Students find solutions for closed courses

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

When the end of a semester nears, students sit anxiously at their computers, waiting for their registration appointment so they can pick classes needed to graduate.

For some students, though, registration appointments come too late, and popular or required classes fill up before a chance to register is obtained. For that reason, it’s important to know that students may still be able to get into classes that are already full by filling out a Capacity Override Form, or a little luck.

“We’ve been getting a lot of calls to get [overrides] done,” Martha Cabera, who answers phones at the Enrollment Services Call Center said. When it comes to registration with this form in hand, students should show up to class early, and sit as close to the professor as possible because just like PantherSoft registration, overrides are first come, first served.

Matas said that she has had to get overrides many times and they are not always successful.

“One time the professor put names into a hat because there were so many people who wanted an override,” Matas said.

Students may have more luck getting into closed classes if the room where the class was being held is capable of seating more students than thought, in which case the professor has the authority to allow more students into the class.

Seniors should know that for some classes, such as SPC 4445 Corporate Communication & Leadership, professors will sign the form if the student is only missing one class for graduation.

There are a few things to take into consideration when attempting to get into closed classes – professors don’t have to give you an override, and if they are giving them out, it’s usually a limited number.

“IT’s always at the discretion of the professor to let another student in. It’s never guaranteed,” Cabera said.

If a professor agrees to let another student into a full class, he or she must sign the Capacity Override Form. The student is then responsible for getting the form stamped by the department that is offering the class and for returning it within two days to the Office of the Registrar. Once a student has done this, he or she can register for the class.

CRUNCH TIME: Albert Santana, freshman, gets fit in the Rec center.

PUNCH IT: Sophomore Daniela Diaz workout at the Recreation Center by punching a speed bag.

Recreation Services offers ways to keep New Year’s resolutions

CHRISTINA VEIGA
News Director

Besides debt reduction, quitting smoking and stress elimination, losing weight and getting fit are among the most popular New Year’s Resolutions, according to USA.gov. Recreation Services at University Park is ready to help students stick to their healthy promises during the New Year.

“It’s busy at the beginning of every semester—especially after the New Year. We’re overwhelmed with people,” Carlos Zayas, building supervisor for Recreation Services said.

Graduate student Meaghan Bradshaw thinks she knows why this gym is so packed this time of year.

“I think going home for the holidays and eating mom’s food, and then coming home to beach weather motivates students to come at the beginning of the year,” Bradshaw said.

To help students work off mom’s home-cooking, group fitness classes, personal training and intramural spots are being offered again by the Recreation Center at UP, after being closed over the winter break.

The classes are offered at a variety of times, intensities and costs so that students can choose a work out time that fits their schedules and individual needs.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, this is an important aspect of maintaining a New Year’s resolution. Resolutions that are realistic and have reasonable time frames are more likely to be kept.

“Taking our group fitness classes is not only healthy, but it’s a fun and interactive way to get in shape. It’s not like being a zombie and just going to the gym,” Zayas said.

For early risers, the “20/20/20” class is offered as early as 7 a.m., which is geared towards increasing metabolism through 20 minutes each of jumping rope, strength conditioning and abdominal work.

There are many other workout classes available but “Zumba,” which allows participants to “dance away their worries,” according to the Rec Center Web site, is gaining popularity.

"Zumba is one of our most favorite classes, especially for women, here at FIU. We even have males who joined the class,” Zayas said. “You’re dancing, but you’re also doing a workout at the same time."

Most classes are free, though some charge up to $3 per class.

Others, such as Boot Camp or Women on Weights, last several weeks and cost up to $30. For a complete pricing list see the Rec Center’s Web site.

While the fitness classes are a big help in keeping a New Year’s resolution, they are only half the answer. Personal trainers play a crucial role, according to Rec Center staff.

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ONE TIME THE PROFESSOR PUT NAMES INTO A HAT BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY STUDENTS WHO WANTED AN OVERRIDE.

For senior Jenny Matas, even having an early enrollment appointment does not always help.

“It’s survival of the fittest,” Matas said. “Sometimes [FIU] only offer a class once every two years.”

The first step in trying to get into a closed course is writing down the day and time of the first class of the semester and then going to the department that’s offering the class and picking up the Capacity Override Form.

FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

CRUNCH TIME: Albert Santana, freshman, gets fit in the Rec center.
The Beacon – January 10, 2008

LATINO HEALTH ISSUES

Grant awarded for HIV research

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

FIU received a $6.5 million grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities to continue its research programs on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse among Latinos in South Florida. “This prestigious grant allows us to continue making a difference in the community,” said FIU Executive Vice President and Provost Ronald Berkman in a press release.

The grant is good news for MIAMI, as the city continues to top National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports as the metropolitan area with the second highest incidence of HIV/AIDS for Latinos.

The grant, awarded in Nov. 2007 from the National Institutes of Health will mainly be used to continue research by FIU’s Center for Research on U.S. Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse, also known as CRUSADA. CRUSADA conducts training for up-and-coming researchers and develops prevention programs for Latinos.

“Most studies that investigate the effectiveness of drug treatment or alcohol treatment have been conducted, with few exceptions, in samples of White, non-Latino populations,” Mario De la Rosa, FIU professor and CRUSADA director said in an e-mail. “We want to know what is going on in the Latino community.”

To accomplish their goals, CRUSADA will use the grant money to perform a number of studies related to substance abuse among Latinos. The money will also be used for research training for doctorate students in the field of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.

“We hope that the research we conduct in CRUSADA will result in the provision of more effective treatment for Latinos, leading to a reduction of substance abuse problems in this population,” De la Rosa said in an e-mail.

Also in the works is a community-based agency which will help pin-point the most effective substance abuse programs for Latinos.

The team is also working on a women’s study that concentrates on substance abuse and HIV/AIDS among Latin women. FIU also plans on traveling to South Florida to conduct an outreach program “You Gotta Know, Hav Que Saber” with the grant money.

CRUSADA aims to equalize national research that ignores Latinos and their distinctiveness, De la Rosa said.

“Most studies focused on the white individual,” De la Rosa said. “We do not know if there is cultural uniqueness from which the Latino community could benefit.”

According to De la Rosa, an e-mail, most of the current research has focused on white communities.

This has made it unclear whether or not incorporating unique cultural factors may lead to more effective treatments.

For example, since the Latino community stresses family unity, part of the research will look at whether or not the participation of the participant’s family through substance abuse rehabilitation programs would be beneficial. Research will also focus on whether or not substance abuse and HIV/AIDS is more prevalent among first generation immigrants on Latin-Americans.

De la Rosa also said that the substance abuse and HIV/AIDS problem will not be cured overnight but the grant will help the program combat balancing HIV/AIDS and substance abuse programs among Latinos in South Florida.

“This is an ongoing effort, it will not disappear, but our hope is it will be reduced,” De la Rosa said.

JOIN THE BEACON STAFF!

If you have an interest in writing, photography, or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 and fill out an application.


**NEWSFLASH**

Social welfare program ranks fourth in nation for faculty productivity

The Faculty of the Ph.D. social welfare program at FIU was ranked number four in the national according to the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, produced by AcaDemic Analytics.

Faculty productivity is measured by books published, journal publications, citations of journal articles and federal grant dollars awarded and honors and awards. The importance of each category is decided by its relevance in a given area of study. UC Berkeley, the University of Michigan and the University of Washington placed ahead of FIU.

A according to Paul Stuart, professor and director of the School of Social Work, the social welfare program at FIU focuses on addictions, child welfare, mental health, adolescence, evidence-based practice and works with Hispanic populations.

To view a list of recognized professors, visit: http://news.fiu.edu/releases/2007/12/21_exceliciency.htm.
The benefit of working with a personal trainer would be the one-on-one attention," said Lance Kearns, graduate assistant for Recreation Services. "They are nationally certified, so their life is personal fitness." Trainers are available for a fee in the Rec Center, with initial consultations and post-assessments starting at $20 each and individual rates for one-hour training sessions starting at $30 - the price, Kearns said, is worth it.

"It probably is for students in general, but in comparison to regular private trainers, it's very reasonable," Kearns said. The Rec Center is able to offer reduced rates for personal trainers because a portion of their services is included in the Recreation Services budget. Essentially, students only pay for the time and the facilities used.

According to Kearns, students who work with personal trainers are more likely to continue to work out on a regular basis because the trainer works to accommodate the student's needs. Personal trainers can also be an advantage for students who are inexperienced or uncomfortable in a workout setting, Kearns said. All this translates into a greater likelihood that New Year's resolutions are kept.

Other options to stay fit and keep that weight-loss resolution can be found in the intramural sports offered by the Rec Center. There are leagues in soccer, dodge ball, ultimate frisbee and basketball, among others, for the Spring 2008 semester. Students must be enrolled for at least one credit hour and must be a recreation member to participate. Currently enrolled students who have paid the Activity and Services fee of $10.52 per credit hour for continuing students are automatically Rec members. To form an intramural sports team, a team captain must be selected and register the team with the appropriate deadline. Students and Recreation Members can also bring as many as two guests per visit to the Rec Center by paying $10 each or a $5 per person, per visit fee for racquetball, in addition to a guest waiver being signed.

For more information on Group Fitness classes, personal trainers, or intramural sports at FIU UP, visit the Recreation Services Web site at http://www.fiu.edu/camprec.
**North Miami Beach officer found shot, dead in vehicle**

**USA ORKIN EMMANUEL**

A Miami police officer was found shot to death in an unmarked patrol car riddled with bullet holes nearly Tuesday, becoming South Florida’s fourth law enforcement officer killed in recent months.

Detective James Walker, 30, was found in his car in an alley by North Miami Beach officers responding to shots fired around 12:50 a.m., said Miami police spokesman Lt. Bill Schwartz.

“His car had been filled with holes,” he said. “The car was made into Swiss cheese.”

Police were now searching for at least one gunman and a white Ford Taurus with bullet holes.

Blood trails led from Walker’s car, and officers in flak jackets, helmets and rifles walked around the scene as investigators searched the area for clues.

Police said a high powered assault weapon was found at the scene, but did not disclose whether it was the one used to kill Walker.

Walker was taken to a Miami hospital, but was conscious and talking as he was transported to a Miami hospital, Schwartz said.

“We think he’s going to be fine,” he added.

Walker had been a member of the Miami police since 2000, and had been working with the department’s domestic violence unit.

His ex-wife lived in the area where he was found, said John Randle, the detective’s brother-in-law.

“I don’t know what he was doing in this alley. He was a good, humble guy. He was no trouble. I can’t tell you no flaws.”

**I don’t know what he was doing in this alley. He was a good, humble guy. He was no trouble. I can’t tell you no flaws.**

**NEWSFLASH**

Kayak on the Bay

Biscayne Bay Recreation invites students to Kayak on Oleta River Jan. 11 at noon. Students are asked to meet at the boat ramp behind the aquatic center the day of the event. Equipment is provided, no experience necessary. Call 305-919-4701 for details.

**5JMC students honored by New York Times**

The New York Times has chosen FIU students Yolanne Almanzar and Jose Pagliery for their Hispanic Student Journalism Institute program at the University of Arizona. Almanzar and Pagliery were chosen from a pool of 18 national competitors.

Six FIU students have participated to date, making FIU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication the only U.S. program with so many honorees. A Almanzar and Pagliery begin with H$J$ in Jan. 2008.

**Cinema Thursdays returns**

Cinema Thursdays starts off the Spring semester with “Dan in Real Life,” Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. The reel keeps rolling with “American Gangster” screening Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. and “I Am Legend” March 13 at 5 p.m. The season closes with “The Great Debaters” April 10 at 7 p.m. All movies are shown in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. Call 305-919-5280 for more information.

**SGA offers scholarship applications**

Student Government Association has eight $500 scholarships available for the Fall and Spring semesters. Four one-time $250 scholarships are also available. GPA requirements range between a 2.5 through 3.5 minimum depending on award stipulations. To apply, stop by the SGA-BBC’s office in WUC 141 to pick up an application. Deadline is March 14 at 5p.m.
Hillary wins N.H.; race will be a long one

CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. UH Editor

Well, I guess no one is going to cruise to the nomination. Months before Barack Obama won Iowa, Chris Mather and other pundits called the nomination for Hillary Clinton, some mocking the notion that Barack Obama could even come close to winning the nomination.

Then Barack Obama won Iowa, and all of a sudden he had a chance. Unfortunately, Obama apparently erred in an attempt to announce a new inevitable frontrunner, acting as if Barack Obama won on Monday, the day before the primary.

Meanwhile, the Clinton campaign sent out signals that they were worried about New Hampshire, that they were reeling from an unexpectedly strong Obama. Then Hillary narrowly won the New Hampshire primary. And the media was forced to deal with a more complicated narrative. The over-dramatic nature of the media’s treatment of Obama’s rise just made Clinton’s “comeback” more dramatic.

As a Democrat and Obama supporter, I had worried that those favoring Obama’s candidacy seemed a bit overconfident, and perhaps some of his supporters were. Now, with Nevada and South Carolina looming, it’s anybody’s game, with Hillary and McCain set for a dramatic battle. While we won’t know who the Democratic nominee is for weeks now, clearly, things in politics is predictable, and no candidate on either side can be called “Inevitable.”

Chris Cabral currently serves as the president of the FIU College Democrats

McCain victory puts him back in the game

JOSE MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

Failing to duplicate the results of the Iowa primary election, surprise winner Mike Huckabee was defeated by Mitt Romney and John McCain, the latter of whom secured the victory in the tightly contested New Hampshire primary election. McCain’s victory in New Hampshire can only serve to contribute to the uncertainty surrounding the Republican presidential nomination. Mitt Romney, who appeared to be the front-runner prior to the Iowa primary, has seen a considerable decline in his support, which is evident from his inability to garner victory in either primary. One-time front-runner Rudy Giuliani said his support in the polls begin to wane even before the Iowa caucus, in the wake of allegations which called attention to his infidelities.

The inability of both Romney and Giuliani to garner victory in the two caucuses brings the viability of both campaigns into question. McCain’s win in New Hampshire will likely serve as a wake-up call to all the other Republican candidates, who will redouble their efforts in the specter of the upcoming South Carolina caucus.

The importance of a victory in South Carolina has become even more clear to both Romney and Giuliani, who have yet to deliver on the promise of their earlier popularity. One thing remains clear, however, the nomination can go anywhere, as no clear-cut frontrunner has yet to emerge.

Huckabee’s appeal seems to be limited to areas where his Conservative Christian support base can mobilize, and it remains unclear if McCain can duplicate his success in New Hampshire elsewhere.

We have seen attacks drop from an average of 150 a week in [the] late January and February [2007] time frame, to less than 10 attacks a week... The result has been nothing short of phenomenal.

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With a decline in violence comes a decline in coverage of the war

CHRISTOPHER NEUCZE
Production Manager

With the amount of media coverage being given to the race for the presidency and its primary process, important issues are being lost in the shuffle. Once the issue that dominated the headlines, the Iraq war has taken a backseat in the minds of most Americans to more domestic issues like healthcare, immigration and the economy.

The downturn in the amount of coverage comes at a time when the situation on the ground is improving. Speaking with reporters via videoconference last December, Major Joseph Fil, a commander of multinational troops in Baghdad, put the situation in perspective.

“The number of attacks against citizens in Baghdad has dropped by almost 80 percent since November 2006,” he said. “The number of vehicle-borne improvisied explosive device incidents has also declined by about 70 percent.”

A Col. Paul E. Funk, commander of a Brigade Combat Team, or BCT, also recognizes clear signs of improvement.

“We have seen attacks drop from an average of 150 a week in [the] late January and February [2007] time frame, to less than 10 attacks a week,” Funk said. “The result has been nothing short of phenomenal.”

So why the drop in coverage? Shouldn’t the media be praising the success of the President Bush backed “surge” of 30,000 additional troops into Iraq to quell the rampant sectarian violence? What’s to be said about the flourishing of businesses and the overall return to normalcy in the Iraqi capital?

Though the media has not completely ignored recent military successes, it seems that because news outlets have run out of bad news to report, they have turned their attention away from the war and focused toward the presidential campaign.

Even coverage of the campaign itself is reminiscent of the coverage of celebrity scandals with pundits and analysts spending nights after night picking over candidate actions and words, siphoning each for meanings that may or may not be there.

Though the coverage of the Democrats went in bringing attention to its failures.

You can’t blame the Democrats for not wanting people to consider the war as their main issue. As things improved, it becomes evident that perhaps the President’s plan wasn’t such a bad idea after all. Bringing too much attention to Iraq might actually backfire on the Dems in favor of the GOP.

As important as the national discussion arena is critical for those Democrats initially against the surge, we won’t know who the Democratic nominee is for weeks now, clearly, things in politics is unpredictable, and no candidate on either side can be called “Inevitable.”

With a decline in violence comes a decline in coverage of the war

In early 2007, when the situation in Iraq was at its direst, it was smart politics to disagree with anything and everything the president said.

Democrats, and even some Republicans, disagreed the troop surge idea as more of the same. In a letter to president Bush in early 2007, called the idea “a strategy that you have already tried and that has already failed.”

Many Democrats and Republicans alike were both for a surge and against a surge because in 2007, you could say that each had been an advocate of it.

Those Democrats and Republicans against the surge should be questioned about their convictions just as they are questioned about their initial convictions about whether or not to invade Iraq in the first place.
 Panther Promotions makes its name by giving away freebies

Kassandra Pool
Staff Writer

Panther Promotions, a new club created last fall within the Student Organizations Council, wants to give you free stuff. The thing with Panther Promotions is that it’s like [the] selfless friend you have who never thinks about themselves and is always looking for ways to help you,” said Rosalyn Delgado, a member of Panther Promotions.

With over 20 members, this unique club has a mission of providing various organizations on campus with promotional items such as movie passes and T-shirts, all to enhance the pre-existing events of those clubs. “A NY organization on campus can simply come up to us and say, ‘Hey, I need giveaways for a fund-raising event’ and we will provide them with giveaways,” Delgado said. “It’s like a ‘go-to’ club.”

Ayxa Barbel, a junior majoring in Radiologic Technology, is Panther Promotions’ founder and president. Her inspiration in creating this club “has been a family friend who was a fund raiser for the Florida International University community and provided promotional items,” she said.

In the past Barbel has been involved in both the Student Programming Council and the Student Organizations Council. Barbel was able to provide giveaways for both of these organizations for their respective events. Even though her original focus was to get items for her own organizations, she still had many frequent requests from other organizations and departments such as Housing, Panther Rage and the Orientation office.

“I felt it was time to go 100 percent FIU, not 90 percent of our 25 percent SPC and 10 percent FIU,” Barbel said.

Networking has been Barbel’s key in obtaining all of her promotional items. While working for WRGP, she was able to build a strong foundation with many companies and venues in Florida, including Allied Advertising and Live Nation.

As she became involved with other organizations, the companies were confident to move with her and still provide her with many items for giveaway.

Last fall, PP worked with and provided promotional items for BE HIV Educated (B-HIVE), Panther Rage, Office of Admissions, Programming Council and the International Student Club and MusiCares Lives.

According to PP secretary Lysette Blanco, promotional managers in the club act as liaisons between the organization that is requesting items to give away and Panther Promotions.

As a fall event Panther Promotions helps collect toys for a toy drive promoting the family movie “Mr. M. algorithm’s Wonder Emporium,” starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman.

The drive was held in 10 cities across the United States and broke the world record for the most toys collected in a single week during a toy drive. The group received a certificate recognizing this accomplishment.

Although the club receives and provides promotional items, storage has become a problem, since they apparently have so many to give away that they have been nearly overwhelmed.

“It would be much easier for us to function and benefit the Graham Center along with the various organizations on campus if we had a specific place to work out of,” Barbel said. “Having an office would give students, faculty and organizations a better way to reach us when they need our assistance.”

Barbel’s goal for Panther Promotions is to have the organization become an asset to the Florida International University community and she hopes to achieve this through persistent hard work and dedication to the club.

“What we want is to help organizations have the best events that they can have while we reward FIU students for coming out to them,” Barbel said.

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### WEEKEND RUNDOWN

#### THURSDAY • JANUARY 10
- **WHAT:** Tea and Coffee World Cup
- **WHERE:** Miami Beach Convention Center
- **1901 Convention Center Dr**
- **Miami Beach, FL 33139**
- **WHEN:** Daily
- **HOW MUCH:** Individual sessions cost $50, a day pass costs $90

#### FRIDAY • JANUARY 11
- **WHAT:** Bobby Collins
- **WHERE:** The Theatre
- **854 Conniston Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33405**
- **WHEN:** 7:30pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $28.50

#### SATURDAY • JANUARY 12
- **WHAT:** Lichtenstein at the Fairchild
- **WHERE:** Fairchild Tropical Garden
- **10901 Old Cutler Road**
- **Miami, FL 33156**
- **WHEN:** Daily
- **HOW MUCH:** $20

#### SUNDAY • JANUARY 13
- **WHAT:** 2008 Miss Miami Scholarship Pageant
- **WHERE:** Alper JCC Theater
- **11155 SW 112 Ave Kendall, FL 33176**
- **WHEN:** 4pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $40

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**WEEKEND RUNDOWN continued...**

#### FRIDAY • JANUARY 11
- **WHAT:** The Jewish Princesses Of Comedy
- **WHERE:** Collins Park
- **21st Street and Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139**
- **WHEN:** 6pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $30

#### SATURDAY • JANUARY 12
- **WHAT:** WrestleMania Fan Axxia Tour
- **WHERE:** Dolphin Mall
- **11250 NW 25 St. Doral, Florida 33172**
- **WHEN:** All Day
- **HOW MUCH:** Varies

#### SUNDAY • JANUARY 13
- **WHAT:** Absinthe, A production of SpiegelWorld
- **WHERE:** Collins Park
- **2200 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, FL 33139**
- **WHEN:** 8pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $69-$85

**WEEKEND RUNDOWN continued...**

#### SATURDAY • JANUARY 12
- **WHAT:** Impromedy
- **WHERE:** Roxy Performing Arts Center
- **1645 SW 107th Ave Miami, FL 33165**
- **WHEN:** 9pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $10

#### SUNDAY • JANUARY 13
- **WHAT:** Matt Haimovitz and Jean Marchano
- **WHERE:** University of Miami Gusman Hall
- **1314 Miller Dr, Miami, FL 33124**
- **WHEN:** 4pm
- **HOW MUCH:** $15

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**WEEKEND RUNDOWN continued...**

#### FRIDAY • JANUARY 11
- **WHAT:** Fashion Friday’s
- **WHERE:** Prive
- **South Beach, FL 33139**
- **WHEN:** 11 p.m.
- **HOW MUCH:** $20

#### SATURDAY • JANUARY 12
- **WHAT:** Barefoot Oasis
- **WHERE:** Mandrin Oriental
- **10901 Old Cutler Road**
- **Miami, FL 33181**
- **WHEN:** 6 - 11 p.m.
- **HOW MUCH:** Free entrance 21 and over

#### SUNDAY • JANUARY 13
- **WHAT:** Cabaret Friday
- **WHERE:** La Paloma
- **10999 Biscayne Blvd North Miami, FL 33181**
- **WHEN:** 9pm
- **HOW MUCH:** Free before 10 p.m.
**Turbulent year for recording industry brings change**

**ALEX VEIGA**

AP Writer

When you are not inclined to give your product away for free, make your customers believe they are getting something for nothing.

That’s the thinking behind some of the offerings music fans may see this year as the recording industry scrambles to offset losses from plunging CD sales and find new sources of revenue when many consumers simply download music for free.

A mong the business models music fans are likely to see more of: music subscriptions bundled with the price of internet access, and services like NOKIA Corp.’s upcoming Comes With Music, which would give users of select mobile phones a year’s worth of unlimited access to music, for no extra charge.

Music companies also are expected to license songs for more ad-supported Web loads or faster download speeds that comes with unlimited music download service in France offered through broadband provider Neuf Cegetel.

Recording company executives who once saw new technology as the enemy seem to now see it as a lifeline.

The major labels — Sony BMG, VIVENDI SA’s Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group Corp. and Britain’s EMI Group PLC — declined to comment.

In a recent memo to employees, Warner Music Chairman and CEO Edgar Bronfman Jr. touched on the importance of developing new areas of digital music.

The company’s stock price has plunged more than 75 percent over the past year.

Bronfman alluded to the industry this year would pursue a way to “monetize the unauthorized flow of our artists’ audio content on the Internet.”

That could involve striking deals with Internet service providers to help compensate labels for the millions of songs swapped online.

Another approach involves Internet service providers offering a pricing tier that comes with unlimited music downloads or faster download speeds that might be attractive to computer users who download a lot of music files.

Last year, Universal Music began testing an unlimited music download service in France offered through broadband provider Neuf Cegetel.

Then there’s Universal Music’s Total Music, which is expected to extend what Universal is doing with NOKIA’s Comes With Music to everything from personal computers to digital music players, with the cost of the music built into the price.

Sales of digital tracks at ITunes and elsewhere surged 45 percent last year compared with 2006, according to Nielsen SoundScan. But digital music still accounts for a small portion of overall music sales, and U.S. album sales in CDs and other formats grew 30 percent.

Despite mixed results trying to breathe life into the CD by adding video and other multimedia extras, the recording industry will roll out a host of new variants to stores this year.

One, dubbed the CD-View Plus, lets customers access a trove of additional content when they go online.

Another is digital gift cards, which enable users to download specific albums, something STARBUCKS already sells.

“There’s a lot of experimentation going on,” said Jim Donio, president of the National Association of Recording Merchandisers, a trade group that represents hundreds of retailers, record labels and other music-related firms.

Consumers may also see a bigger push this year for CD singles, dubbed “rings,” that include mobile phone ringtones and other digital content, Milligan said. Universal Music and Sony BMG, which is a joint venture of Sony Corp. and Bertelsmann AG, are among the labels that have plans to release ringles, he said.

“Everyone is looking for a formula that will provide healthy growth for the industry, which I believe will come,” Donio said. “The other side of this will be to load with new kinds of opportunities, for arguably a marketplace that probably doesn’t look anything like it looks now.”

**Grooming becomes an exchange for monkey sex**

**GILLIAN WONG**

AP Writer

Male macaque monkeys pay for sex by grooming females, according to a recent study that suggests the primates may treat sex as a commodity.

“In primate societies, grooming is the underlying fabric of it all,” Dr. MacGillivray, a primate biologist at the University of California, Berkeley, said in a interview. “It’s a sign of friendship and family, and a behavior that can be exchanged for sexual services,” Gumert said.

Gumert’s findings, reported in New Scientist last week, result from a 20-month observation of about 50 long-tailed macaques in a reserve in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Gumert found after a male grooming a female, the likelihood that she will engage in sexual activity with the male was about three times more than if the grooming had not occurred.

And as with other commodities, the value of sex is affected by supply and demand factors: A male would spend more time grooming a female if there were fewer females in the vicinity.

“ND when the female eats better, the male spends less time on grooming ... The mating actually becomes cheaper depending on the market,” Gumert said.

Other experiments involved in the study welcomed Gumert’s research, saying it was a major effort in systematically studying the interaction of organisms in ways in which an exchange of commodities or services can be observed — a theory known as biological markets.

Dr. Peter Hammerstein, a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Biology at Humboldt University in Berlin and Dr. Ronald Noé, a primatologist at the University of Louis-Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, first proposed the concept of biological markets in 1994.

“It’s not a rare phenomenon in nature that males have to make some ‘mating effort’ in order to get a female’s ‘permission’ to mate,” Hammerstein said in an interview, likening the effort to a “fee” that the male pays.

“The interesting result of Dr. Gumert’s research on macaque mating is that the mating market seems to have an influence on the amount of this fee,” Hammerstein said.

Hammerstein said Gumert’s findings indicate the monkeys are capable of adjusting their behavior to “different market conditions.”

Gumert completed his fieldwork in February 2005 and first published his findings in the November issue of “Animal Behaviour,” a scientific monthly journal.

**PRICELESS COMEDY:**

Comedy Show

Dan Adhoot performs live at the GC ballrooms on Monday, Jan. 7. The performance was free to students and put together by the Student Programming Council at University Park.
**Sports Replay**

The first Sun Belt Conference win of the season came at the expense of the Florida Atlantic University Owls (4-11, 5-7) at the Rehoboth Arena.

With the 69-58 victory, the Golden Panthers (4-5) snapped a six-game losing streak behind junior guard Kenna D'Andre's 17 points and 11 rebounds performance.

White knocked down four 3-pointers in one of the team's most efficient games on offense this season.

The team managed to shoot 55 percent from the field, including a 10-of-19 shooting display from three-point range.

Cameron Simms led the Owls with 13 points and Brett Royster added 10 points. Nwogu got the Owls offense going by scoring the team's first five points.

However, the Lonely Panthers' early shooting success left the Owls trailing 41-23 at halftime. The Golden Panthers' shooting cooled down in the second half as they scored 28 points and shot 41 percent from the field compared to shooting 70 percent in the first half.

Carl Monroe, the Owls' leading scorer and rebounder, was neutralized, scoring seven points and grabbing five rebounds after entering the game averaging 17.4 points and 9.4 rebounds per game.

Freshman guard Russell Tremayne started his first game of the season for FIU in absence of senior guard Michael James.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

By defeating the Florida Atlantic Owls (4-5) 53-44, the Golden Panthers (5-9) men's and women's squads swept the Owls Jan. 5 at the Rehoboth Arena.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson recorded her third double-double of the season notching 16 points and recording 10 rebounds. The best distributor of the game was junior guard Iva Ciglar with eight assists.

From the opening layup by senior forward Jazmine Jenkins, the Golden Panthers did not trail in the game. Jenkins finished with nine points and a game-high 15 rebounds.

Despite shooting less than 30 percent from the field, the Golden Panthers out-rebounded the Owls 54-39. They shot just 4-of-21 from three-point range, but the Owls' responded with a 1-of-10 shooting performance from behind the arc.

Carla Stubbs was the Owls' leading scorer with 11 points. The closest the Owls came to taking the lead was when a Stubbs 3-pointer made it 20-19 with 4:25 left in the first half. That would mark the last score of the first half for the Owls as they headed into halftime trailing 26-19.

Every time the Owls made a run, the Golden Panthers held them at bay with their defensive fervor and containment.

With 1:50 left in the game, the Owls inched their way within five points, trailing 49-44, but the Golden Panthers defense did not allow any more time for the remainder of the contest to capture the 53-44 victory.

**SWIMMING AND DIVING**

The fifth annual FIU Invitational took place Jan 5 at the Mami Shores Aquatics Center. Participating in the invitational is an FIU tradition for the team.

The FIU swimming team played host to men's and women's teams from American, Iowa, Lake Forest College and Oakland in a meet that consisted entirely of relays.

The Golden Panthers won fourth place in the 200-yard breaststroke relay behind Erin Pavlick, Lindsey Juman, Katelynn Stevens and Sara Giovanni.

The men's and women's fields were also represented on the women's side, Iowa scored 176 points, Oakland 98, FIU 40 and American 38.

On the women's side, Iowa finished with 172 points, followed by Oakland 102, American 52 and Lake Forest 22.

FIU does not have a men's swim team.

The Golden Panthers travel to Tallahassee to take on Florida A&M and No. 20 Florida State on Jan. 12.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

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**FOOTBALL, page 12**

The sneezefest of the title game wasn't.

I wouldn't be surprised if most of America watched American Gladiators on NBC that night.

The game felt like it was rerun of last year's contest.

All you had to do with this year's championship game was take out Florida and replace them with LSU.

The next big day for college football fans is Feb. 6, National Signing Day, the first day that high school recruits can sign letters of intent to attend a university.

More college football fans will tune in to watch some high school kids on their news conference announcing his decision to attend school X or Y than watch a national title game and after watching this performance, I can't blame them.

Recruiting has become such a hot topic among web sites, sports radio talk shows and blogs. Fans like uncertainty.

Fans like drama. It's fun to guess and try to gauge an athlete's potential and who they can become in the future.

Why is it that baseball fans hoot and holler when a rookie shortstop can be the new Roy Halladay or rookie shortstop can be the new Derek Jeter.

Because everyone thinks that's their backup quarterback or rookie shortstop can be the new Tom Brady or Derek Jeter.

So if you want some predictability, just tune into TBS. I think they're rerunning the Seinfeld episode with Puffy and soup Nazi.
The women’s basketball team (5-9, 1-2) will face conference foe Louisiana-Monroe (10-4, 3-0) Jan. 19 at the Pharmed Arena.

ULM will present the Golden Panthers with one of its more difficult conference match-ups of the season as they are unbeaten in conference play.

So far this year, the Golden Panthers have been fortunate enough to get solid play from its two pre-season all-conference award winners: senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson and junior guard Iva Ciglar.

Ferguson is leading the team in scoring with 18 points per game and has even stepped up in the rebounding game by grabbing double-digit totals twice this season for the first time in her career.

Ciglar is once again providing her teammates with lots of good looks that have her leading the team in assists for the second consecutive season. Ciglar’s 10 points per game is another plus she brings to the table.

The rest of the Golden Panthers have not been quite as consistent.

Sophomore guard Monika Bosilj and freshman Fanni Hutlassa have had some great performances this season, but in other games they have been off the mark.

If they can find a way to stay sharp, the Golden Panthers will be hard to keep off the scoreboard.

Thus far, the team’s younger players are showing promise as all of FIU’s four incoming freshmen have exceeded expectations and taken advantage of their extended playing time.

Hutlassa has played power forward most of the year and has already become one of the team’s go-to players when a basket is needed.

Forward Liene Jekabsone has shown that she has inherited some skills from her older sister Lasma, who was a star player for FIU the last few seasons. Center Maja Krajacic has not played too many minutes but has provided a boost on a few occasions.

Guard Tabitha Drake has played some of the fewest minutes of the freshmen, but always seems ready to go and can put the ball in the basket.

ULM is led by senior center Shannon Lloyd who averages 10 points and seven rebounds per game.

This season, ULM has pretty much won all the games it should have. Its four losses were against more developed programs such as Syracuse, St. John’s, Tulane and Southern Mississippi.

ULM is undefeated against its three Sun Belt Conference opponents.

Dribble and Shoot: Senior LaQuetta Ferguson (bottom) and freshman Fanni Hutlassa (top) have become two of the team’s top performers on the team.
SPORTS

The Beacon – January 10, 2008

If you have had this problem for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.

You may qualify if you:
1. are 18 years or older
2. are in good general health

Study participants will receive study-related examinations & investigational medications at no cost. Study participants will also be compensated up to $2,000 for time and travel.

For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757

LEADING THE WAY: Sophomore power forward Nickola Gracesa (left) and junior guard Kenneth White (right) are going to looked to by teammates to help the Golden Panthers upset the Hilltoppers.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team looking to upset top conference foe

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

If the men's basketball team enjoyed the taste of its first Sun Belt conference win of the season against Florida Atlantic Jan. 5, then it will likely have to play just as well or better in order to savor a victory against a more formidable conference foe in Western Kentucky.

FIU (4-9) will travel to Western Kentucky University (10-5) on Jan. 12 looking to upset the No. 2 team in the Sun Belt's East Division and keep hopes of winning the conference.

The Golden Panthers will face a much stronger offense than they did against FAU (4-11), who is second to last in the conference in scoring. FIU will have to contend against sharp shooting Western Kentucky, who ranks in the top three in the conference in field goal and 3-point shooting percentage.

The Hilltoppers are led by the explosive backcourt of Courtney Lee and Tyron Brazelton, who account for 34 points of the team's 77-point game average.

The 6-5 Lee averages 20.3 points alone and has scored as many as 30 points in a game this season. Brazelton, who plays point guard, has 34 3-point field goals in 15 games this season, shooting at a scorching 53 percent from long range.

That can work in favor of Golden Panther center Russell Hicks, who leads the team in scoring thanks in part to his seven-foot, 250 pound frame. Hicks, who averages 13.3 points per game, should get a high dose of touches inside to attempt to exploit the Hilltoppers lack of size.

Western Kentucky also relies on guards A.J Slaughter and Ty Rogers to contribute to their offense, and both average over seven points to complement the starting backcourt of Lee and Brazelton.

The Golden Panthers can gash the perimeter oriented Hilltoppers on the inside, where WKU has no player over 6-9.

Golden Panthers guard Kenneth "Redd" White transferred to FIU from Texas A&M with a reputation as a potential explosive scorer and he is finally beginning to blossom for the Golden Panthers.

White has averaged 14.5 points over the last two games on 7-of-16 shooting, including a 5-of-10 performance from 3-point range.

The junior guard scored a season-high 17 points in the Golden Panthers first conference victory of the season against Florida Atlantic on Jan. 5.

Are you unable to fall asleep before midnight? Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning? You may suffer from Delayed Phase Sleep Syndrome.

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MAGIC MOMENT

Former Golden Panther Carlos Arroyo has his number retired

BY DARREN COLLETTE     Staff Writer

One of the most heralded careers in FIU men's basketball history was forever commemo-
trated on Jan. 5 at the Pharmed arena as the jersey of former Golden Panther Carlos Arroyo
was retired.

The ceremony was held during halftime of the game against Florida Atlantic University.

"It means a lot," said Arroyo, who currently plays for the NBA's Orlando Magic. "It lets me know
that I made the right decisions in life. I worked hard for everything I have and this is a blessing.

"It is a gift from the sport to me and I am truly honored to be rewarded this way."

During his tenure at FIU, Arroyo played in 100 games and
set the all-time school record for assists in a career, points in a
game (39) and points per game in a season (21.2).

He also recorded the second most steals and is the program's
second leading scorer with 1,600 career points, trailing only Dwight
Stewart.

Following his outstanding
career at FIU, Arroyo was signed
by the NBA's Toronto Raptors.

A royo played in 17 games,
but did not put up any big numbers.
Later that season, he was
waived by the Raptors and was
eventually signed by the Denver Nuggets.

In Denver, Arroyo started to
improve and scored in double
digits four times and even got his
first start of his NBA career.

A royo's career would begin
to pick-up in the same place as
his former FIU teammate Raja
Bell, the Utah Jazz.

During the 2003-04 season,
A royo averaged a career-best
12.6 points per game and he led
the Jazz in assists that season with
five per game. He also scored a
career-high 30 points in Novem-
ber of 2003.

Despite his success with Utah,
he was traded to the Detroit
Pistons where he would play
his career-high 30 points in Novem-
ber of 2003.

Currently, Arroyo is playing
for the Magic and has practiced with
him for the second straight time. Defeat
looked like a man who had fallen
for the flaming bag of pooh tric
in the 2004 Olympics, he aver-
aged 21.2 points per game in the
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