assistance and perseverance of four University presidents: Charles E. Perry, Harold B. Crosby, Gregory B. Wolfe and Modesto A. Maidique.

Thanks to these four prominent and esteemed individuals, the University has grown to become respected worldwide.

As the e-mail Parker sent implies, it "won't be a simple task searching for our next University president."

Several steps are being taken to guarantee a creditable candidate for a position so highly sought after.

Two committees have been formed to recognize potential aspirants for the position; the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Committee.

The PSAC "is made up of 25 members of the University and South Florida community ... This group will work closely with the search firm to identify and select a broad pool of qualified candidates, which will then be forwarded to the BOT Search Committee," according to a press release.

Senior Vice President Vivian Sanchez has agreed to work with the BOTPSC to "ensure that this presidential search is a thoughtful, transparent and inclusive process."

She will take part in the committee by issuing a request for proposals so that the search committee "may select a national search firm with experience in identifying and recruiting university presidents."

So far there are several candidates in mind for the position, but no word yet on any potential favorites.

Maidique has served as president of the University for the past 22 years. Throughout this time, he has added 22 doctoral programs, 18 undergraduate programs, opened a School of Law, a School of Engineering, the School of Medicine and the new School of International and Public Affairs.

## MBA program enlivens downtown

**ELSIE PUIG**  
Staff Writer

Anyone walking through downtown notices the strands of desolate walkways inhabited by homeless people, with the towering corporate buildings standing in contrast to the unfinished condos.

The Miami downtown area has never been known for its vibrancy, but thanks to the collaborative efforts of FIU and the Miami Downtown Development Authority, it can now be known for its opportunities.

The University launched the Downtown Graduate Business School in 2005 after realizing

the added benefits of offering an easily accessible Master of Business Administration program to working professionals.

The school has been in such high demand that it outgrew its current home in the sixth floor of Macy's, and the University has been negotiating with the retailer to expand the facilities to accommodate future enrollment.

"The growth of the Miami metropolitan area in the past few years has made it increasingly difficult for students to commute to our University Park campus after work, especially for people that work east of the Palmetto Expressway," said Luis F. Casas,

director of marketing for the College of Business Administration. "The students can now go to graduate business school with the convenience of not having to sit for hours in traffic to reach the University Park campus."

The MDDA acknowledged that having a business school in the heart of downtown will help create a vibrant community by contributing to education, workforce development and stimulating the economy of the area. MDDA provided \$150,000 in funding and in addition helped in recruiting companies and its employees.

**DOWNTOWN, page 2**

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Lecture on Mumbai terror attacks to be held

School of International and Public Affairs will be holding a lecture on the relationship between India and Jews in relation to terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

“The Fall and Rise of India-Israel Relations” will be presented by the Middle East Society and led by Dr. Nathan Katz.

The Jan. 13 event is free to the public, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Temple Beth Shalom, 4144 Chase Ave., Miami Beach.

LOCAL

Pharmed owners receive nine-year prison terms

Once thought of being charitable businessmen in South Florida, Carlos and Jorge de Cespedes, former owners of Pharmed, were sentenced to prison for nine years charged with defrauding South Florida hospitals.

Judge Patricia Seitz handed down the maximum proposed sentence of seven to nine years.

Pharmed had the naming rights to FIU’s arena from 2004 until they filed for bankruptcy in 2007.

NATIONAL

Unemployment rate rises to 7.2 percent

The national unemployment rate hit its 16 year high on December 2008, as it rose from 6.8 to 7.2 percent.

In December, 11.1 million people were unemployed: 3.6 million more jobless people than December 2007.

– Compiled by Paul O’Swath and Julia Cardenuto.

# Memoirs chronicle spiritual journey

CHERYL MALONE  
Staff Writer

Professor and chairman of the Religious Studies Department, Dr. Nathan Katz, is releasing a new book based on his personal memoirs and spiritual journey alongside his professional career.

*Spiritual Journey Home: Eastern Mysticism to the Western Wall* will not be released for a few more weeks, but Katz anticipates its arrival, as it is very different from his previous academic publications.



KATZ

Katz’s memoirs extend to his religious traveling through India, Asia and Afghanistan, examining enlightenment through spirituality and meditation. Raised Jewish, it would not be until after his journey that Katz would follow Orthodox Judaism.

“I think people are hard-wired for spirituality,” Katz said. “In my case, I had to go outside of my background to find it and to bring it back in.”

Katz examines his prior meditations and searches for the difference between what really occurred during his meditations and his own interpretation of each given experience.

“This is a very personal, inner movement, and the parallel between outer and inner,” Katz said.

While living with a Jewish family in Cochin, India alongside his wife, Katz was able to examine the different Jewish lifestyles and practices outside of the United States, leading to the importance of meditation.

“Once you learn how to do that, you can see the world

differently and you can apply it in different places,” Katz said.

Steven Hein, associate professor and director of the Institute for Asian Studies met Katz while they were

has had many enlightening experiences.

The book illustrates both personal, spiritual and professional levels of his life, according to Hein.

“He is an expert in both areas and stands out in the crowd,” he said. “He is taking a risk in the academic world.”

Katz is already a successful and awarded author of many academic works and religious novels, including *The Last Jews of Cochin: Jewish Identity in Hindu India*, and *Who are the Jews of India?*

Katz is dedicating this book, which has been in the making for five years, to his son, who will attend FIU in a few years.

“The book shows the connection between my public, professional life and my own inner life,” Katz said.

**The book shows the connection between my public, professional life and my own inner life.**

Nathan Katz, professor and chairman Religious Studies Department

attending graduate school at Temple University.

Hein believes that Katz has an excellent history to demonstrate within his latest book.

Katz is on a name basis with the Dalai Lama and

## Commemorative breakfast raises scholarship funds

KING, page 1

from 7-9:30 p.m. in GC 140, at the University Park campus, and is free and open to the public.

Also part of the celebration at UP is the annual breakfast held Jan. 16 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in the GC Ballrooms.

The theme of the event is “Stone of Hope,” and the keynote speaker will be Julianne Malveaux, the president of Bennett College for Women and a syndicated columnist, who contributes regularly to varied media outlets like *USA Today*, *Black Issues in Higher Education*, *Ms. magazine*, among others and has regular appearances on CNN, BET and other television programs.

“We look for speakers who can, in some way, emulate the teachings of Dr. King. We feel Julianne has a story that she can share with the University,” Spann-Givens said.

Tickets for the annual breakfast are on sale for \$40 and proceeds will benefit the MLK Scholarship Fund.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the “Community Day of Service,” Jan. 17, where volunteers will team up with the AARP, the Miami-Dade Housing Agency and the Miami River Commission on a beautification project at the Robert King High Towers, located at 1405 N.W. 7th St.

The Biscayne Bay Campus will host the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Forum and Peace Walk on Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Wolfe Center Ballroom.

The keynote speaker, Kemba Smith, will speak to 300 Miami-Dade middle and high school students.

Smith has received many awards and recognitions for her efforts to educate the public about the devastating social, economic and political consequences of the current drug policies.

“Kemba also has a story that many students can relate to or learn from. We’re in a time where there is so much teen violence. I think it is important to hear from someone who got caught up in it and was able to bounce back,” Spann-Givens said.

Smith will also be speaking at the dinner, which will be held in honor of King, at 7 p.m. in the Wolfe Center Ballroom.

This event is free to students, but there are a limited amount of tickets available.

“Dr. King is just one of those leaders who has shaken the lives of so many people. He has made such a mark on all of us, I think it is important to remember his life and his legacy,” said Doret Sawyers, director of Multicultural Programs at BBC.

For more information about any of these events call (305) 348-2436.

## ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

**TOO FUNNY:** Asian Student Union members laugh at a White Elephant book, at Christmas Jam on Dec. 15.

## Downtown center cuts the commute

DOWNTOWN, page 1

“It also provides opportunities for companies with operations in the downtown area and its surroundings, [which] can have their employees pursue advanced degrees in business,” Casas said.

The downtown MBA program consists of two evening classes per week and can be completed in 18

months. Of the 1,500 students enrolled, about 1,300 are young working professionals who live in the area and attend the evening classes.

Luckily for the downtown area, the program is expected to grow about 28 percent in the upcoming year, bringing in much needed strokes of color.

### THE BEACON

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INFORMATION

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## Institute gives Hispanic journalists hands-on media experience

**DAINELYS MARTINEZ**  
Staff Writer

Journalism majors moved beyond regular classroom instruction with the help of a visiting institute for Hispanic students.

The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute, which alternates between FIU and the University of Arizona each year, was back at the University from Jan. 2 to Jan. 12.

The program offers student journalists a chance to work in a newsroom setting, covering local news, while being mentored by journalists and editors from the *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe* and the Times Company's additional publications.

"The general notion is to expose student journalists to the best practices of journalism from *The New York Times* that we can, and hopefully give them the kind of tools that they need to improve their skills and to better prepare them for their future," said Diego Ribadeneira, managing editor of the program.

The original institute began in 2003 at Dillard University in New Orleans.

According to Don Hecker, director of the institute and its primary founder, the 2003 program was for African-American students who were enrolled at historically black colleges and universities.

In 2006, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists asked *The New York Times* to use the same model for their members, resulting in the 2007 Institute at FIU.

"The program is going great. As someone who works at *The New York Times* and what I consider top-notch journalism, I know what the standards are and the students come up close to these standards," Hecker said.

In order to qualify and participate in

the program, students had to be members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

A team of journalists from *The New York Times* chose 20 students from a pool of 120 applicants for this year's program.

Applicants submitted a short essay, samples of published work and a resume.

This year's selected journalists came from 17 universities, including the University of California-Berkeley, University of Arizona, City University of New York, Northwestern University, University of New Mexico and FIU.

Wilma Hernandez, a senior journalism and international relations major, was the seventh FIU student chosen for the institute in three years.

"It has been a great experience to be around the best reporters and editors in the country and probably the world," Hernandez said.

During the 10 days of the program, students worked in the new Scripps Howard multimedia lab in AC II 242 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on daily local stories and concluded the program with a journalism project.

"The students are getting greater training by the most skilled journalists and editors in the country," said Allan Richards, interim associate dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

This was also the first time that video was incorporated into the students' stories and projects.

"So far, it's terrific. There has been really solid enthusiastic interest in doing video stories and several of the students are involved in really compelling projects," said Erik Olsen, video journalist for *The New York Times*.

According to Richards, FIU was an obvious choice to host the institute because of the school's location, high number of Hispanic students and good journalism



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**MAKING THE CUT:** Chris Ramirez (right), Bill Andrews (middle) and Daniel Belis (left) are among the 20 Hispanic students chosen to participate in the New York Times Hispanic Journalism Institute. The institute was held in the Scripps Howard multimedia lab.

program and also for having the first Spanish-Language Journalism master's program in the country.

"Our demographic here is more from the Caribbean. The West is more Mexican-American, so it is a very different Hispanic student body. They wanted to do one in the East and West Coasts," Richards said.

Students had their travel and lodging paid for by *The New York Times* and also received a \$200 stipend.

They were also provided with \$100 for food and were compensated for any gas expenses.

Their articles were published in blogs and videos on [www.nytimes-institute.com/miami09](http://www.nytimes-institute.com/miami09).

At the end of the program, the content

on the Web site was published as a newspaper for those involved in the project, which was presented to students at a Koven's Center banquet on the evening of Jan. 11.

Next year, The New York Times Hispanic Student Journalism Institute will be held at the University of Arizona.

Those interested in applying can visit the institute's official Web site at [www.nytimes-institute.com](http://www.nytimes-institute.com) for more information. The application deadline is Oct. 24, 2009.

"I have no words to describe the experience," Hernandez said. "All I can say is that I hardly sleep or eat and haven't washed my hair in five days, which is unusual, but it has all been worth it."

### ICE, ICE, SKATING



**ARENA STYLE:** Students and faculty enjoyed an unusual treat of ice skating Jan. 8 in Panther Square. The "ice" was a jigsaw puzzle of plastic tiles that acted as ice when skated over with real ice skates.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

### NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

## Walking, raising money for a cure

**BRITON ALONSO**  
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus have the opportunity to take part in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease that attacks the central nervous system. There are 400,000 Americans living with MS, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and though there is no cure, treatments to ease the symptoms are available.

The South Florida chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold a walk in Aventura on March 1 at Founder's Park and Team FIU Biscayne Bay Campus is recruiting members.

Zachary Trautenberg, an FIU alumnus and marketing specialist at the Wolfe University Center, participated in last year's walk and is leading Team FIU BBC this year.

"[Last year's walk] was one of the coldest days of the year, and we lost an hour because it was daylight savings, but we still had a really good time," Trautenberg said.

Sign-in will begin at 8 a.m. Each walker must turn in a minimum donation of \$50 in order to participate.

"Last year, we had a team goal of \$1,500, which we matched, so we are feeling confident and raised the team goal to \$2,500 this time," Trautenberg said.

The 6.2-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m. and it will consist of two laps around the golf course at Turnberry Isle Resort and Club, located at 19999 West Country Club Drive, Aventura.

To start the day, the organizers of the walk will provide a small breakfast.

There will be booths along the course with water and various fruits for participants to snack on while walking and lunch will be provided at the end.

Prizes will also be awarded to individual team members who reach certain donation amounts. The prizes range from a T-shirt for raising at least \$100 to a fleece blanket for raising \$3,000.

There were eight walkers on last year's team and Trautenberg is looking for many more this year.

"The walk is open to everyone," Trautenberg said. "Anyone can join, whether it is your mom, your grand-

mother or your manager from work."

More team members will mean more people collecting pledges, according to Trautenberg, and there is no limit to the size of the team.

Those interested in joining Team FIU BBC can do so through the team's Web site.

There is also a Facebook group, named Team FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, that provides information for the walk. Students, faculty and staff can join the Facebook group to show support and obtain additional information about the team, according to Trautenberg, but they need to visit the team's actual Web site to join the walk.

The team will also be hosting a fund raising event at the Cold Stone Creamery later this month. Details for this event will be provided once they are finalized.

"It seems like a lot of work and planning, but once the day of the walk comes, it is a great time," Trautenberg said.

For more information and to sign up, visit [www.main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/teamfubbc](http://www.main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/teamfubbc) <<http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/teamfubbc>>.

THE BEACON | Editorial

## University loses history, has chance to make more with closing of Gracie's

The University recently announced that Gracie's Grill, the longtime inhabitant of the Rathskeller in the Graham Center, would be replaced by a Chili's Too, a scaled-down version of the popular restaurant chain.

The axing of Gracie's Grill barely drew a peep from students, who have long since lost any attachment to the long-standing establishment. On the contrary, most are excited at the promise of a wider menu, a greater selection of alcoholic beverages and, hopefully, a livelier atmosphere. We cannot help but count ourselves among them.

To most, Gracie's had become nothing more than the only place on campus to get a beer. And in many senses, that's all it was.

A victim of mismanagement, Gracie's had grown stale, dark and dingy. Aside from the occasional video game tournament or club get-together, nobody had any good reason to visit Gracie's. Bill Debus, director of retail operations for FIU's Dining Services Department, perhaps put it best:

"[Gracie's] was a very slow operation," he said. "It really wasn't performing, it was more of a place to just sit."

The saddest part of this, is that with the ousting of Gracie's Grill, so goes with it any lingering memory of the restaurant's name-sake, Gracie DiStefano.

DiStefano left her mark on the University during the 1980s, when she would work a grill outside of what was then known as the University House, and what is now known as the Graham Center.

According to *Beyond the Tower: The History of Florida International University*, DiStefano would feed those students short on cash and charge them nothing more than a smile. Betty McLeod, former secretary for FIU's Instructional Media Services, remembers her:

"Everybody knew and loved

her," McLeod told Tom Riley, author of *Beyond the Tower*. "She was from the 'old school' ... a kind of mother figure to the students."

The "old school" McLeod speaks about has since then become the "old, old school." The University nowadays seems to have less regard for history and more regard for profits. Such is the essence of this "new school."

But in the case of Gracie's Grill, you can't really blame the administration for feeling that is was time for a drastic change to that particular corner of the Graham Center.

Gracie's Grill had become a mere shadow of the place it once was, when students flocked to it for karaoke nights and cheap beer.

Gracie's had certainly lost any resemblance, in both appearance and values, to the place opened in the honor of DiStefano.

As sad as it is that DiStefano will be all but completely forgotten once the sign comes down and the new once goes up, it's hard to defend an establishment that today's student just does not care about.

For the University, a Chili's, with the name recognition only a chain restaurant can bring, is infinitely less risky than trying to maintain Gracie's.

*The Beacon* can only hope that students will take the opportunity this new establishment brings and make it their own.

Make memories at this place, so that the future generations of Golden Panthers will have somewhere to have a beer and a bite to eat after a long day of classes; a place that is an integral part of the FIU experience.

And, most importantly, don't forget people like Gracie DiStefano, who gave students food for no other reason than because they were hungry - whether or not they had a meal plan or even a Panther ID.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEYOND THE TOWER

**SMILE:** Gracie DiStefano, the namesake of Gracie's Grill in the Graham Center, serves students hamburgers outside the University House.

## STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

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

## THE SOAPBOX:

### An Op-Ed Column

# Israel must defend itself amid attacks

**DAN BERKOVITZ**  
Special to The Beacon

I went to my first rally on Sunday, which was held near the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

Jews, Christians, Americans and many others came together in solidarity to support Israel's right to defend itself and to oppose the terror that has been reigning down on Israel for years. At about 1 p.m., people left to go to the rally in downtown Miami nearby the Israeli Consulate building, which had a mass of more than 1,000 people on the pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian sides.

While war does help inspire change, killing of innocent civilians - whether Palestinians, Israelis, Iraqis - is a very grave occurrence. I believe that peace through war needs to come as a last resort.

At the rally, people on both sides were yelling similar rhetoric on how the other side is to blame. My intention is to not make Israel seem superior to others, but to make it understood that the Israeli government has every right to fight back against an extremist government who'd like nothing more than to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

"In the course of three years, over 6,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israeli territories and so a reaction must be taken," said Ruben Conitzer, a first-year law student who has studied the conflict intensely and has traveled to the West Bank.

"The reaction is justified. We learned a lesson from the 2006 war with Hezbollah that we have to be wiser and smarter than they were in that conflict," Conitzer said.

Jews have been struggling with oppression for thousands of years. Egyptian enslavement, Roman rule, the Spanish Inquisition, the Russian pogroms, the Holocaust and many other incidents around the world serve as a reminder of the oppression Jews have faced. Because of all this hatred toward Jews over the years, Jews needed to have a country of their own in order to determine their own future. That's why the state of Israel was born.

In the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the Arabs rejected the UN Partition Plan for Palestine and then attacked Israel. The massive Egyptian buildup in 1967 on the Sinai Peninsula led to the Six-Day War. The Yom Kippur War



ELIZABETH PERALTA/ SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

**PROTESTING PALESTINE:** (From left to right) FIU students Luis A. Valdez, Elizabeth Peralta and Frima Enghelberg come together for Israel.

of 1973 was caused by a surprise attack on Israel from Syria and

Egypt. Israel has had to deal with aggression from its neighbors for many years. The country is now simply responding to the attacks on its citizens. Israel has no choice but to keep the Palestinian territories occupied because it constantly suffers from

the threat of missiles, Qassam rockets, shootings and bombings as forms of terrorism to its civilians.

Hamas, a terrorist organization, won the Palestinian parliamentary elections in January 2006 because many perceived that the ruling Fatah party, a more secular group, as ineffective compared to Hamas. This led to civil war. The Palestinian people see Hamas as a form of armed resistance against Israel. They are victims of ideology. Hamas is destroying the future of the Palestinian people. In Article Seven of the Hamas' Charter, it states that the stones and the trees will say to the Muslims that there is a Jew hiding behind them and that they should be killed.

Israel gave up the Gaza Strip unconditionally. Egypt has tried to broker talks between Israel and Hamas. Israel has also placed sanctions on Gaza trying to pressure the Hamas government to secede from terrorism. These attempts at peace have failed. Instead, they use civilians as "human shields," use mosques to store weapons and launch rockets from schools. This is the type of extremism that doesn't foster peace in the area.

How much of a beating does Israel have to take in order to say, "Enough is enough?" New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg

said it best: "If you're in your apartment and some emotionally disturbed person is banging on the door screaming, 'I'm going to come through this door and kill you,' do you want us to respond with one police officer, which is proportional, or with all the resources at our command? ... There's no such thing as a proportional response to terrorism."

In the Marines, I learned the idea of "kill, or be killed." This is a global war against Jihadi extremism. The terror attacks on 9/11, the London bombings, the Mumbai shootings and many other attacks are threatening our democratic way of life. The Jihadists believe in killing the Kafir - the infidel/disbeliever. Anyone that doesn't believe in their favor of Sharia (Muslim law) is an infidel and that's why many Muslims don't speak out against them because they too may be killed. Movies like *Obsession* or *The Third Jihad* show how depraved these extremists are.

Hopefully both sides can come to a peaceful resolution soon, so that more people don't have to die.

Dan Berkovitz is the president of the Chabad Jewish Student Center at FIU.

Disagree?

Write to [eric.feldman@fiusm.com](mailto:eric.feldman@fiusm.com) to have your views on the Gaza conflict expressed in *The Beacon*.

# MOUNT AND GET AWAY

## Skiing, rafting trips provide what Miami cannot



### Ski Trip

Dates: Feb. 26 - March 1  
Cost: \$275 for students, \$300 non-students  
Registration deadline: 5 p.m. Feb. 13  
Earlybird deadline: 5 p.m. Feb. 6  
with a \$25 discount



### Whitewater Rafting Trip

Dates: May 14 - 17  
Cost: TBA  
Registration deadline: 5 p.m. April 17  
Earlybird deadline: TBA

**EDDITH SEVILLA**  
Asst. Life! Editor

Ever been whitewater rafting or skiing on the snowy mountains of Tennessee? If not, pack your bags and get ready because the University's Recreation Services is taking you on a cold, wet adventure.

On Feb. 26, students, faculty, staff and friends will embark on the fifth annual Adventure Recreation Ski Trip held in Gatlingburg, Tennessee.

And if you prefer water to snow, keep reading. The Recreation Center is also planning a whitewater rafting and caving combo trip to West Virginia.

"This is a popular experience that people can't get down here in Miami," said Matt O'Connor, intramural and club sports coordinator for Recreation Services. "Being from Miami a lot of our kids don't experience this regularly."

The ski trip will include a beginner's skiing lesson, snowboarding, ice skating and more.

But skiing is more than just fun and adventure: Skiing is like exercising, according to O'Connor.

"People walk away from the mountains at the end of the day realizing they just had a workout," O'Connor said.

Assuming a body weight of 150 pounds, an estimated 476 calories per hour are burned while skiing, according to *caloriecount.about.com*. Not bad if you want to eat a cheeseburger, café latte and candy bar before you hit the slopes.

Whitewater rafting also provides a workout, and according to Warren Shaw, assistant director of Campus Recreation at the Biscayne Bay Campus, it's extreme.

"It's safe but definitely challenging," Shaw said. "It's not an everyday thing."

Shaw described the rafting adventure as a mini roller coaster - only on the water. For being similar to a thrill ride, whitewater rafting also burns hundreds of calories. According to *caloriecount.about.com*, an estimated 340 calories per hour are burned rafting assuming a body weight of 150 pounds.

The whitewater rafting trip, which will be combined with a guided cave tour, is slated for May 14-17 with a registration deadline of April 17 at 5 p.m.

Although the cost of whitewater rafting trip has not yet been determined, the price will cover the round-trip bus fare, three nights lodging at Mictotel Inn and Suites, rafting, equipment, lunch and a cavern tour.

The ski trip costs \$275 for students and \$300 for non-students and covers the round-trip bus fare, lodging at River Terrace Resort Gatlingburg, a two-day lift ticket, a beginner's lesson, equipment rental and a Saturday all-activity wristband for ice skating, games and rides. Registration deadline is Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.

Early bird registration deadline for the ski trip is Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. Those who register by this date will get a \$25 discount off the regular cost.

Early bird deadline for the rafting trip has not been announced yet.

"You can't beat that price," Shaw said. "I don't think there's anything else like that, even at other universities that offer trips like these."

For more information, contact Matt O'Connor at (305) 348-7530 or Warren Shaw at (305) 919-4594. You can also visit [www.fiu.edu/~camprec](http://www.fiu.edu/~camprec) for details.

## diversions

### STOP THE PRESSES!

art by *iris amelia* / story by *susana rodriguez*



## Top hip-hop albums of 2008

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

In a year where Lil' Wayne's voice dominated the mainstream on its way to critical acclaim and a top-selling album, it seems like the trendy and safe thing to do is slide "The Carter III" on to the top of any list concerning 2008's best albums.



COLUMN

JONATHAN RAMOS

If you say the album is good, I'll shrug my shoulders and agree, but it is Wayne's worst overall since he grew his dreadlocks - and a real Wayne fan knows that.

In a thin but solid year, there is no outright classic album to report, but there have been enough nice tries so as to spark a debate as to which are the top-five hip-hop albums of the year.

### 1. UNTITLED - NAS

It was an album that initially had a controversial name, one the masses pressured Nas and his camp into changing.

Nonetheless, the veteran emcee can still touch a beat and deliver some of the most lyrical and articulate opinions on the social issues that dominate our lives.

Nas responds indirectly to his

**HIP-HOP, page 6**

## LADY SINGS THE BLUES



JOEY KOSANKI/THE BEACON

'ROUND MIDNIGHT: Accomplished jazz vocalist Nicole Henry performs at the 2009 FIU "Best In Class" in the Frost Art Museum on Jan. 7.



## POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

# Best tunes on your tube

**CHRIS TOWERS**  
Life! Asst. Editor

*Pop & Circumstance is a weekly column examining the state of pop culture.*

After a long month of reruns and terrible holiday specials, the spring television season is starting up, thankfully.

Last week, "Scrubs" made its debut on the ABC network after seven seasons on NBC and for me, it's always a little bit weird when a show changes networks.

The show is exactly the same as always (and judging by the first two episodes, better than it's been since about 2005), but it always feels like shows seem different when they change networks, despite the only difference being the channel.

But that isn't the reason I mentioned "Scrubs" here, but rather because it has consistently had the best soundtrack on TV as well as the best usage of that soundtrack.

"Scrubs" has consistently been able to seamlessly integrate the music so that it actually works to help build the story, rather than just serving as background noise.

Take a show like "Grey's Anatomy." Looking past the fact that it's a boring show to begin with, it seems to just plopp whatever acoustic indie song they can find to put over their typical end-of-show montage.

"Scrubs" is one of the best shows on television at using music not just as a soundtrack, but as another writing tool. Sure, you get your fair share of soft acoustic rock, but they'll also drop "99 Red Balloons" or "Sex Machine" into a fantasy sequence.

"Scrubs" musical choices also cut a much wider swath than most, ranging from hip hop to Broadway-style musicals.

Aside from stellar musical episodes last season, the show has also featured musical numbers featuring cast members in almost every episode of the series, it seems.

Of course, "Scrubs" isn't the only show in television history to make great usage of their soundtracks. Here are some of the shows that have used music the best in its runs:

### "SCRUBS"

**Best Moment:** The whole cast singing a Broadway-style version of Colin Hay's "Waiting for My Real Life to Begin".

### "FREAKS AND GEEKS"

Judd Apatow's first (of two) failed television series, "Freaks and Geeks," was much loved by critics and fans for its realistic portrayal of those living on the fringes of high school's hierarchy in the 1980s.

Smartly keeping the music era specific, the makers of the show were able to have the music play an integral part without getting in the way.

**Best Moment:** During the first episode, one of the geeks is about to slow dance with a cheerleader to "Come Sail Away," until the song picks up, leaving him awkwardly standing on the dance floor.

### "MY NAME IS EARL"

To go along with one of the most original premises on television and an extremely talented comedic cast, this show also uses music exceptionally well.

With the show's cast of characters mainly consisting of society's less desirable types, it is only natural for the show's soundtrack to feature tons of Ted Nugent and disco, which goes perfectly with the show's theme and generally adds to the humor as well.

**Best Moment:** Season one homage to Spike Jonze's video for the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage" after Randy and Earl steal a cop's badge.

POP & CIRCUMSTANCE



CHRIS TOWERS

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY • JANUARY 12

**WHAT:** Body Pump  
**WHEN:** 7:00-8:00 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Gold Fitness Room  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2951

**WHAT:** Cancer Awareness Purple Day  
**WHEN:** 8:00-6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Ballroom Lawn  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-6995

**WHAT:** SGA Senate Meeting  
**WHEN:** 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** WUC 159  
**CONTACT:** (305) 919-5800

**WHAT:** Miss FIU  
**WHEN:** 5:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Ballrooms  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2121

**WHAT:** Relay for Life Meeting  
**WHEN:** 6:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Cafeteria Annex  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2285

**WHAT:** Kaplan MCAT Test Preparation  
**WHEN:** 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** WUC 157  
**CONTACT:** (305) 919-5800

**WHAT:** Photography Leisure Class  
**WHEN:** 7:00-8:15 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 325  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Ultimate Core  
**WHEN:** 7:30-8:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Gold & Blue Fitness Room  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2951

**WHAT:** Meet the Fraternities  
**WHEN:** 7:30-11:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Ballroom East  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2138

**WHAT:** Yoga Club Meeting  
**WHEN:** 7:45 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 241  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2285

**WHAT:** SALSA Kings Dance Lessons  
**WHEN:** 8:00-11:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Atrium  
**CONTACT:** (305) 969-3522

**WHAT:** Jazz Jam  
**WHEN:** 10:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Churchill's Pub  
**CONTACT:** (305) 758-4481

### TUESDAY • JANUARY 13

**WHAT:** Wake Up & Spin  
**WHEN:** 7:00-8:00 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Blue Fitness Room  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2951

**WHAT:** Club Fair  
**WHEN:** 9:00-4:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Ballroom Lawn  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2285

**WHAT:** Dance Marathon Auditions  
**WHEN:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC Pit  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2149

**WHAT:** Preksha Meditation Club Meeting  
**WHEN:** 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 305  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2138

**WHAT:** French Club Meeting  
**WHEN:** 3:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2121

**WHAT:** Nicaraguan Student Assoc. Meeting  
**WHEN:** 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 340  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2138

**WHAT:** Kaplan GRE Test Preparation  
**WHEN:** 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** WUC 330  
**CONTACT:** (305) 919-5800

**WHAT:** Free Beginner's Dance Lessons  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Arthur Murray Studio  
**CONTACT:** (305) 444-6136

**WHAT:** youngARTS  
**WHEN:** 8:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Van Dyke Cafe  
**CONTACT:** (305) 534-3600

**WHAT:** Casa de Haha  
**WHEN:** 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Sweat Records  
**CONTACT:** (305) 758-5862

**WHAT:** MLK Movie  
**WHEN:** 7:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2285

**WHAT:** FACES Models Meetings  
**WHEN:** 8:00-10:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 150  
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2138

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

# Q-tip, T.I., Johnson & Johnson make the year's best

## HIP-HOP, page 6

friendly rival, Jay-Z, after "American Gangster," which was arguably the best effort of 2007.

### 2. THE RENAISSANCE - Q-TIP

This refreshing record speaks loudly to hip-hop heads and passive fans alike that Q-Tip is the type of artist who can create a great album on his own, as he produced nearly every beat on the body of work and features no guest rappers.

Long removed from the glory day's of headlining the best rap group in history, A Tribe Called Quest, Tip's solo work this time

around is as smooth as Michael Jordan's head in 1998.

### 3. PAPER TRAIL - T.I.

This Atlanta emcee is not the typical southern artist. Pharrell once called him the Jay-Z of the South for a reason.

T.I. went in on this album and wrote his material (as opposed to simply freestyling) for the first time since his second album and as a result created a long album with few fluff tracks.

Though most people are more familiar with the billboard hits T.I. made this time around, it is the rapper's lyricism and flow throughout the rest of the album that make him shine, not just as a southern artist, but as a Hip-hop artist

in general.

### 4. JOHNSON & JOHNSON - JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Blu returned from his successful debut with producer Exile, "Below the Heavens," and delivered another nice effort this year with another producer, Mainframe.

Blu speaks from the heart on every rhyme and shows why he is one of the best up-and-coming artists in the game today.

Though the album did not get any love on the commercial airwaves, Johnson & Johnson sounds an awful lot like the hip-hop of the 90's.

### 5. SEEING SOUNDS - N.E.R.D

This project can be grouped with the alternative section or the hip-hop section, but the bottom line is that it's one of the best albums of the year.

Misunderstood in many ways, many of the songs on the CD have deeper messages than most notice.

Pharrell, Shay and Chad Hugo work behind brilliant beat after brilliant beat and good ideas, but the fact that none of them are great rappers stops the album from reaching classic status.

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Lil Wayne, "Tha Carter III"; Kanye West, "808's and Heartbreak"; The Game, "LAX"; Atmosphere, "When life gives you lemons, you paint that sh\*\* gold."



## JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

# Defense hurt by forward's record day

**WOMEN, page 8**

Both teams could not find their stroke from behind the arc as they combined 4-of-34 from 3-point land.

"That's just not typical of us, but to know we got the win with the way we got it feels really good," coach Cowles said.

The Golden Panthers recovered from an early 14-4 deficit, but it was late in the second half when the Lady Hilltoppers made the final push to capture the

win.

With nine minutes to go, Western Kentucky went on an 11-1 run to make the score 50-39. That closed the door on the Golden Panthers' hopes of making a comeback.

Carey believes the team did improve in some areas that it will use for upcoming games.

"We handled the press a lot better than before, along with our shooting and patience," Carey said.



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

**SWARMED:** Sophomore guard Michelle Gonzalez tries to get free from two Western Kentucky defenders on Jan. 7.

# Senior, newcomers collaborate to win

**MEN, page 8**

Conference for most of the game but ended with just one 3-point field goal less.

"That's not our best. That's their best; but we matched them," Rouco said. "Our kids came through with big plays."

FIU led 36-33 at the half and expanded their lead as the game proceeded into the

second half. After the team made just two 3-pointers in the first period, Galindo and Dominguez combined for seven makes from behind the arc in the defining second half.

"They got a whole lot of confidence, and that's a big boost because everything starts falling for them," said Hilltopper guard A.J. Slaughter. "We can't let a

team like this get confidence because they get on a role."

### STAYING HOT

Freshman Freddy Asprilla continued his hot streak for the Golden Panthers with 21 points and carried the team offensively in the first half with 16 points. The center has scored at least 12 points in six of the last seven games.

The Golden Panthers have now won two of three games since their season-high six-game losing streak from Dec. 6 to Dec. 27.

"We took care of the basketball and we made free throws," Rouco said. "It takes time for kids to [learn to] play in environments that they haven't been in before. It's coming, but it takes time."

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	10-5	4-0	.667
Western Kentucky	9-6	3-1	.600
South Alabama	10-6	3-2	.625
Troy	7-9	2-2	.438
Florida International	6-11	1-3	.353
Florida Atlantic	4-12	0-4	.250

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 8

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Troy	16	1239	77.4
North Texas	15	1157	77.1

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 8

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	12-4	4-0	.750
Western Kentucky	8-6	2-2	.571
Troy	7-7	2-2	.500
South Alabama	11-5	2-3	.688
Florida Atlantic	4-10	1-3	.286
Florida International	3-12	1-3	.200

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 8

## SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Middle Tennessee	16	1163	72.7
Western Kentucky	14	953	68.1

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 8

# National championship a farce, fans helpless to take action

**JULIAN, page 8**

fully apparent to me that none of the power brokers want to push for a playoff.

The power brokers are cheating the players and coaches and then the fans.

The paradox is that all we do and, in many cases, can do, is watch and accept the fraud the power brokers feed us for the

sole purposes of lining the pockets of their conferences for the prospect of greater television contracts the next time around.

All we can really do is complain in print and on message boards.

It's really a shame because the first group, the players, should really have more of a say. Of course, this is the NCAA we're talking about.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### MISCELLANEOUS

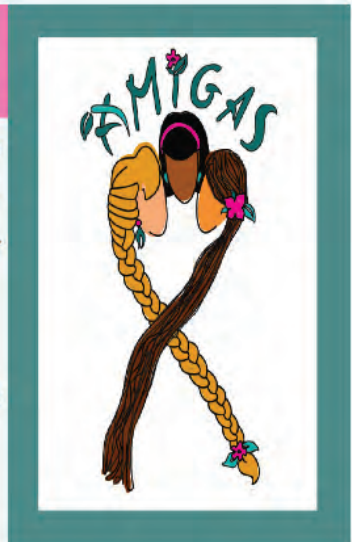
**HONOR STUDENTS:** Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

1987 Chevy SS Monte Carlo for sale \$4500 or best offer. New pearl white paint job, headers, exhaust, rebuilt motor. 305 horse power. For more information, call (305) 753-0838.

Fontainebleau 2/2 close to FIU. Ideal for two roommates, private patio, wood floors, washer/dryer, 1,000 sq. ft. \$1,200 + deposit. Call 786-282-9956 or e-mail morej0908@bellsouth.net

## AMIGAS

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## Not enough opposition to bowl system

I think it's time I resign myself to the fact that nobody cares.

Time that I face the reality of the situation – that the games have nothing to do with the players; they have only to do with the revenue.

The worst part is that when I read about the “Super Alliance” 11 years ago, I was beside myself with joy.

I thought, “Nebraska will play Michigan next time,” and I couldn't have been happier. Now, I couldn't be more unsatisfied.

USC passes the eyeball test for probably being the best team – at least the most talented.

Texas has every right to gripe; they beat Oklahoma and didn't get a sniff.

Florida won the BCS title game and bombed almost everyone along the way.

Utah beat everyone it played, including the team Florida beat to ascend to the No. 2 ranking.

There are people who will claim Florida won it fair and square and just as I call LSU the champs from last year (and Texas from the year before), I'll call the Gators keepers of the flame for the 2008 campaign – even though there is nothing fair or square about Florida being called national champs.

My discontent doesn't come from the fact that all of these mythical national champions are so grossly misnamed.

My feelings of dissatisfaction don't stem from the absurdity of a bowl system initially conceived to reward successful seasons; a system that has evolved into a near perverse-lifeline that often sustains large portions of university athletic programs – especially for the have-nots.

It stems from the thought that there are people left out of the equation who seem to hardly care about the championship being even less disputable than it currently is.

With apologies to Boise State, Utah, and to a lesser extent, Hawaii, over the course of the BCS, this is a major conference issue and it's those participants whose continued silence perplexes me.

Since 1998 and the first BCS title tilt, 12 schools, who had legitimate claims to at least be in the title game, were left out in favor of a team perceived to be more deserving.

Some of these coaches have been quite vocal about not getting an opportunity to play for the big trophy, but this issue extends far up the ladder – over the heads of Bellotti, Carroll, Tuberville and the beacon of justice that Urban Meyer was purported to be in 2004.

This is a money issue, purely in the hands of the major administrators, both at the University and conference level.

If being left out of a two-team one shot deal isn't enough to rally the athletic directors and presidents of the worthy contenders into a coalition, then it's pain-

COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN

FIU 81, WESTERN KENTUCKY 79 (MEN'S)

## MAJOR UPSET

### Concerted effort leads to biggest win of season

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers set a season-high in points, field goals, 3-pointers, fewest turnovers in a game and free-throw percentage on Jan. 8 in their first game in the redecorated U.S. Century Bank Arena.

That's what it took to beat the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, who entered the game having won 20 of 22 games all-time vs. FIU, and advanced to the sweet 16 round of the NCAA tournament last season.

The Golden Panthers saved their most efficient effort of the season for the right game.

“It's a big win for our program. We were praising them when they beat Louisville, right?,” Rouco said of the Hilltoppers. “Because Louisville beat Kentucky.”

FIU (6-11, 1-3 Sun Belt) held on to an 81-79 victory against WKU (9-6, 3-1) to earn their first conference win in dramatic fashion as the Golden Panthers staved off a late Hilltoppers run.

The Golden Panthers nearly lost the game, however, as a 72-57 lead with 6:24 minutes left to play evaporated into just a two-point lead with roughly three minutes left. Rouco's frustration showed as he kicked an AT&T sign next to the bench, a sign that shattered and briefly quieted the crowd.

“That's what got me upset. I got upset because we only had four turnovers until the last two minutes of the game,” said Rouco, who reiterated that the incident was an accident. “I'm not going to slip anymore and I apologize for my slippage.”

FIU knocked down 7-of-8 free throws down the stretch to seal the victory.

“Every kid made a big shot. Alex [Galindo] made some big shots, played very unselfish. We came with the game plan that we wanted to post him on their smaller guards and I



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**IN THE PAINT:** Freshman center Freddy Asprilla posts up down low against Western Kentucky in the Golden Panthers' 81-79 win on Jan. 8. Asprilla scored 21 in the game.

think the plan was great on putting him on the block and playing through him,” Rouco said.

#### SENIOR PRESENCE

Galindo's 15 points for the Golden Panthers did not lead the team, but it was his presence alone on the court that has had the biggest impact.

“He's another shooter for us. He's a guy that everybody in the league knows and now I'm not the only shooter they have to

guard,” junior guard Michael Dominguez said. “It brings a lot, for awhile we didn't have a senior at all.”

Galindo has scored at least 14 points every game since he rejoined the lineup three games ago and Dominguez was able to tie a season best with six 3-pointers partly to the attention Galindo receives.

The Golden Panthers matched the highest scoring team in the Sun-Belt

**MEN, page 7**

WESTERN KENTUCKY 54, FIU 47 (WOMEN'S)

## Second-half struggles compromise game

SERGIO BONILLA  
Asst. Sports Director

On a night when the U.S. Century Bank Arena became the official name for the Golden Panthers' home arena, FIU and Western Kentucky gave it a cold reception by missing a combined 87 shots.

Just 19 points in the second half and 29 turnovers for the game allowed the Lady Hilltoppers (7-7, 2-2 Sun Belt) to overtake the Golden Panthers (3-12, 1-3) 54-47 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 7.

“We got it done on the defensive end of the floor,” said Western Kentucky head coach Mary Taylor Cowles.

Golden Panthers head coach Cindy Russo declined to comment after the game.

The loss prevents the Golden Panthers from leveling out their conference record. They have 12 Sun Belt opponents left and

the team keeps piling on the turnovers.

“We are trying to do some things too quickly,” said junior guard Monika Bosilj, who finished with nine points, of the team's struggle to keep possession.

Sophomore forward Elisa Carey had one of her best games of the season. She recorded 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting

**That's just not typical of us, but to know we got the win with the way we got it feels really good.**

Mary Taylor Cowles, head coach  
Western Kentucky

with 14 rebounds. “I'll give her the ball every time if she's going to post up hard like that,” Bosilj said.

Sophomore guard Michelle Gonzalez fouled out late in the game and finished with two points on 0-for-10 shooting.

Meanwhile, sophomore forward Arnika Brown could not be stopped as she made nine of her 13 shot attempts; the Lady Hilltoppers made 19 field goals as a team. Brown set a school record with 21 rebounds.

“The offensive rebounding of No. 32 by herself killed us,” Carey said.

She also had nearly half of her team's rebounds with 13.

“She just made a conscious effort to get it done on the boards,” coach Cowles said of Brown's performance. “She was so focused, she had a very balanced effort.”

**WOMEN, page 7**