Simulations let rookie doctors learn without risk to living

By ESTHER LANDHUIS
Knight Ridder

Pilots in training must master countless maneuvers on flight simulators before stepping into the cockpit of a loaded 747. But in medicine, new doctors often learn by practicing on real patients.

Now, hands-on, simulation-based learning is reshaping medical education. Some use dummy patients and operating room sets, while in the newest systems, the patient and the emergency exist only on a computer screen.

Experts say the shift is long overdue. Besides the obvious safety concerns, the apprenticeship approach—where trainees shadow and assist experienced physicians—has other drawbacks.

“People just can’t experience everything with real patients because it’s totally dependent on who rolls through the door,” said anesthesiologist Dr. David Gaba, an associate dean at Stanford University’s School of Medicine.

And often what’s even harder than acquainting the hands with a scalpel is training the head to make high-stake decisions. You wouldn’t let an unsanitized medic call the shots during a complex operation—not when a patient’s life is at stake.

Now, though, medical rookies can work together to treat robotic “patients” in 3D World, a web-based virtual reality “hospital” where far-flung trauma team members can rehearse emergency-room crises.

In a sample computer scenario, the patient gets wheeled into the emergency room after a car crash has fractured his left leg, wounded his chest and sent his heart rate skyrocketing.

Each team member—represented as a character clothed in scrub garments—selects from an array of medical interventions, such as “check airway” and “take blood pressure,” by clicking on an on-screen menu.

The patient’s vital signs change accordingly. Communicating real-time on headphones, the trainees navigate high-pressure emergency scenarios developed jointly by medical faculty at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Sweden’s Karolinska Institute.

“The degree to which people felt immersed in the 3D World was surprising,” said Dr. Philip Harter, a Stanford emergency medicine physician who led 16 medical students in a spring pilot. “It wasn’t like, here we go, we’re playing a game. They were really in there taking care of a patient.”

3D World is a video-game version of life-like dummy patients at simulation centers that have existed for more than a decade at a dozen U.S. medical centers—including Stanford, Harvard and the University of California Los Angeles.

In a 2,200-square-foot emergency room setup in the basement of Palo Alto’s Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Stanford’s newest doctors take turns caring for special “patients” like Sam—a computerized dummy that bleeds. His vital signs rise and plunge in response to the novices’ actions.

“With simulation, even the inexperienced people can be ‘it,’” said Gaba, whose team runs a mandatory simultaneous course for anesthesiology residents at Stanford and the Veterans Affairs hospital. “There’s no one assigned to rescue you if you get into trouble.”

As the trainees sweat and struggle to save Sam, the degree to which the students felt immersed in the 3D World was surprising. But Sutton never got kicked out. He later realized that almost all of his classmates were feeling the same way he was and it was then that he learned to relax and was able to have a great time. This might be the reason why he is so compassionate towards his students.

It might also be the reason for the advice that he shares with current English majors.

“Relax! English is not a professional degree. It’s a lifelong ticket to learning, creativity and thinking,” Sutton said. “You’re going to get a job! You can become a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a bum, a hippie, a corporate raider it all depends on you—your vision, your imagination and your hard work.”

Sutton’s journey into the field of English began as early as his childhood when he would curl up with a good book in his favorite armchair at home. His mother loved to read and this was naturally instilled in him. Throughout school his favorite teachers where always English teachers. Sutton attended Northwestern University where he attained a Bachelor of Arts.

“I actually started at NU as a physics major and kept going for more on the team, turn to page 12. GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

See SUTTON, page 3
Comedy Show at Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolf Theatre

By BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Witchcraft, magic and the occult are only a few of the misconceptions that surround the Pagan religion. Most people are usually unaware of what Paganism really is.

“I’ve always associated Paganism with evil,” said student Alain Castellano. “I was always told that they performed anti Christian rituals and therefore I’ve tried to stay away from people in that group.”

The Pagan religion is growing quickly and thousands of resources have been launched to inform people about it. One of those resources is right here on campus.

The Panther Pagan Student Union was founded by senior Daniel Villar and his friend, FIU graduate Roniel Vallejo because they believed that students should have a place to grow spiritually and intellectually and to ask for help in emergency situations.

“We aren’t a group of devil worshippers. We are a group of open-minded and positive individuals who believe in spiritual connections and come together to share those beliefs,” said Villar.

Panther Pagan Union President Daniel Villar explained that Pagans usually believe that they are a part of a sacred whole with all of nature. They regard life as sacred, and only some Christians, who are interested in learning more about Paganism.

“Paganism is a very complex religion,” Villar said. “There really isn’t one definition for what a Pagan is. Like any other religion, Paganism is not for everyone, but if you are interested in obtaining more information about Paganism, the PPUS is a great way to get started.”

The PPUS meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Graham Center fountain. The group discusses upcoming events such as community service with other religious groups, spiritual retreats, outreach programs and lectures like the one given by Priestess Reverend Cheryl Richard- son. Villar urges anyone who is a practicing Pagan or is simply curious to join the weekly meetings.

NEW TRAINING METHODS: A new virtual training system will alleviate new doctors by training them in simulation rather than being responsible for a patient’s life in surgery. Chanson Petro

“A lot of the learning is, what are the things that could happen to the patient while using the device?” said Dr. James Joye, medical director of El Camino’s cardiac catheterization lab. “As devices become more complex and patients sicker … the margin for error in that early learning curve becomes very important.”

As Joyce tied a wire toward Simantha’s beating heart, the mannequin Simulated for vascular procedures.

Virtual system replaces risky surgery for doctors

Vertical system replaces risky surgery for doctors

From DOCTORS, page 1

By BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ
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Professor hopes to inspire students, teach English’s value

SUTTON, from page 1

with this for two-and-a-half years until my incom-prehension and the gift of Cs and Bs I was receiving on exams, got the better of me," Sutton said.

It was no surprise that Sutton changed his major to English and later on went to the University of Michigan for his Masters of Arts.

It was at this point that his life would change. His favorite professor was a renaissance teacher who led him to Florence.


"I suppose you could say that this was the year that changed everything—the year that led me to renaissance studies, the year that made me appreciate art and architecture and space as I never had before. The year that really made my admission to Yale as a doctoral candidate in renaissance studies possible."

Of all the wonderful things Sutton has learned in his academic career, he said that Shakespeare was the most fascinating.

"He said that Shakespeare was more clever than men; that women are usually more clever than men, that marriage can and should be a joyful, creative, talkative affair, but is always ever so fragile," Sutton said.

Sutton is happily married and has a two-and-a-half-year-old son, Alexander, to whom he and his wife have read since the day he was born. Sutton is also the head advisor for the English department at FIU.

"James doesn’t get many incentives from being the head advisor, but he does a great job!"

Carmela McIntire, English department chair

Sutton also recently finished writing his first book. “Materializing Space at an Early Modern Prodigy House: The Celcis at Theobalds, 1564-1607.”


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“James was under a lot of pressure to finish his book," said McIntire.

"He took the summer off, worked hard and accomplished it. It’s very admirable. Not everyone can do that.”

Sutton has many plans for his future. Academically, he wants to write at least one more book, in his field, if not more.

He also wants to help his department grow and strengthen and he eventually wants to be promoted to full professor.

“Most of all, I want to keep teaching young people, conveying my love and interest of renaissance literature and life to them, helping them see that despite the passage of 400 plus years, these texts and times still have vitality and value," Sutton said.

%%%
Lack of school spirit may be attributed to an unnecessary UM envy

FIU seems to have become a playground for those who aren’t excited about much in life. Walking around campus, you cannot help but overhear comments like “I can’t wait to transfer out of here” and “this place is such a hellhole.”

What one doesn’t seem to comprehend is why anyone would waste so much money each semester to come to a place where he will be unhappy? Not too far from the UP campus, a dainty little place called Miami Dade College can be found where a less expensive education awaits those discontented souls at FIU who will end up transferring to another university after achieving basic requirement credits for an Associates Degree.

School spirit at FIU is at an all time low and most students walking around in UM gear, would tell you that. Perhaps it’s that FIU doesn’t sell enough of its official gear or the teams just don’t win enough to skyrocket sales. It’s safe to say that most high school’s can pack more people on a rainy Wednesday afternoon than FIU has during its entire 2004 football season.

Some students who chose FIU as “their” university already knew what they were getting themselves into. The talk around Miami has always been that FIU is just a place where those not good enough for UM can go.

The university you attend should be a place where you are content to be. A place in which after graduation, you would be proud to be a part of its alumni. Is UM even all that to boast about? According to the University of Miami website, forty percent of all classes at UM are taught by a Teaching Assistant. So you pay three times the tuition cost at FIU, and you don’t even get taught by an actual professor? How does that make any sense?

Two out of every ten UM students will eventually end up transferring to FIU or a lesser known university because tuition costs are way too high. Seems like FIU doesn’t end up transferring to FIU or a lesser known university because the actual professor? How does that make any sense?

The time has come for Golden Panthers to be happy with whom they are and the University they attend. Stop making up nonsense about how after this semester you will be transferring out, most likely your grades still won’t be good enough and UM probably still won’t accept. FIU must be doing something right if it at least hires the proper faculty to satisfy your growing educational needs and not a person who has just a couple more years of experience under his belt.

– Leoniaco Alvarez, Opinion Editor

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

FireFox Web Browsing: The web search company has joined forces with the elite Google, in order for both companies to one day take on the predominant Microsoft Internet Explorer. First FIU, now Google… what else does FireFox need?

LOSER

Stealing Cars: Thieves in Canada are following weather fronts, to steal cars that have been left warming up in driveways. For precaution, citizens have been told to lock their cars in their driveways. For precaution, citizens have been told to sleep in their cars everyday.

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 us via email. 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.

Freshman suffer in English due to FCAT

By JAMIE BLANCO

“I’m in the 12th grade and am still having FCAT shoved down my throat every day,” said frustrated Varela High School senior, Ben F. Badger Jr. FCAT materials, skills test, prompts and activities are often found on the desks of juniors and seniors – even those in advanced placement classes.

In a time of elevated emphasis on examinations and school accountability, the greater importance seems to be over the statistics and not on actual college preparation in Florida. There are 39 low performing Miami-Dade County schools that have been put on zone watch. This means longer schools days and regular assessments for diagnosis and monitoring.

While these intensive steps may help to elevate the status of these schools and help struggling students with the exam, it seems that Florida has forgotten that our education does not end at the 10th grade. “I don’t feel like there’s any difference. They are just putting this on us at every grade,” said one student.

Apathy is a dangerous force and students who feel unimportant tend to take on an attitude of indifference. They are unchallenged, uninspired and have low expectations of themselves and little care for the future.

As a result, 37 percent of high school students who do pass the FCAT do not go on to college. Of those who do pursue further education, it can still be a difficult experience. “The data shows that even though they pass the test, it does not guarantee that they will do well in college,” said Vivian Lorenzo-Gueria, a teacher at Felix Varela Senior High School.

Many students pass the FCAT but once they get to a college setting, they have to take remedial classes.

If your reading and writing levels are not above the FCAT required levels, getting into the college of your choice becomes difficult.

English Professor Donald Watson says that he is not “hypercritical” of the test. “The majority of my students haven’t been asked to do much writing in high school,” he said.

His daughter is a student of the Miami-Dade County public school system. “The longest paper she wrote was for a photography class not language arts,” said Watson.

“The math needed to pass the FCAT results, media packet, 32 percent of African American students, 42 percent of Hispanic students and 63 percent of White students passed – even those in advanced placement classes.”

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“The math needed to pass the 10th grade FCAT, generally is taught in middle school in the rest of the world, a study by one respected national group found. Sadly, we know that our students can’t measure up to international standards – yet. But even passing the FCAT will not ensure that they do; … we should fear asking too little more than we fear asking too much,” said Rudy Crew, new Superintendent for Miami Dade Public Schools.

Even more concerning than low bar standards for graduation are the low performances of students. According to the 2004 FCAT result media packet, 32 percent of African American students, 42 percent of Hispanic students and 63 percent of White students passed – even those in advanced placement classes.

Send us your letters.

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Life as a Resident Assistant has become a new existence for me — an innovative way of life — if you will. But of course, with all new jobs people have their moments of uncertainty. I realized this early on when I saw how intricate each part of the RA application was, and how detailed they were in getting to know the type of person you are. I know now, however, that I am not the same person I was a semester ago. This RA position has made me grow more than I could have ever imagined.

Not many people would strive to become almost a parent, to 40 new college students. At most the university would encourage a complete level of control in your hallway but not to also become friends with the residents. However, the ultimate objective is to build relationships that will last a lifetime and to have them impact one another’s lives, as well as mine. Hopefully this will provide residents the support they need in difficult moments. An RA’s life turns you into one person with a million and one personalities. To live in a residence hall in any college can often be, for some, a very disappointing encounter. The new environment, home sickness and being on your own and coming to a new school can all be extremely nerve wracking, for both the student and the parent. It’s my responsibility to reach out to those individuals in my hallway. I am trained to assimilate a community of 40 completely different personalities — in a giant melting pot of loud noises, energy and emotion; into some sort of togetherness. No one can ever fully grasp the true college life, others often never discover — the wide variety of opportunities and experiences filled with diversity and color.

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Nevertheless, there is no denying the change in people when they experience one semester in this position. With all the stress of school work, papers piling up at your desk and your organizer sitting lonely and abandoned in some drawer, you are still awake attempting to think of another stimulating activity for your overly hyper next door neighbor. You do see the fruits of your labor…you also become extremely well known. Do I go crazy? All the time! This job is not for the weak at heart and definitely not for the narrow minded. We encounter some of the craziest, kookiest situations on a daily basis…you would not be able to script some of this stuff. The happy times all mix in with the harder times, whether it’s just meeting a brand new resident for the first time or just another late night call about a noise complaint where you have to ask them to “please keep it down.” “I understand … and I hope you think about this a little more next time,” is the epitome of the word RA.

Our hats? We have more hats than we do names: RA and hall monitor, sometimes even mentor or counselor, disciplinarian and friend. What is our calling? To allow residents of Panther Hall, Everglades, University Park Towers, University Park Apartments and our neighborhoods to the north in the beautiful Biscayne Bay Campus, a chance to see what communities often never discover — the wide variety of opportunities and experiences the true college life offers, filled with diversity and color.

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Life is an unpredictable conundrum of events and occurrences. Most will agree that this job adds more ups and downs than the fastest roller coaster on earth. My theme since the beginning of the semester has been, “The Matrix,” because it is so appropriate to the period of one’s life in college. You have to free your mind and adjust to the new living-on-your-own thing, and follow the white rabbit into a new land of wonder where the “real world” is just a hop, skip and a jump away.

Once in a while, if your lucky, you do have those people who guide you along the way. I’d like to think of us as some of those people. The life of an RA is filled with: programming, flyers, paint, lots of glitter, a few gallons of glue, debates, long hours of conversation, dirty dishes, torn bulletin boards, fire alarms and the not-so-sweet sounds of the RA beeper, along with phone calls at ungodly hours of the night. As a resident you could live under water or on the moon and you might even become a cartoon character. As an RA we have the best of both worlds. We experience the college life and work along with students to make their FIU experience the most memorable it can be. Would I do it all over again if I had the chance? In a heartbeat.
FAME AND FORTUNE: Contestants in Las Vegas (left) await their turn to audition for a chance to advance on the hit TV show “American Idol.” In St. Louis (right) one of the several thousand contestants auditions in front of the camera.

COURTESY PHOTOS

See IDOL, page 7

GRAPHIC BY LUIS NIN/THE BEACON

The odds are against you

By ANA RIBEIRO
Contributing Writer

I remember the afternoon as being bright. The sun slowly turned into a lush, orange half-circle and then disappeared behind the cloudless horizon; the stars settled in the undisturbed firmament and finally disappeared upon the returning light of morning. Stamped on the back of my hand was the number 357.

I sat in my uncomfortable beach chair, for one, two, 12, 18 hours, squeezed in a narrow corridor between the wooden bar of the boardwalk and the back façade of the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. In my head were dozens of songs I could have performed and images of the fame and fortune I could have achieved. My internal agitation, the lack of a reclining function in my beach chair, and soaring voices and guitars around me (in an improvised luau), kept me awake until the moment of truth.

With a quivering body, but a firm voice, I entered a door and stood in a room from where I’d have no access to Hollywood.

WELCOME TO “AMERICAN IDOL”

“You’re going to Hollywood!” has become the mantra in the prayers of thousands of aspiring singers. The judges – Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson – are the bearers of their fate. The show depicts many “Idol” contestants of humble origin, who have to make a real effort and sometimes spend all their savings on traveling hundreds of miles to attend auditions. Their happiness and ability to buy food and transportation after these expenses, hinge on the judge’s decision. This season, one 28-year-old contestant said that she had to sell her wedding rings to make it to the audition in Washington, D.C. She also said that if she isn’t able to express herself through music, she’ll “probably die.” Another applicant, a young dancer/janitor, wasn’t so fortunate. The judges turned him down and he had to go beg for money out in the street to return home.

Fortunately, all I had to do after the audition was take I-95 and go cry into my pillow.

How much of “American Idol” is true and how much is staged will probably remain a mystery to its viewers. Some people can really sing and make it to Hollywood. Others really think they can sing, and not even Simon Cowell’s humiliating comments dissuade them. Still, others just want to make an appearance, while in the most extreme cases, some want to achieve an impossible degree of ridiculousness. But it can be figured that the bad singers are the ones who get the viewers interested in the beginning of the show. So, the producers need to deliver a quota of those to the three judges. I can say with confidence that I don’t sing badly, or I wouldn’t be doing vocal performances for a living. Yet I couldn’t get past the first phase of auditions for season two.

After waiting in line 18 hours for an “American Idol” audition,

See IDOL, page 7

Photo by Luis Nino/The Beacon

Thousands seek fleeting stardom in popular TV show auditions

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Fame escapes ‘Idol’ contestants

I made it to the entrance of the Fontainebleau Hotel. Once inside, I had to wait six more hours until my turn came. There were some cameras and reporters outside, but the number doubled inside. Hundreds of us were eventually deposited into a large ballroom, which had dozens of doors along its perimeter. I looked around and saw girls shaking their behinds and belting out Aretha Franklin tunes to catch the media’s attention. The guys were hardly less discreet.

Amid all the noise and crowding, the producers managed to call out numbers and line people up in groups of five in front of the doors. During my long wait, I got to know some of the contestants.

One girl bawled her eyes out because she had the flu and sounded hoarse. I asked her to sing for me, and although she did sound terrible, I told her not to worry. “At least she isn’t trying to turn her performance into a circus act,” I thought to myself. But perhaps a circus act was exactly what they were looking for.

My trip of five finally stepped across the threshold into the audition room, and stood before a young woman with a rather impressive resume of the three celebrity judges. Perched on a tripod was a camera, and the young woman asked each of us to look into it during our individual performance. We each got about 30 seconds of air time that never went on the air. In my opinion, all five of us sounded decent enough to progress at least to the next round, without needing to use gimmicks to make an impression. But her words hit us in the head like a brick.

“You’re all very good, but you’re not what we’re looking for.”

I had been so confident that I’d made it. I wanted her to ask her why I couldn’t get a shot, but in my dumb-foundedness I didn’t wish for a moment that I would’ve sounded ridiculously horrible. Then I would have a chance to see Simon, Paula and Randy to surprise them with an admirable rendition. How many more rounds until the actual judges? I didn’t care to find out. I walked out of the hotel and talked to no one. I even pretended I didn’t see the people I had met who came out of the rooms looking like excited rabbits, clutching yellow slips of approval. What had they done that I hadn’t? Idol Kelly Clarkson has sold more than two million records and has been nominated for a Grammy. Fantasia Barrino won two Billboard Awards in 2004. William Hung – the hilarious, awful-sound- ing Chinese Ricky Martin impersonator from season three – got a record deal and his own fan clubs, and has sold more than 30,000 records.

What’s the formula for success? I don’t believe there is one. I see success in show business as an oil fountain hit mostly by chance. If you don’t find it, you might experience some frustration, but live a blissfully simple life. You’ll never knowing what it’s like to be at the top of the world, only to fall sooner or later.

Once you get your hands on fame and fortune, you might become dependent on it. Just like oil, it runs out because she had the flu and sounded hoarse. I asked her to sing for me, and although she did sound terrible, I told her not to worry. “At least she isn’t trying to turn her performance into a circus act,” I thought to myself. But perhaps a circus act was exactly what they were looking for.

My trip of five finally stepped across the threshold into the audition room, and stood before a young woman with a rather impressive resume of the three celebrity judges. Perched on a tripod was a camera, and the young woman asked each of us to look into it during their individual performance. Each got about 30 seconds of air time that never went on the air. In my opinion, all five of us sounded decent enough to progress at least to the next round, without needing to use gimmicks to make an impression. But her words hit us in the head like a brick.

“You’re all very good, but you’re not what we’re looking for.”

I had been so confident that I’d made it. I wanted her to ask her why I couldn’t get a shot, but in my dumb-foundedness I didn’t wish for a moment that I would’ve sounded ridiculously horrible. Then I would have a chance to see Simon, Paula and Randy to surprise them with an admirable rendition. How many more rounds until the actual judges? I didn’t care to find out. I walked out of the hotel and talked to no one. I even pretended I didn’t see the people I had met who came out of the rooms looking like excited rabbits, clutching yellow slips of approval. What had they done that I hadn’t? Idol Kelly Clarkson has sold more than two million records and has been nominated for a Grammy. Fantasia Barrino won two Billboard Awards in 2004. William Hung – the hilarious, awful-sounding Chinese Ricky Martin impersonator from season three – got a record deal and his own fan clubs, and has sold more than 30,000 records.

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Preacher labels sorority members ‘whores’

By DIANA SEMPERE
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 13, dozens of FIU students filled the Graham Center fountain area and stood in awe, as they watched an unknown preacher fervently wave a Bible in his hand and ludicrously scream his interpretation of the word of God.

People laughed, others became enraged and some were even calling their friends on their cell phones so they too, could come and watch the spectacle that was occurring.

“It didn’t seem like he was legit or like he sincerely meant what he was saying,” said sophomore Leif Elliott. No one had any idea who this man was, or what rock he crawled out from, until he gallantly introduced himself “I, Brother Jim, love all of you sinners! If you don’t repent you will go to hell!”

According to his website, www.thecampusministry.org, Brother Jim Gilles, a born again Christian street preacher, has been touring U.S. universities since 1982 in an attempt to save the nihilistic youth of America from eternal damnation.

Unfortunately for Gilles, who converted during a Van Halen concert in the early 80s, his methods of insulting and deprecating the public have done more wrong for his mission than good.

“He seemed insane,” said junior Paul White. Gilles accused all the women in the crowd, especially those in sororities, of being whores. He also said that fraternity members have no other objective but to get drunk and rape girls.

“Preachers like him are fun to watch because they are so unpredictable,” said freshman Quiana Balsez.

Brother Jim’s allegations did not lead to any praises from the crowd. Instead, his arrogant mannerisms provoked loud bursts of laughter and mockery, which only frustrated him and inspired him to say even more spiteful and derogatory comments.

“I didn’t like his way of being so extreme and condemning. Brother Jim’s approach was too radical,” said Andrea Felix, president of Campus Crusade for Christ. “I can’t condemn him or people that aren’t Christians because Christians aren’t like that. But I believe that his organization makes it seem like every group from FIU is as intolerant as him, and that is definitely not true.”

His most unbelievably ignorant and irrational comment was his indisputable belief that God caused the tsunami in Southeast Asia because he could no longer tolerate the homosexuals and drug addicts of the area.

When he said this, people in the crowd stopped back, screaming arguments that he could not defend himself against, thus proving that Brother Jim is not capable of reasonably arguing any of his positions without hiding behind a Bible.

“College students are smart enough to see ignorance and that is why Brother Jim’s testimonies are laughed at,” said junior Rene Villa.

“As a Catholic, I believe it’s incredible that he preaches about a vengeful God and can claim to be Christian when Jesus’ message is one of love and acceptance, not of judgment and smite.”

The question on everybody’s mind that afternoon was, “Who is FIU would sponsor or allow someone like him to set foot on our campus?”

Apparently, no religious group on campus invited him, and according to university policy, he is legally entitled to speak his mind as long as he does not disrupt the essential function of the university.

His website even has a banner that reads, “328 CAMPUSES IN 49 STATES AND 6 COUNTRIES: Hundreds Saved, Successfully Won Dozens of Court Battles, Legally Opened Over 50 Closed Campuses.” This is one of the many examples of how the law can protect speech that offends and upsets people.

Unfortunately for Brother Jim, the message he has fought so firmly to preserve, serves no other purpose than to entertain, not of judgments, not of acceptance, not of love, but instead, to provide a good laugh for students everywhere.

JOURNALISM MAJORS! ENGLISH MAJORS! EVERYBODY ELSE!

There are several open positions available at The Beacon. If you’re thinking about getting a job or an internship at a major newspaper, it would behoove you to get some experience with us.

The following positions are available (some of them even pay!):

Copy Editors (3)

Page Designer – Life!

Photographers

Assistant News Editor

Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application or e-mail Recruitment Editor C. Joel Marino at beaconrecruit@yahoo.com
DOUBLE DIGIT LOSS: Louisiana-Lafayette shot 50 percent in the second half and outscored the Golden Panthers 22-5 over the final nine-and-a-half minutes to come from behind for the 68-58 Sun Belt Conference win at Pharmed Arena on Jan. 24.

BASEBALL PREVIEW!

Look for a full preview of the Golden Panther baseball team in Monday’s edition of The Beacon.

Kenny Chesney

be as you are

songs from an old blue chair

A KENNY CHESNEY ALBUM LIKE NO OTHER

13 OF THE MOST PERSONAL SONGS HE HAS EVER WRITTEN AND RECORDED

Get to know him from another side – the inside

IN STORES JANUARY 25TH
SUN BELT, from page 12

FIU has dropped nine of last 11 games

5-of-11 from behind the arc.
The Golden Panthers were once again plagued by mental mistakes in the opening session, getting called for countless traveling violations; they turned the ball over nine times while shooting a combined 11-of-24 from the floor.
The Aggies, who played from behind for most of the opening frame, led 34-30 at halftime partly because of their three-point shooting.

FIU managed 28 points in the paint and was led by junior Ivan Almonte who shot 4-of-7 from the floor and ended the opening period with 11 points.
Senior Junior Matias was once again restricted to just eight minutes on the floor in the opening half, as he continued to suffer from pain in his left leg.

A limping Matias played limited minutes all night and saw the floor for only 19 minutes, finishing the game 1-of-11, shooting for a meager five points.

Junior Mike Mitchell, who leads the Aggies in scoring on the season averaging 13.3 points per game, shot 4-of-6 for nine first half points, hitting the three pointer that brought New Mexico back into the game.

Lou Henson’s Aggies shot 26-of-52 as a team from the floor, the team averages just 43 percent for the season and ranks eighth in the conference.

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Uncharacteristically, the Golden Panthers gave awa
Let Ricky return to team

HARRY, from page 12

lot of leaders and character last season, and what did that lead to? The Dolphins had one of the worst records in franchise history.

Getting number 34 back would also save the team money. The Dolphins are exploring trade options for the Bills Travis Henry or Bengals Rudy Johnson. The team is also looking at free agents Edgerrin James and Shaun Alexander. In order to land one of these players, which aren’t nearly as talented as Williams, by the way, the Dolphins will need to unload cash or trade one of their top defensive players like Patrick Surtain or Zach Thomas.

Landing Williams would cost the Dolphins nothing. It would actually save the team money because he owes them over eight million dollars.

You can argue that if Williams returns he will continue to smoke pot. But, I think he can turn his life around because the Dolphins have a disciplinarian coach and a Bill Belichick disciple in Nick Saban. Williams needs a father figure who can guide him and help him realize his full potential.

Williams is a confused individual but an amazing and talented athlete whom Dave Wannstedt completely squandered. If you were one of the most talented running backs in the NFL and had to run the ball on every down because of Jay Fiedler’s interceptions and Dave Wannstedt’s incompetent coaching, you’d probably want to forget about football, move to Australia and smoke pot with Lenny Kravitz for the rest of your life too.

Saban can work well with Williams and help him recover his love of the game. Winning can cure everything. If the Dolphins bring back Williams and the team starts winning, no one will remember this past season. Bring back Williams and start the Super Bowl parade.

Keep Williams far away

XAVIER, from page 12

plenty of, but has spent mainly on the defensive side of the team.

Some people might say that Saban may want Williams back only to trade him to another team, make him someone else’s problem and get something in return. But in reality, Ricky is worth to another NFL team what his future degree in holistic healing will be worth in the real world.

Regardless of his prowess on the field, no team wants to risk anything of value for a potential walking positive drug test. So unless Saban wants a pack of gum, a used tire, a tin can, an old boot, or any other cliché symbolizing “worthless” in return for Williams, that is not the path he is going. A “homer” is someone who blindly supports their team no matter what. It may sound like a nice thing, but these “homers” would go as far as to support their team even if the team starts to rehulk it. Harry “the flaming homer” Coleman is telling you to take Ricky back. He’s obviously not looking after the integrity of the team.

Thankfully, friends of Ricky have stated that he has no plans for returning to the game. Which is good for everyone because the farther away he is from everyone, the less likely they’ll be to catch a whiff of his horribly putrid body odor. I know. I know. That was a total cheap-shot. But in all seriousness, the Dolphins must first address their offensive line. If the people up front play like revolving doors, it won’t matter who you throw in the backfield.

So Nick, show us you truly are a disciplinarian and forget about the pot-head with horrible body odor. (There I go with the cheap shot again!)
It seems that the Miami Dolphins need a running back. That's the fact, and that's what fans have to understand.

A major reason the Dolphins finished a miserable 4-12 this past season is because of the departure of Ricky Williams. The Dolphins can comeback and reverse that record to 12-4 next season with the comeback of the same person: Ricky Williams.

Yes, Ricky may have abandoned the Dolphins, betrayed them, you name it, but he also gave his heart and soul for the team when he was here for two seasons.

In the 2002 and 2003 season, Ricky rushed the ball for a total of 775 yards and 12 touchdowns. In two seasons, Ricky never complained about the load of carries he was receiving. All he did was get the Dolphins 19 wins.

The guy with the girly long hair on the other commentary on this page may argue that Ricky will hurt the team’s chemistry. So what? The football scoreboard is not measured by the unity and morality of a team. The Dolphins had a streak of the season.

As the losing continues to take a toll on the team, Rouco was still proud of the performance by Almonte.

Fortunately for Golden Panthers head coach Sergio Rosco, his team is still waiting for the first Sun Belt Conference victory of the year.

The Golden Panthers continued their slide on Jan. 24 with a 71-66 conference loss to New Mexico State at Pharmed Arena.

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