

1-6-2010

The Beacon, January 06, 2010

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, January 06, 2010" (2010). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 353.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/353

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.

THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 22, Issue 50

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, January 6, 2010



Panel Panel: Captain America resurrected in a new series

PAGE 6



Obama failed at Copenhagen due to his impatience

PAGE 4

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



A new host of fresh faces are introduced as Spring 2010 Peer Advisors during BBC's Spring 2010 Week of Welcome Barbecue, eager to celebrate and ready to work.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

School of Journalism and Mass Communication introduces a new Hispanic Studies program headed by two esteemed professors.

OPINION PAGE 4



Following attempted terrorist attacks last December, the Transportation Security Agency is cracking down, enhancing their search methods. Is there anything that can really be done?

LIFE! PAGE 5

The Wolfsonian has a new exhibit on display, "The Art of Illumination," that will display images on the buildings facade to attract more visitors.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Recruiting Roundup: sizes up the prospects on offense this week which include quarterback Jake Medlock.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Local Folks Artists, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. For \$5, you can listen to the local sound of Sam Friend, Arboles Libres and Uncle Scotchy.

Black Umbrella Book Club Meeting, Jan. 6, 12 a.m. Join this free club meeting being held at the AE District on 3852 N Miami Ave.

Shake, Dec. 7, 10 p.m. \$10 gets you in to this food, drink and bass-fueled high jinks being held at The Vagabond.

—More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
LOW: 41 HIGH: 60



THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 57 HIGH: 64



FRIDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 48 HIGH: 65

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

MMC Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

New alliance helps find jobs

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

With Florida's current job market and the difficulty it has shown college graduates looking for employment, the FIU Alumni Association has teamed up with an organization called Career Campaigns that specializes in assisting qualified candidates on their search for a stable job.

"Florida has the fourth

worst job market in the country but we are hoping to see hiring beginning at the end of this year," said Dan Nelson, the founder and CEO of Career Campaigns.

The organization, which also shares a partnership with the University of South Florida, believes their assistance is necessary during this tough economic time to help those who are struggling to find long-term career

opportunities.

According to Nelson, once job candidates are put into the Career Campaigns database they will create a 30-second commercial detailing their assets, educational background and employment history. The candidates also complete a leadership personality profile.

Although having both a

ALUMNI, page 2

US airport rules not enforced

ERIN MCCLAM
Associated Press

On the first day of what was supposed to be tighter screening ordered by the U.S. for airline passengers from certain countries, some airports around the world conceded Monday they had not cracked down.

The United States demanded more careful screening for people who are citizens of, or are flying from, 14 nations deemed security risks. But enforcement of the U.S. rules appeared spotty.

"Everything is the same. There is no extra security," said an aviation official in Lebanon, one of the countries on the list. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Obama administration ordered the changes after what authorities say was a failed attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner bound from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration said the enhanced screening techniques would include full-body pat-downs, searches of carry-on bags, full-body scanning and explosive-detection technology.

In Nigeria, one of the nations on the U.S. list for additional security, there were long lines on the first day of the new rules. At the airport in the capital of Lagos, Mine Oniovosa, a 24-year-old student, said she had been told to show up more than seven hours ahead of time for a flight to Atlanta.

A Nigerian official pledged that everyone

AIRPORT, page 2

BUNDLE UP!



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Freshman Pedro Velasquez (left) and freshman Alexia Escalante (right), gather to stay warm on a cold night outside of Lakeview South Jan. 4. Cool temperatures will continue throughout the week as South Florida experiences the longest stretch of cold weather since January 2001.

SGC-MMC

Senate speaker urges body to meet set goals

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate speaker at Modesto Maidique Campus, Helena Ramirez, welcomed back her colleagues in the senate with a list of goals for the new year.

Stating that the legislative body would not move into full swing until after the joint meeting on Jan. 6 between the cabinet and the senate, the speaker took time from the soft-start Jan. 4 meeting to remind the legislative body of their commitments: to ensure the University is environmentally friendly, to improve student involvement and to increase the visibility of the Student Government Association.

"I really want to discuss

later on what you guys think about it," Ramirez said to the senate.

The goals have not changed from the start of the current administration. In fact the goals sheet that circulated during the meeting included the names of former senators who have since been replaced.

The senate's approach to be environmentally friendly are to promote motion sensor lights, auto-shutdown for computers, and implementing water-conserving shower heads in the residence halls.

Housing Senator Edward Proenza said he would look into the effectiveness of such shower heads.

However, the area with the most bullet points on the goals sheet is that of increasing the

accessibility and visibility of SGA.

"Update the Web site regularly," leads the pack of intents. That ambition has been chased SGA-wide, and the results have been mixed.

The Web site has not turned into the student "one-stop-shop" for information that SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda had envisioned at the start of his administration. Though the site has some new ongoing content like the "Did you know?" feature that traces the University's past through images, it has remained static and sporadically updated.

The senate's section on the Web site can boast an updated list of senators and their contacts, but in other areas — such as meeting minutes — it is

not so up to date.

Student Media found that, as of printing time, 10 of the 17 meeting minutes links were inaccessible. So was the "Senate Votes" section.

The finance committee did update its section last semester to help requestors better understand the process and requirements. The committee is in charge of \$25,000 in Activity and Services fees that they could allocate for the benefit of as many FIU students as possible.

Finance Committee Chairman Marcos Oyola reported to the senate that approximately \$18,000 of the funds is still available to allocate.

Rounding out the goals to increase accessibility and

visibility of SGA was to have coffee with the students and hold monthly meet-and-greets with FIU administration and deans.

Throughout last semester, SGA held events for students to meet the dean of their respective colleges and their senators.

This January, the College of Law will have their event followed by Nursing and Health Sciences in February and Architecture and the Arts & Public Health in March.

In this administration's remaining four months, the senate will have to voice its recommendations for the budget and finally create an elections committee to look into the viability of special elections.

‘No visible changes’ in international security

AIRPORT, page 1

would be patted down at the country’s international airports. In Lagos, guards wearing latex gloves combed through bags, spending more than a minute on each one.

But at international airports in Lebanon, Syria and Libya, all on the list, there were no visible changes in screening. And several European governments, including Germany, France and Spain, said they were still studying the rules before tightening security any further than the steps they took after the failed Christmas attack.

“We will continue to work with our airline and international partners to ensure they meet both international and TSA security standards,” TSA spokesman Greg Soule said.

Among the 14 nations are four — Cuba,

Iran, Sudan and Syria — that the U.S. government considers state sponsors of terrorism. The list also includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen.

Passengers arriving at U.S. airports on international flights described a wide range of screening methods — from being separated by gender and patted down to nothing more invasive than normal airport security.

Lydia Habhab, a consultant for the World Bank who flew from France to Amsterdam and on to Detroit, said she was subjected to a full-body scan and her luggage was opened and inspected.

“I felt personally violated, but I understand why the procedures are necessary,” she said.

Passengers on a charter flight from Havana

to Miami said they did not notice any additional security in either Cuba or the United States.

“It was the same as always. There was no problem,” said Adriana Vallester, 46, who was returning from a holiday visit to her family in Cuba.

A U.S. intelligence official said the government had moved the names of dozens of people onto its terrorism watch list and its no-fly list after reviewing the government’s database of suspected terrorists.

The man arrested in the Christmas incident, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, had been in a database with about 550,000 other terror suspects since late November. But officials said the government did not have enough information to put him on the no-fly list.

Authorities say Abdulmutallab tried to

bring down Northwest Flight 253 by igniting explosives concealed in his underwear, but the material failed to detonate, causing only a small fire. Passengers put out the fire and restrained Abdulmutallab.

While screening for international flights has been tightened since Christmas Day, there have been few changes at domestic airports.

On Sunday, officials at the Newark airport emptied a terminal and forced passengers to go through screening again after a man passed through a security checkpoint going the wrong way. His identity and whereabouts remained unknown Monday.

The failed Northwest attack has led to calls for wider use of full-body scanners, now in regular use at only a few U.S. airports. Dutch officials announced Monday they would buy 60 more of the scanners.

Replacement dean chosen

JORGE VALENS
News Director

The University has appointed a professor as the new interim dean of the Graduate School.

Kevin O’Shea, professor for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will be replacing outgoing Dean George Walker.

Having been a part of the University since 1991, O’Shea served as the as Chair of the Grad-

uate Council of the Faculty Senate and as the director of the graduate program for the chemistry and biochemistry department according to a University e-mail sent to faculty and staff by Interim Provost Douglas Wartzok.

The e-mail added that during his time, he “has mentored 50 undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting faculty in his research laboratory.”

O’Shea’s research

focuses on applying and analyzing the impact of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and its effects on humans.

“His goal is to understand the basic reactions between ROS and important biological molecules in association with specific human disorders and diseases,” Wartzok said.

He added that O’Shea’s team also seeks to investigate “the reactions of ROS with organic pollutants and toxins as potential water treatment applications.”

University Graduate School will commence in the Spring.

Wartzok closed his statement by asking University faculty and staff to welcome O’Shea and “assist him in his efforts to continue the positive trajectory of graduate education at FIU.”

Union aids both parties

ALUMNI, page 1

commercial and profile seems unorthodox, Nelson explains that “what employers see, hear and feel indicate whether they are going to hire you.”

Nelson has been working alongside Duane Wiles, the executive director of Alumni Relations at FIU, to get the word out to students of this new partnership and what it will do for the student community.

“We informed alumni via e-mail and social networking sites (i.e. LinkedIn, My Panther Connection and Facebook) and recently sent a press release,” Wiles said.

Nelson was also featured in two workshops held at FIU describing the “Art of Marketing,” a field that Nelson has been a part of for 30 years.

Students also voiced their opinions on whether or not they would be willing to use the services of the Alumni Association and Career Campaigns to assist them following graduation.

“I think that the Association could help me network, not necessarily find me a job, but connect me to other graduates with different experiences,” said Jennifer Fuentes, a senior majoring in political science and philosophy.

Jessica Torgas, a junior majoring in English, was also eager to learn about the new partnership and how it can help her achieve her career goal.

“Yes I would definitely be open to the Alumni Association assisting me in finding a job. It won’t hurt. I am a little nervous, especially since I want to become a teacher,” Torgas said.

Another student, Malena Torres, would also be open to any assistance she can find after graduation.

“I think that the Alumni Association could help me in finding a job or at least in guiding me in my career path,” said Torres, a senior majoring in international relations. “I’m really worried about finding a job after graduation; the job market is really competitive and the economic situation is not helping either.”

So far, the agreement between the two organizations has just begun; however, the workshops have commanded a great turnout, according to both Wiles and Nelson.

According to Nelson, the employers who choose to use the Career Campaigns services are required to pay a fee to the company.

However, Career Campaigns will be returning a percentage of this revenue back to the Alumni Association.

“The alumni receive a job and are allowed to use the Career Campaigns’ services free of charge, also the association turns a profit,” Nelson said.

Both Wiles and Nelson are still hopeful that the alliance will generate employment for FIU alumni.

If not, the agreement can be terminated at any time, according to Wiles.

“We are like Charles Schwab and eHarmony rolled into one and we hope to place candidates starting at the end of this year. So far we have only a few candidates in the system but it is still too early in the alliance,” Nelson said.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 4 issue, the article “Big name sequels dominate 2010 game’s releases” incorrectly stated the game Mag release as Jan. 2. The game Mag will be released Jan. 26.

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

THE BEACON



E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

CHRISTOPHER LEE ADAMS

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JORGE VALENS

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

JASMYN ELLIOTT

LIFE! EDITOR

ASHLYN TOLEDO

SPORTS DIRECTOR

JONATHAN RAMOS

OPINION EDITOR

DAVID BARRIOS

PHOTO EDITOR

ALEX GARCIA

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

GABRIEL ARRARAS, MAUREEN NINO

ASST. LIFE! EDITOR

JAMES RADZIEWICZ

ASST. OPINION EDITOR

OJETTE BARRIENTOS

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS

STEPHANIE GABRIEL, JOEL DELGADO

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS

PAGE DESIGNERS

LEONCIO ALVAREZ,

ASHLEY SALAMANCA, CHRIS TOWERS

COPY EDITORS

LEONCIO ALVAREZ, ASHLEY CAPO,

CHRIS TOWERS

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

ROSALYN DELGADO

BUSINESS MANAGER

TATIANA CANTILLO

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO

INFORMATION

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, Room 210, at the Modesto Maidique Campus and in the Wolfe University Center, Room 124, at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, Room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com.

Work Study Students

JOIN Student media TODAY!

We offer flexible schedules and positions.

For more information:

E-mail beacon@fiu.edu

Or call 305-348-6993

Apply Today!

THE BEACON RADIATE FM fiusm.com



SJMC debuts new Hispanic Communications program

LAURA DE LA FE
Staff Writer

With Hispanics now comprising approximately 16 percent of the U.S. population, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has created a new program allowing the fastest growing minority segment in the U.S. access to research and distinguished speakers that will prepare them to communicate with their community.

The Hispanic Communication Studies will address issues that relate to the Hispanic community in the United States. Its directors expect it to eventually become one of the “premier thought-leadership institutes” in the U.S. Hispanic community.

“It makes sense to establish this program at FIU, since Miami is home to the most important Hispanic broadcast-media outlets as well as a large and diverse Hispanic community,” said Teresa Ponte, chair of the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting. “We have become a feeder school to the news media as well as to public relations and advertising agencies recruiting Hispanics to address the fastest growing minority segment in the U.S.”

“Our location as well as the significant number of award-winning Hispanic professors

in our faculty places us in a unique position to establish such a program,” added Professor Fernando Figueredo, chair of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations. “Seventy percent of the students we graduate from the SJMC are of Hispanic heritage, and university-wide at FIU, we graduate more Hispanic students than any other university in the country.”



FIGUEREDO



PONTE

SJMC already has courses set up that cover Spanish language journalism and Hispanic market communications, and the new Hispanic Communication Studies, headed by Figueredo and Ponte, will build on that foundation.

“Our goal is to further and enhance the current Hispanic-market-driven research agenda at FIU on critical issues affecting the U.S. Hispanic community, specifically focusing on the way these issues are communicated to internal and external audiences. FIU is uniquely positioned to house this institute since it graduates more Hispanic students than any other university in the U.S.” said Heather Radi-Bermudez, Marketing Director for SJMC.

Currently, approximately 50 students are enrolled in the program. To register for the program, students will have to register for courses after discussing their interests with Figueredo or Ponte.

SNAKE CHARMER



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIZ/THE BEACON

Daynanna Camere, a Senior in Hospitality Management, handles a python in Panther Square for Campus Life's Cirque du Sol Bay event Jan. 4.

2010 peer advisors chosen

MIKIALA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

A loud reception, barbecue food, and enthusiastic applause greeted the selection of new peer advisors for the spring semester on Jan. 4.

This semester's Biscayne Bay Campus peer advisors are Nardo Dorsin, Shannon Douglas, Fabiana Ferrer, Judi Julmisse, Kimberly Lauriston, Demi Marroquin, Ana Perez, Anastacia Strachan, Gabrielle Wheeler and Eric Feldman.

Peer advisors help new students and their parents adjust to life at FIU. The advisors

participate in and help plan all orientation events throughout the year-long term. These advisors play a large role in welcoming transfer students.

Vicky Owles, associate director for Campus Life, presented the new advisors to the student body in Panther Square. Each advisor received a certificate noting their new position.

“Being a peer advisor is a great honor. This group was chosen because it's a great group of students; they have the highest GPAs of any group,” Owles said.

Peer advisors are chosen based on a strict selection

process. Students interested in peer advising must first understand the ethical standards associated with the job. Chosen applicants matriculate for a day-long selection workshop, at which finalists are chosen and interviewed one by one.

After the interview, only 35 out of 200 applicants for both MMC and BBC are selected.

Kimberly Lauriston, a newly hired peer advisor finds working with new students to be the most rewarding part of the job.

“I look forward to helping freshmen and helping them get acquainted with the campus,” Lauriston said.



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

The 2010 Peer Advisors present a cake dedicated to the group as part of Cirque De Solbay Spring Welcome Week on Jan. 4 (From left: Back: Kimberly Lauriston, Judi Julmisse, Nardo Dorsin, Ana Perez. Front: Anastacia Strachan, Fabiana Ferrer, Gabrielle Wheeler, Shannon Douglas, and Demi Marroquin).

Judge refuses to grant informant lighter sentence

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

A federal judge refused Monday to postpone prison or consider a lighter sentence for a former Swiss banker-turned-informant who helped launch a massive U.S. tax evasion investigation into banking giant UBS AG.

The decision by U.S. District Judge William Zloch means Bradley Birkenfeld must report to prison Friday to begin a sentence of three years and four months, which is longer than what prosecutors had sought. Zloch also refused to schedule a hearing on whether to reconsider the sentence. Birkenfeld pleaded guilty last year to a fraud conspiracy charge.

Prosecutors credit Birkenfeld, 44, with exposing wrongdoing at UBS and leading investigators to thousands of suspected American tax cheaters who hid assets in the Swiss bank's accounts. But they also said Birkenfeld failed to disclose his own crimes, including his work for a California real estate magnate who pleaded guilty in 2007 to tax charges.

Prosecutors declined comment on Zloch's ruling. The Washington-based National Whistleblowers Center, whose attorneys are representing Birkenfeld, said in a statement that putting such a prominent informant in prison could “kill the goose that laid the golden eggs” by deterring others from coming forward.

“If the (Obama) administration is actually serious about going after offshore tax evasion they need to be encouraging

whistleblowers, not throwing them in jail,” said Dean Zerbe, special counsel at the Whistleblowers Center.

At Birkenfeld's sentencing hearing in August, prosecutors said they may seek a sentence reduction if he continues to cooperate, but to date have not done so.

In court documents, Birkenfeld lawyer Robert Stickney said the ex-banker is “ready, willing and able to cooperate further with the government.” However, no meetings have been held since his August sentencing.

Birkenfeld, a U.S. citizen who lived in Switzerland for 15 years, has been described as the single most important informant in the U.S. probe of tax evasion and secrecy at UBS and other banks. Armed with his disclosures, U.S. officials reached a deferred prosecution agreement with UBS last February in which the bank agreed to pay a \$780 million fine and reveal names of some 150 clients.

Later in 2009, UBS agreed under U.S. pressure to release names of 4,450 wealthy Americans suspected of using secret accounts to evade billions of dollars in U.S. taxes. None of those names has been made public, but several other former UBS clients have been prosecuted in the U.S. based on the initial disclosures.

Birkenfeld, meanwhile, has applied with the Internal Revenue Service for a whistleblower reward that, if approved, could bring him tens of millions of dollars, if not more. That request remains pending.

Terrorists will adapt to any new security methods, devices

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

On Sunday, Jan. 3, travelers walked through a metal detector into the security checkpoint of the airport terminal at Newark Liberty International Airport.

It is the latest example of the dilemma that we now face; how to feel secure in a time when there is no security.

Passengers in the checkpoint waiting to board their flights, or those who had already boarded their flights, were forced to go through security again, congesting the terminal and setting back flights for several hours.

This situation unfolds just over a week after Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab decided to try to leave the American people with a very merry little Christmas gift on a Northwest Airlines flight en route to Detroit.

Of course, as Americans, we do what we always do best: we become scared and try to find a way to feel secure after our bubble bursts. There are too many issues at hand that will not allow us to be fully secured.

Just before the incident in Newark, the Transportation Security

Administration announced that passengers coming in from states that sponsor terrorism and "countries of interest" will be subject to enhanced forms of screening upon entering the U.S. These enhanced screenings would include full-body pat-downs, carry-on bag searches, full-body scanning and explosive detection technology.

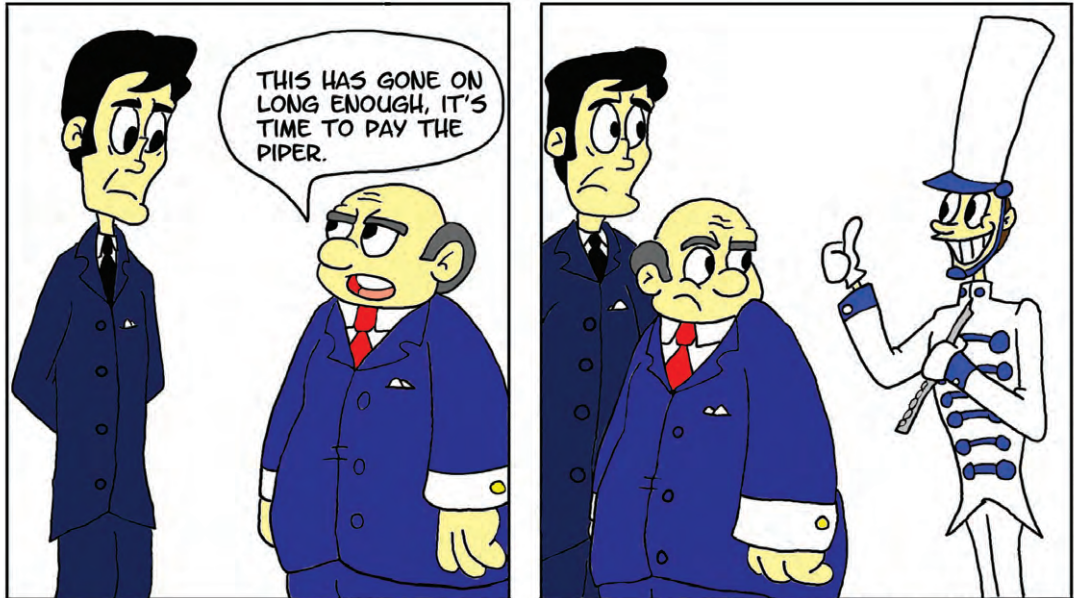
Countries on this list include a venerable who's who of terrorist harboring nations including Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen.

All those traveling into the U.S. are also subject to possible random extensive methods. It's a good start in terms of security but it's fair to note that individuals flying on domestic, not international, flights were used to execute the most deadly terrorist attack on American soil on Sept. 11, 2001.

In an Associated Press article dated Jan. 1, 2010, Michael Boyd, an airline industry analyst, stated that pat-downs done by TSA agents for domestic flights can be highly ineffective.

"To have people hold up their arms and just pat them — like I'm really going to carry a bomb there.

BAND-AID



You know where you're going to put it and no one's going to go there," Boyd said.

Abdulmutallab hid the explosives he was carrying near his genitals. Usually, screeners lightly tap a passenger's arms, legs and clothing. TSA agents won't even go near these areas in fear of possible lawsuits and complaints.

It was noted in the same AP article that these pat-downs are not nearly as thorough as police pat-downs, which include checking areas such as the buttocks and groin.

The article also includes a list of "do's and don'ts" established in 2004 for TSA agents, including no touching of female passengers between their breasts. Enhanced

pat-downs including crotch grabbing and breast searches can now be used on an extremely limited basis if a suspect continues to fail going through security.

Low and behold, *The Washington Post* is now reporting that there is a possible new solution: the full body scans. These devices can take X-ray-like images of people passing through them and can reveal objects that people have beneath their clothes.

Forty units have been installed at 19 airports including Regan National and Baltimore-Washington, while 150 new units will be installed around the country within the next few months.

Rest assured, though. The images are sent to another room

in the airport while sensitive areas of the body are censored to those making inspections.

"There's a way to beat it. It's called a 'booty bomb,' where you actually insert the explosive inside the human being and then you detonate the explosive with a cell phone," said James Carafano, a homeland security expert from the Heritage Foundation.

The conclusion then is simple; terrorists adapt. There are always new ways to complete your objective. The other fact that becomes more and more evident in this post 9/11 world is that you can't secure security. Human error, as seen on Dec. 25, 2009, or old-fashioned complacency, as seen on Sept. 11, 2001, will always have us at risk.

Obama climate reform falls short in Copenhagen

ANA AROCHA
Staff Writer

What could have resulted in great publicity and even greater support for President Obama, whose approval ratings have been swiftly dropping, resulted in the exact opposite due to his impatience.

This past December, President Obama met with other world leaders in Copenhagen, Denmark to decide on a legally binding treaty that would succeed the Kyoto Protocol come its expiration in 2012.

The Protocol is linked to the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

After two weeks of negotiations, instead of extending his stay in Denmark, Obama assembled a group of world leaders from China, India, Brazil and South Africa and settled a deal that fell short of the expectations set for the Copenhagen Conference.

The one thing he did succeed in was disappointing the general public as well as that of the other 20 countries not included in

the negotiations.

Under the accord, developing nations would be provided with \$10 billion a year for three years to help them develop clean energy and to deal with droughts, floods, and other impacts of climate change.

Also, all countries would have to produce their individual plans for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

But the deal is not legally binding to any nation and does not commit them to emission cuts capable of creating any actual global change. In fact, the cuts already agreed upon would not help avoid any potentially dangerous effects of global warming.

The U.S. plans on reducing emissions by 17 percent from the 2005 levels and China plans a cut of 40 to 45 percent from the same year. These two countries are the world's largest carbon polluters.

In 2007, China alone was responsible for two-thirds of the global carbon dioxide emissions. Both countries were expected to pledge larger cuts seeing as they produce the most pollution.

In addition, the Chinese government

"The deal is not legally binding to any nation and does not commit them to emission cuts capable of creating any actual global change."

refuses international monitoring of its emissions. Obama was criticized for not being more proactive nor offering more cuts despite his involvement in negotiating the accord.

The executive director of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo, believes the accord is not enough and that the job of the world leaders is not done.

"We have seen a year of crises, but today it is clear that the biggest one facing humanity is a leadership crisis," he said.

In fact, other world leaders included in the conference were not exactly happy with this accord. Leaders of Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela attacked the accord, saying that it would not help global warming

and that it was secretly negotiated by only five of the 25 nations.

"A gross violation has been committed today against the poor, against the tradition of transparency and participation of equal footing for all parties of the convention and against common sense," said Sudanese ambassador Lumumba Di-Aping.

In their haste to call the conference a "success" for completing its goal of developing a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, Obama and his peers only succeeded in isolating other nations.

This non-binding treaty will only serve as avoidable protocol, not as a potential cure for global warming.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

WINNER/LOSER



Google announced today the premiere of its first smart phone, the Nexus One. Running on the latest Android 2.1 software, it's roughly the same size of the iPhone. It also has greater processing speed and higher screen resolution than the iPhone.



Gilbert Arenas, point guard for the Washington Wizards learned an important lesson in common sense after pulling out weapons in the locker room last December. His excuse; he was just kidding around.

OPINIONPIECE

150

The amount of full body scan X-ray machines to be installed in airports by the end of spring.

QUOTATIONATION

"I look forward to working with members of the House, the Senate and President Obama to reconcile our bills and send the final legislation to the president's desk as soon as possible."

Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker of the House on healthcare reform

PANEL PANEL

New series resurrects the Captain

In 1985 the fastest man alive, The Flash, ran himself to death trying to save an infinite number of earths from total destruction. And in 1992, Superman was beaten to death by a horrible monster named Doomsday.

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

These are just two names from the extremely large list of superheroes that end up dying just to sell comics.

The issues that told the story of these deaths sold out nationally - the latter brought Superman and his tragic end to TV screens and local news stations across the world. With all of the success the death of heroes brings to the comic book industry, people tend to overlook the strangest part - that they keep coming back.

The most current example involves Captain America who died in 2007 during the finale of the Marvel Comics story arc, *Civil War*. Captain America was the highest selling comic book of March that year. After his death, many fans complained that no one would be able to fill the role of the super heroic patriot, and yet Marvel decided to put Captain America's old sidekick, Bucky, in the role. For three years, Bucky has been the Captain and gained the loyalty of lots of old Captain America fans.

This makes me wonder why the company has decided to revive the original Captain. The story of his return is told in a six-issue, limited series entitled *Captain America: Reborn*, with the biggest part of it all being told in a single issue one-shot called *Captain America: Who Will Wield The Shield?*

Both the series and the one-shot have their merits as comics. The art is interesting, intriguing and is prominent when comparing the gritty realism in *Reborn* with the classic style in *WWTS*, which is akin to comic art of the 60s and 70s. The writing is compelling too. Team-ups of classic Cap villains and allies partaking in giant action scenes make it all feel like a summer blockbuster.

Despite these good qualities though, it's hard for a fan to not feel swayed in the purchase of these comics. Comic book companies have often been accused of murdering heroes for the sake of sensationalism and strong sales. This is reinforced by the fact that, when fans complain, they resurrect the heroes in multiple series' which readers need to buy in order to get a story involving their favorite characters.

The rebirth of Captain America seems to be falling into this trend and is even doing a sloppy job of it. *WWTS* comes out before the final issue of *Reborn* does, even though the former is supposed to be an epilogue to the entire story. One might say that this was due to Marvel's rush to get content out to the fans who want to buy these issues whether it's in order or not.

In the end, the true merit of Captain America's return can only be judged in the long run after seeing what the character is used for. Until then, *Captain America: Reborn* and its aftermath are entertaining reads for fans of the hero, but the issues do not deserve the grandeur that Marvel is hyping them with.

Panel Panel is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Penton. Look for it every Wednesday.

ART ON THE OUTSIDE

The Wolfsonian-FIU will soon allow prospects to see just what the museum has to offer before even stepping foot inside.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

JANET CAREAGA Staff Writer

An exhibition called "The Art of Illumination," which will use lighting and digital technology to expand the museum's reach and visibility, will use its exterior walls.

"People are very visual and it will make it another attraction that will be known on South Beach along with its other allures of nightlife, the beach and dining," said Maria Rodriguez, a junior majoring in advertising. "It's a great idea to bring in new crowds and invite the regulars to see the place through a different perspective."

Located on 10 Street and Washington Avenue, The Wolfsonian is FIU's museum and research center in the heart of Miami Beach.

The building itself does not have that fun South Beach look. In fact, it is formerly a storage building, in a bright light city that, according to Director Cathy Leff, conveys a message of "go away."

That message is contrary to what The Wolfsonian wants to display, which is why it has planned to turn the building

inside out.

"The purpose is to convey images on the outside so people know what is inside. We want the energy from within to project outside and give identity to the building, but also to provide and engage with a broader community using design," Leff said.

The concept was created by a lighting designer from New York back in 2005, but the project never moved forward due to lack of funding. Thanks to a recent \$500,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the museum will finally have the funds needed.

The Knight Foundation is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization incorporated in the state of Florida since 1990 when it moved from Akron, Ohio. The Knight Foundation invests millions of dollars in making art accessible to the community.

The "Art of Illumination" project proposal was one of three The Wolfsonian submitted and one of 20 submitted by South Florida cultural institutions and artists. It was awarded the second highest grant.

It will take three years to complete. The displays will come in different

formats: interactive, digital, photographs, video and moving text.

"Other well-known buildings, like the *New York Times* building in New York by architect Renzo Piano, have similar displays that bring attention to them," said Daniel Quindemil, a senior majoring in architecture. "It will help The Wolfsonian stand out and people will notice it more now."

In addition to standing out and decorating the building, the exhibition will also have educational value like the indoor exhibits.

Some of the displays will be digital reproductions of pieces already inside the museum, other contemporary works and works that show the purpose of the museum. According to Leff, it will support the role that the power of design plays in people's lives.

"It all has a basis in education and allows exhibition on exterior walls that will project to the community the richness of the content within the building," Leff said.

For more information on the upcoming "Art of Illumination" displays or other exhibitions at The Wolfsonian, visit its Web site www.wolfsonian.org.

Web site blends radio, social networking

MARGO BARTLETT Staff Writer

Last.Fm is a London based, music-oriented Web site that lets you discover new artists based on the type of music you already know and love, and to connect with people around the world who share your musical taste.

The site was created by Felix Miller and Martin Stiksel. The pair was running an online record label at the time and they wanted to find a way to share independent music with listeners.

They brought their idea for *Last.Fm* to Richard Jones who had been working to find a way to track the type of music that

he and his friends listened to the most in a project called "Autoscrobber."

Signing up and making a music profile on *Last.Fm* is free. Finding artists on the site using the search bar is easy to do.

Once you find the artist, there are many ways that you can enjoy their music.

A radio station will be created and you will be able to listen to songs from the artist that you search for, as well as similar artists.

Free MP3 downloads are also available for some artists.

As you listen to music, you can also read biograph-

YOU'RE IT



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Junior Yanet Gomez, advertising major, shoots down her opponent during a game of laser tag in the Graham Center Ballroom lawn on Jan. 4 as part of Week of Welcome.

'Scrobbling' helps site users keep track of their favorites

LAST.FM, page 5

ical information about the artist and watch music videos, which are broken down into genres.

Links to iTunes, Amazon and eBay are available so that you may purchase a song or album. User-created groups are found on the artist's page as well.

A feature called "scrobbling" allows the songs you listen to on your computer to be synced with your *Last.fm* music profile. It will show you the types of music that you listen to the most and other users will be able to see those songs.

For those who love to attend concerts, the events section will provide current and future performances by your favorite artists.

You can search by artist name, venue or date. Most events have links available to ticket vendors.

Last.Fm is not just a music site; it is also part social networking site. It is available in 12 different languages and accessible around the world.

The community section provides users with a way to stay connected via forums and groups that they can create.

Members can post questions and provide tips to other users. You can also follow *Last.Fm* on Twitter and Facebook.

There are also *Last.Fm* applications available for download to your iPhone or iPod touch, although scrobbling directly from devices is not available.

The site was recently made available for use on Xbox Live by Gold members.

The software that *Last.Fm* uses must be downloaded to your computer.

This proves to be very vital because even if your browser crashes, you will still be able to enjoy its features.



The Web site is very easy to use. Any help you may need can be found in the FAQs section, which provides answers to a number of problems a user could incur.

If the solution to the problem is not there, posting the question in the forum is another option.

Last.Fm is a fun, versatile way to listen to the music that you love and the music that you have yet to discover.

It brings people together from all over the world who want to share and enjoy music.

The Beacon does not receive free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.



studentmedia

at florida international university

Get up to the minute news coverage,
instant sports updates,
what's new in student life,
music and talk shows,
event photo galleries and more.

fiusm.com the news never stops,
and nor do we.



A FORUM FOR FREE STUDENT EXPRESSION
MONDAY * WEDNESDAY * FRIDAY





BRINGING INDEPENDENT AND UNDERGROUND MUSIC TO YOU



OLD HIP-HOP MONDAYS
ELECTRONIC TUESDAYS
METAL AND 80S WEDNESDAYS
CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE ROCK THURSDAYS
DANCE FRIDAYS
STREET HIP-HOP SATURDAYS
WORLD SUNDAYS

RADIATE FM
THE RADIOACTIVE UNDERGROUND • 88.1 • 95.3 • 96.9

Florida International University, Modesto Maidique Campus,
GC 210, Miami, FL 33199 * 305-348-2709

Diversions

B.
Y.
O.
B.

	9			2		1
6		8	5	4		9
7		3		8	4	6
2				5	3	
	5	1			6	4
			4	1		8
1		2	6		3	5
4			7	1	9	2
	7		2			6

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers in Friday's issue.

Diversions is back! Be sure to check it out every Wednesday.

FIU MEN VS. ULM @ 7 P.M., JAN. 7

Team seeks consistency at home

JOEY CRUZ
Staff writer

Entering the thick of the conference schedule, FIU coach Isiah Thomas and the Golden Panthers will face the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Thursday, Jan. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. FIU is 4-13 on the season, while ULM holds on to a 6-9 record.

FIU and ULM both share a 1-3 record in the Sun-Belt conference. After losing back-to-back conference games (South Alabama and New Orleans), the Golden Panthers will look to bounce back at

home and finally attain that elusive second conference win.

ULM is just 1-7 on the road, which should give the Golden Panthers a chance to come away with a victory against the Warhawks. Thomas has stated earlier this season that his team would like to establish a coveted home court advantage, but have not been able to create that thus far with just two wins in five contests at home.

Three-point shooting will be key in the contest as FIU shoots a poor 26 percent from beyond the arc, while ULM shoots at a steady 38 percent clip.

Forwards Marlon Bright and J.C. Otero have been forced to play inside positions due to crippling injuries. The already undersized Golden Panthers must crash the boards and attempt to out rebound their opponent, in this case the SBC leaders in rebounding margin. The Warhawks hit the boards with Rudy Turner and Timmie Sykes, who both snatch over five rebounds a game.

Another aspect of the game the Golden Panthers struggle with is winning the turnover battle. FIU is averaging 13 turnovers a game, but are also stealing the ball eight times a game. ULM is struggling in

the turnover category with 17 a game, fitting right into FIU's ability to generate takeaways.

ULM starting point guard Tony Hooper is averaging a team-high 14 points per game, leading a Warhawks offense that averages 72.8 points per game.

Marvin Roberts, who leads the Panther offense with 16 points per contest, is looking to take charge against a Warhawks defense that has struggled this season to stop Sun-Belt opponents.

Last year, the Warhawks slammed FIU 81-64 at ULM in the only match up between the two teams.

Sleepers highlight offensive commits

RECRUITING, page 8

(West Virginia), but came up short.

South Dade sleeper J.J. Worton had a very good senior season and has gotten FIU's attention, but no offer has been reported. FIU has no public commitments, but the position is not a main priority given the youth and depth there entering next season.

The Golden Panthers will rely on continued development from underclassmen Wayne Times, Rocky Vann, Jarius Williams and Jacob Younger, and expect to have a fully recovered Junior Mertile,

who missed most of last season after knee surgery but had 26 catches in 2008.

T.Y. Hilton, Greg Ellingson, and Ty Frierson are the strength of the deep group.

With likely no incoming tight ends, Colt Anderson, Dudley Laporte, and Jonathan Faucher will duke it out for the starting position.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The offensive line is arguably the biggest need for FIU coming into 2010, and locals David Delsoin and Stanley St. Jean are currently committed as reinforcement.

Delsoin has coveted size at

the position (6'6", 270 lbs) and St. Jean is considered a raw but athletic prospect with considerable upside.

Seniors Mario Caraballo, Brad Serini, and Cedric Mack are likely to start inside, along with Rupert Bryan and Dave Istanich at the tackle spots, but FIU does not boast proven backups at any position on the line.

Blustein said Delsoin is a sleeper with massive potential, and people shouldn't look into the fact that he played against a low level of competition at Sheridan Hills high.

"(Delsoin) is going to be another kid that people don't

know anything about but are going to see him in two years and wonder how he flew under the radar," Blustein said.

Bryan and Istanich showed that playing time is more than available to first year players at FIU, so Delsoin and St. Jean should be thrust into the competition immediately as Cristobal searches for consistency on his offensive line.

Recruiting Roundup is a weekly column looking in depth at the Golden Panthers 2010 recruiting class, leading up to National Signing Day on February 3. Next up: Defense.

Golden Panthers showing prowess on defensive end

WOMEN, page 8

with a lengthy list of injuries. During a game against Georgia Tech on December 29, senior Marquita Adley returned to play from a shoulder injury, but unfortunately Rakia Rodgers went down with an MCL sprain in her left knee during that same game.

The sophomore, who transferred from Hofstra, was playing in just her fourth game of the season after sitting out the first nine games due to NCAA transfer regulations and will now be out another 4-6 weeks.

We continue to be frustrated with our injury situation and we can't get a break.

Cindy Russo, Head coach

"We continue to be frustrated with our injury situation and we can't get a break," said Russo. "We're hoping to have Marquita play some minutes and help us out while we face more injuries."

Aside from the frustrations, Russo is pleased that her team's defense continues to improve.

SWAT TEAM

Center Maja Krajacic has been a solid starter in her junior year, blocking almost three shots per game.

The 6-foot-4 defensive machine currently paces the Golden Panthers and leads the conference for shots swatted with 36 and ranks 18th in the entire nation for that statistical category.

Right on Krajacic's heel is Elisa Carey, who has also continued to show her effectiveness on defense by averaging 2.0 blocked shots and 9.3 rebounds per game, which is good for third and fourth in the SBC, respectively.

It's 2010. Why would you buy your textbooks?

Rent your textbooks from
BookRenter.com and save up to **75%**.

SAVE ANOTHER
\$500!
Use Code:
"5Bucks"

- ✓ Free Premium shipping both ways
- ✓ Next-day shipping available on most orders
- ✓ Highest quality books, all U.S. editions
- ✓ 3 million titles, almost all guaranteed in stock
- ✓ 5 rental periods and guaranteed delivery dates



BookRenter.com™

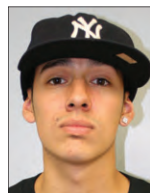
RECRUITING ROUNDUP

FIU WOMEN VS ULM @ 7 P.M.

Promise seen with new verbal commits

Just one year after generating buzz with a surprising five win season in 2008, the Golden Panthers suffered a 3-9 campaign in 2009. An under performing defense was compounded by a slew of injuries that held the team back for much of the season.

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS

Although the season was a setback in many ways, FIU continues to impress on the recruiting trail as it relates to the Sun Belt conference.

Head coach Mario Cristobal is in the process of putting together his third consecutive class ranked among the top three in the SBC, according to rivals.com.

While the incoming class, based on nonbinding verbal commitments, is not ranked in the top half nationally, it is easily considered to be among the best in the conference.

Miami Herald recruiting analyst Larry Blustein said there is a lot to like about the list of future Golden Panthers.

"I think they are doing better than most would think," he said. "They have some players, that if they pan out, could play anywhere in the country."

No longer hampered by NCAA sanctions, FIU has its full allotment of 25 scholarships in 2010 and trails only Troy in conference class ranking roughly a month before signing day.

Recruiting Roundup will be taking an in depth look at FIU's class every week until signing day on February 3. A look at FIU's current verbal commitments on offense and how they affect the outlook of the depth chart:

QUARTERBACK

Fletcher High signal caller Jake Medlock will likely be the only quarterback FIU brings in for this class.

A three-star prospect on the rivals five-star scale, Medlock held scholarship offers from Virginia and Arkansas before verbally committing to FIU.

Medlock processes solid height (6-foot-2), in addition to a strong arm and plus mobility, but suffered a serious shoulder injury that forced him to miss most of the 2009 season.

The injury has not wavered FIU's interest, however, and Blustein says Medlock "could be the steal of the entire recruiting season."

According to Blustein, Medlock is one of the top five quarterback prospects in the state who

NAME	POS	SCHOOL
 Jake Medlock QB Fletcher H.S. Medlock is a prospect who looks impressive on film, and possesses impressive arm strength to go along with his adequate size for the position. If he can recover from a torn labrum that sidelined him during his senior season, he could end up being one of the better players in this class.	David Delsoin OL Sheridan Hills H.S.	Kedrick Rhodes RB Trinity Catholic H.S. Rhodes is a all-around player who excels at catching the football out of the backfield, and plays bigger than he is. With good lateral quickness, Rhodes does not have blazing speed but is deceptive.
Stanley St. Jean OL Miami Central H.S.		

"physically and mentally has to the tools to have a tremendous impact."

If healthy, Medlock could challenge for the starting gig in 2010, but more likely, Medlock will be groomed as the successor to ballyhooed junior transfer Wesley Carroll.

Hillsborough High quarterback Tarean Austin is also in the fold, as he is set to take an official visit to FIU on January 15th. Austin is also considering New Mexico, South Florida, Iowa State and Purdue, among others.

RUNNING BACK

FIU was dealt a blow when three-star back Casey Turner removed his FIU commitment in December and gave his oral pledge to Rutgers, but there is still plenty to like about the only

back that runs well and runs hard" and is coming into an FIU spread offense that is similar to what he was a part of in high school.

FIU coaches were pleased with the emergence of sophomore Kendall Berry late in the season, but Darriet Perry had a disappointing sophomore campaign and was banged up for much of the year. Ideally, Perry, Rhodes, Darrian Mallary or Syracuse transfer Jeremiah Harden would emerge as a capable replacement in the rotation to replace the departed Daunte Owens.

"Last year they went for the smaller back (Mallary) and he did ok, but [Rhodes] is very well schooled and coached."

WIDE RECEIVER/ TIGHT END

Loaded with quality depth at the position,

I think he's going to be very good. He comes from a team that is well coached and is coming into a system not unlike what Cristobal runs

Larry Blustein, Miami Herald recruiting analyst on FIU verbal commitment Kedrick Rhodes

remaining committed running back in the class, three-star player Kedrick Rhodes.

The 5-foot-10 all-purpose threat from Trinity Catholic compiled nearly 1,700 yards as a junior, and will look for carries in a crowded backfield in 2010. Blustein noted that Rhodes "is a bigger

FIU still sought out local stars such as Northwestern High's Michael Harris (Louisville commit), Booker T Washington's Quito Dunbar (Florida), and Pahokee's Fred Pickett

RECRUITING, page 7

As injuries mount, FIU prepares for Sun Belt foe

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After matching last year's win total midway through this season with six, the FIU women's basketball team might feel relieved.

However, the Golden Panthers will try to overcome their longest losing streak of the season, which is currently at three, as they host Sun-Belt conference opponent Louisiana-Monroe on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

FIU (6-9, 1-3 Sun-Belt) is coming off a 46-39 loss to Sun-Belt conference opponent New Orleans.

The defeat marked the team's lowest scoring output of the season, which was previously 48 points against Denver on December 14.

"We couldn't hit anything," said FIU head coach Cindy Russo. "We took some good shots but few would fall for us."

Meanwhile, Louisiana-Monroe (7-7, 1-3 SBC) is also coming off a loss, which was against conference opponent Arkansas-Little Rock.

Jesse Carrier is the Warhawks' main threat, averaging 11.4 and 4.0 rebounds per game.

The guard also leads her team in three-point field goals made with 26.

Louisiana-Monroe ranks fourth overall in the SBC West division standings while FIU sits in last place in the East.

The Warhawks are averaging 60.5 points per game and giving up 63.2 to their opponents while the Golden Panther offense totals just over 62 points, which is good for seventh place in the conference.

Monika Bosilj is currently leading FIU in scoring with 11.3 points per game. The senior needs just eight more treys to capture the school record for career three-point field goals made.

FIU continues to struggle this season

WOMEN, page 7

SWIMMING & DIVING

Golden Panthers finish 5th in FIU Invitational

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team hosted one event and competed in another at FAU, seeing some success during the winter break.

FAU INVITATIONAL

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team competed on Dec. 18 at the FAU Invitational against conference rival Florida Atlantic, Clemson, Northwestern and Findley.

Several Golden Panthers had successful

meets, including Namiko Shibata who finished first in the 1-meter springboard and third in the 3-meter springboard.

Two FIU freshmen posted career highs in the 1000 yard freestyle with Krissy Metka finishing eighth for the Golden Panthers, clocking in at a career-best 11:02:92 while Lauren Smith touched in at 11:19:50 for a tenth place finish.

Kayla Derr, who finished ninth in the 1000 yard freestyle, led the way for the Golden Panthers in the 500 yard freestyle, coming in 11th place with a time of 5:22:47.

The No.1 FIU squads finished ninth in the 400 yard medley relay and the 200 yard free-

style relay while the No. 2 squads finished 11th in both events.

FIU INVITATIONAL

The squad returned to action on Jan. 3 to begin 2010 in the FIU Invitational as the Golden Panthers hosted American University, Air Force Academy, Carnegie Mellon, Eastern Michigan, Illinois State and Northern Iowa.

"It was a great opportunity to open the new year and it's a great set up for our athletes to compete against some of the top teams in the country," said Coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia. "It's the perfect tune up for the rest of the season and

it's exciting to see what some of our players are capable of."

The Golden Panthers finished fourth in the 500 yard freestyle relay in addition to a sixth-place finish in the 200 yard butterfly relay and a seventh-place finish in the 400 yard medley relay.

Eastern Michigan compiled 118 points to finish first for the afternoon. FIU would come in fifth with 18 points.

FIU returns to action on Jan. 8 at 2 P.M. as they host Indian River State College and Brown and then takes on FAU on Jan. 9 in Boca Raton.