ELECTION ‘08
January 31, 2008

Amendments may affect education

Chris Towers
Asst. News Director

Late campaign pushes for former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani. Arizona senator John McCain was able to cement his status as the front runner for the Republican presidential candidacy following a Florida primary that saw him take 36 percent of the vote and all 57 of the state’s delegates.

On the democratic side, N.Y. senator Hillary Clinton took 51 percent of the vote, defeating Ill. senator Barack Obama who came in with just 31 percent of the vote. Florida’s democratic delegates, however, will not be seated at the party’s national convention in Denver following a disagreement over scheduling. Despite the national implications of the results, arguably the issue on the ballot with the single biggest implications for FIU and its students is the state amendment’s passage, which will change the way the state reports and funds public schools in the state. 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 is concerned.”

The committee will determine whether or not the degree FIU students earn and pay for is actually worth anything.

“Other schools, like the School of Journalism [and Mass Communication] and the [College of] Law have their own committees and associations to answer to when it comes to this reaccreditation process. But this process is the reaccreditation of the University as a whole,” said Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Haupti.

Haupti is just one of the many faculty and administration members at the University preparing for the “reaffirmation of accreditation,” which involves an on-site visit of the university by reviewers from SACS to judge the state of the university as a whole.

Reaccreditation, however, is much more extensive than just an on-site visit.

It involves the submission of a “compliance certification” in which the University certifies it is in compliance with all the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements necessary to be met. It covers all matters including educational, support and administrative units.

The University must also submit to SACS a Quality Enhancement Plan, a “carefully designed and focused course of action that addresses a well-defined issue or issues directly related to improving student learning,” according to the SACS Web site.

“The QEP is a new part of the accreditation process and focuses on student learning. The principles of accreditation have changed, and we have additional requirements to be met,” said Susan Himburg, the SACS director of reaffirmation at FIU.

Her job is to oversee the entire reaccreditation process for the University. Himburg was in charge of overseeing the same process for the previous reaccreditation in 2000.

According to Himburg, the QEP is the primary concern at the moment, and SACS has been working on one since last Spring semester.

“The compliance certification is much more cut and dry, but the QEP may be of more significance,” Himburg said.

The Beacon
A CROSS PARTY LINES: Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman speaks on behalf of John McCain at FIU.

Cain at FIU in Graham Center room 243 on Jan. 28.

McCain, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, made a highly publicized appearance at the Graham Center Ballrooms, another appearance at the Graham Center.

Lieberman spoke on behalf of Arizona Sen. John McCain, and praised the University for its involvement.

Roibaina echoed these sentiments. "The room was pretty full, but that’s to be expected with something like this," Robaina said. "The crowd was overwhelmingly students, and that’s great because it’s who we put events on for.

Carlos Robaina, president of the College Republicans, who was responsible for setting up the event.

Lieberman briefly discussed McCain’s candidacy before taking more than 25 minutes worth of questions regarding both his and McCain’s views on numerous issues.

Among the issues he took questions on were the boost to the Arizona Senator, who has made a push in the polls in recent weeks.

"Lieberman is an independent so he holds cross party appeal," Robaina said.

Despite this appeal, Lieberman has drawn criticism from members of his own party for his support of a pro-war Republican candidate.

"His support of McCain is not surprising considering he is an independent," said Christian Martinez, vice-president of the College Democrats. It became clear he wouldn’t follow party lines once he became president.

Lieberman responded to this criticism, defending his bipartisan history.

"If you disagree with somebody on eight out of 10 issues, why wouldn’t you work with them on the two you agree on," Lieberman said.

During his final note during the appearance, Lieberman expressed pleasure that most of those in attendance were students, and praised the University for its involvement.

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"Let me tell you something," Perry told the crowd, "the fire in this room — the youth in this room — is what is going to carry today and tomorrow for Rudy.

The crowd was most supportive to Voigt, who spoke of Giuliani’s crime-fighting in New York as former mayor of the city and his response to the attacks on 9/11.

Giuliani took the stage, opening with a specific appeal to college students, though a wide range of demographics were present in the audience.

"We’re going to take this country in a direction of greater strength. We’re going to take this country in a direction of even more prosperity and we’re going to do it with all of you, the young people at the university who dream great, big dreams and accomplishments," Giuliani said.

Main talking points for Giuliani included Iraq, building up the United States military, economic stability and tax cuts. Energy independence was also on Giuliani’s agenda.

The crowd, estimated by the Giuliani campaign to be over 500 but later reported to be about 250, let out an unintended chuckle when Giuliani said America would be the first country to send an astronaut to Mars.

They were, however, more receptive to Giuliani’s stance on Cuba.

"We have a wonderful story of Cuban Americans — the great story of what happens when people have support, when people have freedom," Giuliani said. "I hope and I pray that when I’m president, you and I will be able to go to Cuba.

Rinat wasn’t sure what Giuliani would have to say about the recent tuition increase and the affects of the property tax Amendment.

"I don’t want to speculate on the mayor’s position, but I think the mayor is very, very committed to keeping college affordable for the younger generation," Rinat said. "I think the mayor has proven to us that when you cut taxes, you don’t necessarily have to cut education.

Not everyone was supportive of Giuliani. Ron Paul supporters were present in the Graham Center before Giuliani’s speech and met his supporters coming out of the ballrooms after his speech.

"It’s important to have different views and different opinions and the good thing about doing this is we can present our opinions in a peaceful manner," said Kevin Cedno, a Miami-Dade College student and Paul supporter.

THE MIAMI HERALD: Rudy Giuliani campaigns in South Florida.

ONE LAST HURRAH: Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani addresses the crowd at the Graham Center Ballrooms at FIU on Jan. 28.

Giuliani pushes for student vote at FIU

CHRISTINA VEIGA News Director

The crowd was most receptive to Giuliani’s crime-fighting in New York as former mayor of the city and his response to the attacks on 9/11.

"I think bringing [Giuliani] is a great idea. We wish we would have had all the candidates here," said A.J. Meyer, vice president of University Park Student Government Council.

National Chairman for Students for Rudy, Ory Rinat, felt the Mayor’s message was well received at FIU, saying the University is home to one of the biggest and strongest chapters of University Park Student Government.

"He understands what people in our generation are looking for," said Rinat, a Columbia University student.

The presidential hopeful brought along Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, Texas Governor Rick Perry and actor John Voight to stir the crowd.

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New School of Music director brings a world of experience

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.

David X. Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Orlando Garcia, professor of theory and music composition. “Thanks to her administrative experience she has gotten the faculty moving towards a common 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 music students to give back to the community by either teaching or performing. “I want our students to be philanthropists,” said Wilson. “I want them to come out with their idea of giving back to the community.”
Students worry Chavez will make matters worse

JANIE RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

It is a typical school day at Biscayne Bay Campus for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

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Sophomore Natasha Monell, who grew up in Colombia and attended high school in Bogotá, thinks the harsh words from Chavez will affect the Colombian government.

"We're really at the beginning stages of fleshing things out. Course content is a faculty discussion, and how we'll go around it is a faculty discussion," said Himburg. "It is at this point that she can no longer hold her anger.

"Personally, I would not want to "stop attacking" Colombia for the guerrillas telling him to "stop attacking" Colombia and interfering in its internal affairs.

"Not only do I have many relatives throughout Venezuela, but my boyfriend is from Medellín (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, even when he is nothing but a moron," Sanchez said.

NATIONAL TREASURE

SCENE CHANGING

Actor Jon Voight shows his support for Rudy Giuliani at the rally held in FIU at the GC ballrooms on Jan. 28.

Image 8x132 to 102x227

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Image 8x132 to 102x227
Six students receive Jose Marti award

ANA PEREZ Contributing Writer

The Jose Marti Scholarship held its eighth anniversary 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 as a partnership between FIU and Miami-Dade College.

Entrants must submit an essay analyzing any aspect of Jose Marti and why he was an important figure. FIU received a donation from Jose Badia, president and owner of Badia Spices, so that students of both colleges with winning entries would each get $2,000.

This year FIU’s scholarship winners included Carmen Carvajal, Melissa Jahangiri, Melissa Leyva, Leslie Revoredo, Yeysi Trujilo and Dayanes Rodriguez.

Although most did not have a chance to attend, Rodriguez, an advertising and marketing major, was present to receive her award.

“I thought it was an excellent opportunity and I loved the title,” Rodriguez said. “It made me want to learn more about Marti’s words and I was captivated by it. ’I’m Cuban and [Marti] was my teacher in the way I was raised, reading his stuff and taught his way of thinking.’

Myra Exposito, whose Cuban roots prompted her involvement with the scholarship, described the criteria for the essay entries.

“I participated last year in the judging committee [at University Park] and the criteria is simple. Any full-time student who demonstrates a knowledge about Marti can write an essay, and good grades are very important,” said Exposito, an advisor for the Science Club at BBC.

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.

Rodriguez explained what she analyzed in her essay as well as her reaction when she was informed of her award.

“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 at 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.

Wellness Center promotes health through yoga, offers HIV counseling

DAIANA KUCAWA Contributing Writer

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

The Wellness Center’s Web site stresses the importance of a holistic lifestyle. As Velez, the Wellness Center’s senior health administration director pointed out, “It’s a natural marriage.”

The Center’s services are a natural marriage.

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.

The starting point for the Wellness Center was 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.

The Center’s yoga class is instructed by Bonnie Quiceno, a ballet and modern dance teacher with 20 years of experience.

“Spinal vertebrae injuries resulted in Quiceno’s move to yoga instruction,” said Velez.

Velez said that the problem with the Wellness Center is that it is short-staffed due to budget shortages.

“We’ve had some challenges lately because we don’t have an assistant director. It’s really staffed by a part-time senior health education,” Velez said.

Big changes are in progress for the Wellness Center.

“Part of the problem is informing students about the Wellness Center’s existence. Moving to where the old fitness center used to be will help save money and therefore pay for more staffing, said Velez.

“Once the assistant director is in place again, then I think that things will work more smoothly,” said Velez.

“We will be inhabiting space with the SGA in the Wolfe Center which is going to be great because it’s a natural marriage.”
Associate director of the Cuban Research Institute at FIU, Uva de Aragon, said, "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."

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."
LIEBERMAN MAKES HIS PICK
Connecticut senator endorses McCain at FIU

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

The College Republicans hosted an event on Jan. 28 where Democratic 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 “Brutie 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 dismisses for the sake of not looking like a quitter.

It’s almost enough to forget the seasoned political and military veteran going to seduce people in a war that was started on false pretenses and drawn out 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.

But with the issue here is that his vagueness and non-committal attitude towards key issues costs 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 occasionally) 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 experience 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-of-center McCain.

TAKING SIDES: Joe Lieberman and Republican John McCain appear together at a Detroit auto show.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Letters to the Editor can be sent to joseph.marhee@fi usm.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.

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

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 quarterbackback Joe with the intelligence level of a moose.

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

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

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January 31, 2008

www.fi usm.com
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 woman 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 “Juno” can’t help but make an appearance.

The pro-life endorsement was null and void.

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 unwed 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 Hental superhero called Most Fruitful Miyugi who is oh-so-slyly pitched to audiences while Juno and the adoptive father of her unwanted child enjoys a moment of comic book compasserseousness 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.

Americans should demand solidarity for Palestine

MAT LUCIANO
Contributing Writer

One and a half million Palestinian men, women and children live in a war-torn Gaza Strip which has been under Israeli siege since 1993. The Israeli blockade refuses the basic human rights of innocent Palestinians to the UN rights to food, water, shelter, education, health and travel.

This is what I know about Gaza’s borders, air, space and access to water. On Jan. 28, Israel shut down Gaza’s only power plant just days after sealing off its borders.

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.

Throughout the world, 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 action 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 hybridcars.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: hybridcars.com
### WEEKEND RUNDOWN

#### •THURSDAY • JANUARY 31

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<tr>
<td>Christine Andreas</td>
<td>Carnival Studio Theatre</td>
<td>8p.m.</td>
<td>$23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Arsht Center 1300 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, Fl 33132</td>
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<td>When: 8p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rod Stewart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hard Rock Live 5747 Seminole Way Hollywood, Fl 33144</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monthly Beer Dinner</td>
<td>6p.m.</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lola’s on Harrison 2032 Harrison St. Hollywood, Fl 33020</td>
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<td>When: 6p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Happy Hour at the Beach Bar</td>
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<td>Palms 3025 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Fl 33140</td>
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<td>How Much: Varies</td>
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#### •FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 1

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<tr>
<td>HIGH ON FIRE plus A Life Once Lost /Saviours / Rwake</td>
<td>Churchill’s Pub 5501 NE 2nd Ave. Miami, Fl 33137</td>
<td>7:30p.m.</td>
<td>$13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carnival Studio Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Richie Havens</td>
<td>8p.m.</td>
<td>$23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Culture Room 3045 N Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33306</td>
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<td>When: 8p.m.</td>
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<td>How Much: $23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ron White</td>
<td>8p.m.</td>
<td>$42.75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sound Advice Amphitheatre 601-7 Sansburys Way West Palm Beach, FL 33411</td>
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<td></td>
<td>When: 8p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Business of Being Born</td>
<td>6:30p.m.</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tower Theatre 1508 SW 8th St. Miami, Fl 33135</td>
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<td></td>
<td>When: 6:30p.m.</td>
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#### •SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 2

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<tr>
<td>The EAT with Jeannie and the Tits / Faulein / Pitch Black Radio</td>
<td>Churchill’s Pub</td>
<td>8p.m.</td>
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<td>Ween</td>
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<td>Revolution Live 200 West Broward Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312</td>
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<td>When: 8p.m.</td>
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<td>Monster Jam World Tour</td>
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<td>Dolphin Stadium 2267 Dan Marino Blvd. Miami Gardens, Fl 33056</td>
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#### •SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 3

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<tr>
<td>Drink and Chill Literally</td>
<td>The Polar Bar 938 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach, Fl 33139</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carnival Studio Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Arsht Center 1300 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, Fl 33132</td>
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<td>When: 10a.m. – 5p.m.</td>
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<td>Aromas of Havana Cigars and Lounge</td>
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<td>Aromas of Havana Cigars and Lounge 14781 Biscayne Blvd. North Miami Beach, Fl 33181</td>
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<td>When: Daily</td>
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<td>How Much: Varies</td>
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- Compiled by Kassandra Pool

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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 customer, 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.
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 artificial 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 main 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 half-an-hour ride costs $20, but Adrenalina offers numerous membership options.

The store provides customers with a surfboard so they do not have to purchase its use.

However, those who are interested in riding the artificial waves must bring a bathing suit and a towel.

“This experience cannot be compared 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, skateboards, mountain bikes, wakeboards and even paintball protective gear.

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 participate must register before Feb. 13.

A street surfing exhibition and pro athlete autograph signings will also take place.

The company currently has two stores, one in Miami, where its corporate offices are located, and one in Orlando’s Florida Mall.

Six new stores are under construction in Houston, Tampa, Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Philadelphia.

For more information on Adrenalina and its grand opening next month, visit adrenalina store.com or call the International Mall store at 305-470-1119.

Rocio Blanco-Garcia can be contacted at rocio.garcia@fisu.com

LIFE!

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- or girlfriend for Valentine’s Day.

Hosted by the French Club and French Honor Society, the Romantic Film Festival will commence Feb. 4.

The festival begins with a screening of “I’m Not Here to be Loved,” a French film about a 51 year old man unhappy with his lot in life, who is about to lose his girlfriend for Valentine’s Day.

On Feb. 14 they will be hosting a Valentine’s Day celebration for students who know their partners are planning to do nothing to celebrate the day.

The festival will end with an evening of short movies in GC 150 at 7 p.m.

For a synopsis of any of the films mentioned, students can check out rocio.garcia@fisu.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 bring.

“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 the transition from conventional hybrids to a plug-in called Chevy Volt. Like the vehicle developed by Toyota, the 2010 Chevy Volt, as described by GM, “will be 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 people react to the traditional and plug-in hybrid car.

For more information and price quotes on hybrid cars, check out hybridcars.com.
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, they will be one of the few teams that have had the momentum that they have had this season.

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 will match up against FIU leading scorer Russell Hicks.

Tanner averages 10 points and four rebounds a game. The Pioneers have improved mightily from their 4-25 record of a season ago, but have been inconsistent throughout the season and the Golden Panthers should capitalize on a team of Denver’s caliber.

SHORT-HANDED

The Golden Panthers have lost their second guard of the season due to undisclosed reasons as Kenneth “Redd” White left the team.

White, who was averaging 10 points per contest, has left the Golden Panthers with just eight active scholarship players.

The lack of depth at the position has left freshman point guard Tremayne Russell as the starter, with walk-on Nick Taylor seeing more time than he ever has.

A transfer from Texas A&M, was in his first season with the Golden Panthers. Senior point guard Michael James is also not with the team due to an incident earlier in the season.

BREAKOUT GAME

Golden Panther center Badara Ndiaye had one of his better games of the season Jan. 27 as he nearly had a double-double versus New Orleans.

The seven points and seven rebounds were both single game and career-high numbers for the Senegal native.

Ndiaye often spent time in the game alongside fellow big man Hicks – something FIU has not flashed a lot this season.

STEPPING UP

Junior forward Alex Galindo has averaged 20 points per game in his last three games, including a career-high 34 points.

Next year will prove whether or not Garcia retains Rouco

RAMOS, page 15

free-throw percentage drop.

Adding to the team’s woes has been its problems in the locker room, as the team is without two veteran guards it started the season with. Michael James, who was the starter at point guard, and combo guard Kenneth White have both left the team for undisclosed reasons.

White, who was just beginning to hit his stride, was becoming a bright spot for the Golden Panthers.

In Rouco’s defense, the team has had to go with freshman Tremayne Russell at point guard, with walk-on freshman 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 sophomore 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 bringing 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Want to impress a special somebody with a Valentine’s gram? Then place one with us! Your gram will run in the Valentine’s Day issue of The Beacon. For only $10 you can write a 25 word gram. Contact us at 305-348-6993, e-mail Beacon@fiu.edu, or visit GC 210.

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The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
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. 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 spurts. 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.

TOUGH TIMES: Head coach Cindy Rouco (above) has depended heavily on guard LaQuetta Ferguson (below) for offense.
FiU Men's Basketball:

James and the sudden departure of Kenneth "Red" 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, in the first half day.

N'Diaye and 6-foot-9 Nikola Gacesa. Despite having a lead, the Golden Panthers' offense shot 51 percent from the field and 33 percent from behind the arc.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers jumped on people like everybody is the best of us," she said.

N'Keal Thompson scored 29 points and eight rebounds. English's 27 points were the second most points by a player to score all season.

English spearheaded the Panthers' ensuing 20-2 run, scoring eight points in it.

Not wanting to be excluded from the lineup as a 3-point shooter, English responded with her third 3-pointer of the game.

The Golden Panthers finally showed signs of life when Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer. English responded with her third 3-pointer of the game.

After the lay up, the Golden Panthers would not score for the next nine minutes.

Panthers would not score for the next nine minutes.

Golden Panthers went ahead 48-40.

Shantia Grace scored 29 points against FIU in November.

WOMEN'S, page 17

Inept off ense dooms women's squad

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.

Indeed, the Golden Panthers have been far from cool. FIU has been among the 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.

"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

For coach Sergio Rouco, it must feel like winning is much easier said than done after he had to say before the season:

"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 6-1 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 critics.

Rouco said after a loss to Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19: "We aren’t the cool dudes. We got to jump on people like everybody is the best team in the league," Rouco said after a loss to Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 19.

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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 roaring with 18 second half points, leading a 20-6 run that lasted almost nine minutes in the middle of the half.

“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,” Galindo said.

The Golden Panthers led by as many as 19 and were able to withstand a 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.

“They also failed to take advantage of the free throws line, shooting just 53 percent from the free-throw 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 Bosilj,”

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

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 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.

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However, the Privateers answered with a 7-0 run that brought the score within eight of point guard Mike Bosilj who had a lingering right shoulder injury.

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