Students join 9-mile march for workers’ pay

PETER M.T. AGBEYEGBE
Staff Writer

FIU students joined the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a community-based worker organization in Florida, on a nine-mile march to the Burger King headquarters in Doral, on Nov. 30.

“Students don’t support exploitation,” said Marc Rodrigue with the Student/Farmworker Alliance during a protest in front of the Burger King in the Graham Center on Nov. 28. “We don’t want it in our schools. We don’t want it [on] our tables.”

Among the CIW’s demands to Burger King: a penny per pound raise for workers who pick tomatoes.

The CIW persuaded Yum Brands and McDonald’s to increase wages of migrant workers and impose a code of conduct on tomato suppliers in Florida. So far, Burger King has not given in to demands of protestors.

“The workers are demanding that Burger King follow in the steps of Yum Brands and McDonald’s by paying a premium for its tomatoes to directly improve workers’ sub-poverty wages and work with the CIW to address the labor abuses endemic to Florida agriculture,” said a Nov. 30 CIW press release.

During the protest in GC, flyers for the nine-mile march to Burger King’s corporate headquarters were handed out.

“I think it’s time for students to have a hand in social justice,” said senior Ashley Rodriguez with the Student/Farmworker Alliance during a protest in front of the Burger King in the Graham Center on Nov. 28. “We don’t want it [on] our tables.”

The CIW has done nothing to collect the extra penny for farm workers.

Hamittal Travis, a professor of law at FIU, thinks there’s a way around the legal hurdles.

“An exemption to anti-trust law exists to allow agricultural cooperatives to set prices during tough times,” Travis said. “The exemption would not apply if the cooperative is attempting to squash legitimate forms of competition.”

Even though allegations against Burger King are unresolved, Dean Jarrett, a tourist from Atlanta who witnessed the protest, will not allow any of its members to collect the extra penny for farm workers.

“I’m blind but not crippled,” said 66-year-old blind man, came from San Antonio, Texas, to attend the protest.

“I’m blind but not crippled. All these poor people work so hard and they’re only asking for one penny,” Alvarado said.

A statement issued by Burger King Corporation to The Beacon demanded that the CIW suggest alternatives to current business practices.

“The CIW’s ‘penny-per-pound’ slogan is a PR catchphrase that fails to provide any solutions for the real issues facing farm workers. The CIW has done nothing to explain how ... Burger King can overcome the legal and financial hurdles associated with the money transfer scheme,” said Denise T. Wilson, senior analyst, communications for Burger King Corporation.

However, Burger King cannot set wages for tomato pickers because Burger King does not directly employ them, according to Reggie Brown, executive vice president of the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange.

The FTGE—which employs tomato pickers—represents 90 percent of the state’s growers, and will not allow any of its members to collect the extra penny for farm work.

Tell us what you think about this article: What do you think of the Burger King’s response to the CIW’s demands? Do you agree with the CIW’s stance on workers’ rights? Share your thoughts below.

By the thousands casted votes on Dec. 2 for what turned out to be a rare defeat for Chavez and his proposed constitutional changes, which would have made him president for life and hastened the transformation of Venezuela into a socialist state in the Cuban model.

According to The Miami Herald, only 88 percent of the vote was certified when the trend was declared irreversible by Elections Council Chief Tibsai Lucena shortly after midnight in Venezuela.

However, hours before the results were released, students from local universities screamed and waved their flags at curious observers and incoming voters who couldn’t help but admire the resilience of the Venezuelan people.

Venezuelans protest after voting in referendum.

VOTERS: Venezuelans protest after voting in referendum.
GIVING SEASON BEGINS

The First Jose Antonio Echeverria scholarship awarded

The First Jose Antonio Echeverria Scholarship was given to FIU student, Joaquin A Pedroso, a senior with a double major in philosophy and political science. Family and friends of Echeverria created the Echeverria scholarship March 2007 to mark the 50th anniversary of Echeverria’s attempts to overthrow Cuba’s, then, military dictator, Fulgencio Batista on March 12, 1957. The attack was unsuccessful, and Echeverria was killed by police.

Students interested in applying for the Echeverria scholarship are required to write an essay on the life and political views of Echeverria and must complete a certificate in Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at FIU.

The scholarship awards $2,000 each academic year which will go to tuition, books and other school expenses. For more information on the Echeverria scholarship contact the Department of Political Science at 305-348-2226.

Volunteers needed for Fall 2007 Commencement

The Fall 2007 commencement staff is looking for volunteers to help with operations during the Dec. 17 and Dec. 18 commencement ceremonies at Pharmed Arena at University Park.

Interested faculty and staff, who have received approval from their supervisors, should contact Commencement Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Hammill, at 305-919-5604 or hammillsf@fiu.edu. Volunteers for the commencement will receive one credit hour of professional development.

The Frost Art Museum will host 3rd annual Breakfast in the Park

The Patricia & Phillips Frost Art Museum will host the 3rd annual Breakfast in the Park event with special guest, Tom Otterness a renowned American sculptor on Dec. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m in front of the MARC building at University Park.

Admission to the breakfast is free and open to the public. Breakfast in the Park is officially sponsored by Art Basel Miami Beach, an art show which will place at the Miami Beach Convention Center from Dec. 6 through Dec. 9.

In addition to the outdoor breakfast, attendees will be given guided tours of the sculptures around UP, guided tours of the Frost Art Museum’s exhibition “Pip Brant: The Flying Carpet & Other Re-usable” and an informal lecture by Otterness.

For more information on Breakfast in the Park, contact Amy Pollack at 305-348-0401 or pollacka@fiu.edu.

— Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.

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Fraternities foment leadership skills

GREEK, page 2

As long as you find the right niche, your dedication to Greek Life will be life enriching for you and the people you will work with throughout college.

Benjamin Klotz, Pi Kappa Phi fraternity member

In the 2007 Student Government Association elections, more than 50 percent of the candidates who ran for a position were Greek affiliated. According to www.southfloridapikes.com, more than 48 percent of the United States presidents have been Greek affiliated.

Greek organizations help students become leaders through the various positions available like executive board, chairs, committees, even positions in other councils, according to Dominguez.

“Networking opportunities are endless when you go Greek, such as meeting many amazing people from different organizations that become everlasting friends who, in the future, can assist you in getting your next job, internship, or even tutor you in a class,” Dominguez said.

This year, Sigma Sigma Sigma’s Backward Pageant raised about two thousand dollars. The proceeds of the male pageant went to Sigma Sigma Sigma’s national philanthropy, The Robbie Page Memorial.

“Being Greek motivates you to do great things like participate in community service and philanthropy events. It sounds cliché, but you don’t know the feeling until you are a part of a Greek organization,” said Brittany Silva, a member of the sorority Phi Sigma Sigma.

For many, joining a Greek organization has endless opportunities to offer to students.

Given that FIU is a melting pot, there is almost an organization to fit every individual.

"I would recommend Greek Life to anybody coming into college, especially FIU. As long as you find the right niche, your dedication to Greek Life to anybody coming into college, especially FIU. As long as you find the right niche, your dedication to Greek Life will be life enriching for you and the people you will work with throughout college," Klotz said.

For more information, visit the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, located in GC 2240.
Students play stocks on the Web

VANESSA A. ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

The Equity Management Club at the Biscayne Bay Campus is a hands-on business club open to all students interested in investments.

"It's a very good way for students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it," said Andrew Gunn, founder and president of EMC and a senior majoring in international business. "We're really just trying to breed intelligent investors." The club revolves around Virtual Stock Exchange, an interactive, online stock market simulator. The game is convenient for club members who are unable to meet more than the Student Organization Council's four meetings per semester requirement.

"That's one of the reasons why I joined the club," said Silvia Lorenzo, a member and SOC representative. "It's all online and it fits with your schedule."

There is no fee to play and members can create risk-free portfolios. Each member gets $100,000 in virtual money to invest, their outcomes mirroring real world market values.

Keniesta Paul, a junior and one of two non-business major members of the club, is catching on to the game. Fifty days after investing in Google, she is $38,000 richer. Her portfolio has increased more than 36 percent, making her the club's top competitor.

"It's a cool feeling because this is their major and I'm kicking [their] butt," Paul said. "It's awesome."

Paul may be on her way to the $100,000 grand prize that Gunn is offering to whichever club member earns the most money by the end of the semester. The prize money is sponsored by Gunn's father, a portfolio manager for Evergreen International Equity Funds, and gives members an incentive to play.

As next year's vice president, Lorenzo plans to see the game incorporated into the College of Business Administration's curriculum.

"The game gives you the hands-on experience that you don't get from the books when you're in school," Lorenzo said. "The game compliments the course work."

Currently, Gunn is working on expanding the club with a University Park chapter, hoping to have the campus' compete with one another and other colleges.

"I think an important part of having the intercollegiate investment competition involves bringing talent in from the south campus," Gunn said. "It's a friendly competition. Thirty schools have been contacted around the country and five have accepted the challenge."

The University of Southern California and Lynchburg College in Virginia are among those that have accepted.

"The point is to get bigger and bigger," Gunn said. "It doesn't matter who wins."

For more information on the EMC, contact Gunn at agunn333@yahoo.com.

Radio station cheers up patients

LORGIA GONZALEZ Contributing Writer

Bringing smiles, laughter and entertainment to hospitalized patients may seem as daunting as dead air, but Radio Lollipop of Miami Children's Hospital doesn't fail to modulate such tasks.

The in-house radio station allows patients to connect with orientation directors and hear their own voices on the radio, according to Yendi Valdes, coordinator for Radio Lollipop.

"This foundation is important because the children have a sense of distraction from [the] different treatments that they are going through," Valdes said.

The concept, which began in 1978 at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in Surrey, England has since expanded internationally, according to RadioLollipop.org.

"Radio Lollipop was founded in August 1996 at Miami Children's Hospital, to "bring smiles, laughter and entertainment to hospitalized children through the station's music and sound programs," according to the organization's website."

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POOL SHARKS

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Health bill may dissolve private insurance providers

JOSEPH MARHEE Staff Writer

Currently passing through Congress is a bill entitled, H. R. 676. The bill is a huge step forward toward improving health care in the United States and was drafted around the time of the semester, I course, out of all the other extreme

Paul has expressed the so-called necessity of the United States withdrawing from the United Nations, which has been an effective forum for international diplomacy for nearly 60 years. He advocates further privatization of health care, which nearly 50 million Americans lack, due to the efforts of the Republican Party and insurance lobbyists, in pushing for deregulation of the health insurance sector.

One can only infer that Paul's logic is that health insurance should only be made available to those who can afford the ridiculous premiums and co-payments, while all others die slowly and painfully. It strikes me as a cruel and elitist concept, reminiscent of something conceived by Hitler. Another example of Paul's malicious beliefs is his view on higher education. He supports the privatization of the entire higher education system, and has in the past, staunchly voted against any measures to allocate funds to public universities, including measures to increase financial aid.

This leads me to infer that yet again, Paul believes that higher education is not for all individuals who can pay the extravagant tuition fees that private institutions are so fond of charging. Yet again, Paul makes no effort to hide his elitist attitudes with regard to social issues. Paul has made no secret of his racist sentiments toward minorities, either. In a 1992 political newsletter, Paul commented on the alleged criminal inclinations of African-American males in the city of Washington, D.C.

"Given the inefficiencies of what D.C. laughingly calls the criminal justice system, I think we can safely count on 95 percent of the black males in that city are semi-criminal or entirely criminal," said Paul in a 1992 newsletter.

This was not the first, nor the last insult Paul directed toward African-Americans in the very same newsletter. "If you have ever been robbed by a black teenage male, you know how unbelievably fleet-footed they can be," he also said.

These statements are indicative of an elitist in every sense imaginable. It's ludicrous that in a public institution, such as FIU, individuals supporting a candidate who advocates the privatization of higher education could actually exist.

It seems like the ultimate form of masochism, or even hypocrisy. The fact that this individual happens to happen to the belief that government intervention is needed in all our lives is inexcusable and indomitable supports the reversal of Roe v. Wade, is another example of the glaring hypocrisies that underlie Paul's ideologies. He caters himself to shal-

minded anti-war sympathizers who are willing to overlook all the other extreme beliefs he posits.

Think twice the next time you see a poster or are approached by someone asking you to consider supporting Paul for president. He represents something much more sinister than his drone-like supporters are willing to tell you.

His campaign is a great misrepresentation of what the Republican Party stands for. He is a libertarian extremist masquerading as a Republican.

"They would receive all medically necessary services by the physicians of their choice, with no restrictions on what providers they could visit."

When someone gets cancer or they can’t get treatment because they’re only in stage one or two of cancer] is what is wrong with America’s health care," said Holly Stein, an FIU student majoring in health science.

H.R. 676 needs to pass for these people to be able to get coverage before they’re given a death-sentence by our current system.

Common opposition to this bill includes such erroneous claims as additional taxes and that it will raise unemployment in medical fields, according to Dr. Edward Annis, president of the American Medical Association.

As for cancer may be found a cure for cancer...
Fulfilling a lifelong dream

When I was seven years old, I was in the hospital for more than three weeks. A case of food poisoning almost killed me. Needless to say, I was not a happy camper and, as I laid in the hospital bed flipping though the few viable stations on my TV, I came across a team of multiethnic super heroes called the Power Rangers.

It was the weirdest show I had ever seen and I could not get enough of it. I saw the first three episodes of the series while I was in the hospital and the actors became my heroes. On Dec. 1, I had the opportunity to meet two of my childhood heroes, Steve Cardenas and Karen Ashley.

The two were guests at a convention in Ft. Lauderdale and I had purchased a ticket to have dinner with them. Service was horriblke and the hour and a half dinner turned into a three-hour affair. But I wasn’t complaining about the extra time, just the service. I went to dinner ready to ask all those nerdy Power Ranger questions I had dreamt up, but never asked. Another fan was doing that across the table from me and the look on Cardenas’ face said, “I don’t mind that this guy is asking me these questions, but I really wish he would stop.”

So the first chance I got, I changed the subject. It was a lot of fun after that. Everyone at the table talked about their favorite kinds of movies and the food they liked to eat.

It was a memorable night that kept getting better. For the rest of the convention, whenever I saw either of the actors, they made a point to stop and say hello and shake my hand. It really made me feel special that they were taking that little bit of time to say hello, they were under no obligation to do so.

I was even able to have a short breakfast with them the morning following our dinner. It was weird how it happened. I was just walking into the hotel restaurant when Ashley saw me and asked if I was going to join them.

She was such a sweetheart. Overall, I think the Power Rangers were only brought up once or twice during my conversations with the two. They were really interesting people. Cardenas seemed like any other guy you would hang out with and Ashley
“No,” responded Professor Kimberly Miles emphatically to those who asked whether or not she was going to follow in her grandmother’s footsteps and become an English teacher.

Nearly 15 years have passed since that incident, and Miles began her teaching career shortly after. She is now ranked 30th on the Web site RateMyProfessors.com, where FIU’s faculty in general is ranked number 13 in the nation. According to the site, the rankings are entirely determined by the student’s ratings.

In 1992, on the path of becoming a technical writer, Miles was approached by the director of composition and was asked to become a teaching assistant. After some convincing and consideration, she accepted the job at Mississippi State University, where she was pursuing her Master’s degree in English. At MSU, Miles began teaching composition for two semesters until she was transferred to the technical writing program where she taught Writing for Engineers at the Engineering Research Center.

In 1994, Miles and her husband moved to Miami where she applied to both Miami Dade College and Florida International University. She was accepted to both schools and began teaching at both at the same time.

Due to budget cuts, Miles is no longer a full-time employee at FIU and is now an adjunct. As stated in the RateMyProfessors.com top 50 lists ranking methodology, the Web site uses a five-point scale as well as a binary scoring system for student-generated professor ratings. Professors are ranked by having each individual rating standardized around their mean score. Using this system from the years 2005 to 2007 the scores were computed. Only professors with 30 ratings or more were included to provide statistical significance. All professors were verified as actively teaching in the current semester by each school at the time the lists were compiled. In an attempt to break ties, professors with a greater number of ratings were ranked higher. If ties occurred, the next available rank was given.

RateMyProfessors.com has also launched a new “Professor Rebuttal” feature that enables every professor rated on the site to address how his or her teaching ability has been characterized by students. They will also have the chance to counter any criticisms by presenting their side of the story.

When it comes to teaching, Miles likes a student-centered environment. “Instead, I try to create a student-centered or learner-centered classroom,” she stated. “This forces the students to be active participants in their learning – and it creates a lively classroom, which is much more fun than a lecture-based classroom.” To facilitate the learning material for her students, Miles likes to joke with them, use analogies and examples to break down the lesson, making it easier for students to understand.

Literary analysis student, Lisa Santos, feels Miles has done an amazing job teaching her English class. “She is always prepared for class and she will do research for us that she believes is helpful to our assignment,” she stated. “She is constantly trying to assist us with any information as possible to help any struggling students.”

Besides teaching English courses, such as freshman composition, literary analysis, and report and technical writing, Miles finds the time to continue writing technical material for her students. Miles likes to joke with them, use analogies and examples to break down the lesson, making it easier for students to understand. Literacy analysis student, Lisa Santos, feels Miles has done an amazing job teaching her English class. “She is always prepared for class and she will do research for us that she believes is helpful to our assignment,” she stated. “She is constantly trying to assist us with any information as possible to help any struggling students.”

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Besides teaching English courses, such as freshman composition, literary analysis, and report and technical writing, Miles finds the time to continue doing technical writing on the side and enjoys reading empirical research studies specifically focused on candid genetics and domestication. In the future she hopes to accomplish her personal goal of becoming a successful fiction writer in the fantasy genre.

The most gratifying thing about teaching, for Miles, is when her students finally understand the lesson for the day. “I love seeing what I call the ‘light bulb’ moment when they ‘get it,” she stated. “When they understand a particular concept they keep me young mentally.”
### December’s Gaming Releases

**Name:** Universe at War  
**Release Date:** December 10, 2007  
**Price:** $49.99

**Name:** GTA: Liberty City Stories  
**Release Date:** December 11, 2007  
**Price:** $29.99

**Name:** Night's Journey of Dreams  
**Release Date:** December 18, 2007  
**Price:** $49.99

### WEEKEND

**THURSDAY • DECEMBER 6**

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<tr>
<td>Anos Felices</td>
<td>Hard Rock Live</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>$45 - $75</td>
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<td>Tony Bennett</td>
<td>War Memorial Auditorum</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>$50 - $125</td>
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<td>Christmas Concert</td>
<td>5747 Seminole Way</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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**FRIDAY • DECEMBER 7**

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<tr>
<td>Alejandro Sanz</td>
<td>American Airlines Arena</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>$45 - $75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Urban</td>
<td>BankAtlantic Arena</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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**SATURDAY • DECEMBER 8**

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<tr>
<td>Between the Trees</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemlab</td>
<td>Culture Room</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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**JULIANA BARBASSA**  
**Art Writer**

Green fairy, opalescent muse, bottled madness, the essence of life: absinthe has answered to many names over the centuries, feeding inspiration and insanity in equal measure to artists from Baudelaire to Degas before facing a ban that lasted nearly a century.

Now the elusive witch is stepping out of the shadows.

Since the federal government approved the sale of absinthe in March, two brands of the high-proof liquor, Lucid and Kubler, have been introduced to the U.S. market.

Both made according to original recipes, they are fueling a revival among the inquisitive and quenching the thirst of cultish devotees.

Drawn out by the dissolution of national barriers in the European Union, absinthe also is newly legal in its birthplace, Switzerland, and in France, whose fin-de-siecle painters and writers enthralled its allure in masterpieces that survived the drink's prohibition on the eve of the first World War, and ensured its reputation.

“I’d read about it in Henry Miller and Anais Nin, and I was curious,” Stephanie Palmer, who works in software sales, said while sipping Kubler absinthe on the night of its sponsored debut in a San Francisco bar. “It has this mystique, all the stories about wormwood.”

A relative of tarragon and marjoram, this plant’s leaves and stems contain thujone, a chemical that grows wild on the slopes of Val-de-Travers, in the Swiss Alps, is absinthe’s key ingredient, and counterbalances the mouth-numbing sweetness of the dominion’s favorite, anise.

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“After the first glass you see things as you wish they were,” Oscar Wilde once said of absinthe. “After the second, you see things as you wish they weren’t. Finally you see things as they really are, and that is the most horrible thing in the world.”

A chemical present in wormwood, thujone, has long been credited with keeping the drinker lucid even as he succumbs to the pleasant hallucinations of alcohol. Recent studies have shown that wormwood excites the nervous system, said Barnaby Conrad III, author of “Absinthe: History in a Bottle.”

As through a dulling of the senses and a slowing of time, Conrad said. That also was true of 19th-century absinthe, he said.

“The real high is the associations,” he said. “Absinthe is pre-1915 Paris, when time unfolded differently.”

Finally what is most interesting, said Barnaby, is drawing new consumers to the old spirit, said Lyons Brown, importer of the Kubler brand.

“American consumers aren’t being introduced to absinthe, they’ve been waiting for it. The demand is already there.”

Using an 1863 recipe passed down through four generations of the Kubler family, distiller Peter Karl macerates the herbs, steeping them for a day in wheat- and rye-based alcohol warmed just above body temperature. Then he distills the mixture slowly, ridging it of the tarragon present in French absinthe and which lends it stronger flavors and a green tint.

Indeed, simmering in the drab recesses of a bar, its warmth making conversation flow above the din of music, Karl’s mixture does seem to work the San Francisco crowd into an exalted state, “a different buzz,” according to patron Tracy Grant, a San Francisco graphic designer.

**Oscar Wilde, Absinthe consumer**

After the second, you see things as they are not. Finally you see things as they really are, and that is the most horrible thing in the world.

...in your opulence

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**LIFE!**

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**Name:** Showtime Championship Boxing  
**Release Date:** December 11, 2007  
**Price:** $29.99

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**Absinthe now available in U.S.**

**Compiled by Kassandra Pool**
DOUGLAS FORTE
Contributing Writer

Jay returns to his roots on his 10th solo LP, American Gangster, a concept album inspired by the recently released film of the same name, starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

He takes familiar emotions from the film and elaborates on them in an album that sonically reflects the 70s, with lyrical content describing his life before rap stardom. By drawing parallels between himself and the title character of the American Gangster film, he sends listeners back to the era of his classic first album, Reasonable Doubt.

The rapper starts with the material, the album is cohesive and stays true to the concept and theme. On the left-field minimalist track, “Hello Brooklyn 2.0,” featuring a wailing Lil’ Wayne on the chorus, Jay opens up to his true love and home town, Brooklyn, New York. It is a turn in a different direction and is sonically more reflective of today’s southern rap music.

“No Hook,” evokes a dark mood, where he justifies the dirty actions of his past, and announces his state of desperation with sincere lines such as, “poor me, dad was gone/finally got my dad back/liver bad, he wouldn’t live long/it snatched my dad back/guidance I never had that/streets was my second home.”

The album then takes on a lighter tone as the funky celebratory “Roc Boys,” and the sweet pop-sounding love anthem, “I Know” follows after. The latter features Pharrell doing what he does best on the chorus and production. Like any successful gangster, whose career inherently attracts controversy and notoriety, Jay focuses on the gangster image on both “Ignorant S*,” featuring a quick verse from fellow Rocafella artist, Beanie Siegel, and “Say Hello.”

Producer Just Blaze provides a smooth Isley Brother’s sample for “Ignorant S*”, while DJ Toomp adds some southern thump for the latter mentioned track. “Success” featuring Nas, isn’t a bad rap track by today’s standards, but a pairing of arguably the two greatest rappers of today should have produced a much better creation. Nas’ verse leaves much to be desired, and constant repetitive shouts over a stuttering dry drum track leaves the song feeling, well, dry.

Jermaine Dupri handles the production duty on the final song, which is a fitting and satisfying closer to a well-rounded and interesting album. The track features Soul artist, Bilial, who lends an insightful chorus, while Jay details the dramatic fall of a drug dealer, with the verses: “life is like a deck of cards/now ya numsling, it’s humbling/ya fallin’, ya mumble/under ya breath like you knew/this day was coming, fallin’.”

There is also the catchy 80’s rap flavored ode to drug dealing, “Blue Magic,” featuring Pharell. Unfortunately “Blue Magic” is not quite formatted to the album’s theme, along with the ironically titled Just Blaze produced gem, “American Gangster”, and “Ignorant S*”.

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Abysmal free throw shooting downs team again

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Sports Editor

Following the pattern of its season, FIU was unable to overcome tentative play and terrible free-throw shooting and dropped to 2-3 on the season following a 73-70 upset at the hands of the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles (3-5) on Dec. 2 at Pharmed Arena.

FIU’s woes continued in the paint when playing sports on any level. "We had a short roster throughout the season. The team’s roster would lose one more player on Sept. 23 when senior midfielder Francesca Chong tore three ligaments in her knee as her parents watched in the stands." Chong screamed on the floor and could not walk under her own power. Chong’s season ending knee injury is the second worst moment of 2007.

1. The last game was inspiring, but the first game was just embarrassing. Yes. The Golden Panthers’ 59-0 loss at Penn State is the worst moment of 2007. Besides playing horribly in front of more than 100,000 people at the stadium, Gracie’s Grill held a watch party in which Golden Panther fans assembled to watch the Nittany Lions tear apart their team.

The game is a blur of misses and destruction. Fans at Gracie’s Grill should’ve suspected the game would not go their way when it took the Golden Panthers nearly the whole first quarter to obtain one first down. That first humiliation would foreshadow the Golden Panthers’ next 10 games, but it could not predict the inconsistencies and poignancy moments of the remainder of the 2007 season.


At home, you’ve got to be able to put people away and we didn’t. With 23 turnovers you can’t win. This is no time to feel sorry for yourself.

23 turnovers.

"At home, you’ve got to be able to put people away and we didn’t. With 23 turnovers you can’t win," said coach Sergio Rouco.

In the second half, there were 13 lead changes, but the final one would take place with 48 seconds remaining in the game when FGCU’s Adam Liddell hit a layup to put the Eagles up for good at 69-68.

Following the score, FIU senior guard Chris Fuller attempted a 3-pointer to retake the lead. He had hit one prior to Liddell’s score to put the Golden Panthers up, but this time his attempt bounced off the rim and FGCU grabbed the rebound to cement the victory.

FIU shot just 58.5 percent from the field for the first time this season, led by sophomore Erick Nsangou, who came off the bench and provided 17 points.

Despite the efficient offense, FIU’s inability to hold onto the ball ultimately led to its downfall, as the Eagles scored 27 points off of FIU’s turnovers. The game was the fifth of a seven-game home stand that opens the season for the Golden Panthers.

The two games were not only the two lone upsets of the year by the Eagles, who are not in their first season of Division I play.

The Golden Panthers’ offense reached above 90 percent shooting from the field for the first time this season, led by sophomore Erick Nsangou, who came off the bench and provided 17 points.

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VISITING: Women’s soccer players Nitza Maldonado (left), Jessica Vaccarro (middle) and Kisten Hurst (right) visit children at Baptist Children’s Hospital, along with other student-athletes from the women’s basketball and swimming diving team.

GIVING BACK

Slain NFL player’s funeral draws players and fans alike

TAYLOR, page 1

The opening portion of the service was allocated towards remembering Taylor as a football player and teammate, but it wasn’t until Taylor’s agent, Drew Rosenhaus, took the stage that the startling realization hit many – more than just a football player was lost.

“I want to thank Sean for being a hero, and giving your life to protect your Jackie and Jackie,” said Rosenhaus, referring to Taylor’s fiancée and child, who were in the home on the night of the shooting.

Pastor Alphonso Jackson III began the service with a simple reminder.

“If we turn tragedy into triumph then brother Taylor’s death will not be in vain.”

The opening portion of the service was allocated towards remembering Taylor as a football player and teammate, but it wasn’t until Taylor’s agent, Drew Rosenhaus, took the stage that the startling realization hit many – more than just a football player was lost.

“The earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal,” Jackson III said.

A recurring, acknowledged theme was the passion and dedication Taylor had for his craft, as tales were told of his isolated workout sessions and intense training.

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The good, bad and ugly of fall sports

**FOOTBALL**

**THE GOOD:** the team ended its 23-game losing streak with a 38-19 win over North Texas...

**THE BAD:** ...but lost every other game they played, and usually by a wide margin.

**THE UGLY:** They gave up 42 points in the first half of a loss to Middle Tennessee, a team that went on to a 5-7 record.

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**VOLLEYBALL**

**THE GOOD:**: Yarimar Rosa was selected as three-time Sun Belt Player of the week.

**THE BAD:** The team was knocked out of the conference tournament in the semifinals.

**THE UGLY:**: The team was swept by rivals Middle Tennessee, winning just 2 out of 11 matches.

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**MEN’S & WOMEN’S SOCCER**

**THE GOOD:** they made it to the C-USA finals before losing to No. 9 ranked Tulsa.

**THE BAD:**: They won just 3 games during the regular season.

**THE UGLY:**: On the verge of a conference title, they allowed 2 goals in the final ten minutes to lose.

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**BONILLA, page 10**

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The football coach Mario Cristobal was dressed by the traditional Gatorade bath, poured on a coach when his team wins the Super Bowl, but FIU won just one game.

**Men’s soccer regular season record was 3-12-2, yet it nearly won the Conference USA championship title.**

And a women’s soccer team player suffered the most severe injury of any player in any sport.

As the football team played its final game Dec. 1, the wacky stadium next season.

Although they melted down in the championship game by their next opponent. Sophomore Juan Guerra lifted the Golden Panthers to euphoria and the title game in the second minute of overtime.

**The good, bad and ugly of fall sports**

1. In the beginning of its season, the men’s soccer team resembled the football team as it could not score or win. Fortunately, the Golden Panthers finished their last seven games with a 3-4 record while entering the Conference USA Tournament thanks to a couple of wins against conference opponents.

After gaining a tournament bid with a 3-12-2 regular season record, the upsets ensued. No. 5 ranked Southern Methodist University defeated the Golden Panthers 2-0 in the regular season. The Golden Panthers’ lackluster offense that only scored 12 goals in 17 games exploded with three goals and defeated the strongest opponent they had faced all season 3-1.

Had the Golden Panthers stopped there, they wouldn’t have grabbed the No. 1 spot, but they were not done yet.

Marshall, a team that defeated the Golden Panthers 1-0 during the regular season, was their next opponent. Sophomore Juan Guerra lifted the Golden Panthers to euphoria and the title game in the second minute of overtime.

Although they melted down in the championship game by...