DIGGING FOR TRUTH
Exploring African diaspora

FANTASY BASEBALL
Sports have never been pure

LEGAL DRUGS
Hallucinogen still permitted

HUGE WIN
Mens B-ball crushes Troy

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

CHANGE OF HEART
Negative feedback leads to new unpaid ticket policy

Ben E. Badger Jr., Asst. News Director

Starting this year, the Office of Parking and Transportation will no longer be using collection agencies to collect unpaid parking tickets issued to FIU students and faculty.

“As a result of student, faculty and staff feedback, the Office of Parking and Transportation has modified its collection policy as it relates to outstanding parking and traffic tickets,” said Bill Foster, the director of parking and transportation, in a letter to The Beacon.

Previously, OPT would turn over unpaid citations to the NCO Financial Systems collection agency after 210 days. This policy had been in place since 2006.

Starting in Summer 2008, students will not be able to register for classes the following semester until they have paid all citations or appealed them, while faculty will not be able to purchase a parking decal.

“The goal here is two-fold: to comply with state mandate that the Office of Parking and Transportation have a collection policy to be an effective one,” Foster said.

“Placing holds complies with a requirement set forth by state auditors, who mandate that the Office of Parking and Transportation have effective collections mechanisms in place,” Foster said in the letter. “I call on our students and the entire University community to please observe our parking rules and regulations that permit access to campus and ensure safety to students, faculty and staff.”

For more information on the OPT’s current policies, visit its Web site at www.parking.fi.edu.

Students and faculty can also call the Parking and transportation office at 305-919-5558 for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

On-campus arrest made after man displays firearm

Chris Towers, Asst. News Director

A man was arrested on Jan. 9 for showing a gun after a verbal confrontation in the lobby of Lakeview Housing Complex with three residents and a desk assistant.

According to Bill King, chief of Public Safety, the suspect, who was not an FIU student, was visiting an acquaintance in the building before getting into an argument with the residents.

The suspect was charged with aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm, both of which carry felony designations, according to King.

“The people involved did not know each other, so there was no prior provocation for the incident,” said King.

His department could not disclose the names of the parties involved or why the argument began, citing an ongoing investigation.

Following the incident, the desk assistant who was assaulted called Public Safety. According to King, officers responded within minutes.

“Everyone involved responded in the way they have been trained to, and that is important for students to understand,” said Cathy Akins, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, in whose division Residential Life falls.

When Public Safety arrived, the suspect was taken into custody and moved to the Miami-Dade County “PGK” lock up where he is being held pending further investigation.

“This isn’t the first time Lakeview housing residences have been trained to, and that is important for students to understand.”

Cathy Akins, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs

Everyone involved responded in the way they have been trained to, and that is important for students to understand.

Village residence hall has had security concerns. In September, police had to escort a resident off campus after discovering he lied about past arrests on his housing agreement.

All residents must sign a housing agreement which requires students to provide accurate information and abide by housing rules and regulations.

According to the general information page on the Housing and Residential Life Web site, “The Housing and Residential Life department has deployed several surveillance cameras throughout the residence halls and in building entrances, lobby areas and elevators. These cameras are not monitored by the staff and are used to document daily activities in the event a record is needed to aid in an investigation.”

“We have a very good camera system,” King said. “We are still investigating to see if there are any images we can use.”

Cathy Akins, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs

Everyone involved responded in the way they have been trained to, and that is important for students to understand.

In the United States, 38 states do not allow guns at schools, and 16 states, including Florida, expressly do not allow students to carry concealed firearms on campus, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

According to King, this holds true at FIU, where only Public Safety officers are allowed to carry firearms on campus.

Public Safety’s Campus Security Report states that FIU police reported 23 instances of aggravated assault at FIU, from...
The subhead for the lead Sports story was also incorrectly listed.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UPO office at 305-348-2709 or 96C at 305-919-4722.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 7 issue of The Beacon, Fernando Figueredo should have been named as interim department chair.

The subhead for the lead Sports story was also incorrectly listed.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UPO office at 305-348-2709 or 96C at 305-919-4722.

THEORY MEETS PRACTICE

First Annual International Business Symposium “treads across a flatter globe”

CHRISTINA VEIGA
News Director

Sorry, don’t know. This is not the place to get that kind of information. Please call 305-919-4722 for any questions regarding marketing or advertising of The Beacon.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The symposium will be held at FIU’s Miami campus on January 18 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Graham Center ballrooms.

The symposium will be open to all majors. “Students should show up to help themselves understand what they can do for getting into the professional level,” said Dobb. “Students should go to the symposium and ask questions posed by the audience.”

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The Beacon – January 14, 2008

2004-2006. Only three of these instances took place at residence halls.

Following the shooting at Virginia Tech last year, many universities set up emergency plans in case of emergencies. When asked about a plan to lock down the housing buildings in the event of an emergency, neither Emergency Management nor Public Safety were willing to comment.

One thing emphasized by both King and Akens was the resident's responsibilities to be alert and aware of their surroundings. "Often in a community setting, comfort causes us to put our guard down. That is one thing we always emphasize with students," Akens said. "We want them to feel like the halls are comfortable and safe and feel at home, but we also want [students] to be alert and understand that in any community something bad can always happen."

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
Book tells slaves’ story

MARCELO GORENSTEIN Contributing Writer

Akin Ogundiran and Toyni Falola give a voice to the voiceless with the publication of “Achaeological of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora”, the first book to explore African slaves’ experiences in their own words.

In 2003, a group of scholars led by Ogundiran, an FIU associate professor of history, and Falola, associate professor of history from the University of Texas, realized through meetings and conferences that there was no book on the subject.

“The fact that there are almost no publications on the archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora that bring the experience into one volume is the main reason we decided to write this book,” said Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies department.

A rockeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora pquares the use of archaeology to delineate a slave’s perspective – an innovation – since most information comes from a slave owner’s point of view, according to Ogundiran. Presenting their own compilations, 21 scholars compensated for, as Ogundiran refers to it, “the silence of African voices.”

“Given the lack of transcripts from a slave’s perspective in historical archives, the material culture – the objects of everyday life with its emphasis on the combination of material records and words, both written and oral – becomes very valuable in formulating new questions and answers,” Ogundiran said. “Not only on how Africans contributed to the foundation of modern capitalism, but also on its impact on their daily lives, cultural development and thus the shaping of ‘African character’ in the past five hundred years.”

Ogundiran has analyzed the American economical system and sees the African Diaspora as a microm of the era’s international commercial surge.

“Slaves were engaged in the local economies. They were expected to raise their own crops for self-nourishment, some went as far as to sell goods and consequently buy their freedom,” Ogundiran said.

The competition, which requires students to Africa to exercise backpack journalism, and after reviewing “Age of AID,” a four-hour program of the history of global HIV/AIDS pandemonic and the need to train in AIDS journalism, Allan Richas decided to launch the competition. In the same way, journalism has changed from just either a print or a broadcast or a video to the multimedia approach which is also called backpack journalism,” said Richards, chairperson for SJMC’s department of journalism and broadcasting. A backpack journalist carries a laptop, a satellite phone and a digital video camera with editing skills, said Richards, who will accompany the winners.

The winners’ work in South Africa will be posted on the SJMC’s Web site and may appear on PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service.

“In this book lie some core ideals that are the basis for students’ research as well as their identities as Black people. As a Caribbean-American, I can appreciate how archaeology, as well as other disciplines in the text, is used to demonstrate the connectedness between African peoples across the Atlantic,” Ogundiran wants to impress upon students the book’s contribution to ongoing scholarship.

“The book speaks through the different aspects of the Black community at the same forces that created colonial America created Atlantic slavery and colonialism in Africa,” Ogundiran said. “We need to make people realize you cannot longer separate the African Diaspora experience from the African experience.”
Unpaid traffic citations no longer a threat to your credit score

The Office of Parking and Transportation has finally seen the light. In an effort to comply with the angry responses from students, faculty and staff due to the practice of re-ferring those ticketed in FIU parking lots to creditors, the department has taken overdue steps to expedite the collection of unpaid parking tickets while simultaneously heed the will of the FIU community.

Rather than complicating matters by referring individual violators to collection agencies, the OPT has chosen to deal with violators internally beginning summer 2008. Presently, the OPT refers unpaid citations dating back 210 days or more to NCO Financial Systems, a private collection agency.

The improved system that will be implemented involves the issuance of holds on the PantherSoft student registration system. These holds will prevent student violators from registering for classes at the start of the semester until the ticket is either appealed or paid. While some may also view this method as harsh, it is a vast improvement over referring students to collections agencies. Students are already burdened by student loans. The last thing they need are credit scores ruined by an institution whose primary function is to educate. Universities should improve their students’ prospects for future success, not hinder them with ruined credit scores, so these changes are laudable.

Faculty will also be affected; unable to purchase decals until outstanding fees are paid. A large amount of the citations issued were given to individuals not registered at the University. Such citations will continue to be referred to the collection agency.

The revamped collection mechanism gives every indication that the OPT is dedicated to taking the interests and opinions of the student body into consideration when making administrative decisions. It will ease the payment of citations through PantherSoft’s built-in payment system and, best of all, any student to pay for tickets without fear of having a blot on their personal credit.

There’s no crying in baseball and no honesty in it either

Who could blame them after playing a 162 game season where players have to play games back-to-back-to-back and fly all across the country? If you worked for four weeks straight without a break, would you look for a little more of a boost?

Performance enhancing drugs have helped athletes extend their careers to later in their lives. Methamphetamine users were highly used in baseball all the way back to World War II. Players would regularly pop methamphetamines before a game to give them a boost of energy.

“Who could blame them after playing 162 game season where players have to play games back-to-back-to-back and fly all across the country? If you worked for four weeks straight without a break, would you look for a little more of a boost?”

“I’m not just talking coffee or caffeine here. Why is it that athletes make millions and another person getting paid $68,000 a year, except their salaries.”

Both employees may hate their boss or their profession, but both went into their line of work because they possessed a specific set of skills that allowed them to enter their craft. At least one of the team is making an honest living.
There is a drug out there so legal that your 6-year-old brother could order some ... if he really wanted to. Yet that same drug is so potent, so mind-altering, that researchers are classifying it under the same category as LSD.

I've tried some. I've tried some right on campus, in a friend's dorm. The effects of Salvia divinorum lasted about 10 minutes, but have left so much of an impact on me that I felt urged to write this article.

People are catching on to salvia, its more common name, though. The drug has been outlawed in Australia and several U.S states, but that does not prohibit salvia from entering your home via your local post office.

“I ordered 20x salvia Online and I got it in the mail in like three days,” said Juan Villareal, a junior. “There are some places like Yuckies in the Grove that sell it to you right there, but it's really expensive.”

Salvia has different strengths - ranging from 5x to 80x and up - and was used as a healer to the sick and for religious purposes by the Mazatec Indians of the Oaxaca Mountains in Mexico. A 1962 expedition by Albert Hoffman and Gordon Watson to find the hoja de Ska María Pastora - the Mazatec name for salvia - brought the plant to the U.S for scientific research. After several years it was deemed legal to import.

Hoffman's expedition can be read in detail in his book "LSD – My Problem Child.

Botanist Daniel Siebert, sometimes referred to as the 'guru of salvia', has been studying the history and chemistry of the drug since 1991.

Salvia leaves can be smoked or chewed, with the latter having longer effects. While under the influence of salvia, uncontrollable laughter and the inability to talk seem to happen to many, as well as out-of-body experiences.

“I prefer chewing it than smoking it,” Villareal said. “It's a nicer high. I've had bad trips smoking it.”

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The long-term effects of Salvia divinorum are unknown, since its use is relatively new to the States, but when tested on mice, mice entered a sort of depression state that lasted several days. However, there are no reports relating human depression to salvia.

“I noticed some shifts in visual perception, objects had a glow or colored aura. I looked up at the hills. There were Hobbit-like houses nestled into the hillside. There was light coming from the windows. There was something fairy-tale-like about the scene, there was something very comforting about the whole thing,” he said.

Siebert does not recommend doing the drug without supervision.

Despite absolutely no reports of human deaths occurring under the effects of salvia, Brett Chidester's mother said it had to do with her son's suicide in 2006, and fought to get it outlawed in her home state of Delaware.

Kathy Chidester told NBC10.com that her son was taking an acne medication linked with depression, alcohol and Salvia divinorum when he committed suicide; he killed himself by carbon-monoxide poisoning. She does not blame salvia for his death, but said her son told her he ‘had learned the secrets of life … he went to another realm’ when under the influence of the drug.

“I just think, with all the things he had going on, and to add Salvia to that mix, it was a lethal combination,” Chidester told the Web site. Brett's law was passed three months after the boy's death, prohibiting the use of Salvia divinorum in Delaware.

Salvia is not a drug to abuse. I probably won't do it again. Salvia had its 15 minutes of fame, or shame, with me. Hopefully, with more research and less irresponsible teens, the effects of Salvia will be fully understood and the drug won't have to share a home with its close cannabis cousin in a far away land called Amsterdam.

Psychedelic Salvia a controversial substance
“Heli Attack 3” is the third installment in a series of games from developer Squarecircleco for the Flash gaming portal Miniclip.com. It is a run-and-gun shooter in the tradition of games like “Metal Slug” and “Contra.” The Heli Attack series has received much critical acclaim and has gained a very large fan base.

“Heli Attack 3” is regarded by most as the best installment in the series due to the developer’s success in building upon the previous games in the series as well as the addition of many new weapons. It received the Miniclip Game of the Year award in 2005.

In “Heli Attack 3” you play as a paratrooper who has just landed into battle and must make his way through various areas while fighting any enemies he crosses along the way.

You begin the game with a training level which allows you to familiarize yourself with the controls. You can change the control set-up in the options menu but you’ll probably find the default controls work best.

At the start of the actual game you are given three weapons; a pistol, a knife and grenades. Throughout the game you will acquire up to 32 new weapons including the GooGun, the Sparkplug and the Black Hole Generator.

Completing each of the 16 levels in the game will give you one new weapon and you can earn secret weapons that are unlocked by performing certain tasks.

There are eight kinds of enemies found throughout the four “zones,” four of which are ground based enemies, the other four being airborne.

Besides the addition of nineteen new weapons, “Heli Attack 3” introduces time powers. There are three different types of time powers: TimeDistort, TimeLift and TimeBreak. TimeDistort will slow down both the player and the enemy. TimeRift will slow the enemy but not the player and TimeBreak will completely stall the enemy and have no effect on the player. There is also a TimeSink ability, a power up that falls from a defeated aircraft and allows the player to use any combination of the three time powers.

The time powers can only be used for a limited amount of time and must recharge before they can be used again. While this does take a while, you can speed up the process by defeating any kind of enemy.

The game is a fairly long, in-depth game. A good two to three hours of gameplay, along with great sound and graphics, make this third installment a worthy addition to an already outstanding series.

Perhaps not as challenging or visually striking as “Metal Slug”, fans of the series and the shooter genre really owe it to themselves to give this game a try.

Squarecircleco.com features the game on the games page of its site and Miniclip.com has a full game list on its main page which lists all available titles in alphabetical order.

Look for “Heli Attack 3” as well as its predecessors on either site and join the thousands who have already fallen in love with the series.
Captivating performance propels intense drama

CHRIS CABRAL  
Asst. Life! Editor

Daniel Day-Lewis is arguably the greatest actor working in film today. Few actors are as able to immerse themselves completely in a role and bring as much intensity and depth to a performance as he does.

Mr. Day-Lewis has already won an Oscar for 1987’s “My Left Foot,” in which he played an author with such severe cerebral palsy that his only functional appendage was his foot. Now we can expect Day-Lewis to add another statue to his mantle for his role in “There Will Be Blood,” making him the first actor to win an Oscar for acting three years in a row.

In “There Will Be Blood,” Day-Lewis is able to draw intense meaning and tension out of long periods of silence, glorifying lines that occasionally border the absurd, with a role that easily could have been ruined by a lesser actor. Lines like “I drink your milkshake” and insults such as “Bastard from a basket” could easily become cheesy and hilarious in the wrong hands. Day-Lewis is able to make them intimidating and powerful.

The greedy, brooding protagonist in “There Will Be Blood” likely live in cinematic immortality as one of movie history’s greatest characters, and that wouldn’t have happened if the role had been given to almost anyone else.

“There Will Be Blood” centers around Daniel Plainview, an obsessively greedy oil prospector living in the turn of the century American west. He is a ruthless man tormented by his own ambitions and a growing sense of revulsion toward all of humanity outside of his blood relatives.

Plainview is drawn to the sparsely populated town of Little Boston, California after a mysterious man named Paul Sunday (Paul Dano) tips him off to the presence of oil on his family ranch.

A companioned by his son H.W., Plainview not only buys the ranch, but pretty much every other tract of land in sight. A most as soon as he sets foot in the oil rich settlement, he begins to clash with Eli Sunday, Paul’s brother and a young evangelical minister whose histrionic sermons have attracted a following.

Determined to build up his Church of the Third Revelation, he convinces his father to demand a larger sum when Plainview comes to buy his family’s farm. This film is unusual thanks to the idiosyncratic style of writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson (“Magnolia,” “Hard Eight”), who fills the film with long stretches of dialogue and dramatic images of the desolate plains of Little Boston, a town whose barren land would be worthless without what lies beneath it. Based on the novel “Oil!” by muckraking author Upton Sinclair, the script’s strangest touches add a certain level of unpredictability to the somewhat familiar story of the rise and fall of an ambitious tycoon.

While the proud and self-righteous Eli seems to have delusions about being a vessel for the Holy Spirit, Plainview sees him as nothing more than a weak charlatan.

As Plainview discovers the massive amounts of oil beneath the surface, he finds that its discovery comes with a personal price.

Over time, he becomes more and more isolated and, as his distance from humanity grows, so does his resentment.

Throughout the film, Plainview’s rage seems to always lurk just beneath the surface periodically bubbling up from time to time. When he takes offense to an innocuous comment made by a fellow oilman he seethes, “One night, I’m going to come inside you house, wherever you’re sleeping, and I’m going to cut your throat.” His anger finally bursts forth like a gushing well in the film’s spectacularly disturbing final scene, and by the time the credits roll, you’ll be left in shock.

The amazing thing about “There Will Be Blood” is how it stays with you, its more terrible moments seem to seep into your mind. You’ll find yourself thinking about it days later, shuddering as you remember the line “I am the Third Revelation!”

Some will likely criticize it as overly long - like this review - but “There Will Be Blood” is a riveting film you’ll never forget.
Writers' strike equals comedy gold

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) Earlier this week, David Letterman asked a timely question: How many striking writers could fit into a jamba juice store across the street from his studio?

The answer was 23 picketers, complete with their Writers Guild of America signs. There was also room for Spiderman, the prophet Moses and someone in a bear suit.

Since late-night TV roared back to life last week, its returning hosts have done lots to keep the writers strike in front of the audience, and not just out of loyalty to the writers. But maybe they were too clever, raising suspicions they were, um, already written. And if they had been written, that would violate strike rules.

Leno, by his own admission, writes for his show every night: his 10-minute monologue, some two-dozen jokes. He insists he got permission from the guild, the union disputes that and was vowing to take action against him.

That's been the conundrum in late night, where only CBS' "Late Show" and "Late Late Show with Conan O'Brien" have writers on board while all the shows must somehow fill their airtime, even as they maintain support for the strike (every late-night host except for Carson Daly on NBC's "Last Call" is a guild member).

But on one show, at least, there's no hint of a script. Just absurd, make-the-best-of-it tomfoolery with Conan O'Brien presiding. He has gotten traffic updates from a TV station's news chopper flying over Manhattan. Barged in on an NBC tour group visiting his studio. Installed flashing disco lights and played crazy music.

"You can't write a moment like this," he cackled. "Obviously!" How's that for strike-inspired humor? In its abundance since the hosts returned, it has served both the writers' cause, but also, arguably, the public interest as a wakeup call to Big Media's excesses.

But already there's a steep fall-off in even mentioning the strike on the air. Too bad. Late-night jest has always been anti-authoritarian and self-referential, and the longer the strike goes, the richer the satirical dealing with it could become.
The Golden Panthers would finally find the offense that scored 74 points.

Offensive power leads team to easy victory

O’Darien Basset, the reigning Sun-Belt player of the week.

“Team effort,” Rouco said. “We committed to it, picked [O’Darien] up high and didn’t let him get comfortable in scoring position. We worked hard on that all week.”

Perhaps the only misstep the Golden Panthers had on the night was the 24 turnovers the team committed, which was second most on the season. Even that, however, can be a positive for Rouco due to the team’s aggression.

“We had [24] turnovers, but we were aggressive with it and we looked forward to score,” Rouco said. “Before, we used to turn it over and put our heads down. Now, we turn it over once and we’re back at it aggressively.”

The win evens up the Golden Panthers’ conference record to 2-2 after a 0-2 start, which places them just two games behind South Alabama, the leader in the Sun-Belt East Division.

For the Golden Panthers, the formula for being successful could be hitting 3s, making rim-shaking dunks to get the team going.

“Guys are beginning to learn how to play with him and get him the ball where he’s successful,” Rouco said.

“He brings the crowd into the game and he lifts our guys when he gets those dunks — high-percentage shots, my friend.”

The Golden Panthers’ next opponent is South Alabama on Jan. 16 at Mobile, Ala. Their next home game is against Louisiana-Monroe at 7:30 p.m.

Late free throws seal second straight conference win

FIU WOMEN, page 11

that.

However, the Golden Panthers did manage to pull down 10 offensive rebounds, six of which belonged to senior forward Jasmine Jenkins.

FIU also had some bad luck as many of their shots barely rimmed out of the cylinder.

Troy shot 7-of-26 and was held to 0-for-3 from behind the arc.

Senior guard Amy Lewis was the game into the game as Troy’s leading scorer, averaging 19.6 points a game.

Lewis also was able to be playing in her 100th career game.

She currently ranks third in the Sun Belt Conference in scoring and was a pre-season all-conference second team selection.

“IT was hard,” she was running all the time,” said FIU sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who was assigned the task of guarding Lewis. “She’s a very good player. She can shoot and she can drive, so I really had to be careful. She got me a few times, but it was not enough for them to win.”

In the second half, the score remained tight as both teams continued to trade baskets.

The Golden Panthers would finally make a run as senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson’s 3-pointer found the bottom of the net to cap a 9-2 run.

Ferguson also hit a field goal during that run, which would be her only five points of the game.

Following that FIU run, Troy would narrow the score as Lewis’ shots started to fall and she scored back-to-back 3-pointers. A 3-pointer from Troy guard Larelle Roper would level the score at 37 with 5:11 left in the game.

The Trojans scored once again in the next position as sophomore Ky’lle Morriissy added two of her 11 points from the foul line.

The Golden Panthers responded with a drive to the hoop by senior guard A’ Sha Neal for an acrobatic lay-up.

With the score tied at 39, Bosilj hit a critical 3-pointer to give the Golden Panthers the lead.

With 3:52 remaining in the half, Troy’s Larelle Roper would drive to the hoop, make a lay-up and get fouled in what would result in a 3-point conversion.

Afer another big shot from Bosilj and a free throw by Neal, FIU would lead 45-42.

Following a 30-second timeout with less than two minutes remaining in the game, Troy had the ball down by three.

Ciglar stole a pass and ran the length of the court before she dished the ball off to forward Fanni Hutlassa for a lay-up.

Because of the close score, FIU put the ball in the hands of Ciglar.

With 26 seconds left, left she was sent to the foul line where she put in both her free throws to put FIU up by six.

Lewis responded seven seconds later with a 3-pointer that made the score 49-46.

But Ciglar would again get the ball, was fouled and then hit a pair of free throws.

Lewis again controlled the ball and launched a 3-pointer, but she hit nothing but air and Troy’s final chance to win the game blew by.

“I was ready for this team” Ciglar said.

“For some reason, I always play well against them. I was so confident about shooting I just knew they would go in.”

STANDING STRONG: Senior guard A’ Sha Neal grabbed 7 boards against Troy.

Thank you for reading
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Classy:

The Golden Panthers women’s soccer team averaged a 3.1 GPA this past semester. Fourteen of the eighteen players posted a 3.0 GPA.

Every team he ever coached vastly improved under him, whether it was the New York Giants, the New York Jets, the New England Patriots or, more recently, the Dallas Cowboys.

Now that he can concentrate solely on personnel moves, it may be a good thing.

The Big Tuna also has a reputation for skipping town before his contract is up, but at 66 years old, he is literally at age of retirement.

And what better place to come to “retire” than sunny South Florida?

With all the resources he needs being given to him by owner Wayne Huizenga and the fact the he no longer has to face the scrutiny a head coach does, I’m sure Parcells will have many reasons to want to fulfill an entire contract for the first time in his NFL history.

Let’s just hope his tenure can be the memory-erasing device for the Dolphins’ 2007 season, because winning can cure anything.

Parcells won’t let anyone steal spotlight in Miami

Given another shot with a much healthier team, and he could have kept Cowher’s seat warm at the same time.

Jimmy Johnson also went 1-15 his first year with the Dallas Cowboys before going on to win a Super Bowl, so another year would have been fair for Cameron, who had terrible luck with injuries to running back Ronnie Brown, quarterback Trent Green, Zach Thomas, the first four safeties on his depth chart and very important hot dog vendor.

Even Ricky Williams got injured four plays into his attempt to rescue the team.

Even with a second year, though, there’s no way Cameron could have made a turn-around.

Regardless of who is in charge, the Dolphins are winning six games at most next season.

This team needs a complete overhaul, and the two Bills (Parcells and Cowher) would have kept the team relevant during the strenuous process.

Unfortunately, this is now close to impossible to happen because the Dolphins are in the midst of a coaching search – and it’s most likely going to be Parcell’s boy and current Cowboys’ assistant head coach, Tony Sparano.

There’s also the ego factor. You really think Cowher would come here knowing that he won’t be running the show by himself?

And do you think Parcells would want to share face time with someone else?

There’s a reason Parcells is bringing over people who used to work for him that you’ve never heard of before.

Parcells is a very experienced football guy with a long track record of success in making personnel moves while coaching the team at the same time.

Now that he can concentrate solely on personnel moves, it may be a good thing.

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GRID A

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Point guard play gives team upperhand in close contest

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL FIU 55, TROY 49

Darren Collette

Three hours before tip-off, there was only one person in the Pharmed Arena and she was working on her shooting.

Golden Panther guard Iva Ciglar proved that practice pays as she scored a season-high 18 points and helped clinch FIU’s 55-49 victory against Sun Belt foe Troy (6-9) Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers (6-9) opened the game with a thunderous dunk from junior center Russell Hicks on their way to a 74-49 win against Sun Belt Conference rival Troy (8-7) Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena.

The opening slam by Hicks set the tone for one of the best offensive performances the team has had this season and the junior center saw the green light throughout the game.

“I’ve had my confidence build up every game,” Hicks said. “I wanted to see if somebody could stop me and since there was nobody there, I went right at them.”

Hicks had a complete game on both sides of the ball as he went for 16 points on 7-of-15 shooting from the field, in addition to a team-high 10 rebounds and three blocks.

But he was not alone.

The Golden Panthers offensive arsenal saw four players score in double figures at a scratching 55 percent from the field, which included a 6-of-13 output from 3-point territory.

Mark WebSocket “Red” White and Erick Nsangou complemented the starters off the bench on their way to 28 points combined on 12-of-16 shooting for the night.

White, who has scored 40 points over his last three games, has given coach Sergio Rouco a versatile weapon off the bench.

“We will use him accordingly,” Rouco said. “He’s a guy that can play three positions for us out there and that’s why he played a lot of minutes tonight.”

Following a 3-point basket by Troy point guard Jermoe Odem to give his team a 3-2 lead with 18:54 left in the first half, FIU went on a 15-2 run to effectively give the Golden Panthers a lead they would not let dip into single digits for the rest of the game.

The Golden Panthers led by as many as 29 points in the game as their offense was put on cruise control.

Cameron deserved second shot with injured roster

Villarmarzo

Now my beloved Miami Dolphins are looking to start from scratch – at least from the front office down to the coaching staff.

However, firing coach Cam Cameron was probably too premature.

Granted, Bill Parcells, the team’s new vice president of football operations, wants to bring in his people to help him right the Dolphins’ sinking ship.

But the fact of the matter is that Cameron should have been given one more year, because the right man for the job said he’s not returning to football for one more year.

That’s right, iron chin himself, Bill Cowher, said he wanted at least two years off from coaching.

So Cameron could have been