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Resolution passes to fund FIU’s new stadium

The resolution will allow FIU to issue bonds to fund the first phase of the project, which will add 10,500 seats and amenities such as 14 air-conditioned luxury suites, a wrap-around concourse with a full field view, 1,400 club seats, a video scoreboard and a stadium club.

“This will be a crown jewel for the University. It’s going to be a student complex center and also our stadium,” said Pete Garcia, athletic director. “This is going to be the center of campus, eventually when it’s finished and finalized.”

Phase one of the stadium renovation is estimated to cost $31 million and be completed by the opening of the 2008 football season.

Phase two of the project will include the construction of a 100,000 sq. ft. student center that will house undergraduate advising, admissions, financial aid and a welcome center.

Many student services currently located in Primera Casa will be moved into the new student center upon its completion in 2011.

This phase of the project is estimated to cost $24 million and has yet to be approved for funding by the Florida Board of Governors.

According to Charles Tinder, senior director of the college finances, students may have to bare some of the stadium renovation costs depending on whether or not athletic fees are increased.

Currently, students pay $20 per semester in athletic fees but the Athletics Department has proposed to increase the fee by $1.39 per credit hour.

Students can voice their opinions on this decision to the Athletics Fee Committee at one of two public forums taking place at UP and Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 7.

The public forum being held at BBC will be held in the Wolfe University Center, room 155 at 3:30 p.m. The same public forum will be held at 1 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 150 for students at the UP.

Tinder also said that the increase would approximately generate $1.1 million in revenue for the Athletics Department.

He also said $655,000 of that revenue will go towards paying back the bonds, while the rest will be used for marketing athletics and ticket sales.

The bonds will also be repaid with revenue from athletic fees and other sources.

Nursing research earns grant

Two nurse professors, Joanne Youngblut and Dorothy Brooten, will be working on a five-year study that will examine the impact of a child’s death on the parents after receiving a $2.15 million grant from the National Institute of Health’s National Institute of Nursing Research.

“Research in this area is crucial so that pediatric, neonatal intensive care and primary care providers can identify parents and families at risk for poor outcomes and target them for early intervention,” Youngblut said.

The five-year study will focus on how the families function and relate with one another after the death of a child in a pediatric or neonatal intensive care unit.

The goal is to identify why some family members react differently and function less well than others, identify the signs of declining functionality, and find out which families may be at greater risk to deteriorate as a unit after such a loss, Youngblut said.

By knowing what signs to look for in someone’s behavior that point to a potential for deterioration, pediatric or neonatal intensive care unit team members can take the necessary and appropriate steps, both in and outside of the hospital setting, to help these parents, these families, deal with a child’s death before they have significant difficulty functioning,” Brooten said.

The first step in the study consists in identifying and recruiting mothers and fathers of about 185 infants or children who have died.

Those parents who agree will have to fill out questionnaires after the first, third, sixth and 13th month preceding the child’s death.

The questionnaires will include questions about the parents’ physical and mental health, daily functioning and relationship with their surviving children and with their spouse/partner.

“We hope to be able to learn what the families experience during the 13 months following the death, what helped them and what was problematic in order to help other parents and families experiencing this in the future,” Brooten said. “It should also help identify steps, both in and out of the hospital, that may be at risk for dysfunction.”

Besides Youngblut’s and Brooten’s involvement in the project, four other faculty members will be serving as co-principal investigators.

The team also includes co-investigators from Miami Children’s Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital and Broward General Medical Center.

Conference addresses Internet security

People need to be keeping their computer secure, as a lot of the sites they go to have malicious software that infects their computer to host porn and send spam among other things.

Identity theft has become a multimillion-dollar a year criminal operation. Estimates show that as many as 9 million people have their identity stolen each year, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

To help combat the rising threat of cyber terrorism, the FIU Information Technology Security Office is holding the “IT Security Awareness Conference” Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

“We have seen very interesting presentations given by industry experts,” said John Cabarga, marketing coordinator for UTS. Sponsored by the University’s Division of Information Technology, the $5,000 conference will open to FIU students, faculty and staff as well as members of the South Florida community.

The conference is a free event and attendance is being encouraged for anyone who is interested. To RSVP, go to the IT Security Office website at http://security.fiu.edu.

The presentations will include topics such as child safety on the Internet, keeping your identity secure on the Internet, and identity theft threats and trends.

According to the ITSO website, the focus of the conference will be IT Security Awareness. The conference will address the importance awareness plays in maintaining security. Al Johnson, Director of the national law enforcement and corrections technology center of the FBI, will be the keynote speaker.

In addition to Johnson there will be several other guest speakers lecturing on the various topics of the conference. The first scheduled speaker will be Manny Medina, CEO and President of Terremark Worldwide, Inc.

Later on Kevin Parker, a representative from the FBI, will make the presentation of the child safety portion of the conference. Following Parker will be Marsali S. Hancock, president of the Internet Keep Safe Coalition.

According to a study by the University of New Hampshire, one in five children using the Internet received an online sexual solicitation within a one-year period and 15 percent of the time there was an attempt by the solicitor to meet the child in person.

Following Parker and Hancock will be Linda McCarthy, executive security advisor for Symantec. McCarthy received the Women of Influence award for computer security from CSO Magazine.

The award honors outstanding achievement in security, privacy and risk management. In 2006 she began touring the country, talking about identity theft.
STADIUM, page 1

Stadium will open in ‘08

funds from ticket sales, vendor revenues, corporate sponsorships and naming rights.

According to Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg, most universities use bonds on major capital facility projects like stadiums. While renovations are taking place next year, Athletics is exploring the possibility of playing next season’s home games at the Orange Bowl.

Though they won’t have a permanent home next season, the Golden Panthers believe that having a stadium is a sign of better things to come.

“We’ve been anticipating this for a long time,” red shirt sophomore linebacker Wendy Napoleon said. “When you feel good, you play good. It makes you even more excited to play in a stadium like that.”

IN THE WORKS: A sketch of the stadium’s planned expansion shows the areas that will be renovated in four different phases.

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In a community primarily made up of Hispanic students, the Black Student Union serves as a medium for black students to express themselves. “Our goal is to be the voice of the black community,” said Will Hatcher, president of the BSU.

The organization, which was established in 1978, meets every Tuesday in the Graham Center, room 140, at 8 p.m. During the meetings, various issues affecting the black community are discussed in a forum-like manner where members are encouraged to bring forward different opinions and ideas.

“Anyone who wants to be involved in what we do is welcome to join,” said BSU Vice President Stacey Holley. “Students will just have to understand that most of the issues we bring up will be about the black community.”

Although junior Melissa Hermida is not black, she joined the BSU because of the active tutoring program the organization provides every week.

“I’m involved with their Phoenix tutoring and mentoring program,” Hermida said. “It’s just a really great program.”

Tutoring is held at the Opa Locka City Hall, Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Phi Beta Sigma fraternity also co-sponsors the tutoring.

“BSU is also planning a series of movie nights where a movie relevant to the black community will be shown.”

Future movie night dates have not been set but will be announced during the weekly BSU meetings.

Open Mic Night will also be held the last week of each month with specific dates to be determined. During the Open Mic Nights, BU members and anyone else in attendance will be able to share poetry, songs and other forms of artistic expression.

“The conference is meant to empower black students to become more involved,” Hatcher said.

There are also several more regular events being hosted by the BSU. The first is a weekly event called the Union. The Union will be held every Wednesday starting in February from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the housing quad. It will serve as a networking and gathering place for students.

The BSU is also planning a series of movie nights where a movie relevant to the black community in some way will be shown and discussed. The first movie night of the year will be Jan. 31 and Alfreda will be shown.

Future movie night dates have not been set but will be announced during the weekly BSU meetings.

Open Mic Night will also be held the last week of each month with specific dates to be determined. During the Open Mic Nights, BU members and anyone else in attendance will be able to share poetry, songs and other forms of artistic expression.

The BSU will be sponsoring students to attend the 30th annual “Big XII Conference” on black student government at the University of Nebraska from Feb. 15 to 18.

The Big XII Conference was the model for BU’s own conference according to Hatcher.

“BSU members hope that with the various events being planned, they will be able to increase membership in order to be more effective in their goals throughout the community.”

“The people in [the BSU] know where you’re coming from,” said junior Lori Bellot.

With their friendly meeting atmosphere and collective determination, the BSU hopes to start changes in the community, which they believe is one of their club’s main goals.

To contact BSU board members you can check out their MySpace account at www.myspace.com/fiubsu.
Food and Wine Festival coming to town

AGUSTINA PRIGOSHIN
Staff Writer

Wine, spirits, Scotch and sake tasting isn’t even half of the fun at the Falcon’s Sports North Sea South Beach Food and Wine Festival will offer. Cooking classes with the nation’s most renowned chefs and culinary personalities, and a golf tournament at the Biltmore Hotel Country Club are other events that have been a part of the event’s success.

From Feb. 21 to Feb. 24, about 100 restaurants and 55 food and beverage distributors will be exhibiting their best dishes on Ocean Drive and 13th Street in Miami Beach.

“It’s the largest food and wine festival in the nation,” said Randall Rubin, an FIU graduate from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and current hospitality and management professor at FIU, who has volunteered at the event for the past five years.

Last year, he was put in charge of the Restaurant and Exhibitor Program where he trained and helped exhibitors prepare their stations at the Grand Tasting event.

“The Grand Tasting event is the largest of all events held that weekend. It usually sells out fast and about 8,000 to 12,000 people show up,” Rubin said.

Local and nationally known restaurants as well as wine and spirits distributors will be offering their very best. Food, liquor and wine will be at guests’ disposal from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 24 to Feb. 25. The cost will be $175 plus tax.

Children will also be catered to during this weekend.

Kellgong’s Kidde Kitchen, a one-hour interactive program that will include juice tasting and cooking classes, will be held in Lummus Park Feb. 24 to Feb. 25 at various times throughout the day for $35 (plus tax and service fee) per child.

But the Food Network’s South Beach Food and Wine Festival has undergone some changes over the years, both moving and growing.

In 2000, it was known as Florida Extravaganza, a one-day event that took place at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus and showcased both national and international wineries and local restaurants.

In 2002, Brian Lee Schrager, director of special events and media relations at Southern Wine & Spirits of America gave the event the make over; he moved it to Ocean Drive on South Beach and named it the South Beach Food and Wine Festival.

For the 2007 festival, the Food Network partnered with the South Beach Food and Wine Festival and became its title sponsor.

“It’s a great place to network,” said Karen Ramone, a senior majoring in hospitality management. “I get to meet restaurant owners and other professionals.”

Students volunteering for the first time are looking for forward to the event.

“I’m very excited to be participating in such a big event. I’ve programmed small galas and corporate events in the past. This festival is a lot more work,” said first year volunteer Katherine Spiegel-Burra, a junior majoring in hospitality management.

“This event would not have been successful if it wasn’t for students volunteering,” Rubin said.

Hospitality and tourism management students interested in volunteering can sign up at www.myhospitalityfiu.edu.

For a complete list of events and prices, visit www.sobewineandfoodfest.com.
OPINION

STATE OF DIVISION

Democrats should stop whining, support President's initiatives

JOSE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

The segmented and almost sectarian nature of the United States government was conspicuously revealed in President Bush's recent State of the Union address. It was vividly showcased in a poten mix of thunderous applause by resurrecting the name of a conservative|$&$\text{\textcolor{white}{\textit{r}}}|

HEAD OF STATE: President Bush gave his annual State of the Union address last Tuesday. It was the first time in his presidency that he spoke before a Democrat-controlled Congress.

With every point the President made, it seemed that the Democrats, operating in lock step under their puppet master Nancy Pelosi, sat in consternation as their Republican counterparts nonchalantly rose to exult him.

This ridiculous display of ideological differences, however, was not potent enough to overshadow the President's plan to steer our nation in the right direction. Bush's proposals on energy in particular were most ambitious, perhaps too ambitious to be implemented in a practical matter. Nonetheless, the proposals were a welcome divergence from our nation's current reliance on foreign oil and petroleum.

By curtailing our reliance on Middle Eastern oil, our nation is averting the catastrophic consequences that political conflict in the Middle East may have on the energy sector, and the ability of the American people to travel and commute in their automobiles with minimal financial burden.

The President's proposals for immigration reform, while not stringent enough to halt the impending segmentation of the nation into several ethnic factions, is a promising solution for the problem that immigration, when not carefully overseen, poses to the unity of our nation and the availability of jobs for hard working American citizens.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the President's rather brief speech were his statements regarding Iraq.

The President's decision to significantly increase the number of troops stationed in Iraq is certainly very beneficial to stabilizing the already compromised security of the Middle East that is in a most fragile state. The troop surge, while certainly modest compared to what is needed for decisive military victory, is sufficient to ensure the survival of the Iraqi democratic government, which must begin taking the initiative in quelling the insurgent threat.

The only sure way to guarantee victory in Iraq is to equip the Iraqi government with the resources to defend it, which at the moment is only possible through continued support from the United States Armed Forces. Withdrawing troops from the region, as is adamantly proposed by foolish liberal idealists, would result in catastrophic consequences for the entire Middle East, and most importantly, the security of the American people.

It might give rise to a radical regime, more or less analogous to the Iranian government. That will compromise not only the safety of our country, but also the safety of our ally Israel, also the sworn enemy of extremists.

The American people and the Democratic Party must cease their almost womanly pandering and raving, and accept responsibility for the miscalculation made by President Bush's cabinet, and renew their support for the war effort.

Failure in this endeavor will surely lead to attacks, identical in magnitude, if not more devastating than the World Trade Center attacks, which brought America to its knees.

Diplomacy, while certainly desirable, is not attainable. The enemy is determined to rid the world of democracy, and to rid the Middle East of every shred of Western influence.

For that reason, we must strive forward, and fight for the sanctity of democracy and the safety of our nation.

Hillary Clinton not the best choice for Democrats in 2008

REINIER HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Senator Hillary Clinton stated she would seek the Democratic presidential nomination on Saturday, Jan. 20.

This has come as no surprise to many who believe she would run, especially after becoming the first First Lady of the United States to hold an elected office, and if elected, would be the country’s first female President.

Yet despite a landslide victory in her bid for re-election to the Senate, several members within her party are weary of her seeking the nomination for fear that she is too polarizing to win, and her campaign will only draw votes away from other possible Democratic contenders.

While Clinton has emerged as a frontrunner for the nomination, several other candidates have stated their interest in running, many of whom stand out as more likely to carry the Democrats to victory.

While Clinton has emerged as a frontrunner for the nomination, several other candidates have stated their interest in running, many of whom stand out as more likely to carry the Democrats to victory.

Also running is former Senator John Edwards of South Carolina, who has many similarities to Clinton, her husband, former President Bill Clinton. Both are Southern Democrats, something that could also be said of the previous Democratic nominee, John Kerry. Conservatives and centrists see Clinton as too liberal, and Democrats are turned off by her vote in favor of the Iraq War. The fact that she is so well known also hinders her ability to draw new supporters, and her position as a political outsider among some Democrats.

The bottom line is that Clinton's polarizing nature will divide voters and create several who will vote Republican, simply for the reason that they’re “anyone but Hillary”.

C. Joel Marino
Editor in Chief
Double standards stigmatize female sexuality

VERONICA SUAREZ
Contributing Writer

In the music video for Nelly Furtado’s song “Promiscuous Girl,” Furtado stands against a blue chrome wall and shakes her pelvis to pulsating beats. Her thick neon-white belt glows and sticks to her bare stomach. Lifting her arms, she turns around, pops her lower back and says, “You expect me to just let you hit it / but will you respect me if you get it?”

The pop hit about casual sex and promiscuity continues the argument of female sexuality ignited by the revolution of the 1960s. For many, the line of what is acceptable is blurry.

“If a guy is a sexaholic, he is considered a playboy, and that’s considered to be cool in a way,” said Junior David Bolivar. “Yet, if a woman expresses too much sexual desire, she is called names [such as] slut, tramp, whore. And those are ways of depriving women of their sexual needs.”

Sophomore Natalie Soto also thinks women don’t have the same sexual liberties as men. While she feels it is acceptable to have premarital sex, “whether it is accepted by society is a difference case.”

Many argue that liberation of female sexuality, at least in America, was ignited in the 1960s. The sexual revolution instilled changes in the sexual norms and behaviors of women. Words such as premarital sex, the birth control pill, legalized abortion and casual sex became associated with female sexuality.

“In the United States, the advent of the birth control pill meant that for the first time in history, women’s reproductive capabilities became separate from the sexual act of pleasure,” said Lois West, a professor of sociology.

But according to West, the sexual revolution has left more than the freedom to have a good time.

“The so-called ‘sexual revolution of the sixties’ was that women adapted to men’s sexual standards,” she said. “These sexual standards were the ‘Hugh Hefner, playboy standards,’ [which] unlinked sex from marriage and relationship commitment, making sex for fun more important than sex for marriage.”

West argues that the lasting effects of the revolution are still one-sided – women are branded with labels for doing the same things men do.

“The sexual double standard still stigmatizes women who like a lot of sex with men without relationships,” West said.

Author Leora Tanenbaum in her book Slut!: Growing up Female with a Bad Reputation, writes about the characteristics of those who judge sexually active women: “Slut-bashing is a cheap and easy way to feel powerful. If you feel insecure or ashamed about your own sexual desires, all you have to do is call a girl a ‘slut’ and suddenly you’re the one who is ‘good’ and on top of the social pecking order.”

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Grammy nominee discusses tour, fears

ALEJANDRA RAMIREZ
Staff Writer

With the recent announcement of five Grammy nominations for both his albums Continuum and Try!, singer/songwriter John Mayer sat down for a roundtable interview with college journalists from around Florida to discuss the launch of his Winter Continuum Tour.

Q: You’re doing tours back-to-back. How is this taking a toll on you and what are you planning to do to keep this tour new and exciting for you?

Well, it doesn’t take a toll on me [and] they’re not exactly back-to-back. I think what I’ve learned is that I don’t love being home as much as I think I do when I’m on tour. It’s kind of been a catch-22 for quite a while.

When I’m on tour I go ‘Ugh, I can’t wait to get home,’ so I’ve definitely had time between the last tour and the upcoming tour to kind of regenerate a bit.

Every break allows me to get distanced enough from the last project I did to be able to figure out how to apply, or what changes I need to make to make something really great. And in the case of this tour, this is really the first tour that is going to be at a human pace, you know? Putting the record out while touring is grueling but I can’t wait to bring these songs to the stage and really have that energy level.

I’m also interested in [changing] the show out of it just being a combination of 14 different songs, [so] really staging a performance, like a real set, a real opener, a real closer, while still keeping the variation.

Q: You’re going to visit many cities, so which one would be your favorite and why?

Boston is one of my favorite cities for me to play mostly because Boston is where I got my start musically, by way of going to Berklee College of Music. But everybody has a certain location or different time in their life where they keep their first impression. [It’s] just the vibe up there [in Boston] that I relate to and was a part of … I’m not part of it anymore, but I enjoy playing for kids in the crowd or parents in the crowd.

Q: Knowing that you collaborated with Buddy Guy and B.B. King and other artists like that, what influenced you to create a trio?

It’s very much Steve Jordan and Pino Palladino. I have played in trio figurations before and really enjoyed the dynamics of it, but playing with Steve and Pino … that was like,
Artist attempts to shed pop image for blues, soul

**Q:** It seems like in the past two years you’ve been shedding the pop image you had at first. Is that a conscious decision on your part to pursue the blues and the soul influence? Is that just another side of it?

A: Yes, as a composer I want to write things that represent how I feel now, but not in the sense that I think, ‘I better enter a blues trio to make up for what I’ve done before.’ I’ve been overly successful, and I’ve realized that and I couldn’t have been successful if there weren’t people who really related with what I was doing. The only effect that I’m trying to manipulate is the type of song. That is the only real area that I concern myself with when attempting to change people’s minds. It’s not a matter of making people like you when they don’t like you. It’s a matter of making people understand you when you think they don’t understand you.

**Q:** How idealistic are you when it comes to the political statements and problems quoted in your song?

A: I definitely practice what I preach. I don’t necessarily want to get across a large-scale political statement. I’d rather affect the larger world with smaller-scale emotional term. I think the case with “waiting on the world to change” they both kind of come to the center toward the politics and emotion. So it’s initially a little too idealistic. I don’t know that everybody dealing in politics or responding to politics has as much time as I have to write this song.

**Q:** What is your greatest fear as a musician?

A: Losing touch – putting a record out that you don’t think is the greatest album and everybody believes is a piece of crap. Not that there’s a certain price that people are willing to pay to put such overhead on it because there’s a risk of being helped by it. There is always the kind of quality from people getting emotional healing from music, which has always been there. What’s really interesting is that there are some areas in me, kind of a comedy of errors in terms of what it takes for me to sign an autograph and what it means to someone else that can be really taken advantage of. I can sign a vinyl copy of Continuum and that took me 10 seconds to sign and say it could raise $800 for a good cause. That’s something that should definitely be taken advantage of. To raise money for a fund that contributes to healthcare and music education is really interesting because I’ve created a kind of economic system almost. I sell four or five something tickets a night that cost me a certain amount and to be able to put such overhead on it because there’s a certain price that people are willing to pay.
Trained parakeet adept at putting, drinking games

PHIL DAVIS
AP Wire

Ask David Cota, who spent months training his Indian ringneck parakeet A.J. to use a tiny putter to sink puts on a miniature green, making the 5-inch tall bird an Internet video star.

"It doesn't look all that tough nowadays, but try to get a bird to hold a little stick basically in its beak. The first time, he snapped it right in half," Cota said. A.J. can also dunk a tiny basketball on a tiny court. He rolls over. He shakes. His play dead is spooky.

"A fluke," he insists. He tried to slip in a replacement parakeet... and ended up single with plenty of free time to train his new pet parakeet, named "Axl" for the lead singer of Guns 'N Roses.

Axl was accidentally crushed only hours before he was scheduled to perform on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" in May 1990. Cota's college roommate fell asleep and rolled up on top of the bird in a hotel room provided by NBC. The death made national news.

Carson turned the mishap into a comedy bit. Wearing a black armband, he hosted an on-air memorial service for Axl, complete with "Taps" performed by Doc Severin- sen. Carson gave Cota a new parakeet, A.J., whose name is a nod to Axl and to Carson. He told Cota to come back on the show when he'd trained the new bird.

Cota and A.J. performed for Carson. They have also been seen with Jay Leno and on David Letterman's "Stupid Pet Tricks." Cota, who works for sports apparel dis- tributor in southwest Florida, stumbled into the world of bird training by accident.

In college, he and his friends were impressed by Axl's skills at the college drinking game "quarters." The goal is to bounce quarters into a glass, or drink if you miss. Axl would run down runaway quarters and dunk them.

"The bird became kind of like the wild card," Cota said. "You could bid to have the bird on your team, so if you missed and the bird would put it in, you'd still get credit. So I just turned that quarter game into basketball."

A.J. now knows far more tricks than Axl did. Cota and his friends have built elaborate sets including a basketball court featuring the Portland Trail Blazers' logo and a putting green complete with plastic putter and a golf bag.

Next up on A.J.'s training agenda: Water skiing. "I don't think there is any limit to what I can show him," Cota said.
Season’s success depends on team’s pitching staff

BASSE BALL, page 12

situations.

“The success of this team is really going to be about keeping Walker in the pen,” Price said. “If we have to bring Walker to a starter, then those in the starting roles haven’t done their jobs. I know Walker can start and I trust Walker in big game situations. Walker can throw everyday [and] I want Walker to be in there at the end of the game.”

Whitley added, “I’m expecting good things.”

As for the starting pitchers, newcomers Chris Allen and Corey Polizzano have been penciled in as No. 1 and 2 to start the season, but their order is unclear.

Allen, a 6-4 junior transfer from Clemson University, threw only one inning last year, but showed enough promise in Fall practice to earn the spot.

“I’m just looking to do whatever I can to help this team get wins [and] help get us to a regional, maybe a super regional and try to elevate this program a little bit to put it on the map even more,” Allen said. “I trust Walker in big game situations, to put it on the map even more. Evan Ellison, a lefty from Southridge, is considered more defensively sound. John Lajiness, look for Mollica to take over their spots and lefty John Peita, Mollica’s teammate at Central Florida Community College last year, to step in at first.

2006 Gatorade Player of the Year and Louisville Slugger Player of the Year in the state of Delaware, freshman Tyler Townsend, should see sometime at first base or designated hitter.

The 6-2, 230-lbs, lefty batted .600 with eight home runs and 32 RBI in his senior year.

“I’m just coming in here trying to help the team as best I can – whatever role it is,” Townsend said.

Price added, “He’s going to get his opportunity and when he gets his opportunity, he’s got to keep it.”

At shortstop, there is a battle going on between two newcomers, as last year’s primary starter, Alex Alfonso, will be redshirted for the year.

“I think there are some absolute fantastic things going on at shortstop,” [Manuel Arroyo] and [Eugene Glynn], those guys are battling out there tooth and nail,” Price said.

Arroyo, another freshman from Southridge, is considered more defensively sound. Meanwhile, Glynn, a sophomore transfer from Phoenix College, is considered more ready offensively.

OUTFIELD

The outfield is set at center and left with preseason All-Sun Belt picks senior Chris Dunn and junior James McQuaid.

“Now it’s something to live up to. It would be embarrassing if I didn’t come through.”

Dunn had the highest batting average on the team (.376) last year with eight home runs and 32 RBI in his senior year.

“I’ve spent a lot of time with the conference,” Price said “It’s always good to get recognized and be able to know that other coaches recognize you as a good player [but] I don’t really think too much about it,” Dunn said. “I just want to play. I don’t want to be living up to any expectations or anything – just play how I’ve always been playing and try not to think about it too much.”

There is another battle developing for the spot right fielder between sophomore DePhillip Mason, who recorded a hit in 12 of 14 starts, and freshman lefty Bryan Adams – both of whom are graduates of Monsignor Pace High School. As mentioned earlier, Corey Jacob has seen time out there, too.

OUTLOOK

As with any team, pitching is always important and the team seems deep in the bullpen, but Price believes defense is as important.

“Pitching is always going to be the situation that kind of divides the team,” Price said. “I don’t really think too much about it,” Dunn said. “I want to be living up to any expectations or anything – just play how I’ve always been playing and try not to think about it too much.”

Classifieds

JOBS

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CLASSIFIEDS
Price’s teachings extend beyond the diamond

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Editor

A young recruit was invited to visit FIU in 1972. He was shown a fence and a field where the baseball team would play its games.

Over three decades later, Danny Price is entering his 28th year as head coach of the Golden Panthers baseball team.

He opted to attend FIU in its inaugural baseball year due to the persistence of former head coach Tom Wonderling.

“He was calling me and he was calling me a lot,” Price said. “All that calling made me feel special and the sold me on the fact of being there on opening day of FIU.”

He graduated from FIU in 1974, received his master’s degree in 1976 and became the voluntary assistant coach in 1978. Following the departure of Wonderling, he accepted the head coaching job in 1980.

He has compiled a 1060-586 record as the Golden Panthers head coach.

Despite being involved in baseball as a player and coach for over 40 years, some of Price’s favorite moments are experienced off the baseball diamond: at sea.

“I get my son, my buddy Jerry Beverly with his daughters and we eat fish and lobster for two days,” Price said. “Those are some of the best days I can ever have.”

His wallet is filled with pictures of his three-year-old granddaughter, Taylor, who calls Price “grandpa.”

“When you hear this little girl just say ‘grandpa’, it’s the neatest thing in the world,” Price said.

In addition, pictures of former and current players’ children decorate his wallet.

“A card, a letter, a phone call,” Price said. “I like to hear success stories come through here.”

At the inaugural FIU Hall of Fame ceremony, Price watched one of the success stories honored: Boston Red Sox third baseman Mike Lowell. Lowell was diagnosed with testicular cancer when he was 25 years-old. He managed to overcome the disease and continue his career in the Major Leagues.

“A lot of people can make it to the big leagues, but a lot of people can’t handle adversity,” Price said.

Players are not hesitant to seek counseling from Price when adversity faces them. Senior catcher Luis Bautista’s grandmother passed away last year and he received counseling from Price.

“He told me, ‘You can count on me for anything,’ Bautista said. ‘He’s more than a manager, he’s a friend.’

According to Price, baseball isn’t just a sport that involves hitting, pitching and fielding. It is a tool used to mold the characters of young men by teaching them how to deal with failure.

“In life, you definitely don’t get all green lights,” he said. “In baseball, a player has to be able to handle failure; you hit .300 in the major leagues and you’re a multi-millionaire.”

Failing seven times out of 10 is considered successful in baseball.

It is Price’s duty to guide his players whether they’re succeeding or failing, playing or warming the bench.

“When you’ve got nine positions and 30 players, you can’t involve everyone,” Price said. “It’s the rapport you have with the other 15 to 20 players; I try to spend as much or more time with those players.”

Senior infelder Bryan Pullin had a difficult time becoming a member of the Golden Panthers.

Danny Price gave Pullin an opportunity to play for the Golden Panthers under one condition: “Don’t let me down.”

“He took me under his wing and gave me a shot,” Pullin said. “He helps everybody, but I guess my problems were easier to recognize.”

Price has coached hundreds of players during his tenure, but players have returned the favor.

“Young people have such a positive outlook on life. I hope my players get as much from me as they’re giving me,” Price said. “We think we’re the ones teaching, but we’re the ones learning.”

Although managing a baseball team requires a great deal of communication, Price is serene during the majority of games. As a fan, he savors every moment of every baseball game.

“I’m quiet during most of the ballgame, I like to absorb the game itself,” Price said. “I look at every pitch, I watch everything on the field and I have the best seat in the house.”

27 different teams have played under coach Price and he remembers something poignant from each team.

According to Price, he can’t remember what he had for breakfast by lunchtime, but he recalls specific moments from a variety of games.

The 28th team preparing itself to represent FIU and coach Danny Price has 15 returning players and could see several newcomers make critical contributions to the team.

“This team is going to write their own chapter and they’re in the introduction part right now,” Price said.

Something Price has not gotten accustomed to in 27 seasons has been losing. This season will be no exception.

“I thought, when you get older, losing became easier; losses hurt as much today as the first time I lost,” Price said.

He admits he is ambitious, but he adheres to two coaching beliefs in order to be successful.

“To be good, you need to be able to manage. Not manage games, but manage people,” Price said. “And the team takes on the personality of a good coach.”
Men’s BASEBALL PREVIEW

PANTHER POWERHOUSE

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Copy Editor

Going into a new season, sports teams usually have a set of expectations they would like to meet by season’s end, whether it’s having a winning percentage over .500, winning the conference title, etc.

As for Danny Price, entering his 28th season as head coach of the baseball team, his approach to a new season is a little different.

“It’s hard to see past the first game,” Price said. “One thing I have to do is keep everybody focused on one thing at a time. For example, they got classes, weight training, tutoring, baseball practice, so in this business your expectations are to win them all. And your expectations are to manage whatever it is you have in front of you (at the moment).”

After going 36-24 in 2006, Price – 1060-568 all-time at FIU – has five of his top six hitters from last season and a total of 15 players returning – including two preseason All-Sun Belt selections. But with 19 new players coming in, Price wants his returning players to bring leadership to the squad.

“I don’t care how good of a team you have ability wise, if you don’t have leadership you cannot win,” Price said. “You have to have leadership and you have to have strong character.”

PITCHERS

The Golden Panthers return seven pitchers from last year, including senior Walker Whitley, who pitched a team-high 126.2 innings last year. Even though he was a starter last season, his durability will move him to the bullpen as the first option to pitch.

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