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The Beacon, January 14, 2008

Florida International University

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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 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 provide accurate information and collect unpaid citations for the benefit of the entire University community,” Foster said.

Freshman Courtney Roberts, who received a ticket for parking in housing, disagrees with the shift in policy.

“That’s stupid,” Roberts said. “Parking has nothing to do with classes.”

Roberts is currently appealing the ticket and says that she has a good chance to win the appeal because she lives in housing.

“I have a hard time finding parking and have to go park by the [statue in front of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center],” Roberts said. “I have a reason for parking [in housing].”

Foster believes the shift in policy to be an effective one.

“Placing holds complies with a requirement set forth by state auditors, who mandate that the Office of Parking and Transportation have an effective collections mechanism 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.fiu.edu.

Students and faculty can also call the Parking and transportation office at 305-348-3615 for University Park and 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 Akens, 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 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.”

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

村 Lag 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 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.”

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

Chris Taylor (left) and James Morton (right) are shown playing for the welcome back event at the School of Education on Jan. 11.

JAZZY JAMS
HIGH NOTE: Senior music majors Yahoteh “Red” Kokayi (left) and Hari Salazar (right) play for the welcome back event at the School of Education on Jan. 11.
Akens: Be alert, 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

MD CLINICAL
Book tells slaves’ story

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Contributing Writer

Akin Ogundiran and Toyin Falola give a voice to the voiceless with the publication of “Archaeology 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, an 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 archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora pioneers 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 microcosm 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.

Toyin Falola, co-editor of the book and a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, explained the roots of the modern economical system.

“The Atlantic slave trade and American slavery laid the foundation for the modern economical society, therefore you cannot tell the story of the rise of capitalism without including the African contributions to that,” Falola said in a phone interview.

“Africa has a particular way of doing the I in FIU and the Atlantic,” Falola said.

“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 archeology, 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 recent trends of transnational history. 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.”

SJMC raises HIV/AIDS awareness through contest

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

In order to boost awareness and prepare journalism students in health issues, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications has launched the SJMC AIDS National Competition.

The competition, which requires a 700-word essay with the theme “Why Should We Care?” must include the scientific, social, cultural or personal aspects of AIDS.

It will give two winners the opportunity to travel to Cape Town and Johannesberg, South Africa to interview, record, video and write about AIDS.

“It’s basically to get hands on experience in an area devastated by the disease and come back and use what they’ve learned to hopefully positively affect our community,” said David Berry, marketing director for SJMC.

Intrigued by the New York Times’ Nicholas Kristof’s annual competition, in which he takes students to Africa to exercise backpack journalism, and after reviewing “Age of AIDS,” a four-hour program of the history of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and the need to train in AIDS journalism, Allan Richards decided to launch the competition.

“Increasingly, 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 winner’s work in South Africa will be posted on the SJMC’s Web site and may air on PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service.

“I’ve had conversations in the past with [PBS] Vice President of Programming and he said ‘if the students really produce something watchable, and of high quality we can see if it’s good enough to go on the air locally,’” Richards said.

The essay will be judged by a group of local television producers and editors.

Applicants must submit an application, essay and two letters of recommendation from a faculty member and/or supervisor from a media organization where the applicant has worked or interned. Clips, photos or videos should be submitted by Feb. 18.

Richards views the trip to South Africa as a fit for the University’s international approach.

“This also fits into FIU’s approach to internationalize the school and reach out to other parts of the world,” Richards said.

Berry also sees the trip as an international effort on the school’s behalf.

“It is the school of journalism’s way of doing the I in FIU and our students will directly benefit from that,” Berry said.

NEWSFLASH

A fair for volunteers

The Biscayne Bay Campus’ Spring Volunteer Fair will be held Jan. 15 at 11 a.m., in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square. Nonprofit organizations will be looking to recruit volunteers. For more information call 305-919-5360.

Free coffee on Late Day Latte

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation will host Late Day Latte on Feb. 14 in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square and March 27 in A cademic I. Free coffee will be offered from 5-7 p.m. For more information call 305-919-5834.

One World Celebration 2008

The Student Programming Council will be sponsoring events for the One World Celebration in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square from Jan. 28-31, noon-3 p.m. Each day will showcase diversity and culture. Free food will be offered.

- Compiled by Catherine Kaiman

Check out The Beacon and Radiate FM’s on new Web site at FIUSM.COM
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 referring those who incurred unpaid parking tickets to collection agencies, the department has taken overdue steps to expedite the collection of unpaid parking tickets while simultaneously hedging 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.

Facility 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, enable students to pay for tickets without fear of having a blot on their personal credit.

Photo Caption: Roger Clemens listens to his lawyer speak during a news conference about alleged steroid use on Monday, Jan. 7, 2008 in Houston.

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

Let’s face it, there’s nothing such as a pure record or performance by any athlete today or in the past. What’s legal today probably could be considered cheating in years past.

Cheating and honesty are hot topics in among today’s professional athletes and those who enjoy watching competitive sports. Unfortunately, pure and clean competition is a naive fantasy that is preached to children in Little League. Let’s keep it real here.

A thefie has been cheating since sports have been around. Recently, on a “60 Minutes” interview, retired baseball pitcher Roger Clemens denied ever taking steroids or any illegal performance enhancing drugs after being named in the Mitchell Report which investigated the use of performance enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball.

Throughout Clemens’ 24-year career, he pitched 4,916.7 innings winning 354 games and 7 Cy Young awards, an award given to the best pitcher in each league. Drug use in baseball isn’t a new thing. At 42, he won his final Cy Young when most baseball players his age are retiring or trying to figure out what to do with the rest of their lives.

Performance enhancing drugs have helped athletes extend their careers to later in their lives. Methamphetamines 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 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?

I’m not just talking coffee or caffeine here. Why is it that athletes 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?

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I’m not just talking coffee or caffeine here. Why is it that athletes 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?
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 Oaxacan Mountains in Mexico. A 1962 expedition by Albert Hoffman and Gordon Wasson 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."

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 nice high. I've had bad trips smoking it."

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.

Botanist Daniel Siebert, sometimes referred to as the 'guru of salvia', has been studying the history and chemistry of the drug since 1991. "A lot of people would say even if you don't have any evidence of psychological harm, just the fact it causes intense hallucinations is dangerous in itself. That can be a dangerous thing to do. You could jump out of a window. In that sense you could make an argument that there is a legitimate concern," Siebert said in a BBC-News interview.

Siebert believes the drug's widespread availability and teenagers being over indulgent with it may lead to its potential ban.

In the same interview, Siebert describes his first experience with salvia: chewing raw leaves. "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 fairytale-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.
“Heli Attack 3” is the third installment in a series of games from developer Squarecirclego 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 air based.

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.

Squarecirclego.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.
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 a character 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 in another category largely predictable and adding another category to the list of reasons why the Oscars are boring as hell.

In “There Will Be Blood,” Day-Lewis is able to draw intense meaning and tension out of long periods of silence, delivering 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” will likely live in cinematic immortality as one of movie history’s greatest characters.

Plainview, an obsessively amoral man named Paul Sunday (Paul Dano) tips him off to the presence of oil on his family ranch. Accompanied by his son H.W. (Dano), Plainview picks up his family’s farm, eventually buying the ranch, and lines like “I am the 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 isolated and, as his distance from humanity grows, so does his resentment. While the film you’ll never forget. “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 Spider-man, 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 Craig Ferguson” now 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 “Late 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.

O’Brien, host of NBC’s “Late Night,” assured his audience that writers are very important to a show like mine. But without them, 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.

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O’Brien, host of NBC’s “Late Night,” assured his audience that writers are very important to a show like mine. But without them, they have a rare opportunity to create a new kind of show … bold, daring and borderline illiterate.”

Having said that, he doffed his suit jacket and clambered up a rope ladder to the catwalk hung along the lighting grid, high above the studio floor.

“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 not only 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 satire dealing with it could become.
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 once and put our heads down. Now, we turn it over once and we’re back at it aggressively.”

The win even 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 getting big shots and making big picks 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 bigs – high-percentage shots, my friend.”

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

Jonathan Ramos can be reached at jramos@fiustudentmedia.com
Parcells won't let anyone steal spotlight in Miami

GRIFFIN, page 12

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.

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.
Point guard play gives team upperhand in close contest

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FIU 55, TROY 49**

**MEN'S BASKETBALL FIU 74, TROY 49**

Golden Panthers shut down high-scoring Troy offense

**JONATHAN RAMOS**
Staff Writer

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

Guards Kenneth “Redd” 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 J erome O dem 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 completely shut down the high-scoring Troy offense.

Cameron deserved second shot with injured roster

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

Don’t get me wrong, this was probably one of the most exciting and unpredictable seasons overall that I have watched.

But considering that my favorite team suffered its worst season ever, while the team I despise had arguably the best season in league history, can you blame me for wanting to forget?

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 one more year, because the right man for the job said he’s not returning to football for one more year.

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 deserved a second shot with an injured roster.