FIU may have to change its mascot to an alligator after one smaller than four feet long made its way to University Park through the county-wide canal system from the Everglades. The alligator was first spotted in November, but others have seen it more recently.

“It doesn’t bother me as long as the safety of the people on campus is guaranteed,” said Evan Koch, associate media relations director at FIU. Koch spotted the alligator two weeks ago in the pond near the Public Safety Building.

After receiving complaints and concerns about the alligator, officials from the Department of Fish and Wildlife were brought in to remove it. However, officials did not remove the alligator, citing that the animal was not a nuisance or threat.

According to the department’s website, alligators less than four feet long are fearful of humans and are not capable of eating anything larger than a small turtle.

“As long as people obey the rules, it’s pretty easy to live with alligators,” said Gary Morse, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesperson.

Though the alligator has made UF its permanent residence, Joel Heinen, chair of the department of environmental studies, said this isn’t the first time there has been an alligator on campus.

“It’s not that uncommon for them to come into urban areas. I’ve seen them in west Kendall and Kendall Lakes,” Heinen said. “We’re only a few miles away from the main part of the Tamiami canals that go into the water management districts and then into the Everglades.”

Heinen, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on reptiles and amphibians while at the University of Michigan, said that he couldn’t understand why anybody would be scared of a four-foot alligator.

“Even 12-footers, I just kind of walk up to them when I’m in the Everglades. If they’re basking, all they do is hiss,” he said. “Anything that small isn’t going to be considered a problem. Whether it’s a male or a female, once it eventually gets to be a certain size, if it’s still anywhere around here, it’s just going to head back West and try and find a mate when that time comes.”

Heinen said alligators regularly make college campuses and golf courses their homes. Brandon Crone, a junior at the University of Florida, said that students don’t even notice the vast amount of gators that live on their campus.

“Nobody makes a big deal about it,” he said. “It’s Trail balloons must be attached to the land. They cannot float so far above reality.”

Haapli also expressed concern that students may no longer be able to graduate on time with the new “international” requirements.

Leon is more optimistic about the new “international” requirements. By 2015, hopefully we can develop a pilot program and then possibly have a second international focus across all disciplines.

Alfonzo “Alfie” Leon, Student Government Council at University Park president and trustee, was in favor of both initiatives.

“We live in a global community. If we have 21st century graduates, we need to educate them as global thinkers. By 2015, hopefully we can develop a pilot program if not already have one stabi-

However, Bruce Haapli, Faculty Senate chairperson and trustee, believes it is financially unrealistic to pursue this in addition to our current grand initiatives within the next eight years. These are things we can do if we cut out the Medical School and football program.

It should be done with the time frame in mind,” he said. “If we’re going to do this, we have to cut out the Medical School and football program. It should be done with the time frame in mind.”

The director also mentioned a meeting Feb. 19, with Baptist Medical Center solely for University Health Services, outlined three main reasons for the decision. “It’s not that uncommon for them to come into urban areas. I’ve seen them in west Kendall and Kendall Lakes,” Heinen said. “We’re only a few miles away from the main part of the Tamiami canals that go into the water management districts and then into the Everglades.”

Heinen, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on reptiles and amphibians while at the University of Michigan, said that he couldn’t understand why anybody would be scared of a four-foot alligator.

“Even 12-footers I just kind of walk up to them when I’m in the Everglades. If they’re basking all they do is hiss,” he said. “Anything that small isn’t going to be considered a problem. Whether it’s a male or a female, once it eventually gets to be a certain size, if it’s still anywhere around here, it’s just going to head back West and try and find a mate when that time comes.”

“Even 12-footers I just kind of walk up to them when I’m in the Everglades. If they’re basking all they do is hiss,” he said. “Anything that small isn’t going to be considered a problem. Whether it’s a male or a female, once it eventually gets to be a certain size, if it’s still anywhere around here, it’s just going to head back West and try and find a mate when that time comes.”

“Their’s no problem with gators … I’m more surprised that there’s an excessive amount of squirrels on campus.”

Raj Harinare, an FIU junior majoring in biology, shares Crone’s view and doesn’t mind sharing the campus with the gator as long as it stays off-fund.

He first saw the alligator in the pond located between Primera Casa and the Lakeview Apartments on his way to the 2007 Annual Student Show, exhibiting in the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at University Park until March 11.

GATOR, page 2
In the issue dated Feb. 1, 2007, the correct title for the Caribbean Students Association was not used in the “Pan-African celebrations spark tensions” article. Also, the members of this organization where not officially involved in the protests as reported in that story.

In the issue dated Feb. 12, 2007, the “Athletic fee increase crucial to new stadium” story erroneously reported that the BOT would be discussing the increase in their next meeting.

In issue dated Feb. 15, 2006, the photo for the story entitled “Law building officially opened” should have been credited to Fernando Garcia, not Eddie Zeng.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
The number of retirees is expected to rise within the next decade as baby boomers reach their 60s. Because of this, the federal government is expecting a surge in job openings in a number of fields.

The second annual Federal Government Statewide Conference will be held Feb. 21 in the Graham Center Ballrooms from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to showcase these job openings. The conference is the brainchild of Kimberly Castillo, a student of the Urban Affairs who had proposed the idea to Career Services, attributed this to the fact that the agencies have not yet received their recruitment funds.

Besides recruiting, agents will be available to discuss the benefits of joining their programs, such as the Student Pre-Commissioning Program, which pays tuition and provides salaries for junior and senior students through the U.S. Coast Guard.

According to Michael Rolph, a representative from the U.S. Coast Guard, CSPI is not only financially beneficial, but it is also a great way to serve the country.

Much of the conference’s focus is to expose students to the various internship programs available with the federal government. According to Duate, internships can be invaluable when it comes to finding a job after graduation.

“It’s not that it’s too late after you graduate, but it is much easier with internships,” Duarte said.

There will also be a career fair and complimentary lunch in the GC Ballrooms. During that time, students will be able to talk one-on-one with the various government representatives.

There will also be a student table where students who have already had federal internships will recount their experiences and give interested students tips regarding possible opportunities.

The funds needed to run the conference where provided through the Student Government Association. “We were given $1,500 from SGA’s discretionary funding this year, the same as last year,” Duarte said.

“We are hoping it becomes a line item in their budget so we would be sure to receive the funding next year.”

The overall cost of the conference is roughly $5,000, according to Duarte. Between SGA’s funding as well as funding from the USDA, the out of pocket cost to the Career Services department is minimal.

Duarte stressed the need for students to register for this event at www.fiu.edu/career. Students who do not register may not be guaranteed entrance to the event.

The conference is free to FIU students while students from outside the University must pay a $10 fee. Business attire is also required to attend the conference.

“The conference will dispel the myth that you have to be a certain major to work for the federal government,” Duarte said.
In an effort to empower female students at FIU, the Women’s Center will be hosting the Who Lead Conference. The half-day event, taking place Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. at University Park in the Graham Center Ballrooms, is part of the center’s goal to offer programs and services to women that enhance their intellectual, professional, social and emotional growth.

Patricia Ireland, the ninth and longest-serving president of the National Organization for Women from 1991 to 2001, will be the keynote speaker at the event. She was chosen by the Women’s Center for her views on women’s right to abortion, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups.

“She is an amazing woman and a role model for what she has accomplished,” said Suzanne Onorato, associate director at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State court, former Florida State Conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

There will also be five different workshop sections to discuss issues of women in government, politics, law, media and public relations, and in education; developing a strategic plan for women in business, community agencies, health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Annie Betancourt, former Florida State representative; Ania Menendez from The Miami Herald and Wilhelmina Dagdag, administrative assistant at the Women’s Studies Center.
Future of journalism internships hazy

Several newspapers, including the L.A. Times and Boston Globe, have either reduced or eliminated their internship programs due to declining budgets, according to an article posted on Poynter Online Jan. 21.

However, Alan Richards, chairperson of FIU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communications, said students in the school are not likely to be affected by this decline due to high demand for experienced Hispanic journalists in the field.

Instead seeing an increase in the demand for FIU interns in the state of Florida “Newspapers in Orlando, Ft. Myers and St. Petersburg are starting to take notice of our students,” Richards said.

In the Poynter article “Tighter Budgets Slashing Internships,” reporter Leann Frola takes various examples from the professional work force to show statistics.

The McClatchy Company, which owns 32 daily newspapers in 30 U.S. markets, cited a decrease in national advertisers, and as a result has begun a dramatic decrease in its hiring.

“We’re in a transitional era,” he said. “That shift has already made itself apparent in the form of multi-tasking on the Internet.

The growing presence of the Internet has lead to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to open up an online journalism slot in their internship program.

This has also lead to two positions opening up for entry-level employees to work online and multimedia at the Herald, according to Lynch.

This shift into the realm of the Internet has lead several schools, including FIU, to adapt their programs to give students online experience.

Schools such as Columbia have started to train their students in multimedia news training.

However, according to Richards, FIU has also been ahead of the game. Richards has taught the Online News Reporting class at FIU since 2002.

He also has his students prepare a different project every semester, forcing them to integrate print, video and online content.

“We’ve consistently been ahead of the industry when it comes to online content,” said Richards.
Have you ever observed and watched on reality dating shows when the date takes a turn for the worse and the girl turns her head to the side in blatant disappointment while the guy glances over to see if there is any hope in salvaging the date?

Well, friends, I invite you to watch this episode of Ever’s Valentine’s Day. I’ve never ever had one of those romance-filled nights on Valentine’s Day; they were always pretty average.

When I asked my date to go with me to the Valentine’s Day Ball held at Biscayne Bay Campus, her immediate response – delivered in a super girly, romantic comedy-type of voice – was, “Wow, maybe we can finally have a slow dance.”

To be honest, I’m not quite John Travolta on the dance floor. Nevertheless, my date wanted her slow dance and I prepared myself to “get down” and “dance the night away.”

The pathway to the Wolfe University Ballroom, where they appropriately held the ball, was covered with a red carpet, lined with red roses, red balloons, and a line of students having pictures taken for their free key chains.

The majority of those in line were girls.

As we walked into the ballroom, I was dimly lit; from all sides red cupids smiled at hearts on the walls while the tables were sprinkled with artificial rose petals and red Hershey’s kisses.

And yet, with all the décor, as we walked into the room there wasn’t any music. I noticed my date’s head drop in disappointment. She didn’t say much for the rest of the night.

So began the strangest V-day of my life, beginning with a male and female dating auction.

The Doors’ “People Are Strange” started playing inside my head.

The auction began and the only sign of life was a guy with a strawberry-colored mohawk.

Suddenly, the bidding for dates began at $5 with very little interaction from the crowd – that is, until Mr. Mohawk bid $10 and to no one’s surprise, won.

Even a stocky campus police officer offered a bid and won a date.

Suddenly, a student in black suspenders caused a bidding war between two female students that whipped the whole crowd into a frenzy. Other students started donating their money with the bidding war in full gear, donating to one girl and then another.

The red mohawk guy was ecstatic and yelled out victoriously, “This money is for a great cause; it will go to the Kingdom!”

The Kingdom? What does that mean?

I let the thought drift away as I continued watching the activities play out, my date not really responsive at this point. It came down to two girls, battling back and forth, standing parallel to each other and staring each other in the face.

Finally, one of the young women yelled out, “I bid $350!”

The other girl, like a resigned warrior in a battle turned around and headed back to her seat.

My date was still quiet. She hadn’t eaten since early afternoon so we could have a “romantic dinner.”

I was desperate; I needed to do something, anything. So I did what any guilty man on Valentine’s Day would do: brought her some chocolate chip cookies.

As the auction and dance came to a close, I had decided I could not leave until I had figured out what the student with the mohawk had meant. The “Kingdom” referred to the auction’s organizers, the IMPACT Movement, an on-campus Christian organization.

St. Valentine, it seems, had another surprise up his sleeve, which took place on my last stop before I left the ball.

I stopped by the little boys’ room and met a fellow student as I was leaving. The student began a quick but detailed sermon on sins, Jesus Christ and faith.

At the end, he asked me for my final answer: Do I want to be saved?

As for my date, she said she had a great time. Unfortunately for her, I didn’t get to show off my John Travolta dance moves.
WHO WIELD THE POWER OF WAR?

CONSTITUTION SAYS CONGRESS DOES

DAVID FOCIL
Contributing Writer

In the scope of human affairs, few actions can bring about such terrible destruction and death as war. It is nothing less than the systematic slaughter of human beings for the sake of a political objective.

As the cold brutality of the Iraq war slowly seeps in through the filtered lens of the major news networks, we begin to ask tough questions of our leaders. How did we get into this war? Where are we going with it? And more importantly, where does the authority in declaring war lie?

The Constitution provides an answer. In Article I, section 8, it is stated that Congress shall have the power “to declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water.”

In addition, section 8 gives Congress the authority to “raise and support armies,” giving it the ability to decide how large a force we have, and how much money is given to support its functions.

Article II, section 2, states that “the president shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States.”

If Congress can start a war, it can end it. What we see for the most part is a discussion of the power Congress has over the appropriation of funds for the military, which could be cut off for further operations in Iraq.

From watching the nightly news, it seems as if this is the only option Congress has to end wars, yet on Jan. 30, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing titled “Exercising Congressional power to end war.”

“Our constitutional tradition shows that measures such as those now being considered concerning military operations in Iraq – whether they place caps on troop levels, restrictions on the introduction of new troops, or establish a date by which troops must be redeployed – are clearly constitutional exercises of well-established congressional war powers,” said Harvard Law Professor, David J. Brown, during this hearing.

There is talk of Iran and the so-called threat it poses, but what can the President do on his own?

In 1801, Thomas Jefferson sent a group of frigates to the Barbary Coast in response to the pirating and kidnapping of U.S. ships in the area. The frigates found themselves in combat after the pirates ignored U.S. demands and opened fire. It was not until after this that Jefferson asked Congress to authorize further war with the pirates.

Now, looking at Jefferson’s own words in his first state of the union address, we find an important point: “Unauthorized by the Constitution, without the sanction of Congress, to go beyond the absolute necessity; so that the destructive act of war should rest with the whole government, not just one man.”

Some might argue that the Constitution gets in the way of the president protecting us in these troubled times, and that he should be given broad authority to do what he deems necessary.

Those people forget who we are and what we stand for. They forget there was once a time when we believed that the powers of war should rest with the whole government, not just one man.

The Constitution is the bigger picture: modern American men and women are property and marriage are seen as economic transactions. Since this is a social aspect of sexuality, this applies to how our social interactions shape our identities. However, they are incompatible to our culture at-large. It is not enough to be straight, but to prove it day-in and day-out to our social peers, and deviation is not an option.

“Haggard is completely heterosexual. He was acting out situations where things took place. It wasn’t a constant thing,” said Reverend Tim Ralph, one of his counselors.

Ralph implies Haggard could be gay only if he had engaged in homosexual acts on a constant basis.

Apparentely, real gay men are constantly in a state of “acting-out.” By this definition, there are plenty of gay men who probably aren’t gay anymore because it’s a weekday. But these gay men can keep their gay cards, even if they aren’t so lucky to be getting laid everyday.

Sociological studies in the ’90s have refuted the myth that gay men are more promiscuous than their heterosexual peers. Moreover, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses back in 1973 — our culture has lagged for nearly 34 years.

The problem is that we tend to pathologize homosexuality. Rather than viewing sexuality as a spectrum, as Alfred Kinsey showed in his studies, our society has made complete heterosexuality the only acceptable norm, and any deviations thereof equally “repulsive.”

This is a word we commonly encounter when we talk about homosexuality. Haggard used it to describe his escapes from normative sexuality.

A shot of tequila, a gas station bathroom, a sushi bar back-alley—these things can be repulsive, but not an identity. And that’s the problem: we have an identity that exists in society that is so incompatible with the culture at-large that it inspires such disgust and hatred.

Ted Haggard and Tim Hardaway show us how ugly this hate can be, and how twisted it can get if we don’t deal with heteronormativity.

Homosexuality viewed as deviance hurts our culture and hatred.

BOBBY JOE BRACY
Staff Writer

Former NBA player Tim Hardaway made a good point without even knowing it: straight men in America have a problem with their sexuality.

Hardaway recently made some comments about gay people on a local sports radio show after former NBA player John Amaechi admitted his homosexuality.

“Why wouldn’t you want him on my team, and second of all, if he was on my team, I would, you know, really distance myself from him because, uh, I don’t think that is right,” Hardaway said.

Recently, Reverend Ted Haggard – who was accused of crystal methamphetamine-induced sex binges – released a public apology taking responsibility for some, but not all, the accusations against him.

What is most unsettling about these cases is the bigger picture: modern American men and women do not know how to handle their sexuality.

Sociologists say that our culture is that of hypersexual, heterosexual male patriarchy. Basically, men are taught by our culture to be desirous of women, and then dominate them. This culture dates back from a time when women were property and marriage an economic transaction. Since this is a social aspect of sexuality, this applies to how
the double Filet-O-Fish® i remember.
everything else is a little foggy.

it's only here for a limited time, so get it while it lasts.

join our team!
Visit www.mcflorida.com
In light of recent events concerning a certain fascinating yet over-exposed dead celebrity that I’ll refuse to name on account of the coverage (we’ll call her Hannah Estell Width), I’ve come to understand the obvious nature of death: once you die, there’s no coming back. Understand the obvious nature of death: dead celebrity that I’ll refuse to name.

A certain fascinating yet over-exposed formula, you have to follow the formula. That ranges from C-SPAN 2 to ESPN 8, ary. But if you want the kind of coverage that ranges from C-SPAN 2 to ESPN 8, you will be remembered. Sure, you could make it big, you’ll at least have footage over and over on any or all of the 24-hour networks, the dust.” Not only is it fitting, if I get the extra couple inches added to your obituary – though it would only get you an advantage of a pseudonym is to at least whisper your name, as I do – the added word of some sad Boyz II Men song.

If you want to be remembered, you need to leave a lot of stuff behind to make it big, you’ll at least have footage over and over on any or all of the 24-hour networks, the dust.” Not only is it fitting, if I get the extra couple inches added to your obituary – though it would only get you an advantage of a pseudonym is to at least whisper your name, as I do – the added

In a world of reality TV where ordinary people are stars, it seems archaic to have a fake name with an accompanying facade. It ups the mystery value, though. Even if you achieve wild celebrity in life, your dead dual identity instantly becomes a trivia fact worthy of the “fun” category on the right side of the “Jeopardy!” board. For those of us who don’t seek fame – or fail to see the thrill of having Alex Trebek whisper your name, as I do – the added advantage of a pseudonym is to at least have another option for your tombstone.

RILE THE CONSERVATIVES

Whether it’s a small group of your community’s churchgoers or the John Birch Society, sticking it to right-wing conservatives will always get you talked about. They’re an uppity and vocal bunch. Conservatives will always get you talked about. They’re an uppity and vocal bunch. Conservatives will always get you talked about. They’re an uppity and vocal bunch. Conservatives will always get you talked about. They’re an uppity and vocal bunch.

What do Pitbull and the former FIU hip-hop dance group SantorOo have in common? They both made their last FIU appearance Oct. 19 during the “Carnival” ceremony during the Student Programming Council’s Hispanic Heritage celebrations. However, five former members are organizing the return of a new hip-hop group after Lot Six cut ties from FIU late last year. The dance group formed in 2004 and performed at tailgate parties in the Lot Six parking lot; the group adopted the lot’s name for itself.

Current captain and non-FIU student Kaery Salazar noted that being in the group was a difficult task.

“I had no sponsors, no uniforms or fund raising,” Salazar said. “It was very hectic and frustrating work.”

The frustration was a result of having to constantly raise money in order to purchase basic materials such as uniforms. Also, not all Lot Six dancers were FIU students. Probes arose in 2006 because the dancers, including those who were not FIU students, did not like the group’s treatment by FIU affiliated organizations. Lot Six felt that their free services were taken for granted and the lack of school pride on behalf of the non-students upset several of the dancers.

The lack of recognition and appreciation were problems that would build up and eventually lead to the group’s departure from FIU. Their leaving was an incident that involved Panther Rage and use of profanity in a song.

Several weeks prior to 2006 Homecoming’s Moonlight Madness event, Lot Six had contacted Panther Rage because they wanted to perform – they wanted to develop a dance routine ahead of time. According to Salazar, Panther Rage did not respond with a yes or no. Therefore, the dance team concluded that their services were not going to be needed. Two weeks prior to Homecoming, Panther Rage notified Lot Six that there was a spot available for them to dance.

“Two weeks is not enough time at all to come up with a new dance routine,” Salazar said. “Especially when some of the girls...

Former dance group may return to University

Sergio Bonilla
Asst. Sports Editor

What do Pitbull and the former FIU hip-hop dance group Lot Six have in common? They both made their last FIU appearance Oct. 19 during the “Carnival” ceremony during the Student Programming Council’s Hispanic Heritage celebrations. However, five former members are organizing the return of a new hip-hop group after Lot Six cut ties from FIU late last year. The dance group formed in 2004 and performed at tailgate parties in the Lot Six parking lot; the group adopted the lot’s name for itself.

Current captain and non-FIU student Kaery Salazar noted that being in the group was a difficult task.

“I had no sponsors, no uniforms or fund raising,” Salazar said. “It was very hectic and frustrating work.”

The frustration was a result of having to constantly raise money in order to purchase basic materials such as uniforms. Also, not all Lot Six dancers were FIU students. Probes arose in 2006 because the dancers, including those who were not FIU students, did not like the group’s treatment by FIU affiliated organizations. Lot Six felt that their free services were taken for granted and the lack of school pride on behalf of the non-students upset several of the dancers.

The lack of recognition and appreciation were problems that would build up and eventually lead to the group’s departure from FIU. Their leaving was an incident that involved Panther Rage and use of profanity in a song.

Several weeks prior to 2006 Homecoming’s Moonlight Madness event, Lot Six had contacted Panther Rage because they wanted to perform – they wanted to develop a dance routine ahead of time. According to Salazar, Panther Rage did not respond with a yes or no. Therefore, the dance team concluded that their services were not going to be needed. Two weeks prior to Homecoming, Panther Rage notified Lot Six that there was a spot available for them to dance.

“Two weeks is not enough time at all to come up with a new dance routine,” Salazar said. “Especially when some of the girls...
I try to portray Xerxes as a god, and Frank Miller’s vision is so clear that you just have to bring it to life and try to be that creature – I think he’s not even human.

The voice is a deep thunder. Zack told me that he wanted to work with my voice at a lower level because he wanted the movie theater shaking when I moved my mouth. It was a lot of work working on the blue screen – we had to imagine and be there in that moment, having millions of men behind you when it’s just blue.

Q: Your other roles are very different from Xerxes. How was the transition to this powerful role?

I think this was a great opportunity for me. Especially being Latin, it’s very easy for the market to sell you the vision is so clear that you just have to bring it to life and make your voice at a lower level because he wanted the movie theater shaking when I moved my mouth. It was a lot of work working on the blue screen – we had to imagine and be there in that moment, having millions of men behind you when it’s just blue.

Q: Were you pursuing a role of this type or was it the director where he’s open to hear anything you have to say about the character.

The director where he’s open to hear anything you have to say about the character. It was a month ago.

Q: In getting this movie made, did Sin City have any effect?

I have to say that the success of Sin City when it came out was probably the thing that helped motivate the studio’s decision.

I don’t know that they saw the exact relationship between the two things, but I think there’s a strong connection. When he was looking at the queen and things with silence, such as when he leaves his wife...

Q: How was the transition to this powerful role?

I think you choose your moments. You trust that what can be shown in one glimpse – even the raising of an eyebrow at a certain point can say so much about a person. I think it was a genius idea to have the king listen to his wife, to look to my wife...

Q: The role is very strong and Spartan-like, but there was some room for humanity with your family, How did you balance the two sides?

We shot the movie in 60 days – it’s a lot of time to shoot a giant war movie. We got the s--- kicked out of us by the schedule.

Then, the post-process, which has been a year, has been grueling as well. We did more editing and testing on Dawn but the cool thing about Sin City is that the movie feels like it’s being remade all the time. You see the sequences trickle in and then the whole sequence is done and now it’s a different movie than it was a month ago.

Q: Were you pursuing a role of this type or was it an opportunity that presented itself?

I was already a big fan of Frank Miller, but I didn’t know Sin City was going to be a movie. When I saw Sin City, a friend of mine showed me the graphic novel and I read it and said, ‘This could be a great film.’ I watched Dawn of the Dead and then I met Zack and his vibe is the best. It’s very important for an actor to have that relationship with the director where he’s open to hearing anything you have to say about the character.

For the remainder of these interviews and more Life! stories, log on to www.beaconnewspaper.com.

Notoriety as simple as angering conservatives

HOW TO, page 9

reaction of stifled laughter, it would do my memory justice.

THE TRAGIC END

While I don’t recommend it, the easiest and most enduring way to be remembered is to have an odd or tragic death. Fitting example: that Greek playwright Aeschylus was 458 B.C. who was killed when a bird dropped a giant tortoise on his head because it mistook his shiny bald spot for a stone. Normally, I’d write a joke here but I don’t think there’s a need.

For some, after you die, the only way to prove yourself in the first place is to have your memory continue. In a strange way, that almost encourages the person to get the most out of life – even if it is warped and condemnable to others. If it helps, write your own eulogy and use it as a goal. A posthumous retrospective to-do list, if you will. If you’re lucky, keeping a big perspective will help you stay focused and in control. Because despite the massive news coverage, a story as sad as Vicky Lynn Hogan’s will never be an exciting game show clue. Good Luck.

Find out how to cope with all of life’s quirks with this column every other Monday.

Bust A Move

We’ll Take You There

> Miami-Dade Transit Takes You Where You Want to Go

> Unlimited rides on public transportation for a month

Visit our booth this Thursday in the Graham Center * 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

> Contact the registrar or the bookstore for monthly pass, *available only at participating colleges and universities

> Sign up for a chance to win an iPod shuffle

www.miamidade.gov/transit

California Pizza Kitchen

Our 2nd area location is OPENING SOON in Coral Gables!

* NOW HIRING *

Bartenders • Bussers • Cooks

Dish Washers • Hosts • Servers

CPK Team Members get: flexible schedules, great pay, excellent training, great health benefits, and all the fun that comes with being part of a fast-growing, ownership company...

with [over 170 full-service restaurants nationwide]

Apply in person at our hiring site

Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm at:

330 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables

Ph: 305-407-7289

Incredible career opportunities also available for:

Restaurant Managers & Kitchen Managers

Email: chughes@cpk.com

Apply online @ cpk.com.

The Beacon – February 19, 2007

LIFE!

www.beaconnewspaper.com
Dance team restructured after leaving University

DANCE, page 9

did not even attend FIU. It was impossible to schedule enough practice sessions to develop a new routine."

At "Carnaval," Lot Six danced an edgy routine called the "305" dance. Due to the time constraints placed on them, they decided to perform that same dance routine at Homecoming’s Moonlight Madness and decided to use a song fitting to accompany their routine: a Trick Daddy song containing profane language. Freshman Renata Bresciani, who became a Lot Six member in 2006, said that none of the girls were aware of the criteria a song must meet in order to be acceptable at Homecoming:  
"They knew our style, they knew what they were getting," Bresciani said. "They never told us specifically what type of song we could or couldn’t do."

During a practice session, members of Panther Rage told Lot Six that they could not perform at Homecoming using that song. A discussion followed, which led to Lot Six not performing at Homecoming. Consequently, the group decided to remove itself from FIU and work under Fahrenheit Productions, a company that provided the dancers with paying jobs. As of press time, a Panther Rage representative was unavailable for comment.

In the months following Lot Six’s departure, their fan base demanded that they return to FIU, according to Salazar. This demand has led Salazar, along with four other members from last year to make an attempt to return to FIU.

The new structure of the group will involve FIU students only: Salazar and Jennifer Pinillos will be the only members who are not FIU students. They plan on recruiting girls during the next two months.

When the team returns, it will not be affiliated with Panther Rage – the group asked Campus Life Advisor Hilda Bernard to tell them the requirements necessary to become an official club.

"I told them they needed at least 10 members, officers and official meetings," Bernard said. If Lot Six returns, it will not be under the same name, but under a new undisclosed name.

"I don’t want to give the name away just yet," Bresciani said.
STOMP: After the melee that took place between Clemson and South Carolina, both teams suffered suspensions and bowl ineligibility (right).

COURTESY PHOTO/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
FIU vs. UM brawl isn't the only fight to garner attention

BRAWLS, page 16
2005, the Louisiana State Tigers blew away the Hurricanes 40-3 in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Although both teams maintained adequate levels of sportsmanlike conduct on the field, all hell broke loose once the two teams exited through the same tunnel.

The fight, attributed to trash-talking in the tunnel, ended with a police officer wielding a taser and two UM players losing consciousness.

An apology from UM athletic director Paul Dee deemed the situation “inappropriate,” just like the Hurricanes’ performance in the game that day.

Clemson Tigers beat the South Carolina Gamecocks 29-7, but not without a fight — literally.

With six minutes left in the game, benches cleared when Tigers defensive lineman Bobby Williamson tackled Gamecocks quarterback Syvelle Newton and held on to him for a little too long. Helmets and punches flew before a 10-minute game delay ensued as police attempted to clear the playing field.

The result: player suspensions and bowl ineligibility.

On a side note, some of the fighting techniques seen in this battle eventually made their way into the FIU vs. UM game almost two years later. As you can see, the FIU vs. UM game wasn’t the only game involving thrown helmets and kicked heads.

I just know that the next time the two teams meet, I’ll buy my nachos before the fight.
Williams hopes workouts will boost his draft stock

The six-day tryout gives invited players the chance to prove they are worthy of a draft pick in this year’s NFL draft. Williams said he wouldn’t mind suiting up for a couple of Super Bowl champions come Sundays next season.

“I would love to play for the Colts with Peyton Manning or the [New England] Patriots with Tom Brady,” Williams said. “[Also], Marvin Harrison; you could learn so much from him.”

Although Williams’ dream is to play next to either Super Bowl quarterback, he said he would be grateful just to be selected in the draft by a team. “It would be a blessing to play anywhere.”

Though he has been training hard in hope of improving his draft stock, Williams has still been taking classes at FIU in hopes of graduating with a B.A. in criminal justice. “I’m still taking classes at night at FIU,” he said. “I’m not giving up on school. I have 18 credits left but if everything works out with the NFL, I won’t be able to graduate in the summer like I had planned with my criminal justice degree.”

Williams started nine out of the 10 games he played in during his final season, leading the team in catches and yards while scoring two touchdowns and being named Second Team All-Sun Belt.

He was also ranked tenth in the country in receptions per game at 6.7 and finished his Golden Panther career as the school’s all-time leader in receptions with 203 and second in career yards with 2,519.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH?

We are looking for subjects to participate in a research study for an investigational birth control pill. The study involves approximately monthly visits to the research center and lasts about 8 months. Subjects may be currently using another method of birth control. If you are a woman, age 18 to 45, you may be eligible to participate. Participants will receive study medication, study-related exams and compensation (up to $450) for time and travel.

Call for more information
305-596-9901

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Carlos Arroyo began his basketball career in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. He holds several individual school records, including the Golden Panther's career record for assists (459). He is also the only FIU player to ever score 600 points in a single season, after scoring 615 in his senior year in 2000-01.

The 6-2 point guard has played for the Toronto Raptors, Denver Nuggets, Utah Jazz and Detroit Pistons, including the Golden Panthers' career record for assists (459). He is also the only Puerto Rican to ever score 600 points in his senior year in 2000-01.

Arroyo is also known for leading his Puerto Rican national team to victory against the United States during the opening preliminary round of the 2004 Summer Olympics. In an interview via e-mail, the former Golden Panther talked about his basketball journey from his home country through FIU and the NBA.

Q: Growing up in Puerto Rico, how did you become involved in basketball? Did you have specific mentors you tried to model yourself after?

My dad was my biggest mentor. He showed me how to play the sport, and the sacrifice, discipline and dedication it takes. He was the one that really taught me how to play the game and love the game.

Q: You set a few records while playing at FIU. What do you feel were your most impressive accomplishments here?

Finishing the four years there, I knew it was going to be a big task for me to go to school by myself and living that new experience. I was young and immature and all I wanted to do was give myself a chance to finish the four years. I didn’t graduate, but I finished the four years playing [like] I wanted to, and that was my biggest accomplishment at FIU.

Q: You’ve played in the NCAA, the NBA and the National Superior Basketball League. What has playing in each league taught you?

I think, mainly, how to be a professional, how to carry myself in a game and be a professional. Since I was a kid, I wanted to be a professional basketball player. And those leagues each taught me to be patient and grow in life and at school. Each gave me a different experience on how to deal, not just with sports, but [also] with life.

Q: As the fifth Puerto Rican to play in the NBA, do you feel you have a responsibility to be a role model for the under-represented Hispanic community in the NBA?

Oh, definitely, definitely. I feel that I want to be a positive influence in young kids in my country and hopefully one day they can look at me as a role model and somebody that did the right things and made the right decisions.

Q: What did you tell the Puerto Rican National team before playing against Team USA?

I think, mainly, when you play the best team in the world, you just have to stay together through the negative and understand that we’re going to make mistakes. But we’ve got to play almost perfect. And that’s the main thing we said.

Q: Where does the defeat of the US National Team rank among your greatest basketball feats?

I think, mainly, how to be a professional, how to carry myself in a game and be a professional. Since I was a kid, I wanted to be a professional basketball player. And those leagues each taught me to be patient and grow in life and at school. Each gave me a different experience on how to deal, not just with sports, but [also] with life.
School of Computing and Information Sciences

Fortune 100 companies are in shortage of computing degree graduates.

Now is the best time to pursue a degree in computing at F.I.U.

Facts:
* Computing is one of the fastest growing and best paid job categories
* The demand for computing professionals far exceeds the supply graduates
* We have the best computing program in South Florida
* Our graduates are employed throughout the country by national and international companies

School of Computing and Information Sciences Offers:
* BS in Computer Science
* BS in Information Technology
* BA in Information Technology (as a second major)
* Combined BS/MS program in Computer Science

Our courses offer hands-on experience in our state of the art classrooms and laboratories.

For more information call 305-348-2744 or visit www.cis.fiu.edu
Questions or comments, please e-mail us at cis_info@cis.fiu.edu

College of Engineering & Computing
Other college football brawls need media coverage, too

Even though I was at the University of Miami vs. FIU football game on last Oct. 14 at the Orange Bowl, I was getting some nachos when the fight broke out.

Four months have passed since I missed out on cheering for our team during the infamous altercation and I have since come to the following realization: other college sports brawls failed to garner the same coverage in the mass media – including ESPN and YouTube.

One recent college brawl includes a January fight between fans of two college basketball teams: Millersville University and Cheyney University.

You may be asking if I made up those names, but I assure you that the schools exist – despite the lack of media coverage.

No matter what news outlets may want you to believe, the UM vs. FIU fight was not the end-all, be-all of college sports brawls.

Here are some more footbrawls that prove a lack of sportsmanship isn’t limited only to South Florida:

**DARTMOUTH VS. HOLY CROSS**

**OCTOBER 14, 2006**

Because the brawl at the Orange Bowl received heavy airplay on ESPN highlight reels and was the object of countless YouTube searches, nobody really paid much attention to the other big fight that occurred hours before the UM vs. FIU game.

In this match-up between two New England schools, an altercation broke out after Holy Cross won the game 24-21 in overtime.

Instead of the customary post-game handshakes, players exchanged fists. Anybody not in attendance had a hard time seeing the fight, because the game wasn’t televised.

"Then again, ESPN.com quoted police chief Nicholas Giacconeas saying, "I don’t remember seeing anyone using a helmet as a weapon."

I guess we didn’t miss much.

**MIAMI VS. LSU – DECEMBER 30, 2005**

Miami’s rough encounter with FIU wasn’t the university’s first notable fracas. Back in

**MIAMI VS. LSU – DECEMBER 30, 2005**

Miami’s rough encounter with FIU wasn’t the university’s first notable fracas. Back in...