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.

"It doesn't bother me as long as it stays off-land," said Evan Koch, asso-

FIU's experience with alligators continues at 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 and the safety of the gator is guaranteed," said Evan Koch, associate media relations director at FIU.

"Even 12-footers, I just kind of walk around here, it's just going to head back to its habitat," Koch said.

The alligator has been spotted 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 Management districts and then into the Everglades.

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • FEBRUARY 19
Asian Heritage Celebration Opening Ceremony: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
Millie Lewis ATMC: 2 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)
Nanny of the Maroons – The Women who Changed the Face of the Western World feat. Karlotta Gottlieb, Independent Scholar: 2 p.m., HM 115 (BBC)

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 20
Sushi Demonstration: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
SPC Two Band Tuesday: 12 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)
Women Who Lead feat. Speaker Patricia Ireland: 4 p.m., GC Ballroom (BBC)
SPC Karaoke Night: 7 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)
ISC Chinese New Year: 12:30 p.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 21
Asian Heritage Celebration: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
Panther Power UP Power Rally: 12 p.m., WUC Panther Square (BBC)
Panther Power Meetings: 1 p.m., WUC 159 (BBC)
CCC Impact Movement: 2 p.m., WUC 245 (BBC)
PRSSA – Mass Communications in the Americas: 6:30 p.m., Wolfe University Center Ballroom (BBC)

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 22
Asian Heritage Celebration: 12 p.m., GC Forum (UP)
GSA Gradiskellars: 6 p.m., Gracie’s Grill (UP)
Undergraduate Economics Association: 6 p.m., PC 131 (UP)
4th Annual Organic Hip Hop Symposium – Lecture and Open Mic Night feat. Keynote speaker, Dr. Liliaa Africa: 7 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)
SPC Movie Series – Casino Royale: 7 p.m., Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)
SPC ISU Neo Soul Concert: 8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 23
SPC Film - Casino Royale: 7 p.m. & 10 p.m., GC 140 (UP)
Honors Council Community Service Project Cooking for Cannibals: 1 p.m., WUC 157 (BBC)

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 24
Panther Rage Southern Challenge Cook-Out: 11 a.m., Baseball Stadium (UP)

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 25
SPC “Oscar Night”: 7 p.m., EVH Lounge (UP)

Compiled by Reuben Pereira

Campus gator should not be fed

It was just chilling on the grass,” Harnarine said.

“But when it saw me and my friends, it just jumped in the pond.”

There were only four recorded alligator bites last year in Florida, and only one was fatal, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s website. The last fatality that resulted from an alligator attack occurred May 14, 2006, when Annmarie Campbell, 23, was seized and grabbed by an 11’ 5” alligator while she was snorkeling on Juniper Run in the Ocala National Forest.

“If people don’t interact with it, it’s not going to be a problem,” Morse said. “The first thing people want to do is feed it. Nothing can be worse for the alligator because then that’s when you start breaking down its fear of people and when that happens, we’re going to have to destroy the animal.”

Students or faculty who encounter any alligator larger than four feet should call the state-wide alligator nuisance program at 1-866-392-4286.

GATOR, page 1

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ALLIGATOR ADVICE

• Be aware of the possibility of alligator attacks when in or near fresh or brackish waterbodies.

• Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn.

• Leave alligators alone. State law prohibits killing, harassing or possession of alligators.

• Never feed or entice alligators - it’s dangerous and illegal. When fed, alligators overcome their natural wariness and learn to associate people with food.

• Never remove an alligator from its natural habitat or accept one as a pet. It is illegal and dangerous to do so. Handling even small alligators can result in injury.

• Seek immediate medical attention if bitten by an alligator. Alligator bites often result in serious infection.

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CORRECTIONS
Conference spotlights government jobs

Ivette Duarte, career consultant for Career Services

The conference will dispel the myth that you have to be a certain major to work for the federal government.

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

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 College of Health and Urban Affairs who had proposed the idea to Career Services. This is the second year the conference is being held.

Various agents from the federal government, such as the CIA, the Department of Homeland Security and United States Coast Guard will be giving presentations throughout the conference.

Most of the agency representatives will be from Florida chapters and branches, which will be a contrast to last year’s conference where many of the recruiters were from Washington, D.C.

Ivette Duarte, a career consultant for 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 US 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 Duarte, internships can be invaluable when it comes time 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 those events at FIU, the Women’s Center will be hosting the Women 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 Suzzane 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 health and science, and women with disabilities.

Among other renowned speakers set to attend the conference are Anne Brainard, former Florida State representative; Ana Menendez from The Miami Herald and Silvia Gomez, vice president of Ocean Bank.

The Conference is open to the public and organizers promise it will be an enriching learning opportunity for women in the community and for students at FIU.

Although this is one of the organization’s upcoming events, students who aren’t able to make it to the conference are encouraged to drop by the center located in GC 2200 or at Biscayne Bay Campus’s Wolfe University Center, room 256.

In the near future, the Women’s Center is also planning the International Women’s Day March 1, “Lust for Life – Lust for Women’s Rights” March 6, Florida Women of Achievement March 10.

Among the services and programs offered by the Women’s Center is the Mentoring Partnership to develop relationships between students, faculty, staff and alumnae mentors.

“The Women’s Center’s two main areas of importance are to provide education and advocacy for women and to create a community of sisterhood,” Onorato said.

The Miami Herald
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,” said Howard Weaver, vice-president of news for McClatchy, in the article.

“And we have to find out what that transition means.”

Students in internships are also now paid less for their work.

Instead of eliminating their programs completely, several newspapers have scaled them back and decreased the pay, sometimes using college credit as an alternative form of compensation.

Other papers have turned to alternative methods to fund their interns, such as The Oregonian, which has had to receive outside assistance from three separate private organizations in order to keep three interns in their program.

FIU has had a long-standing connection with The Miami Herald, which gives students reporting experience before they’d have the chance to be hired.

Marika Lynch is suburban editor for the Neighbors section of The Miami Herald and is also in charge of her newspaper.

Lynch assured that her newspaper has no plans to decrease the amount of their interns or their pay.

“The Miami Herald is going to maintain its level of summer interns, who work for the metro, business and features sections,” Lynch said in an e-mail.

Ernest Sotomayor, Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism Director of Career Services, said in Poynter’s article that this would not be a long-term trend.

“Employment at newspapers is not going anywhere,” he said.

Lynch suspected that many of these positions will come back eventually because the industry is “cyclical and will expand eventually.”

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

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New Business

Appropriation: Upgrading the WUC Computer Lab $16,900 be appropriated to purchase 18 new computers. All in favor.

Appropriation: The Science Club is receiving an award from the ACS at the ACS National Conference in Chicago, and needs funding assistance for the trip. That $200 per person with a maximum of 12 people be appropriated from the budget so that the Science Club can go, too. In favor: 4, opposed: 1

Appropriation: A.N.S.W.E.R. Conference and Protest, to attend a nation-wide conference and demonstration being held in Washington, D.C. Want SGC to fund the amount of $1,200 for the conference. SGC officers postponed the approval of the appropriation.

There will be an emergency meeting to vote for appropriation Feb 16.

Three new members were welcomed into SGC. BBC. Ana Maria Silva is the new Campus Life board chairperson, Leonard Reina is the new Student Affairs chairperson and Omar Menel is the new International Student representative.

Cristela Guerra, BBC managing editor for the Beacon, spoke about strengthening communication between SGC-BBC and the Beacon.

Compiled by Ana Davis, Beacon staff
Valentine’s Day Ball has fights, mohawks ... and Christians

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.

It was odd that everyone seemed to know each other. Everyone was talking and joking with each other and then that uncomfortable feeling crept up, that feeling of you being the stranger.

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.

E ven 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 WIELDS THE POWER OF WAR?

Constitution says Congress does

DAVID FOICI
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 most importantly, where does the authority in declaring war lie?

The Constitution provides us with 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 andbuildings for the sake of a political objective.

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The Constitution provides us with 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 build navies and an armed force we have, and how much money is given to support its operations.”

In addition, section 8 gives Congress the authority to “raise and support armies, impressing them into service in the several states, when necessary.”

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 a 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 line of defense, the vessel, being disabled from committing further hostilities, was liberated with its crew.”

According to Jefferson, the forces he sent could only act defensively to protect themselves and any U.S. citizens in danger. By the Constitution, only the Congress could approve what he called “measures of offense.”

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. It is not enough to be straight, but also 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.

Apparently, 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 90’s 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 deviance hurts 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.

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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 heterosexual the only acceptable norm, and any deviations thereof equally “reproductive.”

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 rebellious, 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 that being homosexual last year by a male prostitute who sold him crystal meth and slept with him.

GAY NO MORE?: Rev. Ted Haggard claims he is no longer gay. Haggard was revealed to be homosexual last year by a male prostitute who sold him crystal meth and slept with him.

Hardaway, Haggard prove homosexuality still stigmatized

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 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’s right,” Hardaway said.

Sociologists say that homosexuality is that of a hypersexual, heterosexual male patriarch. Basically, men are taught by our culture to be desirous of women, and then dominate them. This culture dates back from a time where women were property and marriage was 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
Once you die, there’s no coming back. Understand the obvious nature of death: her Hannah Extol Width), I’ve come to account for the coverage (we’ll call it a certain fascinating yet over-exposed

---

In light of recent events concerning a certain fascinating yet over-exposed dead celebrity that I’ll refuse to name unless you’re a kick-ass zombie … or Chef杉崎。“

With that said, there seems to be a formula I’ve noticed in life that will assure you will be remembered. Sure, you could make it big, you’ll at least have footage of yourself. We’re in the gym for two hours a day, pumping weights, running and training. But then, we bought on the film trainer Mark Wright, who trains undercover operatives, caged fighters and all that. He’s an intense guy, so he’s like, ‘Let’s get the cowbell and hang your head against the wall six times.’ You were almost dead by the end of the clip. I could tell almost immediately it wasn’t going to give me the body I was looking for so I switched to a six-foot beard that was like a lethal weapon in itself and have a helmet with a chicken on it.

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Former dance group may return to University

What do Pittbull and the former FIU hip-hop dance group Lot Six have in common? They both made the last FIU appearance Oct. 19 during the “Carnival” ceremony during the Student Programming Council’s Hispanic Heritage celebrations. However, the current group members are organizing the return of a new hip-hop group after Lot Six cut ties from FIU 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. Problems 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 was problems that would build up over time 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.

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In light of recent events concerning a certain fascinating yet over-exposed dead celebrity that I’ll refuse to name unless you’re a kick-ass zombie … or Chef杉崎。“

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Director, actors discuss battle plans for new epic

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

I thought this was a great opportunity for me. Especially for an actor to use every cell in your brain 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 an opportunity that presented itself?

I was already a big fan of Frank Miller, but I didn't know 300 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 great training for an actor to use every cell in your brain to imagine and be there in that moment, having millions of men behind you when it's just blue.

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.

For some reason, I don't think the studio saw the exact relationship between the two things, but I think there's a strong vision is so clear that you just have to bring it to life and it was a month ago.

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?

In the middle of the film, maybe I couldn't have kicked everybody's ass, but I felt like I could kick everybody's ass and I felt like I wanted to as well.

Q: How will the graphic novel affect the making of the film?

I don't think there's a need. Because we had so much prep, the actual process was sort of intuitive. The evolution of that was something that we figured out. It was an exhausting process.

We shot the movie in 60 days – it's not a lot of time to shoot a giant war movie. We got the s--t kicked out of us by the schedule.

Then, the post-process, which has been a year. We did more editing and testing on Dawn but the cool thing about 300 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.

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SANTORO, page 9

BUTLER, page 9

Butler speaks... but does he laugh?

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

Notoriety as simple as angering conservatives

reaction of stifled laughter, it would do the trick.

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 killed by a bird dropping a giant tortoise on his head. 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 you existed 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.

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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 the 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.

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GOT BALLS? WRITE FOR SPORTS! E-MAIL BEACONSPORTS@YAHOO.COM FOR MORE INFO
STOMP: After the melee that took place between Clemson and South Carolina, both teams suffered suspensions and bowl ineligibility.

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 VS. SOUTH CAROLINA – NOVEMBER 20, 2004

In this football game, the 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.

SURE, SHE’S ATTRACTIVE. SULTRY, EVEN. BUT SHE IS ONLY EATING IT BECAUSE IT TASTES GOOD AND IT IS HOT WHERE SHE HAPPENS TO BE.
Williams hopes workouts will boost his draft stock

Currently plays for the Washington Redskins.

“I just try and do whatever I can to make myself a better player,” Williams said.

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.

**RECORD BREAKER**

**DETERMINED:** Sophomore swimmer Sara Giovannoni set a school record in the 200-yard individual medley at the Sun Belt Conference Swimming and Diving Competition.

Giovannoni set the record finishing the medley with a time of 2:04.81, beating her record from last year of 2:06.80.

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Carlos Arroyo began his basketball career in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. He holds several individual school records, including the Golden Panthers’ 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 and currently plays for the Orlando Magic.

Arroyo is also known for leading his Puerto Rican national team to victory against the United States national team to victory for leading his Puerto Rican 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?

It’s the biggest win in my career. And I know it will be from now until I retire. It goes down in history as the biggest win and the biggest upset in Puerto Rican sports history.

Q: How often do you re-visit Miami? How often do you contact the FIU basketball team and old coaches?

I had one assistant coach, who is now the head coach at FIU [Sergio Rouco], and I talk to him once in a blue moon. But I don’t have a chance to go down and watch the games because [in the NBA] we’re flying all over the place and we have games. But I do have a house in Miami, so I go there over the summer and spend some time.
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College of Engineering & Computing
Christmas letter brings player step closer to NFL

ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

The former Golden Panther wide receiver was fresh off a senior season that saw his team finish 0-12 and his chances of turning pro diminish, before receiving the invitation.

The invitation to the six-day, all-expenses-paid trip to the home of the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts was greeted in the Williams household with tears of joy.

Williams began training for the combine soon after.

For Chandler Williams, playing in the NFL had always been a dream. Thanks to a holiday gift that arrived in the form of a letter, this dream may now be a reality.

“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 football brawls that prove a lack of sportsmanship isn’t limited only to Miami vs. LSU – December 30, 2005.

Miami’s rough encounter with FIU wasn’t the university’s first notable fracas. Back in 2006, the Purple reception team 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.

The final six tests are designed for teams and scouts to see the rest of the player: physical measurements, injury evaluations, flexibility, drug and IQ tests, and finally, NFL team interviews.

Williams knows the competitiveness that awaits him in a few days but is confident that he can leave a lasting impression on the scouts.

“I want to show them that I could have played anywhere in the country,” he said. “All the guys that came from big schools [that are training] with us, most of the time I am beating their times. When we run routes, there is no difference between what they are doing and what I am doing.”

He has also used some of the experiences of current NFL players that were once in his shoes thanks to the plethora of talent South Florida has to offer.

“A lot of NFL players come back here and train. I try and talk to them and see what they have to say. Lloyd Moss [a current Golden Panther], his brother is Santana Moss and I try and talk to him and see what he has to say,” Williams said.

Santana Moss is a former University of Miami Hurricane and standout wide receiver, who currently works out with Williams.

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