Amendments may affect education

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

Late campaign pushes for a Charter amendment to limit slot machines to their current locations at horse and dog tracks to keep a proposed city ordinance that would allow Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida from being used. The amendment will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

“Universities do not exist in a vacuum,” said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations. “It puts more pressure on the state as far as funding the new amendment will be necessary to fund public schools in the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.”

Despite this amendment’s passage, the passage of Miami-Dade county Question 3, regarding the addition of Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida, will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

“Universities do not exist in a vacuum,” said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations. “It puts more pressure on the state as far as funding the new amendment will be necessary to fund public schools in the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.”

Despite this amendment’s passage, the passage of Miami-Dade county Question 3, regarding the addition of Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida, will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

“Universities do not exist in a vacuum,” said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations. “It puts more pressure on the state as far as funding the new amendment will be necessary to fund public schools in the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.”

Despite this amendment’s passage, the passage of Miami-Dade county Question 3, regarding the addition of Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida, will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

“Universities do not exist in a vacuum,” said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations. “It puts more pressure on the state as far as funding the new amendment will be necessary to fund public schools in the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.”

Despite this amendment’s passage, the passage of Miami-Dade county Question 3, regarding the addition of Vegas-style slot machines in South Florida, will allow tax money from these machines to be used to fund public schools in the county. This may ease the burden somewhat on the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.

“Universities do not exist in a vacuum,” said Steve Sauls, Vice President of Governmental Relations. “It puts more pressure on the state as far as funding the new amendment will be necessary to fund public schools in the state, as it will allow for more money to be put into secondary education.”
Cross party lines:

Among the issues he brought up was the need to bring the countries of the world together, as it became clear that the world can only prosper if they work with them on the two sides of the aisle. He also discussed the importance of building a dialogue and understanding between different perspectives.

During his final note to the audience, Lieberman responded to the question about his support for McCain, saying that his support was for someone who he believes is the most qualified person to lead the country at this time. He also discussed the importance of the country moving forward, not looking back at past mistakes, and keeping the vision of a better tomorrow.

The crowd was most receptive to Lieberman’s message, with students and faculty cheering and applauding his words. Lieberman thanked the crowd for their support and encouragement, and said that he hoped to see them again soon.
New School of Music director brings a world of experience

DAVID X. RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Kathleen Wilson’s travels – which include states like New Hampshire and Oklahoma and countries such as Nicaragua, Venezuela and Mexico – have brought her to FIU as the new director of the School of Music in July of 2007. Globetrotting has accustomed Wilson to diverse student populations.

“I have students all over Latin America, which I just love,” said Wilson. “I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.”

Wilson plans to achieve excellence by establishing a foundation of good faculty.

“We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. FIU offers a unique experience, according to Wilson. One such feature of the School of Music is its Sydell Ida Wertheim Pipe Organ, donated by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim. It’s the only pipe organ of any academic institution in South Florida,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel’s “Messiah” with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

“As a committee we were impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field,” said Wilson.

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal.”

Wilson has “very high energy, is positive and friendly,” said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson’s proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her students to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.

“W We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel’s “Messiah” with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

“As a committee we were impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field,” said Wilson.

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal.”

Wilson has “very high energy, is positive and friendly,” said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson’s proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her students to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.

“W We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel’s “Messiah” with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

“As a committee we were impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field,” said Wilson.

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal.”

Wilson has “very high energy, is positive and friendly,” said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson’s proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her students to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.

“W We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel’s “Messiah” with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

“As a committee we were impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field,” said Wilson.

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal.”

Wilson has “very high energy, is positive and friendly,” said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson’s proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her students to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.

“W We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

IN REHEARSAL: Dr. Kathleen L. Wilson, director of the School of Music, rehearses a soprano aria from Handel’s “Messiah” with senior Sarah Hale, a soprano voice major.

Music school faculty are full of praise for Wilson since she became director.

“As a committee we were impressed with her. She clearly was the best candidate of the field,” said Wilson.

I have students all over Latin America, which I just love. I feel right at home with the wonderful students at FIU.

goal.”

Wilson has “very high energy, is positive and friendly,” said Sam Spears, university chorale director.

Wilson’s proposal that all music majors at FIU take an entrepreneurship or other business-related minor makes her unique. She feels most universities do not address the business aspect of the arts.

Wilson also wants her students to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.

“W We have a very fine faculty, and we offer very high music education that is affordable,” said Wilson. “This is one of the many things that we have to offer that no one else can.

Concerts are held at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.
Students worry Chavez will make matters worse

JANIE RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

It is a typical school day at Biscayne Bay Campus for junior Chanell Sanchez. Sitting down at her usual bench in the Academic II building, she turns on her laptop and drinks coffee while browsing the news from her home country of Venezuela. It is at this point that she can no longer hold her anger.

“I am an idiot. Getting into a military face-off with Colombia is the last thing that we needed,” she said. Like Sanchez, many of the Colombian and Venezuelan student population are closely monitoring the souring relations between Colombia and Venezuela which got especially bad last week.

According to International Student and Scholar Services, there are 265 international students from Venezuela and 355 students from Colombia with an F1 visa for the 2006-2007 academic year. This does not include the thousands of Colombian and Venezuelan Americans who are under the Florida residents’ category.

Sophomore Natasha Monell, who grew up in Colombia and attended high school in Bogotá, thinks the harsh words from Chavez toward his neighboring country will help no one. “President Chavez is using incorrect ways to better a country. By trying to make a difference, he is only making things worse,” Monell said. “The FARC has been a constant human rights violator and to have its terrorist labels removed would give it a dangerous political presence.”

Other Latin American students, like Ecuadorian Freddy Briceno, also worry about the delicate state of South American politics, even saying he would not rule out a military confrontation between the neighboring countries due to Chavez’s stance on the FARC. “Personally, I would not rule it out,” he said. “Of course I don’t consider it immediately likely, but there is a possibility it could come about.”

On the other hand, Professor Thomas Breslin, vice-provost for the Department of International Relations, thinks the problematic relations between Colombia and Venezuela post a direct and unique challenge for American policy. “We will have to keep an eye on Chavez. He is however, not the fist person to push extreme nationalism and, although these issues won’t go away anytime soon, we must be there to help in whatever way we can,” Breslin said. “In most cases, Chavez means well for the people of Venezuela,” Breslin said. “Unfortunately, doing it this way is not the right manner.”

Last week the Colombian government formally protested Chavez’s support for the guerrillas telling him to “stop attacking” Colombia and interfering in its internal affairs. For some of the Colombian and Venezuelan students at FIU, political tensions – even from another country – can disrupt their academic focus. “Not only do I have many relatives throughout Venezuela, but my boyfriend is from Medellin (Colombia). We always have ties to our countries and it would be irresponsible to ignore these issues,” said freshman Alejandra Lombana.

On January 20, President Hugo Chavez continued to attack Uribe, calling him a “worthless person unfit for presidency” before calling the Colombian government a “puppet for the American government.” “[Chavez] is trying to become the next great liberator of the Americas, when he is nothing but a moron,” Sanchez said.
Six students receive Jose Marti award

ANA PEREZ Contributing Writer

The Jose Marti Scholarship held its eighth annual breakfast at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

The Jose Marti Scholarship was founded in 2000 by Raul Moncarz and is an advertising and marketing major, Rodriguez, an advertising and marketing major, was present to receive her award.

Gustavo Roig, who presented the scholarship awards, expanded on the criteria.

"The students have to analyze something of Jose Marti and then elaborate. It could be anything from his poetry to his love of children, or his dedication to Cuban independence to his life in New York," said Roig, director and associate dean of the Center for Diversity in Engineering at FIU’s College of Engineering and Computing.

"I reflected on the idea that he can be a modern, romantic and renaissance man because his ideas reflected all three, but I made an emphasis on modernism because I believe one of the aspects of it is patriotism and revolution," Rodriguez said.

"He was like a hero to me, so I enjoyed writing it. When Dr. Moncarz called me and told me, ‘Congratulations, you won, I was excited.’

Rodriguez plans to use the scholarship money to pay for her tuition.

Uva de Aragon, key spokesperson for the breakfast and author of "Repensando a Marti," made a speech on "Jose Marti: Romantic, Modernist or Renaissance Man?"

"The same way there is a European union – Marti dreamed of a Latin American union – and now with globalization, his work is even more relevant," said Aragon.

WITH HONORS: Professor Gustavo Roig presents Dayanes Rodriguez with her Jose Marti scholarship award. Winners were honored at a breakfast, Jan. 29, in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

Wellness Center promotes health through yoga, offers HIV counseling

DAIANA KUCAWA Contributing Writer

With eight staff members – including a yoga instructor, an HIV counselor and an acute care specialist – the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center promotes tranquility.

The Wellness Center’s Web site stresses the need to find balance and peace in a hectic life, said Elvira Velez, senior health administration director.

"What’s different about wellness is that it’s not disease based," Velez said. "For many years that was my philosophy.

"I wanted to educate people to help them prevent the problem."

The concept of wellness, having maintenance and prevention as key, was a medical phenomenon about 20 years ago.

At FIU though, the demand was growing for clinical care because of the increased number of students and the advantages that the clinic offered, according to Velez, who is an advanced registered nurse practitioner.

"[Nurse practitioners] are allowed to do many of the functions that a physician does so I can prescribe, manage your ailments or order any kind of treatment you need," said Velez, who holds a Masters degree in Public Health.

Velez worked with a surgeon who had a contract with FIU to do patient care for both campuses and after a while, “it was kind of a challenge to be at both campuses at the same time,” she said.

As a result, Velez lobbied the Division of Student Affairs to get another nurse practitioner, which was later accomplished.

The Wellness Center then transferred from the old Hospitality and Management Building to the clinic that now exists behind the BBC Library.

Elvira Velez, the Wellness Center’s senior health administration director

Once the assistant director is in place again, then I think that things will work more smoothly. We will be inhabiting space with the SGA in the Wolfe Center which is going to be great because it’s a natural marriage.

JOSE MARTI, page 6
Breakfast honors minority students

JOSE MARTI, page 5

associate director of the Cuban Research Institute at UP.

"His values of honesty and decency and his love for social justice are something to be learned, especially with everything going on in the world today," Aragon said.

Along with Aragon, the room was filled with other education proponents such as Rolando Montoya, president of Miami Dade College’s Wolfson Campus; Jose Vicente, president of Miami Dade College’s North Campus; Jorge Vallina, Cuban artist and illustrator; and master of ceremonies Chef Pepin, a renowned Cuban chef.

As people walked in, they were greeted with appetizers such as guava and cheese, crackers, assorted pastries and Cuban coffee. Inside the ballroom, eggs, potatoes, croquetas, sausage, danishes and additional pastries were offered.

Pepin opened the ceremony with a slideshow of past events and examples of Cuban culture.

After both the U.S. and Cuban anthems were sung, Vallina presented Moncarz with a recent original painting of Marti.

Although Pepin did not cook the breakfast, he was excited to be there.

"For the last five years or so, I have been the MC and I love to participate in something like this that helps students and reminds us of Jose Marti," Pepin said. "It’s something that I’d like to maintain for many years to come and I’m proud that they called me here."

To apply for next year’s award, visit www.fiu.edu/scholarships and download an application. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or residents, full time students and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

"It’s very nice that we can have money for our students to study," Exposito said. "For me, the most important thing is to find a way to have money for our minorities. I have no difference between Cubans and any other country; I think that any minority that needs it, deserves it."

www.fiu.edu/scholarships and download an application. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or residents, full time students and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

"It’s very nice that we can have money for our students to study," Exposito said. "For me, the most important thing is to find a way to have money for our minorities. I have no difference between Cubans and any other country; I think that any minority that needs it, deserves it."

Newsflash

Terrorism and the Western Media Lecture at Biscayne Bay Campus

“The Media War” lecture will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Introductory remarks will be made by Meshulam Nahari, an Israeli Knesset member. The lecture will be led by David Olesker and will examine why terrorism surprises Western media. The lecture is free and open to the public. There will be complimentary transportation from University Park and Florida Atlantic University. For more information contact MediaWarEvent@gmail.com.

Forum to discuss Iran’s nuclear ambitions, implications

FIU’s Department of International Relations’ Middle East Society, the American Jewish Committee and Hillel Second Generation will present a forum on Iran’s nuclear ambitions and implications for the world. The event will be held Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre. There will be a panel of consul generals from France, Germany and Israel. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, e-mail MES@fiu.edu or call 305-919-4839.

Student Organizations Council holds club fair

The Student Organizations Council will be sponsoring a club fair Feb. 1. The clubs will have information tables set up in the Campus Life hallway in WUC. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 305-919-5804.

Friends of Wine to host South American wine tasting

Friends of Wine will hold its second wine tasting of the year on Feb. 4 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Hospitality Management Building Dining Room. Various South American wines will be served along with hors dourves. Entry is $4 for members and $8 for nonmembers. Yearly $10 memberships will be offered. Cash only. Guests must be at least 21 years of age and present valid ID.
LIEBERMAN MAKES HIS PICK
Connecticut senator endorses McCain at FIU

JOSPEH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

The College Republicans hosted an event on Jan. 28 where they invited Connecticut Democrat Sen. Joe Lieberman from Connecticut was a speaker.

Lieberman is the first speaker of the 2008 election season at FIU, appearing on behalf and in shameless advocacy of presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

The senator began speaking of the partisanship rampant in Congress and in the U.S., as well as voters selecting candidates strictly because of their party affiliation rather than how much they agree with the candidate.

This seemed groundbreaking (especially in FIU where the Left and Right are more segregated than ever), that is, until he began shilling for Sen. McCain.

Lieberman spoke of McCain as if he were a larger-than-life messiah for both parties, a claim that may have some truth: McCain has become synonymous with a certain type of heroism, that he himself dismisses for the sake of his modesty because of his five and a half years spent in a Northern Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

After that time, he was allowed to leave — because of McCain’s naval pedigree causing a media circus, according to Lieberman on Jan. 28 — but refused to leave without the rest of the American prisoners. Granted, McCain is a hero, but what irked me about the talk was how Lieberman used the opportunity to overstate McCain’s electability and almost shatter his opponent’s credibility.

He called Sen. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts the “Britney Spears of the Republican Party” in the sense that, “No one knows what he’ll say or do next!”

Possibly in reference to Romney’s claim that his father was a hero, but what irritated me about the talk was how Lieberman used the opportunity to overstate McCain’s electability and almost shatter his opponent’s credibility.

It wasn’t too much the endorsement — given that it was a McCain endorsement event — but that Lieberman felt so comfortable calling other candidate’s credibility into question when his own motives are of relative-scale suspicion.

When Q&A time rolled around, predictably, he answered with the stock responses to “hot button” issue-related questions.

When FIU student and former Sergeant in the Armed Forces, Dan Berkovitz asked what Lieberman and McCain’s (being seemingly one and the same) stance on the removal of troops from Iraq was, Lieberman half-heartedly explained that both of the senators had voted in support of the war, but both opposed a timetable to remove soldiers prematurely because it would be “Disastrous ... Iraq would be in chaos.”

The answer was a typical non-committal response to the issue by being as vague as possible and only mentioning what isn’t going to be done.

It’s almost as if he had no idea what he would do if it were up to him. That’s great that he won’t hastily remove the soldiers, but are they advocating a “full steam ahead” approach or a “we’re done when we’re done” attitude when it comes to the direction of Iraq?

Being supporters of the war, neither Lieberman nor McCain could really sway the anti-war voters in their direction without such ambiguous responses.

In Lieberman’s defense, he did imply the war may be in its terminal phase: “[The war] is going in the right direction,” explained Sen. Lieberman.

This is the issue here is that his vagueness and non-committal attitude towards key issues cost him any real shot at the Democratic nomination in 2004 and may hinder any support he was hoping to get in the next presidential election, should he choose to run. Shameless endorsements aside, I think what this event was foreshadowing was a possible run at the vice presidency for Lieberman, provided McCain is nominated, and this is likely, or at least according to Lieberman, who declared, “John McCain can and will win.”

A McCain/Lieberman ticket wouldn’t be the disaster I’m making it out to be, but without consistency on issues (something McCain has, but Lieberman has been known to falter on occasion), it’s the campaign that will suffer.

While McCain definitely has the most experience, who’s to say that the war can’t be put on a timetable for completion?

McCain himself has experienced in a war that was started on false pretenses and drawn out for the sake of not looking like quitters.

This gives him a unique credibility, but is this image of the seasoned political and military veteran going to seduce people to make a vote they don’t want to make?

The moral of Lieberman’s speech was that you should vote for whom you agree with most and to hell with the party label; a good point from a key example of that philosophy.

It’s almost enough to forget that Lieberman is saying this, of my own suspicion, to “convert” Democrats to vote for the just right-center McCain.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Letters to the Editor can be sent to joseph.marhee@fiusm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
SGC-BBC selects second class talent for guest speakers

As I have not attended class in the Biscayne Bay Campus in a while, I am not familiar with their SGC.

Still, I am quite baffled by their decision to invite Jerry Springer to speak at that campus.

Springer’s T.V. show is the epitome of commercial trash converted into an art form for the entertainment of average beer belly wanna be quarterback Job with the intelligence level of a mouse.

Is that the best speaker the BBC-SGC could come up with?

UM gets the presidential debates and FIU instead gets the closest thing to a T.V. porn auteur. They are plenty of speakers out there with far more redeemable artistic and intellectual qualities than Springer.


Mario Mendoza
Senior
Sociology-Anthropology

LEFT: Joesph.marhee@fiusm.com

January 31, 2008
Hollywood takes sides in abortion debate with “Juno”

ALEXANDRA MCANARNEY
Contributing Writer

I went to see “Juno” with my friend the other day. The movie has been regarded as one of the best written films of 2007. It has its quirky moments and striking cinematography.

But at the risk of sounding over-analytical, “Juno” reeks of pro-life political bias in an unrealistic setting when a young girl gets knocked up by her gangly best friend.

Here’s the thing: “Juno” is not the first movie to set up a new paradigm for young girls where no protection is used during intercourse. The pregnancy is carried out full-term, everything is peachy.

When Juno, played by Ellen Page, announces she’s pregnant to her family, that she is carrying the pregnancy full-term and giving the baby up for adoption. There are a few jabs at Juno for being so “reckless,” but then her stepmother simply starts her on pre-natal vitamins, and all is well.

“The Other Option” is discussed, but having been discarded earlier in the film after Juno hears from an Asian classmate/Pro-Lifer that babies have fingernails outside a womb, the Other Option becomes null and void.

The pro-life endorsement was so strong that the very reason Juno decides to carry the child to full-term is, in fact, erroneous: fingernails do not appear until the 18th to 20th week of development. Juno considers an abortion during the second month.

What bothers me is that the past few movies that involved a knocked-up girl are all pro-life. The movie “Saved” takes place within the walls of a cultish Evangelical high school. While it is more convincing than “Juno” (the main character in “Saved” is ostracized, for about 10, minutes because of her suddenly gay boyfriend and five minutes afterwards because she is discovered to be pregnant), it’s unlikely that Christians are so forgiving when one of their own fathers. I should know. I’ve made smaller mistakes whilst believing in Jesus. The guilt and ensuing repentance were exponentially greater than anything anyone endures in “Saved.”

“Saved” reminded me of my school in EL Salvador; it had the same type of sanctimonious faculty who would try to make a circular peg fit into a cross-shaped hole. Mine was supposedly secular, but it hardly felt that way. There were Catholic retreats and I wondered where I, the “lesbian, Satanist, witch” and the One Jew Girl, would go. Well, the One Jew Girl went to the retreat and I stayed home and reserved box seats in hell.

In “Saved,” Jena Malone character keeps the child and presumably raises in the company of the dysfunctional company she keeps. Everyone is happy and lessons about tolerance are learned within a highly-conservative community.

According to the progressive Third Way media organization, 33 percent of mothers are in this country and 12 percent of them are Evangelical, usually around the age of 16. The mere fact that an Evangelical girl has fertilized, the reaction would have been severe. I think movie distributors smack of anti-choice. I don’t think every child should be “snipped at the bud,” but I can smell bias just like I can smell a well-used diaper. There’s even a pregnant Rental superhero called Most Fruitful Miyagi who is oh-so-slyly pitched to audiences while Juno and the adoptive father of her unwanted child enjoys a moment of comic book comprehension and disgustingly awkward sexual tension.

Since Choice is such a skull-breaking concept, I doubt it will be seen in a movie within any context. I have seen another friend make a choice opposite from Juno, “Saved,” etc. ending in different results. Arriving at the decision took two weeks and I think movie distributors smack of anti-choice.

Americans should demand solidarity for Palestine

MAT LUCIANO
Contributing Writer

One and a half million Palestinian men, women and children live in Gaza, where she is carrying the pregnancy full-term and giving the baby up for adoption. There are a few jabs at Juno for being so “reckless,” but then her stepmother simply starts her on pre-natal vitamins, and all is well.

Within the past several weeks, dozens of Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded due to what the Israeli government calls “retaliation” for rocket fire directed at a southern Israeli town. This punishment has resulted in the death of innocent people.

Demonstrations were held throughout the United States Jan. 29 to protest the Israeli blockade, which is in clear violation of international law. Several organizations, such as the ANSWER coalition of Florida, Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights, Muslim American Society and many others came together in peace and solidarity to stand up for human rights.


“We are opposed to the blockade of the Gaza Strip. We are against the mass punishment of our nation,” Zakkout said.

The Israeli blockade refuses the shipment of fuel; hospital facilities are virtually ineffectual without the use of electricity and many Gazans are being denied the right to travel overseas of the strip to receive necessary medical care or supplies.

“Everything is controlled by Israel, like a prison,” Zakkout said. Furthermore, innocent Gazans must face poor and unsanitary sewage as well as contaminated water, Zakkout emphasized.

“Imagine the thousands of children and newborn children without heat, hot milk, medicine or nutrition,” he said.

According to Article 33 of the Geneva Convention “no protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise, intimidation and terrorism are prohibited.”

As a signatory, Israel has an obligation to uphold the laws outlined in the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Zakkout believes Israel should be held responsible for every child and elderly person and affirms that “we [Palestinians] are against the killing or torturing of Christian or Jewish peoples and call upon the Christian and Jewish communities to have compassion and respect.”

The most important concern is the restoration of peace and justice. Each year, Americans send billions of tax dollars in aid to Israel. Many people, myself included, believe the United States is responsible for the continuing the blockade and the suffering the Palestinian people are enduring.

“The United States is responsible for the blockade and the suffering the Palestinian people are enduring. Our government has proven capable of putting an end to a crisis such as the one in Gaza. The common sentiment Sunday night was that of urgency for our government to stop the mass oppression and collective punishment of innocent Palestinians; to call it an injustice would be a grotesque understatement. I call upon anyone who believes in the legitimacy of this American democracy to demand that our government take immediate actions and strongly urge those people to join us in solidarity and support of upholding human rights, peace, and justice for all Palestinians.”
New vehicles use electricity, reduce emissions

OLIVIA SARRACINO
Staff Writer

The automobile industry is going green, or better yet – hybrid. With the decade coming to an close, leading auto manufacturers such as Toyota and General Motors are introducing a new kind of hybrid: an electric plug-in slated for 2010.

According to The New York Times, Toyota’s President Katsuaki Watanabe announced at the 2008 Detroit Auto Show that the company will launch the first plug-in hybrid as a series of “environmental steps” intended to curb global warming.

Toyota and other automobile companies are not the only figures in an emerging trend involving efforts to go green. There have been new organic foods and “green buildings,” as reported in The San Francisco Chronicle.

Hollywood actors have also played a big role by advocating environmentally friendly products and even taking part in the hybrid car phenomenon. Cameron Diaz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ted Danson are some of the most vocal proponents of alternative fuel-driven cars.

Helping the environment by reducing fuel consumption is indeed what hybrid cars are designed to do.

“It’s an advantage because it has less pollution,” said Dara Boudlal, a sophomore majoring in communications. “Which is good for what is going on with global warming. It’s better for the economy and for going green.”

A hybrid vehicle has components similar to a non-hybrid car, except that a hybrid contains more advanced parts: gasoline engines, fuel tanks, electric motors, generators, batteries and transmissions specially designed for this kind of car. These parts outline the basic structure of a gasoline-electric hybrid as mentioned by Julia Layton and Karim Nice, writers of “How Hybrid Cars Work.”

It has been eight years since Toyota introduced the Toyota Prius, which was, according to hybrids.com, the first hybrid vehicle in the United States. Since 2000, other companies like Honda, Nissan, Lexus, Saturn and others have introduced their own hybrid models.


Top Five Hybrid Cars Sold in 2007

1. Toyota Prius $21,100
2. Toyota Camry $25,200
3. Honda Civic $22,600
4. Ford Escape $26,265
5. Toyota Highlander $33,200

SOURCE: hybrids.com
## WEEKEND RUNDOWN

### THURSDAY • JANUARY 31

**What:** Christine Andreas  
**Where:** Carnival Studio Theatre  
The Arsht Center  
1300 Biscayne Blvd.  
Miami, FL 33132  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $23

**What:** Rod Stewart  
**Where:** Hard Rock Live  
5747 Seminole Way  
Hollywood, Fl 33314  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $100-$300

**What:** Monthly Beer Dinner  
**Where:** Lola’s on Harrison  
2032 Harrison St.  
Hollywood, FL 33020  
**When:** 6p.m.  
**How Much:** $60

**What:** Happy Hour at the Beach Bar  
**Where:** Palms  
3025 Collins Ave.,  
Miami Beach, Fl 33140  
**When:** 5 – 8 p.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

### FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 1

**What:** HIGH ON FIRE plus A Life Once Lost /Saviours / Rwake  
**Where:** Churchill’s Pub  
501 NE 2nd Ave.  
Miami, Fl 33137  
**When:** 7:30p.m.  
**How Much:** $13

**What:** Richie Havens  
**Where:** Culture Room  
3045 N Federal Hwy,  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33306  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $23

**What:** Ron White  
**Where:** Sound Advice Amphitheatre  
601-7 Sansburys Way  
West Palm Beach, Fl 33411  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $42.75

**What:** The Business of Being Born  
**Where:** Tower Theatre  
1508 SW 8th St.  
Miami, Fl 33135  
**When:** 6:30p.m.  
**How Much:** $15

### SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 2

**What:** The EAT with Jeannie and the Tits / Fraulein / Pitch Black Radio  
**Where:** Churchill’s’ Pub  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $10

**What:** Ween  
**Where:** Revolution Live  
200 West Broward Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
**When:** 8p.m.  
**How Much:** $26.25

**What:** Carnival  
**Where:** CocoWalk  
3015 Grand Ave.  
Coconut Grove, Fl 33133  
**When:** 2pm. till 12a.m.  
**How Much:** Varies

**What:** Monster Jam World Tour  
**Where:** Dolphin Stadium  
2267 Dan Marino Blvd.  
Miami Gardens, Fl 33056  
**When:** 7:30p.m.  
**How Much:** $16 - $20

### SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 3

**What:** Drink and Chill Literally  
**Where:** The Polar Bar  
938 Lincoln RD.,  
Miami Beach, Fl 33139  
**When:** Varies  
**How Much:** Varies

**What:** Miami International Map Fair  
**Where:** Historical Museum of Southern Florida  
101 W. Flagler St.  
Miami, Fl 33130  
**When:** 10a.m. – 5p.m.  
**How Much:** $10

**What:** Aromas of Havana Cigars and Lounge  
**Where:** Aromas of Havana Cigars and Lounge  
14781 Biscayne Blvd.  
North Miami Beach, Fl 33181  
**When:** Daily  
**How Much:** Varies

- Compiled by Kassandra Pool

---

**UM MBA**

**Robert B. Newman** Vice President, Financial Consultant — National Planning Corporation

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.

**CAMPUS VISIT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 11:30AM**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ROOM GB 532  
**RSVP 800.531.7157 MBA@MIAMI.EDU**  
WWW.BUS.MIAMI.EDU/GRAD

Two-Year MBA Program begins August 2008  
**Application Deadlines**  
Round 1: 2/15/08  
Round 2: 3/19/08  
Round 3: 6/17/08
For movie fans, the post-Oscar landscape seems awfully bleak: last month’s top grossing movies were the critically panned “Meet The Spartans” and “Rambo,” as well as “Cloverfield,” which received mixed reviews.

February doesn’t look much better, with only a handful of movies that look to offer either big box office draw or the type of quality that film buffs are looking for. Here are the movies that will look to draw theater-goers this month:

**THE EYE (FEB. 1)**

Despite her status as one of the most sought after commodities in Hollywood, Jessica Alba has yet to truly take over a movie that she has starred in. Some might argue it is because of her limitations as an actress, but that hasn’t stopped her from landing lead roles in numerous big movies, and her latest is the psychological thriller “The Eye.”

The premise of the film is that Alba, a brilliant concert violinist, has been blind since childhood. She undergoes an operation that allows her to see again thanks to donor eyes, but after the operation, she begins seeing frightening images nobody else can. Much of the movie revolves around the question of whether she is losing her own grip on sanity, really seeing things, or if the eyes are actually haunted themselves.

Will this be the movie that Alba finally moves past the stigma of being just another face, or will this one fall by the wayside like so many of her other projects? Early reviews aren’t looking good.

**GEORGE A. ROMERO'S DIARY OF THE DEAD (FEB. 15)**

The father of the entire zombie horror sub-genre and creator of the classic “… of the Dead” series, returns with his second movie in the series in the past three years, which is quite a bit of a better turn around time than the 20 years separating the previous two installments.

This time, Romero turns the camera on the victims, following a group of young independent filmmakers who stumble upon the initial outbreak featured in the original “Night Of The Living Dead.” Romero’s trademark social satire and commentary can be expected, along with the sense of foreboding that he perfected in his previous films.

**CHARLIE BARTLETT (FEB. 22)**

In his directorial debut, Jon Poll, who worked on both the “Meet The Parents” and “Austin Powers,” looks to play off the typical high school rebel archetype by trying to find a way for the typical slacker hero to fit in and take advantage of today’s Prozac and Ritalin obsessed culture.

The eponymous hero, played by Anton Yelchin in his first starring role, continues in the proud tradition of Ferris Bueller and John Bender before him by mixing things up in his school. Particularly, he uses his connections to a psychiatrist, paid for by his wealthy parents, to fake prescriptions for his fellow classmates and their various maladies or vices and act as a de facto counselor for them in a bathroom stall.

This looks to be one of the few refreshing movies released during this month, as it tries to avoid high school stereotypes while also parodying the prescription drug-filled times we currently reside in.

**BEKIND REWIND (FEB. 22)**

In a time seemingly devoid of fresh comedies, this Jack Black and Mos Def vehicle certainly appears to be breaking the mold. Black and Mos Def play a pair of friends who, through a variety of absolutely ridiculous circumstances, manage to delete the contents of every movie in the video store owned by Def.

In an attempt to fool the store’s lone costumer, an old lady whose grip on reality can be best described as “light,” the duo decide to remake every single movie in the store on their own in order to keep that one last customer.

Despite a plot that is ridiculous at best, the thought of watching Black and Def recreate pivotal scenes in movies as wide ranging as “Driving Miss Daisy,” “The Lion King” and “Robocop” is enough to make this the contender for funniest movie of the month.
Film festival inspires true love across nations

KASSANDRA POOL  Staff Writer

As February begins, some students are likely racking their brains trying to figure out what special gift to give their boy-
friend or girlfriend for Valentine’s Day. Hosted by the French Club and French
Honors Society, the Romantic Film Festi-
val will commence Feb. 4. The festival begins with a screening
of “I’m Not Here to be Loved,” a French
film about a man unhappy with his
life until he meets a young woman
named Françoise, who is about to
marry another man. The film
will be shown in the
Graham Center
room 150 at 7 p.m.
The festival is free
and open to the FIU community. The films come from all over Europe, includ-
ing Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Italy and
Germany. All films will have English
subtitles.
For the past two years, the French Club
and French Honor Society have done vari-
ant festivals each semester, such as the
Franco-Polish, Franco-African and
Franco-Canadian festivals.
For the first time this semester the festi-
vale is sponsored by Red Chemistry and
FIU’s Center for the European Union.
The films are being provided by Red
Chemistry Director Isabelle Landman,
a friend of Professor Maria Antonieta
Garcia who is also the advisor for both the
French Club and French Society.
“I want students to have the opportu-
nity to be exposed to different films and to
have a good time while having intellectual
fun,” Garcia said.
Garcia explained the film is not just
meant for those students who know
French or to those who are already
familiar with the French countries on
campus.
Throughout the festival the French
Club will be fundraising by selling
chocolate grams for a dollar.
On Feb. 14 there will be hosting a Val-
entine’s Party from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in
the GC Panther Suite.
Events Coordinator Gabriela
Junco is hoping to see students enjoy themselves while watching the films.
“Foreign films always surprise me,” Junco said.
“They are more artistic. They reveal a
lot about the culture in which the film
was created.”
The next festival, coming in Fall
2008, is already being planned. Garcia
is open to any suggestions or com-
ments from anyone.
For a synopsis of any of the films
contact Garcia at garciahd@fiu.edu.
The festival will end with an even-
ning of short movies in GC 150 at
7 p.m. on Feb. 29.
For a complete schedule of all
films read This Week on Campus in
Monday’s issue of The Beacon.

Fernando Garcia/The Beacon

Adrenalina teaches how to ride indoor waves

ROCIO BLANCO-GARCIA  Staff Writer

The beach and extreme waves are no longer the only options for FIU
students who love surfing. Adrenalina, a new extreme sports
store located in Miami International Mall, opened a little over a month
ago.
With its flowrider, a pool of arti-
ficial waves, Adrenalina hopes to
become a one-stop trip for surfers in
the Miami area.
“We offer you the clothes, the
board and waves for an adrenaline
rush,” said John Storm, the store’s
manager.
Adrenalina is the first company
in the U.S. to feature a flowrider
inside of a mall.
The company wanted to create
something unique and different;
anyone could have a ramp to skate,
but not waves to surf.
Since the store opened, the 35
m.p.h. waves have proved to be a
success.
The flowrider will become the
store’s major attraction. Long lines
of people waiting to jump on the
board and ride the waves are seen
every day.
“I have seen everyone try it, from
six-year-olds to 50 year olds,” said
Andrew Gonzalez, an employee of
the store. “I think that by the end
of the year people will have to call
in advance to make an appointment.”
Adrenalina has a half-hour ride costs $20,
but Adrenalina offers numerous
memberhips options.
The store provides customers
with a surfboard so they do not
have to purchase it.
However, those who are inter-
ested in riding the artificial waves
must bring a bathing suit and a
towel.
“This experience cannot be com-
pared to anything else,” said Louis
Smith, a frequent to the shop. “It’s
like snowboarding, wakeboarding
and skateboarding all at the same
time.”
Most of the people who go to ride
the waves are 18 to 24 and have been
skating or surfing for years, but even
if you have never tried any of these
sports before, Daniel Frutos believes
that practicing is not difficult.
“It’s a lot easier than what it looks
like. All you have to do is lean
back and the waves will hold you
up, and if you fall down you won’t
get hurt because the floor is soft,”
Frutos said.
The store’s inventory is not limited to only surfing goods, however.
Extreme sports enthusiasts can
find everything they need in the
store: skydiving accessories, skate-
boards, mountain bikes, wakeboards
and even paintball protective gear.
Adrenalina even has come up with
its own line of clothing made
from Peruvian cotton.
Even though the store has been
open for more than a month, Adrenalina
will have its Miami store grand
opening Feb. 16 at 2 p.m.
There, a flowrider contest will
take place and the participants will
have the chance to win a $2,000
pool prize.
Those who would like to partici-
pate must register before Feb. 15.
A street surfing exhibition and
pro athlete autograph signings will
also take place.
The company currently has two
stores, one in Miami, where its cor-
porate offices are located, and one
in Orlando’s Florida Mall.
Six new stores are under construc-
tion in Houston, Tampa, Atlanta,
Denver, Dallas and Philadelphia.
For more information on Adrena-
line and its grand opening next
month, visit adrenalina.store or
call the International Mall store
at 305-470-1119.

Rocio Blanco-Garcia can be con-
tacted at rocio.garcia@fiusm.com

Manufacturers offer new energy efficient cars

HYBRID, page 9

To date, Toyota has sold over a million
hybrid vehicles. The company attributes
its success to the many long-term benefits
that hybrid cars provide.
“Aside from the gas-savings to hybrid
owners,” indicated a press release from
Toyota, “the significant reduction in
tailpipe emissions, as well as the reduction in foreign
oil dependence, has been a
factor among many buyers
who say they are concerned
about the environment.”

General Motors, another significant
hybrid producer, is also making
transitions from conventional
hybrids to a plug-in called Chevy Volt. Like the vehicle developed by Toyota, the
2010 Chevy Volt, as described by GM, is
“capable of running on electricity, E85,
bio-diesel and gasoline fuels.”
In addition to these new plug-in hybrid
vehicles, The New York Times mentioned
that Toyota’s Lexus department will
reveal a hybrid-electric car, which was
specifically designed for the luxury brand.
This will be presented at the 2009 Detroit
Auto Show.
Other luxury automobile companies
such as Porsche have plans to introduce
their own hybrids by 2009 or 2010.

Lawrence Ulrich wrote in The New
York Times: “It is hard to imagine a less
likely candidate for the hybrid treatment: the
Porsche Cayenne, a 5,000-pound
S.U.V. that ranks among the fastest, most
powerful trucks ever built.”

While some are content with the
emerging trend of the hybrid, others like
Justin Weaver, a psychology major, are
concerned that the majority of people are
more inclined to purchase bigger cars.
“Everybody puts emphasis on big trucks and cars and they don’t realize
in the long-run what they are doing to the
environment,” Weaver said. “These
companies need to be conscious when they make these new Hummers and Land
Rovers.”
Now, all that is left to do is see how
government react to the traditional and plug-in
hybrid car.
For more information and price quotes
on hybrid cars, check out hybridcars.com.

JOIN OUR STAFF!
Stop by one of our offices located in
GC 210 and WUC 124 to pick up
an application.
Panthers should defeat weak opponent despite short roster

JONATHAN RAMOS
Staff Writer

When the Golden Panthers (6-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) step on the court for their meeting against Denver (8-11, 4-4) on Jan. 31, it will be one of the few times this season that they have had the momentum.

They will look for their third two-game winning streak of the season, riding on the shoulders of junior forward Alex Galindo, who is averaging 24 points per game over his last three outings.

The Pioneers, meanwhile, come into the contest having been dismantled by 38 points in their last game by Sun Belt conference leaders South Alabama.

FIU, who is ranked tenth overall in the conference, has seen a rise in their pre-season all-conference forward’s play.

Galindo began his surge with a career-high, 34-point performance against Louisiana-Monroe on Jan.19 and scored 23 points Jan. 27 against New Orleans.

With the Pioneers having to contain one Golden Panther star, FIU will not have to do the same as Denver does not have a player that averages over 11 points.

If there is a player to watch for Denver, it will be Adam Tanner, one of the better centers in the conference who along with fellow big man Hicks – some-thing FIU has not flashed a lot this season.

Rouco in his defense, the team has had to go with fresh-man Tremayne Russell at point guard, with walk-on Nick Taylor also seeing playing time at the position. FIU is very inexperienced at the point guard position, arguably the most important position for a team who does not have many set plays in the paint.

HELP COMING

The Golden Panthers will have arguably its most talented group of newcomers ever coming in next season when point guard Josue Soto and center Freddy Asprilla are eligible to play. Soto, a sopho-more transfer from Florida State, will give Rouco options at point guard. Asprilla, FIU’s first verbal commitment in the class of 2008, should be able to give the Golden Panthers another scoring threat inside to complement junior center Russell Hicks. Both are former three-star prospects by Rivals.com and both could be Rouco’s last hope.

With the instability and inconsistency the team has had, things have not “stayed the course” as Rouco had hoped.

As much bad luck as he is having this season, he is bring-ing in some of the best talent the program has had. With the talent, however, comes pressure and the question of whether he can coach them. I believe Rouco should have a chance to coach next season, but whether that is in Garcia’s future plans is not known.

If Rouco does make it to next season, there will be no room for some of the bad breaks he has had this season, whether it’s his fault or not.
First, Elisa Carey goes down with an ACL injury in the second game of the season—there goes the team’s biggest inside threat who was putting up great pre-season numbers.

But the team still had Marquita Adley around to dominate the inside. Six games in, Adley breaks her right thumb while falling to the floor at the Pharmed Arena. With those players gone for the season it would have been easy to count the team out. However, the Golden Panthers (7-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) have stepped up to the challenge.

Until this season, senior forward Jasmine Jenkins had seen few minutes in her first few years at FIU but, being the team’s only upperclassmen left over six feet tall, she was the natural selection to be the team’s new inside presence.

Jenkins has made a big impact since being thrust into the limelight. In the first game following Adley’s injury, Jenkins grabbed 12 rebounds in a huge win on the road against the University of Miami. Since then she has had six double-figure rebound games and recorded two double-doubles. Jenkins also leads the conference in blocks and ranks fourth in rebounds.

Another interesting subplot has been the play of FIU’s freshmen. Of the four, forward Fanni Hutlassa has seen the most playing time and recently has even started two games.

Hutlassa is a versatile 6-foot-1 guard/forward who can rebound, defend and shoot 3-pointers at a high percentage. Forward Liene Jekabsone, center Maja Krajacic and guard Tabitha Drake have not seen as many minutes, but have all had good contributions this season.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson is the team’s leading scorer and puts up a little more than 17 points a game, which places her fourth in the conference in scoring.

Her shooting skills not only provide the team a lot of points, but when she is double-teamed, the Golden Panthers are pretty good at finding the open shooter.

At this time, the only player on the team to start every game is junior guard Iva Ciglar. It is also often that Ciglar will play entire games and she leads the Sun Belt Conference in minutes played and total assists.

The team is currently on a three-game losing streak. One consistent theme in recent games is runs. In its last four games, FIU has gone on runs of 11-3, 14-0, 13-0, 14-2, 9-0 and 10-0. However, there have also been times when FIU has given up runs of 11-2, 17-2, 21-5 and 20-2.

FIU will also need to find a way to break its opponent’s momentum during these scoring spurs. Ferguson believes that the team has allowed these runs due to inexperience.

As for the good runs, the team will just need to hope they can continue them and that shots can keep dropping.

The big problem could very well be the loss of the inside players.

It also could be fatigue in the main rotation that seems to only include Ferguson, Ciglar, Jenkins, Hutlassa, senior guard Asha Neal and sophomore guard Monika Bosilj.

Jekabsone, Drake, Krajacic and junior guard Antonia Zeigler have all played this season, but not as many minutes as the main six.

FIU is pretty strong at guard so it is doubtful Drake or Zeigler will see extend minutes, but with the team undersized it could be time to put Jekabsone and Krajacic in the rotation more because of the size they can add.
Galindo scores 23, grabs 10 rebounds

James and the sudden departure of Kenneth "Redd" White, the 6-1 guard who transferred last year from Texas A&M.

The Golden Panthers used their size as an advantage, at times using a lineup featuring seven-foot junior center Russell Hicks, who recorded 17 points and eight rebounds, 

N'Diaye and 6-foot-9 Nikola Gaseca. Despite having a leap
d ied 18 rebounds compared to 12 assists, the Golden Panthers’ offense shot 51 percent from the field and 33 percent from behind the arc.

Walk-on freshman point guard Nick Taylor has been solid since beginning to play more quality minutes almost two weeks ago. Taylor, who only turned the ball over once in a season-high 28 minutes, combined with Tremayne Russell for 14 points and seven assists at the point guard. Taylor added four of the team’s seven steals.

After the win, which evened the Golden Panthers’ home record to 6-6, coach Sergio Rouco was pleased to see his team come out with a victory against a formidable conference opponent.

“We followed the game plan to the tee,” he said. “We used our size to contest their shots and we didn’t give them a lot of second chances with the ball.”

The Golden Panthers prepare to hit the road against Denver on Jan. 31 and north texas on Feb. 2.

Inept offense dooms women’s squad

Women’s, page 16

UNO

FG FT REB A TO PTS MIN
Parlow, James 3-9 1-2 2 0 2 10 24
Reynolds, Shaun 5-8 1-2 1 1 1 12 27
Souleymane, Asra 1-1 0-0 0 1 0 2 20
Manning, Jacob 0-3 0-1 2 1 0 0 23
McCalebb, Bo 9-15 2-5 3 5 4 24 34
Dykes, Kyndall 2-10 0-1 7 1 3 7 31

Women’s Basketball Standing

TEAM OVERALL CONF PCT
Florida International 16-5 9-0 .762

[Table continues with data for other teams]

UNO 70, FIU WOMEN 60

FIU FG FT REB A TO PTS MIN
Ciglar, Iva 4-8 1-4 3 6 11 38
Jenkins, Jasmine 5-8 0-0 3 10 36
Reynolds, Shaun 5-8 1-1 1 1 1 12 27
Parlow, James 3-9 1-2 2 0 10 24

Team Totals 22-55 6-10 36 13 21 60 200

UNO FG FT REB A TO PTS MIN
Young, Tashia 7-13 0-1 5 1 11 29
Helms, Brittany 5-10 2-2 6 4 12 36
Reynolds, LaDella 10-16 4-5 2 0 27 40
McCoy, Candice 0-3 0-1 5 2 0 29

Team Totals 3-60 7-12 33 14 12 60 200

For coach Sergio Rouco, it must feel like feeling is much easier said than done after he had to say this before saying: “If everything stays the course and we don’t suffer major injuries, there is no reason why we can’t finish among the top four teams in [the Sun Belt Conference],” he said.

To sum up the first 19 games of the Golden Panthers season, things haven’t quite stayed the course and it hasn’t been injuries that have derailed the team. FIU has followed up its 12-17 performance last season with a 6-13 start to this year and a deep hole to overcome if it wants to reach its pre-season goals.

Rouco, who survived athletic director Pete Garcia’s rampage of firing coaches in the offseason, has done little to impress his boss thus far.

“We aren’t the cool dudes. We got to jump on people like everybody is the best conference opponent,” Rouco said after a loss to Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19.

Indeed, the Golden Panthers have been far from cool. FIU has been among the most inconsistent teams in the Sun Belt Conference. After losing four of its first seven games, all at home, FIU has sandwiched a two-game winning streak in between two losing streaks of four games or more.

NO PROGRESSION

A huge part of FIU’s disappointing season has been the underachieving performances by swingmen Chris Fuller and Alex Galindo. Galindo, a pre-season all-conference selection, has seen his scoring average take a dip from his sophomore season. Despite waking up to score 57 points over his last two home games, the forward had only scored over 15 points three times this year -- compared to the eight instances he did at the same point last season. Galindo has had five games in which he scored in single digits, just one short of what he had all of last season.

Don’t get me wrong, I know Galindo is a very talented player who has the potential to be among the best players in the conference, but we should all expect more from him.

“Redd” White, the team’s leading scorer, transferred to a 10-point victory over the Panthers would not score for the next nine minutes. English responded when Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer. English finally showed signs of life with the ball.

After the win, which evened the Golden Panthers’ home record to 6-6, coach Sergio Rouco was pleased to see his team come out with a victory against a formidable conference opponent.

“We followed the game plan to the tee,” he said. “We used our size to contest their shots and we didn’t give them a lot of second chances with the ball.”

The Golden Panthers prepare to hit the road against Denver on Jan. 31 and north texas on Feb. 2.

Team’s slow growth places coach on hot seat

from the coaching staff and fans.

Fuller, the lone senior on the team, has gone from a double-digit scorer to averaging a lowly 7.5 points per game while seeing his rebounds, field goal percentage and from the coach.

RAMOS, page 13

TRAPPED: Freshman forward Lerie Jelakosono attempts to divide University of New Orleans defenders.
SKID OVER
Second half run sparks team’s victory at home

ANDREW JULIAN
Staff Writer

Junior forward Alex Galindo’s efforts would not be wasted this time as the Golden Panthers (6-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) snapped a four-game losing streak with a 75-62 victory over the New Orleans Privateers (14-7, 4-5) on Jan. 27 at Pharmed Arena.

Galindo led the Golden Panthers with 23 points and 10 rebounds, for his second consecutive home double-double.

“I thought we played well from the start and we did a great job rebounding the ball all game long,” he said.

Entering the contest, the Golden Panthers were out-rebounding their opponents by an average of almost six rebounds per game.

The Golden Panthers continued that trend against New Orleans, out-rebounding the Privateers 42-27.

The two clubs traded baskets and stayed close for most of the first half, due in large part to 10 first-half Golden Panther turnovers.

The score was tied on eight different occasions and there were five lead changes in a competitive first half that saw FIU lead by as many as five points and the Privateers lead by as many as four.

The Golden Panthers were able to break the tie of the half with seven seconds remaining thanks to a three-point play by junior center Badara N’Diaye that gave the home team a 31-28 edge heading into intermission.

For the second straight home game, Galindo came out of the break late surge from the Privateers, who cut the deficit to 11 with just over a minute to play.

Leading the charge for the Privateers was the Sun Belt Conference’s all-time leading scorer Bo McCaleb, who finished with a game-high 24 points, two more than his season average.

Outside of McCaleb’s efficient 9-for-15 shooting from the floor, the Privateers were held under 33 percent field goal shooting.

“Alex Galindo, Junior Forward

The second half is the most important time of the game and I just want to play well and give my team a chance to win.

They also failed to take advantage of the free throws line, shooting just 53 percent from the free-throws line. FIU toyed with some new lineups during the game as well.

Sudden changes had to be made due to the indefinite suspension of point guard Mike Galindo led the Golden Panthers (6-13, 3-6 Sun Belt) could not hold on to a 13-point lead in the first half and could not hold on to the ball in the second half as they faltered 70-60 to the University of New Orleans Privateers (10-10, 4-5) at Pharmed Arena on Jan. 27.

A 14-5 turnover difference in the second half led to 26 points off turnovers for the Privateers.

Senior guard Le’Della English led the Privateers with a game-high 20 points.

The first five minutes of the game were tight and the Privateers gained a 6-4 lead on a lay-up. On the next play, junior guard Iva Ciglar hit a 3-pointer that sparked a 10-0 FIU run.

The lead grew to 13 when Ciglar scored again with 4:45 remaining in the first half making the score 31-18.

But the Privateers responded by out scoring FIU 12-2 to end the first half, cutting FIU’s lead to three, 33-30.

“I thought we ran a good offense until we got behind and we panicked,” said coach Cindy Russo.

“We are still struggling for a post presence and we need to keep working on it.”

Aiding the Privateers’ rally was the play of junior forward Talisha Young, who scored 10 points in the first half. Normally FIU can bring in freshman center Maja Krajacic to try and stop a bigger opponent, but she had to sit out the game with what Russo said was really bad bronchitis.

Also playing less than 100 percent was sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

For the first time this season, Bosilj did not make the starting lineup, but still managed to record 10 points and four rebounds.

The second half started with senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scoring eight of FIU’s first 10 points.

However, the Privateers answered almost every FIU shot with one of their own.

Following a lay-up by senior forward Andrew Julian.

MEN’S page 15

WOMEN’S page 15

The lead grew to 13 when Ciglar scored again with 4:45 remaining in the first half making the score 31-18.

But the Privateers responded by outscoring FIU 12-2 to end the first half, cutting FIU’s lead to three, 33-30.

“I thought we ran a good offense until we got behind and we panicked,” said coach Cindy Russo.

“We are still struggling for a post presence and we need to keep working on it.”

Aiding the Privateers’ rally was the play of junior forward Talisha Young, who scored 10 points in the first half. Normally FIU can bring in freshman center Maja Krajacic to try and stop a bigger opponent, but she had to sit out the game with what Russo said was really bad bronchitis.

Also playing less than 100 percent was sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

For the first time this season, Bosilj did not make the starting lineup, but still managed to record 10 points and four rebounds.

The second half started with senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scoring eight of FIU’s first 10 points.

However, the Privateers answered almost every FIU shot with one of their own.

Following a lay-up by senior forward Andrew Julian.

MEN’S page 15

WOMEN’S page 15

The lead grew to 13 when Ciglar scored again with 4:45 remaining in the first half making the score 31-18.

But the Privateers responded by outscoring FIU 12-2 to end the first half, cutting FIU’s lead to three, 33-30.

“I thought we ran a good offense until we got behind and we panicked,” said coach Cindy Russo.

“We are still struggling for a post presence and we need to keep working on it.”

Aiding the Privateers’ rally was the play of junior forward Talisha Young, who scored 10 points in the first half. Normally FIU can bring in freshman center Maja Krajacic to try and stop a bigger opponent, but she had to sit out the game with what Russo said was really bad bronchitis.

Also playing less than 100 percent was sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

For the first time this season, Bosilj did not make the starting lineup, but still managed to record 10 points and four rebounds.

The second half started with senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scoring eight of FIU’s first 10 points.

However, the Privateers answered almost every FIU shot with one of their own.

Following a lay-up by senior forward Andrew Julian.

MEN’S page 15

WOMEN’S page 15

The lead grew to 13 when Ciglar scored again with 4:45 remaining in the first half making the score 31-18.

But the Privateers responded by outscoring FIU 12-2 to end the first half, cutting FIU’s lead to three, 33-30.

“I thought we ran a good offense until we got behind and we panicked,” said coach Cindy Russo.

“We are still struggling for a post presence and we need to keep working on it.”

Aiding the Privateers’ rally was the play of junior forward Talisha Young, who scored 10 points in the first half. Normally FIU can bring in freshman center Maja Krajacic to try and stop a bigger opponent, but she had to sit out the game with what Russo said was really bad bronchitis.

Also playing less than 100 percent was sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

For the first time this season, Bosilj did not make the starting lineup, but still managed to record 10 points and four rebounds.

The second half started with senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scoring eight of FIU’s first 10 points.

However, the Privateers answered almost every FIU shot with one of their own.

Following a lay-up by senior forward Andrew Julian.