Students search for elusive Florida monster

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

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students, explores the mystery behind South
creature first hand.

It was Cevallos who first heard about Shealy, while on vacation in Naples. After
learning about the Skunk Ape and Shealy’s center, she told the rest of the group members
and curiosity took care of the rest.

“We when the ideas on the table, we
had an idea of doing a documentary on some
kind of disease or Santeira,” Santana said, who graduated from FIU December 2006.

Along with the ‘A’ they received for
the final project, the students received
major publicity for Footprints. On Jan. 2,
the Miami Herald ran a front page story
on their documentary.

“We always thought this would stay
as a school project. We never thought it
would escalate and gain as much attention
as it did,” Echeverria said.

Besides the Miami Herald story,
National Public Radio discussed their
documentary on the air and producers
from “Good Morning America” inquired
about it.

The group said they plan to enter the
film in more film festivals and put some

SKUNK APE, page 2

Students search for elusive Florida monster

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Close encounters with a huge, hairy mysterious species; government conspiracies
and townspeople infatuated with an ape-like
creature in the Everglades. Sounds like a
summer blockbuster, right?

Footprints, a documentary less than 15-
minutes long by eight former and current FIU
tudents, explores the mystery behind South
Florida’s legendary Skunk Ape.

This mysterious creature is among one
of the many unknown species like the Loch
Ness Monster, Big Foot, the Abominable
Snowman and El Chupacabra that has
captured many imaginations and attracted much
attention.

The group — Romy Santana, Kallie
Burke, Kimmaya Cevallos, Maria Delgado,
Claudia Echeverria, Juan Carlos Gonzalez,
Lino Laura and Luis Vale — took
three months to produce the film on a $750
budget.

Footprints uses actual home video footage
shot by individuals who managed to capture
the Skunk Ape running across the Everglades,
testimonies from experts, and interviews with
local town’s people in Everglades City who
have grown up around the legend.

“There are a lot of credible people out
there who admit that they believe in the
Skunk Ape,” Echeverria said.

According to eye witness accounts in
the film, the creature is a cross between a
man and primate that stands on its two legs.
Its name comes from the powerful odor it
emits.

David Shealy, who established the Skunk Ape
Research Center in Naples, is among
many in the film who claim he has seen the
creature first hand.

Security issues plague Lakeview

NICOLE ACOSTA
BBC Assistant

After living in Lakeview Hall for a
semester, freshman Bianca D’An decided
she’d had enough. A combination of
problems — ranging from Lakeview construction
drilling to roommate conflicts — caused the
fourth floor Lakeview North resident to pack
up her belongings during the winter break and
move back into her parents’ home in North
Miami. Although D’An cannot break her
binding housing contract that requires her to
live in Lakeview for a year, and although she
technically still has a room in the residence
hall, D’An would rather make the long
commute than stay in an uncomfortable living
situation.

“I pay to live here but I’m not living here.
I didn’t feel comfortable in my living
situation, and nothing was done about it,” D’An
said. “I got fed up with it and I just decided
I didn’t want to live here anymore. I thought
I was paying too much money for a building
that’s not even built right.”

In the Oct. 26, 2006 issue of The Beacon,
Lakeview residents raised issues concerning
construction in the article, “After the move:
New dorm invokes mixed feelings.” Com-
plaints ranged from creepy elevators to lack
of hot water, to drilling on Saturday morn-
ings. James Wassenaar, executive director
of student affairs, operations and auxiliary
services, had said in the article that the
majority of problems had been “successfully
resolved,” and the rest of the minor projects
still occurring would be completed by the
end of that week.

Lakeview Hall’s ribbon-cutting ceremony
is taking place Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. in order to
mark the final completion of the project,” according to Wassenaar. As of Jan. 16, Was-
seanar said minor construction problems
were still being completed throughout the
end of last semester. These projects included
carpentry of the lobby’s inlaid floor and
finishing the outside landscaping.

“It was the touch-up of paint, adjusting
of elevators, those kinds of things,” Was-
seanar said. “I think the December, but the vast majority of [minor
projects] were done.”

Wassenaar also said the re-paving of the
front driveway, which began Jan. 12, should
be complete by Jan. 16 and should be “the
last of the disruptions.”

As for the complaints reported in the Oct.
26 article, Wassenaar said that the minor
inconveniences regarding the fine-tuning of
the building could not be helped if Lakeview
Hall had to open its doors to residents as
scheduled.

“We pushed to ensure the building opened
on time. As a result, the students were going
to experience some disruption,” Wassenaar
said.

Aside from the consistent complaints
regarding faulty facilities and how they
upset the day to day lives of the residents;
another major concern that has been brought
up is the issue of safety in Lakeview Hall, or
its lack thereof.

LAKEVIEW, page 3
Lecture by African dancer, choreographer heads to UP and BBC

South African dancer and choreographer Vincent Mantsoe will be presenting “Dance, Ritual and Healing: The Afro-Fusion Experience in South Africa” at the Biscayne Bay Campus Jan. 24 and at University Park Jan. 25.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mantsoe became familiar with the spiritual aspect of the Zulu culture and was able to incorporate it into his dance and ballet style, resulting in a fusion of African and Western moves and style.

Mantsoe gained international recognition when, together with Sylvia Glasser, he founded the award-winning dance company Moving Into Dance in 1978, which toured the world.

The lecture is co-sponsored by FIU’s Latin American and Caribbean Center, FIU’s InterCultural and Music Institute, FIU’s African New World Studies Program, and Miami Light Project.

Mantsoe will perform at BBC Jan. 24 at 2:00 p.m. at Academic One Building room 265 and at UP Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m. at the Viertes House room number 194.

Both events have limited seating and a RSVP by Jan. 22 is required by email at indami@fiu.edu. For more information call INDAMI at 305-348-2894.

Cuban Research Institute hosts lecture on preserving records in Cuba

Jane Landers, Ph.D. history professor from Vanderbilt University will be at FIU Jan. 18 presenting “Researching and Preserving Black Ecclesiastical Records in Cuba.”

Landers’ visit to FIU is sponsored by the Cuban Research Institute. The event will take place Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. at University Park’s Graham Center room 243. It is free and open to the public. Call CR1 at 305-348-1991 for more information.

Professor receives $3 million research grant

Rabbert Malow, professor of public health, received a five-year, $3 million grant by the National Institute of Health.

Malow’s proposed project responds to NIH’s priority on translational research to adapt effective research-based intervention strategies to real world conditions. Malow’s research, if successful, could be used to develop a realizable HIV intervention strategy, bridging research and practice, which can be implemented for pregnant drug abusers within their communities.

Statistic teacher highlighted in prominent magazine

B. M. Golam Kibria, associate professor of statistics, was recognized in November’s issue of Amstat News, a monthly membership magazine of the American Statistical Association.

The article features Kibria’s research as a faculty member for the Hurricane Loss Model Project, which is funded by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation. The article also highlights Kibria’s visits to Bangladesh, India, and Taiwan, where he made several presentations of his research.

- Compiled by Maria Cherecros from This Week at FIU news wires

Middle East analyst discusses Jihad

The use of Jihad — or holy war — propaganda, will be the topic of this month’s Middle East Society’s guest speaker Nader Samin, a Middle East analyst and Arabic linguist for the U.S. government, who will present “How the Internet is Used to Advance Jihad” at the Biscayne Bay Campus Jan. 21.

Samin will be discussing the use of symbols by Jihad propagandists to push a particular understanding of world events, and the broader implications of the Internet for the Jihad movement now and into the near future.

“Understanding these implications are significant for the larger public relations strategy of the U.S. in the Middle East, since the Internet now functions alongside satellite television as the jihadist’s primary vehicle for influencing opinion among Arab and Muslim youth and populations more generally,” said Shohini Dinar, assistant professor and director of the Middle East Society.

Samin is also an adjunct professor of political science at Hunter College in New York, where he teaches a course on the jihad movement. He has published articles and book reviews on Middle East issues in the Wall Street Journal and Arab Studies Journal. Furthermore, he regularly writes analytical reports for the federal government and local law enforcement agencies.

“He was chosen [to speak at FIU] because his topic is absolutely vital to our understanding of how Jihadist operate in our technological society,” said Peter Craumer, international relations professor.

Headquartered at BBC, MES is a component of FIU’s department of international relations and geography.

According to Dinar, the ultimate goal of the organization is to ensure that FIU is a center of debate and learning on matters concerning the Middle East.

A way to accomplish this goal is by bringing prominent guest speakers to FIU throughout the academic year, which allows students an opportunity to learn about some of the most vexing policy issues of our time.

Samin’s remarks will come just after President Bush delivered a seminal speech on U.S. policy in the region. Understanding the motives and tools behind the Jihad movement is a key component of that policy.

“Any student who does not attend these lectures, [is] challenged and probe these speakers is missing a great opportunity,” Dinar said.

MES is a membership organization in its second year of activity. For a nominal fee of $35, members who generally come from the local community enjoy several privileges throughout the year.

In an effort to encourage FIU students to become involved in the organization, membership is free for them.

“MES hopes to become a funding source for student scholarships and auxiliary programming related to the department of international relations,” Dinar said.

The MES presents approximately six lectures throughout the academic year. Past speakers have included published scholars, featured pundits and award-winning reporters. Last November, MES hosted former Florida State Senator Bob Graham, who spoke on the situation in Iraq and possible scenarios for the future.

Before the year ends, the MES will host two additional events, Feb. 25 and March 11, although the names of the guest speakers are not confirmed.

“From the Internet is Used to Advance Jihad” will be presented Jan. 21, 2 p.m. at BBC’s Academic I Building, room 194. Although the event is free to degree-seeking students, attendants are encouraged to become annual members.

For more information about MES, visit http://www.fiu.edu/~mes.

Creature’s authenticity a mystery

In the issue dated Jan. 16, 2007, the SGC-UP notes should have mentioned the Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall.

In that same issue, the BBC calendar of events should have been credited to Reuben Pereira.

Also, the title for the SGC and SOC article should have been “SGC, SOC look to fill council positions.”

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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problems still haunt new UP residence hall

LAKEVIEW, page 1

Wassenaar held a meeting with the student representatives of the Residence Hall Association in October that dealt with issues relating to the further enhancement of security. As of Jan. 16, security cameras and door sensors that are supposed to alert the front desk of doors left propped open were “in the process of being installed,” Wassenaar said.

Overall, Wassenaar said this semester will run more smoothly for Lakeview residents.

“Lakeview will be a very pleasant Spring semester given that all the construction has been completed,” he said.

Danielle Reid, a freshman living on the third floor of Lakeview South, said the biggest problems were having to wait for hot water and drilling in the mornings throughout the first few weeks of moving in.

As of the beginning of the Spring semester, however, Reid said the elevators, which sound like a “rollercoaster ride,” are frequently out of service, and the fire alarms are still going off constantly. However, she was indifferent to these technical difficulties.

“I understand. Nothing’s perfect. Deal with it. If you want it to be quiet, go to a monastery,” Reid said.

Freshman Geoff Haefling also is a resident living on the fourth floor of Lakeview North. He said when he first moved in to the residence hall, he did not notice any major problems.

“When everything started to break down, and they wouldn’t fix it for a week,” Haefling said.

Haefling also said that to this day, the two Lakeview North elevators are out of service two or three times a week. He still has problems connecting to the Internet, the elevators and hallways are always filled with trash, the wastewater and dryers don’t always work, and there are power surges every afternoon at a certain time.

Haefling also brought up the issue of safety. He said when he came back to Lakeview Hall after winter break the front door of Lakeview North was broken. A hall patrol officer knocked on the RA on duty in order to be allowed to come inside, but during the day, the door was propped open. Haefling also said at one point, the back door to the stairwell was propped open.

“It didn’t feel safe because anyone could get in,” Haefling said. “If anyone came in, no one could know. Something could happen and no one would know unless there was a witness.”

Despite the lack of security, Haefling enjoys living at Lakeview Hall.

“I’ve had a lot of fun here. I’ve made so many friends,” he said.

D’An also raised concerns regarding safety.

Elizabeth Raftery, a freshman living on the sixth floor of Lakeview South, did have problems at the beginning of the semester with the air conditioning in her room. She said her unit was blowing dust into the room, which required her to buy a filter. Her room also lacked hot water. Raftery said that these issues have since been resolved, and her experience in Lakeview Hall has been very positive.

Raftery also said she does not feel unsafe about living in Lakeview Hall.

“It’s such a close-knit community, you can spot someone who doesn’t belong immediately,” Raftery said. “You never find one individual walking by themselves.”

Raftery said Lakeview Hall was approved for official occupancy by the fire marshal on Aug. 16, 2006, after 16 months of construction, and students were allowed to move in four days later. This was possible despite construction setbacks due to the active 2005 hurricane season, but as a result, Lakeview Hall could not be fully finished by the time it was scheduled to allow students to move in.

According to Wassenaar, Lakeview Hall is filled with trash, the washers and dryers are not working, and the elevators and hallways are always crowded.

“We received an unexpected gift from an anonymous donor that was a great help,” Strickman said.

Corton explained that then Florida Attorney General Crist entered into a settlement with an anonymous firm against which the state had bought the suit. The $3 million settlement was equally divided among Florida’s four public law schools, each receiving $750,000. Thanks to Florida’s Major Gifts Program, the College of Law received an additional 70 percent on the original amount for a total of $1,275,000.

The College has used those funds toward the endowment of its largest professorship.

The second largest gift received by the college was from the family of Carlos Costa, an American pilot shot down by Cuban fighter jets in 1996. The Costa Foundation made a gift of $500,000 that was matched dollar-for-dollar by the State’s Capital Facilities Matching Program for a total of $1,000,000.

The College’s successes have continued into the new fiscal year. According to Corton, the first quarterly review yielded positive results.

“It may sound foolish but our goal this year is as much as we can get,” Strickman said.

Dedication for the College of Law’s new building will take place next month. Governor Charlie Crist will be among the guests expected to be present.

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On-campus day care may have future at BBC

Fraternities: not just for UP

According to BBC SGC President Camilo Silva, the survey is the first step in trying to figure out if the BBC community is in need of childcare services.

"Right now, we are at the first stage or ‘phase one’ of the project which consists in the ‘finding of the numbers,’ to investigate the demand and need of the service,” Silva said.

Zach Trautenberg, SGA comptroller and finance chair, said SGA has discussed various models, from a day care to a school, of the Children’s Creative Learning Center at UP.

Organized by Nancy Ponn, director of BBC, this will be the first Greek event of the year in that sense,” said Rafael Campos, however, haven’t had much activity from different Greek councils will also be present. Representative from the PanHellenic council, which is in charge of the sororities, and the PanKappa council, which operates with sororities at a national level; and the Interfraternity Council, which coordinates events amongst fraternities, with the school is the most fitting for the school’s students.

"If the future it turns out to be realized that we need something like a [school], then we should have it. For a while, I don’t think that’s how it’s going to be,” Silva said.

So far, the results of the survey show that a program that functions more like a day care than a school seems to be the most fitting for the school’s students.

Since SGC-BBC’s preliminary survey, financial issues have not been fully discussed, although according to Trautenberg, they don’t have enough to cover everything based on their current financial status. Parents also might have to pay a fee, according to Silva.

Fraternities: not just for UP

Social and academic affairs will also be presented.

"We’ll also discuss fraternity, philanthropy, community service, networking and scholarships at the event,” said Jose Kaloma, president of TKE. According to Campos, the population growth at BBC has attracted Greek members to the campus in the recent years. "In the last two to three years we’ve developed three of four more organizations. We’re continuing to grow.” Campos noted, having come before to do Fraternities have come in the Populares come to BBC.

"When the Tekes,” an event that will be hosted by the TKE is being held Jan. 18 as Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom, room 244A, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be a variety of activities, including presenting videos of the different opportunities the fraternity has to offer. According to Jerry Campos, the president of TKE, this will be the first in three years that the fraternity comes to BBC.

Here [at BBC] we’ve had fraternities come in the past from [UP]. The Tekes have come before to do rushes [as well as] the black fraternities. We really haven’t had much activity in that sense,” said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Life Campus for BBC. Tekes, however, will not be the only Greek members present at the event.

Three guest speakers from different Greek councils will also be present. Representative from the PanHellenic council, which is in charge of the sororities, and the PanKappa council, which operates with sororities at a national level; and the Interfraternity Council, which coordinates events amongst fraternities, will be at the event as well. The purpose of this event is to provide a perspective on what a fraternity is, what there is to do and how to join,” Campos said.

Social and academic affairs will also be presented.
Wage raise riles Republicans

The Republicans approved a $2.10 an hour raise in the federal minimum wage, which would boost salaries for nearly 13 million workers – 9.8% of the workforce. The House of Representatives approved with 315 in favor, 116 opposed (all of them Republicans).

ROQUE CORONA
Staff Writer

Bravo, Congress, and hooray to all those hard working Americans making a lousy $5.15 an hour. The House of Representatives approved a $2.10-an-hour raise in the federal minimum wage Jan. 10 – a move which many Democrats view as a momentous sign of a new direction on Capitol Hill.

The wage increase would be implemented over a two year period, and according to economists, would boost salaries for nearly 13 million American workers – 9.8 percent of the United States workforce.

Republicans, however, have argued that the legislation would reduce the number of available jobs and become a detriment to small business around the country.

And without tax cuts for small business included in the bill, it is likely that Senate Republicans will block the measure.

Both those arguments, however, are highly misleading and contradicted by a wide array of data compiled by various sources.

The truth is there was no evidence of job loss from the last minimum wage increase, and the number of small businesses in states with a higher minimum wage has shown to increase rather than decrease.

In fact, a 1998 Economic Policy Institute study found no significant job loss related to the minimum wage increase of 1996-97.

Moreover, information from the Center for American Progress shows that small business employment actually increased by 9.4 percent in states with higher minimum wage, as opposed to 6.6 percent in states that were at the federal minimum wage level.

Let’s go further back, shall we? After the 1990-91 federal minimum wage increase, economists David Card and Alan Krueger conducted studies that showed there was no quantifiable negative impact on employment due to the increase.

So rather than employment decreasing as the Republicans continue to say it will, past data actually supports the idea that it will actually increase.

Their idea that the minimum wage increase will hurt small business is also wrong.

A study by the Fiscal Policy Institute of state minimum wages found no evidence of negative effects on small business.

In addition, between 1998 and 2003, the number of small businesses increased by 5.5 percent in states with a higher minimum wage, in contrast to 4.2 percent in states that were at the lower federal minimum wage level.

And data supplied by the Center for American Progress shows that the average business can completely cover the cost of the new minimum wage by increasing their revenue by less than 0.1 percent.

So where are all these negative impacts that the Republicans are speaking of?

For nearly a decade the Republicans have refused to raise the wage floor from $5.15, yet have continually allowed for Congressional pay raises.

Our delegates in Congress are making $165,200 a year, which comes out to about $79 an hour.

Meanwhile, 13 million hard working Americans are stuck making the bare minimum – hardly enough to support themselves or their families.

To put it all in perspective, without this increase, a family of three supported by one minimum wage earner will live approximately $5,400 below the federal poverty line.

So the tax cuts may not be a bad thing, but the Republicans shouldn’t sacrifice the entire bill and its eventual helpful effects on a large percent of the population for an addendum that is essentially unnecessary.

The Republicans need to step aside in this argument and give the bottom half of the American workers some much needed help.
Ah, college. Conventionally, it is the place where young and hungry minds go to learn the ways of the world and become learned men and women, skilled and industrious adults prepared to tackle life’s challenges and succeed in their chosen profession. Yet students who live in dorms often get a different kind of education. They must learn to cope with living among people they’ve never met, from places they’ve never been, and annoying habits that will never die. Here is some friendly advice, illustrated with stories from people who lived in the dreams – and the nightmares – of dorm life.

**LEARN TO RESPECT PEOPLE’S BOUNDARIES – NO MATTER HOW STRANGE**

“I used to have a crazy roommate who was really paranoid about people drinking her milk,” recalled freshman Michelle Fiole, who lives in Lakeview Hall. “She used to be like, ‘Hey everybody, this is my milk. Don’t touch it.” Fiole said.

At times of high stress, which college often induces, people can lash out. “This one time my friend came over and was drinking some milk and she was like, ‘Who’s milk are you drinking? Is that my milk?’” Fiole said.

But two wrongs don’t make a right. “She was really angry, and I said it wasn’t but it really was her milk, so we had to pour some milk into her carton when she wasn’t looking.”

Sometimes roommates can be unusually possessive of their food items. Eating a roommate’s food tends to be frowned upon in general though.

**BEWARE OF THE NAKED ROOMMATE**

Some roommates don’t mind sharing their stuff – but sometimes they share more than they should. “My roommate likes to walk around naked,” Fiole said. “She does it a lot.” In some cases, college teaches acceptance. “It used to make me uncomfortable, Fiole said. “Now I’m used to it though.”

However, if you’re not comfortable with your roommate walking around naked, tell them.

**LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS ACCORDINGLY**

The problems of dorm living can extend far beyond the odd habits of those who live there. “Some idiot keeps pulling the fire alarm at four in the morning,” said freshman Chris Cromer.

There are loud construction noises in the morning. We have to pay for the meal plan, we have to pay a thousand dollars more than the people who live in Everglades, we don’t even get a kitchen … and there is a giant crack in the sidewalk – if I was in a wheelchair I’d be dead right now. Long story short, Lakeview sucks,” Cromer said (in one breath).

Of course, the University assures, Lakeview is not a complete hellhole. “It’s much nicer than my house. Then again, my house has a hole in the roof, three broken windows and is haunted by the ghost of an old Filipino woman. So maybe that’s not the best frame of reference.

The problem may be that many students set the bar too high. Dorms at the University of Miami, for example, are much more expensive – and I hear they sleep in the cells of an abandoned prison.

**KNOCK BEFORE YOU ENTER A ROOM**

Beyond structural problems with the building itself and the always-pervasive complaints regarding the rates charged, there are the inevitable conflicts that can arise from a lack of common courtesy.

If you don’t knock before entering a room, don’t be surprised if you see something shocking. “My friend walked in on someone having sex,” said freshman Vignesh Doraiswamy.

Stories like this are not uncommon, so remember this cardinal rule: in the words of freshman Liz Greer, “If you’re going to fornicate, lock the door to your room first!” This is true for both dorm residents and those who live with their parents.

Yes, living in a dormitory can be difficult. Yet if you harness all the positive energy you can muster, you can make living there a fun experience.

And even if it’s terrible, at least you’ll have a wealth of fun stories to tell your grandchildren, and their children, and their children’s children, until the trauma – I mean memories – fade.
I've always hated clowns and I don't really know why. I guess, for me, it's a combination of their creepy makeup, their cannibalistic portrayal in movies and, of course, their clearly satanic mannerisms. When I was little, they caused me to cry and curse the satanic mannerisms. When I was little, I had a fear of clowns because of their clearly evil makeup, their cannibalistic portrayal in movies, and, of course, their clearly satanic mannerisms.

My 21st birthday loomed, however, I finally found the courage to attend my first “Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus” performance at the American Airlines Arena.

My journey to the circus started after seeing an ad in The Miami Herald about its last weekend in town. I was tired of playing video games and sitting around the house in my pajamas, so I thought, “Why not do something different?” Originally, I was going to take my girlfriend, but plans fell through and I had to find someone else – I had hyped the circus so much that nothing would stop me from going. About two days before the performance, I saw an ad in the newspaper for a “Get Cassandra” rush week event. Rush week is the week-long recruitment session for the University's Greek Life. According to the ad that I saw, an all access pre-show was scheduled for 3:30 p.m., when ticket holders could see the animals before they performed in the arena. The pre-show was anything but all access: the animals were kept either behind fences or inside cages so that the white tigers couldn't maul the curious children. Nevertheless, it was an experience – the highlight of the pre-show was a spontaneously urinating elephant.

At 4 p.m., the doors to the arena opened. When we reached our seats, we realized that our view was partially obstructed by a wall. I cursed the ticket attendant under my breath. The lights in the arena dimmed and thousands of children simultaneously screamed in ecstasy. The extra had begun.

Some woman in a red, white and blue dress came out and said something. I had no idea what she said because the sound system was not very good, but I assumed she was important.

She introduced the different characters in the circus, but I couldn't hear anything. The only words I understood were “Super amazing” and “Clown of Crunk,” the latter of which was a reference to the sole black clown in the circus. He disappointingly looked nothing like Lil' Jon. Also, I noticed that nobody in the circus said anything – the audio was prerecorded. The circus' story involved a family who aspired to be in the circus. Each family member became a different character – the father became the ringleader, the mother turned into an acrobat and the daughter became a dancer who happened to look like a stripper. Dan, the son, couldn't make up his mind, though. As a result, the lady in the multi-colored outfit brought out the different circus acts to give Dan some ideas.

Despite the lack of realism permeating the story, the circus was absolutely amazing. I saw elephants dance, tigers play dead and the “Clown of Crunk” perpetuate stereotypes. There was also a band that played instrumental versions of popular songs by artists such as Gwen Stefani, but we couldn't see them from our horrible seats.

Of course, the clowns made an appearance, but they weren’t the demonic canniabs from my childhood – they were actually pretty funny, particularly during a food fight skit that involved all sorts of pies and other delectable confections. Because the performance was sold out, Jackie and I decided to leave early to beat the crowds to the parking lot, so I never did see Dan achieve his lofty goal of working at a circus. Still, my first time at a circus was an unforgettable experience and I realized that my fear of clowns was completely irrational.

Clowns are normal people like you and me – except with creepy makeup. Now that I've experienced my first circus performance and thoroughly enjoyed it, I can't wait until the “Clown of Crunk” returns to Miami.
Lectures, workshops promote cervical cancer awareness

According to the American Cancer Society, the most common cancer in women after breast cancer is cervical cancer. With the recent introduction of a vaccine and with January being Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Yolanda Santisteban, a Nurse Practitioner at the BBC Health Clinic, will facilitate a discussion and game with prizes. Free refreshments will be served.

BBC UHS/Wellness Center & Women’s Center staff will provide education and giveaways about HPV and cervical cancer prevention, including on-campus resources.

Jan. 24 – “Tabing Event,” 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Panther Square
BBC UHS/Wellness Center & Women’s Center staff will provide education and giveaways about HPV and cervical cancer prevention, including on-campus resources.

Jan. 25 – “The ‘A’ Word: Abstinence and You,” 9 p.m., Bay Vista’s common room
BBC Women’s Center’s Wild Succulent Women Series will present an interactive program about abstinence and HPV/cervical cancer prevention. Free refreshments will be served.

FEUD, page 6

Angelina Jolie have all been pulled into this debacle with Trump spewing insults at Walters and, more recently, on “Larry King Live” at Jolie.

Everywhere you go you can’t escape it. The topic is included on every comedian’s routine from late night to stand up to VH1’s pop culture shows with spoofs and parodies of the feud all over YouTube.com.

However, the stupidest take on this “way out of hand” feud would have to be the WWE’s match between the two. For those of us hoping for a real match, please take your seats. The fight was between two D-grade actors posing as Trump and Rosie, which was won by the Trump drone who smacked a cake in the Rosie impersonator’s face, to my delight.

Thinking about it, I would actually be interested in seeing something like a Celebrity Death Match or a Battle Royale between the two. That would be fun to watch and actually worth my time.

Not only would it be a battle to the death between two annoying D-grade celebrities, but also, in a way, a match-up of ideals. Rosie could be the feminist-left-leaning Democrat and Donald would be the chauvinist-right-leaning Republican.

It would put an end to the whole fiasco between the two for once and for all and pave the way for future battles like maybe Angelina Jolie vs. Jennifer Aniston or Tom Cruise vs. the sane world.

O’Donnell/Trump fight takes idiot box to uncharted heights
WOMEN’S SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING

**TEAM** | **CONF** | **OVERALL** | **HOME** | **AWAY**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Louisiana-Monroe | 5-2 | 11-8 | 8-0 | 1-8
New Orleans | 4-3 | 8-10 | 5-3 | 3-5
Arkansas State | 4-3 | 9-10 | 7-1 | 2-7
North Texas | 3-5 | 8-11 | 4-3 | 3-8
Louisiana-Lafayette | 2-4 | 11-4 | 5-6 | 0-9
Denver | 1-6 | 2-15 | 2-5 | 0-10

EASTERN DIVISION

**TEAM** | **CONF** | **OVERALL** | **HOME** | **AWAY**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Western Kentucky | 6-1 | 14-5 | 7-2 | 6-2
South Alabama | 5-2 | 11-7 | 2-2 | 5-2
Middle Tennessee | 4-3 | 8-9 | 4-3 | 4-3
Florida Atlantic | 4-3 | 8-9 | 4-2 | 3-7
Troy | 3-4 | 8-10 | 2-2 | 1-7
FIU | 2-5 | 7-10 | 5-3 | 2-7

*All records up to date as of Jan. 16*

**NEXT FOR WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**TEAM** | **CONF** | **OVERALL** | **HOME** | **AWAY**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Louisiana-Monroe | 5-2 | 11-8 | 8-0 | 1-8
Arkansas State | 4-3 | 9-10 | 7-1 | 2-7
North Texas | 3-5 | 8-11 | 4-3 | 3-8
Louisiana-Lafayette | 2-4 | 11-4 | 5-6 | 0-9
Denver | 1-6 | 2-15 | 2-5 | 0-10

EASTERN DIVISION

**TEAM** | **CONF** | **OVERALL** | **HOME** | **AWAY**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Western Kentucky | 6-1 | 14-5 | 7-2 | 6-2
South Alabama | 5-2 | 11-7 | 2-2 | 5-2
Middle Tennessee | 4-3 | 8-9 | 4-3 | 4-3
Florida Atlantic | 4-3 | 8-9 | 4-2 | 3-7
Troy | 3-4 | 8-10 | 2-2 | 1-7
FIU | 2-5 | 7-10 | 5-3 | 2-7

**NEXT FOR MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**TEAM** | **CONF** | **OVERALL** | **HOME** | **AWAY**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
FIU | 5-2 | 8-10 | 5-2 | 3-8
Louisiana-Lafayette | 4-3 | 8-9 | 4-2 | 3-7
Troy | 3-4 | 8-10 | 2-2 | 1-7
FIU | 2-5 | 7-10 | 5-3 | 2-7

*All records up to date as of Jan. 16*

First win of the new year snaps team’s five game losing streak

**BASKETBALL, page 12**

Fulcher picked up two early fouls and a limping Ville-"gas missed on his first five attempts, good defensive play kept the Golden Panthers competitive.

After Pioneers leading scorer Deshawn Walker burned a three pointer to open the game, 1-0, Troy sophomore forward Alex Galindo hit three consecutive fast-break lay-ups to bring FIU back.

After trading baskets, Walker was able to penetrate and take a tough float in traffic to put the Pioneers up by one, 14-13, before the Golden Panthers would erupt.

Fresh off the bench, freshman forward Nikola Gacesa drilled a three pointer that ignited a 13-0 run, to give FIU its biggest lead of the contest, 26-14. Despite being outplayed on both ends of the floor, Walker buried a three pointer as the first half expired to pull Denver’s deficit to eight, 29-21.

Building off the momentum from their last second bomb, the Pioneers picked up all aspects of their game early in the second half and pulled within three points, 39-36, eventually taking a 43-41 lead off a jumper on the left baseline from forward Joe Jackson.

The Golden Panthers’ first hot half shooting seemed to disappear.

After trading baskets, the Golden Panthers found themselves trailing 52-50 with 5:15 left in regulation.

From that moment on, it was Essola time.

The lanky Essola used his speed and length to toy with Pioneers center Chris Timms, as he hit two consecutive jumpers in the post.

On the other end of the floor, Essola was just as effective, blocking a shot attempt and altering shots he could not get to.

FIU would open up a 58-51 advantage which provided some breathing room, but the Pioneers came right back and had a chance to tie the game with nine seconds remaining.

Essola tipped away Denver 3-point prayer as time expired.

Denver’s Tyler Bullock led all scorers with 16 points.

Walker added 13 points and Alan Cox chipped in with nine for the Pioneers.

Despite fouling out with 3:20 remaining Galindo still finished with 11 points and six rebounds.

Fuller added nine points and four rebounds.

Even with a much smaller team, the Golden Panthers won the battle of the boards 51-37 and had more points in the paint (28-20).

Sophomore forward Brad Larson snatched seven rebounds and did his part to frustrate the Big

*Brad Larson is like a rabid pit bull. He just gets his hands on everything and he is all over the court,* coach Sergio Rouco said. *I am extremely proud of my kids because again we out-rebounded another team; we had 13 assists to only seven turnovers. When you get the produc-

The Golden Panthers will look to stay on the winning track when they face off against another Sun Belt opponent in North Texas, led by guard Ken-

**YOUNGER SHULA ENTERS THE RACE FOR DOLPHINS HEAD COACHING VACANCY**

Mike Shula interviewed for the job Saturday, a person familiar with the team’s search said Tues-

The person requested anonymity because the Dolphins have declined to identify candidates.

Shula’s dad, Don, coached the Dolphins for 26 years, holds the NFL record with 347 victories and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Hiring the younger Shula would mean a swap of coaches with Alabama.

Mike Shula of the Crimson Tide fired him after they went 6-6 during the 2006 regular season and lost for the fourth year in a row to Southeastern Conference rival Auburn.

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hard evidence, and some people believe that’s truly unfair. How can these voters be swayed by hearsay and rumors?

Well, it’s pretty simple. We all are.

Let’s say you’re at a party and meet an extremely attractive member of the opposite sex (or of the same sex. There’s no discrimination in this column).

You and this person talk for the entire night, share many laughs and even dance a little. Prospects are looking so bright that, by the end of the night, the two of you have already exchanged numbers and are locking lips in a bathroom.

The next day, you feel great. You’re sharing the story with all your friends, maybe even some family members.

But then you run into your friend, Jose, who tells you that this person has an STD. Jose knows first hand this person has an STD because he claims he passed it along to this person.

Even though Jose is of ill repute and not fully trustworthy, you’re going to have second thoughts on whether you call that person for a second rendezvous, right?

Now, let’s say you decide that Jose is too much of a shady character to be trusted, so you go and plan a second date with this person anyway. You are going to ask this person if they have an STD, no matter how rude it’s going to come off. After all, this person is very attractive and the two of you hit it off greatly.

At dinner, you casually segue toward the topic of STDs and after a couple of minutes, you slip off the question: “Have you ever had an STD?”

“Oh, come on,” the person replies. “I’m not here to talk about the past.”

You ask the question again.

“I’m not here to talk about the past,” the person replies again.

And again.

“I’m not here to talk about the past. I’m here to be positive about this subject.”

I have a feeling that by this point you’re highly considering sneaking out a window in the restaurant’s bathroom. And there’s a really good chance you’ll never call the person again.

So, let’s recap. Even though the person never said they didn’t have an STD, they never said they did. And even though you don’t trust Jose, you’re still taking his word. Instead of giving this person the benefit of the doubt, you took the shaky evidence as proof and now that person is heart-broken.

Sadly, it was McGwire who made the bed he’s lying on. Instead of dodging the steroid question (and basically admitting guilt) in front of Congress, Big Mac should have either lied outright or been honest and said he wants to help baseball clean up.

It was those few minutes of testimony that screwed up his chances at being a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

In the end, though, it’s all Jose Canseco’s fault.
**STREAK HALTED**

Team effort ends men’s losing skid

RENAALDO SMITH  
Staff Writer

With an undermanned squad for the second consecutive game, senior guard Josween Villegas – hobbled by a left knee sprain and the possibility of a sixth consecutive loss – the question became who would step up for the Golden Panthers Jan. 13 against Sun Belt foe Denver.

The answer came in the unlikely duo of freshmen Cedric Essola and Erick Nsangou – both natives of Cameroon – whose second half play led the Golden Panthers (7-10, 2-5 SBC) to a slim 61-59 victory over the Pioneers (2-15, 1-6) at Pharmed Arena.

Essola played his way to a team-high 12 points, seven rebounds and three blocks.

Nsangou complimented him with 10 rebounds and eight assists.

After the game, the lanky Essola said it felt good to help end the losing skid and talked about his breakout performance.

“In the first half, I missed a lot of shots, but coach told me that it is impossible to make every shot, so keep shooting the ball. And that’s what I did,” Essola said. “I wanted to win this game so bad. Especially after losing like five games. Our goal is to win the conference and I want to help us do that.”

According to Nsangou, Essola’s performance didn’t come as a surprise to him at all.

“I was impressed but I knew that he can do that. He just needs to keep his confidence and get in the game. It was tough but we really wanted to win this game and that was our driving force tonight,” Nsangou said.

Early on, the Golden Panthers looked like a team that desperately wanted to snap a five game losing skid.

Despite the fact that junior guard Chris Johwen Villegas – hobbled by a left knee sprain and the possibility of a sixth consecutive game, senior guard

McGwire has no one to blame but himself.

The voting for the 2007 induction class into the Baseball Hall of Fame has passed and two very deserving players, Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn, were voted.

However, an almost equally covered story was that of who wasn’t selected – Mark McGwire.

“It’s hard to imagine that a player with 583 home runs and 12 All-Star game appearances would not be a first-ballot Hall of Famer. Not to mention that he, along with Sammy Sosa, was an instrumental part in bringing baseball back into the national spotlight in that famous summer of 1998.

“But it’s also hard to blame voters for leaving him out due to an overwhelming suspicion of steroid use. Now, I know there’s never been any solid proof that Big Mac took steroids. You can point to several factors: how his home run numbers, along with his biceps, inflated dramatically; Jose Canseco’s tell-all autobiography; or his famous question dodging in front of Congress.

“Hypothetically, if this evidence was brought to trial, though, none of it would ever hold up in a courtroom and the case would be thrown out.

“Basically, the Hall of Fame voters kept McGwire out despite a lack of

Women’s basketball losing streak reaches four games

The women’s basketball team suffered its fourth-straight loss Jan. 13 in the Pharmed Arena against Denver in a Sun Belt Conference, falling 74-61.

Denver (9-6, 4-2 Sun Belt) never trailed by more than two points the entire game.

Even though FIU (9-8, 3-4 Sun Belt) trailed never by more than two points the entire game.

It was a close game throughout much of the first half. In the first seven minutes of the game, when Denver scored a basket, FIU answered right back.

But after a few missed baskets and turnovers from FIU, Denver was all of a sudden up by nine.

FIU’s spark of energy came with five minutes remaining in the first half. Jakabson started the run, hitting a jumper.

After a few missed attempts from Denver, FIU pulled within three when guard Iva Ciglar scored off a lay-up, making the score 25-22.

But after hitting seven unanswered points, Denver enjoyed a 10-point lead going into halftime.

“We didn’t play the best we could,” assistant coach Desma Thomas said. “We let them penetrate and shoot [and] it wasn’t too good of a performance.”

Jakabson said.

At the start of the second half, the Golden Panthers committed five turnovers in the first eight minutes that aided Denver to go up 61-41.

FIU closed within nine, its smallest deficit of the second half, with 1:52 left in the game.

“We’re making mistakes that shouldn’t be done,” Thomas said. “We’re turning the ball over a lot, so that’s missed chances at the basket that we didn’t get. We’re getting shots but we’re not making our shots, so we are not making our shots and they making their shots hurt us. It’s hard to come back from 20 points deficit when you can’t stop them from scoring and we can’t score,” assistant coach Desma Thomas said.

The women’s basketball team will host North Texas at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 18.

Following the game against North Texas, the women’s basketball team next two games will be away against Louisiana-Monroe and New Orleans.

Their last win came on Jan. 4 against conference foe South Alabama in 56-41 victory.