The Beacon, January 8, 2007

Florida International University

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Committee: 3-day schedule has official name

MARIA CHERCOLES
Asst. News Director

A website and a new name for the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class scheduling implementation, its objectives, process and monitoring. The committee also hopes the guidelines will address concerns and explain to the University community the schedule changes and how individual departments and professors can better take advantage of it.

During the meeting, Webb questioned the proper name for the new schedule.

“Three day schedule misleads students into thinking they will only have to come to class three days a week,” Webb said.

Witherell agreed with a name change. She added that “three day schedule” does not address the fact that the adjustments also involve space, capacity and classroom utilization changes, not just the fact that some classes will be offered thrice a week.

After discussing different names such as “new daytime schedule” and “new class schedule,” the committee voted to officially name the program “New 3-Day Schedule” because of the term’s wide-spread use.

Living on-campus: a better bargain?

JOSE PAGUERY
Staff Writer

Freshman Alex Suczewski is looking for a job-off-campus to make ends meet. Why?

Because housing prices are on the rise.

“It’s crazy how expensive they’re making it to live here,” said Suczewski, now living at Panther Hall.

For some students, like Suczewski, the cost of living on-campus may already seem too high. Housing costs may increase five to seven percent in the Fall semester.

Still, this remains the lowest rate of change in the immediate area, and 2007 prices of three apartment complexes near FIU show that most dorm room rates still beat the local competition. However, the increasing rates may cost students something more than simply hundreds of dollars; added to the semester’s bill: time away from academics.

“I don’t approve,” Suczewski said. “It costs me more to live here than it does to study here.”

As of Spring 2007, rates at the dorms range from $316 less than living at Bay Vista. As an added perk for living on-campus, students avoid signing year-long contracts that carry along process fees, deposits and the occasional credit check.

Still, for Suczewski the cost remains too high.

“Commuter students that can afford to live at home might not have the same worries as those of us that live on-campus,” Suczewski said. “The cost of living here is much higher. Even the food here is more expensive, and it’s difficult to find a job that has decent pay and isn’t cashing in or bagging.”

Suczewski, like many others on-campus, finds himself juggling academics and work to sustain his college career.

But as prices on-campus continue to rise, living off-campus may be a more viable option.

“I was not prepared to hear the prices they were asking,” said Fabienne Estigene, while waiting in line at the Housing Office. “With that amount I could have gotten my own apartment.”

Estigene may be right. A look at the price changes between 2005 and projected prices for 2007 show that a one-bedroom and one-bathroom apartment at Summer Grove, located about 5 minutes away from FIU, would amount to less than FIU’s Bay Vista.

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When housing at UP is at capacity, students are moved to Bay Vista, which is a bus drive away. Students who share a two-bedroom and one-bathroom apartment could actually end up saving hundreds of dollars.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Sophomore Antonio Tindur moves back to Everglades Hall Jan. 5 after the break. He’s been living on-campus for two years and doesn’t plan on leaving.

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Celebrations begin for MLK Day

NICOLE ACOSTA
BBC Assistant

Robert Coatie, senior director of the Multicultural Programs and Services office, hopes the theme of the 16th Annual Revered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2007 Celebration will drive the FIU community, and the community at large, to grow a sense of “community” rather than “chaos.”

“We live in a community and a world that is full of chaos,” Coatie said. “So I think the question is: How can we find hope in the midst of the chaos? Without hope, one might have to question life and survival within the community.”

The events scheduled for the MLK celebration held at University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus, will take place Jan. 9 through Jan. 13. A list of guest speakers includes Barry- ington Irving, a student at Florida Memorial University who is attempting to become the youngest and first African-American to fly solo around the world; Kembra Smith, a college student who was sentenced to 24 years in federal prison for being a first-time nonviolent drug offender and was granted clemency in 2000 by former president Bill Clinton; and Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and an active participant in the Civil Rights movement.

The week-long events will take off with the MLK Youth Forum, which will take place at BBC’s Wolfe University Center Ballroom at 9 a.m. The forum will feature Irving as the guest speaker, and he will talk to an audience of middle school and high school students, as well as the FIU community.

The Peace Walk will immediately follow, in which students, faculty and members of the community will walk around in a circle around BBC.

Ophelia Weeks, associate professor for the he Department of Biological Sciences, as well as the co-chair for the MLK youth forum and Peace Walk planning committee, said the forum and walk are mostly geared towards...
**Class studies Da Vinci Code symbols**

**MARTHA CASTILLO**

Contributing Writer

After the controversies brought on by *The Da Vinci Code* and its examination, an interest arose in the subjects touched by Dan Brown’s fictional novel.

Both Christians and non-Christians were divided on what they thought was real and what they thought wasn’t. Based on this argument, FIU provided seven religious Studies classes beginning a class called “Behind The Da Vinci Code, REL 3490,” for fall and spring semesters – next Spring semester it’ll be offered online.

The main goal of the course is to help the more than 300 students who said they would only capitalize on this option if they plan to attend three class sessions.

The students will still be able to study the art and life of Leonardo Da Vinci, the symbolism in his paintings, and his relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

**The Da Vinci Code raised issues that matter to people.**

This course will help students understand and discuss these issues; generally it is good when academics are responsive to the people whom we serve,” said Professor Nathan Katz, chairperson of the religious studies department.

One of the main focuses of this course is to teach students how to read novels and film adaptations carefully by looking at the original sources and learning how to evaluate both, “The goal is not to just to end every class with a verdict about whether Dan Brown is correct about this or that view expressed in his novel. Instead, we use the book as a starting point to examine issues that are interesting in and of themselves,” Larson said.

The intent of this course is to teach students to evaluate the controversy behind *The Da Vinci Code* – not making it just another sensational news story,” said Christine Gudorf, department chair.

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**MyFIU links University community**

**BEN E. BADGER JR.**

Staff Writer

Expected to launch during this Spring semester, the MyFIU is expected to change the way students use the PantherSoft system.

MyFIU offers a new system that will be incorporated into the current PantherSoft system offering a wide variety of features to help them manage information, such as allowing them to check their FIU e-mail, register for classes and check class schedules.

“The first will be to go to its website, my.fiu.edu and the second will be by logging into Panther,” said Melissa Leonor Anthony, a student enrolled in the course.

Essentially, MyFIU will be completely customizable in regards to what information students want displayed, according to John Cabarga, marketing coordinator for UTs.

MyFIU will also include its own version of RateMyProfessor.com, a popular website that allows students to rate and review professors.

“I’ve been working to have the feature included on MyFIU, Cabarga said. “In order to add it, students will be able to check professor ratings from there rather than having to go to RateMyProfessor.com.”

Another important feature will be the “My Messages” feature. According to Cabarga, this will allow any department to communicate with specific students. For example, if the Office of the Registrar needs to contact students that a class they signed up for has been cancelled, they could do it through the “My Messages” feature.

If a student’s e-mail works like the FIU Webmail, many students do not check the FIU Webmail account, so having a whole set of pages sends to that account can be forwarded to their personal e-mail accounts.

After hearing about MyFIU, junior Yasley Sierra had mixed feelings on the subject.

“It’s important to know that any e-mails sent to that address will be everything in one place. As it is, I go to PantherSoft and get lost,” Sierra said. “Once MyFIU goes online, the Student Information Systems website sista.fiu.edu will be taken offline. Instead, anyone who goes to that address will be automatically redirected to MyFIU.”

“It’s become antiquated,” Cabarga said. “Everything everything is more on MyFIU.”

Once operational, MyFIU will only be available to registered students, but it’s hoped eventually be available to faculty and staff as well. All of the technical modifications or improvements to the system will be handled by UTs, but due to FIU’s broad use, the actual content will be managed by the University and the University’s Office on what department is doing with what with its portion of the system.

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**Off-campus housing an option for some students**

FIU could make close to $7,550 from two students living anywhere near FIU, the rate of increase in the area near FIU averaged at 6.5 percent. The average projected rate of increase for 2007 could reach 7.5 percent, leaving students with higher bills and fewer places near campus to live at.

Between 2005 and 2006, the rate of increase in the area near FIU averaged at 6.5 percent. The average projected rate of increase for 2007 could reach 7.5 percent, leaving students with higher bills and fewer places near campus to live at.

Additionally, the cost of a four-month stay anywhere near FIU is not only steadily increasing in price, but the rate of increase is rising as well. This housing increase follows the recent and sharp rise in the price of South Florida real estate.

Between 2005 and 2006, the rate of increase in the area near FIU averaged at 6.5 percent. The average projected rate of increase for 2007 could reach 7.5 percent, leaving students with higher bills and fewer places near campus to live at.

For some, paying anywhere between $3,200 to $3,400 a month has become too much for two students living at Summer Grove.

“I had the option of staying with my sister at her apartment but she wanted the dorm experience,” DeLeaveaux said. “That’s his dream school, so whatever it costs, I’ll find the money.”

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**Housing, page 1**

The Beacon is looking for writers, photographers and page designers. Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and fill out an application today.

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www.beaconnewspaper.com

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**THE WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY • JANUARY 8**

Welcome Back! Spring semester begins

Peir Advisor announcement ceremony: 12 p.m., GC Forum

Panther Rage Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140

ASK ME Tables: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., GC Forum

**TUESDAY • JANUARY 9**

SOC General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 150

SPC General Meeting: 5:30 p.m., GC 140

SPC Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill

**WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 10**

SGA General Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 140

Multicultural Programs and Services and SPC Films “Lackawanna Blues”: 8 p.m., GC 140

**THURSDAY • JANUARY 11**

Men’s Basketball vs. Western Kentucky: 7:30 p.m., Golden Panther Arena

Order of the Omega Applications Available

**FRIDAY • JANUARY 12**

Academy of Leaders Application deadline

Intramural Pre-Season Basketball Tournament Entry Deadline

SPC Film – Snakes on a Plane: 7 p.m. & 10 p.m., GC 140

**SATURDAY • JANUARY 13**

MLK Day of Service: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

-Copied by Reuben Pereira
Pino Center offers students entrepreneurial skills

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.
Assistant Life! Editor

A lone red door in the otherwise washed-out Viertes Haus building at University Park marks the entrance to the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center. The color red, chosen as the center's signature color for symbolizing power, also plays a peculiar role in one of the center's prime events: The New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition, where students showcase their business plans to entrepreneurs and investors to compete for start-up funding.

"Alan Carsrud, our executive director, wears red cowboy boots to the competition and tells the judges, "I want you to leave blood on the floor, and I don't want to stain my boots," said Pino Center Associate Director Colleen Post. "We want our judges to be tough. 'I want you to leave blood on the floor, and I don't want to stain my boots' is a comment that to Post.

Asst. Life! Editor

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Asst. Life! Editor
January 12 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Granham Center Ballrooms. Bond will be speaking at the event with his background and position. Coatie said about the Program Committee. She said those people who participate in the week-long festivities will remember and be inspired by MLK and his deeds.

"The biggest thing is to commemorate the spirit of life and service. It is important for students to understand the importance of the MLK celebration and to be inspired by his legacy," Coatie said.

The Peace Walk began five years ago, and it has become a key part of the MLK celebration. According to Coatie, the Peace Walk is a symbolic reminder of the struggle for equality and peace.

The Peace Walk is a symbol of the struggle for peace and unity among people everywhere, and it is an important part of the MLK celebration. The walk itself represents the need for peace and unity among people everywhere. The Peace Walk is not just a physical act; it is a symbolic representation of the struggle for equality and justice.

The Peace Walk is a reminder to students of how much progress we have made in the struggle for equality, and it is a symbol of the importance of continuing to work towards a world of peace and justice. The Peace Walk is a way to honor the memory of Dr. King and to continue his legacy of fighting for justice and equality.

The Peace Walk is a way to remember the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and it is a way to inspire the next generation to continue the fight for justice and equality. The Peace Walk is a way to honor the memory of Dr. King and to carry on his legacy of fighting for justice and equality.
OBAMAPALOOZA: Attentive reporters carefully cover the statements of possible 2008 presidential candidate Barack Obama. Some think the extensive coverage of the race at so early a date is excessive.

The 2006 elections were disastrous – at least if you are a Republican like me. You would hardly know it, however, by watching the news. With Democrats taking control of Congress, there will be plenty to talk about in the coming two years. While I will admit that I am eager to know who is going to be the running man to be my next president, I also think that the nation has issues that it needs to face right here, right now. We are a country at war and cannot afford to ignore the matters at hand.

That said, the only question that remains is why? Why would there be so much speculation about something so far away, something that, for the moment, the public has little or no control over?

Of course, nobody can stop prospective candidates from creating exploratory committees to test the waters before deciding to spend million upon millions of dollars on a campaign. Yet there is something terribly wrong when news outlets spend more time speculating and gossiping than providing the information that actually might come in handy when it comes time to cast their ballot.

The “news” media spends its time telling viewers irrelevant information like how much smash candidates are talking, how much money they are raising, spending, or what they did last weekend – they might as well be telling people the candidates’ favorite colors.

One would think that responsible journalists would have more common sense, but alas, even journalism falls prey to economics – as the news industry has – becoming predominantly driven and profit obsessed.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are your feelings about the way the media has covered the 2008 presidential race?

• It is definitely premature – we have more important things to worry about.

• It’s never too early to start talking about who is going to replace Bush!

• Who watches TV anymore? MySpace is where it’s at.

• The media’s doing a wonderful job.

• What media? I get all my news from The Beacon.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

OFF TO THE RACES

The Best of 2006: Politics

“Let’s give a welcome to Macaca, here. Welcome to America and the real world of Virginia.”

– Senator George Allen (R-VA), referring to a student of Indian descent working for his opponent’s campaign. ‘Macaca’ is a term for a monkey used by some as a racial epithet. This gaffe helped contribute to his loss to Democrat Jim Webb.

“There are no good options in Iraq. There are bad options and worse options.”

– Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), on “Meet The Press,” discussing the war in Iraq.

“I’m the decider, and I decide what is best.”

– President George W. Bush, at a press conference defending his decision to keep Donald Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense. Rumsfeld decided to resign after the midterm election.

“We have a lot of kids who don’t know what work means. They think work is a four-letter word.”

– Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), in a speech in May. She later apologized to her daughter, Chelsea.

“Any important Republican who comes out and says they didn’t know me is almost certainly lying.”

– Jack Abramoff, former lobbyist. His conviction for conspiracy and fraud and his long history of working with some Republican members of Congress helped make corruption a major theme of the midterm election.

“Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and your will find things only evil and inhuman.”

– Pope Benedict XVI, quoting from a 14th-Century Byzantine emperor. This quote sparked controversy and violent riots throughout the world.

“You know, education, if you make the most of it, you study hard, you do your homework and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don’t, you’ll get stuck in Iraq.”

– John Kerry (D-MA), attempting to make a joke insulting the President. This remark led to a firestorm of criticism, as it was perceived as an insult to U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

“The Devil came here yesterday, and it smells of sulphur still today.”

– Pope John Paul II, referring to a previous visit to Holland.

“Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, referring to Presi-
dent Bush while speaking at the United Nations.

“I don’t care what people are saying Uptown or wherever they are. This city will be chocolate at the end of the day.”

– New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, vowing to keep the city from transforming into a gritty, “vanilla” city in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
Percussion, samples among elements on 2006 indie hits

SAMANTHA QUINÓN
Staff Writer

This album uses horns, mandolins, accordions and fun hand percussion, set to just enough rhythm from a synthesizer to keep it from sounding dated. The result is a genre blending indie-Eastern European Folk-Gypsy-Mediterranean-Byzantine-Mariachi sound underlying singer/songwriter Zach Condon’s voice, which has the timbre and fullness of a French horn and the longing of his 19 years in New Mexico to actually see the Europe about which he’s singing.

Download: “Postcards from Italy”

This album of duets should be sold with a prophylactic. Mark Lanegan’s husky, cowboy baritone and Isobel Campbell’s ethereal Lolita voice will make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. The simple arrangements of pianos, guitars and strings let the duo’s voices and sexual chemistry take command.

Download: “Revolver”

Back after a 23-year “break-up,” the legendary Mission of Burma pulls through and releases material just as good as that of their underground heyday — only they rock it like the 50-year-old geezers they are, not wannabe versions of their ’80s fantasies. If you haven’t listened to pre-Nirvana underground rock, The Obliterati will be like seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre when you’ve only seen her on a postcard. Next time you listen to those posers from Interpol, you’ll realize whom they’re trying to copy.

Download: “2wice”

Pirates, Spidermen to seize theaters this year

REUBEN PEREIRA
Senior Staff Writer

For the most part, the year 2006 offered sequels, prequels and remakes. The last three months, however, were quite different with a lot of quality offerings. 2007 won’t be much different from last year, though, with a record number of sequels and remakes clogging the first nine months of the year and the last three months offering highly anticipated Oscar baiting adaptations. Here are some of the films to look out for this year.

300 (MARCH 9)

Director Zach Snyder (Dawn of the Dead) brings the Battle of Thermopylae to life courtesy of the same technology that Robert Rodriguez used for Sin City. Gerard Butler leads the cast of Spartan warriors against the armies of the Persian Empire. Having seen the stunning trailers of the film, it’s easy to guess that the film will contain plenty of blood and violence.

GRINDHOUSE (APRIL 6)

Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino collaborate to recreate the “grindhouse” theatre experience of the 1970s by presenting two feature length movies for the price of one. The experience will include fake trailers and an intermission as well to complete the experience of a “grindhouse” theatre. Rodriguez’s movie will be a zombie flick with Rose McGowan starring as a woman with a gun for a leg. Tarantino’s film will be a slasher film about a madman who stalks beautiful women at night. This being Tarantino and Rodriguez, expect lots of gore, fantastic dialogue and top-notch filmmaking.

SPIDER-MAN 3 (MAY 4)

There’s not much to say about this third installment of the Spider-Man franchise that hasn’t already been said. With Spider-Man facing Venom (Topher Grace) and Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church) as well as the revenge seeking Harry Osborne (James Franco) along with dealing with Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), one thing’s for certain — Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire) will have his hands full. This will definitely become one of the top three highest grossing films of the year, if not the highest grossing.
Annual Student Show

Presented by The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum and The College of Architecture + The Arts, Florida International University

Juried by renowned gallerist Fred Snitzer, this exhibition is a selection of the best works submitted by FIU students of all disciplines.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Annual Student Show is a juried exhibition open to all FIU students. All submitted artwork will be judged, and selected pieces will be exhibited at the Frost Art Museum. Submit your work for a chance to exhibit at the Frost Art Museum.

Submissions accepted at:
The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
107 Ave. SW 8th St
University Park, PO 110
Miami, FL 33199

For more information: Call 305.348.2800, or visit our website at frostartmuseum.org

JOIN US

Join us for the awards ceremony, complimentary wine, hors d’oeuvres and music.
6:30pm • Frost Art Museum, PC 110

Important Dates
Submit artwork on:
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 10am - 6pm
or Thursday, Jan. 25, 10am - 7pm
Results announced on website:
Monday, Jan. 29
All unaccepted works must be picked up:
Monday, Jan. 29 or Tuesday, Jan. 30
Opening reception and awards ceremony:
Friday, Feb. 16, 6:30pm
Exhibition closes:
Sunday, Mar. 11, 4pm
All exhibited works must be picked up:
Monday, Mar. 12, 10am - 7pm

Eligibility
The Frost Art Museum invites all students who have been enrolled at FIU during the past year (Spring 2006 – Spring 2007) to enter. You must present a valid FIU identification and proof of academic enrollment. All artwork must have been completed between January 2006 and January 2007. Artwork that has been previously exhibited at the Frost Art Museum is not eligible.

Each entrant may submit a maximum of two pieces, not limited to any one classification.

Awards
“Best in Show” Award will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on Friday, February 16. There will be various prizes and merit awards. The judge will have complete discretion as to the artwork selected. Their decision is final.

Entry Conditions
Entrees must provide all equipment necessary to exhibit work including but not limited to: DVD players, monitors, projectors, frames, specialty hardware and electrical cords. Two-dimensional works on paper must be framed and protected with Plexiglass® and wired for hanging.

If not, the work will be mounted and placed on the most visible area of the sculpture. The label should be placed on the most visible area of the sculpture.

Entrants whose work is accepted must attend the awards ceremony on Friday, February 16, 2007. Winners will be announced at the ceremony. Awards will be voided if the recipient is not present. No exceptions. The Museum is not responsible for works not picked up on the designated date. Works will be removed from Museum premises and discarded immediately after the designated date and time.

If you are unable to collect your work on the designated date, complete the “authorization to collect work” section on the entry form.

Acknowledgment to Collect Work
I will pick up my artwork on the designated date.

I acknowledge that my artwork will be removed and described if it is not picked up on the designated date.

Signature date

Authorization To Collect Work
If you are unable to collect your work on the designated date, print the name of the person you wish to collect your work and attach a photocopy of your ID. The person you authorize will not be able to collect your artwork without these two documents and your ID.

By signing below, you give the Frost Art Museum permission to reproduce your artwork in any media for educational and promotional purposes.

Authorize:

To collect my artwork on my behalf during the designated date and time.

Signature date
Instead of leaving town for the holidays, I spent my first day of Winter Break in court. No, I wasn’t arrested for exposing myself – I had jury duty. I was originally scheduled for it in early October, but midterms forced me to postpone it. In retrospect, I should have made a lame excuse to get out of it, but I thought, “Hey, it might be a cool experience.” It wasn’t. At least I wasn’t alone – my friend Robert Ramirez, a junior at FIU, was also chosen for jury service that same day.

We arrived at the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building by 8 a.m., the time stated on our summons, and were surprised that several people were wearing FIU shirts. Apparently, I wasn’t the only student who was looking to delay his service until the first day of vacation. We ended up filling out a questionnaire that asked us several questions regarding whether we knew anyone who had been arrested for a felony; the questionnaire needed to be turned in to the bailiff when we were called to a case.

After sitting down, Robert and I waited for the bailiff and walked to the assigned courtroom. When we entered, everyone in the courtroom, including the judge, stood up out of respect for us. I sat down and looked at my fellow jurors – one was playing PacMan on her Game Boy Advance and the other one was either sleeping or praying, I couldn’t tell. Before we were interviewed, however, the judge called for a lunch recess. When we returned, the case was over – the defendant had accepted a plea bargain. “Great, I can go home now,” I thought.

I was wrong. We had to report to an, “aggravated assault with a firearm case.” And this time, we actually got interrogated. Well, I didn’t. The whole time, the attorneys avoided asking me questions. The only time I spoke was when the attorneys asked about my mother’s experience with firearms – the defendant in the case was black, and the attorneys probably thought I would be biased. Then again, I’m glad I wasn’t chosen – one day is enough. Be warned: if you have a driver’s license, you can receive summons just like I did. I’m just glad I don’t have to watch How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days for another year.

I received a certificate that excused me from jury service for a year. I looked at my watch; it was 6 p.m. Despite spending 10 hours in a depressing courthouse with nothing to do except wait, I learned a lot. The judges taught me about the workings of a trial, and I learned how the interview process is used to select impartial jurors. I believe I wasn’t chosen because of the answer I gave regarding my mother’s experience with firearms – the defendant in the case was black, and the attorneys probably thought I would be biased. Then again, I’m glad I wasn’t chosen – one day is enough. Be warned: if you have a driver’s license, you can receive summons just like I did. I’m just glad I don’t have to watch How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days for another year.

The library (a.k.a. 3-foot bookshelf) failed to entertain me: bare-chested men riding stallions graced the covers of the faded romance novels lying on the shelves. This was going to be a long day. Halfway through How to Lose a Guy, the movie was paused (the men rejoiced), and jurors were selected at random. I wasn’t picked. The library (a.k.a. 3-foot bookshelf) failed to entertain me: bare-chested men riding stallions graced the covers of the faded romance novels lying on the shelves. This was going to be a long day. Halfway through How to Lose a Guy, the movie was paused (the men rejoiced), and jurors were selected at random. I wasn’t picked. I reached the third round before my number came up. Along with 29 other victims, I followed the bailiff and walked to the assigned courtroom. When we entered, everyone in the courtroom, including the judge, stood up out of respect for us. I sat down and looked at my fellow jurors – one was playing PacMan on her Game Boy Advance and the other one was either sleeping or praying, I couldn’t tell. Our case involved an attempted robbery.

While the other jurors exited, once the questioning ceased, the selection began. 10 jurors were chosen – I wasn’t one of them. The chosen ones stayed behind while the other jurors exited. Once outside, I had the pleasure of delaying his service until the first day of vacation. We ended up filling out a questionnaire that asked us several questions regarding whether we knew anyone who had been arrested for a felony; the questionnaire needed to be turned in to the bailiff when we were called to a case.

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Lack of masculine reading material common at jury duty

In composition and performance, Ward displays an ear for the distinct hallmarks of so many American music genres. On this album, he blends them all together into a personality of his own. The emphasis is on Ward’s unique singing voice, his transcendent guitar playing and his skill at writing melodies that last. His singing has a presence to it that brings to mind jazz vocalists, but also the grittiness of a deep-South bluesman. No one else sounds exactly like him.

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Comfort, confidence a must in Spring fashions

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Spring fashions are here so it’s time to splurge all of your financial aid money on clothes. Well, maybe not all of it, but at least a good portion of it.

FLASHBACK: The first thing anyone should know about what’s hot in 2007 is that in order to look forward in fashion, you must look back in time. Bell-bottoms, capris, leggings, neon-colored headbands – all trends that have been seen over and over again.

So when you’re wondering whether or not that shirt goes with that belt, just look through your mom’s high school yearbook. Believe it or not, mixing brown clothing with black accessories is acceptable; just don’t over do it. A tan brown jacket along with black accessories and brown boots looks amazing.

THE HOODIE: Do you want to look both fashionable and comfortable at the same time? Then your best bet is an American Apparel hoodie. Comfortable, color variety and a hood to keep you warm – sounds like perfection to me. Hoodies are good for an early class, after gym use or for just lounging around a friend’s house.

SHOES can either make or break an outfit. Conversees have been around for four decades and can now be found in almost any outfit. Converses have been around for four decades and can now be found in almost any color or pattern, which makes them very useful when color coordinating. Converse.com offers a very cool customization section where you can customize your own converse to the tee. You can even add you initials on the outside of the shoe.

No matter what you decide to add to your closet this season, make sure you feel comfortable in what you wear. An outfit won’t work unless you don’t feel confident in it.

Prequels, sequels mark upcoming year’s films

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD’S END (MAY 25)

Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and crew return in their third voyage. Although no official premise has been announced, the film should kick off where the last film left off with Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth Swan (Keira Knightley) and their crew of misfits heading off in search of Sparrow to the world’s end. Asian superstar Chow Yun-Fat joins the cast as a Chinese pirate as well as Keith Richards as Sparrow’s father.

Ratatouille (JUNE 29)

A Pixar film is always anticipated and this one is no exception. Director Brad Bird, who also directed Pixar’s The Incredibles – arguably the studio’s best work – is back in the director’s seat. Ratatouille’s (pronounced rat-a-too-ee) hilarious teaser trailer featuring a talking rat in Paris stealing a piece of cheese was hilarious. The film deals with a rat living in Paris who loves good food and dreams of becoming a chef while avoiding getting killed.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (JULY 13)

Harry Potter and pals return to the big screen after a year of absence. Joining the ever growing cast in this installment are Oscar nominees Imelda Staunton as the hateful new teacher Dolores Umbridge and Helena Bonham Carter as the evil Bellatrix Lestrange.

The film will be directed by renowned television director David Yates, who will be making his film directional debut. Potter fanatics will flock to theatres in droves hoping to see Harry battle Lord Voldemort as well as witness the death of one of the series’ most beloved characters.

AMERICAN GANGSTER (NOVEMBER)

Director Ridley Scott, Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe team up in what looks to become one of the year’s finest films. Frank “Superfly” Lucas (Washington) was the biggest heroin dealer through the ’70s. The film will chronicle the events leading up to Lucas’ arrest. The anticipation of watching Crowe and Washington together on screen is worth the price of the admission alone.

SWEENEY TODD (DECEMBER)

Tim Burton and Johnny Depp team up for the sixth time in this adaptation of the highly acclaimed Broadway musical about the demon barber out to avenge those wronged by him. Sacha Baron Cohen (Mr. Borat himself) will be starring opposite Depp as his adversary and Helena Bonham Carter will co-star. Just the thought of watching Depp and Cohen dueling each other and singing under the direction of Tim Burton will be a sight to behold.
Before she began setting school records at FIU, sophomore Sara Giovannoni was faced with one of the most difficult decisions in her life: give up the sport she loves or postpone getting a degree.

“I knew that I could do something else and I need a degree,” Giovannoni said. “But at the same time I didn’t want to quit swimming, because I was doing pretty good and I knew I could do it for a few more years.”

After graduating from high school in Italy, her native country, Giovannoni enrolled at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in early 2004. Soon thereafter, she found out how difficult it was going to be to balance classes and practice. Not only was she studying industrial engineering, she was also driving 40 minutes to school everyday from her home in Modena.

In Oct. 2004, Giovannoni competed with the Italian National Team in the 7th International Swimming Federation Short Course World Championships held in Indianapolis, Ind.

“I was missing so many classes, and in Italy the universities don’t really care about sports – even if you’re on the national team,” Giovannoni said. “If it’s not soccer, they don’t care.”

Giovannoni began swimming when he was 5-years-old with his brother, Andrea, because she was told to do so by doctors. Andrea, who is two years older, was diagnosed with scoliosis and doctors told the family swimming would help him.

When she turned six, Giovannoni began training with the Coral Springs Swim Club. Thus, she started swimming and competing in races.

When she arrived to FIU, sophomore Sara Giovannoni holds the FIU record in the 100 and 200 breaststroke. She also competed with the Italian National team in 2004.

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By the time she turned six, Giovannoni was already competing in and winning every event except the backstroke for the club team N.C. Ghirlandina, which she continued competing for until she arrived in the United States.

Despite the amount of time she’s been swimming, her parents, Dimer and Cosetta, have been fully supportive and have never pushed her to do anything she didn’t want to do. “They had fun,” Giovannoni said.

“I'm really happy about the time,” Giovannoni said. “I was supposed to do this time probably [in the Sun Belt Conference championships], so I really achieved this goal [earlier than I expected].”

Even though her time gives her a good possibility of getting into the NCAA Finals, Giovannoni still wants to improve to an “A” standard time of 2:13.65 or faster – an attitude that she applies to her school work as well.

“I'm a really ambitious person, so I'm trying to do everything the best – like have the best grades,” Giovannoni said. “And I’m really strict to my stuff, too. I just want to improve my time and see if I can make the ‘A’ cut. I really really want to go to the NCAA’s this year.”

Lung-Zaharia would like to see her swimmer continue to improve, but is confident her time will be good enough.

"Nothing is official until the end of February, but I think she’s going to be invited,” Lung-Zaharia said. “Plus, she’s going to prove that between now and then as well.”

“I think for the first time ever in the history of FIU we will be going to the NCAA’s.”

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**RECORD BREAKER:** Sophomore swimmer Sara Giovannoni holds the FIU record in the 100 and 200 breaststroke. She also competed with the Italian National team in 2004.
Recruiting, assembling staff top priorities for coach

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Q: Even though we’re in the dead period of recruiting, how has it been going so far and how are you selling the program to kids?

Kids have been waiting a long time for FIU to take off. We live in Miami and people want to stay home. The word is out: FIU is committed to becoming a big time, prime time program. Everything is in the works: the modern stadium, the beautiful field house, and new weight room. I’ve been around UM for most of my life. I’ve been fortunate enough to make some great contacts with all the local high school coaches extending as far as the tip of Florida. They’re going to come into play. Those relationships are strong. They know we’re going to hire great people and they want the players to be around great people. You want to make sure these kids are going to be in good hands.

Q: Now that you’re here, it adds a little more excitement to the UM vs. FIU game. Are you and the players looking forward to the game?

You can’t even think about that. FIU has to focus on FIU. There are several things between now and opening practice that we need to do to put ourselves on course to become a great football team.

Q: Defensive assistant Bernard Clark is your first hire. What made him stand out? What prompted you to hire him first?

I think we all know what kind of coach and person he is. He is one of the top coaches in the entire country. I know him personally as well as a former teammate. I don’t have any children now; if I did, he’s the type of person I would completely trust my children with. These are the kinds of coaches we want here: knowledgeable, intense, charismatic. He’s an energetic guy that lives and dies for the program. He truly believes in the vision this year and he’s going to do everything he can to make it happen.

Q: What are your immediate goals for the team?

Obtain the highest G.P.A. possible, to be accountable to each other, to be a team that has complete respect for each other as a teammate and as a person. Everything else will take care of itself.
JOURNEY TO GREATNESS

Women's Basketball coach Cindy Russo wins 600th game

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Editor

It’s 1963 and Sister Elizabeth Marie demonstrates the mechanics of a lay-up to an 11-year-old girl in Portsmouth, Va. The St. Paul’s Elementary sixth-grader soon becomes captivated by the game of basketball. More than four decades later, Sister Marie’s pupil stands by the sidelines of a game coaching her own basketball team, clapping hands and rallying at the top of her voice. On Dec. 23, Cindy Russo – Sister Marie’s pupil and current coach of FIU’s women’s basketball team – achieved her 600th victory after her team defeated Central Connecticut 73-51, despite trailing by as many as 15 points in the first half.

Cindy Russo began her coaching career at her alma mater, Old Dominion, in 1975 as an assistant. Two years later, she would accept the part-time head coaching job at FIU. She departed from FIU the following fall, but returned for the 1980-81 season as a full-time head coach.

She has coached every FIU women’s basketball game since her return. No other coach in FIU women’s basketball history has had a winning season. Russo has accounted for 560 of the school’s 578 victories.

“My first goal was to build a basketball program. They gave me the opportunity, so I wanted to come in here and build a good program for them,” Russo said.

Despite her success, the odyssey to 600 victories required tedious commitment. Her off-seasons include rest and relaxation along with a healthy dose of basketball preparation. “I don’t know if there are off-seasons anymore in women’s basketball,” Russo said. “We run camps, recruit and take a little time off.”

Russo’s 600th victory is an achievement that acknowledges all her former and current players and coaches. “[The win] signifies a lot of people who got me there,” Russo said. “This is not something you can do as a single coach. Good assistant coaches and the players are needed.”

Russo, had to conduct practices under less than perfect conditions in the infamous Tim Gym, an airport hangar used as a practice facility at University Park during the 1970’s and mid 1980’s.

She makes sure to remind her players of the struggles of those who have preceded them. “She talks about the past players and what kind of challenges they have had and it helps me a lot,” said senior center Lasma Jekabsone.

Russo motivates her players to trust each other and play together using any means necessary. Even agreed to get a permanent tattoo if FIU beat Miami.

“If getting a tattoo is what it takes, then she would make another deal just to make us win,” Jekabsone said. “She would do anything just to help us out.”

The decision on what type of tattoo coach Russo will receive is still pending. Though Russo considers the 600th victory a milestone, she did not make the win the focal point of that night’s game. “Honestly, she never mentioned it. Person- ally, I didn’t know. She is not here to get the accolades; she’s just here to win every game,” said senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson.

Russo is ranked 13th on the all-time NCAA Division I women’s basketball coach win list due to her work on the court. She hopes to work with her players just as hard off the court. “I’d like to think I made a difference in young women’s lives not only on the basketball court, but in real life as well,” Russo said.

New head football coach looks to lead team into unfamiliar territory

Q: Have you had any mentors teach you and guide you?

I think the guys I’ve worked with have been great mentors. I think Butch Davis did a phenomenal job when he got to Miami. When I went to Rutgers with Greg Schiano, he took a program that had not traditionally done well. He did a great job changing the culture, making them buy into the program and his thoughts and beliefs. You see the result of that. You get a place that becomes a winner and that’s what we’re going to do at FIU.

Q: What type of identity do you want the team to have?

It’s going to be a team of intensity, it’s going to be aggressive and it’s going to have great character. We’re always going to make sure we do things the right way. The game of football is a game of emotion. It’s a game of passion. At the same time there are some lines there. You do have to demonstrate great sportsmanship. You do have to do it in a classy way. You can do whatever you need to do at the highest level and still uphold the integrity of the game.

Q: Do you know what type of offense and defense the team will be running?

It’ll be exciting. For years, living in South Florida you see these great athletes. It’s going to cater to what you can bring to the program. There’s not going to be any limits or handcuffs on either side of the ball.

NEW LEADER: Mario Cristobal addresses the media at his first press conference after he was hired to coach the Golden Panthers on Dec. 19.

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