Sutton travels long road to educate students

By EVELYN MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

The students in the crowded classroom of about 50, chatter quickly as they wait for the English professor. There are barely any empty seats left, which tells me that this is a class that students don’t want to be late for. Some of them appear tired, yet, they still make the effort to attend James Sutton’s Shakespearean Comedies class.

The quiet chatter slowly comes to an end as Sutton enters the room. He breaks the ice with a small joke about their performance on their last exam and puts them at ease by saying that they have a chance to work on it if they are not happy with their grade.

The students relax at the realization of his genuine humaneness. The man with the Ph. D. from Yale University clearly remembers what it’s like to be a student.

Through his experience of first getting into Yale, Sutton can relate to the anxiety and pressure that students face in college.

“Like every other student [at Yale], I spent my first semester or even year there knowing that my admission was a fraud and I was waiting for this to be discovered and summarily kicked out, sent to the Midwest where I came from,” Sutton said.

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 were 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

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 thousands of medical centers that have 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. Phillip 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 person.”

3D World is a video-game version of life-like dummy patients at simulation centers that have existed for more than a decade at about 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, Calif.’s Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Stanford’s newest doctors take turns caring for special “patients” like Sam—a computer-generated 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 simulation 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,
By BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ
Contributing Writer

By BEATRIZ DOMINGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Virtual system replaces risky surgery for doctors

“...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.”

Daniel Villar
Panther Pagan Union President

The Panther Pagan Student Union is founded by senior Daniel Villar and his friend, FIU graduate Roniel Vallejo because they believed that FLU students who didn’t fit into other religious organizations deserved a place to grow spiritually without prejudice or judgment. On Sept. 22, 2004, the PPSU became an official religious association at FIU as the group’s president. The group is dedicated to spreading awareness about Paganism and Pantheism. “We’re not 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.”

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 PPSU is a great way to get started.” The PPSU meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Graham Center fountain.

To learn more about Paganism, visit the Panther Pagan Union page on www.99jamz.com, where you can find the events page and the PPSU’s Web page. To get more information about Paganism, visit the PPSU’s Facebook page or email ppsu@fiu.edu.

By SAN JUAN GARCIA

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Manipulating People

From DOCTORS, page 1

Words that surround the Pagan

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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 spent one glorious year, 1988-1989, following my M.A. from Michigan,” Sutton said. “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’s plays change every time you look at them, just like life. He said that Shakespeare wrote during a time in which religious confusion, belief and practice was a matter, sometimes, of life and death, and where the intertwining of religion and politics, and often, literature, was common.

Sutton believes that “a lot about life can be learned from Shakespeare.”

“Shakespeare’s comedies have taught me 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 Cecils at Theobalds, 1564-1607.”

“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 backwater.”

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 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 being such a bad decision after all.

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.

- Leonicio 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

Sleeping Cars: Thieves in Canada are following weather reports that show which cities are going through cold fronts, to steal cars that have been left warming up in 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 and SPS 206 at the North Bay Campus. When submitting your letter, please remember to include your full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If you wish to write a letter to be published, please type your letter clearly and not exceed 400 words. Letters must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. to be included in that day’s edition of the Beacon.

EDITORIAL

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, test skills, 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 our education does not end at the 10th grade.

“I don’t feel like there’s any need for me to be here,” said Cornelius Troy, a Northwestern Senior High student who goes to school an extra hour, four times a week. “I already passed the FCAT.”

Apathy is a dangerous force and students who feel unimportant tend to take on an attitude of indifference. 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-Guerra, 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 “hypocritical” 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 at 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 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 graduations 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 performed at or above grade level.

Students show improvement in reading at every grade level except eighth and 10th, where the percent of students reading at or above grade level has decreased and students reading below basic levels increased, according to 2004 FCAT results.

Crew has laid out a new set of objectives for a school system plagued in the past by chronic corruption.

He plans to eliminate low-performing schools, and increase academic achievement for all students by bringing cost-efficiency to the district’s construction and business practices.

“We’ve heard of idealism before in Miami Dade County, but rarely got a raw deal in the end. Hopefully, the past will not continue to repeat itself.

Sizzling Cars: Both companies to one day take on the predominant web search company.

Firefox Web Browsing:

The web search company

lorem ipsum
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, there are always 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 mentor or counselor, as well as friends, to the residents. Our hats? We have more hats than we do names: RA and hall monitor.

Life 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 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 hall. 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 tell me, “Don’t bring your work home with you,” because I live where I work and I work were I live. The idea is a ridiculous irony because one cannot get away from that fact. 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 the 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.

An RA’s life turns you into one person with a million and one personalities.

“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.

By CRISTELA GUERRA

Staff Writer

QUOTEABLES

“My dream is to coach in the NFL, probably for the Steelers.”
– Snoop Dogg, rapper and actor, in an interview with New York Daily News, on coaching his son’s football team.

“Michael Moore and I actually have a lot in common – we both appreciate living in a country where there’s free expression. But, Michael, if you ever show up at my front door with a camera, I’ll kill you.”
– Clint Eastwood, actor and director, after picking up a prize at the National Board of Review

“I start with the bra. If the bra’s right, everything falls into place.”
– Kate Winslet, actress, on how she prepares to get into character for any movie she is in.

“The last marriage that was televised was Prince Charles and Lady Di, and that didn’t work out too well.”
– Donald Trump, entrepreneur and billionaire, on his decision to not televise his wedding.

“He had it all. A little bit of devil, a whole lot of angel, wit, charm, good looks, superb timing and great, great class.”
– Bette Midler, actress and musician, on her thoughts on the untimely death of talk show host and comedian, Johnny Carson.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How much school spirit do you think you have?

• A lot, you will never find me without my blue and gold.
• Some, I attend some games here and there.
• Not a whole lot, I’m not ashamed or anything, I just have too many things going on.
• We are the FIU pelicans right?

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

Want to improve The Beacon?

Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and join The Beacon staff today!
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

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.

"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 judges’ 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 ridiculosity. 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, I received a call telling me that I did not make it.

By ANA RIBEIRO
Contributing Writer

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Fame escapes ‘Idol’ contestants

By Heather Sivokos

Can you imagine how TV would be if all the parents were as cool as Sandy and Kristen Cohen? Well, even that would go old. Truth is, the bad apples make it fun to watch. Here’s our salute to a few of the worst parents on TV.

JULIE COOPER, “THE O.C.”

Such fun, that Julie – she’s a lying, selfish, manipulative, materialistic, marrying-for-money, world-class liar AND she slept with her daughter’s ex-boyfriend. She’s not bad, she’s just written that way.

HOMER AND MARGE SIMPSON, “THE SIMPSONS”

We all know Homer is more of a misfit than a parental role model but let’s not overlook Marge’s maternal insipre. Once, when Lisa was so sad she didn’t feel like smiling, Marge advised: “Well, it doesn’t matter how you feel inside, you know? It’s what shows up on the surface that counts. And if you feel bad, just feed the kids, give them all the junk food and push them down, all the way down, your past knees until you’re almost walk-

IDOL, from page 6

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 belts 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 to sing 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.

My group of five finally stepped across the threshold into the audition room, and stood before a young woman who happened to be the three celebrity judges. Perched on a tripod was a camera, and the young woman asked each of us to look into it during 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 to ask her why I couldn’t get a shot, but in my dumb-foundedness I didn’t. I wished for a moment that I would’ve sounded riduculously 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, awfully-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 bit mostly by chance. If you don’t find it, you might experience some frustration, but live a blasphemously 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 around and you’ll be invited to parties, and then you’ll fit in, and you’ll be invited to parties, and boys will like you, and happiness will follow.”

Let’s see. Parents are double, triple or quadruple agents. Dad brainwashed her as a child. Mom shot her. Ah, nothing says familial love like traumatic deception and a gaping bullet wound.

GEORGE AND LUCILLE BLUTH, “ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT”

Dad committed light treason by building homes for Saddam Hussein. Mom is as cold as a frozen banana on a stick.

THE SIMPSONS

The angry little stump of a man who spawned a baby boy, whom he named Hank (“Always wanted a baby named Hank.”) When his older son, also named Hank, pointed out the obvious, Cotton solved the problem by calling the baby “Good Hank.”

THE PARENTS ON THE PEANUTS SPECIALS

Who, on Thanksgiving, leaves their kids alone so they’re forced to forage for their own Thanksgiving meal, which they make out of toast and popcorn?

TV Land no place for role models

By Heather Sivokos

Can you imagine how TV would be if all the parents were as cool as Sandy and Kristen Cohen? Well, even that would go old. Truth is, the bad apples make it fun to watch. Here’s our salute to a few of the worst parents on TV.

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THURSDAY • JANUARY 27

Want to know why partners cheat? Never Satisfied: Why Men/Woman Cheat is a seminar sponsored by the Black Student Union. The event will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at WUC Panther Square.

The National Panhellenic Council presents “Myths and Perceptions,” a discussion about all things Greek. If you want to know all about the Greek the event will start at 5 p.m. and will take place on the 1st Floor lounge of Everglades Hall.

FRIDAY • JANUARY 28

Biscayne Bay Recreation Presents Kayak Day by the Bay. Get your swimming gear on and head behind the pool area by the boy at 12 p.m. For more information please call 305-919-4595 or visit http://wuc.fiu.edu.

SATURDAY • JANUARY 29

Catch Coka Lani and the Beat Street Team at Portamkin Hyundai South, 21111 S. Dixie Highway. Stop by from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for free Beat-Prizes while supplies last.

We care! A Tsunami Benefit Concert featuring Protagonist, Empire, Message In Blood, The Fluent, Hearts Over Rome, Stop This Fall, Dead Lions, Unwanted Superheros, All Absence, Madelyn, Mason, Breathing Chemistry, Lejeune, Weapon X, Where Is Monday, Echo Me Astronaut, A Fragile Line, and more at the Pompano Indoor Skatepark, 2171 Blount Rd. 12:00p.m. 58

SUNDAY • JANUARY 30

SPC Campus Entertainment is presenting WWE Royal Rumble Viewing Event. Join SPC at Gracie’s Grill for this exciting event! Come early. The Pay-Per-View event starts at 7 p.m. Visit www.wwe.com for more details on all the Royal Rumble action!

The play, “Real Men,” will be showing for the last time at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. It explores the lifetime of men and their relationships with their mothers, wives, children and each other. Written by Tony and Grammy Award winner Charles Strouse. For more information call (305) 442-2662.

January 27, 1302

On this day, poet and politician Dante Alighieri is exiled from Florence, where he served as one of six priors governing the city.

Dante’s political activities, including the banishing of several rivals, led to his own banishment, and he wrote his masterpiece, “The Divine Comedy,” as a virtual wanderer, seeking protection for his family in town after town.

SUNDAY • JANUARY 30

WWE Royal Rumble Viewing Event. Join SPC at Gracie’s Grill for this exciting event! Come early. The Pay-Per-View event starts at 7 p.m. Visit www.wwe.com for more details on all the Royal Rumble action!
Preacher labels sorority members ‘whores’

By DIANA SEMPERE
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 13, dozens of FIU students filed 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 Leil 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 Balazc.

Brother Jim’s allegations did not lead to any praisers 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 everyone’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 and amuse 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) Writers
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.

GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

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

BE A GOOD SPORT
A COMIC STRIP STRICTLY FOR SPORTS FANS

BY HARRY COLEMAN AND LUIS NIN

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE: DOLPHINS 2005

I GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.

THE BAD NEWS IS THAT HE’S HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE FITTING INTO THE DOLPHINS HELMET.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE TRADED FOR RANDY MOSS.

NICK SABAN

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

Get to know him from another side — the inside

IN STORES JANUARY 25th
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 team this season.

DaSilva is the third player to leave the team this season.

Star Raphael daSilva has resigned from the Aggie program.

New Mexico State, who has struggled all season, ends its six-game losing streak against conference foe Arkansas-Little Rock who got the best of them, 67-57 the first time around in the Sun Belt opener on Jan. 6.

FIU lost another player. Last year’s all-star Raphael daSilva has resigned from the team.

DaSilva is the third player to leave the team this season.

Senior Ismael N’Diaye (above) finished the game  with 11 points on 4-of-8 shooting. FIU wasted the efforts of N’Diaye and of Ivan Almonte, who finished the game with 29 points.
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 save the team money. The Dolphins are exploring trade options for the Bills Travis salmon 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.

Regardless of his prowess on the field, Williams will not want 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.

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 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 more 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 rehash 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 order. 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 order. (There I go with the cheap shot again!)
SPORTS

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THE BEACON

www.beaconnewspaper.com

Should the Dolphins take Williams back?

He can help the franchise get back on win column

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

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, 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 attempts, more than any other running back in the National Football League. The former Hiesman Trophy winner averaged 1,613 yards and 12.5 touchdowns for Miami.

To put that into perspective, the four guys who tried to replace Williams, Sammy Morris, Travis Minor, Lamar Gordon and Brock Forsey, ran for a combined 1,169 yards this past season for nine touchdowns.

All four guys were hurt at one point during the season, and all failed to emerge as the sole starter.

Williams is not at fault for leaving the Dolphins. The team overused him. Why should he have kept on risking his body for the team when all his efforts were completely wasted by bad coaching and a terrible quarterback?

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. For once however, the team lacked so much of structure and organization to a team that hasn’t seen any since before the Dave Wanstedt-era (which, by the way, never happened. OK?). And now, all of a sudden, he decides he wouldn’t mind having the player who is the antithesis of structure and organization?

Come on, Nick. Let’s look at the situation logically. Either bring back a pseudo-hippie, compulsive, unreliable flake who has been publicly bad-mouthed by current players. He would definitely cause unrest in the locker room, or go after another running back through the draft or sign one through free agency.

It’s not like running backs are slim-pickings this year, either. Edgerin James, who rushed for 1,548 yards and nine touchdowns this season, is from Miami and would prefer to come back home in favor of staying another year in Indianapolis.

Shaun Alexander, who was the second leading rusher this past season (and missed first place by one yard), also said he wouldn’t mind playing for Miami because it’s an appealing place to live.

Signing those players, however, requires offering the right kind of money, something that owner Wayne Huizenga has never complained about.

See HARRY, page 11

After what he did, Run Ricky run away from team

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Ultimately 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.

Despite a career high in points and rebounds from forward Ivan Almonte, the Golden Panthers dropped their seventh straight, continuing its longest losing streak of the season.

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

The New Mexico State Aggies and the FIU Golden Panthers both came into the match up with identical six game losing streaks and no wins.

“We’ve got to get better as a group, but I’m proud of them. They’ve given me every single ounce of effort.”

Sergio Rosco
Head Coach of Men’s basketball team

“I’m happy for Ivan because he hasn’t lost his desire despite the tough season we’re going through,” said coach Rouco following the loss.

The Sun Belt Conference blues continue for men’s basketball

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Staff Writer

During the 2003 and 2004 seasons, the Golden Panthers both came into the match up with identical six game losing streaks and no wins.

As the story of the season once again repeated itself, the Aggies then went on a 10-2 run to take a 22-21 lead with 6:38 to play in the half.

FIU then scored a quick basket, courtesy of fresh- men Kenny Simms to take their final lead of the game.

New Mexico State found the open shot from the left wing all night and finished the half shooting tough, defensive play in the opening half, something they have done all season. For once however, they led halfway through the first period.

As per their style, the Aggies then went on a 10-2 run to take a 22-21 lead with 6:38 to play in the half.

FIU then scored a quick basket, courtesy of freshmen Kenny Simms to take their final lead of the game.

New Mexico State State Aggies and the FIU Golden Panthers both came into the match up with identical six game

See HARRY, page 11

See SUN BELT, page 10

Sun Belt Conference blues continue for men’s basketball