Student apprehends purse thief at UP

**JOSE PAGLIERY**
**Staff Writer**

Suzy Rainsberger, a sophomore who lives along the western stretch of Kendall Drive, switched her Ford Explorer for the new Scion XB when the large SUV began to gazzle gas at a rate of $100 a week. Her combined savings may total $616 just this year.

“It’s better to pay $300 a month for a new car than $400 for gas,” she said.

According to junior Felipe Aldana, who works and other responsibilities tend to work around 15 to 20 hours. Then they start working more and more. Work tends to be the first reason why students drop classes.

“I would do it,” said Clara Scott, a senior who drives her Honda Civic from home by Metrorail to FIU everyday. “[I’d] put that money towards my credit card bill.”

The analysis concludes that gas prices across 107th street are higher and matched north of NW 14th street, but show a decrease south of this street, closer to FIU. Prices then increase rapidly as the stations get closer to Doral and Kendall. Also evident is the tendency of students who end up dropping out, where adjacent gas stations compete, jointly fluctuating their prices. Areas like Doral, Pinecrest and Miami Beach are no strangers to this sort of regional price control. The graph (page 2).

**A friend of mine said her purse was missing,” said junior Tyler Crain who apprehended the suspect.

“Then some of my other friends said they saw a suspicious looking guy with a black backpack. I looked behind me and my black backpack was gone.”

A few minutes later Crain spotted the suspect and confronted him.

“The guy said it was his back-pack, but I opened it up and saw all of my stuff with some of his thrown on top,” Crain said. “I said we would wait for the police to decide.”

Crain forcibly held the suspect and waited for Public Safety officers to arrive.

The suspect was placed under arrest.

Public Safety officers presented statements they could not release any information until the investigation was completed, including the suspect’s name. “You feel so violated after something like this,” said junior Alison Robbins, the student whose purse went missing.

After the suspect was caught, neither the purse or its contents were found. “[The] purse was more often than we would like,” said Nathaniel Belcher, director of the School of Architecture. “We have panic buttons and other means for students to contact Public Safety in these kinds of situations.”

Like many other buildings at UP (such as the Graham Center and the art trailers), the School of Architecture building is opened 24 hours, according to junior Felipe Aldana.

“We pull all-nighters a lot,” Aldana said. “Even glue gets stolen.”

**CRAIN**

**CLASSES, page 2**

**CLASSES, page 2**

**CLASSES, page 2**
Local gas stations sell cheaper gas

CLASSES, page 1

with the $161.70 per credit
repeat surcharge. So the
normal three-credit class
would go from $312.99
to $798.09 (Figures based
on the Fall 2006 – Summer
2007 Tuition per credit
chart available at www.fiu.
edu/~cashiers).

With dropping a class
may be a temporary
relief, dropping too many classes
could have serious conse-
quencies.

“There are financial aid
issues,” Johnsen said. “If
you drop below the required
number of courses a semes-
ter, your scholarship could be
in jeopardy.”

With some insurance
policies, students may
remain on their parents’
plan as long as they are
full-time students. This
varies depending on the
many different insurance
policies, but Johnsen urges
students to keep this in
mind when they are drop-
ning classes.

There are several alter-
 natives to dropping classes,
 according to Johnsen.

“Early in the semester
students should talk to their
instructor,” Johnsen said.

“They may be able to give
you further instruction or
help guide you in the right
direction. Students can also
take advantage of the many
tutoring services at FIU.”

Early is the key to suc-
cess according to Johnsen.

Students should not seek
tutors the day before an
exam but as early as pos-
tible to ensure the student
can absorb and understand
the material being taught
in class.

“Tutoring should be seen
as a way to achieve excel-
ence,” Johnsen said.

The Student Learning
Center is located in Primera
Casea room 247. There, stu-
dents can request tutoring
in many different courses.
Students already
into their online classes
and check their own college’s
advising programs.

Silvera also suggests
students should Early is the key to suc-
how many times a week
the times of their selected
courses and be true to
whether or not they can
wake up on time for the
early morning classes.
Sleeping in too many times
could cost a student the
class.

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Erica Charles
M.B.A. Candidate

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www.beaconnewspaper.com
Creative professor takes time to write during break

JOSE MAYA
Staff Writer

This semester, history professor Rebecca Friedman is getting away from teaching for a while as she continues to write her second book and awaits the arrival of her third child, due in February. She will return in the summer to teach, Introduction to Women’s Studies.

Recently, she received a fellowship from the Natural Endowment of Humanities that will assist her with funds toward her work in progress, which is titled, Domestic Interiors and Modern Imaging: a Cultural History of the Russian Home.

The date of the book’s release is not yet known because of the complexity of the research needed to write the book.

With a New York upbringing and deep U.S. Northeastern roots, the University of Michigan alumna felt somewhat isolated when she first came to the Biscayne Bay Campus due to the majority of the humanities department being at University Park.

“I got assigned to BBC, and I felt lost. It was hard to get to know my colleagues and know the hallway conversation,” Friedman, who now feels at home, said.

After teaching at FIU for five years, Friedman received the associate professor recognition from FIU during her sixth year.

“It was a tenure promotion given to me by my department and the College of Arts,” Friedman said.

Friedman also won the FIU Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award in the Fall of 2005, where she was nominated by her department and voted by a faculty senate that decides, through student and peer evaluation, the professor’s nomination.

Friedman’s first book, Masculinity Autocracy and the Russian University, 1804-1883, was released in 2005.

Friedman, whose mother was an English professor, sees her mother and her former University of Michigan professors as mentors and teachers, a view that Friedman’s former students share when they describe her.

“She is a vibrant and interesting lecturer and inspires interest in her students,” said senior Lisa Howe, a former student of Friedman majoring in history.

Students in Friedman’s past modern European history classes did a mock session of 19th century British Parliament. They then divided into groups and picked out a representative from each group to argue for or against women’s right to vote in accordance to whatever thinker they were assigned.

Friedman, whose expertise is Russian history, also assigned students to perform a Joseph Stalin trial.

Friedman believes the debates are beneficial to the class.

Loraine de la Fe, an FIU graduate, also enjoyed her former professor’s teaching style and her level of involvement with her students.

“She’s not one of those professors who lecture forever—she asks insightful and critical thinking questions and makes them get involved in the lecture,” de la Fe said.

Lara Krieger, history professor, had nothing but positive things to say about her co-worker.

“She’s a perfect colleague. She’s smart, engaged, passionate and effective. She’s an invaluable asset to the department and to the College of Arts and Sciences,” Krieger said.

As for her free time, Friedman says she enjoys reading contemporary novels and watching movies, as well as devoting time to her two young children.

For information about future classes, contact her at Rebecca_Friedman@fiu.edu, or call her office at 305-919-5839.

Revived club focuses on aspects of humanities studies

MEGAN WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Revived last semester, the Humanities Club is not only aiming to have students spend more time on campus through cultural and educational activities but to make the learning process more enjoyable.

“Humanities is indigenous to [the Biscayne Bay Campus] and since it’s a commuter school, the club would be beneficial to students in that they can have a scholastic experience that feels more cultural and this way they can basically have fun and learn something,” said Barbara Watts, an associate professor of art and art history who serves as the club’s faculty advisor.

Like its logo, Leonardo da Vinci’s “Vitruvian Man,” the club is intended to bring together ideas about art, architecture, human anatomy and symmetry.

According to Bruce Harvey, associate professor and director of the humanities, one of the club’s goals is to help bring a stronger sense of community to students with diverse intellectual, artistic and cultural interests.

“The club’s activities—film nights, among others—promote and share the goodness of humanitities throughout BBC,” Harvey said.

The humanities program focuses on the insights, critiques and aesthetic visions of philosophers, poets, playwrights, fiction writers, artists, film makers and religious thinkers. This approach will be employed by the Humanities Club through its events and lectures.

The club was first started in 1993 by Maria Demos, a professor and Classicist in the history/humanities department serving as the first faculty advisor.

Demos said the club was started because students wanted a way to express their ideas.

“Students who lived on campus wanted an outlet where they could share thoughts and experiences, so they decided to start the club. I was asked to be the advisor and I gladly accepted,” Demos said.

In 2003, Demos went on a sabbatical, and a year later, so did the club due to its inability to find a permanent faculty advisor.

After its long absence, the passion for ‘great thought’ was revived at the beginning of the Fall 2006 semester. Students interested in reviving the Humanities Club were introduced to each other by Harvey.

The club is not limited to humanities students. For a fee of $5 per semester, anyone who is interested can become a member.

Tentatively, the Humanities Club will hold meetings on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Hospitality Management building, room 175.

“Right now we are just trying to find the right meeting time that’s convenient for everyone,” said Rossie Montenegro, a junior majoring in philosophy and current president and founder of the club.

Since its revival, there have been two meetings and the club’s membership now stands at 10 members. Its officers, such as Montenegro, are hoping to attract new members through their activities.

“We want to increase membership and get members involved in campus life and arts, history and poetry through different activities,” Montenegro said.

There are plans underway for the club to partner with an honor society to do community service; films followed by discussions are going to be an almost monthly affair, and trips to the Spanish Monastery and Japanese Garden are also planned for this semester, though no dates have been set.

For further information regarding the Humanities Club, contact Montenegro at rm0906@fiu.edu.

NEWSFLASH

SOC holding elections to fill empty positions

The Student Organizations Council will be holding special elections Jan. 25 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 159 of the Wolfe University Center.

The elections are being held in order to fill the vacant positions in SOC’s executive board. All vacant positions are paid.

The following positions are open: vice president, secretary, treasurer, events coordinator and marketing director.

Each club is allowed to have one representative cast a vote in the SOC elections.

Students who are interested in applying for an SOC position should pick up an application at the Campus Life office in WUC, room 141.

The deadline to submit applications is Jan. 23.

Compiled by Nicole Acosta
**Smog to smother South Florida skies**

**DENZEL D. BURNSIDE III**
Contributing Writer

"Wow," is what I say every time I take in the beauty of Los Angeles. Community activists and even tourists travel to Southern California, you may ask yourself: is the smog as thick as portrayed in movies, and TV? Unfortunately, the air is just that bad, according to recent studies conducted by the UCLA Institute of Environment.

In its ninth annual Southern California Environment Report Card, it revealed that the film and TV industry in California is a significant contributor to “America's dirtiest skies.”

According to a study prepared by L.A.'s Integrated Waste Management Board, the television and film industries produce more air pollution than the hotel, apparel and aerospace industries combined. The entertainment industry actually ranks third in greenhouse gas emissions nationwide.

The concern for air pollution in Southern California draws minimal concern for those living in other regions of the country. However, with many productions being moved from Hollywood to other cities including Miami, it is in our best interest to ask how the film industry might negatively affect the environment.

The reasons behind Hollywood's pollution-producing behavior are many but easily identifiable. The report noted, for instance, that do notors care enough about their surroundings. However, officials caution against additional regulations which they feel could push the entertainment industry out of California and maybe into our very backyard.

Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., cautioned in an interview with the Los Angeles Times that additional regulations could drive more movies and TV productions elsewhere.

“There would be a risk because you have other states out there quite anxious to get a piece of the film industry,” he said.

The TV and film production industry employs 252,000 people in the Greater Los Angeles area and generating $29 billion in annual revenue, economic benefits that would be welcomed by any city with a struggling economy.

Several business owners in Miami would welcome the entertainment industry such as Franco Carcetti, who owns ABC Costume Shop in Miami's Design District.

“Every commercial that's shot in town, they come here to take something,” Carcetti said in an interview with The Miami Herald.

Miami already has been flagged as the premiere music video location and been the setting of movies like Bad Boys II, and Miami Vice, and film festivals like the American Black Film Festival and the International Film Festival. If this is the trend, we will definitely see more productions in the future.

Economically, the city may welcome the opportunities, but it must remain vigilant over the industry to avoid the pollution it may bring.

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**Video games not responsible for nation's ills**

**RICKY DOMINGUEZ**
Contributing Writer

Video game censorship is a major issue being discussed by schools, community activists and the media. Is the violence committed by children inspired by the amount of violence contained in the video games they play? Some think so.

Last year, the ill-fated 109th congress passed C.A.M.R.A., the Children and Media Research Act, a new law that would create a $90 million commission to investigate the negative impact of video games on the children of America.

Senator Joe Lieberman, one of the sponsors of C.A.M.R.A., has often complained that video games are much too violent and should be censored for the benefit of the people. The first amendment of the Constitution states that as citizens of the United States we have both the freedom of speech and of the press, meaning that you can put anything on whatever medium and distribute it to the public.

Video games can influence the behavior of an individual, but it doesn’t mean they should be blamed when a person commits a heinous crime. Any person with a grasp of reality can control their actions, however inspired or influenced by interactive media. If someone wants to go to the streets and shoot a bunch of people, then it’s their prerogative to do so.

Video games have different ratings and a reason, ranging from E (All Ages) to AO (Adults Only). Player discretion has always been advised by the companies who make video games, it’s just up to the buyer to follow these guidelines.

Store clerks are not supposed to be selling M-Rated (Mature Themed) games to underage kids or face losing their job. The companies that make and market these games do not want to do so to make sure that the proper audience uses their products. Some game developers have even gone as far as to put warnings of violence and gore and other mature themes which appear whenever the game is played on its corresponding gaming console.

Once a game is out on the streets then it’s all in the consumer’s hand. Parents should be involved in what their children purchase to make sure that they’re not playing something too violent for their age.

While things such as racism, drugs, sex, violence, and vulgar language exist in video games, there is no reason why they would force someone to go out into the street and commit another mass shooting to mimic the crimes.

People should start taking responsibility for their actions, and stop blaming video games for their mistakes.
Anxiously awaiting the professor’s arrival, the class slowly started to fill with students. The professor entered and wrote four names on the board: John, Paul, George and Ringo, collectively known as The Beatles, a band that changed not only the face of popular music, but the collective minds and attitudes of an entire generation and all those who followed.

Professor Armando Tranquilino set out to bring the history of The Beatles class to FIU and, in doing so, became the first teacher in all of South Florida to teach the course, which is taught at several other universities nationwide.

“I wanted to not only teach the musical aspect of the band, but also why they’ve endured as such a cultural force into the 21st century as well,” Tranquilino said.

The class, taught chronologically, touches upon not only The Beatles but their musical ancestors as well, tackling the blues and early R&B and segueing into the early rock ‘n’ roll era of Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley.

From that point, however, the class is completely dedicated to dissecting and understanding each Beatles release: singles, albums, album covers as well as concert tours.

Students registered for the class also get to watch rare footage of The Beatles in concert and several of their films, which have been out of print for years.

For one learning exercise last semester, Tranquilino brought a session drummer to perform for the class to demonstrate some of the originality and innovation the Beatles displayed in their drumming, while Tranquilino played piano and bass guitar. The two musicians took song requests from the class and gave background information about each tune, ranging from the songs’ difficulty to how the songs were still original and fresh after 40 years.

University Park campus’ Student Government Council President Alfi e Leon, who took the course this past Fall, particularly enjoyed the feedback and knowledge that Tranquilino provided about the band.

“It’s a great class to open up a chapter of music to students who didn’t live through it,” Leon said. “The music is timeless and, in that way, the class itself is timeless.”

Much of the learning in the class takes place in the form of classroom discussions but is supplemented by listening to Beatles songs, which is intended to showcase the group’s musical evolution from deceptively simple love ballads to musically and lyrically complex pieces of art.

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Senior Shaan Dhholakia, another student who took the class in its experimental stage, was impressed by the professor’s passion for the music.

“A class like this reminds people what music really is and shows that bands today are only emulating what The Beatles did before,” Dhholakia said.

Due to the popularity and success of last year’s experimental course, the class has become a permanent addition to the roster starting Spring 2007 and has become an online course in order to eliminate problems that arose from classroom availability.

Tranquilino stresses, however, that the class will not just have only assigned readings now that it has moved to an online format. According to Tranquilino, there will be “listening portions, video clips, as well as personal recordings from myself to highlight certain key elements to The Beatles’ sound.”

Although the class has only been around for a semester, it has received promotion on radio airwaves, including the weekly Beatles talk show “Beatle Brunch” on Majic 102.7 and its website brunchradio.com.

Anyone interested in registering for the class can look for MUH 2993 on PantherSoft. In the words of Tranquilino, if you’re “ready to rock and learn about The Beatles, then sign up.”
THURSDAY • JANUARY 11
WHAT: The Cover Thursdays
WHERE: The Cove, 10730 NW 25 St.
WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Open Bar until 12:30 a.m.

FRIDAY • JANUARY 12
WHAT: SPC Films presents Snakes on a Plane
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7 p.m., 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Comedian Dave Attell performs
WHERE: The Miami Improv, 3390 Mary St.
WHEN: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $26.75

WHAT: Club Nocturnal Local Celebrity Nights
WHERE: Club Nocturnal, 50 NE 11 St.
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $20

SATURDAY • JANUARY 13
WHAT: Pato Banton & the Mystic Roots Band; Fourth Dimension
WHERE: The Culture Room, 3045 N Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $15

WHAT: MuG and Jacuzzi Fuzz perform
WHERE: Corbett’s Sports Bar and Grill, 12721 S Dixie Hwy.
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $5, free for 21 and up

– Compiled by Reuben Pereira

STARTING TO GET OLD: (Clockwise from left) Junior Nicholas Giambiani and freshman Maria Garcia search for their textbooks; students brave long lines; and empty shelves still common during the first week of classes.

PHOTOS BY FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON
ATHLETICS NEEDS STUDENTS’ SUPPORT TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Pay almost $185 a semester on student fees (times two on the calculator for the full year) don’t even want to see if their investment is pulling its weight? If you bought a house would you not live in it?

It could be that Miami, by nature, roots for teams that win (if anyone disagrees with that statement, feel free to write me a letter, postcard, email, text message or MySpace comment as soon as possible, so that I can inform you of your need for professional help).


Just last season, the Miami Heat felt this fan euphoria when everyone claimed to support the team and cheered just as loudly as they did in that fabulous 2002-2003 season.

The list goes on and on.

So it is no surprise that FIU sees horrific attendance numbers; the quality is not on par with the average Miamian’s standards.

Fine. I can live with that, except for the little fact we talked about above: FIU students are paying up front for the product on the field, court, diamond, trampoline, etc.

I can understand not wanting to shell out $60-$200 to take your lady friend to a Heat or Dolphins game. She won’t enjoy it the same way you or I might. But at FIU you already paid, so why not go out to one game?

Just try it out. If you like it, come back for more.

After all, you get in for free. The students voted in favor of the increase in money because they want to see their school on a map, so stop complaining about it and come out and watch a game.

Without the support of the student-fans and donations from alumni, the athletic program will never reach a high level.

Worst of all, students will continue to pay outrageous amounts of money every semester for teams that have no one cheering for them.

It’s hard to win when no one’s in the stands. After all, it’s not like some big time boosters fronted all the monies – you did.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Men’s basketball fails to halt losing streak

RENAELD SMITH
Staff Writer

After dropping its first game of the New Year, the men’s basketball team was eager to win against Louisiana-Lafayette Jan. 6.

However, the young team seemed anything but desperate to win as a mediocre first half performance resulted in a slim 74-71 loss on the road to its Sun Belt Conference foe.

With the win, the Ragin’ Cajuns improved to 4-12 on the season, while the Golden Panthers fell to 6-9 and continue on Conference USA action.

Even in disappointment, there were a few bright spots for the Golden Panthers as senior guard Johnwen Villegas had a game-high 25 points, while Alex Galindo gave arguably his best performance of the year, picking up his third double-double with 23 points and 13 rebounds.

The Golden Panthers opened the game shooting a dismal 8-for-25 from the field and were out rebounded 23-14 in the first half.

“You can’t score 20-points in a half of a college basketball game on the road and expect to win,” coach Sergio Rouco said.

Heading into the second half, the Golden Panthers knew that things had to get better because, despite their poor play, they trailed the Raging Cajuns by eleven, 31-20.

The scoring punch for the Ragin’ Cajuns was coming from a familiar name, Ross Mouton. The senior, who has been on an offensive tear of late, had 12 first half points, while connecting on 4-of-6 attempts from beyond the arc.

After making good on just 1-of-11 3-pointers in the first half, Villegas caught fire as he poured in 5-of-7 3-pointers, which led the way to a 20-point half. Following Villegas’ lead, Galindo had 16 points and 10 rebounds in the second half.

Despite the offensive display from Villegas and Galindo, the Ragin’ Cajuns still held a 61-50 edge, with 3:50 remaining.

Sensing their chances for a comeback slipping away, the Golden Panthers turned up their defensive intensity and a series of long bombs from Villegas and Galindo pulled the Golden Panthers within a single point 72-71 with just 6.8 seconds remaining.

On the other end, defensive specialist Chris Fuller committed a foul on ULL junior David Dees, who calmly sank two free throws to secure the 74-71 win.

After Mouton carried the bulk of the offensive load in the opening half, it was Dees who went off in the second. The feisty guard put up 14 points on 5-of-9 shooting from the field to help his team win. Mouton finished with a team-high 22 points, Dees added a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Despite a costly turnover in the waning moments of the game, Fuller was instrumental in the comeback attempt for the Golden Panthers as he scored all of his 11 points in the second half.

“We came back and Chris [Fuller] gave us a great spark in the second half coming off the bench,” coach Rouco said.

For the Golden Panthers, the loss was just another in a series of tough contests. It all started with a heartbreaking 68-66 loss to Sun Belt foes Florida Atlantic Dec. 28.

In that game FAU’s Daude Rice swished a 3-pointer with just 5.9 seconds left to put down the 68-66 win.

Following that loss, a big Middle Tennessee squad had their way with the Golden Panthers on New Year’s Eve as the Blue Raider duo of Kevin Kamase and Desmond Yakes put up 13 points each on FIU.

“Tough loss, I’m not happy with the loss. We’ve got to do a better job of making the easy baskets,” coach Rouco said.

In FIU’s first game of 2007, South Alabama also jumped out to a lead on the Golden Panthers and ran away with a 69-52 win Jan. 4.

With the results of that tough road trip dwelling in their minds, the Golden Panthers look to turn it all around with some much needed home cooking.

Their three-game home stand against Sun Belt opponents will begin Jan. 11 against Western Kentucky, which they will then face Denver Jan. 13 and North Texas Jan. 18. Tip off for all three games is set for 7:30 p.m.