FIU welcomes new librarian

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

Chosen from a group of about 60 applicants, FIU has named Laura Probst its new dean of University libraries.

Probst, who will be working at FIU Oct. 1, comes from Pennsylvania State University, where she served as interim director of libraries for two years, served as interim director of the university library should be.”

Some might have noticed that Probst’s dean of University libraries’ title is different from the former executive director of libraries.

“Probst received a master’s in library science from the University of Illinois. She also holds a master’s in musicology from the University of Minnesota. While at Pennsylvania State University, she led library efforts to build Web-based services, including four components: chat software, e-mail/Web form functionality, a knowledge base, and a management infrastructure. She managed 11 subject libraries and oversaw reference and user services, among other functions.”

Antonie Downs, who served as interim director of libraries for two years, will return to the Biscayne Bay Campus and assume his permanent position as executive associate director and University libraries budget officer. “(Probst’s) background in academic libraries, her experience in large public institutions and her enthusiasm make her exceptional among the other candidates,” Downs said.

Dean promotes Hispanic students

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Contributing Writer

Vishwanath Prasad, executive dean of the College of Engineering and Computing, will be recognized by the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference Oct. 12 for his accomplishments making his college one of the premier places for education in the field among Hispanics.

CEC is the number one place for Hispanic students from Latin America, the Caribbean and 15 percent of the enrollment in the school of engineering consists of international students studying in the United States on visas, winning the National Diversity Award in 2006, Prasad said. “So [CEC] is a melting pot for Latinos and Hispanic Americans to enrich their cultural intake. You give them a globalized education at the bottom level, in the bachelors, at the best level possible,” Prasad said.

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I AM ROARY!

HOLD THAT POSE: Students posed for a picture with Roary Panther Sept. 21 for personalized keychains.

Biology faculty worry about losing labs, research space

The story titled “BBC holds African Council” in the Sept. 17 issue erroneously reported the location of Ivory Coast, it is in western Africa, not South Africa. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Police Notes

Sept. 13, 2007- Two student athletes living at the University Park Towers residence hall reported that while they attended football practice, an unidentified person removed several items from their rooms.

One student, who left his door unlocked while he attended practice, had his laptop computer stolen. The other student, who locked his door before practice, also had his computer stolen. No forced entry was visible on the student’s door.

Sept. 16, 2007- A female student using the second-floor rest room in Academic One at BBC placed her purse on the ground while using the rest room. The student returned to class and drove home before realizing she had left her belongings in the rest room. Later in the day she returned to the rest room and noticed that her purse was gone.

Sept. 18, 2007- A female student reported that her car, which was parked at BBC, had been scratched. She reported that earlier in the day, she had been involved in a verbal argument with an unidentified female about how she was driving and she suspected that the unidentified female was responsible for the damage.

Sept. 19, 2007 Miami-Dade Fire Aerial #29 responded to an on-campus call regarding a female student who had reported breathing problems and chest pains. The fire department advised that the student, a juvenile, would not be taken to the hospital.

~ Compiled by Jessica Solis, Beacon police reporter.
The Beacon – September 24, 2007

NEWS

Dean awarded for service

including permanent residents or citizens of Latin American coun-
tries, he added. FIU’s increase of enrolment in its engi-
neering program con-
trasts the running trend in other schools around the country where enrol-
ment levels have been falling, Prasad said.

“FIU has become a role model for engineer-
ing education for His-
panics,” said Prasad.

The cause of Hispanics in the engineering world is one that Prasad has championed in the past years by becom-
ing one of the founding members of the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineer-
ing Institutions. He also helped establish the LA grid, a forum for engi-
eers in Latin America to communicate with one another.

A native of India, Prasad has a master in mechanical engineering from the India Institute of Technology at Kanpur, India, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Dela-
ware.

When asked the reason for his focus on Hispanic engineers, Prasad answered that he identifi es with Latinos because of the different cultures and customs of his home country.

“India … is quite diverse from region to region. The language, the food … and there are over six-hundred dialects in the language and at least three major religions practices there. So you are exposed to diversity from the day you are born, much like in Latin America,” Prasad said.

This Week on Campus

Mon., Sept. 17  Call to order: 4:08 p.m.  Adjourn-
ment 4:40 p.m.

President’s Report (Marbely Hernandez)  •  The Tallahasse bus trip in protest of Gover-
nor Charlie Crist’s budget cuts will be postponed until further notice.

•  The Executive board of SGA will be attend-
ing a Board of Governor’s meeting for updates on the budget this week.

•  The SGA Web site is undergoing renova-
tions.

Vice President’s Report (Arthur Meyer)  •  SGA is continuing talks Bill Foster, direc-
tor of parking and transportation, to continue the development of the Panther-Tram

Chief of Cabinet’s Report (Kenny Gelok)  •  SGC cabinet meeting expected in October

Speaker of the House Report (Jennifer Ruiz)  •  The SGC completed certification training with Hands on Miami and will now be able to participate with the organization.

•  The next house meeting will take place at 4 p.m. on Sept. 24 in GC 211.

Panther Rage  •  Two buses were fi lled with students to the FIU vs. UM football game.

•  Panther Rage provided 100 tickets for the FIU vs. UM football game.

•  A Panther Rage, Relay for Life team is being proposed.

SPC Report  •  Two director positions are available. Those interested should contact the SPC offi ce.

RHA Report  •  All resident halls now have their own coun-
cils

Announcements  •  Honors College Convocation will take place Oct. 1 at UP

Compiled by Kassandra Pool

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SCRIPPS DAY

Editors, CEOs to give in class presentations

ELVIS RAMIREZ
BBC Life Editor

The Scripps Howard Foundation will be hosting "Scripps Day," a daylong event where students can interact with different journalism professionals, at the Biocayne Bay Campus Oct. 3. At the event, journalism students can have their resumes critiqued, take part in lectures given by editors, directors, and CEOs from the E.W. Scripps Company and end the day by sitting in on a speech by Ken Lowe, president and CEO of the E.W. Scripps Company. The company is the publisher of newspapers and owner of broadcast stations under the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Lowe managed several cable networks; HTGV, Food Network, Fine Living and Do It Yourself. His speech will be on the topic of the news media in the digital age.

Though it’s not likely students will get a job at the event, it’s still possible, said David Berry, marketing director for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The event’s focus is on networking and learning about journalism rather than job placement. Professionals from Scripps owned television stations and newspapers, will give lectures in different journalism classes throughout the day; there will be a total of 25 guest speakers. The lectures are open to the general public.

"It’s a fun event for anyone interested, not just students," Berry said.

In the lectures the students in classes guarantee an audience, said Jane Daugherty, an associate professor in the SIMC.

"One of the difficulties that we always have here and that you have at any university that has a large commuter population is getting people together," Daugherty said.

And that [holding the event] is not enough." Being good and being smart also need to meet the people that’s in a vacuum, but you can learn from one another, share your faith with one another, because whatever we have faith in, whatever we believe in shapes our whole lives," said Pearson, who preaches at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

For the past few months, club members have been planning events to promote the club and its message. They put together a Candlelight Vigil for Peace in observance of the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq on March 14, 2007. Ayesha Ahmed, the club’s vice president, was touched by the vigil.

"I remember how we went around the circle of guests present for the vigil commemorating the war in Iraq, and asked them why they were there. Everyone responded differently ... I was present because I believe that there can be peace in the Middle East. I feel like I’m really doing my part to make peace in the world," said Ahmed, an international business major.

The club also held the “Night of Rememberance” during the Spring semester to bring students together to discuss religion and its social, cultural, economic, environmental and political influences.

"I want to bring people together of different faith perspectives ... and have them interact with one another so we can learn from one another, and share our faith with one another, because whatever we have faith in, whatever we believe in shapes our whole lives," said Pearson, who preaches at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

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Faculty deserves reason for evictions

The College of Arts and Sciences got a memo Aug. 24 from FIU administrators, the memo, written by Associate Vice President for research, Andres Gil and Jonathan Tubman, was essentially an eviction notice for 16 or so of the College’s professors.

It gave professors five weeks – until Oct. 1 – to clear out their labs so Gil and Tubman could reallocate their research space to someone else. To whom? The memo didn’t say. And why on such short notice? The memo didn’t say either.

The eviction notice distressed research faculty, not because of what’s being done – eviction professors from their labs – but because of how it’s been done hastily and without explanation.

Most faculty members agree: reassigning research space is not inherently bad.

It’s necessary to free some research space and make room for new faculty, for one thing. As time goes on, as grants expire, research projects are completed and faculty come and go, it’s good to make sure FIU’s precious research space is being used efficiently. Some researchers have too much space, others not enough. Labs have served as office spaces and broom closets, making it difficult to learn house.

The problem isn’t what is done, but how.

In December 2006, both Provost Ronald Berkman and Vice President of Research George Walker assured faculty that any reassignment would happen in consultation with the Faculty Senate’s Research Council.

By unilaterally evicting faculty from their labs according to that formula, faculty believe that Walker and Berkman betrayed them.

Berkman and College of Medicine Dean John Rock had said the faculty medical school is still a long while away from hiring researchers.

Berkman said that the Aug. 24 memo is unrelated with the College of Medicine, but abundant research space could help lure big-name professors to the new College of Medicine.

“Whether the evictions are related to the College of Medicine is unimportant. Neglecting to tell faculty why they must vacate their research labs – and making room for fearful speculation – is damage enough.

To make matters worse the aggressive, five-week timetable administra tors are pushing for researchers to dismantle and empty out their research labs in not only unreasonable, it does little more than aggravate faculty mistrust toward administrators. And that’s what’s really at stake in this squabble for lab space: a workable relationship between FIU’s faculty and administration.

It falls, then, on administrators to pursue openness, dialogue and trust in administrator-faculty relationships. Instead, by acting unilaterally, by going back on promises, by not acting transparently, faculty members are given a reason to feel betrayed, angry and afraid.

The College of Arts and Sciences has expected questions like Andrew Meyers’, a Journalism and Mass Communications student at the University of Florida, but no one could have anticipated the events that followed: After Meyers’ passionate line of questioning regarding President Bush and Kerry’s involvement in a secret society at Yale University among other well publicized allegations of the two’s connections, Meyer was restrained by several police officers.

As the videos posted on CNN.com and MSNBC.com show, one officer brandished a firearm while the others tackled and tased him. Consequently, the officers involved in Meyers arrest are under investigation regarding their use of a taser, but is this really anything new?

Unfortunately, the answer to that question is no. In the last year alone, student groups such as Students for a Democratic Society, Students for Informed Democracy and several smaller groups have protested policies that they call, “oppressive and unconstitutional.”

At the University of Central Florida, hundreds of students participated in a protest opposing the university’s “Free Speech Zone Policy”. Partick DeCarlo, a UCFT student and member of Students for a Democratic Society, said in a local news report earlier this year, “This policy undermines the 1st Amendment of the constitution and where it can be practiced”.

The students of UCFT’s chapter of Students for a Democratic Society further expressed their distaste for the administration’s reaction to the protest: Doing absolutely nothing except increasing the number of officers. The increase was in order to keep the peace, according to a written response from UCF’s President Hitt.

The deplorable part about this whole issue is that they’re orally restrained by officers who have “forgotten the contents of the Bill of Rights.”

Case in point: The incident at UF on September 16th. Meyers was allegedly cut off because “He used profanity and his question was too long,” according to Steven Blank, the chairman of Accent, UF’s Student Association.

In the wake of the incident, two protests and a sit-in have ensued. Many UF students are outraged by the investigation of the use of the taser.

Additionally, several students have demanded that the committee who investigates this must be entirely neutral.

After reading the University’s inconsistent police report, with each officer’s account more sensationalized than the last, it’s hard not to imagine Meyers being acquitted of any and all charges.

Being that he was orally supra-
Young lives affected by autism

Viviana Reyes didn't read much when she was young, but she knew enough about fairy tales to suspect her life was about to become one when she met Eduardo Reinas. Reyes and Reinas — “Kings” and “Queens” in Spanish. They were both children of stubborn working-class parents in Montevideo, Uruguay. She was practical, enjoyed the occasional nights out on the town and dreamed of a life away from her family; he was a shy soccer player, addicted to flights of fancy but always a hard worker.

Neither of them had reached their 20th birthday when they married at the start of the millennium. They moved to the United States a year later.

“Our family, our friends, the TV, they all said things were going to be different there,” Viviana — now Reinas — said. “We knew it wasn’t going to be perfect, but we had to try it.”

And it was perfect. Eduardo found a steady job. Viviana realized how much she missed her parents and saved enough money to bring them over, and they all lived together in a small couch but a happy, loving family.

“I can’t afford to miss a day of work,” she said. “I deal with children, your odds of getting sick double, according to the American Medical Society.

“... Itchy eyes, a scratchy throat and a stuffy nose are all symptoms of the common cold, and being sick can be detrimental to students’ lives.

With especially hectic non-stop schedules packed with classes and work, some students can’t afford to miss out on one lecture, quiz or even one day on the job.

“Even though there is no known cure for the cold, here are some ways that students are trying to make it a little less common and a little more bearable.

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

Carly Gallo, a sophomore and current cold victim, is a first-hand witness to the agonizing effects of being sick. Staying up late has taken a toll on her immune system but following a rigid diet of fluids when sick has helped her combat the sniffles.

“I eat, live and breathe fluids when sick has helped her combat the sniffles,” Gallo said. “I spend countless nights building models and drawing up plans.

The workload takes a serious toll on my body and health, making me really vulnerable to colds. [When I’m sick] I live off of orange juice and water, Airborne cold medication and only eat soups. It seems to work for me.”

**RUN FOR YOUR HEALTH**

For other students such as junior Leonard Chu-Hung, keeping active seems to work for getting over the cold as soon as possible.

“Chu-Hung works 40 hours a week as a retail manager, is married and a full-time student — and he doesn’t believe in resting when he’s sick.”

“I live in those freezing cold computer labs so when I get sick I head to the beach,” Chu-Hung said. “I take the day off, grab a beach chair and blanket and head to the beach.”

Olivia said. “I fall asleep to the sounds of the ocean, get a tan and fresh air all in one shot. Plus, the salt water is great for sore throats.”

**FLOW LIKE HONEY**

Another remedy for the dreaded sore throat is the honey, which senior Tina Adeoba uses.

“Adeoba hates when she starts to cough and can’t seem to stop, especially when the coughing attack starts in the middle of class or when dealing with a customer at work.

“I can hardly carry me when I’m sick and coughing,” she said. “As soon as I start coughing I eat a spoon full of honey and it calms my throat down. Not to mention it taste good too.”

**PREVENTION**

While some people start using remedies after they catch a cold, others such as Ashley Fernald take a more proactive approach.

Fernald, a sophomore, loathes the idea of being sick and hates seeing others sick.

To decrease her chances of contact with germs, she wipes down her desk at the beginning of each class with a disinfecting wipe.

The only way to catch a cold is via direct contact with the virus, so preventive measures such as these might be your best bet if you want to avoid having a sick day altogether.

Resident assistants maintain order

An RA is a trained student leader in colleges and universities charged with the responsibility of living with and supervising as many as 40 to 75 students in a residential hall. For many student residents, RAs can provide mediation on commonly faced issues such as roommate conflicts and depression.

“Being an RA is what I made of it,” said Ron Thompson, assistant director of residential life.

Programming is one unique aspect of RA duties, where they tap into creativity to put on events or activities to promote a sense of community among the residents. Teresa Ronquillo, a senior and current president of Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society, exemplifies this in her second year on the job.

“I feel like a big responsible ball of cheesy energy and so my role as an RA lets me funnel that into something that can have a positive outcome on me and others,” she said.

Her favorite program, “Going up?,” encourages environmental awareness. The program is conducted in an elevator, where, as soon as people enter, they are asked if they are going up, and when the reply is “yes” the RA responds with: “And so are the amounts of CO2 molecules in our earth’s atmosphere,” followed by a fact about the environment.

But with great perks come great responsibilities. Though the RA job allows for one to
FINANCIAL AID FACTS

- 85% of students received their aid within 3 days of disbursement
- 32% more students completed their FAFSA by the March 1st priority deadline
- Over 10,000 refunds have been sent as of 9/10/07

Are you one of them?

Learn how you can be!

Please Join Us

9.25.07 @ 10am
UP-GL 100b

AND

BBC-WUC 100
(via Teleconference)
Fairy tale life proves illusory

so much, I love to hold him, I love it when he’s quiet and he 
hugs me back,” Viviana said, 
stopping in mid-sentence to decide whether she was 
going to continue or not. “I 
just didn’t think it was going to be this way.”

Eduardo works longer hours now because Viviana is 
pregnant again, but the young 
wife is forced to suppress the 
idea that he may stay at his 
job to avoid dealing with the 
difficult infant.

She hasn’t confronted him 
about this and doesn’t plan 
to because another question 
haunts her even more: can 
the same thing happen to the 
new baby?

This thought often makes 
her clutch her swollen belly 
and cry.

At her wedding, her sis-

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ALL YOU NEED IS A PLOT: The two main characters from Across the Universe embrace. The new film tells the story of young couple in during the 1960s and features more than 30 Beatles songs.

MOVIE Across the Universe

Beatles musical lacks substance

RENIER HERNANDEZ Staff Writer

There are few things in pop culture more revered than the music of The Beatles. As such, a musical incorporating their songs would have the daunting task of satisfying not only casual movie-goers, but the respect of die-hard Beatles fans alike.

Across the Universe successfully does both with its style, but gives up substance in the process.

Set in the 1960s, the film revolves around the romance of Jude, an English dock worker and Lucy, an American teenager. If those names sound familiar, they should.

Every important character in the movie is named after various characters from Beatles songs; and it’s touches like these that make the film some much needed space to flesh out the story. Some segments felt like they would make great music videos but contribute nothing to furthering the story.

The problem is that allusions alone aren’t enough to carry a story. Jude and Lucy’s love-story is shallow and feels like an afterthought that only serves as a way to showcase the music.

There are several scenes and characters that could have been omitted without affecting the plot, and that would have given the film some much needed space to flesh out the story. The visual effects are another triumph. Colors are vibrant, as they should be for a film set in the ’60s, and the psychedelic scenes in particular are stunning.

One has to imagine that what they’re seeing is as close to experiencing a real acid trip as it gets, without the actual drugs. And in the end, if you go in with the proper mindset and can appreciate the vibrant visuals as well as the timeless music, Across the Universe won’t let you down.

The band’s influences are audible in the album; from the swirling and surging synth that recall The Cars to self deprecating, pop culture influenced lyrics that make one think of early Weezer to the huge Cheap Trick-esque choruses, Motion City Soundtrack has been able to create a distinct sound that is instantly recognizable. It is perhaps fitting that Cars’ front man Ric Ocasek, who produced Weezer’s first album, has taken the helm for some of the production of this album; splitting duties with Adam Schlesinger of Fountains of Wayne and Eli Janney of Girls Against Boys.

His influences can be heard all over Motion City’s sound so it was inevitable that they would team up in some way.

While the band has had success with a familiar formula in the past, they’ve also branched out on this album. “The Conversation” is a plaintive piano ballad that’s stripped down, piano and vocals mix sounds more like Ben Folds Five than Weezer.

In fact there are times when the band has more successfully shunned its formula than following it.

Lead single “Broken Heart” sounds like an inferior version of the hit from the last album “Everything Is Alright.”

That’s not to say the band should shun its formula completely.

Motion City haven’t lost the ability to write a great pop song. “This Is For Real” might just be the catchiest song the band has ever written, and since they have released it as the second single, it could be the one to push the band all the way into the mainstream, where they could join fellow Warped Tour veterans Fall Out Boy and Gym Class Heroes at the top of the charts.

Don’t be surprised to see Motion City Soundtrack making its push into the ears of mainstream pop fans before long.

GAME Guilty Gear XX Accent Core

Fighting game grows up, characters bring variety

LUIS H. GARCIA Staff Writer

The two-dimensional fighting game might become a lost art in an age of advanced three-dimensional imagery, but the classics like Street Fighter and King of Fighters still have the staying power that many games lack today.

The Guilty Gear series shares in this legacy while taking a different path compared to its contemporaries.

With its unorthodox characters and style, Guilty Gear has gone for nearly a decade since its beginnings on the original Sony PlayStation. Now, two sequels and three upgrades later, the newest reworking of Guilty Gear XX Accent Core by developer Arc System Works for the PlayStation 2 shows off that staying power that has garnered respect from fighting gamers all over the world – 2D fighting is far from gone.

Boasting an impressive 23 characters, there is plenty of variety and depth to be explored.

Each fighter sports his or her own original and unique moves, including players from each other and from more traditional fighting games.

From a paper bag-wearing doctor to a womanizing pirate, Guilty Gear has been known for its motley cast while offering fast-paced action that requires adaptation and execution.

With some new tweaks, moves and features like force breaks – powered up special moves – Accent Core forces veterans to relaunch their favorite characters and adopt new tactics to win.

Besides the prerequisite fighting game features – solo, versus play and training modes – the game offers extras such as a score attack, alternate versions of characters and previous versions of the Guilty Gear system.

Like any great fighting game, however, Guilty Gear truly shines when played with human competition.

Accent Core hasn’t changed too much in the aesthetics department as well, but it is a significant step up in the arena of visual presentation.

This is a beautiful game, and the characters still have their anime-inspired charm.

The stage backgrounds are still available, a collection of illustrations is also available for viewing pleasure.

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“I had to pick myself up. My parents were there for me to guide me through it. They told me, ‘You’re going to be alright,’” he said.

Having his father as a pastor has helped Bostic realize what is most important in life. Following the draft, he made the decision to come back to school and finish his degree in Sports Management.

He says he isn’t completely disappointed he wasn’t drafted by the NFL, because it has allowed him the opportunity to finish his degree.

“I thank God that I had the opportunity to come back to school instead of not making it with a team and then having to try to get back into it,” Bostic said.

His faith has been a vital aspect of his life going back to his childhood all the way through high school. As a member of Norland High’s 2002 6A state championship team, he had his faith help him get through the season, as a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at his school.

“You’ve got to believe in something, especially when you can’t go to the NFL,” Bostic said. “Some people turn to drugs or get depressed, but my faith is where I’m grounded.”

His faith has also led him to a unique plan for himself after obtaining his degree. He is looking to establish a program for young, talented high school athletes who may not have the grades or test scores to go to college and continue their education and athletics.

“The Right Path program is a vision the Lord put into me,” Bostic said. “My goal is to get colleges back here to focus on Miami-Dade and also help high school students through athletics. It’s a way they see to get out; it’s a way to make them better men, better husbands and better fathers.”

Although Bostic wasn’t drafted, he has not cut off football from his life and has been working with the FIU football team as a graduate assistant, specifically focusing on the defensive line.

“In practice, he’s been working with the scout team, and they had some big plays and he was out there dancing around and jumping around like his team just won the national title,” Lantz said. “There’s no way you can look at him and say, ‘That’s a guy who didn’t get drafted and he’s really disappointed.’ You can’t say that about him.”

Come December, Bostic may be putting the pads back on for the newly formed All American Football League, a league that stresses college graduation and promises professional pay rates and the opportunity to perform in front of fans. “I tried out for the AAFL in Alabama and did good in that, so there’s a strong possibility that I’ll get called back,” Bostic said. If he makes it to the AAFL, it will be because of his ability to not dwell on the past and take advantage of opportunities presented to him.

“They say, one door closes and another opens.”

BOSTIC uses faith to persevere through rough times

Teammates represent dream of a nation in Thailand

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from a lack of talent, which is an indictment of former coach Don Shula and his new coach, Pete Garcia and new coach Don Strock rather than the new coaching staff. The Dolphins keep applying bandages, acknowledging the problem, rather than the new coaching staff. From hiring a new athletic director, coach and staff, which the team isn’t afraid to acknowledge.

In Davie, however, the Dolphins keep applying bandages, antiseptic and painkillers in an attempt to overlook the real necessity to fix it.

A combination of bad draft picks and terrible signings and trades have contributed to making the team as bad as any in the league the past couple of years.

Jerry Porter is paid $2 million to record two tackles a game, while a third-round pick is given up for Lamont Gordon and a second for the incompetent AJ Feeley.

If a bet had to be placed on which team will be more successful in five years, a wise man would place it on the Golden Panthers.

The Dolphins will be feeling the repercussions of their drafts and signings for years to come, while FIU will continue to attract the fledgling South Florida talent that made the UM a national powerhouse.

Despite still lacking that all important win, the Golden Panthers are building their team from the ground up and showing improvement with every passing game.

The Dolphins, with all their history and lore, on the other hand, are deteriorating before our eyes.

Golden Panthers fixing framework unlike Dolphins

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CHRIIS TOWERS
Staff Writer

Last season, linebacker Alexander Bostic III was part of the 28th ranked defense in Division I-A football. He racked up 98 tackles and eight sacks and worked out with NFL stars like Willis McGahee and Ed Reed in the time leading up to the draft in order to get himself into shape for the NFL.

During the NFL draft, held April 28 and 29, he watched as Notre Dame's quarterback situation is decided to the public's liking.

When you're a kid, your dream is to play in the NFL and to have that fall out of your hands, is like someone ripped your heart out.

Not making the NFL has proven to be an extremely difficult thing to overcome for some college athletes and some never get over it, said team chaplain Steve Lantz, who has known Bostic since he was a sophomore at Norland High School.

"There have been guys who've reacted well to their draft status. Great pressure brings out the best and worst in people," Lantz said. "Before the draft he was pretty realistic, he was hoping to get drafted and he was working for that end. And obviously he was disappointed, but it wasn't the type of disappointment that some people have where it's a panic."

Bostic said he was in a difficult situation, but with the help of his family, including his father who is a pastor at First Baptist Church in West Park, he was able to get back to working toward other dreams.

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As the Golden Panthers and the Miami Dolphins continue their trek across a seemingly endless valley of grid iron ineptitude, the casual observer cannot but notice the similarities between the two teams.

For both teams, any sort of success seems to be a thing of the past. They both have solid defenses with standout players that must carry an offense fired by turnovers and three-and-outs.

Both teams have new head coaches who haven't quite adapted to the public's liking.

Upon closer inspection, however, one can see the drastically different directions that these teams have taken.

The Dolphins issues are well chronicled, from utter failure stemming from a decade of poor first-round draft picks to a revolving door head coaching job. The quarterback situation is often pointed at, but it would be an easy lot for the Jay Fiedlers and Trent Greens of the world to be successful if they had even a modicum of talent surrounding them.

The other perennial cellar dwellers in the NFL, such as the Oakland Raiders, the Detroit Lions and the Arizona Cardinals, all have a distinguishable future quarterback. Oakland has the 2007 draft's first overall pick, JaMarcus Russell, waiting in the wings with all the physical talent a quarterback could need.

The Lions have wide receiver Calvin Johnson, who many consider a future Hall of Fame even before playing an NFL down, along with fellow receiver Roy Williams, an established threat. Arizona has potential everywhere you look, from wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald to quarterback Matt Leinart to running back Edgerrin James.

Our hometown football team has Ronnie Brown, who is eager to show more signs of bust rather than future Pro Bowler, and Chris Chambers, who has the occasional spectacular catch but drops the simple passes more often than anyone wants.

The lone bright spot is 2006 Defensive Player of the Year, Jason Taylor, slowly reaching the final chapter of an illustrious career and dedicating himself to a less successful organization.

In west Dade, meanwhile, the Golden Panthers find themselves in a similar hole. Teams around them are making national news, from the University of South Florida in contention for the Big East Conference to Florida Atlantic's upsets of Minnesota in which the Owls put up more points than FIU has all season.

The team suffers similarly...