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What does it take to get into the Hall of Fame?

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Volleyball star collects national hardware

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SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

Though Obama brings a welcome change to Washington, he's not the savior everyone is expecting.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Listen to a Holocaust survivor's experiences at the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

LIFE! PAGE 5



COLUMN: Gemstones and Corey Gunz among up and coming emcees with potential to impact the genre.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Injuries and opposing defenses affect road trips for both Men's and Women's basketball.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

SGC-BBC vice-president opens up about her multiple duties and goals for this semester.

OPINION PAGE 4



A California man met his death on New Year's Day through unjust police brutality. How can these attacks be prevented?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yoga Club meeting, Today, Jan. 26, 4pm. Learn how to bend like a pretzel and find your center this semester and join the Yoga Club!

Eagles, Today, Jan. 26, 8pm. The Eagles have landed! Enjoy the music from the band that brought you the classics Hotel California at the Bank Atlantic Center.

Juke, Jan. 27, 11pm. With today's economy, we've got nothing but the blues. Spend a night sulking and wallowing in your pain with this Blues band at Love Hate Lounge.

Domino Night, Jan. 27, 8pm. Enjoy an exhilarating night of domino playing with the Domino Club!

Psychology Club meeting, Jan. 27, 5pm. Find out how to psychoanalyze your friends and drive them crazy, join the Psychology club!

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com.

WEATHER



MONDAY
Mostly sunny
LOW: 61 HIGH: 78



TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 60 HIGH: 79



WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 64 HIGH: 81

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CEASE & DESIST

Students show skepticism toward fragile Gaza truce

JULIO MENACHE
PARADISE AFSHAR
Beacon Staff

After nearly a month of brutal fighting, both Israel and Hamas announced a cease-fire Jan. 18, with Israel planning to pull troops out of the Gaza strip.

Official reports list the death toll at more than 1,300 after 19 days of

air and ground attacks, with Israel receiving condemnations from various countries regarding these numbers. Israel has, however, maintained that Hamas has been using its own people as shields. In addition, Hamas has vowed to keep digging tunnels into Egypt for supplies, as well as lobbing missiles into Israel.

As news of the cease-fire reached members of the University

community, students and faculty were divided about the conflict.

Andrea Valenzuela, a sophomore double majoring in economics and political science, initially felt a religious connection to the plight of Israel.

"I supported Israel at first because I am Christian, but now that I understand the harsh realities of the issue, I support Israel even more," said Valenzuela, who is involved in many pro-Israel causes on campus, such as the American Israel Public

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LEG UP



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

WATER BALLET: Maria Nunez, Kristina Aguirre, Marie Anne Sanz and Ivana Radovanovic of the Coral Springs Aquacades demonstrated their skills in a synchronized swimming performance to commemorate the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Complex re-opening ceremony, Jan. 22.

SGA to amend constitution

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Amendments to revise the economic and voting codes are among the changes that Student Government Association is considering to implement in its constitution this semester.

In an interview earlier this month, Jean Roseme, speaker of the senate for the Student Government Council at University Park, told *The Beacon* that changes would be seen in the election and financial codes of the SGA constitution.

Among the changes discussed was the addition of political parties into the senate election system.

There is speculation a consul-

tant will be hired to aid SGA in the amendment process.

"I spoke with Butch Oxendine, CEO of American Student Government Association and, most likely, a colleague of his, whose specialty is in constitutional review, will be our consultant for the proposed constitutional changes," said Arthur J. Meyer, SGC-UP president during a meeting of the executive branch on Jan. 21. "Considering that the changes are so large and we are presenting them to the student body, we should have a professional opinion."

The ASGA is a professional organization consisting of former SGA members and experts from various universities who aid student govern-

ments across the country.

"They oversee student governments [and] do a lot of consulting and conferences to improve the function of SGAs all over the country," Roseme said. "They provide us with a lot of guidance."

During the same meeting, Meyer called for members of the judiciary branch to review the constitution and look for any issues worth reviewing for possible amending.

"We're talking to [consultants] at the moment. However, there hasn't been any cost as of yet," Roseme said. "We understand the kind of year it is. We wouldn't spend the money if we

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THE FIFTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Auxiliary funds to help pay for search firm

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

The University will use both FIU Foundation and auxiliary funds to cover the costs of the executive search firm it hired, Greenwood/Asher and Associates Inc., to conduct a national search for the next University president, according to an e-mail sent to *The Beacon* from Media Relations.

The University will pull \$53,000 from the FIU Foundation and \$45,000 from auxiliary funds to pay for the roughly \$98,000 cost of the presidential search firm.

"State funds will not be used for this purpose," said Maydel Santana-Bravo, director of Media Relations, in an e-mail.

According to the Office of Financial Planning and Strategic Development's Web site, an auxiliary enterprise "furnishes a service to students, faculty, or staff and charges a fee directly related to, but not necessarily equal to the cost of the service."

Some auxiliaries on campus include the Department of Parking and Transportation, Student Health Services and Housing and Residential Life.

Profits from these auxiliary enterprises are pulled together for a discretionary fund. Each auxiliary has its own contract with the University in order to provide its services to students, staff and faculty.

In the past, auxiliary funds have been used for projects ranging from the \$1 million newly reformed Biscayne Bay Campus cafeteria to the comparatively mundane \$5,800 for a new 60-inch plasma screen television for the office of President Modesto A. Maidique.

"Basically, that's where we get our money for special projects," Santana-Bravo said.

According to its Web site, the FIU Foundation, which was founded in 1969, is a non-profit organization designated to encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts for the "advancement of [FIU] and its objectives."

The foundation is listed as a charitable organization in the state of Florida and is governed by a Board of Directors. Recently, the University selected a new BOD, which includes business leaders from companies such as Carnival Cruise Lines, Sun Trust Bank and AT&T.

After Maidique announced he was stepping down from office, the University looked to hire a presidential search firm to help screen worthwhile candidates for the position. On Jan. 12, the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Firm unanimously selected Greenwood/Asher and Associates to head its search and work with the University to find a suitable successor.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Mid-East, Iran lecture to be presented

The Middle East Studies Center at the newly created School of International and Public Affairs will present “The Iranian Revolution: 30 Years Later” on Jan. 27.

The lecture will be presented by Iranian expert Mohsen M. Milani and will focus on the impact of the movement on the region and the world as well as discuss the relevance of the anniversary of Iran’s revolution as it pertains to President Obama’s foreign policy, the evolving social changes in the Middle East and nuclear issues.

The event will be held at the MARC Pavilion at University Park at 5 p.m. and it is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Frank Ortoleva at (305) 348-1792.

LOCAL

MDC president to head higher-ed organization

Eduardo Padrón, president of Miami-Dade College, was elected to head the prestigious Association of American Colleges and Universities on Jan. 22 in its annual meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The Cuban-born Padrón, 64, who became president of MDC in 1995, will be the first Hispanic, Floridian and head of a community college to hold the key post for the group, which represents 1,150 colleges and universities that collectively educate five million students annually.

In South Florida, members of the association include Florida International University, the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University in Davie.

Yale, Harvard and Brown are also members.

– Compiled by Paulo O’Swath

Expert to help SGA revise code

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felt we didn’t need to.”

Roseme said in an earlier interview that the financial codes should “be more transparent and allocate the fees more efficiently ... The students trust us [SGA] with a lot of money and the codes haven’t been revised in a while.”

However, no specific changes have been officially outlined. A scheduled meeting on Jan. 23 to discuss proposed changes between SGC-UP and SGC-BBC was postponed until a later date.

The constitution was already amended during the previous election in April 2008.

Change was made in relation to the amount of seats available in the senate, from one representative seat for each college in the body to a representational system in which each college earns the amount of seats based on the number of students in the school.

“We’re always looking to improve ourselves,” Roseme said. “The outlook is to improve – to change, but always for the better.”

RELAY QUEEN



ADRIAN MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

RUN FOR IT: Mykaelle “Myka” Figueiredo gives a shout out to her Phi Sigma Sigma sisters after she gets crowned 2009 Miss Relay for Life.

Long-standing Gaza hostilities persist

GAZA, page 1

Affairs Committee.

“How do you stop something that has been happening for so many years?” she said.

Frima Enghelberg, head of the newly formed FIU Shalom group on campus, felt that the conflict was “very complex and misunderstood.”

“Israel had to act decisively,” she said. “We regret the human loss, but Hamas was using its own people as human shields.”

Jonathan de la Torre, a political science major, believed that while Israel had a right to defend itself, the air strikes were unnecessary. However, he said that collateral damage was inevitable because Hamas was setting up bases around civilians.

“[Israel] has severely weakened Hamas,” de la Torre said. “They sent their statement. Now its time for Israel to repair its relations with the civilians in Gaza.”

Rabbi Levi Friedman, co-director of the FIU Chabad Center, said Israel tried to do whatever it could to stop military casualties by giving prior warning of attacks to civilians. Yet Friedman worries the cease-fire might not last for long.

“The real test will be whether or not the rocket attacks against Israel will continue,” Friedman said.

Russell Lucas, assistant professor at the Department of Political Science, said there is no easy solution to the conflict,

but the U.S. must try to act as an arbiter.

“There needs to be sustained negotiation by the Obama administration,” Lucas said.

The battle between Israel and Hamas hit close to home for Palestinians who still have connections to their country.

“This is a genocide and as long as they’re living as an apartheid state, these conflicts will happen,” said Lina Alqaddoumi, a senior majoring in international relations. “They are going against everything Jimmy Carter said in his book,” referring to Carter’s 2006 book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.

Alqaddoumi is not optimistic about the cease-fire, feeling it won’t help the situation.

“The cease-fire doesn’t mean anything because they are not recognizing the root cause of why this is happening,” she said. “Hamas is a resistance to the occupation that was democratically elected. [But] they don’t ask why these groups are elected.”

Palestinians, such as freshman Mnar Muhareb, a political science major, have been protesting for peace in Gaza since the recent conflict began.

“I hope for peace but I am not sure if there will be. The people of Gaza need freedom and basic human rights – rights that the Israelis have repeatedly violated time after time,” Muhareb said. “They need to live among the Israelis as one

nation and [not] be treated as third-class citizens as they have been over the years.”

One of the concerns the conflict brought was the living situation for Palestinians in terms of humanitarian aid, which was not being allowed into the area during the conflict.

According to a Jan. 21 *CNN.com* report, Israeli Prime

government claims are for safety concerns.

However, Palestinians such as Alqaddoumi see the walls, checkpoints and military personnel in Gaza as doing more harm than good.

“Imagine there are ships on one side, a wall on another and they have been living under U.S. sanctions because they don’t recognize Hamas as a

“The cease-fire doesn’t mean anything because they are not recognizing the root cause of why this is happening.”

Lina Alqaddoumi
senior, international relations major

Minister Ehud Olmert said that the aid will be allowed into Gaza after the cease-fire, but most of the international aid community say they are still being denied access into the territory.

“Imagine a country that isn’t supplied with food or water and doesn’t have medical supplies with hospitals running on generators,” Alqaddoumi said. “The United Nations said the humanitarian situation in Gaza is just as bad as sub-Saharan Africa.”

Since the war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, the Israeli government has added checkpoints and other security measures along Gaza territory that the Israeli

government,” she said. “God help them, and everyone who suffers from violence. What these people need is stability.”

Department of International Relations Professor Charles MacDonald’s concern over this conflict is not who is going to be blamed for it, but the feasibility of a peaceful solution.

“There are many opportunities if all parties seek peace,” he said. “Israel is not likely to maintain a military presence in Gaza after the conflict comes to an end. An essential part of a future settlement would be the opening of Gaza’s borders, but only in an atmosphere of non-violence.”

THE BEACON

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Remembering the Holocaust: Survivor to discuss experience

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

For many, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp, is the symbol of the Holocaust and Nazi Germany; humanity at its worst.

Nearly 60 years after the camp's liberation, the U.N. General Assembly created the International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005.

Four years ago, the United Nations established that Jan. 27 would be recognized as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This year, for the first time, the Biscayne Bay Campus will hold a forum remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

"I'm glad that the United Nations is finally commemorating this day that seems to be forgotten by the world community," said Avi Mizrachi, executive director of the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

The forum will take place Jan. 27 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 155 of the Wolfe University Center. It is sponsored and organized by The

Office of Campus Life and Orientation and the Multifaith Council at BBC. The forum will be free and open to anyone who wishes to attend.

"It is part of our history that shouldn't be forgotten," said Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life and Orientation. "It is important that we create awareness and education for [students]."

In remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust, the majority of which were Jewish, a Holocaust survivor affiliated with the memorial in Miami Beach will talk about personal experiences. A documentary about the events and a photo exhibition will be presented.

"We are very pleased to work with FIU. We are honored that FIU is taking this day [for remembrance]. Hopefully it becomes a tradition at the school," Mizrachi said.

Other speakers include Saj W. Freiberg, rabbi of the Jewish Collegiate Learning Exchange and adjunct professor in the Department of Religious Studies.

"The Holocaust has become the

definition of evil. When people think of evil, they think about the worst thing that could happen, and that's what happened in the Holocaust," Freiberg said.

But a moment of silence for the victims is not enough, according to Freiberg, who believes it is important for Jewish people with knowledge of the event and the Jewish tradition to speak about it.

"Understanding the Nazi era is essential to understand why it was mostly against Jewish people," Freiberg said.

Siegel believes that these memorials are becoming even more important as survivors, people with firsthand experience of the event, age.

"It's even more important now that students attend because the survivors are getting older. They are in their 80s and it's an opportunity that shouldn't be missed because they're not going to be around for much longer," Siegel said.

For more information, contact the Office of Campus Life and Orientation at (305) 919-5804.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL AT BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Vice president seeks campus unity

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

With stacks of books occupying her office, pen and note pad at hand, Kenasha Paul is on a mission.

Paul, a senior and political science major and international relations minor, has been the vice president of Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus since May 2008.

She is responsible for fulfilling the president's duties in times of her absence, as established by the Student Government Association constitution, as well as her own duties with the University-Wide Council, which comprises SGC-BBC and SGC at University Park.

Paul is also responsible for overseeing senate meetings and working with SGC-BBC Comptroller Carlos Becerra-Pineda during finance meetings. She also oversees the Environmental Affairs, Student Services, Lectures Bureau and Student Union committee chairs.

"I love serving the students and being a part of SGA, as well as organizing and lobbying on behalf of the students," Paul said.

Since Paul became a part of SGA her freshman year, "It's been an up and down roller coaster. Some years have been active and some years present challenges, making it difficult to do what we want." According to Paul, she is currently "pushing to make constitution and bylaw changes to leave a legacy for future members."

She is also hoping to make

the SGA constitution visible to students by posting it on their Web site, an initiative which is currently underway.

Along with Sholom Neistein, speaker of the senate, and Jessica Jacques, chief justice, Paul helped draft the most recent version of the constitution.

She also changed the senate structure by increasing the amount of senate seats.

During her term, SGC-BBC resolutions that have aimed to increase internal campus promotion, the reapportionment of parking spaces and the increase of athletic department participation on campus, have passed.

"It's been great working with Paul," said Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president. "She is an outstanding, responsible and dedicated individual. I'm glad we are partners in SGA because we complement each other with our different personalities."

Paul was clerk of council in 2005, student union board chair in 2006, director of legislative affairs in 2007 and Panther Power president from 2006-2008.

"Aside from being a political science major, she loves being involved at FIU, and loves serving the students," Silva said.

Paul is also vice chair for the National People of Color and Student Coalition in the United States Student Association, an organization that aims to provide more higher education opportunities for non-white individuals, as well as providing opportunities for non-

documented individuals through the "Dream Act" campaign.

"SGA has helped me utilize all things I've learned, from how to form a government, to how to be more diplomatic, increasing my network and awareness of what's going on within the states," Paul said.

She is also a member of the Student Vote Project, a campaign dedicated to increasing the amount of student participation in elections, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at UP, the Black Student Union at UP, the Black Student Association at BBC and Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership Excellence and Success at BBC.

Born and raised in Miami, Paul attended and graduated in the top 20 percent of her class from South Miami Senior High School, being remembered as "most rowdy student," in the school's yearbook. She was also active in high school, serving as an SGA senator.

"My proudest moment in SGA will be when the constitution and the University wide statutes I propose get passed, which is a symbolic movement to unify UP and BBC as one," Paul said.

She plans to attend an Ivy League law school, or receive a master's in public administration at FIU.

"I try to stay involved at both campuses because I believe in one FIU, one college. I feel issues affect all of us, university wide, so anything I can do, I do," Paul said.

For information about SGC-BBC, visit <http://wuc.fiu.edu>.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



JACOB KAISER/THE BEACON

ORATION: Elie Bardawil addressed the crowd with a commemorative speech at the inauguration, Jan. 22.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BALLS TO THE WALL: Miniature beach balls were floating in the pool as giveaways at the ceremony.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BRAND NEW, AGAIN: Pictured (left to right) Roary; Elie Bardawil, director of Recreation Center; Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president; Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director; Noemi Zaharia, women's swimming and diving head coach; Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs; Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of student affairs; Christina Reddick, aquatics coordinator; James Wassenaar, executive director auxiliary services; Joseph West, vice provost, cut the ribbon together during the ceremony inaugurating the re-opened pool, Jan. 22.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

YUM-YUM: Fruit salad was a favorite among the many dishes served during the festivities.

BEACON | Editorial

While Obama inspires hope, he's not the solution to all of our problems

On Jan. 20, the nation sat with bated breath and watched Barack Obama take his presidential oath. *The New York Times* even live-blogged the event, tracking everything Obama from dawn to dusk in 10 to 20 minute intervals.

Stop it, America. You're just standing around doing nothing.

Obama is not a rockstar. He is not a messiah. He is most definitely not a superhero. Obama himself is even telling us so in his speeches – he's not promising anything.

"Mr. Obama did what people in Washington do when they want to sound serious: he spoke, more or less in the abstract, of the need to make hard choices and stand up to special interests," wrote Paul Krugman, a *New York Times* op-ed columnist. "That's not enough. In fact, it's not even right."

Obama is walking into the White House at one of the darkest hours in our country's history. Or as *The Onion* put it succinctly in their election-day headline, "Black man given nation's worst job."

He has to deal with the tail end of a war that shouldn't have happened and the economic depression that's staring us down – hero-worshipping him is putting more pressure on a job that's already guaranteeing a full gray head of hair and an ulcer or two just halfway through his term.

Yes, Obama's given us hope. He reaffirms the American Dream we've been losing sight of in the wake of billionaire heiresses churning fortunes from publicity crotch shots: work hard, play hard and you will get where you want to go in this life.

And, yes, Obama's given us change. No longer do we have the latest generation in a political dynasty in this country's highest chair but a man from humble origins just like us. He didn't have a hand guiding him along the way to get there, he made his path himself – just like 96 percent of us have to.

Watching his success rekindles the drive to push forward that so many of us have had beaten out of us in this life from working so hard for so little for so long.

But don't forget that he's a man wrought from flesh and blood like us too. As president, he isn't someone we should be putting every last bit of hope in because he won't be able to solve everyone's problem. He's human and can't magic everything away.

You, however, can try to solve your own problems with the same determination Obama applied to his campaign.

"Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year," Obama said in his inauguration speech. "Our capacity remains undiminished."

He's been a chameleon in creating opportunities for himself – just as you should be. Don't sit around waiting for help to come to you, get out there and give yourself a hand.

So support him as our president, not an Olympic god, and follow his lead. You'll be surprised how far you can go when you stop standing around, staring and worshipping false idols.

\$ELLOUT GENERATION

Making money isn't everything

KATY HUDDLESTON
Staff Writer

My entire life, I've been told that a life of luxury was the very thing I should strive for.

I enrolled into college intent on pursuing business and in search of that life everyone had always told me I wanted.

I bought into this, until recently.

We are all told to go to college so we can land ourselves a career as the next big CEO, accountant, advertiser, lawyer or banker. We are all then raised into the next generation of buyers and sellers with no time to stop and ask why.

It's not about becoming well-rounded or culturally educated anymore; it's about becoming specialized in one small area so you can fit neatly into the assembly line of the working world – one more replaceable piece of the machine.

Of course you can still become a teacher, historian, social worker, writer and other such fulfilling vocations, but only to sacrifice your ability to pay off your loans, own a home, have health care, send your children to a good school, or even retire.

It's a decision today's college students are being forced to make with ever higher stakes riding on their choices. According to the College Board, 34 percent of students attending FIU are business majors; lagging behind are majors in the health professions, psychology and the social sciences – all at 7 percent. Did these students really grow up believing that they wanted to be accountants or sales representatives?

The greatest minds are being forced to sell out on their dreams of doing something progressive and meaningful in exchange for working at a corporation because that seems to be the only way to earn a decent living.

In today's world, it's becoming increasingly harder to base a job choice merely upon how much you enjoy

it or even on how well it pays; without working for a large enterprise, things like health insurance and retirement plans are becoming too far out of reach.

Students don't even understand the concept of being liberally educated because all they've ever known is money. It's a shame that a society will handsomely pay a corporate CEO six to seven-figure salaries – as revealed on *PayScale.com* – but will barely break the six-figure mark for the CEO of a non-profit organization who has been working for 20 years. It's the driving force of the world; individuals simply need jobs that are going to provide them a lot of money.

People find themselves stuck deciding whether to do something fulfilling with their lives or live comfortably. Private companies have taken the place of the public sector in terms of recruiting the brightest minds. People need to be able to support themselves. Government, non-profit work and educational career paths can't pay the six-figure salaries and provide the benefits corporations can, pushing people away from public service-type careers and onto the corporate ladder.

This issue strikes me directly because I had accepted that I would go into marketing and work a 9-to-7 job for 40-plus years of my life, have material belongings and trivial memories. And yet I would look back on my life with no lasting achievements to show for it.

Something made me realize I was unhappy with the direction my life was going. I am too aware of this trend of giving into convention and too smart to submit to the ever-present willful ignorance of today's society.

I want to help people and have a positive impact on the world. I finally changed my major to international relations and sociology with aspirations of becoming a human rights lawyer. I decided that I don't care if I'm making less than a tax attorney or marketing manager; I will be able to say truthfully that I love my job and am proud of my work.

Considering the economic environment right now, the world of big business and stock exchanges seems less and less attractive to recent graduates. I will travel, meet people, change policies and truly make a difference – granting me a sense of fulfillment no amount of money ever could.



California slaying indicates need for reform, awareness

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

New Year's Day was a time of jubilation for everyone. Some made resolutions, others celebrated and one made headlines – Oscar Grant. On Jan. 1, 2009, an Oakland police officer shot and killed an unarmed, pinned Grant.

The incident, which can only be described as a slaying, was captured by onlookers with cell phones and cameras and can be viewed online at sites like *youtube.com*.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit officers suspected Grant of having taken part in a brawl on the train. Grant was unarmed and approached police in what appeared to be a nonviolent manner. Grant, as shown in the videos, was forced to lay on his stomach and handcuffed by Officer Joe Mehserle.

Another BART officer then knelt on his neck, completely immobilizing Grant. With the handcuffs on Grant, Mehserle unholstered

his revolver and shot Grant in the back. The bullet passed through the lower back area, then ricocheted back into Grant's body entering his lung and killing him.

Different videos captured a variety of angles of the crime. One showed Mehserle in a state of shock immediately after the shooting, as if realizing the full gravity of what he had just done. Another showed him calmly and dispassionately shooting Grant all in one motion, as if planned. It looks quite obvious to me like some sort of assassination. Grant can be seen pleading with the officers beforehand.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* showed Roy Bedard, a world-renowned police trainer, the footage. After the viewing, Bedard conceded that it looked as if there was foul play involved.

"Looking at it, I hate to say this, it looks like an execution to me," he said. "It really looks bad for the officer. We have to get inside his head and figure out what he was thinking

Looking at it, I hate to say this, it looks like an execution to me. ... We have to get inside his head and figure out what he was thinking..."

Roy Bedard, police trainer

Commenting on footage of the slaying of Oscar Grant

when he fired the shot."

Some defenders have said that Mehserle may have been reaching for his Taser and mistakenly pulled his revolver instead. This is unlikely given the monumental differences in grip and weight between the weapons. This argument seems moot; a basic level of competency is expected of police officers, especially when they're entrusted with the use of lethal force.

Mehserle has been charged with conspiracy to commit murder and has since retired from

BART.

Protest marches have also been held in Grant's honor. In one, protesters collectively laid down on the ground and chanted "please don't shoot me."

This incident seems to be just another scar on the face of the police and indicates a need for reform – better training and stricter requirements. If a man, face down and handcuffed with someone kneeling on his neck, is dangerous, how safe are we around jumpy cops?



Marketing club secures goods for campus giveaways

RACHEL CONGDON
Contributing Writer

Ever wondered who is behind all the free movies and ticket giveaways to the Langerado Music Festival and Ani DiFranco concert? Chances are the group behind these freebies is Panther Promotions, a Council for Student Organizations club at the University.

In 2007, Ayxa Vecino, founder of Panther Promotions, was the promotions and networking coordinator for the Student Programming Council as well as promotions director for the University's radio station, WRGP.

She was in charge of acquiring promotional giveaways for students and, while working to get the giveaways, she built a strong foundation with many companies and

several venues in Florida.

"While working at SPC, the demand for giveaways from other organizations on campus was quite high. So, my position slowly

felt it was time to branch out on her own. And so, the idea of Panther Promotions was born.

The road to becoming a CSO approved organization was not an

approved," Vecino said.

Panther Promotions offers students the opportunity to gain important skills necessary in the workplace such as networking, leadership and team building, according to Lyzette Blanco, vice president of the organization and marketing major.

Not only does it build up a student's resume, but the club also offers growth and educational opportunities, according to Vecino.

"We genuinely care about each and every one of our members and it is great to see them evolve as individuals. This club gives them an opportunity to learn in a fun way," Vecino said.

Being a member also comes with a lot of perks.

Members get first priority when it comes to freebies; they also had

the opportunity to win tickets to Cirque Du Soleil *Corteo* and to see Lil' Wayne, according to Vecino.

To become a member you must have a 2.0 or higher GPA. The membership fee is \$5 per semester.

"The most active way [to be involved] is to attend meetings and help out at our events. At our meetings, our members brainstorm about possible events and the most fun and creative ways to promote them on campus. In addition, we have a Facebook group," Blanco said.

For more information on Panther Promotions visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~pantherp, or stop by the table in Graham Center on Jan. 28 where the club will be giving away tons of the free stuff we love so much.

We genuinely care about each and every one of our members and it is great to see them evolve as individuals ...

Ayxa Vecino, founder
Panther Promotions

evolved from just providing giveaways for SPC to also providing giveaways for various organizations, clubs and departments on campus," Vecino said.

After SPC went through a restructuring process at the end of the 2007 Spring semester, Vecino

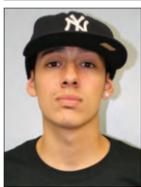
easy one.

"[We] just had to prove that we would not interfere with [existing] organizations on campus. As soon as we clarified that our mission was to enhance [existing] events on campus while collaborating with various organizations, we were

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Top-notch prospects who could soon impact industry

COLUMN



JONATHAN RAMOS

Usually it is the son who cannot hold his own under the shadow of his father's success, always being compared and referred to as "the son of 'Mr. so-and-so.'" We see it often with ball players, actors and other popular figures in the media. In the hip-hop industry, you often see relatives of famous emcees use their

bloodline as a platform for attention - but can never quite make the leap their sibling did.

Take Corey Gunz and Peter Gunz, for example. This father-son comparison is as tilted as a seesaw with Fat Joe and Lil' Wayne. This time, though, the weight falls on the younger emcee.

Though Peter Gunz may be remembered for a few hits, what his son's work has been able to do is far more transcendent. Corey Gunz is one of the best rappers in the game without an album -

which brings me to today's list, featuring the best raw talent in hip-hop.

Corey Gunz can be found all over YouTube, releasing freestyle after freestyle of dope rhymes with a nearly impeccable delivery. Whether they are legitimate efforts of unwritten freestyling is in question, but the point is Gunz can flow fast and slow with a vocabulary which is probably wider than your favorite rapper's. Don't believe it? Take a look at the footage. Maybe Corey Gunz's

highlight moment right now is sharing the stage with Shaquille O'Neal, his godfather, during O'Neal's recent freestyle diss to former teammate Kobe Bryant - which drew plenty of laughs. His presence on stage, however, might be even heavier than the 300-plus pound NBA center - after some more development.

The most underrated emcee without an album by far is Gemstones, a product of the south side of Chicago signed to 1st and 15th Entertainment. An artist by the name of Lupe Fiasco has been the breadwinner for that label since it began a few years back, but Gem will prove to be a worthwhile sidekick to Fiasco whenever he finally releases an album.

Mixtapes like *Untamed Beast* and *The Testimony of Gemstones* should be enough for a listener to understand why he needs to drop an LP. Gemstones made an appearance on Fiasco's recent album, *The Cool*, as well.

The Testimony mixtape exemplifies an emcee that gravitates toward conscious music while at the same time using the prolific amount of energy and powerful lyrics he brought on *Untamed Beast*.

Another up-and-coming artist

is Wale, who is most popular for his mixtape, *The Mixtape About Nothing* - which actually ended up doing something for the Washington D.C. native.

Wale has been on tour for a while using material from that mixtape, but he also just about ready to release his own album. Much like Gemstones, Wale is not the hardcore rapper most are used to, but he can rap about anything just as well, as he can spit about serious topics that people are concerned with.

All three of the emcees listed should be on the radar of fans looking for the next artist who will breathe air into an industry with its original artists losing their voices in the midst of all the poor material in the mainstream today.

NOTABLES

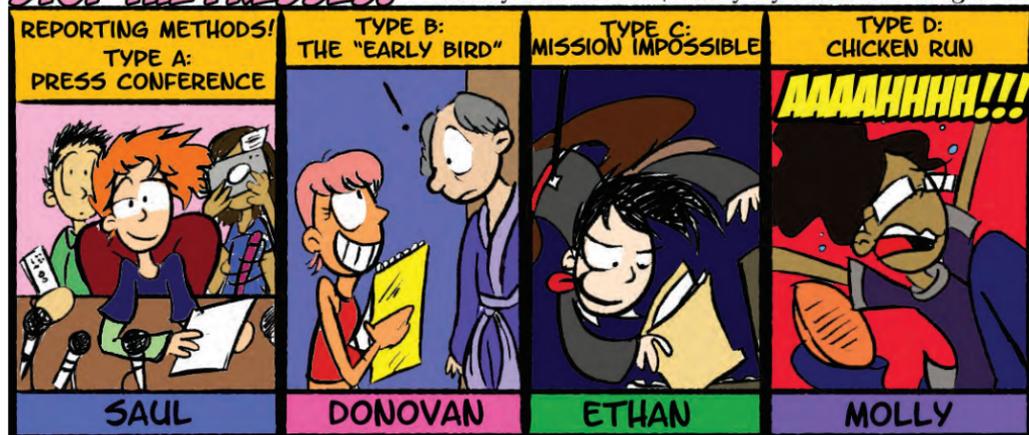
Other emcees on the rise that have yet to drop an LP but could have a real impact and deserve a look include: Charles Hamilton, Currency, Pacific Division and Mickey Factz.

Moment of Clarity is a bimonthly column examining hip-hop and providing clarification on issues or news regarding it.

diversions

STOP THE PRESSES!

art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez





POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Run DMC, Metallica are in the Hall, but why?

Cleveland is a decidedly un-rock city.

Sure, they've got Alan Freed, who supposedly hosted the very first rock 'n roll concert, and Ian Hunter did write a song about why Cleveland "rocks."

However, even in Hunter's song, the best he came up with was that a bored woman with seven kids was having an unfulfilling affair, while girls with deep-red lipstick claimed the city rocks. That doesn't quite scream "rock" to me.

Despite this, for the last 15 years, Cleveland has been the inexplicable home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and every year it announces new groups of artists to be enshrined.

Do artists get in solely by records sold? Bands influenced?

Rolling Stone covers? There is simply no way to justly decide these things. So it is, more than any other museum of its sort, left up to subjectivity and debate.

Last week, the hall announced its class of 2009, which included a wide range of genres that doesn't lend itself to much criticism outside of elitist circles.

wop group Little Anthony and the Imperials, and singer/songwriter Bobby Womack — all fine choices, if a little bit unadventurous.

In all honesty, I'm more interested in the hypothetical choices the hall is going to have to face in the future. Jeff Beck being inducted is not, for me, an interesting topic of discussion. He's the type of guy that not very many people (critic or fan) like, but he's been around so long that he was bound to get in.

But it will be interesting to watch over the course of the next decade how the hall reacts to the eligibility of artists from my generation. Obviously Pearl Jam and Nirvana will get in when their time comes around, but what about Green Day?

Tupac and Notorious BIG will undoubtedly be shown their due eventually because of their lasting legacies, but will they find room for Nas or Jay-Z?

The late 90s was a period when there was a great divide between what was popular and what was critically accepted. As time has gone by, even massively popular groups like Boston and Journey have gotten more respectable as people forgot the bad.

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS

“Do artists get in solely by records sold? There is simply no way to justly decide these things.”

Among the inductees: Run DMC, one of the first hip-hop groups to really transcend genres and appeal to a large diverse fan base and Metallica, a speed metal band that did pretty much the same thing.

Were these bands necessarily the best at what they did? Maybe not, but it's difficult to argue with their inclusion, as their influence is pretty obvious.

The rest of the class of 2009 performers' category included guitarist Jeff Beck, doo-

But in the current musical culture, will the massively popular artists be able to gain enough credibility over time to be recognized in the same way they might have 20 or 30 years ago?

If Billy Joel or Elton John came out today, would they have had the chance to move beyond the "balladeer" label and into respectability? I'm not sure what the answer to that is, but what I do know is that I'm starting the "Blink 182 in 2019" campaign right now.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • JANUARY 26

WHAT: Amnesty International meeting
WHEN: 4pm
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Haitian Students Organization
WHEN: 6pm
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Yoga Club Meeting
WHEN: 7:45
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Clock Hands, Dead Meat
WHEN: 9pm
WHERE: Sweat Records
CONTACT: 305-758-5862

WHAT: Eagles
WHEN: 8pm
WHERE: Bank Atlantic Center
CONTACT: 954-835-7825

TUESDAY • JANUARY 27

WHAT: French Club Meeting
WHEN: 10 am
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Psychology Club
WHEN: 5pm
WHERE: GC Cafeteria Annex
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Domino Night
WHEN: 8pm
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Slick Rick
WHEN: 10pm
WHERE: Lous at Gansevoort South Hotel
CONTACT: 305-604-1000

WHAT: Juke
WHEN: 11 pm
WHERE: Love Hate Lounge
CONTACT: 305-695-8616

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

BOGGIE BODIES



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

SAY CHEESE: Stephanie Bermudez, Erika Otero, Jenny Mesa and Danielle Garcia participate in the SPC event "Boggie Bodies" in the Graham Center pit Jan. 23.



Dr. Leslie Baumann of the University of Miami Cosmetic Medicine & Research Institute*

is announcing a research study to determine if a new combination product improves acne in men and women ages 12 to 45.

You will be compensated for your time.

For more information contact the research staff at (305) 531-5788 or visit www.cosmeticresearch@med.miami.edu

*The University of Miami Cosmetic Medicine & Research Institute is located at Miami Heart Institute 4701 N. Meridian Ave., Nichol Building, Suite 7450 Miami Beach, FL 33140

VOLLEYBALL

Rosa recognized for leading nation

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

One of Volleyball's most coveted recruits of the past four years, Yarimar Rosa, led every Division I player in the nation with 5.21 kills per game last season. She was named the NCAA statistical champion in that category on Jan. 22.

Rosa, a 5-10 outside hitter from Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, led the NCAA in kills (657) and kills per set the entire season. She

claimed the top spot slightly ahead of South Dakota State's Mackenzie Angner (5.09).

Even with the award she received, Rosa is not pleased with the ending of the Golden Panthers' 2008 season.

"I'm proud of the accomplishment," Rosa told The Miami Herald. "All the awards are nice, but I don't feel satisfied. We want to get back to the NCAA tournament again next season, and we can use

all of our accomplishments this season as motivation for an even better season next year."

The Golden Panthers ended the regular season with a 28-7 record. They captured the Sun Belt Conference title this past season before being eliminated in an upset against New Orleans. The team managed to receive an NCAA bid and won a game vs. the University of South Florida. However, No.

22 Colorado State ended FIU's 2008 campaign at the Gainesville sub-regional.

Even so, the outside hitter had one of the most unprecedented seasons for a Golden Panther.

Rosa was Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week a record five times this season. She holds the record for most kills in a three-set match with 26.

The 657 kills she recorded this season were also an FIU record.

Second half swoon leads to big blowout

MEN, page 8

ULM 81, FIU 64

With Asprilla on the bench, center Russell Hicks, who has missed 14 games this season, returned to the lineup. Not even the 7-footer could completely fill the void the freshman center left empty.

A first-half 13-point deficit was enough to keep the Golden Panthers at bay as the ULM Warhawks won 81-64 at the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

During the game, Alex Galindo scored his 900th point of his career, making him the eight player in FIU history to reach that distinction.

He led his team with 20 points, while Hicks came in second with 11 points, but played just 17 minutes thanks to foul trouble that plagued him early in both halves.

For The Warhawks, their

balanced offensive attack proved to be too much for the Golden Panthers defense. Four players reached double figures with Dynile Forbes scoring 21 points and Malcolm Thomas scoring 17 points.

Aside from the Warhawks dominating the painted area 42-26, Asprilla's presence was missed maybe even more so on the rebounding side of the ball.

For the first half, the Golden Panthers grabbed seven rebounds compared to the Warhawks' 22.

Before defeating FIU and Florida Atlantic University, ULM had lost four games in a row.

The team is averaging 67 points per game, but managed to exceed 80 points against the Golden Panthers defense that has allowed 80 points in consecutive games with Asprilla not in the lineup.

Against the Warhawks,



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

REINFORCEMENTS: Nikola Gaseca will be needed for his inside presence until Freddy Asprilla returns.

the Golden Panthers showed signs of life early on in the second half.

FIU limited the Warhawks to just 1-of-7 shooting and pulled within 10 points five minutes into the second half.

Unfortunately for FIU, the success would not last long as the ULM offense woke up and hit 12 of its next 14 shots. This extended

the lead from 10 points to 20, and the Warhawks were able to build on that margin for the final score.

The Golden Panthers could not recapture an offensive rhythm and lost their second straight game. They return to action on Jan. 29 against New Orleans on the road, before returning home Jan 31 to take on UALR.

Golden Panthers held to record low

WOMEN'S, page 8

game, they held the Golden Panthers to just over 26 percent from the field.

Devastation lurked from the beginning when ULM took the first 17-3 run, compiled by three Jesse Carrier 3-pointers.

The Golden Panthers shot just 5-of-23 from the field in the first half, allowing ULM to lead 35-12 as they headed to the locker room.

Elisa Carey chipped in with seven

points for FIU, all in the second half, and a game-high 12 rebounds. Despite the record performance by the defense, the Warhawks played almost as carelessly as the Golden Panthers.

FIU outscored ULM in the second half and the Warhawks had 20 turnovers of their own compared to 10 assists.

However, the Golden Panthers sat in their usual seat, unable to come closer than 17 points and behind by as much as 30 points with 7:08 to play after a 14-2

run by ULM. The Warhawks obtained a staggering 19 steals. Neither team made many fouls as both combined to shoot a 11 attempts.

"We talked about pressuring the ball from one end to the other for 40 minutes, especially so they couldn't get into their offense," Martin said.

FIU (4-16, 2-7) will hit the road again to face New Orleans (12-8, 5-4) on Jan. 28 in their next conference match-up.

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	13-7	7-2	.650
Middle Tennessee	12-8	6-3	.600
Troy	11-10	6-3	.625
South Alabama	11-9	4-5	.438
FIU	8-14	3-6	.353
Florida Atlantic	4-17	0-9	.250

*All records up to date as of Jan. 25

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Troy	21	1632	77.7
North Texas	19	1461	76.9

*All records up to date as of Jan. 25

SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Middle Tennessee	17-4	9-0	.810
South Alabama	14-6	5-4	.700
Western Kentucky	11-8	5-4	.579
Florida Atlantic	8-11	5-4	.421
Troy	8-11	3-6	.421
Florida International	4-16	2-7	.200

*All records up to date as of Jan. 25

SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)

	G	PTS	AVG/G
Middle Tennessee	20	1457	72.8
Western Kentucky	18	1256	70.3

*All records up to date as of Jan. 22

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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



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU on the short end of two defensive tussles

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

NORTH TEXAS 58, FIU 43

Guard Monika Bosilj put up her second double-double of the season for the Golden Panthers with 13 points and 11 rebounds, but it still was not enough for the Golden Panthers (4-15, Sun Belt 2-6) to defeat another conference opponent.

Despite holding their opponent to a season-low 24 rebounds for the second-straight game, the FIU women's hoops team fell to the North Texas Mean Green, 58-43, on Wednesday night at the U.S. Century bank Arena.

Forward Elisa Carey and point guard Michelle Gonzalez chipped in with seven points each.

Contributions also came from the bench; Marquita Adley and Cherrisse Buddy combined for another 12 points.

The Golden Panthers

contained a preseason first team all-Sun Belt selection, Amber Jackson, to 12 points which is five below her season average. The next leading scorer for North Texas was Tricia Lee with 11 points.

North Texas took on a 10-3 run from the start of the game, sparked with a layup by freshman guard Mansa El, and they never gave the lead up from there.

FIU was able to cut the Mean Green lead reach within one point with 11 minutes left in the half.

However, the Golden Panthers turned the ball over 16 times by the end of the first half and North Texas was able to head into the locker room with a 31-23 advantage, scoring 19 points off of turnovers.

"If we loose the ball we need to get back up the court, we're losing games on our turnovers," said Bosilj after the team fell to Florida Atlantic the week before.

The Golden Panthers didn't



JONATHAN DAVILA/THE BEACON

TOUGH GOING: Marquita Adley has been trying to fight through injuries that have limited her to just 11 games.

come out looking much better they committed another 14 in the second half, shooting just over 30 percent and "This is the kind of defen-

sive effort that we have talked about getting from day one and it was great to see it tonight," said North Texas head coach Shanice Stephens, according to meangreenathletics.com.

Three quick baskets by the Mean Green started off the second half and put FIU down 14 points with less than 16 minutes to play. The Golden Panthers came no closer than 10 from that point and back to back lay ups to put the Mean Green ahead 18 points did more than seal the deal with less than two minutes left to play.

ULM 53, FIU 31

With starting point guard Michelle Gonzalez limited to 17 minutes because of back spasms and the absence of forward Marquita Adley due to injury, a depleted FIU women's basketball team came across their lowest scoring effort of the season.

They would actually rewrite record books against

the University of Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks on Saturday night, as the Golden Panthers fell 53-31, becoming ULM's lowest scoring opponent ever at the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

"I am definitely pleased with our defensive effort tonight. You don't have to be a great offensive team, but the bottom line is that if your not scoring and you stop them you've done a good job," said ULM head coach Mona Martin according to ULMathletics.com.

The Golden Panthers relied on Monika Bosilj who came in averaging a team-high 16.4 points per game. Although she went scoreless the first 20 minutes, the junior guard led her teammates with 13 points.

It was a remarkable defensive effort by Warhawks that forced 34 Golden Panthers turnovers, 17 of them were in the first half.

Even though the Warhawks shot just 33 percent for the

WOMEN'S, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Soto debut not enough without Asprilla in lineup

JONATHAN DAVILA
SERGIO BONILLA
Beacon Staff

NORTH TEXAS 80, FIU 75

For the first time since late December, the Golden Panthers (8-14, 3-6 Sun Belt) lost consecutive games this season.

The first game in an FIU uniform for point guard Josue Soto was spoiled by the absence of center Freddy Asprilla. Without the 6-foot-10 280-pound big man in the paint, the Golden Panthers could not find a victory against either North Texas (12-7, 5-3) or the University of Louisiana-Monroe (7-13, 3-6).

The teams combined to outscore FIU in the paint 82-50 over the two contests, and FIU shot a combined 39 percent in the games.

We didn't run our plays. We just got out of what we've been doing...and they kept getting offensive rebounds

Alex Galindo, Forward

The emergence of point guard Josue Soto, who redshirted last season and every game this season, could not make up for the loss of center Freddy Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers (8-13; 3-5 Sun Belt) fell to the North Texas Mean Green 80-75 on Jan. 22 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Asprilla, the Sun Belt Conference leader in rebounds per game, was inactive due to back spasms and the Golden Panthers gave up 14 offensive boards to the Mean Green for 22 second-chance points.

Forward Cedric Essola, who started in place of Asprilla, could've helped his team's rebounding woes, but he couldn't stay on the floor; the junior forward fouled out in only 12 minutes of play.

Nonetheless, the Golden Panthers held a 10-point lead at the 8:45 mark in the first half, and held a six point lead at the half.

But with Essola out for the majority of the second half, Mean Green forward Eric Tramiel grabbed five of his seven offensive rebounds and scored 17 of his 22 points – four of those points coming on uncontested dunks. The Mean Green took

a 55-53 lead near the 10-minute mark after a Tramiel scoring spree and never looked back.

"We didn't run our plays. We just got out of what we've been doing ... and they kept getting offensive rebounds," said senior forward Alex Galindo.

Soto sparked the Golden Panthers by scoring four of the team's first seven points in his first game in an FIU uniform – he had redshirted his first season and suffered a broken

hand during the preseason. He ended the Golden Panthers' first half scoring with a behind-the-back dribble to get by his defender and a layup off of the glass that sent the modest crowd of 621 into a frenzy.

"He's a good player. He needs to get in a groove. He was a little excited in the first half. In the second half he settled down and played some key plays," said head coach Sergio Rouco.

Nikola Gacesa led the Golden

Panthers with 20 points. Galindo scored 17 points, and Soto chalked up 15 – nine points coming during a Golden Panthers run that got the game within two points.

Guard Tremayne Russel chipped in 11 points, but 3-point specialist Michael Dominguez only scored three points on 1 of 9 shooting from the field – eight of those shots coming from downtown.

MEN, page 7

STRONG START



JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

SHUT OUT: The tennis team opened the 2009 season with a 7-0 win against Florida Atlantic University Owls on Jan. 22 in Boca Raton. Maria Dolores Pazo defeated Danielle Simone in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.