February 11, 2008

**MILESTONE**, page 2

**WHAT THE DOC ORDERED**

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**
News Director

With preliminary accreditation secured for the FIU College of Medicine, University President Modesto Maidique can sleep much easier.

“...I am committed to the medical school. My wife Nancy, she told me that I would be sleeping in the basement for the next six months if this thing didn’t get accredited,” said Maidique in a press conference.

The accreditation earlier this week by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education not only grants Maidique a decent night’s sleep, but also opens the doors for FIU to address South Florida’s medical needs.

The process of acquiring the medical school’s first class of 40 students can now commence, with the application process beginning in June 2008, and the first class starting in August 2009.

At full capacity, the college will admit 480 students.

Estimated annual tuition cost for the College of Medicine will be $20,000 to $25,000. Annual fee increases, students may wonder where funding for the newly accredited FIU College of Medicine will come from.

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**
News Director

In the face of economic recession, budget cuts and tuition and fee increases, students may wonder where funding for the newly accredited FIU College of Medicine will come from.

The BOY meeting awarded Maidique a larger bonus. The Board of Trustees awarded Maidique his bonus upfront.

“I think we can all agree that the University is where it is today because of the president’s good leadership skills,” BOT member Betsy Atkins.

Board members were at first weary to award Maidique the bonus upfront during a time in which the University’s budget is being cut by the Legislature and faculty received no raises.

After analyzing the top schools in the U.S., Breslin asked Maidique to develop a plan to make FIU a top 100 research university. After analyzing the top schools in the U.S., Breslin said that Maidique had realized most had a medical school.

Hence, the long process of creating a medical school at FIU began.

Aside from solidifying FIU’s top research university, the medical school was conceived as a way to serve students in South Florida who, until now, didn’t have access to a medical education.

“...You should have, at the very least, access,” Breslin said. “We live in this community, yet we don’t have equitable access to what we pay for in taxes for the up-state medical schools.”

As the only public medical school in South Florida, the new College of Medicine will provide access to aspiring doctors who have family obligations, or could not afford a medical degree previously.

Estimated annual tuition cost for the College of Medicine will be $20,000 to $25,000. Annual tuition costs for the 2007-2008 academic year at the University will help fund new school.

**CHARLIE GRAU**
Editor in Chief

The Board of Trustees awarded University President Modesto A. Maidique a $50,000 bonus for receiving a “grade of superior” on this annual evaluation at the Nov. 16 BOT meeting.

Originally, the bonus was supposed to be deferred to the end of Maidique’s contract which ends in three years. The bonus would have accumulated a yearly interest of 8 to 10 percent while being paid out to Maidique.

After 40 minutes of debate, the BOT unanomously voted to give Maidique his bonus upfront.

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**State funds, private donations will help fund new school**

**CHRISTINA VEIGA**
News Director

FIU has requested $46.5 million in funding over the next five years from the Florida Legislature, in addition to $20 million a year in operating budget costs, according to the College of Medicine Web site.

But Stephen Sauls, vice president of governmental relations, arrives at a much different number.

According to Sauls, FIU will ask for incremental requests over the next seven years that will total only $22.5 million.

In the spring of 2007, the
**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY • FEBRUARY 11**

Honors Council Society Fair (Monday and Tuesday):
11 a.m., Graham Center 305

Pan-African Vendor Fair (Monday - Wednesday):
11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Sex Carnival:
12:30 - 2 p.m., Graham Center Pit

Romantic Film Festival - “Man’s Job”:
3 p.m., Graham Center 140

Panther Rage General Meeting:
4 p.m., Graham Center 140

Pan African Lecture:
8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

Pan-African Movie Night:
8 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

**TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 12**

Romantic Film Festival – “The Honeymooners:”
12 p.m., Graham Center 150

Mr. & Ms. Pan African Scholarship Pageant Cocktails:
8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

**WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 13**

GSA General Meeting:
1 p.m., Graham Center 140

Romantic Film Festival – “A Perfect Match:”
3 p.m., Graham Center 140

Asian Student Union General Meeting:
8 p.m., Grace Grill

Pan African Discussion “More than Just a Jacket:”
8 p.m., Everglades Hall (1st Floor)

**THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 14**

Valentine’s Day

SFC Valentine’s Day Extravaganza:
12 - 2 p.m., In front of the Ballrooms Lawn

SFC BBC- Jamaican Music:
12 - 4 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Romantic Film Festival- “Any reason not to marry?:”
3 p.m., Graham Center 140

Italian Club General Meeting:
8:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

Valentine’s Party:
5 - 7 p.m., Panender Suite

Pan African Dinner and a Movie:
7 p.m., Graham Center 243

**FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 15**

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:
12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

Romantic Film Festival- Even of short Movies:
7 p.m., Graham Center 150

SFC UP Movie- “Beowulf:’"
7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

Urban Backyard Astronomy- Southern Cross Astron:
8 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 145

SFC BBC- Gospel Explosion Concert:
8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

- Compiled by Kasandra Podl

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**LICENSE TO HEAL:** University President Modesto Maidique (left) and Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the FIU College of Medicine, announce the accreditation of the medical school on Feb. 6.

**MILESTONE, page 1**

of Miami’s medical school amounts to $30,048 for in-state students.

“The medical school will provide a path supported and funded by the state so that an education centered within the medical field becomes possible for many who couldn’t even dream of one,” Maidique said.

The new school will provide access not only for medical students, but also to underserved populations in the FIU area through its NeighborhoodHELP (Health Education Learning Program) curriculum.

NeighborhoodHELP, the only program of its kind in the nation, will pair medical students with students from social work, nursing, public health, and eventually, business and law, to work with one to two uninsured or under-insured households.

The students will work together with families and their health care providers for four years, collecting data, identifying health concerns and implementing and refining health care plans.

“If FIU belongs to this community, and wants to make a difference by going out into the community,” said Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the medical school.

The College of Medicine now has two more rounds of accreditation to pass.

The school’s accreditation will be reconsidered as it develops and additional resources are put into place.

A full survey will then be conducted early in the fourth year of the charter class’s progression, which is expected to graduate in 2013.

If the medical school meets all accreditation standards during these two phases, then the school will be granted full accreditation, according to the accreditation committee.

Currently, the College of Medicine is housed in the Health Life Sciences Complex at University Park campus. The permanent building is expected to be completed by 2010.

It will be located on the southwest corner of 8th Street and 107th Avenue, and will share its offices with the Florida Department of Health’s Miami-Dade headquarters.

**FINANCES, page 1**

Florida Legislature appropriated $5.47 million for the medical school.

According to Sauls, there’s pretty good chance that the $9.8 million FIU requested this legislative session will also pass.

“If FIU has received strong support from the Governor, who included this request in his budget, and the Speaker to fund the FIU College of Medicine,” Sauls said.

FIU will also rely on private donations to keep the medical school funded – a practice already in use by other medical schools in Florida.

According to the Office of Communications at the University of Miami, over 60 percent of private donations made during their last fund raising campaign went to the University’s medical school.

North Dade Medical Foundation has already donated $5 million to the FIU College of Medicine.

The money, which is eligible for a matching state grant, will go toward merit-based scholarships and amoimtine chairs for the school.

Putting the past behind him, Dr. Herbert Wertheim, former member of FIU’s Board of Trustees and one of the University’s biggest donors, suggested that he may make another offer to the College of Medicine.

The college was almost named after Wertheim in 2007 when he offered to donate $20 million, but revoked the gift after Maidique supposedly commented that Wertheim was given naming rights “on the cheap.”

The donation would have also been eligible for a matching state grant.

“I would like to apologize to all of you for allowing my feelings to be hurt, and for me to probably act in an immature manner,” Wertheim said at a press conference. “I want you to know that I’m here to help and support FIU from the bottom of my heart.”

Junior Farhan Bandoali, a hopeful FIU medical student, believes private donations and the many community partnerships that the University has will help keep the medical school funded.

“The money is there. FIU as a medical school will never have issues as far as finances. [Our partners] wouldn’t let us suffer financially if we have the need,” said Bandale.

Wherever the money comes from, it will be only a fraction of the economic impact that the College of Medicine is expected to have in the state.

FIU projects to almost double its economic impact from $1.7 billion in South Florida, to an expected $3.8 billion in taxes to the state, as well as create 8,300 new jobs.

**Donations crucial for new school**

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**NEWS**

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

CHARLIE GRAD

CHRISTINE NICOLEZ

E hizo a fé, el mundo ha cambiado.

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INFORMATION

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$1 million set aside for professor recruitment

BOY, page 1

An initiative by the University to improve recruiting of faculty.

According to Provost Ronald Berkman, the University lost more professors than he would like to have seen last year.

With the cost of living in South Florida being one of the highest in the nation and a slumping housing market, the FIU Foundation has set aside $1 million over the next two years to help the University recruit professors.

“When hiring new faculty, we’re bumping up what we’re paying for that position by 16 percent to reflect the cost of living,” Berkman said.

The program is only a two year temporary fix, for now.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Douglas Wartzok said the University will report to the FIU Foundation to see how effective the program is for recruiting new faculty.

SGC-UP propose changes to constitution

BEN F. BADGER JR., Asst. News Director

A new constitution could be written for the Student Government Council at University Park if a resolution presented at last week’s University-wide meeting passes.

The biggest change the new constitution would create is a student senate to replace the current student house of representatives.

The senate would include 12 more seats than the current house.

“This is for the betterment of the students,” said Anthony Rionda SGC-UP lectures coordinator, who is credited as being a driving force in amending the constitution.

One of the biggest changes the new constitution’s creators want to see is the title of the new body.

“[Anthony Rionda] is the person who has been leading the charge because of his interest in other universities and how they have modeled their government,” said Jose Toscano, assistant director of the Student Government Association.

Under the new senate, each college will receive one representative per 2,000 students enrolled.

In the event a new college is formed, it will be given one representative at the start of the next fiscal year and the constitution will be automatically amended to include the new college.

There will also be a fixed number of senators for Graduate Student Services, lower division students, housing students and general senators. In total, the senate will consist of 30 representatives.

Even though this appointment of members seems more like a house of representatives by U.S. standards, the term “senate” can actually be applied to any governing body, according to Rionda.

Plans are also underway for a marketing campaign to encourage more students to apply for these senate seats.

“We want people involved,” Rionda said.

“We want them to understand that this is their money we allocate for their needs.”

Specific details are still undetermined, but Rionda said that he is hopeful that the SGC-UP will be able to fill all of the senate seats.

Toscano said the proposed constitution has been developed very well because of the mix of people involved with its creation.

Rionda spent a great deal of time researching other universities while SGC-UP Speaker of the House Jennifer Ruiz, SGC-UP Chief of Staff Kenneth Gelok and SGC-UP Judicial Chair Bill Buchanan have examined other student governments closely during their time with the SGC-UP.

“I pushed some people to write it out and I refuse to take full credit for it. It was a group effort,” Rionda said.

Besides the additional 12 senate seats, the new constitution will help create a more balanced system within the SGC-UP. Essentially, there will be more checks and balances.

CONSTITUTION, page 4

Police Notes

Feb 3: A student returned to his car in the Gold Garage and discovered someone had attempted to break into it. The student admitted that he had an iPod in plain view inside of the vehicle.

Feb 4: Police were called to the University Park Apartments on a report by housing staff that complained of smoke that smelled of marijuana. Housing staff opened the door to the room to check on the welfare of the people inside the room. Police determined the strong smell of marijuana had originated from the room they entered.

Feb 5: While on patrol, a police officer observed a small fire in the Ryder Business Center loading zone. He was able to extinguish the fire. A representative from EH&S responded to the scene. The fire marshal stated that the fire was accidental.

- Compiled by David A. Barrios.
Culinary classes prepare for wine, food festival

This is part one of a three part series leading up the Wine and Food Festival

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Staff Writer

As the South Beach Wine and Food Festival approaches, about 80 percent of students at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will start preparing for their biggest event of the year.

Professor and Chef Michael Moran will lead his culinary management classes – about 125 students in all – to help 24 representatives in anticipation of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

The Bubble-Q will be sponsored by Moet and Chandon Champagne on Feb. 22 at the beach-combines barbecue and champagne on Feb. 22 at the beachside of the Delano hotel in Miami Beach.

China Grill management is donating all the fruits and vegetables, herbs, dry goods and just about everything else that’s not protein,” Moran said.

Jesse Schlachtman, a hospitality management major, will assist Moran at the event.

“This is my second year doing it,” he said. “It’s a pretty incredible event. It’s always an amazing thing when you get together a few thousand people and everything works out,” said Schlachtman, “you always feel accomplished in the end.”

Schlachtman, who is in Moran’s advanced food production class and currently works as a bartender at restaurant, commented on how prepared he is for the event.

“I get to apply all the things I’m learning in school for example, putting together different spread sheets,” Schlachtman said.

Bianca Rojas, lead coordinator for the training committee, and one of chef Moran’s Teaching Assistants, said part of the money raised will be used for the students and the school of hospitality and tourism management.

“The proceeds go towards student scholarships and to improve the school, anybody who works during the festival gets a scholarship based on the number of hours they put in,” Rojas said.

Rojas, who has worked on the industry for five years as a manager of “Einstein B&B’s Bagel” in Aventura said she is ready to participate in the festival.

“I haven’t really hit any walls and felt that I was not capable of doing something,” Rojas said.

“With the help of chef Moran and the management team I feel really confident.”

The sold-out barbecue event will serve sample portions to the 1,600 guests who have each paid $300 for admission.

For a complete list of events and prices, visit www.sobewineandfoodfestival.com.

Friends of Wine to host a sticky valentine

The Friends of Wine will be hosting its next meeting “A Sticky Valentine,” on Feb. 13 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Hospitality Building Dining Room at the Biscayne Bay Campus. A variety of dessert wines and rosés, fruit, cheese, and fresh baked goods will be served. Entry is $4 for members, $8 for nonmembers. Yearly $10 memberships will be offered. Guests must be at least 21 years old and present valid ID.

Discussion with an Islamic minister

The Leader of the Nation of Islam in Miami, Rasul Muhammad, will discuss “A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” on Feb. 13 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center’s Ballroom.

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discussion with an islamic minister

the leader of the nation of islam in miami, rasul muhammad, will discuss “a voteless people is a hopeless people” on feb. 13 from noon to 2 p.m. in the wolfe university center’s ballroom.

a voteless people is a hopeless people

tau delta north brothers of alpha phi alpha fraternity, inc. and the student government council at bbc will host an event to encourage students to register to vote. also, they will be asking students to sign a petition to have bbc become an early voting site. this event will be held on feb. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. in panther square.

newsflash

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Forty students went to a retreat this weekend as strangers and came back as family.

"It has been one of the best experiences by far, with strangers, that I’ve ever had and it definitely opened my eyes up," said Kellie Maestrey, a freshman international business major and AOL member.

Academy of Leaders is a semester-based certificate program of the Center for Leadership and Service.

With their motto "Leaders Aren’t Born…They’re Made," AOL teaches leadership competence, including personal empowerment, organizational development and responsibility, and according to the CLS’s program description.

As a member of AOL, I can say that there are no words to describe the heartfelt emotion inspired by the program. Leadership is not just a quality — leadership is life.

Beverly Dalrymple, creator and director of AOL, felt that students needed an education on how to use leadership in the real world.

“We started in 2000 as a brand new department to really start developing the leadership capabilities of all our students because up until then, students were getting leadership training, but they were getting it only connected to positions that they had," Dalrymple said. "In the last year and a half, the program has really exploded and we have been able to add a tract for athletes and a tract for Greeks.

To start the program, students attend an inspiring weekend leadership retreat at Riverside Retreat in Labelle, Florida. Olesker said, "The complexity of it, is really important because that’s where everybody bonds and everything gets going," Dalrymple said. "The experience of spending an entire weekend with about thirty people that you don’t even know really helps the learning, as opposed to just sessions you might go to every other week.

The retreat costs $45 for room, board and materials, like binders and papers, for leadership workshop sessions.

Bronwen Bares, advisor of AOL at BBC, explained how the program works step-by-step.

“The weekend retreat includes a personality test, leadership theory, reflection on personal values, and team building exercises," said Bares, coordinator for both the CLS and the women’s center. “When we get back, we continue to meet throughout the semester to discuss other topics in leadership styles like presentation, communication, and motivation skills,” Bares said.

Angel Garcia, coordinator for the CLS at UP, agreed. "We instill in everybody the five practices of what exemplary leaders do on a day to day basis. The retreat is informative and laced with humor. However, he takes his line of work seriously.

"Israel’s relationship with the rest of the world is a matter of life and death," Olesker said. “Both Israel and the pro-Israel community here in the States have to tackle that [issue] with the same seriousness and conviction that they deal with other life-and-death situations regarding Israel.”

Olesker, who will also speak at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami, travels outside Israel about four times per year presenting pro-Israel advocacy seminars. In addition, he provides "more than 200 programs a year in Israel alone," he said.

Israeli minister Meshulam Nahari gave the opening remarks at the event and answered general questions about Israel’s foreign policy from the diverse audience. Brian Sevillia, a freshman international relations major, was affected by Olesker’s lecture.

"Sadly, we are living in a time where terrorism no longer relates to just a handful of countries," Sevillia said. "In Israel, particularly, it is not a matter of if something will happen, but when. In my opinion, media attention to terrorist attacks is due to a number of things, and a combination therefore. Including, their very nature, terrorist attacks seek to be sensationalist; similarly, because innocent individuals are injured or killed by these heinous acts, they become media stories; also, there is no denying it, terrorist attacks have become a tool in a Western attempt to intervene on the region to change things," Olesker said. "Almost, everything that happens in the Middle East that deeply affects the lives of hundreds of people whether we live there, is not news.”

"We expect the region to be driven by war and conflict; we expect brutal dictatorships to abuse human rights; and we expect a Western attempt to intervene in the region to change things," Olesker said. "Hence, almost everything that happens in the Middle East deeply affects the lives of hundreds of people who we live there, is not news.”
CLINTON CRAZE

Coulter’s endorsement may do more harm than good

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Contributing Writer

One to be precise, Ann Coulter, recently voiced her intent to vote for Hillary Clinton over John McCain. Coulter, a vociferous conservative who is primarily known for being unpopular, wrote a new book: “If Democrats Had Any Brains, They’d Be Republicans,” which contains many of her most memorable quotes like “I think women should be armed but should not vote...women have no capacity to understand how money is earned.” She also referred to the 2004 Democratic Presidential Convention as the “Spawn of Satan convention.”

And believe me, that’s just the tip of the iceberg. For those reasons Coulter’s support for Hillary Clinton comes as such a surprise because not only is Coulter a misogynistic hypocrite, but she’s hypocritical about her contradiction. A feat in itself.

While on “Hannity and Colmes,” Coulter said: “If you are looking at substance rather than if there is a B or a D after his name, manifestly, if he’s her candidate, then Hillary is going to be our girl, because she’s more conservative than he is.”

Looking at this, there could be two purposes that Coulter has in mind, both devious.

One – She wants to score a point on Hillary’s campaign by voicing her support for it, such as Coulter’s good name. Some of you may be wondering how one media personality blessing a candidate could be construed as anything but positive...you don’t know Coulter.

She weaves tangled webs like a spider named Deception. This blessing is a curse in disguise. Not much could be more detrimental to the Clinton constituency than a Coulter back pat.

Why? Coulter doesn’t mesh well with Clinton’s key demographic.

In recent months, FIU has fallen victim to budget cut and tuition increases, among other financial maladies. Consequently, the school is delegating fewer funds to campus resources to a degree, but nothing Earth-shattering in terms of finances.

Why is it that when a lack of money talk that our least profitable resources to a degree, but nothing Earth-shattering in terms of finances.

The foremost example of this is President University, President, President, and President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, President, 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Students wanting to play tug of war with a condom or Pin the Condom on a Penis will have an opportunity to do so as the second annual Sex Carnival kicks off this week. The theme of this year's event is "Sexual Health and Morality," the theme of this week's Sex Carnival.

"I try to present what was said without too much of a comment on it so that those who agree with Bryant will not be presented unfairly," he said.

The play focuses on Anita Bryant and her 1977 crusade against gay rights. It is set to debut April 10, but the production will be Anita's accompanist, a bevy of "underground gay manifestos" from the gay community in Fort Lauderdale. Yawney expressed his keen interest in Bryant because he simply saw her as someone trying to do what she thought was right and morally justifiable.

She read "At Any Cost," a book "written by Bryant and her ex-husband Bob Green, that helped her get into the voice of her character." To prepare for the role of Bryant, Cortada spent a considerable amount of time dedicating herself to the task of research, finding out all that she could about Bryant and her campaign.

"It is a little controversial," Yawney said. "But it should be." Yawney also believes the play might be "a hot ticket and selling very well," but he didn't deny that the play might spark some controversy.

"It's a subversive work," Spring said. "Anytime you have a gay subject matter, it's subversive."

Yawney also believes the play might be more than a bit contentious considering the subject matter and the nature and public perception of the main character and the other people involved.

"It is a little controversial," Yawney said. "But it should be.

After reading the script, Cortada agreed with both Yawney and Spring.

"I told [Yawney], 'the only thing I'll ask for is body guards,'" she said. This play is set to debut April 10, but Yawney said there had been a restructuring in management at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts that could possibly delay production until October or later this year.

"I told [Yawney], 'the only thing I'll ask for is body guards,'" she said.
Writers’ strike forces late-night hosts to improvise

Without the safety net of their writing staffs to help them craft their jokes and construct their premises, many late night talk show hosts have been forced to wing it as the writers’ strike has entered its fourth month.

From “Late Night with Conan O’Brien” to “The Colbert Report” (with Stephen Colbert, the late night hosts have been forced to rely more on their wits and charm than jokes, and the results have ranged from the brilliant (The Colbert-Conan-Jon Stewart “fued”) to the awful (everything Jay Leno has done, which, as is actually, not a big change from normal pre-writers’ strike Leno.).

By far the biggest beneficiary of the writers’ strike has been O’Brien, a former comedy writer himself whose over-the-top personas have allowed him to run wild during the strike. Instead of trying to replicate the formula the show has followed over the last few years, O’Brien’s self-deprecating humor has allowed him to embrace his lack of sketches and just kind of let the show run itself, doing everything from interviewing members of his own staff to hosting a race to predict the winner of the Super Bowl featuring turtles strapped to rocket powered remote control cars.

On the other hand, O’Brien’s NBC predecessor Jay Leno’s show has faltered. While Leno has never been my favorite of the late night hosts, I’ve found his work during the strike to be pretty terrible. Often relying on gimmicks such as the

These compensations mean that medi- aplhes have to find new ways to tow their data on hand. One current data solution is to repurpose media players such as iPods, Zune’s and Creative Zen’s as external hard drives.

Apple’s MacBook Air is meant for seri- nous business.

With all the limitations imposed by the form factor, work can get done without the looming temptation to watch a movie or play games (although wi-fi access will be delayed to begin the day). Yet Apple makes it hard for a student to budget that Air’s way because of the already high starting price that grows exponentially when upgrades and options come into play.

Overall, those who need mobility (three pounds of notebook) – at any cost – will want to warm up to the Air while those who need space and muscle will look elsewhere.

CONAN ATTACKS: Conan O’Brien attacks his foes to fill time due to the writers’ strike

“Jaywalking,” Leno’s show has particularly suffered since he’s been doing the writing himself.

Stewart has shown his ability to work without the benefit of jokes and sketches, particularly in his first monologue following Sept. 11, which remains one of my favorite television moments of all time.

While the writing has leaned a little more toward the humorous than formalistic for Stewart, the wit and political satire has remained intact, with Stewart ad-libbing much of the dialogue on the fly.

His counterpart on Comedy Central, Colbert’s show has also remained on point, continuing its tongue-in-cheek mockery of political talking heads.

The best moments for Colbert have come from his friendship and support of Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee, who has appeared on the show during the strike to play air hockey with Colbert.

Stewart and O’Brien have also benefited from Colbert’s relationship with Huckabee. As arguably the best moments of the entire strike have been the three host’s stages feud over who was responsible for Huckabee’s campaign successes. This feud has finally boiled over when Colbert and Stewart confronted Conan on his show, leading to an absolutely hysterical five-minute long brawl between the three.

No, despite the lack of writers, the late night talk shows have remained – for the most part – maintained their previous levels of humor, even if that humor has become a bit more disjointed. The good news for everyone involved is that, according to Disney CEO Michael Eisner, the strike is almost over, with just a general vote from the writers being the only hurdle remaining.

Electricidad

Electricidad Great acting helps propel FIU show to excellence

CHRIS CABRAL
Assoc. Life Editor

FIU’s production of “Electricidad” is surprisingly enthralling, incredibly bizarre adaptation of the Greek play Electra, carried by strong performances, a captivating story, and a well written if flawed script.

What makes the play remarkable is the fact that the show could very well have been awful. With characters that refer to things like “the way of the cholo” (not to be confused with the way of the ninja), it is at first quite easy to dismiss the play off hand as an ill conceived attempt to modernize a classic story.

It is through the intense commitment of the actors that an audience member is able to forgive certain aspects of the script that would make the play seem cheesy in the hands of a lesser cast.

At the end of the day, it is a uniquely entertaining show more than worth the price of admission.

The story, for fans of ancient Greek theater, is familiar. Set in east Los Angeles, the play centers around a selfish, ultraviolent community where fires rage, bodies rot in the street and the police leave residents to their own devices, for better and mostly worse.

Electricidad is played by Melissa Hubickc. She is consumed with desire for vengeance when she discovers that her mother has killed her father.

Her father was the leader of a powerful Mexican gang that rules their part of the barrio, the Eastside Locos. In her grief, she chains herself to the body of her father and lies in the front yard.

She rants about the evils of her mother and how she’s determined to avenge her father’s death at all hours of the day.

Her brother Orestes is said to have also been killed by her mother, which only fur- ther fuels the ire of young Electricidad.

Electricidad clashes with her Grand- mother, her sister who has left a life of sin because of her love of Christ, and just about anyone else who comes within a chain’s length of her father’s rotting corpse.

Her madness consumes her as her limitless desire for revenge tears her world asunder.

The story is watched ever intently and commented on by the local old ladies and cholas, who fill the role of the classical Greek chorus. They complain about the decline of the neighborhood, the unfemi- nine qualities of Electricidad, and the lack of clean water.

At first, the chorus of old cholas seem a bit annoying, yet after a while they become part of the most memorable part of the show, as their humor and social commentary provide needed balance to the show.

Many of the lines are delivered in spanglish, which can get annoying, espe- cially for those who currently have a low A average in their Spanish class.

The play’s biggest flaw is that many of the cultural references relating to life in East Los Angeles don’t always reso- nate with a Miami audience. It is hard to judge the realism and authenticity of the

They are the wit and political satire has remained intact, with Stewart ad-libbing much of the dialogue on the fly.

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Congratulations to those women receiving a 3.5 or higher for Fall 2007

Diana Arteaga
Sarena Bahad
Zorka Colado
Guine Del Oso
Alyson Earnhart
Ashley Fernald
Laura Fowers
Zaida Fernandez
Monica Font
Cati Gonzalez
Ana Lopez
Carina Maitland
Muriel Meier
Ketty Quintand
Desai Ruiz
Ina Scholz
Natali Bello

ELEPHANTS, page 9
Innovative game provides uniquely fun experience

Everything leads up to a frantic final level where you will race against time in an effort to narrowly escape death. “Shift” is a truly unique gaming experience.

With a black and white graphic style reminiscent of M.C. Escher’s surrealistic works and surprisingly appropriate background music that might have you thinking of a certain pink panther, this game brings quirk and charm to a whole new level: right up to the hilarious ending and even beyond, this game will have you hooked.

The sense of accomplishment that comes in the end is akin to that of solving a Rubik’s cube or finally finishing that Sunday crossword puzzle. With so much to love, my only complaint is how short it is. “Shift” is just a few levels long with all the potential in the world to be a full-length game.

The game is featured on the Newgrounds flash site at www.newgrounds.com. Look for the game at the top of the page.

Gangsters meet greek tragedy in “Electricidad”

The lead actress gives a strong performance which is vital to any production of Electra or its Mexican American counterpart.

Morgan Howland Cook gives a powerful and layered performance as the mother.

She is able to summon a host of emotions in the audience, and her commanding stage presence more than matches that of her costar.

Ashley Alvarez is fantastic as Ifi, a tough chola struggling to maintain her newfound faith.

She gets to deliver some of the funniest lines, and there are many of them considering the play is based on a greek tragedy. Alain Mesa is the breakout supporting cast member.

He is completely believable as Nino, the older mentor to Orestes, a tough role.

He projects the authority and sagacity of a veteran of the underworld, while maintaining an ability to make the audience laugh.

Overall, the power of the cast is able to make Electricidad a memorable must-see production.

If you’re looking for a worthy alternative to reruns on TV, Electricidad is the show for you.

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Sloppy turnovers bring team 10 games under .500 mark

After cutting an 18-point lead to 10 in a matter of minutes off a pair of Alex Galindo free throws with 12:23 left to play in the game, the Golden Panthers were just beginning to show promise of a possible comeback.

On the very next play, a re-energized Galindo streaked up the court looking for a fastbreak opportunity. A loose-handed Tremayne Russell looked up to feed the forward before bashing a ball of his foot and out of bounds for a foul on one of his five turnovers on the game. Galindo, in disbelief, rolled his eyes at another missed opportunity.

For FIU (6-16, 3-9 Sun-Belt), sloppy play, an array of turnovers and missed opportunities turned a basketball game into a circus act in a 72-62 loss to Louisiana-Lafayette (10-12, 6-5) on Feb. 6 at Pharmed Arena.

“This was a very disappointing effort tonight,” said coach Sergio Rouco. “We had been playing very, very hard, even those games on the road, but tonight we just didn’t bring it.

“I don’t know if we worked them too hard at practice the last couple of days, but we looked sluggish and tired tonight.”

FIU now stands alone in last place of the Sun-Belt Conference East Division. A frustrated Rouco wanted a better effort, especially at home, where the Golden Panthers were 6-6 on the season coming into the game. “Just because you’re home doesn’t guarantee you a win,” he said. “You have to come out and bring it on the court, against any team.”

The Golden Panthers began the game flat as they showed why they are second to last in the conference in scoring. FIU committed a couple of turnovers; however, after a few minutes, the Golden Panthers were 6-6 on the season coming into the game.

Rout begins during second half

 lays its ball down, as the Rajin’ Cajuns went on a 15-8 run to take a lead for the first time, one that would hold for the rest of the game. ULL raised its level of play in the second half, as a fury of offense opened the game at 49-31 with 16:27 left in the game.

Point guard Nick Taylor, who started the first game of his career, knows can’t turn the ball over too much to have a chance to win.

“We have to start by not turning the ball over,” Taylor said.

“We have to work at it, because it is taking away the scoring opportunities we get.”

FIU committed 19 turnovers overall, just six shy of a season-high 25.

Contributing to the Golden Panthers’ lack of scoring was a quiet bench, which scored just 22 points in the contest.

With three FIU starters averaging double-digit scoring, only an unusually aggressive Tremayne Russell was able to crack double-digit scoring off the bench.

Following the game Jenkins gave her opinion on why the team seems to be having its best performances of the season at this time.

“We’re going to improve and keep pushing and working harder,” Taylor said.

“We will get it together and turn it around; we can handle it.”

Rouco couldn’t help but wonder how the game would have turned out with Miami Spring’s High point guard T.Y. Hilton, who signed a letter of intent to play for FLU before the game.

“I can tell you one thing,” Rouco said. “We could have used him tonight.”

Taylor can relate to Hilton’s high school success.

A former Norland high standout, he won a state title his senior year in 2006, but he admitted the college game is another league, different from his high school days.

“This is not Norland,” he said.

Recruiting class addresses defensive side of the ball

was named MVP of the state title game. These are some notable names fans should keep an eye on headed into spring practice for the fourth-ranked recruiting class in the Sun-Belt Conference, according to rivals.com: Linebacker AJ Grant, standing 6-0 and weighing 220 pounds (Sandalwood, Jacksonville, FL) comes in with a 4.45 40-yard dash to go along with his big frame. He is also a three-star recruit.

Offensive lineman Cedric Mack from El Camino Junior College in Torrance, Calif., listed at 6-4, 335 pounds is originally from Miami and played for Palmetto High School.

A former Norland high standout, he won a state title his senior year in 2006, but he admitted the college game is another league, different from his high school days.

“A mountain of a man who looks like a ballerina when pulling on toss sweeps,” Cristobal said.

He is also a three star prospect, according to rivals.com.

Marcelus Manear, listed at 5-11, 180 pounds from Milford Academy in New York is a mid-year signer who tallied 55 tackles and eight sacks last year, leading Milford to the 2007 Prep School National Championship.

The 2007 recruiting class is the best recruiting class in the program’s history, based on the rating system listed on rivals.com. Coach Cristobal’s second recruiting class will report to camp for the 2008 season with hopes of bringing prestige to the football team.
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The general consensus—from everyone, including the public, the media, team officials and the players involved—is that the Shaquille O’Neal trade is a positive one.

The trade works out for the Phoenix Suns and the players involved— is that the Shaq trade beneficial for Miami Heat and Phoenix Suns.

The drop-off in effort became even bigger after his title with the Lakers, though. When he was traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Heat—well, it seemed unstoppable, as he was so good, posting double-doubles was the norm.

He was in the Hall of Fame for sure, but my biggest complaint is that he seemed unstoppable, destined to become not only the best center of all time, but probably the second-best player of all time (next to Michael Jordan of course).

Many wonder if Shaq can even keep up with the Suns’ up-tempo offense, but can Thomas, who played with the Suns last year, run with the offense? Suns coach Mike D’Antoni implied that Thomas and Shaq possess the same speed too.

Even though the Miami Heat let go of the man who promised a championship and delivered, it was the right time to part ways as Shaq becoming unmotivated and complacent.

The general consensus—from everyone, including the public, the media, team officials and the players involved—is that the Shaquille O’Neal trade is a positive one.

The drop-off in effort became even greater after his title with the Heat, but the injuries didn’t help either. Also, the Heat was so used to doing just enough to get into the playoffs that they forgot how to win games. I’ll always wonder “What if?” with Shaq, but at least he brought the Heat, Alonzo Mourning and Gary Payton long-deserved long-term.