Second fee increase requested

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

The Athletics Department is looking for an early increase in the fee students pay them and has approached the Student Government Association for a recommendation to that end. According to Cassandra Andrade, vice president of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, Athletics is looking to make up for a budget shortfall that has the department approximately $3 million over their budget. Andrade said she was told the problems had nothing to do with the construction of the new football stadium. For the current 07-08 school year, Athletics received a fee increase as part of an agreement with the Health Services and Student Activities departments. All three departments receive a portion of the fee students pay them and have the problem of getting that money straight to their budget. Thus, Athletics is asking that the Student Government Association recommend an increase in their fee. Normally, RFL has been held on the FIU football field but due to stadium construction, it will be held on the Ryder Business building's driveway this year. "This Relay will be more exciting than previous years," Dalrymple said. During last year's Relay, FIU was able to raise $66,000 – just $4,000 short of their goal. But coordinators hope they will be able to exceed that this year, 70 teams of students and community members participate and 70 cancer survivors attend the relay. Every year, nearly 500,000 men and women die of cancer nationwide according to the Center for Disease Control. Of those, 40,000 deaths occur in the state of Florida alone. The American Cancer Society founded RFL to raise funds and hope. "It's not just about raising money," said Beverly Dalrymple, director of the Center for Leadership Service and FIU's Relay for Life advisor. "It's about raising awareness and showing people what they can be doing in their life to prevent cancer." Normally, RFL has been held on the FIU football field but due to stadium construction, it will be held on the Ryder Business building’s driveway this year. "This Relay will be more exciting than previous years," Dalrymple said. During last year’s Relay, FIU was able to raise $66,000 – just $4,000 short of their goal. But coordinators hope they will reach their goal this year with the increased number of student and community teams participating. Last year, 52 teams participated; this year, there are 70. "The teams took to the theme and have really run with it," said Carmen Murphy, RFL chair. "My family is doing an 'I Love Lucy' tent," Murphy said. "Everyone is really into the 50’s theme." Another goal of this year’s RFL is to gain a permanent starting budget. Murphy said that RFL is the largest charity at FIU that does not receive a permanent budget. "We want to show FIU what a big impact we make on the community and why we deserve to be funded," Murphy said. This year the Student...
The Beacon – February 14, 2008

**News Flash**

Networking Night presented by the International Business Honor Society

The International Business Honor Society will host a networking night as part of their bi-weekly meetings. The event will be an opportunity to meet and network with IBHS members.

The networking night will take place in the MARC 125 building on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.ibhs.org.

**Writers on the Bay Reading Series presents Lee Gutkind**

Lee Gutkind, founder and editor of Creative Nonfiction, will read passages from his most recent works for Barnes & Noble Writers on the Bay Reading Series. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-919-5857, or visit http://www.ibhs.org.

**Student Alumni Association accepting applications for Student Ambassadors**

The Student Alumni Association is now accepting applications for its Student Ambassador Program. Student Ambassadors provide leadership programs, host alumni events, lead campus tours and participate in presidential hosting. Applications are due by March 3, and are available in MARC 510 or online at http://www.fiaa.org/student-ambassadors.html.

**CORRECTIONS**

In the issue dated Feb. 11, 2008, the story titled “Budget gets cut, paychecks increase, but at what cost to students” incorrectly stated Cristobals’ annual salary.” The correct salary is $1 million. That figure represents his pay at the time of having two Valentine’s Day holiday into the Japanese culture.

**White Day makes it possible to celebrate a love time second**

NADIA KUANKA

Contributing Writer

Candy, flowers and jewelry are just some of the many gifts exchanged during Valentine’s Day. In Japan, if you like the person who gives you a gift on Valentine’s Day, the act is reciprocated one month later on White Day, March 14.

The Anything Goes Anime club at FIU will host a love-themed mixer March 14 to celebrate this cultural holiday.

“White Day is basically like a confirmation,” said Edwin Perodin, an Anything Goes Anime film club member. “White Day is a way to better express and reciprocate affection; it’s a way of giving back in their culture.”

The holiday is said to have been founded by a Japanese confectioner in the late 1900s called “The Marshmallow Man.” Supposedly, this proprietor capitalized on the idea of the Valentine’s Day holiday into the Japanese culture.

Ethan Thomas, Student Organizations Council representative for AGA has experienced White Day firsthand.

“It would be the equivalent of having two Valentine’s Days here. They have just as much chocolates, flowers and gifts to celebrate as we do for Valentine’s Day.”

Thomas plans to attend the mixer in traditional Japanese attire to help create an authentic environment for the holiday.

AGA hopes to have hula dancers or other dance routines planned for the White Day celebration. Other confirmed events include a limbo competition, karaoke and audio visual presentations, as well as free food and drinks.

Besides offering students a taste of Japanese culture, AGA is also hosting the mixer in an attempt to attract more members.

“Not many people know this club exists unless they go looking for it,” Thomas said. “Celebrating White Day is a great opportunity for AGA to make itself known to the public.”

The original idea for the mixer was to have an event to raise awareness of the club and find new volunteers to run Yasumicon, an annual convention AGA holds.

The convention will take place in early August this year.

“We hope that we will be more visible to people on campus,” said Claire Daniels, AGA member and Yasumicon co-chair. “We’re trying to figure out who on campus might want to join us to work on the convention, since they’re likely to be interested, and since it’s a really fun event to experience.”

According to members, AGA has suffered a decline in membership the last few years.

“We’re looking to re-emerge out of what we’ve been doing in the past, since we’ve really just been having a good time watching films on Thursday nights,” Perodin said. “We’re focusing more on FIU as a whole and what influence we have on our university as a club. This mixer is our way of getting to know prospective and current club members.”

The mixer will be held at Gracie’s Grill from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. It is free and anyone can attend. For more information, visit the club’s Facebook or its Web site located at www.mayoclinic.org.

Bringing chocolates to the event is encouraged if you received something special on Valentine’s Day.
Athletics attempts to inflate financial dues

ATHLETICS, page 1

funding from student fees. As part of the agreement, the three fees go through a cycle. Every year, a department goes before a committee comprised of Student Senate and faculty or administration members each, who choose to recommend that department’s fee increases to the president of the University. The President is ultimately responsible for the fees to be increased. While the department of Student Activities was up for the increase this year, Athletics was not. A Wall of Luminarias, Murphy said according to Murphy. A key part of RFL is to give RFL a $3,000 stipend for cancer research, RFL.

Club raises funds for cancer research, RFL

RELAY, page 1

University Park President Marbely Hernandez.

The Music Saves Lives Club raises funds for cancer research, RFL.

The Athletics fee was already increased for the 07-08 year from $11.66 per credit hour, to $13.05 for this academic year. Last year, Athletics had an operating budget of $16.1 million. Dr. Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, is also involved with the process, reviewing the proposals before they reach the president. According to Jones, there has only been one other instance when one of the departments has gone out of the cycle to request an increase. The last time this happened, the Health fee was increased. “Some years ago there was one other point when they skipped the cycle,” said Jones. “Similar to now, they were seeing a need in relation to the funds.” While SGA has no power to approve or deny an increase, the departments usually seek their recommendation before moving on to the committee that sends their recommendation to the president. Athletics is planning to meet with Student Government Council at University Park to provide them with information regarding why they need the increase, according to SGC-University Park President Marbely Hernandez.

The Music Saves Lives Club raises funds for cancer research, RFL.

The Music Saves Lives Club raises funds for cancer research, RFL.

“We Need Girlfriends” explores love, love lost

V-DAY, page 1

By Michelle Rodriguez

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Three Dudes, One Quest: Long-term relationships are sought in the web-series “We Need Girlfriends.”

“Undeniably Fun and Refreshingly un-P.C.”

Friday, November, Playboy

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Three Dudes, One Quest: Long-term relationships are sought in the web-series “We Need Girlfriends.”

“Wildly Entertaining! Sharp, Hilarious and Spectacularly Well-Acted!”

Sunday, Rolling Stone, Playboy

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**LATIN FLAVOR**

Fifteen student club members unanimously voted Jessica Senorin as the new Student Organizations Council vice president on Feb. 11.

The vice president position became available after Joe L Mintz, the former SOC president, resigned and Didier Georges moved from vice president to president.

"The position is vital to our organization because I'm not here all the time so who will [students] go to if I'm not here? Every club wants to speak to the president," Georges said.

Senorin is the organization's former marketing director.

"I did agree that it would be better to have a president and vice president and the rest of the positions without marketing director as opposed to leaving vice president open," Georges said.

Senorin is the organization's former marketing director.

"I thought vice president was a lot more important to have than marketing director," Senorin said.

The organization will not be holding special elections for marketing director because Georges feels there have been many elections this school year.

Senorin will continue to perform most of the marketing director duties.

However, the executive board will take on those duties as a whole, according to Georges.

Senorin's duties as vice president consist of making sure that all members of the board keep their hours, ensuring members are doing what they're required to do and delegate to the executive board.

Even though the position has been filled mid-semester, Georges is content that Senorin was elected.

"I feel good about this because it is already close to the middle of the semester and so to have a new person come in, we have to teach them everything and that takes time and that's more burden on me. To have someone that already knows pretty much everything makes it a job a little more easier," Georges said.

**LOCATIONS**

**LATIN FLAVOR**

Mexico City, Mexico

**Class to serve wine at festival**

**SPAINISH MOVES**

Dancing with the Wolfe's salsa class practices routines in WUC's 155 on Feb. 12.

**NEWSFLASH**

Dancing with the Wolfe offers classes, fun

Student Programming Council is providing a variety of dance classes in the WUC for almost every day of the week at 6 p.m. Ballroom dancing is held Mondays in WUC 155, Salsa is Tuesdays in the same room, Belly Dancing is Wednesdays in WUC 330 and Hip Hop is Thursdays in WUC 160. No experience is necessary.

**LORGI GONZALEZ**

Students can satisfy their hunger without breaking the bank by lunching with the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism.

**ANNA PEREZ**

As tasters swirl and savor wine, students from the Advanced Wine Technology class will be clearing out old vintages from glasses and putting in new ones during the Wine and Food Festival's eight seminars.

From Feb. 21-24, students will work a 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift, according to Patrick "Chip" Cassidy, who teaches various wine tasting classes at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

"It's not something you can really prepare for because everything is set up for you when you get there," Cassidy said. "All you do is show up and work as a team; giving it everything that you've got."

He also said the event takes a lot of energy, participating students will have the opportunity to network with different people and be rewarded for their hard work.

Last year, seven wine and spirit companies handed out $1,540,000 to hospitality programs and scholarships - more than triple what was received in the first two years.

Cassidy said the students' effectiveness is what brings the acclaim.

"Every year we seem to accomplish our tasks without breaking any glasses or spills anything, and it's because the students are able to pull it off so well that it has gained increasing popularity," Cassidy said. "We showexceptional hospitality to people attending the seminars."

Naomi Speed, a hospitality management major enrolled in Cassidy's wine class, said she is looking forward to participating in the seminars.

"We've been learning about different wines and how to taste them and serving them so I'm excited to see how it turns out and to see the guests enjoy themselves," Speed said.

In addition to networking and monetary compensation, the event gives students a chance to come closer together.

"There is an astounding amount of camaraderie among the students, but it's a festival where they truly get to know each other because you're working side by side favorably," Cassidy said. "It's funny. I have even had a several students who have gotten engaged and married.

For more information, visit www.sobeweinedandfoodfest.com.

**Students serve luncheons as part of course project**

As part of the Wild Succulent Women Series, the Women's Center will host Love & Lust on Thursday Feb. 21 from 9 to 11 p.m. This discussion forum, which will be held at the Bay Vista Housing, will include topics such as positive body image, sexuality and women's health.

"I mostly enjoy it when students walk away with confidence thinking they can [cook] great food by themselves," Moran said. "That's the best feeling in the world." But it's not the students alone who deserve credit for the luncheons' success. Jouven Jean, lead teaching assistant, praised Moran's leadership.

"I call him dictionary because he always has an explanation for everything. "I like that because nobody knows everything, nobody is perfect, but for me he is the biggest mentor I've had in my life," Jean said.

Abid Malik, a former student of Moran's, also shared his experiences working with Moran.

"When I took the course with him, I didn't even know what was going on when to use the spoon. Where the table knife goes or the way the plates should be positioned," Malik said.

The luncheons are open to the public. For reservations, call (305) 919-4500.

"Students have the opportunity to learn how to become better leaders in this industry," Moran said.
MIX OF NEWS, GARBAGE?

Fox News: only place you can watch a 24-hour circus

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

Watching or reading the news online, Fox News specifically, you get the feeling that you’re either watching a re-creation of an early 1900’s freak show or you’re the butt of some kind of sick joke.

In a lot of ways, the Fox News Web site is something of a time capsule. On Feb. 11, Fox News reported a story on a newspaper article by John Ritter’s “untimely demise” on their homepage. As shocking as that is, I can only imagine it being more shocking five years ago—when the death and subsequent investigation actually took place. Fox didn’t mention when the investigation was finished. CNN reported it concluded in 2004. This is just a prominent example of a typical busy Fox News day.

Apparently cat-fighting is newsworthiness as well; Natalie Cole asserted that Amy Winehouse didn’t deserve to win a Grammy. She then elaborated by calling Winehouse “crazy” and stated that she is teaching younger artists that behaving badly can be rewarded with a Grammy, according to Fox News. Absolutely breaking news that HAD to be on the home page? Or was something more of a natural disaster in Virginia.

You get the impression that you’re watching “Entertainment Tonight,” but a version that is just a lot more entertaining. Where else can you hear about Britney Spears having her children taken away, then moments later, hear about her “long lost cousin,” and Democratic Candidate Mitt Romney?

Whoever the high school dropout in charge of picking Fox News’ features is needs to learn how to prioritize. A story about an attempted rapist, who convinced his victim he was both a werewolf and a vampire, was a lead story—appearing under “Latest News” in bold, blue print, as opposed to the thin, black text of “infrared” stories such as the fires in Virginia keeping the presidential candidates from visiting, or a missing Afghani ambassador in Pakistan. Proponents of the system, such as the National Coalition on Health Care, argue that many Americans who do not have medical insurance do not have an adequate level of coverage. Some 47 million “citizens” are uninsured. This number comes from a report published by the United States Census Bureau.

Within those 47 million are 10.2 million individuals who are not citizens. This already draws into question the use of the term “Americans” when describing those of us who do not have medical insurance. Another 9.2 million of the total have an annual salary of over $75,000.

For those who are uninsured for only a portion of the year (due to a change in employment, for example) or those who are eligible for government health programs but do not apply, of which the Investors’ Business Daily estimates there are many.

These revelations do not necessarily mean government-controlled insurance is not the answer, however, it is important to know in premiums, and that health care spending is far outpacing inflation, all indicators that a government-controlled system could help stabilize costs.

It is also said that the uninsured illegal are already permitted to be treated in our nation’s emergency room and that it would be cheaper to insure them under a universal program than to continue bankrupting urgent care centers.

Logically speaking, it makes sense for the government to make sure that health care is accessible, rather than a commodity. After all, the government does run other vital services, such as public safety and education. For example, in Florida, auto insurance is mandatory to prevent the uninsured from driving up the costs for everyone else, so why shouldn’t health coverage be the same?

Should the same federal bureaucratic system which has a difficult time administrating health services to seniors and veterans be responsible for doing so for the nation at large?

It is not clear which system operates better. Stories are circulating about Communities having to wait years for surgery to remove cancer, while Americans have to pay exorbitant amounts for a simple X-Ray.
Group hopes to boost social work’s credibility

Tiffany Shelton
Contributing Writer

Exploring FIU’s Student Social Workers Association may redefine your ideas about student professional organizations.

Many people join such organizations simply because they look good on their resumes. Another stereotype looms over social work, with the idea that the social work profession is centered on sorting through government red tape. However, the SSWA reflects a different mission and discounts both myths.

Comments for keeping your mind off the fact that nobody except your mother or father seems to love you:

**STRIP CLUBS**

What’s an adequate replacement for true love and affection? That’s right, fake love and affection.

For about $20, such abstract concepts can be yours for at least three minutes in the form of a lap dance at a local club such as Toosie’s Cabaret in Miami Gardens. Granted, this V-Day suggestion is aimed toward men, but there are male strip clubs in Miami, too, for those ladies (and men) seeking male attention, particularly Goldfelles in Doral. Just remember that you’ll probably end up spending more on a stripper than you would on a significant other during this holiday.

**COFFEE SHOPS**

For the less foolish and more budget-conscious, stopping at a nearby Starbucks for a cup of joe might help relieve one’s feelings of unrequited love. Not only do you have more than enough time to read “Things I’ve Learned From Women Who’ve Dumped Me,” but also it’s a prime opportunity for meeting other people—unless they’re already with someone else. Nevertheless, there’s bound to be someone sitting alone waiting for that perfect stranger to engage him or her in conversation. More than likely, you aren’t that perfect stranger, but it’s worth a shot.

**BARS**

Although I don’t regularly condone the use of alcohol to drown one’s sorrows, plenty of local bars are offering drink specials to those people seeking some way to

**ONLINE PERSONALS**

Although the previous examples actually involve leaving the comfort of one’s own home, this suggestion has only two simple requirements: an Internet connection and desperation. For free, or a slight fee, Web sites such as Friendfinder.com can help track down someone who is an acceptable partner for you (God-willing). As you look through hundreds of fake supermodel pictures in an attempt to find your soul mate, you can upload your own pictures of a thinner you from five years ago—the opportunities for deception in the name of love are endless. Individuals looking for a night partner rather than a life partner can check out the site Community Adult FriendFinder, which lets users upload provocative photographs and links to other sites such as the ever-popular Bondage.com.

As you can see, singles have a lot of freedom when it comes to Valentine’s Day, especially when living in a party city such as Miami and having a fast Internet connection. Even though you might not have a date on what is otherwise known as Single Awareness Day, be content that you have a family that loves you unconditionally or at least a pet that does. Godspeed.

Group hopes to boost social work’s credibility

Christianne Ruiz, SSWA Club Member

I wanted to use my skills to empower minorities and to allow them to in turn use their skills to better their lives. “I wanted to use my skills to empower minorities and to allow them to in turn use their skills to better their lives.” Ruiz dismisses any stereotypes about the industry being centered on red tape. According to the Independent Sector in 2005, only 29 percent of American adults actually volunteered, with an average of 3.5 hours a week for those that did.

In comparison, the SSWA members volunteer at least double that amount of time each week. Duquette encourages any other active students to join SSWA. For more information on the club, visit the Student Organization Council office on the second floor of Graham Center.
Campus Life looks to fill positions for Welcome Week

The Department of Campus Life oversees most of the student service organizations such as the Student Programming Council and the Student Government Association. Each year Campus Life teams up with the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Services to host the Week of Welcome. During this week the proverbial red carpet is laid down for new and returning students. In order to make the next W.O.W. a success, Campus Life is looking for new committee members to plan out the event.

“The Week of Welcome student committee has a huge impact on the campus culture at FIU. These students set the tone for how the events they would like to offer students during this first week of the fall semester. “This is a great opportunity for students to get experience with working in a team setting, managing a budget, event planning, marketing, public relations, as well as having the opportunity to network with other student leaders, advisors and student organizations across campus,” Gates said.

W.O.W. committee members are responsible for creating an overall theme as well as planning all of the events for the entire first week of the fall semester and spreading the word about all W.O.W. events.

Last year’s welcome week had over 30 different events which were all free to FIU students, as are all welcome week events. Sophia Del Zoppo, president of SPC said that her organization helped out as much as they could during W.O.W.

“We contribute to one or two or three SPC events,” Del Zoppo said. “The rest is really [the orientation committee] putting it together. I don’t want to take the credit.”

During the last set of W.O.W., SPC hosted a pool party, comedy show and a movie on the lawn. “We had good turnouts at events and it was good working with another organization and having different points of view for hosting events,” Del Zoppo said. “We already have plans on working with them.”

On Feb. 16 SPC members will be attending the National Association for Campus Activities conference where they will be selecting and booking many of the events for the next year, some of which will be the highlights of W.O.W.

Any students interested in becoming a W.O.W. committee member can pick up an application in Graham Center room 112. They must be submitted by Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.

“I think that the Week of Welcome is a great opportunity for our students at FIU,” Gates said. “I am very excited about working with a new team of talented, creative and fun individuals to make this year’s Week of Welcome a huge success,” Gates said.

- additional reporting by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff
Information gap a gulf between generations

RHONDA BOFDJF BLOOM
AF WIRE

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) _ In type that scrolls up the screen like the preface for Star Wars, a YouTube video reads, "For years, parents could not text messages. They could not figure out how to record a voice mail. They could not even connect to the Internet without using AOL." Waring that parents are adapting to technological gadgets, it flips to a short clip of a man learning to use the video capabilities on his cell phone.

"Watch with caution," it closes, "and pray that your own parents do not gain these powers."

Techno-tweens and teens relax. According to a new study from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, there's a long way to go before adults embrace interactive online media to the degree that teens have.

An estimated 64 percent of those ages 12 to 17 have created some form of online content. While only 8 percent of adults have created a blog, 28 percent of teens have.

While 55 percent of online teens have a profile on a social network, such as Facebook or MySpace, only 20 percent of adult users do.

And while 27 percent of teens have created or worked on their own Web pages, 14 percent of adults have.

The report also gives insight into some popular stereotypes. Boys and Meen do indeed post more videos, with as many as 89 percent of teens reporting that they get feedback on shared postings.

"The nature of conversation and communication is changing in a world in which young people are becoming very comfortable with expressing themselves through video and audio and mixing it together," said Mary Madden, a Pew research senior specialist and one of the report's authors.

"That's a very different kind of expression. It's not as controlled. It's more casual."

"And that's difficult for adults to understand, how teens can navigate these spaces."

One surprise for Madden was that older technologies, such as landline phones, aren't being displaced.

"The traditional media channels aren't going away, but the new technologies are just being layered on what's already there."

The super-communicators are seeing friends face-to-face or calling over the land lines as much as the average teen, it's just they are also using social networking sites and cell phones as well."

Social implications are less defined, with a plethora of possible outcomes that could result due to the dawn of this unprecedented age of human interconnectedness. "As has been the case with any new communications technology, there will be trade-offs and we don't know what those will be," Madden said.

"We know that young people are embracing these tools in ways that adults haven't done to the same degree. What we don't know is how that will change patterns in society and in the workplace over time."

Some of these questions are analyzed in a paper written for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and their "The Nature of Conversation and Communication is Changing in a World in Which Young People Are Becoming Very Comfortable with Expressing Themselves Through Video and Audio and Mixing It Together." It's not as casual as it first appears. It's more controlled, Madden said.

Parents should know we use it as a tool and that's how we communicate now," she said.

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"Because young people are embracing these tools in ways that adults haven't done to the same degree. What we don't know is how that will change patterns in society and in the workplace over time."

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Tennis

The Golden Panthers tennis team (1-2) won its first game of the season Feb. 10 against the previously undefeated University of Arizona (5-1).

In the singles competition, FIU took four of the six matches from Arizona. Senior Egle Petrasaukaite helped the Golden Panthers rebound from their first loss by winning in dominant fashion 6-0, 6-2.

Her victory sparked her teammates as Priscilla Castillo and Marijana Cutuk won their next matches as well. Sophomore Maria José Vallasciani closed the singles competition with a decisive 6-4, 6-1 win.

During the doubles matches, the No. 17 ranked pair in the country of Egle Petrasaukaite and Liset Brito soundly defeated their opponents 8-2.

Marijan Cutuk and Maria Spencele lost the second match 8-5, but Maria Dolores Pazo and Priscilla Castillo defeated Claire Rietsch and Jane Huh.

The team’s first win of the season also marked the first victory for head coach Carlos Casey.

FIU is currently ranked No. 32 in the nation.

The Golden Panthers return to the court on Feb. 17 at home against the University of Central Florida.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

Florida Panther player fine after neck laceration on ice

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Wire

Upon hearing Richard Zednik’s recovery from a life-threatening neck laceration could last six to eight weeks, Olli Jokinen checked his calendar.

That would be playoff time in the NHL.

And suddenly, the Florida Panthers have a huge source of postseason motivation.

Zednik continued what some termed a remarkable recovery Tuesday, when his condition was upgraded to good and he was moved out of the intensive care unit at Buffalo General Hospital. That was just two days after Jokinen’s razor-sharp skate blade sliced the 32-year-old forward’s neck, cutting his carotid artery and stopping just shy of his jugular vein.

As Zednik recovers, so do the Panthers, who returned to the ice Tuesday, albeit still somber and shaken, yet somewhat uplifted by the continued good reports about their teammate.

“We’ve got 24 games to go,” Jokinen said. “If we do our jobs, there is a possibility Richard’s going to play with us and join the team in the playoffs.

“Zednik playing again this season is a real long shot. Doctors in Buffalo have already told him next year is the realistic return target, and on Tuesday, Dr. Sonya Noor — who operated on the forward Sunday night — said she’s recommending he not resume strenuous activity for three months.

Still, the notion just might be enough of a reason for the playoff-starved Panthers to have some hope.

“We have to set it aside now and play hockey,” said Florida defenseman Jassen Cullimore, who helped Zednik off the ice.

“That’s what we do.”

The Panthers hope Zednik can travel home to South Florida by the weekend. He has a photo of his 4-year-old daughter at his hospital bedside, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has phoned to check on Zednik’s condition and progress.

“He is awake and in good spirits,” Noor said. “He has minimal neck swelling, or discomfort. He is speaking quite well. His voice is not hoarse. He’s hungry. He wanted eggs for breakfast.”

Noor said Zednik will be asked to sit up and walk a few steps over the next couple days, and if he can do those things, a discharge plan will be discussed.

Happy Valentine’s Day and thank you for reading Every Monday and Thursday

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Women's Basketball Standing

TEAM OVERALL CONF PCT

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 12*

**WOMEN'S, page 12**

"What really set me off was seeing Lauren pretty much go out," Neal said. "I knew being a senior I really had to step my game up and do everything I could." FISU would remain focused and carry their momentum into the second half.

Bojilj would put up a pair of jumpers as the Gators capped off a 16-0 FISU run and put the team up 44-25.

MTSU would finally break out of its slump as sophomore guard Chelsia Lymon knocked in a 3-pointer.

The Blue Raiders' field goal before Lymon's three in the first half with 9:59 remaining, when senior guard Starr Orr's 3-pointer made the score 20-10.

Since then, FISU outscored MTSU 15-5 and all of those points came off Blue Raider free throws.

FISU would go on to outscore MTSU 27-18 in the second half and win the match-up in the last seconds of the game with five minutes left to play and would not return.

She came into the game as the nation's leading scorer, averaging 26.7 points a game.

FISU managed to hold her to a team-high 21 points and five rebounds.

"They executed, they came out ready to play. We did not come out ready to play," said Holt of FISU's performance. "They were communicating and we were not that. That's how we lost the game."

MTSU would manage to go on a 15-2 run in the final three minutes of the game, but it was too little too late and FISU won by a final score of 70-46.

Neal recorded her first career double-double with a career-high 10 rebounds and 13 points, which raised her career average.

Junior guard Iva Cigarl had a game-high eight assists.

"We were concentrating on defense," Bojilj said.

Bojilj was also concerned about the injury to Ferguson.

"I really hope everything will be good, because we don't need to lose another good player," she said. "We already lost two."

**MEN'S page 12**

Panthers made 7-of-10 field goals and out rebounded MTSU 10-3.

Two of Tremayne Russell's free throws gave the Panthers their largest lead, 58-48 with 3:51 remaining. Russell had six points in the ball game.

Fuller and freshman Nick Taylor took over most of the distribution duties without turning the ball over. Taylor dished out four assists without any turnovers.

Taylor, who has had much of the heavy duty following the losses of Mike James and Red White, has a 20:7 assist to turnover ratio for the season.

Alex Galindo had 13 points, for his 19th double digit game this season, four away from his team-high of 21 last season.

Leading the way for MTSU were Demetrius Green and Desmond Yates, each with 12. Also in double figures for the visitors were Kevin Kanasizzie with 11 and Teyern Hudson with 10.

Coach Rosco noted the thin roster showing up to the court.

"We play as a team every moment," he said.

"Hopefully, we can keep the momentum going."

The momentum from this contest will take FISU into their next game on Feb. 13 against Arkansas-Little Rock, who is tied with Denver atop the Sun Belt Western division at 7-5 in conference play, 15-8 overall.

**FIU Men, 75, UNO 62**

**MTSU Men, 74, FIU 60**

**Late charge during seven minute span gives Golden Panthers clear advantage**

**Players decide whether teammate's injury will affect them negatively or positively**

**BONILLA, page 12**

"But, the Golden Panthers control whether to let a breeze or a pigeon bring them down."

Every five games remaining the Golden Panthers could move up on the East Division standings as they play the team directly above them, South Alabama, along with the two worst teams in the division.

MTSU's 16.7 points per game and 6 rebounds per game will not be replaced overnight, especially when the Golden Panthers' 61.3 points per game is good enough for just ninth out of thirteenth place in the Sun Belt Conference scoring leader board.

Losing Ferguson can lead the Panthers toward either of two paths: inspiration and success, or pity and lack of focus.

The path of inspiration and success can come to fruition with the team winning for their inactive teammate who might have just played her last game as a Golden Panther.

The Panthers can gather determination from their success, and with Ferguson take it out on their opponents.

The players would have to use Ferguson's injury as fuel to power the late season run.

Playing with spirited emotion could make talent disparity against stronger opponents evaporate.

The pity and lack of focus could begin with the Panthers concentrating too much on Ferguson's injury, instead of targeting their opponents' weaknesses.

This is the easiest path to follow because it does not think about the consequences of their friend's injury, not only from a basketball standpoint, but from a personal perspective.

The amount of time the players spend on thinking about the consequences of her injury will determine how focused the team will be playing in the most high-pressure games of the season.

Head coach Cindy sideways to the balance between making her players look to Ferguson for inspiration and making them dwell too much on her absence.

The Golden Panthers have carried their boulder uphill the hill before.

"Can they do it one more time and heave the stone to other side of the hill to win the Sun Belt Conference? Or will Ferguson's injury be too much pressure to roll over the Pan-thers flat?"

Only the Golden Panthers' response to Ferguson's injury can determine what happens next.

DISHING: Freshman guard Russell Tremayne has taken over point guard duties the last few games.

"It gives Golden Panthers clear advantage"
The 2007-08 season for the Golden Panthers parallels to the Greek mythology of Sisyphus. Like Sisyphus, the Panthers roll their huge boulder of burden up a hill towards victory only to have it roll back down as soon as they near the top.

The Golden Panthers entered the season without a true center after the departure of senior Lasma Jekabsone. Yet, strong interior play from Elisa Carey and Marquita Adley had the Golden Panthers rolling the boulder towards victory.

Injuries to both players dropped the Panthers to the bottom of the hill. Playing through injuries and giving freshmen extra minutes allowed the Golden Panthers the opportunity to find a groove — winning four consecutive games. Once again, the boulder was on its way up the hill.

During the first half of their last game — fourth straight win — the team’s leading scorer, LaQuetta Ferguson, left the court with a knee injury. In one play, the Golden Panthers found themselves at the bottom of the hill with the boulder on their big toe.

The Panthers lost its leading scorer of the last two years in the same game they captured their biggest win of the season.

With five games remaining, finishing the season strong and entering the Sun Belt Conference Tournament confident really doesn’t seem like a Sisyphusian task.

Is it too soon to determine whether the Panthers are down and out?

As of this moment, the Golden Panthers are down and out?

Concerted offensive output leads Golden Panthers’ to fourth conference victory

ANDREW JULIAN  
Staff Writer

Chris Fuller’s off-season practice paid off on Feb. 9 against the Middle Tennessee St. Blue Raiders (11-12, 8-5). Fuller notched a season-high 16 points helping the Golden Panthers win 66-60.

The Golden Panthers improved their record to 7-16 overall and 4-9 in Sun Belt play.

Fuller, who was 6-of-10 from the floor, including 2-of-4 from beyond the three point arc, raised his team leading 3-point shooting percentage to 42.9%.

“Work,” remarked the senior from Las Vegas, Nevada when asked how he was able to up his percentage from long distance from 29.3% a season ago.

“I worked really hard this past summer,” Fuller said. “Teams were playing off me, and doubling down in the post. It, and he didn’t pout. He came out and played well tonight.”

It was a see-saw game throughout the first half with five ties and three lead changes. The Golden Panthers led by as many as six while the Blue Raiders led by as many as four.

FIU headed into halftime leading 30-29. This continued into the second half as neither team was able to mount a run until the Golden Panthers launched a 16-2 charge over a seven minute span in the second half.

During this run, the Golden Panthers’ to four-time defending conference champ

DARREN COLETTE  
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team (11-13, 7-6 Sun Belt) notched a fourth consecutive win on Feb. 9 against Middle Tennessee (14-10, 9-4).

FIU was led by sophomore forward Monika Bosilj, who scored a team, game and career-high 32 points.

The Blue Raiders started the game strong and built a quick 20-10 lead. Freshman guard Anne Marie Lanning had eight points, including a couple of 3-pointers, in the opening minutes.

Blue Raiders senior forward Amber Holt scored six of MTSU’s first 12 points, most of which came in the paint.

FIU’s comeback was sparked by senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson who connected on a 3-pointer on FIU’s next possession.

Freshmen forwards Liene Jekabsone and Fanni Hutlassa would score the next two field goals as the lead was trimmed to three points, 20-17.

With five minutes left in the half, Ferguson put in a lay-up that made the score 24-23.

On the next play, Ferguson nailed a 3-pointer from NBA range that gave FIU its first lead of the game, 26-24.

That 3-pointer, however, may have been Ferguson’s final basket in her outstanding career as an FIU Golden Panther.

With a little less than four minutes to play in the first half, Ferguson was ahead of a fast break and was fouled under the basket by Lanning.

Ferguson fell to the floor in considerable pain. A timeout was called and Ferguson was helped off the court and into the team training room.

Senior guard Ashley Neal would respond to her teammate, friend and fellow senior’s injury by scoring six of FIU’s final eight points of the half.

The Golden Panthers dominated the final minutes of play and took a 36-25 lead into halftime.

With five games left, the Golden Panthers have it roll back down as soon as they near the top.