Proposal looks to combine councils

A NEW PLANNER
Events coordinator elected

THE REAL RON PAUL
Inaccuracies, lies dispelled

CIRCUS TIME
Fair carries carnival theme

VERSatile PANThER
Football player tackles the court

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT COUNCIL

Proposal looks to combine councils

Ben F. Badger Jr.
Asst. News Director

A proposal submitted by the University Park Student Government Council could combine the Student Organizations Council, the Honors Council and the Graduate Student Association into a single Student Involvement Council, said that SIC student involvment Council if the proposal could combine the student organizations council, the Honors council and the Graduate Student Association into the Honors Council and the Graduate Student Organizations Council, the University Park Student Government Council could combine the student organizations council, the Honors council and the Graduate Student Association into the Honors Council and the Graduate Student Organizations Council, the student involvment Council if the proposal could combine the student organizations council, the Honors council and the Graduate Student Association into the Honors Council and the Graduate Student Organizations Council.

The merger would save $17,000

Currently, an organization could underspend its budget while another could be in need of those unused funds, Bolaños said. SIC would make it easier to move funds between the three councils. Annual funds, said that SIC would streamline financial processes, making them more efficient and easier to do.

Instead of a giant three-headed monster, it would only be one giant monster,” Bolaños said.

The merger would save $17,000 between the three councils. Currently, an organization could underspend its budget while another could be in need of those unused funds, Bolaños said. SIC would make it easier to move funds to a group in need.

SOC President Maria Cedaño has concerns about the SIC proposal.

“I believe it is in the best interest of students that [the three councils] have a more active input into the proposal,” Cedaño said.

After the proposal was drafted and presented to SGC-UP, the three councils were asked to give input during a meeting, according to Cedaño.

However, the meeting was cancelled due to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

“It concerns me that the proposal is being rushed,” Cedaño said.

If the proposal for SIC is passed, all SOC programs will continue as normal for the rest of the year.

“We are finishing our full year,” Cedaño said. “We were elected for a full year of service.”

While Cedaño does not have the power to call for a tabling motion, which would postpone voting until the next SGC-UP meeting, she hopes a representative will call for one to allow more time for the proposal to be discussed by SOC, HC and GSA leaders with SGC-UP.

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According to the meeting, hosted by FIU’s African New World Studies program, the selective members invited to the meeting, hosted by FIU’s African New World Studies Program.

Earlier this month, the Florida Board of Governors agreed with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Faculty Senate of FIU that the Travel to Terrorist States Act — which, among other things, bans university research travel to Cuba — should be reexamined to determine if it has constitutional merit.

“These professors saw this law as a restriction on their ability to meet their obligations as professors in their fields,” said Bill Edmonds, director of communications of the Florida Board of Governors.

“We are agreeing that the court needs to look at the issue of non-state dollars [in the act].”

Signed into law by the Florida Legislature in 2006, the Travel to Terrorist States Act forbids the use of university state and non-state funds to travel to countries deemed “sponsors of terrorism” by the U.S. Department of State. The countries deemed “sponsors of terrorism” are Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, and terrorist organizations.

“IT IS TIME FOR THE WORLD TO SEE THAT WE DO HAVE A RELIGIOUS CANON, WITH TEXTS AND WITHOUT TEXTS, AND WE LIVE IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY WHERE PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO EVERYTHING,” said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program.

“IT IS IMPORTANT TO REVEAL THESE TEXTS AT THIS TIME BECAUSE PEOPLE TEND TO THINK OF AFRICAN KNOWLEDGE AS A KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT TEXTS, AND WE LIVE IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY WHERE PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO EVERYTHING,” said Akin Ogundiran, director of the African New World Studies Program.

The texts were showcased at a meeting for the inauguration of Africana Knowledge Working Group of South Florida held at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 18.

This event marked the first time any sacred text of Santeria, the syncretic Yoruba religion, has ever been exposed to the public.

The Book of Diasporas in Ifa Divination was written in 1940 by a group of priests and recopied by the same authors within the next ten years.

The original was revealed to the general public.

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### THURSDAY • JANUARY 24

- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit:** Non-FIU student - was sleeping in room 150, building after being told that a suspicious female - non-FIU student - was sleeping in room 150, GC Ballroom.
- **11 a.m. - 12 p.m., FIU Campus:** A female checked the window to the outside, saying “I see you. I see you.” The female checked the window, but there was no damage. She gave a delayed report to the Campus Safety.

### FRIDAY • JANUARY 25

- **Resume Writing Workshop:**
  - **11 a.m. - 12 p.m., WUC 255 (BBC):**
  - **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Graham Center 305:**
- **3:30 p.m., Location TBA:**
- **SGC-UP Notes:**
  - **Call to Order:** 4:10 p.m. • **Adjournment:** 5:40 p.m.
  - **New Business:**
    - Appropriation of $1,000 passed for “Focus the Nation.”
  - **Old Business:**
    -届的£则

### SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

- **9 a.m., Graham Center Pit:** The victim signed a medical release with an elbow. The victim refused medical attention and a friend transported him to see his doctor. The victim signed a medical release with an elbow. The victim refused medical attention and a friend transported him to see his doctor.
- **12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., WUC 255 (BBC):**
- **7 p.m., GC Ballroom (BBC):**
- **10 p.m., Graham Center 140:**
- **Call to Order:** 4:10 p.m. • **Adjournment:** 5:40 p.m.
- **New Business:**
  - **Appropriation of $1,000 passed for “Focus the Nation.”**
- **New SGC-UP constitution proposed:**
  - **Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff**

### Police Notes

**Jan. 7:** An officer was dispatched to the PACE building after being told that a suspicious female - non-FIU student - was sleeping in room 150, trespassing on school property. The officer on scene recognized the female, having warned her about trespassing at the school.

After giving the female another warning, she stated that she would not leave the campus because she “had to dance,” and she felt she had done nothing wrong. The female was arrested for trespassing, was being warned, and was sent to the FIU station for processing. The female was transported to the TGK correctional center.

**Jan. 8:** A female housing student said that, while sleeping, she heard an unknown male tapping on her bedroom window from the outside, saying “I see you. I see you.” The female checked the window, but there was no damage. She gave a delayed report to the Campus Safety.

**Jan. 9:** While playing basketball at the Recreation Center on UP, a male victim was hit in the head with an elbow. The victim refused medical attention and a friend transported him to see his doctor. The victim signed a medical release waiver.

**Jan. 10:** Police were called after a male student reported that his 2000 Honda Civic 2-door was broken into while parked in the Gold Garage. The victim said that his radio, cash and gear shift knob were the only items stolen from the car. No further information was given.

- **Compiled by David Barrios / Beacon Staff**

### SGC-UP Notes

- **Call to Order:** 4:10 p.m. • **Adjournment:** 5:40 p.m.
- **President’s Report (Marbelly Hernandez):**
  - **RUCKUS music downloading software contract has been approved.**
  - **Student Involvement Council proposition voting is on Jan. 23.**
  - **New Gmail interface for student accounts launches on Jan. 28.**
- **Cmptroller’s Report (Sergio Barra-Bolano):**
  - **Student organizations must properly spend allocated funds. If organizations do not spend funds correctly, they could be cut.**
- **Old Business:**
  - **Resolution “In Support of the Continued Tradition of Gracie’s Grill” passed. Restaurant location will now retain the name “Gracie’s” regardless of food vendor present.**
- **New Business:**
  - **Linda Arelano unanimously voted as new SGC-UP clerk.**
  - **Appropriation of $1,000 passed for “Focus the Nation.”**
  - **New SGC-UP constitution proposed.**
  - **Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff**

### Corrections

In the Jan. 17 issue of The Beacon, the story titled “Jerry Springer to Defend Show at Lecture Series” incorrectly listed that money for the lecture was provided by the Student Government Council’s lecture series at Biscayne Bay Campus. The lecture is sponsored by the BBC Student Programming Council.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-919-4722 or 305-548-2709 or, via e-mail, to matthew.oconnor@fiu.edu.
Board struggles to establish authority in university system

North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.

The ACLU, in conjunction with the Faculty Senate of FIU, brought a lawsuit against the state and the Board in 2006, arguing that the travel ban is unconstitutional.

In the latest chapter of the case, in January 2008, the Board filed its own lawsuit against the state declaring the lack of differentiation between state and non-state dollars in the act is unconstitutional.

“We asked the court to look at the question of [whether] the legislature overstepped its authority,” Edmonds said.

According to Brandon Hensley, director of communications for the ACLU, the travel ban manages solely to “hamper academic research” and “displace intellectual capital” from Florida universities since professors and graduate students have moved to other national universities where research travel is not restricted.

“Any travel to a terrorist country necessarily subsidizes that terrorist regime because money will be spent … in that country … that ultimately goes into the coffers of the terrorist regime,” said Rivera during his April 26, 2006 testimony in front of the Florida Legislature. “So, I don’t believe anything good could come out of [researching in] Cuba, like for example, researching agriculture in Cuba.”

Rivera’s opponents disagree and even suggest the travel ban not only threatens to decrease Florida’s academic output, but also threatens the federal government’s ability to deter terrorism, one aim of the act.

“There are serious implications in national security. We might be in a better position to diffuse the terrorist situation here if we could have better information from these states,” Hensley said.

Though the Florida Board concurs with the ACLU over the issue of using non-state funds and that “it is in the best interest of the state that academic leaders stay current in Cuban affairs,” the Board insists it has not sided completely with ACLU. Rather, the Florida Board insists that the main issue is the struggle to establish authority over the university system.

According to Edmonds, the Florida Board is trying to assert its independence through a lawsuit against the state, claiming the right to raise public university tuition without necessarily having the state’s approval.

Therefore, the Board viewed the travel ban as an opportunity to cement its argument that the state cannot control what is done with non-state money, Edmonds said. “We did not want to ignore that argument in this [travel ban] lawsuit. We wanted to be consistent in the Board’s expression of its principles,” Edmonds said.

Best in Class: Alejandra Alberti, FIU student and winner of last year’s “Best New Artist” Latin Grammy Award poses at a banquet at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House on January 17.

http://parking.fiu.edu

Why stand in line? Order your decal online!

Pay tickets, process appeals, and order student decals online.

The Parking & Transportation online system enables 24 hour service at your convenience.

The Panther Safety Aid Program provides escorts around campus at night. Transportation will arrive within 10 minutes from your call.
The Student Organizations Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus elected Magaly Estrella, a senior majoring in advertising, as the new events coordinator during a special election held on Jan. 17.

“I feel happy because this will give me experience in what I want to do with the future [which is to open up my own event planning business],” said Estrella, who will apply the skills she has learned from working directly with the events coordinator of magazine production.

The election was held at 4 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center room 155, and was over seen by all five executive board members and all registered members of the SOC.

“We held a special election because the current events coordinator, [Jessica Castillo], resigned. She is going to graduate and wanted to focus on her education,” said SOC President Joe L. Mintz.

The list of applicants consisted of nine FIU students studying a variety of disciplines. The applicants were Barbara Hawkins, a senior majoring in humanities; Dayamis, a senior majoring in advertising; graduate students Jody A. Miller and Diana Malondo; and junior Angela Araya, all majoring in hospitality management.

Siegul was also pleased with the turnout.

“I was surprised that so many people applied. It’s nice to see so many showed interest,” said Siegel.

The election process consisted of each of the 41 FIU clubs casting one vote, with the winner receiving the most votes. The applicants were required to have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and each had to be enrolled full-time at the University in order to participate in the election.

“There really wasn’t a particular date that we wanted to have the position filled by, but we thought it would be important to have it filled by the next SOC meeting,” said Mintz.

Some of the responsibilities of the events coordinator include being accountable for the initiation and programming of SOC-sponsored events, and recruiting committee members for the production of special events.

The events coordinator is also responsible for carrying out any official assignments given by the president.

Estrella hopes to come up with different events that will promote student involvement through careful planning.

“There’s a lot involved in [planning]. You have to think about every possible detail through, you have to be prepared for the good that can happen, the bad. You have to be very methodical,” she said.

A DIVINE PRESENTATION: Orlando Ramos (left), Ubaldo G. Portu (center) and Ernesto Pichardo (right) display the original sacred texts of the Yoruba religion to the public for the first time in history.

African studies major Ava Purkiss, a graduate student in the department of ANWS, also believes education is the best way to enlighten mainstream culture about historical African issues.

“I think it’s a first step towards legitimizing African religions and will serve as a conduit — a foundation to some of the goals like engaging the mainstream, shifting paradigms, enabling tolerance, combating fear and ignorance and incorporating these traditions into academ-ics,” Purkiss said.

The group hopes that by expanding the curriculum of classes that is taught in the ANWS program, students and professionals across all majors will be prepared to understand the diverse cultures in the world.

“I am hopeful that FIU can be the first university in the nation to have a certificate in what I think should be under Yoruba studies,” Pichardo said.
In an effort to save a dime, the University Park Student Government Council proposed that the combined auspices of the Student organizations: the Honors Councils, Graduate Student Association and Student Organization Council.

If approved on Jan. 23, at the SGC-UP meeting, the three councils, while still be technically operating as they had been for the past semester, but under the combined auspices of the Student Involvement Council.

The merger of these three councils, while regarded as illogical, serve different purposes to the students of FIU, appears to be of a purely financial motive: The combined budgets of the councils will be cut by $17,000 which would be utilized if the councils remained independent of one another.

The official motive, as relayed by Comptroller, Sergio Ibarra-Bolanos, was apparently to streamline financial activities and essentially can be summed up to be more efficient as well as simplistic.

Bolanos described the merger as a “grand monster” rather than a “three-headed monster”. He continues by explaining that if the merger were to go through and one council under-spends its budget, the remainder could be allocated elsewhere where unused funds could be put to good use.

The obvious dilemma is that with a lowered budget—even lowered only by $17,000—some councils may have to completely reconfigure financial practices of years past.

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Annual club fair to move outdoors

JONATHAN DAVILA
Contributing Writer

The annual Student Organizations Council Club Fair will be taking place this Jan. 22 and 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Unlike previous semesters when the fair was held in the Graham Center pit, the fair will be taking place outdoors, on the GC lawn, and will be sporting a carnival theme.

Stefano Boulos, President of the Chemistry Club, is excited about the move to the outdoors. “We are already planning many things that usually we wouldn’t be able to do indoors,” said Boulos.

“We’re going to be doing some chemistry demonstrations that we usually wouldn’t do inside GC – it’s not that they are dangerous, but being outside will allow us to accommodate ourselves a lot better.”

The fair was initially scheduled to run for four days next week but SOC Event Coordinator Nivv Oudit extended the fair to the next day because there would be more clubs on site on the same day.

“It would be more interesting to have two days packed with intense activities instead of four less active days,” said Oudit.

“We hope that clubs will take advantage of all that’s being offered to them and do a brilliant job in representing themselves.”

To go along with the carnival theme, the fair will be decorated with circus-like inflatables and feature many outdoor activities such as rock climbing and dunking tanks.

There will also be free food provided by Shorty’s BBQ, as well as popcorn, cotton candy, and sno-cones.

However, SOC Treasurer, Robert Chung, advised that students must prove their participation in the fair in order to obtain the free food.

“Each prospective member will be given a passport. For each person to get free food they must visit five clubs and get [the passport] signed,” said Chung.

On Jan. 22, the Academic, Business, Cultural/Social, and Law/Political clubs will be representing.

Clubs representing the Arts, Engineering, Health/Wellness, Religious, and Services will be exhibiting on Jan. 23.

Sports clubs will not be represented on either day because these clubs are not registered under SOC.

In order to encourage clubs to participate in the Club Fair and other events and activities, SOC created the SOC Point System.

[It] ensure[s] that the registered organizations remain active and visible on campus in order to receive funding and have access to services on campus clubs must attain a minimum of twelve points in order to be eligible for funding,” said Oudit.

Clubs that participate in the fair will receive one SOC point. The best represented table gains another point. Last semester, the Chemistry Club won. “For sure we will be part of the race again,” said Boulos.

Oudit has high expectations for the Club Fair this semester. “We at SOC are extremely excited about this year’s Club Fair and really look forward to seeing our clubs representing themselves in all their glory.

At the risk of sounding completely pretentious, I reckon it’s going to be the best Club Fair yet,” he said.

FALLAN M. PATTERSON
Staff Writer

In a world overly saturated with rap and hip hop music, it was comforting to know that, for one night at least, rock and roll was not dead. A nearly full house packed the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise Jan. 16 on the opening night of the Foo Fighters 21-city tour. Joining them on stage was Against Me!, a Gainesville, Florida punk rock band singing songs of political rebellion, and Jimmy Eat World, an emo/alternative band from Mesa, Arizona.

Against Me!, with odes to Cอดodoceza Rice and optimistic lyrics about looking toward the future, commenced the evening with full-throttle energy to a half-packed crowd. Although the band has been around for a decade on indie labels, they have begun to see major-label success off their latest album, New Wave.

Frontman Tom Gabel half screams, half sings to the audience as his band thrashes to the sound. Jimmy Eat World, touring for their new album “Chase This Light,” is best known for its 1990’s record “Bleed American” which featured the MTV over-killed hit “The Middle.”

While some of their songs can be considered harder than others, this band was definitely the hulk between the previous hardcore punk and the yet-to-come good ole American rock n’ roll of Foo Fighters. They resurrected a few old songs including “Sweetness” off of “Bleed American” and introduced many to the slightly softer and more emo sound of “Chase This Light,” including the new single “Always Be.”

The main course ran out on stage full of energy and ready to rock. With a dynamic frontman like Dave Grohl, former drummer of 1990’s grunge gods Nirvana, you better be off your seats and singing along. The large stage was extended on either side to allow Grohl room.
As a gamer, I know the game I’m playing at the moment depends greatly on the sort of mood I’m in. Happy, sad, frustrated; there’s always that game that hits the spot. For those of you just looking for a laugh, I give you “Puzzleland.”

“Puzzleland” is one of those gems you rarely come across and could easily overlook. A charming, hand-drawn, point-and-click adventure that, at first, may seem like a badly drawn flash game, but there is so much more to this game than meets the eye.

Meet James Mahogany, a yellow, crudely drawn man who wears a grey suit with a red tie and walks strictly sideways.

Throughout “Puzzleland”’s five unique levels, the goal is to help Mahogany defeat his arch rival Gregory.

To do so, you must point and click on everything in the window to figure out what it does and, ultimately, what sequence of pointing and clicking will get Mahogany to the other side safely.

Sounds pretty standard, but this isn’t like any other point-and-click adventure.

The graphics and sound alone would be enough to set it apart, but “Puzzleland”’s gameplay is so out of the box it takes a while to actually start thinking as unconventionally as you really have to in order to solve the puzzles.

Even in the very first level, you probably wouldn’t automatically assume that in order to cross the chasm, you have to find a way to wake the lumberjack to cut the tree down, which falls on him, and then release a boulder to knock the tree down over the chasm to serve as your bridge.

Every level is more complex, more ridiculous and more satisfying than the last.

Even after you have defeated Gregory, you will come back again and again for more.

This game is easy to get hooked on. It’s not only fun, it’s a completely free flash game which means no downloads and no waiting.

As far as point-and-click puzzle games go, “Puzzleland” is innovative in its challenges and unique in its sense of humor.

You can save Mahogany online at http://www.mostplays.com.

It is listed under the Puzzle section of the main page.
Sailing through a Semester at Sea

CHRISTIN ERAZO  Contributing Writer

For most students, semesters are usually spent cooped up in classrooms, listening to boring lectures or sticking their noses in books.

A more creative and interactive way of learning – the Semester at Sea study abroad program – allows undergraduate students to see world landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, the pyramids of Egypt, and other famous places.

The program is offered through the University of Virginia and is sponsored by the International Shipboard Education Program.

Students are sent abroad to learn about different societies and cultures.

Undergraduate students are targeted for the program, but opportunities for high school students are available as well.

Recently, a group of FIU students embarked on the Fall 2007 voyage on the MV Explorer to tour Japan, Thailand, Croatia, and Spain. This 100 day voyage spanned three continents and gave these students an experience of a lifetime.

Lily Trelles, alumna, recalls some of her best memories. “Seeing the Taj Mahal at sunset, visiting the pyramids and my camel ride through the desert were by far some of my favorite memories,” Trelles said.

Joining Trelles, Veronica Caballero and Lissette Trelles traveled to thirteen different ports while following curriculum that required each student to take a minimum of 12 credits.

The undergraduate program allows students from all different majors to take required courses and electives in order to fulfill their course work.

One class, entitled Global Studies, is an upper-level geography course required for all students on board.

The importance of the course is that it highlights the complexity, dynamics and interdependence of world systems. Curriculum coincides with the different port cities visited throughout the semester so they are introduced to the city before docking.

The University of Virginia and its Semester at Sea program features transferable credits, allowing students to transfer credits to their home university.

The program recommends students to follow up with their university’s registrar’s office to assure that Semester at Sea classes count toward their degree.

REVIEW (YOU CAN USE)

MOVIE

Cloverfield

New York escape film not for the faint of heart

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ  Asst. News Director

When Rob walked into his company’s vice-president. And one dude before he flies off to Japan to begin a new life as a company’s vice-president. And the audience shares eyes with the monster as it turns into shish-ka-bobs and nearly gets his friends a more rocking third verse when Hud panic and runs - the camera(convulsing with each stride as the streets surge with military property you're going to see the beast, Beth panics and runs - the camera(convolving with each stride as to put his crew designated survival rights.

Rob goes so far as to put his crew through the subway tunnels as a shortcut and nearly gets his friends turned into shish-ka-bobs by the monster’s spawn.

Overall, “Cloverfield” doesn’t want you to sympathize with its creature or point fingers at whatever organization may or may not be to blame for its appearance (the movie opens with a title card that this is U.S. military property you’re watching).

What it wants is for you to realize that life is a more exciting moment in the normally timid Hud and nearly gets his friends turned into shish-ka-bobs by the monster’s spawn.

Fortunately, a number of the songs that do begin with the delicate finger picked style pop up. Midway through the record, the band really begins to swing, beginning with the final 40 seconds of “Drip, Drip, Drop”, and culminating in an extremely impressive cover of one of the best songs of the past decade, Neutral Milk Hotel’s “Holland, 1945”.

While staying fairly faithful to the original’s melody and chord change, Canoe’s version adds an anxiety missing from the original, moving from the falsetto and finger picked first verse, to a more rocking third verse where the normally timid Holland let’s loose for a cracked and emotional outburst that reveals an emotional core previously unseen.

In between those two songs you have “Ain’t Nobody,” the only downright danceable song on the album, and “Ugly Girls,” arguably the album’s best song. “Ugly Girls” is what would’ve happened if Randy Newman was in a bluegrass group, and is one of the best country inflected pop tunes in a long time. Unfortunately, outside of that 5 song run, many of the album’s songs run together and are easily forgettable, suffering from a sameness in sound and philosophy, preferring to pacify the listener rather than challenge.

There isn’t a bad song among the 17 here, an impressive feat for a debut album to be certain, but much of the record is simply forgettable, which is made all the more apparent by sticking the best songs in the middle.

Despite these shortcomings, this is an impressive debut album for a band that has a fan base of more than a thousand listeners in their native Portland. If they can strike a balance between the rawer, more exciting moments in the middle and the subdued pretty stuff surrounding it, they won’t stay unknown for long.
Foo rocks the Bank Atlantic Center

With more than a decade of music to choose from, the Foo had no problem filling a two hour set, including a five song encore. Since forming in 1995 after the suicide of Kurt Cobain, Nirvana's creator, lead singer and guitarist, Foo Fighters have released five albums and are touring for the latest "Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace". The show was an exciting, raucous tribute to the power of rock n' roll and the artistry of Dave Grohl.

Worldwide excursions lead to knowledge

Cabalero explains the difficulty she had in transferring her credits to FIU. "To make sure that my semester abroad would count was extremely tedious," she said. Veronica spent weeks before her trip filling out forms in different departments to ensure that her credits were accepted. "Even two days before I left, I received a phone call telling me to fill out more forms," Caballero said. Now that her semester abroad is over, Caballero claims there are still inadequacies with the program. "My transcript was received by FIU on Dec. 13, 2007. After calling FIU's registrar's office several times, they told me it's going to take three more weeks for them to process. Now that I'm back, I still haven't seen my grades," she said.

Despite her hardships with both universities registrar offices, Caballero still holds wonderful memories from her excursions and describes them as memorable and unique. "The chance to visit all these countries back to back and compare the diverse cultures was amazing. This is what stands out the most when I think about the voyage I made."

Unlike Trelles, Caballero would not recommend the program on an academic basis. "I don't know if I'd recommend the program," Caballero said. Due to the heavy course load and strict administration, Caballero believes that it "took away from the trip."

"However, I recommend everyone to experience cultures different from our own and travel to eastern countries that we normally wouldn't dare to visit." Every semester, the Semester at Sea program changes their itineraries to include different cities throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

In order to be admitted into the program, students must submit an essay, be in good academic standing and pass a disciplinary clearance.

For students needing financial assistance, ISE accepts FAFSA and also provides awards for qualified students.
Hopeful after return of coach

High school athletes angered over return of their coach

It's a tough decision for any coach to make, but for the Warrensburg High School basketball team, it was a decision that many were not happy with.

In 2006, the school's basketball coach, Joe Hough, was placed on administrative leave with pay after a softball player accused him of sexual assault. This led to a petition being circulated by parents, which the school board approved, and Hough was fired.

While some were happy with the decision, others were unhappy and filed a lawsuit against the school. They contend that Hough was improperly fired and that the school failed to properly investigate the complaint.

When Hough was reinstated, his return was met with mixed reactions. Some were happy to see him back, while others were unhappy and continued their lawsuit.

The situation has been ongoing for several years, and it looks like it may be some time before it is resolved.

For more information on this story, visit www.Monitor.com or contact your local news station.
Hinton uses physical talents as small forward

HINTON, page 12

Moses Hinton’s 265 pound frame is unusually robust among basketball players.

NEWTEN ADIITION: Moses Hinton’s 265 pound frame is unusually robust among basketball players.

“All IN THE FAMILY

SWITCHING SIDES: Former Golden Panther center Xavier Shannon is attending graduate school at UM where he will play for his father, Randy Shannon.

NEWEST ADIITION: Moses Hinton’s 265 pound frame is unusually robust among basketball players.

SPORTS


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Hinton said that he started playing organized basketball at 6 years old and would practice by using garbage cans and simulating the game the night before a big match up.

As a forward, Hinton is undersized at his position. However, he feels playing football was the best physical preparation for transitioning onto the court.

“Basketball just comes a little easier for me because the physicality of football has put me in a great position to perform on the court,” he said.

Playing two different sports also means adapting to two different coaches, but Hinton sees no fundamental difference between coach Cristobal and coach Rouco.

With Hinton’s childhood dream coming true in his fourth year of college, he explains that football still has precedent over basketball.

“My goal for the last half of the basketball season is to do my best to contribute to the basketball team in order to grow as much as I can as a player,” he said.

Personally, Hinton has defined his own future success as being able to utilize his sports management degree to raise a family.

“I’m just going to use what my coaches have taught me, what I learned on the field and the court, and in the classroom as I continue at FIU,” Hinton said. “I just want to always better myself.”
Making men’s soccer team no simple process

All of my experiences playing soccer since I was 12 years old have been challenging yet positive. Switching to defense in high school was challenging and positive.

Playing Division 1 soccer? At this point I find it more challenging than anything else.

Ball drills, trying to reduce my 40-yard dash time and watching a lot of soccer is just a small taste of what I’m preparing for both physically and mentally. Why do I do this? Because for almost an entire year, I have had only one goal regarding soccer: make the men’s soccer team as a walk on.

When it came to my turn and I was asked, “Where do you take your soccer game from here?” I had no reason to think that it could happen.

The teens have been called pariahs. They’ve told us “They tell us we’re not good enough,” Hinton said.

Don Strock.

Scoring the Golden Panthers’ first touchdown of the 2007 season and averaging 15 yards per catch, 6-foot-3, 265 pound tight end has definitely made his contribution on the football team. Having to sit out six games as a result of an injury in 2006, Hinton became more cautious and realized chance of receiving a scholarship with a Division I-A football team due to the large number of players. Soon after, he received a scholarship from former Golden Panthers head coach Sergio Rouco.

“During Christmas break, while discussing fifth-year eligibility, football coach [Mario Cristobal] asked me my interest in playing on the basketball team because coach Rouco felt that I could be a positive addition to the team at that point in the season,” Hinton said.

After careful consideration, Hinton decided to begin practicing with the team a week prior to their victory over Troy.

“Even after his first practice with us, I could tell he was nervous and even shaking,” junior forward Alex Galindo, “I used to seeing him with a helmet on, but obviously he has brought us some luck with us winning his first two games with us, so that’s a plus.”

Hinton’s transition from the gridiron to the basketball court came as a shock to some of the team’s basketball players.

“It definitely surprised me. I have never heard of a football player coming onto the basketball team halfway through the season,” said junior center Russell Hicks.

“Regardless of him, I knew him before and I liked him, and he definitely fits right in.”

“Coming out of American Heritage High School, Hinton’s uncle explained that he would have a greater opportunity for a family member to get a scholarship if he was big enough to play college football. While he didn’t get a college scholarship, he still set his sights on a career in the sport he loved the most.”

I would say my biggest passion is for basketball, but because growing up I was always too heavy to play football and basketball did not have strict weight limits.