Contract negotiation angers faculty

By LUIS NIN
Copy Editor

A mass of angry faculty members crowded into the Graham Center Ballroom to attend the Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 23. Distressed over the administration's new contract proposals – which they feel would give FIU's management complete authority over matters traditionally negotiated through collective bargaining – the teachers' union arranged for more than 200 professors to attend the meeting.

But the crowd didn’t last long. After Alan Gummerson, the president of the teachers' union, addressed the Board of Trustees with the faculty's complaints only to receive almost no reaction from the board, the professors walked out of the meeting in protest. The ballroom was left empty, and the board proceeded to conduct business as usual amid a sea of vacant seats.

According to a statement made during the meeting by Bruce Hauptli, chair-person of the Faculty Senate, several factors have lead to the tension between faculty and administration.

"Over the past two months, I have been approached by a diverse group of faculty members and others within the university community," he said. "These individuals have expressed the strongest of concerns regarding the administration of, and the leadership of, the university. It would be a serious misrepresentation to state that the apprehensions relate solely, or even primarily, to collective bargaining."

During the meeting, the administration presented proposals that would radically change the way contract negotiations are conducted.

According to FIU’s teachers’ union, which is a member of the United Faculty of Florida, the university's new negotiations would include several controversial proposals, like the establishment of a program to evaluate the performance of tenured faculty every five years. If their performance falls below a standard, management would reserve the right to terminate employment.

Another controversial policy would give the Board of Trustees the exclusive right to determine curriculum, programs, degrees and instructional materials.

Tiring of the tension caused by these proposals, FIU President modesto A. Maidique referred to the fact that this contract will be the first negotiated and structured solely by the university.

"It’s the first time that we have collective bargaining, right here at the local level between FIU and the unions that represent our faculty and all our staff. This is the first time that we have had that run, it has always been directed at the state level. This is the first time that FIU personal policies can actually be treated directly to meet the needs of this particular community and this particular university," said FIU President modesto A. Maidique in an address during the board meeting. "I absolutely believe that any new experience and period of change that occurs with it brings along a lot of excitement, uncertainty and concern, but also brings a huge amount of opportunity."

However, not everyone agreed that the administration properly handled the complaints against the contract negotiations.

"Unfortunately, there was basically no response [from the administration.]. When the president came after Bruce Hauptli spoke, there was basically no response about the problem. The administration doesn’t seem too worried about that; they seem to be more worried about the medical school than anything else," said astronomy professor James Webb.

Administrators, though, state that they have given the faculty's concerns the appropriate attention.

"This board is absolutely committed to academic freedom. I want to reaffirm this board's unequivocal commitment to tenure," Maidique said.

"We are not going to change tenure here at FIU. The process is going to stay the same. Tenured faculty are going to have the same array of rights and protections that they have had and that they have traditionally enjoyed." Despite President Maidique’s reassurances, the faculty remains skeptical of the administration’s intentions.

In his address to the board, Gummerson stated that the administration is attempting to remove faculty rights and protections from the bargain ing agreement and trying to place them in a policy it cannot enforce.

Still, despite all the protests and accusations, Provost Mark Rosenberg was not surprised by these concerns.

"This is a negotiation which we would acknowledge is a little more difficult than we expected or hoped for, but it is a negotiation," he told The Beacon. "I’m anxious to see a resolution so that we can get back to the business at hand: the education and training of students."

Film showcase explores Israeli/Palestinian conflicts

By ASRA JAWAID
Staff Writer

Junior Aury Garcia didn’t know much about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the Middle East before this past summer.

That’s when an International Solidarity Movement volunteer did an on-campus presentation about the current state of Palestinian life, which many believe has worsened as the states of Israel and Palestine continue disputes over land.

Inspired by the volunteer and her presentation, Garcia and another FIU student, Pablo Avendano, began a new club at FIU known as Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights.

"I wasn’t really educated much on the issue until [the volunteer] came. Then I realized … I should learn more," Garcia said.

SUPER’s mission statement, which can be read on their website (www.superfu.com), is to foster a commitment to the struggle against occupation and colonialism and to the advocacy of human rights, specifically as it relates to Palestinians living under what they consider Israeli occupation.

During this inaugural semester, SUPER has been showing monthly movies in a type of extended film festival documenting differences between the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

On Oct. 26, the club presented a movie entitled “Promises,” by Jewish director B.Z. Goldberg, which presented contrasts between Israeli and Palestinian views on the Middle East. During the film, the audience and presenters were able to ask questions and express their opinions.

After the movie was shown, the audience was able to ask questions and express their opinions about the film.

"It was really helpful to be able to ask questions and express our opinions," Garcia said.

"This is an important topic and it’s great that we’re able to have this discussion and learn more about it," Avendano said.

See SUPER, page 2

POLITICS ON FILM: A scene from the documentary "Jenin, Jenin," shown by the Students for Palestinian Equal Rights as part of their monthly film fest.
Polaroid Baghdad mosque uncovers car bomb workshop

A mosque raided by security forces in southern Baghdad contained a workshop to rig suicide car bombs, with seven vehicles ready for terror attacks, an Iraqi Defense Ministry official said Sunday.

National Guard forces raided the Sunni Muslim Al-Yassen Mosque in the southern Baghdad area of Abu Duhur on Saturday, said Gen. Saleh Tahhan of the Defense Ministry. In addition to seven cars pre- rigged with explosives, the guardsmen found 30 rocket-propelled grenades, high-powered rifles, mortars and remote control detonators, Tahhan said.

Anti-U.S. insurgents used some 60 mosques in the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, to stockpile weapons and provide cover during a U.S.- led offensive against the city earlier this month, the U.S. military says. One of the mosques was described as a general arms depot capable of equipping insurgents across much of Iraq. Both Sunni and Shiite Muslim clerics are deeply opposed to the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, and many Sunni clerics also reject elections scheduled for Jan. 30.

In addition, a car bomb had exploded on a perilous road leading to Baghdad's airport, wounding two U.S. soldiers and damaging a military vehicle, a military statement said.

Insurgents also lobbed mortars near a police station in Baquba, a city 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, police said. Two officers and a woman were wounded.

The deadliest attack this week, insurgents in Mosul rose up in a bloody campaign against civilians. Security forces found 17 bodies around the city on Friday, and 15 on Thursday.

Last week, Basra police arrested two Saudis, two Tunisians, a Sudanese and a Libyan who allegedly arrived in the city from Fallujah to carry out a bombing campaign.

Patriotic children live through each other’s nightmare

This month’s movie, shown on Nov. 23, was “Jenin, Jenin,” a documen tary of interviews with Palestinian refugees.

To promote “Jenin, Jenin,” SUPER set up a table in the University Park’s Library Colon nade from 10:00 a.m until 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 22 with pamphlets about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

“We had a few people who were very surprised and happy to see us there,” Garcia said.

According to Aven dano, the movies were chosen to educate students and open up a forum.

SUPER is currently discussing the possibility of bringing a forum with other relevant clubs on campus to address issues concerning human rights, other occupations around the world and the media’s interpretation of the violence in Israel and Palestine.

The organization has received the support of FIU’s Muslim Student Association but hasn’t heard from the Jewish Student Union.

Next semester, SUPER plans to continue its movie showcase.

In addition, the club is seeking to bring two speaking tours, “Wheels of Justice” and “Stop the Wall,” that will soon be in the Miami area.

“Wheels of Justice” is comprised of peace activists who tour the country and discuss the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“They do teachings which are educational workshops about the conflicts,” Garcia said.

According to club members, SUPER has moved with much success. “Currently SUPER has about 70 people on its listings,” Avendano said.

“The number of consistent meeting attendees fluctuates between 10 and 15.”

Although Garcia is the official club president, she says that the club tries to make all members in the group feel like equals.

“We operate on consensus to there’s no real need for hierarchy,” Avendano said.

Most of the events were held with the United Nations’ International Day of Palestine: Solidarity on Nov. 29.

According to the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation at www.endtheoccupation.org, the division for Palestinian Rights at the U.N. annually observes this day, which is the anniversary of the adop tion of the 1947 Parti tion Plan.

SUPER meetings are held every Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. in CP 101 at the University Park campus.

To receive e-mails about future events, write to superfi atiscup.net.
GET UP TO **50% BACK** FOR YOUR TEXTBOOKS IF THEY ARE USED AGAIN NEXT TERM.

INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF LOWER PRICED USED TEXTBOOKS FOR OTHER STUDENTS.

CLICK ON www.fiu.bkstore.com TO SEE IF YOUR FACULTY IS REUSING YOUR BOOKS. YOU CAN GET UP TO **50% BACK**.

Florida International University Bookstore
Graham Center
University Park Campus
Miami, FL 35174
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With finals around the corner, how high would you say your level of terror is?
• Low – I could sleep through them and still get As – no studying.
• Elevated – I’m concerned but not stressed – 6 hours of studying.
• High – I’ll lose sleep – 12 hours of studying.
• Severe – Death is the only way out – 20+ hours of studying.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Paralysis princess: A South Korean woman became the first patient with spinal cord injuries to be treated successfully with stem cells, walking again after 20 years of paralysis. Take that Dubya.

LOSER
Lava Loony: In a classic example of Darwinism, the Washington man was found dead after allegedly heating a lava lamp on a stove top, causing it to explode and shoot shards of glass into his heart.

QUOTABLES

“He was pretty well dressed and had a pocket full of money. All I wanted to do was beat him up and rob him... seemed like a good idea at the time.” – Aaron McKinney, one of two men who killed Matthew Shepard in 1998, claiming that he attacked the student for drug money, not because Shepard was gay.

“If you noticed on ‘The Swan’ that after all that plastic surgery, most of the women look like drag queens?” – Clinton Kelley, host of TLC’s “What Not To Wear,” on competing makeover show “The Swan,” on which contestants not only are told what to wear, but also given a great deal of plastic surgery.

“Just for a moment imagine the media hysteria and global outrage if 25 million Americans, many of them children, died from a treatable disease because medicine was too costly... this is exactly what is happening throughout sub-Saharan Africa.” – Alecia Keys, singer and songwriter, in a message calling on people (gravitate) to things that project an image of wealth, glamour, sex and easy living. It has hurt the industry.

Everyone should pay more attention to what one watches, listens to and repeats. Be careful when you say, “I’m a pimp.” The question is, are you really, and if so, what kind are you?

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beacon@fiu.edu. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

Casual use of ‘pimp’ raises questions

By BREANNA TURNLEY

What thought comes to mind when the phrase “I’m a pimp” rolls off the lips? It’s an image that has led to controversy over whether it is positive or negative. The modern definition of a pimp is that of a controlling man who objectifies women and forces them to prostitute themselves as a means of bringing in money for himself, giving the women a small portion of their earnings. As times have changed, so has the image of the pimp.

Rap artists Nelly, 50 Cent and Snoop Dogg have been active participants in the evolution of the pimp image. 50 Cent’s ever-popular song “P.I.M.P.” has been heard on radio stations everywhere. Nelly has created an energy drink called Pimp Juice and has even used P.I.M.P. to stand for the Positive Intellectual Motivated Person Scholars program he started in conjunction with Fillmore Street Brewery, the company behind his energy drink.

The scholarship is designed to aid college students, who deserve recognition for their hard work in academics and extracurricular activities. A portion of the sales goes toward his charity foundation 4Sho4Kids.

The pimp image that most of our parents think of is negative. But the modern-day pimp is a high roller with self-confidence, power and an over-the-top fashion sense. Deshawn Hunt of Marietta, a sophomore sociology/criminal justice major at Dillard University in New Orleans, defined a pimp as a person who has a lot of females and a lot of money, and is very popular.

Dillard sophomore and history/pre-law major from Baton Rouge, La., Tressa Thomas said a pimp was someone with a lot of power. “Someone who can free-style poetry that can change your mind about the world and can sell reading glasses to a blind man because his game is so tight. He is someone who is manager, CEO and co-owner of the world’s oldest profession,” she said.

The hip-hop industry affects the hottest new fash-ion/criminal justice major at Dillard University in New Orleans, defined a pimp as a catchy slogan written all over T-shirts.

Hunt said he believes the pimp image has helped the hip-hop industry. “It has made it better. It has turned the real meaning into something positive to bring in money to the industry,” Hunt said.

Thomas said it has both helped and hurt. “It has helped the spreading of hip-hop because weak-minded people (gravitate) to things that project an image of wealth, glamour, sex and easy living. It has hurt the industry because it makes artists look ignorant, shallow and self-oriented,” she said.

In a classic example of Darwinism, the Washington man was found dead after allegedly heating a lava lamp on a stove top, causing it to explode and shoot shards of glass into his heart.
Movie downloads ruin Hollywood profits

By JAMES L. GATTUSO and NORBERT J. MICHEL
The Heritage Foundation

The debate over “moral values,” first raised in the aftermath of the 2000 presidential campaign, continues. Now it’s the appropriateness of risk ads for “Monday Night Football” and the popularity of TV’s raunchy “Desperate Housewives” that’s causing the latest heartburn.

Yet the values issue also raised itself in a much different context: the fight against the theft of intellectual property. Ironically, it is an industry that has been seen as a bastion of traditional morality that is leading the fight, filing lawsuits against individuals found illegally trading movies over the Internet.

While the move is unlikely to win the movie studios any friends, it is a justified and perhaps necessary step.

At issue is the unauthorized downloading of copyrighted material without payment to the owner. Typically, such downloading is done through “peer-to-peer,” or P2P, networks, such as “Gnutella.” These networks let users share files on their individual PCs with other network users. In this way, music, movies and virtually any other product can be quickly distributed to millions of other P2P users at no cost. According to one estimate, as of June 2004, some 8 million users were on P2P networks at any given time, sharing 10 million gigabytes of data.

The result is a massive theft of intellectual property, as users obtain works without authorization from or payment to their creators. So far, the main targets of P2P downloading have been music, for the simple reason that digitized songs are smaller and can be downloaded more easily. But the rapid proliferation of high-speed Internet access, combined with new technology to strip the content of movie files, has put the film industry at risk as well.

Video files accounted more than 30 percent of all P2P files transmitted in March 2004, up from 16 percent the same time in 2003. As many as 150,000 movies may be being traded on the Internet each day.

Starting last year, the music industry—through the Recording Industry Association of America, its trade association has been filing suits against individuals using P2P networks to share music files. The movie industry, on the other hand, opted to focus on public-awareness efforts and launched a broad campaign to educate consumers that downloading copyrighted material without paying for it is wrong.

Other proposals would extend legal liability to manufacturers of these devices. Policy-makers, however, should be extremely wary of such a regulatory approach. Any regulation of the fast-changing world of the Internet and the consumer electronics industry would likely hinder valuable innovation, as well as increase costs to consumers.

Of course, bylaws of student unions are unlikely to solve the P2P download problem. Continued education also needs to be pursued so that potential file-servers understand why the unauthorized downloading of copyrighted material, like other forms of theft, is wrong. Another part of the solution is likely to be development of new technologies that allow copyright holders to make copying protected works more difficult.

Stemming the tide of illegal downloading won’t be easy, but going after the worst offenders now, before movie downloads surpass music downloads, could prove to be a wise choice.

Protecting property rights without imposing undue limits on private markets will involve many difficult choices. Staying engaged in theft of intellectual property through file swapping, however, isn’t one of them.

Sarah Montrichard

International Relations, Sophomore

“We set up Christmas lights and decorated our apartment with tinsel and holiday pictures.”

Sarah Hall

Psychology, Senior

“I set up a small Christmas tree with singing lights and an angel that lights up in the window.”

Rachel Yorke

Biology Education, Senior

“I’m going to decorate a wall in my hall with snowflakes that I will make and have my friends sign them.”

Graduate student promotes campus involvement

By ABBAS SALEHMOMED
Contributing Writer

It was the day before Thanksgiving. As the university and the benefits that university and the students receive from or payment to their creators.

Graduate students should have their say in campus activities. Join a student organization, chair a committee, start an organization, attend a football game and help us all play an important role in representing our outstanding student body.

As I ended this column, I glanced at the pile of books on my desk and wanted to escape into tomorrow. But, on this night before Thanksgiving, I was compelled to give thanks for where I was and who I am. I am an involved graduate student. I wasn’t always like this, but now, I could not be any other way.

If you do not find an organization that appeals to you – the chances of that happening are very slim – you can start your own.

Just because we are graduate students does not mean that we cannot participate in undergraduate activities. And while undergraduate students should try harder to involve graduate students more, it is important that each one of us, graduate and undergraduate, understand that we can most effectively take advantage of the opportunities presented to us when we work together, as one student body.

I know that as graduate students, we are all very busy. But, I also realize that some papers don’t talk back to us, and that interaction is a key skill that we can all work on at this stage in our careers. Now is the time to make an impact on not only campus decisions and university policies, but also on ourselves and our fellow students.

Graduate students should take it upon themselves to play a more prominent role in student activities. We have a power base where everybody can get involved. It is a place where you can make a difference.

I strongly urge you to get involved in campus activities. Join a student organization, chair a committee, start an organization, attend a football game and help us all play an important role in representing our outstanding student body.

CAMPUS QUERY

Because you live in Housing, how will you be decorating for the holidays?

Sarah Montrichard

International Relations, Sophomore

“We set up Christmas lights and decorated our apartment with tinsel and holiday pictures.”

Sarah Hall

Psychology, Senior

“I set up a small Christmas tree with singing lights and an angel that lights up in the window.”

Rachel Yorke

Biology Education, Senior

“I’m going to decorate a wall in my hall with snowflakes that I will make and have my friends sign them.”
Local taqueria guarantees freshness and fast food

By CARLOS C. OLAECHEA
Staff Writer

It’s after midnight on a Tuesday, and you’ve just finished a late night cram session in the Green Library for your physics class. There is a strong urge emanating from deep within your stomach. The urge then acquires a voice and soon enough there’s a pounding in your ear: “hungry, gotta eat, hungry, gotta eat.” However, having lived in Miami almost all your life, you know that your choices are limited. You have Denny’s, IHOP, Starlight Diner and Rey’s Pizza. But you don’t want to sit down and wait for service at the first three, and you definitely don’t want the all-night indigestion from the latter. All you want is a good, fresh, fast and cheap bite to eat.

Luckily, Ernesto has the answer to your problem, and just in time for finals week. Ernesto’s Taco Shop (formerly Roberto’s Taco Shop), located in the heart of Kendall, is a typical Mexican style taqueria. For those unacquainted with the term, a taqueria is the precursor to that demonic American creation, Taco Bell. It is a fast food restaurant where the food is always made fresh to order.

In fact, that’s part of Ernesto’s motto: “always open, always fresh.” Yes, you heard right. Ernesto’s is open 24 hours a day, six days a week. They close at 9 p.m. on Sunday and open at 9 a.m. on Monday.

So, how does the food measure up? Honestly, at three in the morning after a long night of partying, anything tastes good. However, the cooks at Ernesto’s never fail to deliver great tasting well-executed food, even at more conventional times during the day. Their carne asada nachos ($4.95) come with shredded cheese, guacamole and sour cream, and can feed a large group. The quesadillas ($3.25 – $4.95) come in a large variety with everything from just cheese to carnitas (seasoned grilled pork). The chicken quesadilla ($3.95), which comes bland in most places, is well seasoned.

Ernesto’s also offers taquitos ($2.75 – $3.25), burritos ($4.55), crispy and soft tacos ($1.85 – $2.20), and Mexican sandwiches called tortas ($3.75 – 4.35). Ernesto’s also has combination plates ($5.45 – $6.50) with items like burritos, enchiladas and tacos. All are served with Mexican rice and refried beans. In keeping with the authenticity of the taqueria, there is a salsa bar that has green tomatillo sauce (a fiery red sauce), and spicy pickled vegetables. You don’t have to steer away from a completely Mexican meal when it comes to drinks, either. Ernesto’s offers typical Mexican drinks like horchata (sweetened, cinnamon flavored rice milk), passion fruit and tamarind juices, and Mexican soft drinks ($1.35). There are some, however, when it’s too early, or too late for that matter, to have a typical lunch or dinner-time dish. Fortunately, Ernesto’s Taco Shop serves breakfast specials that include familiar and exotic breakfast burritos and more traditional Mexican breakfast dishes like huevos rancheros (eggs with a tomato sauce).

Overall, Ernesto’s Taco Shop is quite a lifesaver when you’re confronted with a late night hunger dilemma. It’s relaxed environment also makes a great place to socialize with friends over a plate of nachos or flautas.

Ernesto’s Taco Shop – 8845 SW 107 Ave.
Kendall Mall

LUNCH: Ernesto’s Taco Shop offers fresh, fast food such as carne asada nachos and quesadillas at low, convenient prices. Julia Marchese/The Beacon

TACO’S 24/6: Ernesto’s is open to serve customers 24 hours a day, six days a week, only closing at 9 p.m. on Sunday and reopening at 9 a.m. on Monday. Julia Marchese/The Beacon
Jerky Boys album falls flat
By Luis Nin
Staff Writer

It was about two years ago when Peter Arenzo left his drumming position in the band. Arenzo was looking for a more mature and serious group to work with and had considered several options. It wasn’t until Fernando Galvez and Adolfo Dorda came into the picture that he felt a sense of belonging. Both Galvez and Dorda had heard of Arenzo’s reputation. They knew he was an accredited and competitive drummer who had held several positions on the Miami Springs Marching Band and the local Miami music scene. This match, which gave birth to the band, The Paraphone, proved to be more than a coincidence.

Ever since Galvez and Dorda brought on Arenzo as a band member, the band has played countless shows, recorded a demo and established a name for themselves in Miami. With the upcoming release of their new album, First Against The Wall, The Paraphone seems unstoppable and displays a promising future.

I got a chance to hear the album, prior to its Feb. 5, 2005 release, and to speak with drummer Arenzo about his feelings on the future.

Upon hearing the album, I was struck by the band’s original style. The first track, “Come On,” is an inviting tune with a melody that resembles a Beatles’ song. The rest of the album is comparable to anything I have ever heard. Tracks like “Melodramatic,” “Yes, I Know” and “Take It Or Leave It,” give pulse-pumping rhythms that are matched with well-written lyrics and thoughtful melodies.

However, half way through the album the songs decline in melody and lyric content. “Just Because” and “This Fish Is Dead” have introductions that seem out of place. These two songs don’t fit with the rest of the tracks and dampen what could have been a much better album.

On the last four tracks, The Paraphone’s perform themselves with songs that are similar to the first half of the album. “In Dreams,” my favorite track on the album, begins with enough effects and heavy feedback to raise the hairs on your arms. The song is very well written and possesses a quality that separates it from the rest of the album.

Arenzo said that each band member’s eclectic taste in music accounts for the band’s original sound and solid feel. He explained how the music they create is the result of a mix of different music. When listening to the album, this mix is evident and refreshing. Arenzo was happy to be out of the studio and admits that making this album was a terrific experience. He learned a lot from working with his bandmates and Tom Anthony, their sound engineer at Natural Sound Studios.

Peter said that the album is a culmination of two years’ work, and marks a new beginning for the band. He feels that they have come a long way from where they started and promises their consistent growth. The Paraphone remains optimistic about the release of First Against The Wall and continue to play shows across South Florida.


TV is ‘blitzen’ with specials

By MARISA GUTHRIE
New York Daily News

It’s that time of year - lots of shopping, cook- ing and wrapping to keep us busy. And it’s a busy season on television as well.

But none of it requires spending wads of money, lifting a finger (just a thumb on the remote) or leaving the cozy confines of the couch.

Here are some of the highlights of the holiday programming onslaught:

Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson further cement their reign as the Sonny and Cher for the new millennium with a holiday variety hour. “Nick & Jessica’s Family Christmas,” Wednesday at 8 p.m. on ABC, has Nick’s old band, 98 Degrees, reuniting for a rendition of “I’ll Be Home For Christmas,” Sunday at 8 p.m., based on Elizabeth Berg’s best seller “Say When.”

Mantegna and Jean Smart play a married couple who are skating on the brink of divorce in the CBS movie “A Very Married Christmas,” Sunday at 9 p.m., based on Elizabeth Berg’s best seller “Say When.” Mantegna plays the oblivious husband who is shocked when his wife (Smart) suddenly announces she wants to split up. Charles Durning co-stars.

NBC’s “Fear Factor” has a special holiday episode, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., in which contestants step into Santa’s boots and try to deliver presents despite the presence of vicious guard dogs.

“Groundhog Day” meets “A Christmas Carol” in USA’s “12 Days of Christmas Eve,” Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Steven Weber plays a high-powered, self-centered corporate raider and 21st-century Scrooge who is forced to relive Christ- mas Eve until he learns the true meaning of the holiday. Molly Shannon co-stars.

The Fab 5 morph into Santa’s little helpers for “A Very Queer Eye Christmas,” Dec. 7 at 10 p.m. on Bravo, taking on one family’s bad decorations, holiday cliches and gifting needs.

“A Clay Aiken Christmas,” Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. on NBC, includes the “American Idol” runn- ersup performing favorite holiday songs with Barry Manilow and gospel singer Yolanda Adams. “Will & Grace’s” Megan Mullally also stops by for a solo.

The weather outside is rarely frightful in “The O.C.,” but things inside the annual Winter Ball could be when Marissa (Mischa Barton) uses the event to publicly acknowl- edge her relationship with handsman D.J. (Nicholas Gonzalez), Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. on Fox.

Ben Stiller, Hugh Grant, Britney Spears, Jim Belushi, Brad Garrett, Leah Remini, Jerry Stiller and James Woods bring to life the animated tale of “Robbie the Reindeer: Howes of Fire,” Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. on CBS, Robbie (voiced by Ben Stiller) must train to compete in the Reindeer races against black sheep reindeer Blit- zen (Grant) for a spot on Santa’s sleigh team.

George Lopez brings his comedy to the ABC movie “Naughty or Nice,” Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. Lopez plays a sports radio jock who changes his stripes at the earliest entreaty of a young boy with a life-threatening illness. Once Lopez starts being nice, funny things start to happen, the boys health improves and so do the home teams’ scores.

Pop-culture magazine Entertainment Weekly recaps the year’s trends in “The Biggest Little Things of 2004,” Dec. 16 at 9 p.m. on Bravo. The special examines the “IPO craze,” post-Janet Jackson “censorship mania” and the “Perversion of the Family” epitomized by shows like “Desperate Housewives,” “Wife Swap” and “Family Bonds.”

“Carroll’s Christmas,” Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. on A&E; is another take on the Dickens classic. Tom Everett Scott stars as a young greengill card exec- utive visited by the ghost of a Marley (more Bob than Jacob), as well as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Verne (Mini-Me) Troyer plays the Ghost of Christmas Future and Shu Na Na is featured on the soundtrack.

Dr. Phil and his wife are back for TNT’s annual “Christmas in Washington” concert with such acts as Jojo, Michael McDon- ald, LeAnn Rimes, Ruben Studdard and Vanessa Wil- liams, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. on CBS’ “Home for the Holidays 2004,” Dec. 22 at 8 p.m., attempts to raise awareness of adoption via inspirational stories. Jamie Foxx, who was adopted, hosts the special, which includes performances by Black Eyed Peas and Ashlee Simpson.

“A Christmas Story,” Jean Shepherd’s classic tale about a boy who wants a BB gun from Santa, gets a 24-hour run on TBS start- ing at 8 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Complete your M.B.A. in only 12 months.

At the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship you can take classes in as few as two days a week and earn your degree in just 12 months. Develop unique business perspectives… Acquire the skills to succeed in today’s rapidly changing environment… And propel yourself towards an advanced degree with our one-year MBA Day program.

You’ll be taught by accomplished, doctorate-level faculty with current, real-world business expertise. You’ll also receive academic credit for internships.

Programs in Ft. Lauderdale with April and October start dates.

M.B.A. programs available in Entrepreneurship, Finance, and Health Services Administration. Other Master’s programs include Accounting and Taxation, Human Resource Management, International Business Administration, Leadership, and Public Administration.

For more information, please call 800-672-7223, ext. 5168 or visit us at www.huizenga.nova.edu

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

The Beacon wishes all faculty and students a happy and safe holiday season.

Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and apply to begin training for the Spring 2005 semester.
Tomova records first double double of season in victory

FOR THREE: Milena Tomova shoots a three-pointer against Elon. The senior finished with 25 points. JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

The senior finished with 25 points. JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

WOMEN, from page 12

But, the Mountaineers responded with six unanswered points and a 15-4 run over the next seven minutes, beating the Panthers by a score of 58-49. Senior Yolanda Paige scored a game-high 18 points with five assists for West Virginia and was later named tournament MVP.

Mountaineers Sherell Sowho joined her teammate on the all-tournament list along with FIU’s Tomova and Eva Makela.

FIU 56 – ELON 44

The Golden Panthers reached the tournament final with a 56-44 win on Nov. 26 over Elon. Lone senior Milena Tomova finished with her most productive game of the season.

The 6-foot-3 center recorded her first double double of the season with a 25-point, 10 rebound performance, capped off by four blocks.

After an even first half that saw both sides even at 26 at the break, FIU’s 9-2 run to start the second half gave FIU some cushion at 35-28.

The Phoenix followed with six unanswered points, but the Golden Panthers battled back and never trailed again.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call the commencement hotline at 305-348-3666 or visit the website at www.fiu.edu/orgs/commencement.
Coach Don Strock enjoys Orange Bowl homecoming

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

After eight years, the Orange Blossom Classic returned to Miami and FIU took part in the legendary game with FIU.

The game had a 32-year run in Miami from 1947 to 1979 before the game took place up north at the states capital. The game returned to the Orange Bowl from 1985 to 1995.

FAMU has played in every game and holds a 43-24-1 lead in the series. Playing at the Orange Bowl was sentimental for head coach Don Strock who played many games as a Miami Dolphin there.

Strock’s most memorable moment at the Orange Bowl came on Jan. 2, 1982 against the San Diego Chargers. He entered the game with the Dolphins trailing 24-0 and then rallied the team before falling short, 41-38 in overtime.

Strock, along with former Dolphins and current FIU coaches Bruce Hardy and Tony Nathan, came out before the game the same way they did many years ago as players.

“We took a walk where we used to come out in by the players’ lots underneath the Orange Bowl,” Strock said. “And it looks like it needs repairs,” Strock joked.

The history at the former Dolphins home is what Strock remembers most.

“There were a lot of great football games played in this place by the Dolphins and we were thrilled to be part of it. It was pretty neat to win a game here as a coach knowing you’ve won some games here as a player.”

Strock still remembers a few things about the Orange Bowl as he noticed his players getting tired towards the end of the game.

“ Heck, I got tired at the end and I wasn’t even playing. That’s one thing I still remember about the Orange Bowl is that it’s humid. It hasn’t lost that feel to it all these years.”

Strock and the team will return to the Orange Bowl next year on Oct. 1 to play FAMU again.

1,000-YARD MILESTONE

After sitting out for all but one game last season due to injury, Rashod Smith has returned strong and has become the first FIU player to rush for over 1,000 yards in a season.

Smith finished the game with 109-yards rushing and a touchdown. The senior accomplished the feat of 1,000-yards in the third quarter when he rushed for 7-yards on a draw giving himself 1,003 yards for the season.

The former Miami Northwestern standout has accomplished everything he dreamed off before coming to FIU.

“I had big dreams when I came [here]. Given the opportunities, I was able to accomplish them,” said Smith.

Coach Strock says he is proud of his senior running back.

“Congratulations to him, he’s a great kid,” Strock said. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

PRO PLAYER STADIUM NEXT

The Golden Panthers will again play in a big stadium this Saturday Dec. 4, as the team faces cross-town rival Florida Atlantic.

The game will mark the third meeting between the two teams. FAU leads the all-time series 2-0. The Owls won 31-21 in 2002 and 32-23 in 2003. Winning the game comes with two incentives for both teams; one is winning the Shula Bowl and the second is winning the recruiting battle in South Florida.

The game will kick off at 4 p.m. FAU is looking to add a premier halftime show involving a big name artist.

Originally, FAU had scheduled Atlanta rap group Ying Yang Twins, but the school cancelled after reviewing their lyrics.

FEATURE STORY


Don’t work for someone. Work for something.

U.S. Air Force

Cross into the blue

It takes ingenuity, teamwork and a great deal of effort to pull off some of the high-profile engineering projects being done in the United States Air Force. Engineers who come aboard are immediately put on the fast track and have advancement opportunities typically not found in the private sector. From weapons systems and space station materials to the next generation of X-planes, whatever the project is, it’s always fresh, always important and always cutting edge. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, visit our Web site at AIRFORCE.COM or call us at 1-800-423-USAF to request more information.

Think outside four perpendicular sides on a geometrically squared base.

©2004 Paid for by the U.S. Air Force. All rights reserved.
Senior Junior Matias hits game winning buzzer shot

MEN, from page 12

basket of the game, FIU lost their footing for most of the first half, and at one point found themselves down by nine, 22-13, with just under six minutes to play in the first period. They ended the half on a 9-3 run and trailed by six, heading into the locker room at the break, 25-24.

The second half was a new chapter.

With just under eight minutes to play in the game, FIU held their biggest lead at 50-43. The seven point lead diminished as the clock ticked down and the home crowd was brought back into the game with just over three minutes left as Central Connecticut cut the lead to one.

FIU led until Jason Hicklen-bottom hit two free throws with 13 seconds left in regulation, giving the home side their first lead since the 11 minute mark of the second half. Trailering by one with 11 seconds to play coach Rouco called a 30-second timeout to focus his troops before the final seconds ticked away.

Following a Central Connecticut timeout with four seconds to play, the Junior show took flight.

Receiving a pass from guard Jayce Lewis, Matias pulled up and silenced the nearly 1,000 fans inside Detrick Gymnasium.

Central Connecticut had just one chance to score with less than a second left but failed to convert.

FIU 70 FAMU 45

The FIU Golden Panthers rattled Florida A&M from the start, showing no signs of having too much to eat on Thanksgiving and never trailed on its way to a 70-45 win at Pharmed Arena on Nov. 26. An undersized FIU team stepped up the pressure and held the A&M to just 25 percent shooting from the field.

FIU senior guard Junior Matias came off the bench to lead FIU in scoring with 23 points in 17 minutes. After the game coach Rouco had only one thing to say about his best performer.

“He’s a scorer and he’s done a wonderful job for us,” said Rouco.

Rouco has told Matias all season one important thing.

“If you’re open, shoot it.”

Transfer Ivan Almonte once again took advantage of the court with outstanding defensive play: Almonte lead the FIU with nine rebounds and two blocks.

FIU lead 35-23 at the half in a game in which, the team just couldn’t seem to pull away until late in the second period. The Golden Panthers went into the locker room with not only a 12-point lead but also of all the games momentum. The Golden Panthers though underseeded took advantage of weak inside-play by the state rivals and managed offensive board after offensive board to start the game.

Adjustments were made at halftime and the ball was worked far better inside in the second half. They once again put up 35 points, shooting close to 48 percent from the field.

The story of the night however was the inability of the Rat-tlers to tickle the twine. Having shot just 6-26 in the first half, they managed to shoot just 26 percent in the second, en route to it’s third loss by at least 25 points this season.

FIU forced 23 turnovers, including 17 steals, 10 of which came in the second half. Defensive guard Antonio Jones had five steals alone in the second half in just 10 minutes of play.
Key plays spark Golden Panthers

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

It was the birthday present Don Strock was looking for. With a 40-23 victory over Florida A&M Rattlers on Nov. 19 at the Orange Bowl, the Golden Panthers snapped a five-game losing streak, giving Strock a birthday in the locker room.

“We lost the first half, but we won the second half,” said Strock whose team improved to 2-6. “I got the ball, I knew it was going to go something nice to remember a birthday by,” said Strock whose team improved to 2-6.

“Winning a game certainly is something that pleased me very much,” said Strock.

With FAMU stacking up the box to stop the run, QB Josh Padrick changed the play at the line of scrimmage giving FIU a 9-6 lead.

“Kudos to Rashod Smith,” said Strock. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

Despite missing starting cornerback Greg Moss and leading tackler John Hartitan, the FIU defense swarmed the FAMU offense forcing six turnovers for two defensive touchdowns.

Defensive lineman Daunte Foster, who had two fumble recoveries in the game, led the way for two points.

“We knew we had to get more pressure on the ball because they’re a passing team,” said Foster, who had two fumble recoveries in the game.

FAMU got on the scoreboard first on a quarterback keeper with 1.5 seconds left in regulation to take a 6-2 lead.

By hitting a clutch three-pointer with just 1.5 seconds left in regulation to put the Golden Panthers in front.

Following a missed three-point attempt by Central Connecticut State by two in a thriller at Detrick Gymnasium in New Britain, FIU improved to 3-1 on the season.

Senior guard Junior Mattis stole the show for the second game in a row by hitting a clutch three-pointer with just 1.5 seconds left in regulation to put the Golden Panthers in front.

Following a missed three-point attempt by Central Connecticut FIU won 63-61.

Once I got the ball, I knew it was going to go in," said Mattis in an FIU press release.

Matiss, one of three Golden Panthers in double figures, led the way for FIU with 17 points off the bench. Junior Ivan Almonte once again found his scoring touch adding 14 points and six rebounds. Ismael N’Diaye added 10 points.

The Golden Panthers outscored the opposition by shooting 59.1 percent from the field, including 16-25 in the second half. After scoring the first 29-yard line on first-and-10, Strock called for a hand-off to Rashod Smith. With the Rattlers stacking the box, Padrick changed the play at the line and called a screen for receiver Cory McKinney.

The result turned into a 71-yard touchdown pass as McKinney caught the ball at the line and picked three FAMU defenders by following key blocks by partner Harold Leath.

“They were definitely focused to stop the run,” said McKinney who finished with four catches for 108 yards. “Originally it was a run play [Padrick] went to the screen; it was man on man and that’s all it took.”

Before the end of the first half, linebacker Antwan Barnes came up big for FIU with an interception returned 51-yard and a touchdown, giving FIU a 26-6 lead.

“Once the defense stepped up in this game,” said Barnes. “Coach Strock told us turnovers were going to be important in this game.”

Smith came into the game needing 24 rushing yards to become the first Golden Panther to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards in a season.

After rushing for only 15 yards in the first half, Smith exploded in the second half to finish the game with a total of 109 yards on 25 carries.

“Badas to Rashod Smith,” Strock said. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

McKinney and Smith added the final two touchdowns for FIU in the second half.

After the game, Strock was proud of the way his team played.

“We’re pleased to win. Big plays win football games and we had big plays today,” Strock said.

Men’s basketball pick up two straight victories

By ANDONI GONZALEZ- RUA
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers continued their winning ways for the third time this season on Nov. 29 as the team opened its two-game tour of Connecticut.

The Golden Panthers beat Central Connecticut State by two in a thriller at Detrick Gymnasium in New Britain. FIU improved to 3-1 on the season.

Pick it Up: Venson Jones picks up a fumble from FAMU QB Ben Dougherty that Antwan Barnes forced Jones returned the fumble 89-yards for a touchdown giving FIU a 9-6 lead. The defense had a stellar game causing six turnovers including four fumbles.

“You have to,” said Strock whose team improved to 2-6. “They were definitely focused to stop the run,” said McKinney who finished with four catches for 108 yards. “Originally it was a run play [Padrick] went to the screen; it was man on man and that’s all it took.”

Before the end of the first half, linebacker Antwan Barnes came up big for FIU with an interception returned 51-yard and a touchdown, giving FIU a 26-6 lead.

“One of the defense stepped up in this game,” said Barnes. “Coach Strock told us turnovers were going to be important in this game.”

Smith came into the game needing 24 rushing yards to become the first Golden Panther to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards in a season.

After rushing for only 15 yards in the first half, Smith exploded in the second half to finish the game with a total of 109 yards on 25 carries.

“Badas to Rashod Smith,” Strock said. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

McKinney and Smith added the final two touchdowns for FIU in the second half.

After the game, Strock was proud of the way his team played.

“We’re pleased to win. Big plays win football games and we had big plays today,” Strock said.

Women’s basketball drop championship finale

By ANDRES CORDERO
Staff Writer

The Mountaineers handed FIU their second championship loss in two weeks despite three Golden Panthers scoring in double figures.

Senior Milena Tomova led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points including five three-pointers.

The Mountaineers took the lead in the second half and never looked back, outscoring West Virginia 21-5 through the final five minutes.

“Kudos to Rashod Smith,” Strock said. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

McKinney and Smith added the final two touchdowns for FIU in the second half.

After the game, Strock was proud of the way his team played.

“We’re pleased to win. Big plays win football games and we had big plays today,” Strock said.

Things started badly for the Golden Panthers, who managed just two field goals through the first eight minutes of play. FIU shot 26.9 percent from the field in the first half and trailed by as much as 17 points before going into halftime down 30-20.

FIU looked poised for a comeback at the start of the second half, outscoring West Virginia 21-5 through the final five minutes.

By ANDRES CORDERO
Staff Writer

The Mountaineers handed FIU their second championship loss in two weeks despite three Golden Panthers scoring in double figures.

Senior Milena Tomova led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points including five three-pointers.

The Mountaineers took the lead in the second half and never looked back, outscoring West Virginia 21-5 through the final five minutes.

“Kudos to Rashod Smith,” Strock said. “He’s a very deserving young man and a great leader in the locker room.”

McKinney and Smith added the final two touchdowns for FIU in the second half.

After the game, Strock was proud of the way his team played.

“We’re pleased to win. Big plays win football games and we had big plays today,” Strock said.

Things started badly for the Golden Panthers, who managed just two field goals through the first eight minutes of play. FIU shot 26.9 percent from the field in the first half and trailed by as much as 17 points before going into halftime down 30-20.

FIU looked poised for a comeback at the start of the second half, outscoring West Virginia 21-5 through the final five minutes.