It has been over three years since the death of FIU students Janelle Bertot and Anthony “Tony” J. Perez. The couple died of carbon monoxide poisoning in Weston, Fla. On Nov. 14, 2004, Perez and Bertot were on a date at the Weston Town Center. They were sitting in Perez’s 1993 Mercury Villager with the engine running when they fainted. Unaware of the symptoms of the poisonous gas and the lack of breath, the couple later died.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless poisonous gas that is produced by the burning of fuels. When it enters the body it prevents the flow of blood to bring oxygen to your organs, cells and the rest of the body.

Bertot and Perez were actively involved in Greek life; Bertot was a sister of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and Perez, at the time, was president of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

Bertot’s family immediately created Janelle’s Wishing Well Charitable Foundation in her honor. Tony’s Lighthouse Charitable Foundation was recently founded to honor his life and educate the community about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Distraught by the loss of their brother and sister, Phi Sigma Sigma and Pi Kappa Phi united to create a memorial for Bertot and Perez.

“Clayton Solomon, brother of Pi Kappa Phi that her alma mater Western High School and other donations, the foundation will be expanding its scholarship from the high school to FIU’s Greek organizations. A kickball tournament is in the works.

“We hope to organize a kickball tournament as one of next year’s events at FIU involving the Greek community. I think it will be a fun event and bring awareness as well,” said Bertot.

On February 23, 2008 at Bijan’s on the River, Janelle’s Wishing Well will host its third annual fundraising gala in downtown Miami. The tickets will be $70.00 per person including dinner, entertainment and a donation to the foundation in order to continue the legacy of Berot and Perez.

There is limited information on Tony Perez’s foundation since it was recently founded. Brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are working on launching Tony’s Lighthouse’s Web site by next year. In the future, they too will donate scholarships on Tony’s behalf to the Greek community.

MONOXIDE, page 3

JOSE MARTI AWARDS

 Winners to be announced

WHO’S TO BLAME?

OPINION

 Discussing global warming

KARAOKE CRAZE

LIFE!

The worldwide phenomenon

RECRUITING TRAIL

SPORTS

Team needs improved talent

ONE CAMPUS CHALLENGE

Students take on Challenge

ROCCO BLANCO-GARCIA

Staff Writer

One in seven people live in poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic has come to affect more than 35 million people throughout the globe, according to ONE.org. This is the reality society is faced with at the dawn of the 21st century.

FIU joined the fight against the spread of AIDS and poverty by partnering with the ONE Campus Challenge.

Other universities around the country such as Iowa State University, University of Florida and Georgetown University also joined the challenge.

“The challenge is fun, competitive and, it allows us to fight for a good cause,” said Juan Jarapiño, former president of the FIU chapter.

ONE operates in all 50 states as a humanitarian non-profit organization, with a membership of over 2.4 million people.

“The goal of ONE is to raise public awareness on issues of poverty, hunger and disease.

The organization also works to convince America’s leaders into allocating more of the US budget toward alleviating AIDS and poverty, which are devastating entire generations in the world’s poorest countries.

The Campus Challenge was...

ONE CAMPUS, page 8

Deadline to become a Florida delegate approaching

CHRISTINA LEMUS

Contributing Writer

The application deadline for Florida delegate candidates is approaching, and the Florida Democratic Party believes this is the most important election to be a Florida delegate.

Florida democrats are not just voting in the 2008 election, they are campaigning to be a part of it. Even after the Democratic National Committee decided to strip the Florida vote at the National Convention, constituents are still rallying their vote for delegate.

Jenny Alvarez-Parrilla, a journalism student, said this would be a great opportunity for students to become a delegate because they would be able to learn a lot about politics, and at the same time, be a part of the election.

“Becoming a delegate allows you to represent a candidate who you believe in and get your voice heard in the election,” Alvarez-Parrilla said.

The Florida Democratic Party believes Floridians will still turn out and vote on Jan. 29, and the state will receive enough media attention to campaign for the democratic candidates.

Sandra Lyon, director for the Office of the Chair for the Florida Democratic Party, said the Florida primary could be very important in the election, and people are waiting until the last few days of the month to submit their application for delegate. “Everything can change after Super Tuesday, so people are waiting until they think they know which candidate is going to win. They want their candidate to win so they can run to become a delegate,” Lyon said.

The application deadline for Florida delegate candidates is Jan. 29, and it requires a candidate to already be a registered democratic voter and to have completed two forms from the Florida Democratic Party: the Loyalty and Oath form and the Statement of Candidacy form.

One Hornbuckle, executive director for the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, said the best way for Democrats to get involved in the election is to become a delegate and vote at the convention.

“People don’t realize it is how easy it is to become a delegate and how well they can represent their state, their party and their community.”
Blackboard replaces obsolete WebCT

KEVIN CASTRO  
Staff Writer

WebCT is no stranger to students taking Web-assisted or completely online courses. That will soon change, though, as FIU is in the middle of phasing out WebCT’s use and will instead turn to a similar system called Blackboard.

Communication is much better with Blackboard because every student in the course is also in Blackboard, so communication via e-mail is assured to get to every student. Also, any student has the ability to communicate with any lecturer or anyone else in the course," said Thomas Pitzer, biological sciences professor.

"The support for WebCT was not renewed, therefore we have to move toward a new product, and the closest thing to WebCT 4.1 is Blackboard CE6," Lezcano said.

"Since the switch, several issues have risen, ranging from problems in posting lecture notes to a semester’s worth of grades disappearing. Other problems include lag, login issues, student’s grades not showing after a professor posts them, removal of professors’ administrative access and missing quizzes. "None degree or another I have experienced all the aforementioned issues at one time or another," Pitzer said.

According to Lezcano, the issues were corrected with three software patches that were installed over the Winter break.

"The related problems support. The consultants are available Monday through Sunday, from 8 a.m. to midnight. Blackboard also offers a help desk for additional support offered, Palmer Graves, associate chair of the chemistry department decided not to switch to Blackboard.

"Blackboard, the new version 6.0, according to UTS was not installed correctly and did not work. It was extremely slow and crashed a lot," Graves said.

According to Lezcano the issues have been addressed and the patches have made the system more stable. Despite the problems being resolved, WebCT fans are quick to defend its use in their classes.

"E-learning and WebCT are very successful here in the chemistry department at the University of Florida," said Eric Enholm, associate chair in chemistry. While several professors have claimed problems to Lezcano, each faculty member is assigned an e-learning consultant, giving professors easy access to assistant or completely Web CT. The related problems

Communication is much better with Blackboard because every student in the course is also in Blackboard, so communication via e-mail is assured to get to every student. Also, any student has the ability to communicate with any lecturer or anyone else in the course," said Thomas Pitzer, biological sciences professor.

"The support for WebCT was not renewed, therefore we have to move toward a new product, and the closest thing to WebCT 4.1 is Blackboard CE6," Lezcano said.

"Since the switch, several issues have risen, ranging from problems in posting lecture notes to a semester’s worth of grades disappearing. Other problems include lag, login issues, student’s grades not showing after a professor posts them, removal of professors’ administrative access and missing quizzes. "None degree or another I have experienced all the aforementioned issues at one time or another," Pitzer said.

According to Lezcano, the issues were corrected with three software patches that were installed over the Winter break.

"The related problems support. The consultants are available Monday through Sunday, from 8 a.m. to midnight. Blackboard also offers a help desk for additional support offered, Palmer Graves, associate chair of the chemistry department decided not to switch to Blackboard.

"Blackboard, the new version 6.0, according to UTS was not installed correctly and did not work. It was extremely slow and crashed a lot," Graves said.

According to Lezcano the issues have been addressed and the patches have made the system more stable. Despite the problems being resolved, WebCT fans are quick to defend its use in their classes. E-learning and WebCT are very successful here in the chemistry department at the University of Florida," said Eric Enholm, associate chair in chemistry. While several professors have claimed problems to Lezcano, each faculty member is assigned an e-learning consultant, giving professors easy access to
Becoming a delegate offers costly, historic opportunity

DELEGATES, page 1

Hornbuckle said. According to Lyon, running as a delegate candidate is a campaign.

If an applicant’s presidential candidate wins at least 15 percent of the primary vote in their district, then that applicant has an opportunity to run for a delegate. However, the applicants candidate must also make it to a district-level caucus in order to win votes to be a delegate.

“It all comes down to the candidates so they can have as many people as possible within their congressional district to vote for them,” according to Mark Bubriski, communications director for the Florida Democratic Party.

According to Lyon, applicants must campaign for themselves until the day of the caucus to make sure all of the people they bring to the ballot with the same presidential candidate. That ballot will have a list of all the possible delegates for a candidate within that congressional district.

The votes will be determined the same night of the caucus and the winners will go on to the national convention.

Bubriski said.

“Delegates have to truly campaign to win those limited slots because some districts may have anywhere from two to six delegates go to the convention in Denver, Miami-Dade and Broward County school systems to educate high school students in driver’s education classes and health classes about the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

In July 2007, Governor Charlie Crist signed a carbon monoxide law entitled “Janelle’s Law” that will go into effect in July. The law requires carbon monoxide detectors similar to smoke detectors to be installed in new buildings that burn fossil fuels including residential and commercial buildings.

“There is not a day I think about them. I look at their pictures when I wake up and all the time I’m at work. They’re my angels. But through awareness events, I can only potentially save someone’s life, but keep their memory alive,” DaParre said.

For more information on Janelle’s Wishing Well, or to purchase tickets for the fundraising gala, visit http://www.jelanleswishingwell.org.

ASHLEY ARTILES is a member of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority.

Foundations inspired by couple’s death

MONOXIDE, page 1

“If someone could help me pay for the travel expenses, then I would definitely go; but, as a student right now, it would be too hard to pay for a trip like that,” Alvarez-Parrilla said.

For Lyons and most of the other Florida Democratic Party members, becoming a delegate is worth the money and their commitment.

They believe the up close experience in the election is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

“Becoming a delegate is really something you have to commit to. The money, the time, the campaigning — it’s all worth it. Especially this year when we have the chance to vote for a real change in the presidency. It’s like making history,” Lyon said.

Alvarez-Parrilla believes she would run as a delegate if it wasn’t so expensive to pay for the trip to Denver.

The only thing holding her back is the lack of financial support.

“If someone could help me pay for the travel expenses, then I would definitely go; but, as a student right now, it would be too hard to pay for a trip like that,” Alvarez-Parrilla said.

For Lyons and most of the other Florida Democratic Party members, becoming a delegate is worth the money and their commitment.

They believe the up close experience in the election is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

“Becoming a delegate is really something you have to commit to. The money, the time, the campaigning — it’s all worth it. Especially this year when we have the chance to vote for a real change in the presidency. It’s like making history,” Lyon said.
Jose Marti’s Cuban passion honored at scholarship breakfast

Hundreds of essays turned in, two winners awarded $2000

MARCELO GORENSTEIN Contributing Writer

FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus will join Miami-Dade College in celebrating the birth of Cuban writer José Marti as part of the eighth annual scholarship breakfast.

The celebration will take place Jan. 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

This year’s event will feature keynote speaker Professor Uva de Aragon, a journalist, poet and essayist, whose career has been devoted to Martí.

“Marti’s greatest passion was Cuba. He wished not only to liberate her from the colonial government of Spain, but also to lay the foundations of the nation, the Republic,” Aragon said. “Even during the organization of the war, he saw the need to limit the power of the military and of creating a civil society.”

Aragon came to the United States from Havana in 1960 at age 15. Passionate about literature from an early age, she started publishing at 16. She has penned a dozen books, including “El Caïman en el Espejo”, “Versos de Cuba”, “Los Nombres del Caiman en el Espejo”, “Versos a Martí” and “Marti a Cuba de Exilio.”

Furthermore, his advocacy for a united Latin America, racial equality, and respect to human rights, is as valid today as in his times.”

The scholarship was founded in 2000 by Raúl Moncarz, former vice provost of BBC. Through a donation given to FIU by Jose Badia, president and owner of Badia Spices, scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each will be given to FIU and Miami Dade students who have winning entries.

This contest is a way to let people know what an important figure Marti was, according to Rafael Zapata, a member of the Jose Marti Scholarship Breakfast Committee.

“This breakfast raises scholarships and other funds and provides a different way of honoring Martí’s name,” Zapata said.

Hundreds of essays on Martí’s poems are expected for the scholarship prize. A scholarship committee based at University Park will choose the winning essays.

To qualify, recipients must be undergraduate students and enrolled full-time in an approved degree-seeking program at FIU or Miami Dade College.

Two students from both FIU and Miami-Dade College will be honored at the breakfast with scholarships for their essays, one in Spanish and one in English.

Students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. They must also be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, a resident of Miami-Dade or Broward County and submit a separate one-page essay on one literary work or speech by the Cuban writer in English or Spanish. Applicants do not have to be of Hispanic origin to qualify.

Moncarz declined to comment.

Unfortunately, college students today do not know as much about Marti as they should. He is more than Cuba’s founding father, a man of universal values.

DEFENSE MOVES: Students take part in the BBC Fitness Center’s Self Defense and Core Training class held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m.

Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research Institute at FIU

FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus poetry lovers have a club where they can share their enthusiasm for words.

Founded in 2005, On Point Poetry is a small club of students who share a passion for spoken word poetry. Supported by the Student Programming Council, The Black Student Association and the Cuban Institute at FIU, these young poets’ mission is to entertain those who enjoy reading and writing poetry.

“It’s a group of young poets who recite, who read and who write poetry for themselves. We get together and we share a little bit of ourselves,” said Kerestu M. Toussaint, club president and a senior finance major.

In cooperation with The Write Side Poets Inc., a non-profit organization that supports young writers through contests and events in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, On Point Poetry will be hosting Moments of Reflection, an event to celebrate African American History.

“Its not going to be just poetry, there’s also going to be drawings and dancing,” said Mundonucha Cherfre, On Point Poetry vice president and a freshman in biomedical engineering major.

Featuring Jubilee Ray Dominguez’s dancehall music, Poetic Vibe and DJ Push Play, this event will touch topics from the slave trade to the civil rights movement. Drummers from Africa will also perform.

Moments of Reflection will take place Feb. 5 at BBC’s Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at 6:45 p.m.

“It’s an experience,” Toussaint said. “Even if you don’t love poetry, the show and experience alone are worth coming to.” Any person who has any minority affiliation, regardless if they’re Cuban, Puerto Rican or Hispanic, should come. This is an opportunity to gain some perspective on history.”

On Point Poetry will also host Sensual Seduction. At Sensual Seduction there will be no limits, Toussaint said. “The poets will be allowed to speak freely. It gets very strong.”

Sensual Seduction will be held Feb. 12 in the BBC ballroom at 7 p.m.

The club has also worked with Spoken Words, a sister poetry club at University Park. Together the two clubs come together and form one to represent the amateur poets of the University.

Membership to On Point Poetry is open to anyone.

“I’m not a poet myself. I don’t write. I like to enjoy other people’s talent,” said Nakiya Calvert, On Point Poetry member and a sophomore marine biology major.

For more information on the club and events, visit www.myspace.com/onpoint-poetry.

“Poetry is a group of people who recite, who read and who write poetry for themselves,” said Kerestu M. Toussaint, club president and a senior finance major.

In cooperation with The Write Side Poets Inc., a non-profit organization that supports young writers through contests and events in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, On Point Poetry will be hosting Moments of Reflection, an event to celebrate African American History.

“Its not going to be just poetry, there’s also going to be drawings and dancing,” said Mundonucha Cherfre, On Point Poetry vice president and a freshman in biomedical engineering major.

Featuring Jubilee Ray Dominguez’s dancehall music, Poetic Vibe and DJ Push Play, this event will touch topics from the slave trade to the civil rights movement. Drummers from Africa will also perform.

Moments of Reflection will take place Feb. 5 at BBC’s Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre at 6:45 p.m.

“It’s an experience,” Toussaint said. “Even if you don’t love poetry, the show and experience alone are worth coming to.” Any person who has any minority affiliation, regardless if they’re Cuban, Puerto Rican or Hispanic, should come. This is an opportunity to gain some perspective on history.”

On Point Poetry will also host Sensual Seduction. At Sensual Seduction there will be no limits, Toussaint said. “The poets will be allowed to speak freely. It gets very strong.”

Sensual Seduction will be held Feb. 12 in the BBC ballroom at 7 p.m.

The club has also worked with Spoken Words, a sister poetry club at University Park. Together the two clubs come together and form one to represent the amateur poets of the University.

Membership to On Point Poetry is open to anyone.

“I’m not a poet myself. I don’t write. I like to enjoy other people’s talent,” said Nakiya Calvert, On Point Poetry member and a sophomore marine biology major.

For more information on the club and events, visit www.myspace.com/onpoint-poetry.

“All you have to do is just love poetry,” Cherfre said. “That’s the only requirement.”
Global climate changes pose serious threats

MATT COOK
Contributing Writer

One of the most pressing issues our generation faces is that of global climate change, more commonly known as global warming. The global climate is rapidly changing and the consequences are going to be disastrous.

“This scene is as frightening as a science fiction movie, but they are even more terrifying because they are real,” said United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon following the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Global Climate Changes’ report.

“Global warming is unequivocal and carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere commits the world to an eventual rise in sea levels of up to 4.6 feet,” a Nov. 2007 article in the USA Today reported.

Ban Ki-moon asserted in a USA Today report, "Only urgent, global action will do.”

The United States and China are among the world’s top polluters; it is time this country takes responsibility for its actions. If we want to live in a healthy and sustainable world we must own up and learn from our mistakes. It is important that all nations work together to resolve this issue.

In order for that to happen, it is going to take cooperation. I would consider this one of the largest polluters in the world – the United States – to set aside its private interests, otherwise, there will not be a world left.

USA Today’s article attests that enough carbon dioxide already has built up that it imperils islands, coastlines and a fifth to two-thirds of the world’s species and as early as 2020, seventy-five million to two hundred-fifty million people in Africa will suffer water shortages.

Residents of Asia’s large cities will be at great risk of river and coastal flooding. Our world is going to gradually deteriorate until there is nothing left and it is going to start with the people the world neglects and takes advantage of the most.

My message to the United States and the first world Imperialists is this: you are not invincible, as noted by the article which goes on to state that “Europeans can expect extensive species loss, and North Americans will experience longer and hotter heat waves and greater competition for water.”

Does the United States government and others honestly think they can continue to strip the world of its resources without facing consequences?

The climate is changing as we have seen with melting snow and glaciers, higher temperatures and rising sea levels.

Global warming can and will cause even more devastating natural disasters, strain food and water resources, eliminate species entirely and spread disease.

The problem we are facing today is man-made. It started with the desire to produce more at whatever expense necessary.

Industrialism, imperialism and materialism have ruled our society. We have attempted to dominate and manipulate the world and its resources, however we are in for a very sad awakening.

Until nations can set aside their interests for the betterment of society, we can expect to see more catastrophic hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, rising sea levels, extinctions and depletion of our world’s resources.

The world’s resources are a gift to humanity; gifts that we should respect and value. What we use, we must give back.

Ban Ki-moon may have put it best, that global warming will become "so severe and so sweeping that only urgent global action will do. We are all in this together."

Citizens given more options for pharmaceutical needs

EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

While FIU students were traveling around the country to spend the holidays with their families, Florida Governor Charlie Crist had his own road trip around the Sunshine State. Anywhere from Miami to Orlando to Jacksonville, Governor Crist was busy spreading the word about the launch of the new Florida Drug Card Program.

The program reached out to the public on Dec. 20, 2007 and was welcomed with open arms as 3,000 Floridians enrolled within a day.

“The health of all Floridians is tremendously important,” said Crist. "Floridians eligible for this program have demonstrated their hope for a healthier lifestyle by signing up."

One may qualify for the card under certain circumstances. According to Crist’s Web site, A Florida citizen is eligible for the program if they do not have prescription drug coverage or if they are in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage gap.

The required age is 60 or older, but the card allows for younger residents if they have an annual income of less than triple that of the Federal Poverty Level.

For individuals, couples and families under the age limit to qualify their annual income can be no more than $30,636, $41,076 and $61,956, respectively. Approximately four million of Florida’s residents will be able to take advantage of the program and its benefits.

Residents who sign up for the program will save anywhere from 5 percent to 42 percent on almost every brand name or generic drug, varying by prescription and store.

In addition, 3,000 pharmacies across the state are participating in the program, making access as easy and painless as possible.

The only cost to Florida citizens is an annual fee of $1.50 upon their first prescription. As for the pharmacies, they agree to the negotiated prices of each drug. Those savings are then passed onto the customers taking part in the program.

Further proving that Crist is giving more power and options to the people, the governor has set up several Web sites for the Drug Card’s members. On FloridaHealth-Florida.gov, consumers can find information about 1,600 conditions, medications and insurance information.

In an effort to benefit citizens who were exploited, Crist has brought several companies up to task after they feigned wholesale prices in the past, further proving that he stands strongly for the people and in giving those in need of medication someone to trust.

The program spans a majority of the pharmacies of Florida, and ultimately affords the beneficiaries of the program, the highest possible discount on prescription drugs.

The only problem would occur if you’re under 60, in which your income must be considerably less than the poverty level.

The system, thus far, is only publicly criticized because of the stringent criteria of eligibility. Even those who make only slightly more than the maximum allowable income are exempted from the program. If only Governor Crist had proposed that eligibility could be appealed based on the circumstances of the applicant.

All in all, the program is an innovation in Florida’s health care system.

With the next wave of seniors projected to be the largest demographic, it’s safe to say the Florida Discount Drug Card will become a standard in the near future, likely to become as common as an ATM card.

The program spans a majority of the pharmacies of Florida, and ultimately affords the beneficiaries of the program, the highest possible discount on prescription drugs.
“Cloverfield” cast provides an inside look

Elyse Coleman
Staff Writer

Our Place Lounge and Liqueurs is a dimly lit tavern with walls covered in Americana and a small, crowded bar in the center. A tiny platform designating a stage sticks out in a corner, also finely decorated.

Until the karaoke begins, the MIC attempts to liven up the crowd by singing, break dancing and shaking out a slew of unintelligible words interspersed with obscenities, which manages to get everyone into the mood.

The bar hosts karaoke nights on Saturdays and Sundays. Also known for their Saturday karaoke night was Hooligan’s Pub and Oyster Bar, one of the many locations in Miami where Boogie Man George Entertainment hosts a karaoke night. Hooligan’s boasts itself as “Miami’s number one sports bar” and is a bit more low-key than Our Place, substituting the theaters with a bit more traditional karaoke scene.

For the past two decades, karaoke has continued to rise in popularity around the world. According to a June 2003 article in Scene magazine, the industry seems almost recession-proof.

The reason karaoke is so popular is because it lets individuals be a star. They can be a star for the three or four minutes they’re up on stage. It makes a person like you or I feel important,” said George.

Karaoke was popularized in the United States in the 1990s, but it actually dates back to the early 1970s. Time Asia Magazine credits a Japanese drummer by the name of Daisuke Inoue as having invented karaoke in 1971. However, according to About.com, the patent for the karaoke machine currently belongs to a Filipino inventor by the name of Roberto del Rosario, who invented the “Karaoke Sing Along System” in 1975.

While karaoke remains popular throughout North America, East Asia and Europe, the ways in which it is most commonly practiced are different. While in North America and Europe karaoke usually means singing up on a stage in front of a crowd of strangers in a bar, restaurant, or other establishment, it is most commonly practiced in Asia and Europe.

Enthusiasts throughout Asia where people groups can rent a "karaoke box," a small, sound-proof room equipped for karaoke parties.

"Karaoke boxes are really popular in Japan," said senior David Shaw. "There was a big place right close to my house. It's a very big business there. They have thick books filled with every American song you can think of and tons of Asian songs."

The prices on karaoke boxes can vary and they are usually rented in increments of an hour or half-hour. A market also exists for home versions of karaoke machines.

According to The Singing Machine, a Web site that cred its itself as "the leader in home karaoke and beyond," prices on home systems can range from approximately $60 to $400.

Recent years have seen a new addition to the home karaoke market through karaoke games for video game consoles, personal computers and even mobile phones.

"I like the fact you can get rated on your singing and sing the songs you like with friends," said Jennifer Matas, a senior. "It's kind of cool I suppose." Boogie Man George Entertainment operates at a wide variety of venues, all of which are listed on their Web site www.boogiemangeorge.com.

If the only thing separating you from the one you love was a giant, blood thirsty monster, would you run to their rescue? This is the question that drives the action in “Cloverfield,” a film with a new take on the monster genre.

“Cloverfield” reunites J.J. Abrams and Director Mark Reeves since their work on television’s “Felicity.” Along with writer Drew Goddard, they’ve taken inspiration from Japan’s “Godzilla” and have tried to give rampaging monsters a fresh start.

The Reason spoke with actors Michael Vogel, Lizzy Caplan and T.J. Miller in a national college press conference call for their insights on making “Cloverfield”.

“When we were all told it was a monster movie, there was sort of a hesitation because we’ve seen it done [badly] a lot of times,” said Vogel, who plays Jason Hawkins, Rob’s older brother. “I think the [film’s] saving grace is the vision of J.J. Abrams, the vision of Matt Reeves and a cast of characters that makes you feel safe in doing what you do and in being a part of something like this.”

Part of the actors’ filming commitment included signing nondisclosure forms to keep mum on story details to the public. With filming limited to a single handheld camera, upward of 40 takes were shot for each scene.

“Toward the beginning, in order to gear up for every scene where we were out of breath – which was like, basically every scene – we would run really fast up and down the street so we would legitimately be out of breath and then I think by like, take it in like, ‘Yeah, you know what? I think I’m gonna fake it for this one,’” Caplan said. “With all the dust and all the hyperventilating that we had to do, they had oxygen tanks for us.”

Miller plays Hud Platt, Rob’s “number one dude” charged with capturing his last night in America on film. Miller worked double duty as actor and cameraman, shooting almost one third of the film while playing Hud, the audience’s eyes in the catastrophe.

“It’s such a different movie to make and it’s so hard to act [in a kind of] film that you’ve never seen or [with a unique] style of film making so we did the best we could,” Miller said. “We – and by that I mean the director, the producers, all the actors, the crew – we were all figuring it out as we went along … that’s a challenge. I think we were successful in that sense.”

The choice to shoot with a single camera was meant to recreate the intimate, voyeuristic quality real homemade videos have, according to Abrams.

To further ground fantasy in reality, Miller was encouraged to improvise lines because we’re not seeing,” Abrams said. “Every time he needed to do, he didn’t know what it is.”

The fact that it’s a single camera shooting style mixed with a lot of incredible effects, and then you take into account that the film that was done for 25 million dollars, it sets a really high standard for other films to follow to show that it is possible, without busting a mega budget, to do what can be a successful film and make it incredibly different,” Vogel said.

“Cloverfield” has already paid for itself, having earned a record $31 million in its opening weekend, according to Paramount Studios.

“This film is so much more than a monster movie – it’s a survivor movie, it’s a comedy, it’s a love story and it gives you motion sickness,” Miller said. “It’s a big idea and a bold and ambitious move in film making and I think Matt Reeves did what he needed to do and J.J. did what he needed to do and the acting is amazing.”
**WEEKEND RUNDOWN**

### THURSDAY • JANUARY 24
- **WHAT**: Aromas of Havana  
  **WHERE**: Aromas of Havana Cigars and Lounge  
  14781 Biscayne Blvd, N. Miami Beach, FL 33181  
  **WHEN**: Daily  
  **HOW MUCH**: Varies  

- **WHAT**: Drink of the Week: Chili Passion  
  **WHERE**: Setai Hotel  
  2001 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139  
  **WHEN**: Daily  
  **HOW MUCH**: Varies  

- **WHAT**: South Florida Fair  
  **WHERE**: South Florida Fairgrounds  
  9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
  **WHEN**: Daily  
  **HOW MUCH**: $15  

- **WHAT**: Best of Miami Jazz  
  **WHERE**: Churchill’s Pub  
  5301 NE 2nd Ave. Miami, FL 33137  
  **WHEN**: Daily  
  **HOW MUCH**: $15  

### FRIDAY • JANUARY 25
- **WHAT**: Matchbox Twenty  
  **WHERE**: Hard Rock Live  
  5747 Seminole Way Hollywood, FL 33314  
  **WHEN**: 6:30 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $60 - $100  

- **WHAT**: Guster  
  **WHERE**: Culture Room  
  3045 N Federal Hwy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306  
  **WHEN**: 8 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $24.99  

- **WHAT**: Wu Tang Clan  
  **WHERE**: The Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theatre  
  1700 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
  **WHEN**: 8 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $38 - $63  

- **WHAT**: Heavy Metal  
  **WHERE**: miArte Gallery  
  85 Merrick Way, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
  **WHEN**: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: Free  

- **WHAT**: Cabaret Fridays  
  **WHERE**: La Paloma  
  10999 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami, FL 33181  
  **WHEN**: Daily  
  **HOW MUCH**: $5  

### SATURDAY • JANUARY 26
- **WHAT**: Sick of it all  
  **WHERE**: Studio A  
  60 NE 11 Street Miami, FL 33132  
  **WHEN**: 5:30 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $16  

- **WHAT**: David Allan Coe  
  **WHERE**: Culture Room  
  **WHEN**: 8 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $22  

- **WHAT**: The Miami Blues Festival  
  **WHERE**: James L Knight Center  
  400 SE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33131  
  **WHEN**: 7 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $47.50 - $55  

- **WHAT**: Farewell to the Orange Bowl  
  **WHERE**: Orange Bowl  
  1501 NW 3rd St, Miami, FL 33125  
  **WHEN**: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $20  

- **WHAT**: Laughing Gas Improv  
  **WHERE**: Miami Street Playhouse  
  6766 Main St, Miami Lakes, FL 33014  
  **WHEN**: 1! p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $10  

- **WHAT**: The Little Dog Laughed  
  **WHERE**: Gable Stage  
  1200 Anastasia Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
  **WHEN**: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $37.50 – $42.50  

---

**SUNDAY • JANUARY 27**

- **WHAT**: Surf and Song Festival  
  **WHERE**: Indian Creek Plaza  
  17260 San Carlos Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
  **WHEN**: 12 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: $10  

- **WHAT**: Free Beer at Sushin  
  **WHERE**: Sushin Japanese Restaurant  
  10501 N Kendall Dr, Kendall, FL 33176  
  **WHEN**: 5 p.m.  
  **HOW MUCH**: Varies  

- **WHAT**: Drink and Chill Literally  
  **WHERE**: The Polar Bar  
  938 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach, FL 33139  
  **WHEN**: Varies  
  **HOW MUCH**: Varies  

---

- Compiled by Kassandra Pool

---

**UM MBA**

Jose Antonio Hernandez-Solano  
Vice President and Senior Account Manager — GE Capital Solutions

Receive world-class education from internationally-renowned faculty at the University of Miami School of Business Administration. Our selective admission standards and innovative curriculum create a challenging learning environment where students gain the skills and insights that exceptional leadership demands. Call or visit us today to find out why the University of Miami’s MBA is the right choice for you.
All University leaders urged to join fight against AIDS

ONE CAMPUS, page 1

created after the organization saw increasing momentum in students’ action to engage in fighting poverty.

“The purpose of the ONE Campus Challenge is to motivate and unite students as one,” Cristina Lopez, leader of the FIU ONE chapter, said.

There are three phases and participating schools receive points during each phase. In the first, students recruit people to join the ONE cause, make calls to Congress and organize activities such as human logos, vigils and tabling in concerts. In the second phase, the 100 highest-scoring schools, which included FIU, traveled to a conference in Washington D.C. where speakers such as Bill Frist, former Senate majority leader, talk about the issues of poverty, hunger and AIDS.

In the third stage of the event, the top ten schools will receive a $1,000 grant to promote poverty fighting programs on their campuses.

FIU is entering the third stage of the challenge alongside more than 2,000 colleges and universities. FIU ranks 65 in the competition with 24,140 points, but the members of FIU’s Campus Challenge are still aiming to land in the top ten.

“Soon we will have a party where students will get to have tons of fun and at the same time make calls to Congress to ask our leaders to make the elimination of poverty, AIDS and hunger part of their political campaigns,” Lopez said.

Lopez, together with the three core members of the FIU chapter and more than 50 volunteers, have attended festivals and done tabling to promote the organization.

“We don’t ask for money or donations; all we want you to do is wear our shirts and pass our message to others,” Lopez said.

The organization’s Web site, ONE.org, allows anyone to sign the ONE declaration and volunteer for the cause. Bracelets and T-shirts are also available for sale on the Web site.

The T-shirts are made in Lesotho, a small African country, and $10 from every purchase goes to the Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS fund, which provides AIDS treatment to Lesotho factory workers.

Students can also join ONE through popular student networking Web sites such as Facebook.com and Myspace.com, where the students can add ONE to their friends list, add animated logos to their personal page, listen to music from the campaign, sign the declaration or create a chapter on their campus.

The organization’s current goal is to end the hardships of undeveloped countries, but the members of the FIU chapter have their own goal. They want to expand poverty awareness all around campus and make other FIU associations join the cause.

“We want to talk to the leaders of all other FIU associations and invite them to join us in this fight against global poverty,” Jarapiño said.

Daniel Depas, member of the FIU ONE chapter also encourages all FIU students to join the organization by ensuring them that if they all work together, they can change the world.

“We have the capability to make this a better world, to end poverty and alleviate the hardships of others,” Depas said. “It may seem difficult, but it’s possible.”

“Dark Knight” star dies in apartment

TOM HAYS
AP Wire

Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday at a downtown Manhattan apartment, and police said drugs may have been a factor. The Australian-born actor was 28.

Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the residence in the tony SoHo neighborhood, NVPD spokesman Paul Browne said. A housekeeper who went to let him know the massage therapist had arrived found him dead at 3:26 p.m.

Many FIU students were shocked. “I think it’s crazy. It’s so sad.” said Catherine Fowler, a Freshman. “I think it’s really sad because he’s a person from our era.

Usually you hear about older people dying and it sucks that someone from our era has died.” said Zasha Fernandez, a Junior.

Ledger was nominated for an Oscar for “Brokeback Mountain,” where he met Michelle Williams in 2005. The two lived together in Brooklyn and had a daughter, Matilda, until they split up last year.

Lopez said. “I’m Not There.” Ledger was to appear as the Joker this year in “The Dark Knight,” a sequel to 2005’s “Batman Begins.” He’s had starring roles in “A Knight’s Tale” and “The Patriot,” and played the suicidal son of Billy Bob Thornton in “Monster’s Ball.”

Ledger grew up in Perth, and began doing amateur theater at age 10. After several independent films and a starring role in the short-lived Fox TV series “Roo,” Ledger moved to Los Angeles and costarred in “10 Things I Hate About You,” a teen comedy reworking of “The Taming of the Shrew.” “I really liked “Ten Things I Hate About You.” That’s my favorite movie,” said Fowler.

Offers for other teen flicks came his way, but Ledger turned them down, preferring to remain idle than sign on for projects he didn’t like.


“It was hard for everyone else around me to understand. Agents were like, ‘You’re crazy,’ my parents were like, ‘Come on, you have to eat.’”

Carolina Santos, a sophomore, reflected on the consequences of the actor’s untimely death. “It’s going to be wierd not having movies with him.”
Big Diesel to miss two weeks with hip injury

With South Alabama and Western Kentucky running away with the Sun Belt Conference through the first half of the conference play period, FIU will be playing catch-up in hopes of reaching its conference championship goal.

The Golden Panthers (5-12) face their next two games as of Jan. 19. First year coach Anthony McCalebb, who scores over 22 points a game, has won two straight performances against Louisiana-Monroe with another successful one against the undersized Indians.

Golden Panthers: Injury update on Shaquille O'Neal

Shaquille O'Neal will miss at least the next two weeks because of recurring pain in his left hip and leg, the latest piece of disappointing news for the reeling Miami Heat.

An MRI exam performed Tuesday on O'Neal's ailing hip found acute inflammation in that joint and his quadriceps muscle. He will be treated with ice, but won't do any basketball-related activity — with hopes that rest will cure the problem.

O'Neal will miss at least six games, barring a change in the rehabilitation schedule. The earliest he could return under the timetable released by the team is Feb. 6 at Detroit.

"His activity, the activity, is exasperating it," said Heat coach Pat Riley, whose team has lost 14 straight games, three shy of matching the franchise record — almost seems certain to end because of his obvious pain.

"That's all. That's what happens. He's trying to do everything he can do. He's gotten all the treatment he can get. And now it's probably going to be an inactive period of time until the thing heals."

O'Neal was not available to reporters today. He has missed an average of 20 games over the past six seasons because of an array of injuries, and still has two full seasons after this remaining on his five-year, $100 million contract with Miami.

Other tests done Tuesday, including bloodwork, ruled out the possibility of infection or other problems, the team said.

O'Neal suffered the hip injury while diving for a loose ball against Utah on Dec. 22 — the last game Miami won. He missed eight games from Dec. 28 through Jan. 11, sought treatment in Los Angeles over that stretch, and returned when the Heat started their current seven-game homestand Jan. 16.

O'Neal left Monday's game against Cleveland in the first quarter to have the hip re-taped, then returned to the game with a noticeable limp. He finished with 10 points, none after halftime.

He's averaging a career-high 14.2 points this season, and his string of 14 straight All-Star Game selections — which matches a league record — almost seems certain to end because of his latest malady.

Heat guard Dwyane Wade, who scored 32 of Miami's 38 second-half points in Monday's 97-90 loss to Cleveland, said it's tough to continue watching O'Neal play in obvious pain.

"He's judged more than a lot of the athletes in the world because of who he is, who he has become," Wade said.

"If he's playing and hurting and not playing good, he's being talked about. If he's not playing and he's trying to get healthy, the doctors are talking about taking time off. It's a lose-lose situation. As his friend, I want him to be healthy. That's the most important thing to us."

Mark Blount likely will become Miami's new starting center, now that O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning (season-ending knee and quadiceps injuries) are hurting. Centers Joel Anthony and Earl Barron are also on the Heat roster, although they've combined to play 207 minutes this season.

Depending on how long O'Neal is out, Riley said the team might try to add another big man for depth.

"We'll talk about it," Riley said.

For now, Blount — who started 81 games for Minnesota last year and who has averaged 5.7 points and 3.6 minutes per game this season — will be the primary pivot man Miami, which has the Eastern Conference's worst record at 8-32.

When Blount was acquired before the season in a trade, he expected to spend the year playing alongside O'Neal and Mourning and helping the Heat get back to their championship form from two seasons ago.

"It's been different," Blount said. "There's nothing I can do about that. Nothing you can really say. The team is looking at me to try to help them out right now. Of course, you want to be there with Shaq and be there with Zo, but that's not the situation right now."
Loss snaps teams’ two-game win streak

BASKETBALL, page 12

more help in the second half than he received. Russell Hicks and Erick Nsangou, who combined for 23 of FIU’s 28 first half points, were only able to come up with three points between them in the second half.

Also in the second half, the Golden Panthers – outside of Galindo’s 8-for-13 effort – went a combined 3-for-18 from the field.

The loss snapped FIU’s two-game winning streak at home and extended its overall losing skid to three games.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Jonesboro, Ark., on Jan. 24 to take on the Arkansas State, losers of four of their last six (8-10, 3-5, SBC). They will return home on Jan. 27 to play the University of New Orleans (14-5, 4-3 SBC).

BASKETBALL, page 12

With the season a little more than half finished the women’s basketball team (7-11, 3-4 Sun Belt) has had its ups and downs.

Since starting the season 1-5, the Golden Panthers have gone 6-6 and seem to be heading in the right direction despite a tough schedule.

The Golden Panthers have done a great job on defense against most of their conference opponents like Troy and Louisiana-Monroe, who were both held to season lows in points.

However, the fact remains that FIU is just not scoring enough points to win consistently.

Since the loss of inside presences Elisa Carey and Marquita Adley, FIU has not scored more than 70 points in a game and has been held below 60 points six times.

This is surprising because FIU does have quite a few good offensive players, such as senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, junior guard Iva Ciglar and freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa.

The team’s win against South Alabama on the road was a boost for a team struggling on the road.

“It was amazing. We played as a team. We were hustling and supporting each other,” said point guard Iva Ciglar. “Everybody committed 100 percent.”

Until that game, FIU had been struggling on the road, losing every game, often by double digits – with the exception of a big win in Coral Gables against the University of Miami.

Next up for FIU is the University of New Orleans (9-9, 3-4 SBC). The Privateers are led by Le’Della English and Britney Helms who both average 10 points per game.

The Privateers are a fairly big team with two 6-3 players and four others six-footers. FIU will face the Privateers on Jan. 26 at the Pharmed Arena.

The game should be close and rebounding could once again be a key factor. FIU will need to find a way to shutdown New Orleans inside.

Strong defense alone can’t save team

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

HEADS UP: Freshman guard Russell Tremayne looks to pass the ball to set up the offense.

UNITY: Despite losing two key defensive players, the Golden Panthers’ defense has been the team’s strongest suit. The inconsistent offense has led to many of the team’s losses.

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING. YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT IT ON YOUR RESUME.

The Army ROTC Leader’s Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC BECOME AN ARMED FORCES OFFICER U.S. ARMY

Add Some Leadership & Adventure To Your Schedule Today! For more info, contact MAJ Wally Gallant at 305-348-1619 or visit www.fiu.edu/~armyrotc
Strong defense not enough as Golden Panthers fall to Cajuns

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Despite holding the Louisiana-Monroe (12-6, 5-2 Sun Belt Conference) to a season-low 53 points, the Golden Panthers (7-11, 3-4) only managed to score 50 points of their own and lost a close game in the final seconds of play Jan. 19 at the Pharmed Arena.

The Golden Panthers fell behind early, but took the lead when junior guard Iva Ciglar drove to the basket and made a lay-up while being fouled. It was only a matter of time before Ciglar victory. FIU 14-13.

With five minutes left, FIU went cold and did not score for the rest of the first half. ULM scored the final five points of the half and took a 24-21 lead into halftime.

ULM continued its run in the second half and a three-point play by sophomore power forward Shannon Jenkins hit a short shot in the low post. On the next possession, freshman forward Fanni Jekabsone scored inside for the first time this season as she turned in a career game, coming out of the timeout, senior forward Jasmine Davis gave the Warhawks a 36-23 lead. After a 17-2 ULM run, FIU called a timeout with 13:45 remaining in the game.

"It felt good, but we were still down and I knew it wasn’t enough, so I was just hoping we could get back and win," Hutlassa said.

After the 5-point shooting clinic, the Golden Panthers called timeout following Ciglar’s free throws. On the ensuing play, FIU set up for a full-court press and ULM stacked all its players on the FIU baseline. On a designed play, Moore ran for a lay-up that put FIU down by one point with 17 seconds left. Jackson was fouled six seconds later and hit a pair of free throws. Following a timeout, FIU had the ball with 11 seconds left, down 50-48. Ferguson got the ball and fired as quickly as she could, but her shot did not find the basket.

Turning the Corner: Junior guard Iva Ciglar’s late free throws could not prevent the Golden Panthers’ 53-50 loss.

FOOTBALL, page 12

while it is important to replenish the talent it will not be a top priority for the staff to find replacements.

Don’t look to see the running backs replaced any time soon, as A’mod Ned established himself as a true playmaker and threat with his 60 yard dash while Julian Reams was an efficient, strong and threat with his 60 yard dash while Julian Reams was an efficient, strong and threat with his 60 yard dash while Julian Reams was an efficient, strong

Dave Bing at the podium.

(9) Cincinnati 71, ULM 62

For the rest of the first half, a 17-2 ULM run included three 3-point field goals all in a row followed by a minute later, sophomore guard Jesse Carrier hit one of his two free throws, FIU was trailing by 3 points.

Ciglar went to the free-throw line. Even with ULM junior forward Lottie Moore quietly taunting her, Ciglar sank both free throws to make the score 48-45 in favor of the Warhawks.

With four tenths of a second left, Ferguson again got the ball and fired as quickly as she could, but her shot did not find the basket.

The Staff feels either of these quarterbacks has what it takes to put this team over the top and could not find that all elusive win.

The question is whether the coaching staff feels either of these quarterbacks has what it takes to put this team over the top and could not find that all elusive win.

The question is whether the coaching staff feels either of these quarterbacks has what it takes to put this team over the top and could not find that all elusive win.

He keeps the Heat on their feet

Barry University faculty member Dr. James Loito specializes in fancy footwork.

In addition to serving as the Miami Heat’s Team Podiatric Physician, Dr. Loito teaches sports medicine and biomechanics at Barry University. Barry’s program in podiatric medicine offers extensive research facilities, distinguished hospital and medical center affiliations, and excellent opportunities for residency programs and externships across the United States. The program’s Foot and Ankle Institute gets more than 10,000 patient visits a year.

When you become a Barry University student, you join a caring community where the concept of the whole person is valued, and where a Catholic, liberal arts tradition supports your intellectual and personal growth.

To find out more about Barry, just put one foot in front of the other. Visit www.barry.edu/podiatric.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

It’s time to go shopping; FIU football is hungry for talent

CLASSIFIEDS

Sitters Wanted. $10+ per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

1000 S.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami Lakes, FL 33019

305-899-1211, or 800-765-6000, ext. 3130

miami@beacon.barry.edu

www.barry.edu/podiatric

Photography by mihog

CUT 7955 92197

The Beacon – January 24, 2008
BASKETBALL, page 10 FOOTBALL, page 11

MEN’S BASKETBALL ULM 68, FIU 66

Troy in February 2006. Almonte scored 30 against 30-point effort since Ivan otoo thriller against on Jan. 30, 2005 in a five-game set by Ismael N’Diaye record for points in a home total of 34 points tied a school in a single half with 29. His of the second half, Galindo 18 seconds remaining. the first tie of the game with lead the Golden Panthers to scored 19 points in the latter Galindo took the game over. With 10:49 remaining, Alex as much 14 at two different able to increase their lead to 28 lead into the half and were giving the Warhawks their first conference victory of giving the Warhawks their what was formerly the nation’s longest losing streak, the Florida International University football team made a splendid amount of progress throughout the year that culminated in a long-odds victory over North Texas to cap off the season.

As one season ends, another begins for the coaching staff. This one doesn’t take place on the gridiron, but rather the living room of recruits across the nation. It is the infusion of talent that keeps stars in Lionell Singleton and Cory Fleming. Singleton was the much-heralded kick returner who often Fleming. Singleton was the much-heralded kick returner who often

periods of time. Michael Domin- gues, Mannie Wellington, Ryan Martinez, and Scott Bryant are all underclassmen and will be returning next year. While it is important to keep upgrading at every posi- tion, this is one the coaching staff can feel confident in going into next year.

Defensive line is a whole other story. The loss of Audric Adger is going to hurt badly, especially after his record-breaking performance against North Texas. The rest of the line is growing old too, as Jonathan Betancourt, Jarvis Pener- ton, and Reginald Jones all will be seniors next year. It is important to get freshmen under their wing as to learn from their experience.

At defensive back we see the loss of two of the team’s brightest stars in Lionell Singleton and Cory Fleming. Fleming was consistent throughout his entire career at FIU. The loss of both start- ers stings badly, although the play of freshmen Anthony Gaitor start- ers stings badly, although the play of freshmen Anthony Gaitor remain intact and have a year of experience under its belt, and Andy Leavine still needs to show he can be the dominating force we all expect out of him and Joe Alajajian must continue his growth.

Wide receiver is perhaps the deepest spot on the team, but the lack of a true game-breaker badly hurts this corp. There is consist- ency and talent all around from Jeremy Dickens and Elliot Dix to

MAKING THE PITCH

Season really won in the offseason with recruits

For all that was made of what was formerly the nation’s longest losing streak, the Florida International University football team made a splendid amount of progress throughout the year that culminated in a long-odds victory over North Texas to cap off the season.

As one season ends, another begins for the coaching staff. This one doesn’t take place on the gridiron, but rather the living room of recruits across the nation. It is the infusion of talent that keeps stars in Lionell Singleton and Cory Fleming. Singleton was the much-heralded kick returner who often Fleming. Singleton was the much-heralded kick returner who often...