Despite scheduling conflicts, Giuliani makes time for FIU
Mock election reveals Obama, Paul among students’ favorites

**GUILIANI, page 1**

don’t want to be the one who made the decision that Obama won. I really believe I made the right decision and people are making mistakes about the outcome.

Obama won on campus. For me, [the voters] push for a new face, a new change,” Menes said. “I’m not surprised [Obama won in the university primary].

Still, for Menes, the buzzword of the campaign is change, and for this reason, she is not surprised by the Obama win on campus. “For me, [the voters] push for a new face, a new change,” Menes said. “I’m not surprised [Obama won in the university primary].

“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win,” said Maria. As The Miami Herald poll indicated last week, Paul has daunting work ahead of him; the poll placed McCain, Romney and Giuliani as the top three Democratic favorites before the state’s actual Tuesday primaries.

Even though 223 students participated in the mock election, Menes still considers FIU’s lack of interest and knowledge of American politics to be “very disappointing.” According to Phi Sigma Alpha members, it was difficult to attract student attention and they had to resort to enticing students with free food to get them to cast votes.

“Miami Center is like a mall. If you don’t have anything to sell, no one pays attention,” said Chris Daley, executive board member of Phi Sigma Alpha. According to Daley, students voted on name recognition and “ethnic and skin politics.” For instance, if the voters were white, they usually voted for Clinton, and if the voters were Latin, they usually voted for Obama. Though Daley and other students may consider FIU to be inadequately informed, others think the most crucial thing students must realize is that every vote does make a difference.

Mark Romero, president of the Florida College Democrats, passed by the mock election booth, to cast his vote late in the afternoon and explained the importance of this election season lies in the range of ideological differences between the candidates.

“I would encourage people to vote because their vote will count,” he said. “There are lots of varying viewpoints and people would really be sending a message with their vote.”

Giuliani’s final Fla. stop will be FIU

The Republican were also punished for Florida’s moving its primary, however, half of its delegates will still count for its convention. “Unfortunately, none of the main Democratic candidates will be down here,” said Chris Cabral, president of the FIU Democrats. Strategists say that the lack of Democratic candidates campaigning in Florida could help Giuliani get more media attention and push him over with a win in a campaign which has had many ups and downs during the past several months. Scandals ranging from financial mishandling when he was New York City mayor, to top aides announcing they would work for free to save money, have marked Giuliani’s campaign so far.

For FIU, Giuliani’s speech will bring national media attention and recognition for its diverse student body and mixed political views.

For his supporters it will be the last chance to convince others to back up Giuliani in the Florida primary, which will be held the following day. “Miami-Dade County has been the most important county in Florida,” Correro said.

For more information about the event and to RSVP, contact miamiforudy@gmail.com.

College of Law hears court cases for first time

JESSICA ARSTE
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, the Third District Court of Appeals will hear its cases in the FIU College of Law Monday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Judges will hear oral arguments like any other courtroom, only this time, they will be in the law school’s courtroom.

“It is a privilege they want to do this at our school,” said Maria Garcia, president of the board of advocates.

The Third District Court of Appeals deals with questions of law rather than fact, which means it is where the law was broken in an individual case are no longer in question.

The event was organized through a meeting Garcia had with David M. Gersten, chief judge of the Third District Court of Appeals, as a way to strengthen the relationship between the court and FIU.

“It is a great opportunity for students, faculty and administrators to actually see how the legal system works,” Garcia said.

Students will be able to hear lawyers give oral arguments in five cases and see the workings of a Miami courtroom.

The cases that will be heard deal with very different issues and allow students to see the problems dealt with in court on a daily bases.

“They are literally just picking up their work for that day and bringing it to our school,” Garcia said.

“It is an opportunity for students to see judges question attorneys about the law.”

After the event, there will be a reception in the College of Law and all students are welcomed to attend.

New council aims to improve club finances

COUNCILS, page 1

made of SOC clubs, GSOs and honor societies.

According to Hernandez, of the three councils will be selecting four delegates to meet with the SGC-UP council to create the constitution of the new council, which will govern all aspects of how the new council will be run and as SGC.

During committee meetings, Houston hopes to retain as much as possible about the HC.

“Our goal going into this is going to be to fight for the name of the Honors Council to remain so that there is still some sort of identity and prestige for the students to come to. We are going to try and keep that in tact as much as possible while still merging and unifying,” Houston said.

Houston also said her delegates would try to maintain the academic integrity of the honor societies. This semester the HC was focusing more on academic ventures than on social ones.

The SOC may also have a hard time during this transition because of the complex point system it uses to fund all 150 of its student clubs.

Allison Foster, SOC advisor, said she hopes a transition clause that addresses the point system will be added to the constitution of the new council. Currently a club must earn at least 12 points a semester through various activities in order to be considered an active club and to receive funding.

With the SOC being dissolved next semester, the new council is expected to begin operations during the Fall 2008 semester.

According to Katiana Sainstable, president of Biscayne Bay Campus SGC, the new council will save approximately $17,000 in expenses, which come from the streamlined office expenditures.

Hernandez hopes that these funds will be recycled into the new council in areas such as funds allocations, or extra funds groups can request.

“The new council is expected to begin operations during the Fall 2008 semester.”

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In the same issue, the story titled “Couple’s memory honored”, the “Lighthouse Charitable Foundation” should have been called “Anthony’s Light Foundation.”

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or CBC at 305-919-4722.

CAST YOUR VOTE

VOTING DAY: Senior political science majors Francesca Menes, Clement Quinones, and Isreal Castillo of Pi Sigma Alpha hold mock elections for the Florida Primaries on Jan. 24, in GC.

‘Something has to give’

TUTION, page 1

said. “We are under-servicing our students with the difficulty they have getting into classes and the getting basic services they need. If we have to do more with less, it’s going to be more manifest.”

With less funding, universities won’t be able to offer the amount of classes needed for students to graduate within four years. As of now, the average time it takes a student in Florida to graduate with a bachelor degree is four years and a semester, according to the Edmonds.

Less classes being offered, graduations rates will fall.

“Students are either taking classes they don’t need to maintain a scholar- ship or they’re taking them much later,” Hauptli said.

Despite raising the amount of funds in the University’s history this year, this potential surplus will most likely be used to offset budget cuts.

“We’ve raised $30 million in new operating funds. These cuts could be as high as $30 million,” said University President Modesto A. Maidique. “For the first time in 30 years, a member of our community becomes speaker of the house and does tremendous by us and then the economy takes it all away.”

Unlike other universities, FIU will not implement a hiring or traveling freeze, according to Provost Ronald Berkman.

“We don’t have any choices already. We’re going to have to make some hard choices within the next 14-month period because something has to give,” Hauptli said.

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SOC-BBC president resigns

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Organizations Council’s president has filed his resignation, effective Feb. 5 at noon. His term would have finished April 2008.

Joel L. Mintz was elected in April 2007 as a second-semester freshman. He leaves SOC-BBC for employment with the Wolfson University Center’s information desk.

Mintz’s resignation follows the decision of his vice president, his term would have finished April 2007 as a second-semester freshman. He leaves SOC-BBC for employment with the Wolfson University Center’s information desk.

Mintz referred to the start of the Fall 2007 term when SOC faced the vice president’s resignation and its e-board members were absent without leave, prompting special elections to rebuild the council. At the same time, WUC offered Mintz a position but he turned it down due to his duties as president.

“Things are in much better shape [at SOC] now than they were then. I decided, for my own personal sake and academic reasons, it was time to let the [executive board] take over and accept the job,” said Mintz, who had been looking to work at WUC for a year and a half.

By “better shape,” Mintz refers to the story is that you shouldn’t categorize people or limit them to only one identity. A lot of people are like, ‘You’re a leader or not,’ but the truth is people are like, ‘You’re a leader right now, you’re gonna go be an info desk attendant?’ Some have said, ‘You’re gonna go join the dark side,’ and others have even bad mouthing him to his employers should stop and look at what they’re doing – they’re trying to knock someone down who feels in his heart he’s made the right decision.”

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Comedy show tests limits

DAHYANA VILLALOBOS
Contributing Writer

A year after provoking race discussions, “Nig***, Wet****, Chi**” returns to FIU.

The NWC Comedy Show’s message “There’s only one race: the human race.” plays to many nationalities. It aims to teach its audience lessons about stereotyping and racism. The goal is to help people reflect on their own prejudices.

“You learn something from it. The moral to the story is that you shouldn’t categorize people until you know them,” said Johnnita Hatcher, president of BBC’s Student Programming Council.

Three comedians act out stereotypes embodied by African Americans, Asians and Hispanics.

“It was informative, real and funny,” said Petra Haven, chair of SPC’s Women’s Celebration Week, who saw last year’s show.

“Nig***, Wet****, Chi**” returns to FIU.

The show is free and open to all FIU students.

Wild Succulent Women to present “Fetishism”

Wild Succulent Women will present their first lecture of the semester, “Fetishism,” on Jan. 31 at 9 p.m. in the Bay Vista Community Room. Free food will be served with bread and cheeses. Entry is $4 for members and $8 for non-members. Yearly $10 memberships will be offered. Guests must be 21 or older and present valid ID.

Friends of Wine presents “A Taste of Italy”

Friends of Wine will hold their first wine taste of the year on Jan. 28 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Hospitality building’s dining room. Red and white Italian wines will be served with bread and cheeses. Entry is $4 for members and $8 for non-members. Yearly $10 memberships will be offered. Guests must be 21 or older and present valid ID.

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In addition to serving as the Miami Heat’s Team Pediatric Physician, Dr. Losito teaches sports medicine and biomechanics at Barry University. Barry’s program in pediatric 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 11,000 patient visits a year.

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In the wake of a legislative decision to implement a 5 percent tuition increase – effective this semester – state lawmakers have approved another, significantly larger increase: an almost ungodly 8 percent, or an additional $186 per year. The increase is much better than the proposed 13 percent increase.

This recent increase comes from the state slashing nearly $65 million from the State University System’s (SUS) annual budget. There has been speculation that the cut in funding is a preemptive effort to save money on public services, such as law enforcement, schools – including the SUS – if and when Proposition One is implemented, lowering property tax and taking money from public services.

From 1977 to 2008 the average annual increase in tuition has been about 5.82 percent for in-state students. With this increase, the State University System of SUS is to only generate $32 million which does not justify the tuition increase. It’s not just the schools themselves who will suffer, but the students who rely on state funds to attend the in-state universities. Students utilizing Bright Futures, which is funded by state lottery money, and the prepaid tuition program will find themselves in a rough situation when it comes to pay the balances of their tuition.

The raise has also resulted in universities openly talking about laying off professors and further limiting enrollment which may eventually lead to community colleges having to cap enrollment as well.

Currently, Florida is ranked near the bottom in terms of tuition costs, but legislators hope to bring it up to about 38 or 39 in the national rankings; closer to states with rapid increases like Mississippi and Arizona.

One recent finding by the Board of Governors estimates that if the prepaid program continues to guarantee full tuition, with an assumption that the tuition increases by 6.5 percent every year, the program’s funds will run out of money in the foreseeable future.

What makes this cut even more alarming is that the Board of Governors says the quality of Florida universities is slipping because of budget cuts, but the Legislature keeps proposing more and more budget cuts for Florida’s 11 state universities and, unfortunately, FIU students stand to lose a lot, besides just money.

A large portion of FIU’s students rely on state funding and are even going to great lengths to stay enrolled.

“Students are either taking classes they don’t need to maintain a scholarship or they’re taking it much later,” said Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Haupfiel.

FIU has its fair share of private investors but the funding from the state is critical of importance. It’s unfortunate that the state feels it necessary to improve by cutting funding to our universities. No one stands to win from this predicament, especially if money-guzzling amendments like Proposition One pass.

“We’ve raised $30 million in new operating funds. These cuts could be as high as $30 million,” said University President Modesto A. Maidique. “For the first time in 30 years a member of our community becomes speaker of the house and does tremendous by us and then the economy takes it all away.”

In order to maintain equilibrium, the government must stabilize its mentality. What Proposition One is intended to do is to double this exemption value, and reduce the amount of taxes paid by every individual property owner. Essentially, Florida residents will pay less in taxes, but be allowed to exempt more for various reasons.

Under normal circumstances a tax cut would be a wonderful thing, but in this case, it’s at the expense of public services: If Proposition One passes, law enforcement, emergency services, and schools will all suffer financially, as a result. Since this is a statewide bill, the results will be resounding, directly affecting the state university system, possibly resulting in yet another tuition hike.

The savings that are being touted by supporters of the amendments are a mere $240 annually statewide, and $300 in Hillsborough County for double-homesteaded exemptions. Savings aside, the flaw of the legislation is revealed by a simple cost-benefit analysis of the proposed changes. It is estimated that roughly $5 billion in tax revenue would be forgone over the course of the next five years if the proposal passes. It’s not worth sacrificing prompt service from local emergency services, and state governments because of a revenue cap.

After all, government is the ultimate manifestation of a family unit. In order to maintain equilibrium, the government must stabilize its mentality. It must make rational choices to avoid the abyss, and it must create diversity of services to ensure family utility. We Floridians have had our local governments burdened by the careless oversight of a state government eager to “shift burden for funding services onto local government because of a revenue cap at the state level”, so said the well respected local non-profit Human Services Coalition.

RODRIGO LOZANO Contributing Writer

Proposal deals blow to tax payers

Florida will vote next week on a “property tax reform” referendum that will have long-term repercussions on our economic and social well-being.

All Floridians, especially students, must express concern when our state government attempts to make constitutional amendments that tarnish our social infrastructure, while being justified in the name of protecting property taxes.

In order for the government to provide services to the people, it must impose taxes to pay for such resources.

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If this proposal passes next week, it will mean that potential revenue to reinforce our local services will be cut. This is just a reflection of a government that over time, has continually cut taxes, while leaving our disadvantaged populations with no services and funding for social programs. Former President Ronald Reagan is a prime example of this mentality.

The President cut taxes to higher-end income brackets; dramatic welfare cuts were implemented; domestic social programs were discontinued; and insidious deficits were accrued, leading to monumentally high budget deficits.

A homestead exemption is a provision from the state government that protects a deceased resident’s primary property; this also applies to people living on a fixed income, provided that the property is at least a half acre in size. The proposal allows for portions of a resident’s property tax to be exempted or cut by a set amount. The property is then taxed in proportion to the assessed value of home, minus the exemption value.

What Proposition One is intended to do is to double this exemption value, and reduce the amount of taxes paid by every individual property owner. Essentially, Florida residents will pay less in taxes, but be allowed to exempt more for various reasons.

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Music festival promises to be electrifying

ROcio Blanco-Garcia
Staff Writer

The Music Technology Program at FIU’s School of Music will be hosting the second annual Florida Electro-Acoustic Student Music festival (FEASt).

The two-day-long festival will feature the works of student composers of some of Florida’s major schools such as UM, UCF and FIU. It is a free festival and will begin at 8 p.m. in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

“This event will be full of ‘sound art.’ It will be something different everyone should experience,” said Erik DeLuca, one of the coordinators of the event and performer in the concerts.

The event will also draw some prominent guest speakers. Kristine H. Burns, associate dean of academic affairs for the College of Architecture and The Arts at FIU will give a lecture.

She is also the author of the book “Women and Music in the U.S. Since 1900.”

Burns’ husband and prestigious composer and author, Colby Leider along with Gustavo Matamoros, director of the Sound Arts Workshop since 1996, will also speak. Their lectures will take place Feb. 2 in Green Library 135 at 3 p.m.

“This event is really special and students are really lucky to have events like this happening on campus. It’s like going to an art museum. All you have to do is use your ears as if they were your eyes in an art gallery,” DeLuca said.

DeLuca also said the pieces in this year’s festival will be really different.

“Some of the pieces will be fun, others serious, obnoxious, melodic, loud or soft. Some will leave you in a confused state,” he said.

DeLuca is not the only one showing excitement for the event. Steven Chen, a senior majoring in music, is also excited about the festival.

“I think this event will open people’s minds and creativity when it comes to music and it will help them explore something they may have never experienced before,” Chen said.

Jessica Rodriguez, public relations coordinator and student assistant for the College of Architecture and the Arts, believes this is one of the events music students get most excited about.

“It’s not the typical music concert. This is acoustic music that allows students to be more creative,” she said. “Even I’m excited about it.”

Electro-acoustic music, a genre that originated at the end of World War II in France and Germany, has evolved from the use of tapes to record the sounds, to the use of laptops, which is the technology that will be used in the festival.

The coordinators of the event have been looking for volunteers to help out and many clubs have joined them.

The association EARS, Electro-Acoustic Research Society, has made itself responsible for much of the organization of the event.

It will be running the technology and mixers used in the open laptop/electronic jam sessions that will take place Feb. 2 at 10 p.m.

They are also responsible for making the performers feel comfortable.

An advertising company has also collaborated by providing posters to promote the event.

Coordinators have also created a Web site, www.feastfest.org where Paula Matthiesen, visiting instructor and coordinator for the music technology department, together with the other participants of the event, invites music enthusiasts to join the two-day-long festival.

“We have been working really hard to make this a successful event,” DeLuca said. “Now all we need is for people to come and join us.”

Past experiences give assistant director the edge

Ben F. Badger Jr., Asst. News Director

A primary mission of the Disability Resource Center is to help students with mental and physical disabilities. For one of its members, that mission statement takes on a much more personal meaning.

Assistant director of the DRC, Beverly Trott grew up with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and dyslexia. Growing up, Trott said that she was mistrated by teachers as a result of her disabilities.

“When I was a child, I sat next to the teacher and they used to beat me up...back in my day it was perfectly acceptable for you to be smacked with a ruler if they thought you were a little rambunctious,” Trott said.

That treatment pushed her to overcome her disability and earn a magna cum laude in science of psychology, a master of science in psychology and a doctorate in clinical psychology.

“I know the pain that comes along with being special,” Trott said. “I had to repeat a doctoral course three times because I couldn’t spell the big words. Sometimes it’s just best to find the professor who is willing to accommodate your needs.”

Trott’s experiences have also given her valuable insight to the students she helps, according to Amanda Niguidula, interim director of the DRC.

“Her rapport with students is typically very remarkable,” Niguidula said. “I’ve always been impressed in my time working with her at the DRC. She is such an energetic, committed and engaging staff member.”

According to Niguidula, Trott is creative when it comes to problem solving for students. That comes partially from her own history. That creativity has had a strong impact on the students she helps.

“I seldom hear anything from the students than the fact that they felt supported and encouraged and at least some level of resolution to whatever they were trying to get assistance with,” Niguidula said.

“He often finds ways to empower students by working with them directly.”

Other DRC staff members are equally impressed with Trott’s determination.

“No battle is not worth fighting. There is no problem that can’t be fixed,” said Joanna Lindsay, assistant director at the DRC. “She always champions the students.”

SOCIAL WORK: Beverly Trott assistant director of the Disabilities Resource Center works on helping a student document their mental disability.

When asked what would happen if Trott were to leave the DRC, Niguidula said that in the short term the office would feel the loss as Trott has become key in servicing students and faculty.

“In some ways you take her for granted,” Niguidula said.

Though Trott does not have an imme-
desire to leave the DRC, she has expressed a desire to add to her psychology doctorate by receiving her clinical license.

“I think if she were to leave, the students would be impacted by her loss,” Lindsay said. “I think so much more because of their relationship with her. It would be hard for me to recreate a four or five year relationship she has with someone.”

All around, having strong relationships are among Trott’s top strengths at the DRC, and they are not only with the students she counsels at the DRC.

“Me and Dr. Trott are very good friends,” said Christopher Petersen, a senior and Trott’s assistant. “She helps me out, I help her out. She has this disability yet she’s able to help so many people. She’s awesome.”

In addition to Trott’s five years at the DRC, she is also an adjunct professor for the Psychology department and teaches intro to psychology.

“Through lots of hard work and determination, I’m going to do it, no matter what, with more time, more energy, more effort,” Trott said.

For more information on the DRC you can visit their Web site at www.fiu.edu/~drc.

- additional reporting by Jose Martinez

Contact Ben F. Badger Jr. at ben.badger@fiu.edu

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Helping students with disabilities cope

BLOOD DONOR

SAVING LIVES: Junior Ever Zambrano saves two lives by donating blood at the on-campus blood drive in front of the Graham Center bookstore last week. The blood drive lasted three days and donors received free food among other freebies.

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Dentistry club gives students an upper hand

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

The Pre-Dental Society offers career preparation and training for students with dreams of dentistry and drills. For 10 years the club has molded future dentists and currently boasts about 170 members.

Meeting only 4 times a year with social events between each semester, the Pre-Dental Society prepares its members for the dentistry field by having workshops. The workshops help guide their members through the application process to get into Dental School giving tips on how to get accepted, when to apply and how to fill out their personal statement, an essay that must be submitted to any dental school along with their application.

This year, the group began holding Dental Workshops. They are separate from the general meetings and teach students different things about dentistry. The workshops are coordinated by the club’s community service coordinator, Maria Gonzalez.

One recent workshop focused on impressions. The group arranged for a dental technician to come into the school with all the necessary materials and equipment so the students could get the chance to do moldings and impressions of their own teeth. Potential members must fill out an application and pay a $35 dollar fee. Applications can be found on their website, www.fiu.edu/~dental.

The $35 dollars includes a club t-shirt and a chance to go to the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, where only the most active members are selected based on a point system created at the beginning of each semester. The UF Trip is an open house where students have the opportunity to see first hand what the Dental School is like. Afterward, the group goes to Orlando allowing them to bond together as a group.

The club will also be participating in Relay for Life, which takes place this year on February 15. Relay for Life is a fundraising event that raises money for Cancer research. Historian, Cynthia Yu and Events Coordinator, Norbert Camacho are captains for the event. Camacho and Yu are proud to be part of the first club to have bought five teams to Relay for Life under the banner of the same group. The club received a certificate for this accomplishment. As of now they have raised $1800 for the event.

Another opportunity the Pre-Dental Society offers is the chance to shadow a dentist. Recently elected Shadowing Coordinator is junior Fernando San Juan. His duties require him to arrange for members to meet with dentists and see how procedures are done on patients.

“You really don’t know what you want to do unless you are exposed to it,” said Camacho. “You want to be many things but until you are there in front of it, that’s when you say ‘I love this and I can do this for the rest of my life.’”

Camacho, Yu, and San Juan are excited about the medical school that will be opening soon on campus. They hope that in the future FIU will have a Dental School because currently there are only two dental schools in Florida, University of Florida and Nova Southeastern University.

The next general meeting will be on February 8th in GC 140 at 5pm. For more information or questions e-mail dental@fiu.edu

Camacho and Yu will be leaving for Dental school after the spring semester ends. As members since last year they thank the officers who helped them get to where they are today.

“I feel like Dentistry is the diamond in the rough when it comes to a career. I feel like by exposing it to people maybe they will find that passion inside too,” said Yu.

Contact Kassandra Pool at kassandra.pool@fiu.com

You really don’t know what you want to do unless you are exposed to it... You want to be many things, but until you [are] there in front of it, that’s when you say ‘I love this and I can do this for the rest of my life’.

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It took only one song for the crowd to go wild when Envy on the Coast, the lead vocalist's name was one of Alternative Press' '100 Band You Need To Know in 2007, took the stage last Saturday night at the Fort Lauderdale Culture Room.

The band, natives of Long Island, opened with a more famous song, "Sugar Skulls." It was played with intense energy, an energy that was smoothly brought down a notch, in a good way, when the band performed the ballad, "Starring Your Friends." This was complemented by the voices of the crowd singing along to the dramatic and surprisingly beautiful lyrics.

Guitarist Brian Byrne describes the band's sound best on the band's MySpace page, "We can write a song that's aggressive and has a really heavy bridge in it that's almost like a breakdown. But then we can have songs with really big choruses, soaring leads and lots of harmonies, and not be afraid of it," he said.

Envy on the Coast proved to be a hard act to follow.

The Audition, a band that is more famous and sounds similar to pop-punk stars Fall Out Boy, never got to the level of energy that Envy on the Coast had, even though The Audition is the tour headliner.

Since they had a new record being released three days after the show, they opted to play more of the new songs instead of the ones the audience knew, which made their performance suffer and sing-alongs not so common.

However, their performance wasn't a complete disaster. When they played popular songs "It's Too Late" and "Don't Be So Hard," the crowd couldn't resist jumping up and down to the beat and a mosh pit exploded in the center of the club.

The band mentioned the increase in crowd energy, which made them rock out even harder to match the crowd's intensity.

Unlike Envy on the Coast, though, The Audition got the whole crowd involved, not just the people who were lucky enough to be on the ground in front.

At one point, Danny Stevens, the band's lead vocalist, attempted to climb on top of the speakers so he could join his friends on the balcony who were otherwise left out.

Ultimately, both bands left a lasting impression on the packed house and on me especially — so much that I couldn't help stopping by their merchandising booth on the way out.
Hockey hooligans, nice guy agent and goofy golfers make top 10 sports movie list

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5. SLAP SHOT (1977)
The lone hockey film on the list is also the least well known of the ten, which is a truly sad fact. If you have ever seen this movie, you know just how brilliantly fouled mouthed and entertaining it is.
The story is about how a typical “bazaar owner threatens to move a team, team gets motivated” story line that translates that well to the big screen.

The only way to address it is through softened in this movie, but he still commands every scene he is in, creating one subdued portrayal of Rod Tidwell seems rather

Is bowling a sport? Probably not. Is the Big Lebowski about bowling? Not really, despite the fact that anywhere from a quarter of the film takes place in a bowling alley. So how can this be on the list? Because it is just that good, and that funny.
The bowling is secondary to a convoluted plot involving nihilists, feminists and Tara Reid’s pinky toe, but the common theme throughout is the bowling alley the characters constantly return to.

10. JERRY MCGUIRE (1996)
I admit, I may be cheating with these last two, as they both only feature sports as a secondary part of the plot, but both movies are so good they transcend any categories you want to put them in, and that is why I feel no remorse for including them.

Hockey hooligans, nice guy agent and goofy golfers make top 10 sports movie list

VILLARMARZO, page 12

nullified after a timeout came from the Ravens sideline. The Patriots converted the fourth down and were stopped before reaching the endzone, but a very controversial defensive holding penalty gave the Patriots a fresh set of downs to score the winning touchdown.

Fast forward now to the recent AFC Championship game against the San Diego Chargers. Not only were there multiple non-calls against the Patriots defenders – including holding penalties, pass interference penalties, roughing the passer penalties, etc. At one point, linebacker Mike Vrabel performed a leg sweep on Charger quarterback Philip Rivers that wasn’t called. The trip caused Rivers to throw off balance and get intercepted in a crucial moment in the game.

That wasn’t the first game the Patriots have played dirty. They’ve been doing it for years – not to mention the whole controversy about filming opposing defensive signals. Why, football gods, is this team getting all the luck and getting away with dirty play? I think it’s about time you proved to everyone that sometimes, the bad guy gets taken down. David can beat Goliath once again. And that the almighty Patriots can be knocked off their high pedestal. Give the millions of Americans who will not be rooting for the Patriots – everyone outside of New England – what they want to see and have the Patriots collapse at the worst possible time to the younger brother of Tom Brady’s arch nemesis.

With Love,
Xavier Villarmarzo
P.S. If you want, I will totally sacrifice a goat for you.

SPORTS
Sisters’ relationship still strong despite distance

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

THROWING IT UP: Joanne Jadotte was named the Sun Belt Conference indoor women’s field and track athlete of the week. She set the shot put toss record at 15.16 meters.

SISTERS, page 12

Liene is more athletic and a better defender, according to Lasma.

“It would be interesting to play against each other one day,” Lasma said. “Then all the differences and similarities would be easier to track, although my dream would be us playing together on a team some time in the future.”

Senior guard Asha Neal played with Lasma and now plays with Liene and she has noticed the differences between the Jekabsone sisters.

“I think Liene has come in a little stronger than Lasma did,” Neal said. “Lasma came out and was better her junior and senior year. Liene has come in and done a tremendous job on rebounding.”

Despite following in her older sister’s footsteps, Liene feels no pressure. She said the most pressure she has received thus far is from having to step up due to the team’s injuries.

“I think she has really stepped up, because we have lost two to major post players,” [who said this?] “She has done an outstanding job stepping and handling all this pressure as a freshman.”

Although Liene does enjoy living in Miami, she misses Latvia because her parents and family live there.

Like many student-athletes, she lives on campus and actually rooms with the team’s other freshmen: guard Tabitha Drake, forward Fanni Hutlassa and center Maja Krajacic.

As far as her teammates go, Liene feels she has learned a lot from senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, who she feels helps keep the team together.

“I think LaQuetta does that [lead the team] very well and I admire how she does it. She always supporting and encouraging us,” Liene said. This season, Liene has scored 36 total points and pulled down 44 rebounds.

Those numbers surpass Lasma’s freshman year statistics. Her older sister still contacts her before every game.

“I try to leave her an encouraging message in Facebook or Skype before the game,” Lasma said. “The last part of our conversations always is wishing each other good luck and more minutes for next the game.”
**JEKABSONE FAMILY:** Lasma Jekabsone (right) influenced her younger sister Liene (left) to play basketball in Latvia as a child.

**Darren Collette, Staff Writer**

For the last two years, the Golden Panthers frontcourt was anchored by center Lasma Jekabsone.

Even though she graduated in Spring 2007, the Golden Panthers welcomed another jersey reading “Jekabsone” on the back. Freshman Liene Jekabsone enters this season as a forward one season after her older sister Lasma was second in the team in scoring as a forward one season after her older sister Lasma. She was introduced to the game of basketball.

“She helped me like a sister, not like a player and I always learned from her,” Liene said. “I did not know what to do and she was playing sports. Basically, I went to basketball because she was playing basketball.”

Prior to the insertion of Liene onto the FIU roster, Lasma was a key cog in the team. Lasma was a four-time all-year player in Latvia and was the Riga City Championship in 2007.

The sisters both hope they can one day play together and perhaps compete against each other.

“I am so proud of my sister,” said Lasma, who is currently playing basketball in Naples, Italy. “When I got in FIU, I told her that one day she could be right there where I was. In a way, this is her second time of living a college athlete’s life. She already went through it with me once.”

On the court the sisters have a similar style as they both nearly the same height. Lasma says they are both good rebounders with the only a couple of differences – Liene is left-handed and Lasma is right-handed. Also, against each other.

**Sisters, page 11**

**No crying here if you didn’t make the top 10 sports movies**

As the two most dominant forms of diversion in our society over the course of the last century or so, sports and movies, have sometimes been intertwined.

From “The Freshman” – arguably the first sports movie – until now, movies have been an important part of cinema and it is with this in mind that I am counting down my top sports movies of all time.

**1. The Sandlot (1993)**

The best sports movies, like the best sports movie of all time, are only ever ostensibly about the topic they claim to cover.

The Sandlot is a movie that is seminal to anyone born between the years of 1985 and 1995, but is mostly unknown otherwise, so this might be somewhat of a surprise pick.

But if you ask me, no movie in history has so accurately captured the pure joy of being a kid during the summer.

From getting kicked out of the pool to getting into the “biggest pickle” of all time, to the ultimate schoolyard taunt (“You play ball like a girl!”), this movie represents everything that was great about being a kid. Plus, who among us still doesn’t want a pair of PF Fliers?

**2. Caddyshack (1980)**

Not only is it the second greatest sports movie of all time, it is arguably the funniest movie of all time. It features three comedic geniuses at the absolute height of their games: Bill Murray, Chevy Chase and Rodney Dangerfield.

They are all absolutely hysterical in every scene they are in. It is also Tiger Woods’ favorite movie, so how can you argue with that?

In the early 80’s, nobody had better comedic timing than Chevy Chase, who deadpans every single line in this movie, and Murray’s Carl Spackler is one of the most brilliantly dim-witted characters in all of cinema.

**3. Rocky (1976)**

Sure, the boxing scenes are more like ball room dancing with blood and you can’t understand a word Stallone says throughout the entirety of the film, but it is impossible to deny the power of this movie, which launched one of the most successful franchises in movie history.

**4. Field of Dreams (1989)**

This is maybe the only movie that “manly men” will allow themselves to shed a tear in. That says a lot about the dramatic impact of this movie.

“If you build it, he will come” stands as one of the most enduring lines in any movie, and the scene when he finally gets to play catch with his dad is the one where even the hardened of hearts has to, at the very least, let out a little sob to let the world know they aren’t dead inside.

**Villamarzo, page 10**