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Students search for elusive Florida monster

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

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? 

 footprint, a documentary less than 15 minutes long by eight former and current FIU students, 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, Kirmaya Cevallos, Maria Delgado, Claudia Echeverria, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Lino La Rosa 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, testimonials 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. 

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. 

“When we put the ideas on the table, we had an idea of doing a documentary on some kind of disease or Santeria,” Santana said, who graduated from FIU December 2006. “We went with the [Skunk Ape] idea because it’s something that you can research and it’s something refreshing.” 

All the students wrote, directed and produced the film as their final assignment for their advanced videography class. Associate professor Bert Delgado, who taught the class, grouped students into teams and told them to produce a film, whether it be a music video, drama, documentary, drama or thriller. “I seldom use the word excellent. This was very close to excellent if not excellent,” Delgado said. 

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 of the money from the documentary towards the budget. 

“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 disrupt 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
Middle East analyst discusses Jihad

By Maria Concha, Contributing Writer

The use of Jihad – or holy war – propaganda, will be the topic of this month's Middle East Society's guest speaker Nadav 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 Shlomi 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 keystone component of that policy.

"Any student who does not attend these lectures, [or] challenge 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.

"How 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, attendees are encouraged to become annual members. For more information about MES, visit http://www.fiu.edu/mes.

Creature's authenticity a mystery

By Ana Davis, Contributing Writer

In the issue dated Jan. 16, 2007, the SGC-UP notes should have mentioned the Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall. The SGC-UP notes should have been credited to Ana Davis.

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.

Correction from SKUNK APE, page 1

Clips of the film on YouTube.com.

The fame and success they are receiving didn’t come that easy. During their three months of production, they recorded 50 hours of video and managed to edit it down to just less than 15 minutes. Besides sacrificing their weekends, they took some extra risk in order to make sure they got the best shots. During their second shoot, they were filming scenic shots of the Everglades at 8 p.m. on State Road 41 when they started to hear a growl get closer and closer. Knowing it sure wasn’t a Skom Ape, the production crew quickly darded back to their vehicles. "We never knew what it was," Echeverria said. "The boys were the first ones to go to the car."

After the countless interview and hours of being engulfed in the Everglade’s odors, the group is still somewhat on the fence about its existence. "I think there’s something out there. I don’t know what, but there’s something out there," Santana said. "If you go to Everglades City, everyone tells you that there’s something. A lot of people truly believe that the government is trying to do something."

"If it’s true, it will be the discovery of the century," Echeverria said. "I think it’s a fifty-fifty thing. This creature has been seen all over the world."
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.

"It 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 with lack of 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. Reid also said she was indifferent to the other 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 is also a resident living on the fourth floor of Lakeview North. He said when he first moved into the residence hall, he did not notice any major problems.

"Then 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 washer 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 resident went to 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.

"I didn’t feel safe because anyone could get in," Haefling said. "If anyone came in, no one would 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 in the sixth floor of Lakeview South, did have problems at the beginning of the semester with the air conditioner 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 then 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. You’ll never find one individual walking by themselves," Raftery said.

Lakeview Hall was approved for official occupancy by the fire marshall 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.

Consisting of 256 beds, Lakeview Hall residences are primarily for freshmen and graduate students who can choose between a four-bedroom single suite to a five-bedroom double suite for $4,936 per semester.##
On-campus day care may have future at BBC

JESSICA SOUS
Staff Writer

Chistina Fisher, a graduate student, works at the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatics Center as an aquatics coordinator and organizes several activities, among them a summer camp for children. Fisher has also served as a mother.

Though it would be more convenient for Fisher to work and attend classes at BBC, she needs to accommodate for her 6-year-old son.

“Past there is to be child-care here in order for it to be convenient for me as a BBC student and BBC staff,” she said. “It’s really not enough that it’s just down [at UP].”

Fisher posted on the Wolfe University Center’s home page seeks to find out if there is a strong demand for on-campus child care.

As of Jan. 16, 76 percent of the respondents were undergraduate students and the remaining 24 percent were graduate students, faculty and staff.

“In the last two to three years we have seen what we do with kids,” said Rafael Trautenberg, they don’t have enough to cover even the staff,” Campos said.

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 child-care services.

“We 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 Controller and finance chair, said SGA has discussed various models, from a day care to a school, with the Children’s Creative Learning Center at UP.

Organized by Nancy Ponn, director of the center for 31 years ago, the pre-school at UP has experienced success because it has the support of the FIU community.

“If the future it turns out that we need something like [a school], then we would love,” she said. “We don’t think that how it [the daycare] will be,” Silva said.

This is in vast contrast to six years ago when the old child care center closed in 1999 due to lack of demand and financial loss.

The old day care center had a capacity of 30 children but never had more than six children, according to Ponn.

Having child care services will be ideal for parents that work and attend classes like junior Sheila Augustine.

Her 2-year-old son stays with relatives while she goes to school, but she wants a better alternative.

“I would rather him go to day care to interact with other kids,” Augustine said.

Cost is a factor as well, according to Agusté, and paying for off-campus day care is not appealing.

The old day care center had a capacity of 30 children but never had more than six children, according to Ponn.

Fraternities: not just for UP

ALEXANDRA MccARNEY
Contributing Writer

With the Spring semester in full swing, the Greek organization Tau Kappa Epsilon is looking beyond University Park to find prospective members this year.

“Meet the Tekes,” an event that will be hosted by TKE being held Jan. 18 at Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom, room 24A, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

There will be a recruiting session for the different opportunities the fraternity has to offer.

According to Jerry Campos, vice president of TKE, this will be the first time 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 never had our past from [UP]. The Tekes have never had...”

Baby blues: Evonne Palomino, 24, and her 4-year-old daughter look through some school supplies at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ bookstore. Palomino, like so many other students, balances the responsibility of her daughter and schoolwork.

Fraternities: not just for UP

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NEWSFLASH

Book display honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
The Biscayne Bay Campus Library has been hold-

ing a book display on the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the famed Civil Rights leader, since Jan. 15 and will continue until Jan. 21. For more information on the book display, call (305) 919-5726.

Essay contest on Africana experiences

The African New World studies program is holding its First Annual African Undergraduate and Gradu-

ate Essay Contest. The contest will give students the opportunity to win money by submitting an essay that focuses on the past and present Africana experience. Only students enrolled in the 2006/2007 academic year are allowed to participate. Deadline to submit an essay will be Feb. 14. Submissions should be sent to Africana@fiu.edu.

Career fair offers networking opportunity in hospitality industry

The school of Hospitality and Tourism Management will be sponsoring its Spring 2007 career fair Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Wulff University Center’s second floor ballroom. Business-casual attire will be required and lunch will be served for $3.

Compiled by Edith Sevilla
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.

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.

What's more, new nuisances had started popping up since opening day: elevators had begun breaking, and it turned out that it wasn’t just lights that were being fixed, but also cracks and holes and other issues that required heavy construction.

Throughout the course of last semester, Lakeview residents were routinely woken up by the sound of drilling and other construction equipment as early as 8 a.m., including Saturdays.

This was on Oct. 26, 2006. Two weeks into the 2007 Spring semester, the elevator is still creaking and, according to residents, has begun to break down. In the laundry rooms, washing machines leak and dryers don’t dry.

More troubling is that the security equipment present in other halls has yet to be installed in Lakeview.

Other residence halls have cameras throughout their hallways and their doors have sensors that sound an alarm if left open. Lakeview still has none of this.

Students’ convenience is important, but their safety is essential.

Setbacks that occurred nearly a year ago are no longer an excuse. Wassemaar needs to ensure that Lakeview is made as comfortable as safe — as every other residence hall, immediately.

Moreover, students don’t want to face a second semester of irritating noise, faulty installations and unsafe living quarters should be allowed to opt out of their year-long residential contracts.

Finally, for those who stay behind, the University should offer compensation. At $4,048 a semester, Lakeview is the most expensive hall on campus. Lakeview residents should not have to pay more than others, for a lesser product. At the very least, for as long as construction continues at Lakeview, its housing rates should be discounted.
What’s mine is mine!
Students harness tact, protect milk

CHRIS CABRAL
Opinion Editor

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 lapse 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 continued.

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 to have 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. The 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 Chris Cromer.

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.
Urinating elephant, clowns mark first circus experience

The pre-show was anything but all access: the animals were kept ... inside cages so that the white tigers (and lethargic goats) wouldn't maul the curious children.

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 (and lethargic goats) wouldn'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 circus 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 mom 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 cannibals 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.

IT’S HAMMER TIME

GETTING SMASHED: Sophomore Pablo Llanos helps destroy a car as part of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity’s “Smash a Car” rush week event. Rush week is the weeklong recruitment session for the University’s Greek Life.
Lectures, workshops promote cervical cancer awareness

LAUNDA DE LA FUENTE
Staff Writer

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, Biscayne Bay and University Park campuses’ University Health Services/Wellness Centers and the Women’s Center are hosting a variety of events throughout the month to educate the public on the issue.

The events for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month will begin on Jan. 18 at Panther Square from 5 p.m. -7 p.m. with “The Late Day Latte,” an educational discussion with BBC Health Center nurse practitioner Yolanda Santisteban, who has been with the University for five years.

Mariela Gabaroni, Assistant Director for the University Park Wellness Center, stresses education on the matter.

“It’s very important for women to become aware of their body, not just with cervical cancer,” she said. “It’s about improving quality of life.”

Aimee Fernandez, assistant director for the BBC Wellness Center, also emphasizes the need for knowledge on the subject and how close it hits to home.

“This is common,” Fernandez said. “Don’t make the mistake of thinking that this is not relevant to you. At the BBC campus alone, one in five pap smears conducted are abnormal and of all sexually active people at least 50 percent will get HPV.”

According to the National Cervical Cancer Coalition, each year 14,000 women will be diagnosed with the illness. Of those women, more than 3,900 women will die from the disease.

Awareness at FIU becomes even more pertinent when the National Cancer Institute puts Hispanic and African-American women at greater risk of contracting the disease. Hispanics and African-Americans make up 53 and 13.5 percent of FIU’s student body, respectively. Of the entire student body, more than half, 57.5 percent are female.

Recently, the human papilloma virus, a group of more than 100 viruses, was identified as the chief cause of cervical cancer.

In July 2006, the Federal Drug Administration approved a vaccine that protects against four different HPV strains, two of which, HPV 16 and 18, are those that cause most cervical cancers.

The vaccine, called Gardasil, manufactured by Merck and Company, also prevents against HPV 6 and 11, which are responsible for 90% of genital warts.

The HPV vaccine is recommended for girls and women ages 9-26. Although the vaccine protects females from the main cause of cervical cancer, it is possible and pap smears should be regular in sexually active women over the age of 21 to detect abnormal cells that can develop into cervical cancer.

Despite the fact that the vaccine only protects against one cause of cervical cancer, FIU is offering the vaccine at both campuses for the Spring 2007 semester. The vaccine will cost $130 per dose and consists of three doses over an eight-month period.

Gabaroni heralds the vaccine as an important tool against cervical cancer but still stresses the need for knowledge.

“People have a false sense of security with the vaccine,” she said. “I encourage the workshops and lectures. I’m big on people making informed choices.”

At this month’s upcoming educational lectures and workshops at both campuses, stress will be placed on those sexual choices. Casandra Roache, the health educator at UP, warns against ignorance on the matter.

“It’s not hereditary. It comes from the choices that you make. Cervical cancer is not something you play into,” Roache said.

Hospitability and tourism management major Jamin Stilley recalls an instance when she became aware of cervical cancer.

“My mother slipped me a magazine clipping about the vaccine recently,” Stilley said. “She then reminded me to call my doctor about a hundred times after that. I thought she was crazy at first but after learning about it I do feel like it’s a good move and with further information I probably will get the vaccine.”

Aside from the vaccine, free pap smears will also be offered through BBC Health Services from Jan. 23 through Feb. 28 on a first-come, first-served basis. Otherwise, pap smears are always available at both campuses’ health centers for $28.

The awareness month will conclude on Jan. 25 at Bay Vista housing where “The ‘A’ Word: Abstinence and You,” will be presented by the BBC Women’s Center.

This interactive program, a part of the Wild Succulent Women Series, speaks about abstinence and HPV/cervical cancer prevention and takes place at 9 p.m. in Bay Vista Housing’s common room.

For more details concerning all the upcoming events, contact SOC at www.fiu.edu/~health.
O’Donnell/Trump fight takes idiot box to uncharted heights

FEUD, page 6

Angie investors 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 Anniston or Tom Cruise vs. the sane world.

I’M RUBBER, YOU’RE GLUE: “The View” co-host Rosie O’Donnell publicly criticized fellow TV personality Donald Trump for comments made against Miss USA.

Give us your life story. www.beaconnewspaper.com
First win of the new year snaps team’s five game losing streak

BASKETBALL, page 12

Fuller picked up two early fouls and a limping Villegas missed on his first five attempts, good defensive play kept the Golden Panthers competitive.

After Pioneers leading scorer Deshawn Walker buried a three pointer to open the game at 1:01, sophomore forward Alex Galindo hit three consecutive fast-break lay-ups to bring FIU back.

After trading baskets, Walker was able to penetrate and hit a tough floater 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’ hot first 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 Timmons, 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 that 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 a 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 men of the Pioneers.

“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 production that you get from our freshmen today we are hard to beat.”

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 Kendrick Davis, Jan. 18 at home.

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 Tuesday.

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.

He was fired by the Crimson Tide in November and replaced by Nick Saban, who left the Dolphins on Jan. 3 after two seasons.

Two other candidates have interviewed with Miami twice: former Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora and Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey.

Management met with 12 coaches during the first round of interviews, which ended last Wednesday.

The 41-year-old Shula went 26-23 in four years at Georgia Tech before the Crimson Tide fired him in December 2001.

Shula was a Dolphins ballboy when his dad coached the team. He has spent 15 years as an NFL assistant, most recently in 2000-02 as Miami’s quarterbacks coach. Former Dolphins coach Nick Saban is coaching the Crimson Tide.

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Shula said he left Alabama in better shape than the program he inherited, which was weakened by NCAA sanctions.

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MIAMI DOLPHINS, page 13

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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 high 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 them 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 out right 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.

Lack of honesty cost McGwire Hall of Fame

VILLAMARZO, page 12

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STREAK HALTED
Team effort ends men’s losing skid

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

With an understaffed squad for the second consecutive game, senior guard Joshven 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 guard 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 break out performance.

“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 Magally Estrella Contributing Writer

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) shot better from the floor, 46.3 percent to Denver’s 42.4 percent, it also committed more turnovers that helped Denver go up by as many as 20 points.

Denver converted FIU’s 28 turnovers into 28 points.

Center Lasma Jekabsone had a game-high 22 points and went 9-for-13 from the field. Guard LaQuetta Ferguson scored 14 points for her team, all coming in the second half.

Jekabsone and Ferguson each added six rebounds for the Golden Panthers.

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. Jekabsone 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. We let them penetrate and shoot [and] it wasn’t too good of a performance,” Jekabsone 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. 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 us not making our shots and them making their shots hurt us. It’s hard to get 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, the 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.