Halting of program results in protest

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Beneath light but steady rain, graduate students from the FIU Speech and Language Pathology program chanted, waved colorful signs and paraded around University Park’s Graham Center. This was done in an attempt to stop what they believe is the closing of their department by university administrators.

“We’re protesting that we need this program in our community, a program that will benefit many people in need, and that despite this, we’re being shut down,” said Shara Segal, a student completing her first year of her master’s program. “They have money like the football team,” said Christine Aguilera, a student in her first year of the graduate program. “They have money for other areas, but something that’s needed for the community, they can’t seem to find the money for that.”

Speech and language pathologists are educated to assess speech and language development and to treat language and speech disorders in infants and the elderly.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 26,000 speech pathologists will be needed to fill the demand between 2002 and 2012 with 53.1 percent more job openings than job available workers in Florida.

Applicants for the positions are only accepted if they have graduated from an accredited master’s program, a status the program would be shut down because the department was done in an attempt to stop what they believe is the closing of their department by university administrators.

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Students enraged by Internet scams, Pg. 4  |  Get your career on track, Pg. 6  |  2005 football recruiting class, Pg. 12
Low revenues threaten to close graduate program

Closing, from page 1

However, when asked about the protests and the closing of the program, Berkman claimed that the students’ reactions were exaggerated and that the program would not be eliminated.

According to Berkman, the university made a decision to temporarily halt the program due to internal problems that might endanger its new accreditation.

To keep its accreditation, the department must meet certain criteria, including the maintenance of a fixed set of faculty members.

Earlier last year, two of the program’s professors, Lamedra McNealy and Lynn Ramos, left the university, leaving only two tenured professors and one clinical professor within the department.

“My primary responsibility is to make sure the program stays accredited and [that] there is a facility to teach the students,” Berkman said.

The dean also stated that the financial reasons behind the actions taken did not come from problems the university may be having but, from a lack of expected revenue from the program.

Berkman said that they anticipated that they would have revenue approaching $30,000 from the Hearing and Language Clinic for its first year and a total of $130,000 after two years.

The clinic has only yielded $23,000 and the faculty within the department has not brought in any outside sponsored research through grants and contracts.

“I hope we [will] find a solution to enhance the revenue in the program and continue to run it,” Berkman said.

He would not state how the revenue increase will be reached.

But, according to ASHA’s website at www.asha.org, a program cannot maintain its accreditation if annual fees are not paid.

A school may keep its status if placed under a two year or more probation in which accreditation standards may once again be reached, but there is no word if FIU’s program will go through this phase at all.

The dean also responded to accusations that the university is eliminating a program beneficial to its planned medical school proposal by stating that the Speech and Language Pathology program would have no correspondence with the school.

“I can tell you that SLP is not a fundamental correspondence with the medical school. It is not part of the core curriculum of a medical school—most medical schools have no speech language departments,” Berkman said.

“That’s not to say that the SLP could not work, it just may not be a core course,” Berkman said.

“My hope is that we won’t do that, but we kind of have to solve one problem at a time.”

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Fatal accident takes life of charming faculty member

By ANA SANCHEZ
BBC Editor

Student’s who walked past Biscayne Bay Campus’ Center On Aging would often find 86-year-old Pearl Ferber sitting at her computer typing away. She still wore matching jewelry and with a coquettish smile she would bow, “I still have all my teeth.”

On the morning of Jan. 31, Ferber’s husband was driving her to work when an SUV drove into the passenger’s side of the vehicle on the corner of Northeast 151 St., at the entrance to BBC.

Ferber was airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital where she passed away. Her husband was injured in the accident but survived.

As of press time and despite several phone calls, The Beacon was unable to reach the North Miami Police department in regards to the accident.

Coworkers were shattered when they heard the news.

“This morning I had to go by her desk and I walked all the way around. I couldn’t bare it. Every day I would pass by and I’d say ‘Hey young lady’ and she would laugh. I’m going to miss that,” said close friend Evelyn Cavley, program assistant for GEARUP Programs in the College of Education.

Ferber worked at FIU for 21 years as a secretary. Born in Milledgeville, Ga., Ferber was raised in Atlanta and then moved to New York where she worked as a secretary for an insurance company.

She married and had two children. She also has one grandson.

“You could always depend on Pearl. She had such a good sense of humor and was fun to talk to,” said Ann Goraczko, associate director for the Institute for Public Opinion Research/Journalism and Mass Communications.

A loyal member of the Democratic Party and an admirer of President Bill Clinton, Ferber was active in a community organization in Concerned Citizens, a community service organization in Sunny Isles Beach.

“At one of the Concerned Citizens meetings the commissioner said, ‘Mrs. Ferber when are you going to retire?’ and her response was, ‘When you retire, then I will retire,’” Cavley said.

Ferber’s coworker’s described her as a consummate professional who was always willing to learn new things.

“She never came in late. She never called in sick. Last week she worked an hour more so she could attend a luncheon this week,” Cavley said. “It was difficult for her to learn Panthensoft but she did it, no complaints and always working with a smile.”

Ferber was very socialable. She still kept in touch with her grade school friends and dined at the Sweet Tomato on weekends. She was fond of traveling and planned trips every year. On Fridays, she attended Tachi class.

For her 86th birthday, her coworkers organized a birthday party where Vice Provost Raúl Moncarz gave Ferber an award for her demonstration of excellence in the work place.

“She was always thinking of other people. She represented what the university is: service, understanding and always having a good disposition toward the present and the future,” Moncarz said.

Services were held at Levitt Weinstein Funeral home in Miami Beach on Feb. 2.

“She was one of those rare people who enriched all of our lives by just knowing her,” said Betty Ryan, an administrative assistant.

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES: A deadly accident on Jan. 31 claimed the life of 86-year-old Pearl Ferber. (Above) Ferber Feb. 2. (COURTESY PHOTO)
Free offers on the Internet con student’s money

By LEONOR GUERRERA Contributing Writer

You know that old cliché that if it is too good to be true, it probably is? Well, the cliché is true and it happened to me. Those of you who surf the Internet regularly have probably seen those banner ads for a free computer; usually they want to give you a free laptop, sometimes it’s a desktop. I went for the free laptop.

This is what happened: I saw a banner at a web page, either at Yahoo or at BellSouth.net, advertising a free laptop.

I clicked on the banner and was transported to a web page that wanted me to buy a number of products and services before they would give me a “free” laptop. The company called itself eMarketResearchGroup.

There were several pages of products and services to buy, and as I went from page to page, the products got more and more expensive. Some of the more expensive products were products that I didn’t want, like a credit card with a fee of $200, or a satellite service, which was more than I wanted to pay every month, and so on.

The products that I ended up buying were the following:

1. A subscription to BMG Music Service, they sent me seven CDs and charged me about $20 for shipping.
2. A subscription to Columbia House DVD Club, they sent me five DVDs and charged me about $13 for shipping.
3. A face cream called Nexi-derm from a company called Boehm Ritter. The cream was “free,” but I had to pay for the $9.95 shipping charges.
4. A subscription to Direct TV, which I later cancelled with no penalty.

Of the above, the face cream company turned out to be the most obnoxious. They charged an additional $49.95 to my credit card, for an alleged subscription to their product, without my authorization. I had to complain to the credit card company, which in turn changed my credit card number and issued me a new credit card. That issue has not been resolved, and I may have to file a complaint with the police, in order to get that charge of $49.95 credited back to my credit card. I have since found that there are several companies on the Internet claiming that they will give you a free computer.

I even went to ebay.com, an auction website, where I tried to find a cheap laptop.

Instead, I found some people are auctioning the Internet address of those companies that alleged to give you a free laptop. Having learned from my previous experience, I didn’t fall for that.

I didn’t get a free computer and now I have close to $100 in charges on my credit card. The moral of the story is that if you have to spend money to get something for free, then it is not free.

If any one has managed to get the “free” computer, the laptop or desktop, please send me an e-mail at: lguer004@fiu.edu.

Former FIU student relates to motorcycle accident obituary, sends prayers

I was extremely heartbroken after reading the obituary in the previous issue of The Beacon and I wanted to pass on a message to the victim’s family. My younger brother recently survived a motorcycle accident and is currently handicapped (doctors say he should be walking again soon).

My family and I are thankful he survived, but it’s quite an adjustment coping with this.

Monstrosity angers faculty member, junkheap not art

FIU has gained a certain level of fame with its University Art Park campus, and deservedly so. Unfortunately, this achievement has been cheapened lately due to a poor decision to erect the monstrosity entitled Mixed Steel Media, in the quadrangle in front of the Primera Casa Building.

Art it is not; rather, it resembles junkyard discards (which is probably what it is made of). If the intent was to display Haitian art, then it would be far better to direct people to the library where beautiful Haitian paintings have been hung from time to time.

Let’s remove this rusty erector set in the very near future.

And please, don’t justify this junkheap with the cliché “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

Tony Shershin, FIU Faculty Member

Former FIU student

He’s just not the same person anymore. He’s over six feet tall and now he can’t even stand up. I wanted to send my condolences to the Gomez family. I am utterly sorry for their loss. My brother also purchased his motorcycle against my parents’ wishes and wrecked it only a few weeks after getting it.

I don’t think I’ll ever be able to look at another motorcycle or rider the same way again. My prayers are with the family as they learn to cope with such a precious loss.

I feel the necessity to speak up after the trauma my family has experienced due to my brother’s accident. No one deserves to go through this pain and suffering, especially when they’re so young! My brother is 23 and he graduated from the University of Tampa in the Spring of 2004.

He was about to start his military career in the army when he got hurt. I will say a special prayer for their family—keep your faith and be encouraged. You are not alone.

Kara Grant, Former FIU Student

Shafted!

Nothing is free on the Internet

OPINION

ALEJANDRA DIAZ Editor In Chief • JOHN LOVELL Managing Editor • LEONICIA ALVAREZ Opinion Editor

LETERS TO THE EDITOR

IRQIIS GIVE THE TERRORISTS THE FINGER...


**OPINION**

**Election won on moral value issues**

By JAMES VALLE
Staff Writer

For those of us studying politics or for the casual nightly news-viewer, whenever the 2004 presidential election comes up in conversation we undoubtedly hear those two, now infamous words: moral values. President Bush won re-election because moral values were a more important deciding factor in the votes of Americans than any other issue, including terrorism, healthcare, and the war in Iraq. These voters favored Bush 80-18% according to CNN's exit polling data.

Politically, voters that thought that Steve and Bob do behind closed doors is more important than our homeland security, provided Bush with the margin of victory.

Republicans have done a superb job of making faith, God, Jesus and morality conservative terms. Pro-life and anti-gay marriage positions supposedly make one “moral.” However, is that the true composition of morality?

Ask a conservative the meaning of morality and they’ll likely tell you to turn to the Bible and study the teaching of Jesus. I am a product of 12 years of Catholic school. This is something I have done, and my conclusion is way off base from that of your traditional Republican.

The four Gospels in the New Testament provide the most direct, detailed accounts in the life of Jesus. Reading the Gospels allows one to appreciate Jesus’s life of Jesus. Reading the Gospels portrays. Additionally, in today’s society we must adhere to a maximum of 400 words. The closing should not happen. It is a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The closing should not happen. It is a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The closing should not happen. It is a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The closing should not happen. It is a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The closing should not happen. It is a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number.

*Phew! [FIU]*

**STAGES OF INEBRIATION**

**BY LUJS NIN**

**STAGE 1: BUZZED**

**ARE YOU JAMACIAN?**

**WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO**

**CAUSE JAMACIAN ME CRAZY?**

**STAGE 2: YOU LOSE ALL FEAR AND BY EXTENSION ALL COMMON SENSE.**

**STAGE 3: GETTING NAILED AND PRETENDING TO BE A TAMBOURINE STARTS LOOKING LIKE A GOOD IDEA.**

**STAGE 4: NO ONE EVER REMEMBERS STAGE 4.**

**STAGE 5: YOU WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A FARM WEARING A SKIRT AND HOLDING A SHovel.**

**BUT NOT IRRESPECTFULLY KNOWING HOW YOU GOT THERE.**

**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.

*WHAT DO YOU THINK?*

What do you think about the closing of the Speech and Language Pathology program?

- The closing should not happen. It is a significant program that FIU needs.
- It should not be closed entirely.
- I feel indifferent to the closing. If it doesn’t affect me, I don’t care.
- I feel the closing is appropriate. What good did the program serve?
- We had a Speech and Language Pathology program?

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

**WINNER & LOSER**

**WINNER**

Female Broncos: The Daleville Broncos, a girls basketball team in Indiana recently broke their 113 game losing streak. And we thought the Golden Panthers were doing bad.

**LOSER**

Booey lover: Brad Devlin, a junior at Estero Senior High was suspended for saying he loved booey during a live broadcast of the school news. Devlin supposedly added the comment after saying the women’s soccer team kicked booey.

**QUOTEABLES**

“It’s a lifetime achievement award, which is completely and utterly surreal, given I’m only 30 years old.”

Leonardo DiCaprio, actor, during his acceptence speech at the Santa Barbara International Film festival.

“I love my community and I have great faith in our justice system. Please keep an open mind and let me have my day in court. I deserve a fair trial like every other American citizen.”

Michael Jackson, musician, in a statement about his recent child molestation charges.

“I can safely tell you I won’t. Because being going to play naked.”

– Paul McCartney, musician, promising no cloth mishaps during his Super Bowl Halftime Show performance.

“Just let me digest it, and then we talk about dresses.”

Catalina Sandino Moreno, actress, on her first Oscar nomination for the film Maria Full of Grace, when asked the important question: “What will you be wearing?”

“I’m pleased as punch.”

– Clint Eastwood, actress, and director, on winning the Directors Guild Award.
Life after college is uncertain. When it’s time to graduate, you walk down the aisle, throw your cap and then it hits you. What are you going to do for the rest of your life? Career Services will try to ease that stress when the 2005 Spring Career Fair is held at the University Park campus on Feb. 15.

Senior Director of Career Services, Olga Magnusen, said that the employment market has improved significantly. “The job market is the best it has been over the last three years,” said Magnusen.

The fair also offers an excellent networking opportunity for students.

Students will be able to speak with representatives from Anheuser-Busch, the Broward Sheriff’s Office, Burdines-Macy’s, Carnival Cruise Lines, FPL, General Electric, IBM and many other prospective employers.

One hundred and thirty-two companies, the maximum number possible, have registered and confirmed that they will attend. Unfortunately, Career Services cannot guarantee that all the companies will show up. Absent representatives was an issue at last semester’s fair.

Amanda Ramirez, majoring in print journalism, did not attend last semester’s fair and has no plans to attend. “I do not think there are enough employers in the journalism field and that is the reason why I never attend,” said Ramirez.

Despite some students disinterest in the fair, Career Services recommends that everyone come out, because there will be a company representative present for every major.

The night before the fair FIU President, Modesto A. Maidique, will host a reception at his home for employers attending the fair.

In order for students to get the most from the career fair, Magnusen offers these tips:
- Come in business attire.
- Bring 25-30 copies of your resume.
- Review the list of the employers attending the fair by looking at the Career Services website: www.fiu.edu/~career.
- Identify prospective employers which interest you and do research on them.
- Follow up with the employers that you meet at the fair and indicate your interest in working with them or having an internship with them.
- The Spring Career Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Golden Panther Arena. The fair is open to all FIU students and alumni. Students will not be admitted if they are not in business attire. For more information on the Spring Career Fair and Career Services go to www.fiu.edu/~career.

By SHANE HOWARD

South Florida is more than just beaches, award shows and a haven for movie shoots. The Florida Grand Opera has offices in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The FGO performs main stage productions at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

“Opera is one of the world’s greatest art forms, one who considers themselves really educated. You need to give it a try,” said Justin Moss, managing director for their marketing and communications department.

The FGO’s season runs from November to May and each opera does five performances in Miami and two in Fort Lauderdale.

According to Moss, opera singers cannot sing on consecutive nights because it puts a strain on their vocal cords, show is done three times a week.

Most students have the wrong idea about opera.


“If you have insomnia, go to an opera,” said Jessica Berman, who majors in print journalism.

According to Moss, the FGO audience looks just like the demographics here in South Florida; young, largely Hispanic people who are a big part of the audience. Then there are those like Yvette Guiterrez who go to the opera twice a week. After watching “Madame Butterfly” at the Broward location Guiterrez said, “It was very good; excellent.”

Each opera is sung in the language in which it was written, but English translations are projected onto a screen above the stage while the performance takes place. An hour before performances, free opera previews explain the plot and the entertaining stories surrounding the opera.

The FGO also helps young singers with its young artists studio. It consists of about 10 singers each year. The studio helps the college or conservatory graduates make the transition from an academic environment to a professional career. The FGO provides them with vocal coaching and training along with acting, movement and dance studies.

“Paul Bunyan” is currently in production. The remaining shows this season are: “The Magic Flute,” “Lucia di Lammermoor” and “A Masked Ball.” Ticket prices range from $19 to $150 and can be ordered online at www.fgo.org or by calling 1-800-741-1010. Student rates are available.

By SHANE HOWARD

Student/Writer

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Cali rapper plays the PR game

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Mixed reviews. That’s the way to describe The Game’s debut album enti- tled The Documentary. Labeled as the next great California rapper, much hype was put on The Game in delivering the highly anticipated West Coast release since Dr. Dre’s Chronic 2001. The Game, who did not begin rapping until two years ago, released the album as a member of G-Unit. Under the direction of Dr. Dre, The Game put together a first class col- laboration of producers and artists on the album. While it doesn’t hurt to have big-name producers like Kanye West, Eminem, Timbaland, Just Blaze, Hi- Tek and Dr. Dre on the album, it did hurt to have so many collaborators. Most of them seem to steal the spotlight away from him and off flow him. In the song, “Hate it or Love it” and “How We Do,” for instance it almost feels as if it should have been a 50 Cent song rather than The Game. Not only does 50 Cent sing the chorus in both songs, but he also delivers too many verses. In “Higher,” 50 Cent spits the opening verse and delivers too many verses. The Game mentions albums and rappers flow about. In “We Ain’t,” produced by Eminem, the Detroit rapper outflows The Game, leading him to mock him- self and say, “Someone get Dre on the phone quick, Em just killed me on my own shit.”

The best lyrical song on the album is the title track. The Game raps, “I’m ready to die without a reasonable doubt/smoke chronic and hit it doggystyle before I go out/until they sign my death certificate/all eyes on me/I’m still at it ilmatic/and that’s The Documentary.”

While The Game’s flow is pretty good, the problem is that he compares himself to too many rappers—leg- ends who’ve been around for a long time and have proved themselves.

In the above verse, The Game mentions albums and songs of legends such as Tupac, Jay-Z, Ice Cube, Nas and Snoop Dogg. It almost seems as if he is trying to put himself among the best. He also calls himself rap’s MVP even though this is his first nationally released album by a major label. Listening to the album feels like an infomercial for products. The Game should open his own store and sell LP’s from NWA, Biggie, Tupac and Jay-Z, Nike Air Force Shoes, Gold Dayton’s, Coca-Cola and Low Lows. All are mentioned in at least 95 percent of his songs.

The Game is also trapped in the 90s, with constant references to Tupac, Biggie and Eazy-E and Dre. He mentions how he wishes NWA would have gotten back together and how he would have told Tupac to be careful of getting shot on the day of his murder.

The entertaining album will keep your head bang- ing. The production is sleek and the verses are real with a true gangsta who hangs around with Bloods and Crypts, this album has the real side of the streets, not the Gucci and Prada that other rappers flow about.

How fame went to Freddie’s head

By ELIZABETH WELLINGTON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

When Eagles receiver Freddie Mitchell flung off his helmet at the end of the NFC championship game, fans gasped. Announcers stumbled over them- selves trying to describe what was going on in Mitchell’s head.

Now, we know the hairstyle is a Frohawk. The cornrows were braided up to the crown of Mitchell’s head, exploding into a bugged-out bush, thanks to Brandi James, a stylist at Accents Unisex Salon in Willingboro, N.J.

“I’ve been to Sweden... and Italy. I saw people there, and their hair was faded, with a little left on the top,” said Mitchell after practice recently, wearing a brown leather jacket and blue jeans. Five days after the win, Mitchell’s cornrows were slightly matted, and the Afro had been pulled back into a ponytail.

“Some of the looks were like mullets. I decided it looked kind of fly. Now everybody is trying to get the Frohawk,” Mitchell said.

When Mitchell was in the salon, the salon’s owner, said Mitchell told him he wanted to look like Mr. T’s character, Clubber Lang, in Rocky III.

“The Eagles were about to enter the battle of their lives,” said Mitchell. “We thought that was the perfect look for the game.”

Last week, about a dozen men requested the Frohawk, he said. The look costs $45.

Simmons is working on a hot Super Bowl look for Mitchell and quarterback Donovan McNabb. McNabb was in the salon recently, getting his braids done.

“This look came about because of the love of Philadelphia,” Simmons said. “We want to give the fans something to talk about and enjoy.”

In Jacksonville, Mitchell plans to wear T-shirts with “interesting say- ings,” which will be available on his Web site, www.freddiemitchell.com, which launched this week.

“People just want to know what Freddie Mitchell is thinking,” Mitchell said. “Where in the world is Fred- die Mitchell right now?”

SOME FAVORITE THINGS

BY LEONCIO ALVAREZ – OPINION EDITOR

1. CONVERSE CHUCKS

What can be better than moderately expensive shoes that come in every possible color and can be color coordinated with every piece of clothing in your closet? Not much I tell you.

2. THE SIMS 2

The only game that I can honestly say has kept me from eating, sleeping and even urinating for a good two days in a row. Do I regret it? Not a bit.

3. FIONNA APPLE

A depressed anorexic woman who sings about her many heartaches and how men suck. Ironi- cally, she still has obsessed fans who track her every move, even after she appeared on MTV in a dress without shaving her armpits.

4. MY CHILDHOOD OBSESSION WITH THE SPICE GIRLS

Five, sometimes four, British women who sing poorly out of tune and made a poor attempt at a movie and even a video game, every fifth grader’s dream come true. A true example of 15 minutes of fame.
Super Bowl ought to be super clean

By GAIL PENNINGTON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Unless Paul McCart-
ney moons the crowd, the halftime show at this year’s Super Bowl will be as squeaky clean as the NFL can make it.

No tape delay will be in place during the halftime, which also includes singer Alicia Keys. But the NFL says it is reviewing “all facets” of the halftime per-
formance in advance.

Alicia Keyes. But the NFL says it is reviewing “all facets” of the halftime, which also includes singer.

No tape delay will be in place during the halftime, which also includes singer.

After last year’s outcry about Janet Jackson’s infamous wardrobe mal-
function, commercials for Super Bowl XXIX, airing Feb. 6 on Fox, came under scrutiny as well. So audi-
ences won’t see Mickey Rooney’s bare, 84-year-
old backside (the Airborne spot didn’t pass muster) or a Bud Light ad parody showing a stagehand rip-
ing Jackson’s top with a beer bottle. (Anheuser-
Busch agreed with Fox and the NFL not to air the parody during the game but its getting even more publicity on the bud-
weiser.com website.)

For fear of offending mass audiences, Fox has gone so far as to rename its “Best Damn Sports Show Period,” usually seen on “Best Damn Sports Show Road Show Period.”

Alicia Keyes. But the NFL says it is reviewing “all facets” of the halftime, which also includes singer.

The spot was scripted by “Housewives” cre-
ator Marc Cherry at the request of ABC and wasn’t intended to be controver-

sial Cherry told TV critics meeting in Los Ange-
les. “We were just that stupid,” said Cherry.

The spot was sup-
posed to feature “House-
wives” co-star Nicolle Sheridanc broadcasts in November.

The job of offending mass audiences, Fox has gone so far as to rename its “Best Damn Sports Show Period”.

Cherry said he felt bad that some viewers were offended, but added, “I didn’t really realize ‘Monday Night Football’ was such the family view-
ing experience. I wouldn’t let my 5-year-old watch beer commercials and big-breasted cheerleaders every Monday, but that’s me.”

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Research is being conducted at Florida International University to develop a dining service master plan for the campus. An essential part of the process is direct research conducted through focus groups. Your input is needed.

If you meet any of the following classifications and are available for 1 1/2 hours at the time and date indicated below and are willing to participate in the study, please contact Ximena Cordero via voicemail at 305.348.2538 or via email at corderom@fiu.edu

**University Park Commuter Students**
12:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.
2:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

**University Park Resident Students**
4:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.
6:00pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

**University Park Apartment Residents**
7:30pm Monday Feb.7,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

**University Park Faculty & Staff**
12:00pm Tuesday Feb.8,2005 - Fresh Food Co.

**Biscayne Bay Campus - Residents**
6:00pm Tuesday Feb.8,2005 - Wolfe Center 245

**Biscayne Bay Faculty & Staff**
12:00pm Wednesday Feb.9,2005 - Wolfe Center 245

*When responding please indicate your Name, ID number, Email Address, Phone number, and which session you are interested in participating. Data will be aggregate in nature to ensure privacy is not compromised. All focus groups participants will receive $25.00 Panther Bucks for their time. Group size limited to 12 people.*
I am in Miami. The weather, and the life in Miami is different compared to back home in the Dominican Republic. The same type of city as back home. I like the same type of coach Rouco is. I have really good players there.

The players that are coming back, I know Sergio will be going to junior college in Iowa. I know he fed me to a junior college. He was not really much different. There were some players in junior college in Iowa that I had in the past. I know we are going to have a good team. We are going to play very hard from the beginning and start putting everything together so we can have a really nice run throughout the season.

Q. Where do you see yourself after your career is finished?

As a Golden Panther!

I want to keep working hard and get the best of what I can. Hopefully, I can play basketball because it’s what I like. If I can go play professional basketball somewhere I would do it. But if I can’t, then that’s why I am here in school studying and trying to get the best I can from the school.

That way when I finish my career playing basketball I know I will be able to do something; I will be able to get a job somewhere outside basketball.

Q. What do you think this team’s biggest necessity is for next season?

We need big guys and we need more shooting. That’s been our biggest problem this season. Ish [N’Diaye] has been shooting well the last couple of games, but Junior [Matias], who is our pure shooter on the team, has been hurt for much of the time. We need to put together guys that want to work hard and play hard.

Q. How is coach Rouco different from coaches you have had in the past?

Coming from the Dominican, coaches play a little differently because of the situation there. They know that players have to go and work outside of basketball so there isn’t really enough time to practice. Here [at FIU] and in junior college in Iowa it was not really much different. Coach O’Brien [Southeastern CC], he was just like coach Rouco in terms of basketball and playing hard and giving your best effort to win. Coach Rouco is really energetic and, like what happened against Arkansas-Little Rock in the first-half, he tried to challenge me, because I didn’t have a good first-half. He just challenges you every time he can and tries to get the best out of you.
Three Northeast players sign with FIU

The 6-3, 270 pound player was a first-team all-district and a second-team all-county Large School Football team selection of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

The team captain of the Dade/Broward all-star game selected FIU over Auburn, Wisconsin, Kansas State and South Carolina among others.

Going into the program’s second year of transition in Division I-A, Strock knew that players were beginning to take notice.

“Each year there is more interest in our program. Our move to I-A certainly helps,” Strock said. “The young men who are part of our 2005 Golden Panther football team will have the opportunity to play a major college schedule the whole time they are here.”

With only one Miami-Dade commitment, Strock said he hopes Miami-Dade coaches and players show interest in FIU next season.

All the signees attend high school in Florida, with 10 from Broward, three from Palm Beach and one from Miami-Dade. Strock tried finding players in Miami-Dade but didn’t succeed.

“It’s not that we didn’t recruit Dade County,” Strock said on the lack of local signings. “We recruit this country very heavily. A lot of players made decisions last night and this morning to go other places. Godspeed to them. We gave them the opportunity to play here, but they decided to go elsewhere. We’ll continue to recruit Dade County and hopefully, we’ll have a better year next year.”

Nevertheless, high school coaches in Broward are already taking notice.

“I think FIU provides an excellent opportunity for a young man to stay in South Florida and play Division I football,” Ratkevich said.

PRESS TALK: Don Strock was happy with his recruiting class for this season. Among the holes the former Miami Dolphin focused on filling were running back, wide receiver and offensive lineman. All signed players are from Florida.

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Don Strock adds 20 with recruiting class

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Twenty high school seniors have pledged to become Golden Panthers this fall by signing Letters-of-Intent to play for FIU on Feb. 2.

Looking ahead at having his second senior class graduate after the 2005 season, Head coach Don Strock’s biggest priority in this year’s recruiting class was filling in certain positions where the team was lacking depth.

“When this season we’ll lose six offensive lineman, possibly seven. We’ll also be losing five wide receivers,” said Strock on National Signing Day.

Apart from thinking ahead, Strock is also focused on finding players to replace key seniors that will graduate this spring. The junior transfer leads the team in scoring with 16.8 points per game and rebounds with an average of 10.0. By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

After choosing basketball over baseball, which his brothers play professionally, Ivan Almonte came to FIU from the Dominican Republic and is making a significant impact on the basketball court.

Recruited by coach Rouco, Almonte proves day in and day out what working hard in the sports arena can get you.

The Beacon spoke with Almonte about his past, the present, and what he would like to do in the future.

Q. After such a promising start to the season, what went wrong?

Well, we had a couple of injuries and a lot of new people on the team. Everybody was trying to get to know each other and get together. Then [there were] injuries and some of the issues that took place with some of the players on the team having to leave.

That messed with the chemistry of the team, but we know that we can do better. So now we are down to nine players, and it’s hard to practice when you only have eight or nine players in practice. We have to now do all we can, and I know we can get everything together and put all the pieces together. Everybody has to accept their role and play. After that, we are going to get better and win some games.

Q. What has the team morale been like in the locker room before and after games lately?

Coach Rouco won’t let us put our heads down, even though we are down to eight players, we have been practicing hard, even with injured players. We have been trying to do the best we can, but some games we just didn’t play well and others we made some mistakes when we could have won during the seven-game losing streak. There were some games we knew we could have won if we had made so many mental mistakes. But that is what we are trying to do now: fix those mistakes and get better [and] play harder because that is how Rouco is. He is energetic, and we are going to try and play like that.

Q. Having come from the Dominican Republic, how and when did you end up playing basketball?

Ivan Almonte came to FIU from the Dominican Republic and is making an estimated All-Independent selection. Ned’s high school coach, Adam Ratkevich, knows that the schools that overlooked Ned because of his size will regret it in the future.

“People don’t realize A’mod was both the leading rusher and scorer in Broward County,” said Ratkevich. “People underestimated him and I think it will come back and kick them in the butt.”

Demetrius Byrd highlights the lone Miami-Dade selection for FIU. The 6-3 receiver caught 37 catches for 860 yards and nine touchdowns for Anthony Saunders’ team.

FIU signed a total of five offensive linemen. At the top of the list is another Northeast playe