Pan-African celebrations spark tensions

BETSY MARTINEZ
News Director

A list of scheduled events for this year’s Pan-African Heritage Week celebration is causing some tension between black students and the Student Programming Council.

Students from several campus organizations, including the Black Student Union, the Haitian Student Organization and the Caribbean Student Organization, say they were not adequately involved in the celebration’s planning.

“The main issue we feel is that they don’t have events that represent Pan-African Students,” Hatch said.

Another problem: the Pan-African calendar of events has changed several times, according to Hatch.

In the first calendar, Hatch saw an event called “Sex with Marilyn,” taking place to promote sexual awareness and safety.

However, a similar event, the “Get Leid Carnival,” taking place Feb. 12 and being co-sponsored by Women’s Health Services, stayed on the calendar. The event’s purpose is to be an educational session about diseases, abstinence and victim advocacy, according to the WHS.

Hatcher feels that the Pan-African Week celebrations should unite and uplift both native Africans and those of African descent, something he says this year’s celebrations lack.

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The purpose of the report, according to John Dasburg, the board member who commissioned the report, is to provide a clear assessment of the state of Florida’s public university system and to offer a blueprint for the system’s growth over the next 30 years.

According to Chancellor Mark Rosenberg, the system needs to grow, in some way or another, because university enrollment in Florida is expected to increase by more than 50,000 students by 2012.

“The question is whether we will continue to grow by default, or by design,” Rosenberg said, “and in the meeting, we would be used to compel schools to comply.

The board would give priority to certain academic programs and policies, and universities who adopt them would receive additional funds from the Legislature.

On the other hand, this could mean that the formula used to calculate the money each university receives each year would change.

As a result, universities that do not adopt the recommendations could see their funding decreased.

If the report’s recommendations are adopted, it would not be mandatory for individual universities to adopt measures like these.

Instead, financial incentives or “carrots,” as the board referred to them all through the meeting, would be used to compel schools to comply.

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Maidique disagrees with board state funds to pay for them. Funding problems like these would put major pressure on universities to play along with any measure prescribed by the board. “I have a genuine university president and I know the public good drove me some of the time, the good of the state drove me some of the time and even blind personal ambition drove me some of the time,” said Stephen Portch, co-writer of the report. “But the funding system drove me most of the time. You play the funding game you are given.” The reaction of university presidents to the report’s proposals varied, but Maidique was exceptionally outspoken against them. If the word ‘optional’ weren’t there, I’d be concerned,” he said. “The bottom line is, no matter how big your carrot is, we don’t want it.” Maidique said his concern is that getting rid of graduate programs would lower FIU’s prestige. “No ‘state college’ has a world-class school of medicine. It would be unfair to diminish the standing of a university and the value of its degree to its alumni,” Maidique said. Most other university presidents disagreed, and were more receptive of the report’s recommendations.

“A first-class, four-year baccalaureate institution is of far more value than a second-rate research institution,” said John C. Cavanaugh, president of the University of West Florida. Portch explained that although status is typically conferred to research universities, the issue is a question of quality versus status. “A quality four-year institution can ultimately have as much prestige,” Portch said.

“We have received a large number of interesting ideas about the future of Florida’s higher education, and we’re going to keep an open mind toward all of them,” said Frank T. Brogan, president of Florida Atlantic University.

Throughout the discussion, Rosenberg reminded everyone that the report is only “a starting point for a conversation, an invitation to a dialogue regarding the future of Florida’s university system.”

Controversy surrounds events opportunity and actually lowered what they normally charge,” Barbel wrote. Pitbull’s performance was part of SPC’s Concerts, Special Events and Campus Entertainment Fall events, not just Hispanic Heritage, and took place Oct. 19, 2006. “Pitbull’s concert was a matter of opportunity, timing and luck,” Barbel wrote. She wrote she had no “premeditated malice toward making any other heritage celebration feel inferior.” “Many people believe [priority] is placed on Hispanic Heritage, but this is just not so,” Barbel wrote.

Cultural Celebrations have been going on at FIU since the 1980s, and SPC is in charge of programming each of the heritage weeks, which include Hispanic, Asian, American and Pan-African heritages. In previous years, the celebrations were planned by a committee. This year, Barbel was the sole planner.

Like Hatcher, Zakina Ogbourne, FIU graduate and past Pan-African chair member, is frustrated by the lack of culture in the events. “Last year, we had an art show, Sunday brunch, a fashion show, dance and step performances, and Marti Gras,” Ogbourne said.

This year’s fashion show was cancelled. For a full calendar of events go to www.spc.org. For more information contact the Campus Life office located at GC 2240.

Additional reporting by Maria Chercoles, Khadija Harris

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our VP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
Professor finds origins of rare diamonds – outer space

CHRISTOPHER NUCEZ
Production Manager

After having a conversation with Stephen E. Haggerty, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, there will be no doubt in your mind that not only are diamonds formed elsewhere, but in some cases, they are from interstellar space, too.

In a paper published last month in the journal Astrophysical Journal Letters, Haggerty, along with a team of scientists from both FIU and Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, claim that carbonado diamonds – those diamonds more commonly yet incorrectly known as black diamonds – are actually extraterrestrial in origin.

That’s an extraordinary conclusion,” Haggerty said about the theory. “That is the only conclusion that is compatible with the measurements that we’ve most currently measured.

To test his hypothesis, Haggerty and his team first had to remove any trace contaminant minerals from the carbonado specimen they were testing, which otherwise could yield inaccurate readings.

Using the facilities at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, the scientists then used infrared synchrotron radiation to locate trace elements of hydrogen, an indicator that the mineral was formed in a hydrogen rich environment which Haggerty believes to be outer space, specifically a supernova explosion.

Carbonado diamonds have only been found in two locations globally – the Central African Republic and Brazil. Haggerty suspects that the diamond arrived while the Earth was still forming some 4 billion years ago, when Brazil and the Central African Republic were still part of the same landmass.

The idea ultimately corroborates Haggerty’s theories as it explains how the diamonds could be found in locations oceans apart and still have the appearance of black diamonds. Haggerty also points out that in the 600 million tons of natural diamonds mined in the twentieth century, not a single carbonado diamond has been found among them, not to mention the fact that the diamonds have traces of osborneite, a mineral that has only been known to exist in extraterrestrial sources such as meteors and comets.

“Surely, you could expect at least one if they are indeed terrestrial in origin,” Haggerty said.

The significance of this discovery though, according to Haggerty, lies not so much in the discovery that carbonado diamonds are from space as it does in eliminating Earth and earthly processes as possible points of origin.

“Now most people have an obsession, and I don’t, with its origin,” Haggerty said.

“Or “You're a beautiful person” said to myself, “Who is this girl?” I began to talk with her, and after a short time she left. After she departed, my mother came over and said, “Be careful! That is your grandfather’s girlfriend!”” De la Nuez said throwing his hands up and cracking a “believe-it-or-not” expression.

“Of course, it is not responsible for the content of its ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is the Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
Bunche honors Cuban poet, hero

JESSICA SOLIS
Staff Writer

The live latin music was blaring and the Cuban coffee was flowing at the Seventh Annual Jose Marti Scholarship Breakfast/Brunch at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom in the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This event is held every Jan. 28 in honor of Jose Marti, known as the father of Cuban independence, who was not only a political figure, but also a poet, journalist and professor.

The event was started in 2000 by former FIU vice provost Raúl Moncada and has become an event that not only celebrates student achievement, but culture and diversity.

“Every year we make it more international, which is what we want to do,” Moncada said.

Hosteting the event was Chef Club President and one of the most important people for the event, Pierre St. Louis.

“The purpose of his evolution. Jose Marti was a way for him to discover his paintings. He was presented with the opportu- nity by [Doozan] and I thought that by getting something,” Doozan said, who took over the position of treasurer of the Black Student Union at [University Park].

The newly elected executive board members work myself has been strenuous...

The Student Organizations Council held a special election Jan. 25 to fill executive board positions that have been vacant since Fall.

The vice-president, treasurer, secretary, events coordinator and marketing director positions now have official members as part of the SOC executive board after winners for those positions were voted in by SOC registered clubs.

Each club had one representative per vote, although according to SOC president Joe Mintz, there were only about 10 to 12 clubs who voted during the elections out of the 31 clubs registered under the Biscayne Bay Campus’s SOC.

The new events coordinator, Mike Parker, a freshman majoring in hospitality and tourism management, won two of the three positions he ran for.

Freshman Joe Mintz ran against two other candidates for the position of vice president and won by one vote.

Jose Flores, the new treasurer, Sabrina Saindoux, the new secretary, and newly appointed marketing director Carolina St. Louis all ran unopposed.

Miami musician Carlos Averhoff, Grammy award winning saxophonist Ahmad Bayouz and FIU alumnus Maggie Muñoz created a varied mix of music that spanned genres. Cuban standards were played along-side Frank Sinatra classics while a light bass was served.

Educating today’s students about Marti is something the Jose Marti Scholarship Breakfast Committee aims to do every year.

For a donation given to FIU by Jose Badia, president and owner of Badia Spices, a gift certificate to the FIU bookstore worth $250, and five scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each were given to FIU students who had winning entries in several Marti essay competitions.

None of the five scholarship recipients were present at the event.

In attendance, though, was senior Luckner Pierre, winner of the certificate prize. His essay about Jose Marti’s thoughts on immigration was a way for him to discover the author’s ideas.

“I wanted to learn more about the purpose of his evolution. Jose Marti gave me the representation of free- dom and liberty,” Pierre said.

Marti’s ability to bring Cuba together and right his essay about Spain in the 1800s is still seen as one of the most important figures in Latin American history.

Several of Marti’s poems were submitted for the scholarship prize as well. A committee comprised of professors from the College of Arts and Sciences and the department of modern languages chose the winning essay for the gift certificate prize, and a scholarship committee based at University Park chose the five winning essays for the scholarship prize.

Participating in the essay competitions has several advantages, according to Carmen Evans de Jesus, a member of the Jose Marti Scholarship Breakfast Committee.

“It stimulates [students] to want to know more, and at the same time you’re helping them so they can buy their books or pay tuition,” she said.

According to Mercedes Kuper, also a committee member, Marti’s words and ideas have the ability to inspire people, especially in today’s society where many are quick to take sides.

“From what I’ve read about Marti, he was an incredible poet and an incredible uniter,” Kuper said.

“I think we need that right now.”

The event’s keynote speaker was Ferdie “The Fight Doctor” Pacheco, a man whose career has been as eclectic as Marti’s. He began his career as a doctor, setting up a practice in his hometown of Tampa, Fls. Eventually, Pacheco became best known for his work with the championship boxer Muhammad Ali. Being Ali’s corner man and physician for 17 years earned Pacheco the nickname “The Fight Doctor.”

After retiring from boxing, Pacheco began a career as a painter and celebrities such as Andy Garcia and Shirley MacLaine have purchased his paintings.

He spoke about his accomplishments, his life, and what he believed Marti wanted to accomplish.

“What Marti dreamed could have been the republic of Cuba if we would’ve followed his principles,” Pacheco told the audience in Spanish.

One of Pacheco’s paintings depicting Jose Marti was then unveiled and presented to BBC.

The painting, a permanent gift to the University, is to be displayed in the “Rincon Martiano” of the BCC Library.

After Pacheco’s address, the latin music was played and the festivities resumed.

A Latin brunch consisting of rice with chicken and fried plantains sat- isfied the crowd, while a flamenco dancer stomped and twirled on stage. Afterward, a troupe of dancers from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy energized the audience with a salsa number.

Sophomore Lorilee Valientes wanted to learn about Marti and experience Latin culture up close.

“Very fun to see something different,” Valientes said. “I liked the performances, the different music, the different types of dancing.”

Brazilian sophomore Matheus Moraes enjoyed the event as well.

When asked what his favorite part of the event was, he was clear that “all of it was the highlight.”

“The Latin part. That’s more my flavor,” Moraes said with a smile.

“Every year we make it more...”

I’m very excited to have a full e-board. Trying to do all the things, my work myself has been strenuous...

Q. Out of all the clubs in BBC, around 10 clubs were present at the voting. How will you go about securing more active participation?

St. Louis: I guess besides encouraging people to get involved in the campus through community workshops and team building.

Q. Will you run again for your position next year?

Parker: I think I can contribute something.

Mintz: Yes, I want to influence the way that it’s going, yeah, I probably will.

Parker: I think it’s too early to say.
CROSSING THE BORDER:

Illegal immigrants arrested in a raid are handcuffed together. Some say stricter border control measures are needed to ensure the safety, security and cultural integrity of the United States.

Immigration control is key to unity

JOSE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Our nation, for as long as it has existed, has prided itself on the concept of being a nation “united,” not only under a single governmental infrastructure, but under a single American cultural identity, and a distinct ideology, which encompasses every facet of life; our perceptions of morality, family, work ethic and countless other mundane aspects of existence.

However, in the past several decades, the very foundation of our “united” nation has begun to crumble due to the unrelenting pressures exerted by a certain divisive force; a phenomenon that has been brought to light by the growing heterogeneity and dissolution of the country’s cultural identity. This is none other than immigration.

It is something that has been transpiring ceaselessly throughout the existence of our nation, yet now more than ever is beginning to have a detrimental effect on its solidarity and unity. More and more, racism is being directed at the bargeoning Hispanic minority, which has proliferated through immigration from the Spanish-speaking nations adjoining the United States, most notably, Mexico. The current policy being implemented to regulate the incursions of illegal immigrants into our nation is largely ineffective, solely due to the fact that it is not aggressive enough.

The borders of the United States are left largely unguarded, and open to the encroachments of any individual with the slightest inclination to enter. It is because of this that countless undocumented immigrants have been able to enter the United States for better of worse. This unguarded, and largely apathetic approach to defending our borders has cost this nation countless amounts of money in unpaid taxes, since undocumented immigrants are not taxed.

Many businesses have taken advantage of these immigrants, paying them substandard wages. As a result, many hard working Americans have been stripped of their jobs, by the ready availability of cheap labor. That’s a travesty. Everyone should have a fair chance to compete in the labor market.

Furthermore, the most prominent and potent threat the unregulated influx of undocumented immigrants poses to American people is the schism they are creating between the people.

Our already inherently uncertain cultural identity is being blurred, and this merely makes us more divided.

Education in languages other than English is continually mentioned as these immigrants, many of whom have entered our country without documentation, seek to preserve the manner in which they lived before leaving their country. This has become a divisive issue in much of the southwest, with bilingual education angering many conservatives, and with “English only” initiatives being passed in a few states.

There is even a movement to make English the official language of the United States. This may seem somewhat prejudiced, a reactionary policy aimed at a group of social outsiders, but without a common language, our ability to communicate with one another is hindered, and if we cannot communicate with each other, we will lose our unity.

Speaking one’s native language is not problematic, and is in fact beneficial to the diversity of this country.

However, we must remember that the English language is the common language that unites us all as Americans. Immigrants must be mindful of this fact, and make an effort to learn it, and use it in their interactions with people not of their own ethnicity.

I commend individuals such as Congressman Tom Tancredo for bringing this issue to the forefront of American politics, for it is something that must be addressed, but not in his extreme and racially infused manner.

All immigration into the United States should be documented, and occur with the permission of the federal government, who have ensured that these individuals are not a threat to the safety of the American people, and who have insured that these individuals are placed in a job fairly, and in manner that does not displace other hard-working Americans from their only source of income.

There is nothing inherently wrong with FIU getting a new football stadium.

The improved venue would be a landmark on campus, boosting school pride among students and alumni and impressing prospective students and potential football recruits alike.

A crown jewel for the University,” is what Pete Garcia, our new athletic director, called it.

The problem isn’t so much in the idea of building a new stadium, but rather in the question of whether the investment is even financially sound. FIU will be going up to $35 million dollars into debt to finance the project.

In the documents it submitted before the Board of Governors when it sought permission to issue the bonds, FIU outlined a detailed proposal for paying back the money. According to the proposal, the bonds would be repaid from the stadium’s revenue.

In theory, the source of this revenue, besides ticket sales, would be the sale of 14 luxury seats, advertising deals and network distribution contracts. As the plan goes, crowds would sell the tickets out, high rollers would spend $5 to $10 million on luxury seats, advertisers would put placards on the sidelines and networks would pay big bucks to televise our football games.

It’s a foolproof plan, on paper. In reality, though, foolhardy is the more fitting description.

The prospect of getting any major revenue from tickets is dubious. Though Phase I of the expansion would add 10,500 new seats, previous seasons’ attendance records suggest that we should be so lucky if as much as half of them are filled.

This mid-game fight against the University of Miami produced the only media visibility the team got last season. If the team hasn’t been able to secure media attention on its own merits – by winning games, for example – it’s unlikely that a media contract will materialize.

Without media attention or half-decent attendance, it’s hard to imagine that many investors will be eager to spend money on putting their names on the new stadium.

Finally, if no one wants to spend the $1 million a year for five to 10 years that FIU President Modesto A. Maidique expects to charge for the luxury seats, it’s hard to blame them. Few people will want to spend that much on air-conditioned seats to watch a team go 0-10.

According to the BOG proposal, there’s a contingency plan in case the stadium’s revenue comes up short: the bonds would be paid for with student fee money and funds from the FIU Foundation.

There’s already talk of raising the athletic fee by $1.39 per credit hour. The fee is currently $10 a semester. It’s unclear whether the increased fee would be assessed on top of those $10 or instead of them.

Either way, for a student taking a full course load, the fee would go up by at least one hundred percent.

Falling back on student fees to pay back the bonds was supposed to be a last resort, but the administration is already counting on them.

Out of the $1.1 million the fee increase is supposed to bring in annually, the administration already committed $655,000 toward repaying the bonds.

Defaulting to the last-resort measure from day one not only seems like a premature admission of defeat, it’s also disturbing, considering students haven’t even voted on it.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@gmail.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
Commercial overshadow football season’s close

This Sunday, the Indianapolis Colts will take on the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI, which will attract an average of more than 90 million American viewers and millions more worldwide. While football is a relatively new sport to me, I’ll be watching the Super Bowl with those other 90 million people. But my reason for watching the big game will be slightly different from most others.

Every sports site I visit is dominated by analyst predictions, reader polls and the like. To tell you the truth, I couldn’t care less if it’s the Colts or the Bears. They’re both fine teams and either would make a deserving winner. My real interest in the Super Bowl are the advertisements. Everyone knows that the most entertaining aspect of the bowl are the advertisements and the half time show. Sure, the game is a tradition and all, but the ads are the icing on the cake.

Being an advertising major, the ads are all the more interesting to me. Last year, one of my professors made us watch and select the best advertisements from the game. That’s actually harder than it sounds—many of the best advertisements aren’t the most popular ones.

Take for example, the immensely popular Geico ads. Sure, the caveman gimmick was funny at first, but now it’s just gone too far. What do I know about Geico besides the fact that it’s an insurance company? Absolutely nothing. You could argue that name recognition is their pitch but wasn’t that the idea three years ago? On the other hand, the Apple commercials with the two actors portraying the PC and the Mac are fantastic advertisements, in my opinion, because they tell me the benefits of using a Mac while not portraying the PC as worthless. However, this doesn’t necessarily apply for the Super Bowl since companies are all fighting to be remembered after the game. Often, the most bizarre and funniest spots tend to be remembered and quoted by people after the night and during water cooler breaks the next day.

For the advertising industry, the Super Bowl represents one of the few, if not the only large scale television event. They know that a good spot during the Bowl can potentially reach an audience of more than 100 million worldwide. The networks know this as well. That’s why the price tag for a 30 second spot during the Super Bowl sells at between $2 – 2.8 million. That’s no small amount, even for big companies. They have to be at their zenith if they want to survive and be remembered above the others spots. This is why some of the greatest spots of all time have debuted during the Super Bowl.

Multi-tasking motorists defy obvious risk

It’s a cold, rainy February morning, you’re driving down the street while talking on your cell phone.

Your girlfriend, who is in the process of breaking up with you, tearfully tells you that she has been cheating on you with a Spanish language television producer named Umberto. In your tear-filled misery, you fail to notice the vehicle up ahead. As you crash into the back of the ice cream truck, you hear the happy children’s music over the sound of your own death rattle.

Has this ever happened to you? If you drive while distracted, you could be the next poor soul who loses their car or their life in a terrible accident, except chances are…there won’t be any ice cream.

According to a study performed by the National Highway traffic administration in conjunction with Virginia Tech, nearly 80 percent of all car accidents occur within three seconds of a driver distraction. What’s even more alarming Distracted, page 8

What’s the most distracting thing you’ve done while driving?

Wendy Mazariegos
Freshman
“Put on make-up, but my friend drives with her bra while changing her shirt.”

Alfredo Ball-Hovera
Freshman
“My friend was on the foot of the car and I had to hold him from falling off.”
Women use game to reconnect with men

KELI KENNEDY
AP Wire

Super Bowl Sunday, once the manliest of annual celebrations, is getting a shot of estrogen. Tired of being sidelined during football’s holiest day, sports-savvy ladies are brushing up on their football lingo and planning couples activities to reconnect with their men, while other game widows will revel in a night of freedom.

“For single people, this has gotten as big as, ‘Do I have a date for New Year’s Eve?’ There is hardly a soul that doesn’t say what are you doing for the Super Bowl,” sports lecturer Paula Duffy said.

The author of an audio book series, which includes the “Woman’s Guide To Football,” Duffy says her Long Beach, Calif.-based business is swamped once the playoffs start.

She travels the country speaking at Tupperware parties, holding seminars at The Learning Annex, appearing on radio shows and even teaching private lessons, which cost upward of $250.

Duffy demystifies the rules of the game for clients, a mix of single and married gals and business ladies looking to connect with their colleagues, with graphics and cheat sheets.

“Sports and entertainment have blended. Coaches like Phil Jackson are rock stars. There’s red carpet events,” Duffy said of the growing glamour factor surrounding sports.

“It’s Access Hollywood meets ESPN glamor factor surrounding sports.”

And a great way for single women to get a guy, said Duffy, who estimates about 60 percent of her clients are rock stars. There’s red carpet events, “It was definitely fun. They had practice kicking field goals from five different spots on the field,” said Arafiles, a public relations executive from Berkeley.” Afterward, I could say this is what a safety does. I can understand how a running back gets stripped of the ball.”

But what about the women who don’t care as much about the game, but still want the camaraderie?

Christine Cheng hosts a couples football and cooking party and hires a gourmet tailgating chef. The ladies learn to make mini Kobe beef burgers, salmon quesadillas, homemade sweet potato fries and crab cakes which they later serve to the boys.

“The men love watching the game and being served gourmet foods and drinks; the ladies love having a cooking class and being with their men,” said Cheng, a 25-year-old marketing director from Beverly Hills.

A Brooklyn spa is looking to keep the sparks flying long after the coin toss with four plasma screen TV's, food and a full bar for the men and chocolate massages and facials to entertain the ladies. When the game is over, couples can reunite in Body by Brooklyn’s thermal hot tub or Turkish steam room.

Then there are the gals who are happy to thumb their nose at football’s most sacred day. Seattle restaurant The Pink Door is throwing a “Superbelle event” in their home, which includes a caricaturist, Tarot card reader, trapeze artist and chick flicks.

DIYNetwork.com is planning a marathon airing “Knitty Gritty” and encouraging knitters to trade tips over the Internet as they make shawls and blankets for charity.

And for the gals who didn’t plan for the sacred game, there’s still time to brush up on game day etiquette. Even for those stymied by a first down, Los Angeles psychologist Robert Butterworth said there are a few rules to stay on speaking terms after the game.

Super Bowl Sunday is not the time for women to discuss financial matters, compare themselves to the cheerleaders or start a sentence with “You never talk to me,” Butterworth said. And no matter what, don’t vacuum during the game.

HOW MUCH: Free on CBS
Advertisers focus on consumer-created TV spots

SUPERBOWL, page 6

The Super Bowl, including two of the most popular and acclaimed spots ever – The Apple “1984” spot and Coke’s “Mean Joe” clip. Both clips can be found at www.superbowl-ads.com.

A good Super Bowl ad can not only increase the product sales but also influence pop culture.

DISTRACTED, page 6

Motorist distractions range from amusing to bizarre.

Influential spots that debuted at the Super Bowl include the “Where’s the Beef?” spot for Wendy’s and the award winning “Whaaazz up?” spot that ended up becoming a pop cultural phenomenon, inspiring countless spoofs and launching the career of the director.

Film studios also see the Bowl as a major outlet for debuting teaser trailers of their tent pole summer films.

In 1996, the teasers for Independence Day featuring an Exploding White House and Empire State Building with the disclaimer “Enjoy the Super Bowl, it may be your last” was enough to hype audiences for the alien invasion picture. It ended up becoming the highest grossing film of the year. Similar results were seen for films such as Shrek and War of the Worlds.

This year will see the beginning of a new trend: consumer created spots. Inspired by the popularity of YouTube and other companies websites such as Lays, General Motors, Doritos and even the NFL have invited fans and the general public to create their own spots which in-turn will be produced by professionals.

While Super Bowl XLI will undoubtedly be a match-up between two titans of football that should result in some immensely entertaining football, the real fun for me at least, will be the time between the game play. Who knows, maybe one day, your idea may debut at the game.

Notice of Public Hearing

The University Fee Committee will hold a public hearing on February 7, 2007 at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 3:30pm in WUC 155 and at the University Park at 1:00 p.m. in GC 140. The objective of this meeting is to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to proposed increase to the Athletic fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2007 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend this meeting.
Pitching staff revamped, Walker assumes more responsibilities

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Following a tough year last season, this year’s pitching staff is looking to establish themselves as one of the more dominant pitching staffs in the Sun-Belt conference.

Leading the staff is 6’6” senior right hander Walker Whitley.

Coaches say that Whitley’s odd sidearm delivery gives him an advantage when he faces batters. “He’s almost a submarine guy; you just don’t see that everyday. Hitters don’t work on that in batting practice,” assistant coach Chris Holick said.

“He throws from a hard angle. Plus, being 6’6”, his release point to the plate is he gets out, he gets extended, his ball has a lot of movement.”

Whitley will be utilized this year out of the bullpen in big spots and possible Sunday starter.

Last season he threw a team-high 126.2 innings and posted a 4.33 ERA. “Instead of just spending the whole week waiting for your one game, one start and everything built-up for Friday, I had a set routine,” Whitley said. “This year, it’s more exciting because you show up to the ballpark knowing you might play everyday.”

Although the season hasn’t even started, the Golden Panthers will miss senior right hander Akrem Francis, who injured his arm while pitching for the U.S. Virgin Islands national team over the summer.

They will also be without junior right hand pitcher Kyle Preshong, who also injured his throwing arm playing summer ball.

“Both those guys by conference should be ready. They should be 100 percent,” Holick said.

Despite his injury and the shortcomings of last season, Francis believes this year’s staff is much deeper than last year’s has more potential. “We have a more deep pitching staff. We have more pitching than we did last year,” Francis said. “With the pitching and the hitting we get, we should be able to pull off a really good season.”

Though injuries can hamper a staff that has all the potential in the world, coach Danny Price doesn’t believe injuries should hamper a season’s success.

“There aren’t problems, they’re just management issues. You just have to deal with what you get. There’s no built in excuse. I don’t want to hear anything about excuses, excuses are just excuses,” Price said. “Excuses to me mean nothing. That’s why you get extra people. If one guy falls, someone else has to pick up the flag.”

Among those picking up the slack will be junior right hander Chris Allen and freshman left hander Corey Polizzano. The two newcomers will be called on to shut down batters before handing the mound over to Whitley.

Beyond the teams pitching depth and type of defense they will be playing, Price believes that the success of the season depends more on the entire team’s efforts. “Pitchers get wins and losses,” Price said. “That’s not the way it is. The team gets the wins and losses. We get the losses and wins together. It’s not about who went 5-5 or 0.5. If you played or didn’t play, we all win or all lose.”

WARM-UP: Freshman right-handed pitcher Brian Santana throws warmup pitches.

SPORTS
The Beacon – February 1, 2007
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Fuller’s career day leads Golden Panthers to easy win over ASU

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

If you take a ride past the outdoor basketball complex near the University Park Apartments on any given night, something is sure to capture your attention—a 6-foot-7 left-hander taking consecutive jump shots under the bright lights. Although he is still regarded as the Golden Panthers’ defensive stopper, junior guard Chris Fuller has been looking for his shot a lot more lately, and his career high 20-point performance led the team to a blow-out 80-61 win over Arkansas State (11-11, 6-4 SBC) Jan. 27 at Pharmed Arena. The always-humble Fuller credits nothing more than his tireless work ethic for his offensive prowess of late.

“It’s just really been a lot of hard work, to be honest. I have been putting in some extra work here and there and in the past couple games my confidence has gone up,” Fuller said. “They are a great team, but I thought we just played a really good game. If we were shooting like that all season we would have won a lot more games. It’s really hard to beat us when we shoot that well.”

Riding Fuller’s hot hand right from the opening tip, the Golden Panthers left Arkansas State (11-11, 6-4 SBC) Jan. 80-61 win over Arkansas State.

“The always-humble Fuller has been looking for his shot a lot more lately, and his career high 20-point performance led the team to a blow-out 80-61 win over Arkansas State Jan. 27 at Pharmed Arena.”

Senior guard Jahlwan Villegas put up seven points in the half on 50 percent shooting to keep his team in the lead.

As the game progressed, free throw shooting turned out to be a decisive factor. After shooting 7-for-11 from the line in the first half, the Golden Panthers made good on 18-of-19 second half free throw attempts, while Arkansas State was 21-for-32 from the line in the first half on 50 percent shooting.

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Peyton Manning will not suffer curse of Dan Marino

During this year’s playoffs, the Colts have decided to deviate from their usual routine: their defense has been winning games instead of Peyton Manning’s arm. Their run defense was an atrocity during the regular season. Running backs of all sizes and speeds were slicing through the Colts like a knife slicing butter. That butter has transformed to titanium alloy the last three games. Perhaps the return of All-Pro safety Bob Sanders energized the team, but the Colts have managed to halt potent running backs, such as Larry Johnson, Jamal Lewis, Corey Dillon, and Lawrence Maroney.

On paper, the Bears are superior on defense. Presently, the Colts have the better defense. The Colt’s defense has much to prove just like Manning does. Advantage: Colts. The Bears wide receivers mirror their running backs. They have a physical juggernaut in Muhsin Muhammad and burner Bernard Berrian. Nonetheless, Bob Sanders is back and Grossman is the Bears quarterback. Their performance will be hindered by Grossman’s inaccuracy and the Bears running the ball every opportunity they can.

The Colts receivers are savvy and Peyton Manning’s familiarity with them will be paramount. Advantage: Colts. The X-factors of the game are Bears rookie return man Devon Hester and tight end Dallas Clark. Devon Hester is familiar with the end zone; he has the ability to give the Bears momentum with one return. Dallas Clark was a factor versus the Patriots’ old linebackers. His speed at the tight end position will be key to attracting Brian Urlacher’s attention away from blitzing Manning and stopping the run. Because the Colts can punt the ball out of bounds, Hester can be neutralized.

Advantage: Colts. The Bears will be a good team for years to come.

However, Manning and the Colts will hoist the Lombardi trophy in the city where Marino became a legend, but failed to win a ring.
**Adley’s late heroics steal win from Arkansas State**

**MAGALY ESTRELLA  
Staff Writer**

It was a close game that came down to the final thirty seconds, but FIU’s hustle and defense proved to be too much for Arkansas State. The 64-61 victory Jan. 27 at Pharrmied Arena was the fourth consecutive win for the Golden Panthers (13-8, 7-4), fresh from two wins at Louisiana-Monroe and New Orleans.

The Golden Panthers started to pull away from Arkansas State (14-8, 4-7) very early in the game after going on a 15-4 run in the first half – giving them a comfortable 14-point lead.

However, the lead slowly started to decline when Arkansas State battled back and cut FIU’s lead in half, making the score 38-32 after Indians guard Rudy Sims nailed a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer.

Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson led FIU with 20 points and shot a perfect 3-for-3 from 3-point range. Senior guard Eva Makela added a season-high 17 points.

**MATCH POINT:** Freshman Shilla D’Armas’ (above) 6-1, 7-5 victory over Sarah Huah clinched No. 35-rankd FIU’s 4-3 victory over Princeton University on Jan. 28 at the University Park courts.

**SUPERBOWL, page 11**

**QUEENS OF THE COURT**

**Colts pose match-up threats for Bears on defense and offense**

Bears quarterback Rex Grossman has been criticized for not winning any games with his arm – instead putting the Bears in a variety of precarious situations.

The biggest difference between Manning and Grossman besides the huge statistical discrepancy, but the number of defenses Manning has seen. There are teams in the NFL Grossman has yet to even play against while Manning has seen a variety of elite defenses throughout his career.

Manning has, once again, played at a mediocre level during the playoffs.

However, he was able to lead his team back from a 21-3 deficit following an interception he threw against the New England Patriots that was taken back for a touchdown.

Senior center Lasma Jekabsone was the third player for FIU that was perfect from 3-point range, going 3-for-3.

“Little Rock is another big game. It’s going to be a little bit more difficult because we’re on our court. We just have to go in there and play excellent defense and come out with a victory,” Ferguson said.