Children’s Center cares for little golden panther cubs

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

All over Libby Kirsch’s wall are pictures. Each one of them tells a different story.

“He’s a father now. He writes for the newspaper. She teaches elementary school,” Kirch said as she pointed to each individual photo.

In one picture, Kirsch plays with a parachute with children on the ground of where the Children’s Creative Learning Center now resides.

“We have a really long history here. We have children here who are second generation preschoolers,” she said.

Since 1975, the center at FIU has stood on the west side of University Park. The vibrant colored building first started out as United Way Agency, based out of a trailer that sits behind the current center today.

“It has always been really dark on this side of campus during the evening and people are drawn to our building. We were like a beacon at night,” Kirsch said.

Since its infancy, the center has grown up into a popular educational preschool not only for students and faculty on campus, but for alumni and others in the community.

The center has become so popular that many parents have their children on a waiting list to get them in.

“We have people who, once they’re pregnant, they come and put their child’s name on the waiting list to make sure they get in,” said Silvia Valdes, coordinator of administrative services for the center.

Children from the ages of two and-a-half to five can attend the center Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Many students try to take advantage of the help the center offers. Students can pay a
Raul Martinez reaches out to young Democrats

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO Staff Writer

A candidate preaching Obama’s change and packing Clinton’s experience would be a gift for the Democratic Party.

Democratic South Floridians can find that rare combination in the local congressional election.

At least, Raul Martinez, former Hialeah mayor and current U.S. representative hopeful, believes so. Invited by the FIU College Democrats, Martinez spoke about his past experiences, present campaign and the change he will breathe into Washington if elected on

Monday night.

“A lot of the things [he said] resonated to me as a voter ... really touched me because he is willing to take on the issues I feel have been ignored for many years,” said Moses M., a member of FIU College Democrats, Moses preferred not to give his last name.

In the business of “delivering services,” as he proclaimed, Martinez leaned heavily on his two decades of experience as mayor to explain how he would help a country that is “going in the wrong direction.”

Martinez is an oddity in the traditionally Republican Cuban community. He believes that being “called a communist” has only made him a stronger politician, one that can “tough it out.”

He might have to tough it out during this campaigning season.

The Miami Herald has called the congressional election “Battle of the Titans” in a Jan. article, referring to Martinez and his main opponent, Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

Republican attacks came quickly after Martinez issued his intention to run.

They predicted a controversial race by taking into account Martinez’s “history of corruption and indecency,” according to the article, referring to his conviction of extortion in 1991 that was later appealed by Martinez, and subsequently resulted in hung juries.

The hour and half appearance ended with Martinez recruiting volunteers for his campaign.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

Upon announcing he would be undergoing surgery for intestinal cancer, Castro relinquished power to his younger brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

For less than a decade, Castro has held ultimate power in the government and set many hostile policies, but the transfer of power after “less than 50 years” has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change, said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“People are realizing that Cuba is still Castro after [less than] 50 years has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change,” said, “said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“He has the rare ability to reach across the aisle and get things done,” said.

The Cuban-born

Martinez said.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

I thought this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics.

As a voter ... really touched me because he is willing to take on the issues I feel have been ignored for many years,” said Moses M., a member of FIU College Democrats, Moses preferred not to give his last name.

In the business of “delivering services,” as he proclaimed, Martinez leaned heavily on his two decades of experience as mayor to explain how he would help a country that is “going in the wrong direction.”

Martinez is an oddity in the traditionally Republican Cuban community. He believes that being “called a communist” has only made him a stronger politician, one that can “tough it out.”

He might have to tough it out during this campaigning season.

The Miami Herald has called the congressional election “Battle of the Titans” in a Jan. article, referring to Martinez and his main opponent, Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

Republican attacks came quickly after Martinez issued his intention to run.

They predicted a controversial race by taking into account Martinez’s “history of corruption and indecency,” according to the article, referring to his conviction of extortion in 1991 that was later appealed by Martinez, and subsequently resulted in hung juries.

The hour and half appearance ended with Martinez recruiting volunteers for his campaign.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

Upon announcing he would be undergoing surgery for intestinal cancer, Castro relinquished power to his younger brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

For less than a decade, Castro has held ultimate power in the government and set many hostile policies, but the transfer of power after “less than 50 years” has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change, said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“People are realizing that Cuba is still Castro after [less than] 50 years has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change,” said, “said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“He has the rare ability to reach across the aisle and get things done,” said.

The Cuban-born

Martinez said.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

I thought this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics.

As a voter ... really touched me because he is willing to take on the issues I feel have been ignored for many years,” said Moses M., a member of FIU College Democrats, Moses preferred not to give his last name.

In the business of “delivering services,” as he proclaimed, Martinez leaned heavily on his two decades of experience as mayor to explain how he would help a country that is “going in the wrong direction.”

Martinez is an oddity in the traditionally Republican Cuban community. He believes that being “called a communist” has only made him a stronger politician, one that can “tough it out.”

He might have to tough it out during this campaigning season.

The Miami Herald has called the congressional election “Battle of the Titans” in a Jan. article, referring to Martinez and his main opponent, Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

Republican attacks came quickly after Martinez issued his intention to run.

They predicted a controversial race by taking into account Martinez’s “history of corruption and indecency,” according to the article, referring to his conviction of extortion in 1991 that was later appealed by Martinez, and subsequently resulted in hung juries.

The hour and half appearance ended with Martinez recruiting volunteers for his campaign.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

Upon announcing he would be undergoing surgery for intestinal cancer, Castro relinquished power to his younger brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

For less than a decade, Castro has held ultimate power in the government and set many hostile policies, but the transfer of power after “less than 50 years” has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change, said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“People are realizing that Cuba is still Castro after [less than] 50 years has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change,” said, “said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“He has the rare ability to reach across the aisle and get things done,” said.

The Cuban-born

Martinez said.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

I thought this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics.

As a voter ... really touched me because he is willing to take on the issues I feel have been ignored for many years,” said Moses M., a member of FIU College Democrats, Moses preferred not to give his last name.

In the business of “delivering services,” as he proclaimed, Martinez leaned heavily on his two decades of experience as mayor to explain how he would help a country that is “going in the wrong direction.”

Martinez is an oddity in the traditionally Republican Cuban community. He believes that being “called a communist” has only made him a stronger politician, one that can “tough it out.”

He might have to tough it out during this campaigning season.

The Miami Herald has called the congressional election “Battle of the Titans” in a Jan. article, referring to Martinez and his main opponent, Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

Republican attacks came quickly after Martinez issued his intention to run.

They predicted a controversial race by taking into account Martinez’s “history of corruption and indecency,” according to the article, referring to his conviction of extortion in 1991 that was later appealed by Martinez, and subsequently resulted in hung juries.

The hour and half appearance ended with Martinez recruiting volunteers for his campaign.

“I think this was the most exciting meeting we’ve had. He’s a bit of a legend in South Florida politics,” said Moses M.

Upon announcing he would be undergoing surgery for intestinal cancer, Castro relinquished power to his younger brother Raul on July 31, 2006.

For less than a decade, Castro has held ultimate power in the government and set many hostile policies, but the transfer of power after “less than 50 years” has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change, said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“People are realizing that Cuba is still Castro after [less than] 50 years has been lifted and is creating an opportunity for change because people can see they can be the protagonist of change,” said, “said “FIU alumnus and Free Cuba Foundation coordinator John Storrer.”

“He has the rare ability to reach across the aisle and get things done,” said.
Center takes ‘hands-on’ approach to teach kids social, emotional skills

subsidized tuition rate of $189 per month if they are eligible for a Pell grant and are enrolled in a minimum of nine credit hours per semester.

If both requirements are met, then they may be eligible for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Grant, which is awarded to the center by the Department of Education.

This allows students to pay $189 a month to have their children enrolled in the center. The grant also covers the cost of the child’s registration fee, supply fee, lunch and the center’s family field trip.

Regular monthly tuition for students is $378.

Zoraida Villanueva, a psychology graduate student, said the center helped her focus on getting her undergraduate degree in special education while her daughter Janellyzi was in preschool.

“I left her here because it was worth it. For what you’re getting here, it’s a bang for your buck,” Villanueva said. “It’s really hard to find something out there. Most centers out there are just day cares. Here, it’s a school and your children learn.”

The center takes a more “hands on” approach to teaching children. Every week, teachers incorporate a different theme into their class to relate to what they are learning.

“A lot of their learning is done one on one through interaction. They’re not sitting down and writing their ABCs and reading their ABC’s, they’re physically and actively learning their ABC’s,” said FIU alumna Daiana Diez.

Diez said the center prepared her daughter Katherine, 7, for public school.

“It gives children a lot of self confidence and lets them know who they are before they enter the larger schools,” she said.

One of the main reasons many parents say they bring their children to the center is the center’s philosophy.

Kirsch said teachers try to focus on the children’s social and emotional aspect of development.

“We try to get children to verbalize their feelings and to get them to talk and use language to get what they want.” Kirsch said.

Parents can even come in and watch their children while they learn and play in an observation room behind a two way mirror.

Students can also enroll their children in the Center’s Express Edu-Care/ Flex-Time Program which allows their children to interact for a couple of hours while they are in class.

The program is located adjacent to the Graham Center Gallery and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hourly rate for the program is $6 for students and $3 for students who qualify for the subsidized rate.

For more information about the Children Creative Learning Center, visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~children or call (305) 348-2143.

play at FIU’s Children’s Creative Learning Center located on the west side of University Park, the center offers flexible schedules and financial help for FIU students, faculty, and alumni who enroll their children there.

For more pictures, visit www.fi usm.com

Are you unable to fall asleep before midnight? Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning?

You may suffer from Delayed Phase Sleep Syndrome

If you have had this problem for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.

You may qualify if you:
1. are 18 years or older
2. are in good general health

Study participants will receive study-related examinations & investigational medications at no cost. Study participants will also be compensated for time and travel.

For more information contact:  1-877-455-5757
**NEWSFLASH**

**FIU Chadah hosts weekly pizza, parsha**

FIU Chadah hosts pizza and parsha every Thursday on WUC’s second floor, above the information desk. Students are invited to join in reading portions of the Torah over pizza. The next meeting is Feb. 21 and open to all students.

**SGA Scholarships deadline approaches**

SGA scholarship applications are being accepted through March 14, 5 p.m. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA. Applications are available at the Campus Life office, WUC 141. Call (305) 919-5800, for details on available scholarships.

**Kayaking club to host Kayak Day on the bay**

The Kayaking Club will host its second Kayak Day on Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. at the Biscayne Bay Boat Ramp, behind the Acquatic Center. No experience is necessary and application forms are available in the Recreation Center. Call (305) 919-5678 for more information.

**International Student Tax Workshop to take place**

BBC’s International Student & Scholar Services will host a tax workshop designed for international students on Feb. 27 from 3 to 4 p.m. in WUC 363. For reservations, call (305) 919-5813.

**Humanities Club to screen “Becket”**

The Humanities Club will host a screening of the 1964 film “Becket,” starring Peter O’Toole and Richard Burton, on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. in WUC 100. Food and beverages will be provided. Call (305) 919-5948 for more information.

**Judaic Studies program to host “The Holocaust by Bullets”**

FIU’s Judaic Studies program and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies will host “The Holocaust by Bullets: An Interview with Father Patrick Debos” on Feb. 28, 7-8 p.m., at the Koven Conference Center. Debos is a president of the Yahad-in-Unum, an organization that promotes Judeo-Christian dialogue, and an advisor for the Vatican’s Commission for Religious Relations. Call (305) 348-6561 for more information.

**Monks to visit, complete mandala sand painting**

Tibetan monks will visit BBC March 3-6. The monks will work on a mandala sand painting each of these days in Panther Square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A closing ceremony will be held March 6 at 6 p.m. in Panther Square. For details, call (305) 919-5800.

— Compiled by Ana Perez and Susana Rodriguez, Beacon Staff

**ANWS to reflect on historical struggle**

RONICA AZARD

Contribution Writer

In honor of Black History Month, the African-New World Studies Program is inviting Jeremy Levitt, professor of law and director of the Human Rights and Global Justice program, to lecture on the need for education on all facets of the African struggle.

Levitt will speak at the fourth annual Malcolm X and Ella Baker lecture, the fourth annual Malcolm X and Ella Baker lecture held at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom at Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.

This year’s topic is “The African Diaspora, the State and Globalization: The Next Frontier of Pan-African Unity.”

“As it will introduce students to the history and culture and political struggle of the people of African descent,” Levitt said in a phone interview.

“It’s Black History [Month] and that history is commonly not known [to many], particularly in the context of Pan-Africanism.”

Levitt is a professor at the FIU School of Law, political scientist and an international lawyer.

He specializes in human rights law and has written the books “Illegal Peace?: Examining the Legality of Power-sharing with African Warlords and Rebels” and “The Evolution of Deadly Conflict in Liberia: From ‘Paternalism’ to State Collapse.”

Levitt has also edited 2008’s “Africa: Mapping New Boundaries in International Law.”

“It is intended for the students to learn about a people and a political struggle, and where we should be going from here as an African Diaspora,” Levitt said.

“(This) includes all people of African descent, wherever they might live, and others who support that ideology and struggle,” said Levitt.

The African Diaspora is the story of Africans’ isolation and dispersion around the world due to slavery, their ability to maintain their traditions and their identity modification in a new world.

This lecture will also educate the FIU student population on the visions of Ella Baker and Malcolm X’s visions of bringing peace and unity to humanity and reducing discrimination against the African American nation, according to Levitt.

Akin Ogundiran, associate professor of history and director of African-New World Studies, said, “The vision of both Ella Baker and Malcolm X was indeed not limited solely to the African American society but instead focused on a more robust factor which was making the human race better through the pursuit of justice,” Ogundiran said.

The lecture is open to all students.

Levitt said that there is “no racial component; everyone is welcome.”

Ogundiran agreed, stating that “This lecture is not just about Black people, it’s about all people - we are all members of a human community.”

For more information on this and other African New World Studies lecture series, visit www.africana.fi u.edu or call 305-919-5521.

**TELEVISED ENTREES**

FIU's Judaic Studies program and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies will host “The Holocaust by Bullets: An Interview with Father Patrick Debos” on Feb. 28, 7-8 p.m., at the Koven Conference Center. Debos is a president of the Yahad-in-Unum, an organization that promotes Judeo-Christian dialogue, and an advisor for the Vatican’s Commission for Religious Relations. Call (305) 348-6561 for more information.

**Festival to draw tourist funds**

**FEST, page 1**

year’s expected guests include Michelle Bernstein, Guy Fieri, Mario Batali, Al Roker, Emeril Lagasse and Bobby Flay among many others.

Festival highlights include The Giada de Laurentiis and Friends Moët & Chandon BubbleQ at the Delano on Friday – an event planned and executed by HM students at FIU – and the “Taste Wine Like a Master Sommelier” at the Miami Beach Convention Center on Friday, in which students of Professor Barry Gump will pour some of the wines they developed in a class project.

“The grand tasting event is the best known part of the event. That’s where the Food Network chefs come and host the food seminars, which my team of students will be working on,” said Michael Moran, FIU chef and festival organizer.

The Public Grand Tasting Village and the American Express Grand Tasting will be held throughout Saturday and Sunday on 13 and Ocean, Miami Beach, and will cost a hefty $187.50. As in previous years, kids will also be involved in the festivity. The Kellogg’s Kidz Kitchen, hosted by celebrity Food Network chefs Emeril Lagasse, Tyler Florence and Giada de Laurentiis, invites children to try cooking for others.

Kellogg’s Kidz Kitchen will also include juice tasting and be held in Lummus Park Feb. 23 throughout the day for $35 (plus tax and service fee) per child.

That’s only a sampling of the 54 events running throughout the weekend, most of which are HM student and alumni assisted.

However, the event is not geared toward students but con-...
Concerns expressed:
Survey puts campus libraries to the test

PAMELA DUQUE LUIS VALDEZ
Beacon Staff

Bookworms have a chance to make changes at FIU’s libraries with the third Library Quality Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to measure user satisfaction with library resources and services, the quality of interactions with library staff and users and satisfaction with the libraries collection and space, according to Dean of Libraries Laura Probst.

“If you had an extremely positive experience at the library, you can comment on that, and if you had a negative experience, we are just as interested in that... if not more so - so we can focus on the problem and strategically plan to eliminate it,” said Steve Switzer, co-chair of the 2008 survey committee and reference librarian at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The survey is a national model used throughout the country.

The FIU libraries already conducted the survey in 2003 and 2005 in accordance with accreditation requirements. This year’s survey will compare and analyze trends in service and satisfaction with the FIU libraries.

Even though the process costs $3,000 to conduct, it is a worthwhile investment, according to University Librarian Douglas Hasty.

“This is the most important survey any academic library can do, in my opinion,” Hasty said. “The results are a strong factor in our three-year development.”

Both the Green Library at University Park and the library at BBC participate in the survey.

“It is very comprehensive,” said Lauren Christos, member of the 2008 survey committee and reference librarian at BBC.

According to Christos, the survey will ask students to rate FIU libraries based on available materials and intercampus loans: books that come from the Green Library to the BBC library, and vice-versa. Other survey questions will include interlibrary loans, the service that brings books from another institutional library to FIU libraries and the overall ability of the libraries to support faculty’s research and student needs.

The survey will run from Feb. 22 through March 24 and it will be done completely online.

Participants will remain anonymous so they feel comfortable and secure about expressing their feelings about the libraries at FIU.

All students and faculty are invited to participate in the study which will only take about 10 minutes.

Hasty stresses the importance of user feedback.

“Comments are the most important part of the survey. Criticism is also essential and it is even viewed as good news,” Hasty said. “This feedback really shows that you care about our library.”

The preliminary results will be back in two to three weeks and the full packed report in about two to three months.

The several-hundred page report will not be available to nonlibrary staff, however, a simplified version will be made available online.

According to Probst, after the results come in, the libraries will conduct follow-up interviews with student and faculty members to gain additional information to help in accessing the details of the results.

“This is the best way to help our library. Since we only conduct this survey every three to four years, most students will only have one chance to fill it out,” Hasty said. “I really encourage you to fill out the survey so that the library can improve.”

The link to the survey will be made available on Feb. 22 and can be found at www.library.fiu.edu.

Write for The Beacon’s At the Bay section! Apply in WUC 124

Career services mega week

MONDAY • FEBRUARY 25

Resume Writing Skills Workshop: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., WUC 255
Interview Skills Workshop: 11:00 - 12:00 p.m., WUC 255
How to Prepare for career Fair Workshop: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., WUC 255

TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 26

The Chill Skill; How to Relax and Search for a Job Workshop: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., WUC 255
How to Prepare for Career Fair Workshop: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., WUC 255

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 27
Bring Your Resume to School Day: 10:00 - 2:00 p.m., Panther Square

THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 28
Walk-in Hours for Career Services Office: 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., WUC 255

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 29
Walk-in Hours for Career Services Office: 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., WUC 255

MONDAY • MARCH 3
Practice Interviews in Career Services Office: 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., WUC 255

TUESDAY • MARCH 4
Practice Interviews in Career Services Office: 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., WUC 255

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 5
Career Fair 2008, semi-formal to formal attire required: 10:00 - 3:00 p.m., WUC 255

For more information, visit www.fiu.edu/career or call 305-919-5770.

- Compiled by Ana Perez
Castro-less Cuba’s future not set in stone

JOSEPH MARHEE
Opinion Editor

With Fidel’s brother, Raul, as acting president, should anyone be so sure that he can’t be an effective leader? Is everyone jumping to conclusions about Raul’s and the future of Cuba? It certainly looks that way.

“He is simply a continuation of the Castro regime,” State Department deputy spokesman Tony Casey told AP. The US should not even be involved in this situation. We’re already out trillions of dollars from our fight for democracy in Iraq and we’re expected to be suspicious of Iran, why should the US have any say what happens in a country where they have successfully lived under a socialist regime? Most assuredly, this will become a government and corporate field day.

As far as Bush is concerned, this is a final push to be remembered as the bringer of democracy, rather than a warmongering idiot. He would most likely heroically swoop in and turn things around, due to our alleged incompetence. However inexplicably, the support of the Cuban population. Bush has always had, however inexplicably, the support of the Cuban community in Miami. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte told AP he could not envision the US lifting the embargo “any time soon.” It’s safe to say the embargo will play a big role in future Cuban leadership. Raul Castro might not be the roadblock Bush is making him out to be now that he won’t have to adhere to Fidel’s format; a view shared by some.

“I don’t think it will be more of the same,” said economist Oscar Espinosa Chepe. “It’s not what we, in Cuba, want. We want democracy and freedom, but this could be the time for some economic and … political changes.”

With Fidel’s brother, Raul, as acting presi-
dent, should anyone be so sure that he can’t be an effective leader? Is everyone jumping to conclusions about Raul’s and the future of Cuba? It certainly looks that way.

“He is simply a continuation of the Castro regime,” State Department deputy spokesman Tony Casey told AP. The US should not even be involved in this situation. We’re already out trillions of dollars from our fight for democracy in Iraq and we’re expected to be suspicious of Iran, why should the US have any say what happens in a country where they have successfully lived under a socialist regime? Most assuredly, this will become a government and corporate field day.

As far as Bush is concerned, this is a final push to be remembered as the bringer of democracy, rather than a warmongering idiot. He would most likely heroically swoop in and turn things around, due to our alleged incompetence. However inexplicably, the support of the Cuban population. Bush has always had, however inexplicably, the support of the Cuban community in Miami. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte told AP he could not envision the US lifting the embargo “any time soon.” It’s safe to say the embargo will play a big role in future Cuban leadership. Raul Castro might not be the roadblock Bush is making him out to be now that he won’t have to adhere to Fidel’s format; a view shared by some.

“I don’t think it will be more of the same,” said economist Oscar Espinosa Chepe. “It’s not what we, in Cuba, want. We want democracy and freedom, but this could be the time for some economic and … political changes.”

With all of that means is citizens approved another amendment that forced the state to build a bullet train to connect all of Florida’s major cities. This train would be so expensive that the South Florida Sun-Sentinel once claimed that the name of the train was apt because it would be “a bullet to the head of the taxpayers.”

Unwilling to pay for the project, the state government with former Gov. Jeb Bush at the helm, held a case in point: the infamous pig amendment of 2002. This pork project (pun intended) by an animal rights interest group compelled voters to mandate via the Constitution that pigs shall not be kept in cages so small that they are not able to turn around.

It’s no wonder high school civics instructors don’t include things like this along with “freedom of speech” and “due process” in the constitutional curriculum. It’s not that we want pigs in cages; it’s just not appropriate for the document that defines the basis for all laws in the state.

Neither is a mandatory bullet train.

In the 2000 election, voters approved another amendment that forced the state to build a bullet train to connect all of Florida’s major cities. This train would be so expensive that the South Florida Sun-Sentinel once claimed that the name of the train was apt because it would be “a bullet to the head of the taxpayers.”

Unwilling to pay for the project, the state government with former Gov. Jeb Bush at the helm, held a vote on selling the state’s property tax breaks to the next president for the second time after all.

It’s not what we, in Cuba, want. We want democracy and freedom, but this could be the time for some economic...
JONATHAN DAVILA
Contributing Writer

When FIU Associate Professor Augusto Soledade finished his graduate studies at SUNY Brockport in Rochester, N.Y. in 1998, he was searching for a way to put his artistic interests to use.

“I really felt that I needed to have a way to direct my artistic ideas and I felt that a dance company was the best way to do that,” Soledade said.

With that notion in mind, Soledade founded the Brazz Dance Theater, a non-profit dance organization that aims to educate as well as entertain its audience with their dance performances.

On March 7 and 8, Soledade and his company will be performing one of their shows, “A Foot for Samba,” in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The show concludes with the FIU faculty concert, “Dancing Our History,” a concert produced by FIU faculty members representing different ethnic backgrounds.

With “A Foot for Samba,” Soledade portrays the dance history of his home country, Brazil.

“I’m trying to bring my Brazilian culture into the [melting] pot,” Soledade said.

Anne Morris, director of development for the Brazz Dance Theater, as well as a dancer performing in “Samba,” said that there is more to the show than the history of Brazilian dance.

“The show looks at the historical basis of Samba and the social conflicts in Brazil,” she said. “There’s a view of life in the [Brazilian] cities with all their struggles and hardships. We’re making a social comment on contemporary Brazilian culture.”

The production is a collaborative work between Soledade and fellow Brazilian dance artist Valeria Pinheiro, blending Afro-Brazilian dance with contemporary dance.

Although Pinheiro is not involved in this particular production, her name is still attached to the project because of the work and dedication she gave into the show along with Soledade.

’Samba’ debuted in 2007 at the Byron Carlyle Theatre in Miami Beach. Since then, the show has been performed at several schools, theaters and festivals in the South Florida area, as well as in New York, Massachusetts and Brazil.

The show is supported by the Theatre department and the College of Architecture and the Arts.

The success of Brazz Dance and its shows has also brought support from various outlets such as the Ford Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs office.

“ar to put a show like this together, we got support from many people,” Soledade said.

Aside from the two FIU shows, “A Foot for Samba” is currently scheduled for two more productions this year.

It will return to the Byron Carlyle on April 29 and also will be performed at ArtSouth in Homestead on May 10.

Morris said that there is more to the show than the history of Brazilian dance.

“A Foot for Samba” is now working on new projects set to debut next year, but “A Foot for Samba” will definitely remain a part of the company’s repertoire.

Tickets for “A Foot for Samba,” are priced at $8 for students. For more information, call the FIU Theatre’s box office at (305) 348-3789.

 Relay for Life raises thousands to fund cancer research

For Carmen Murphy, RLF chair, the first relay, was during the Luminaria lap, when I was already half way around and you looked on the other side there were still people.” Murphy said. “That’s how big we were this year.”

There were three main goals for this year’s relay. The first was to have 70 teams participate in RLF and there were 74.

“They have been working hard for a good cause and you can’t ask for more. We have made sure everybody has gotten food and we have had a lot of donations.”

Another goal was to have 70 cancer survivors attend the event and there were 84.

“RFL came to FIU it was a year or two after I had been diagnosed with cancer and I felt it was important I get involved,” Dalrymple said.

The final goal was to raise $70,000. While it was not met by the end of RFL, a grand total of $65,700 has been raised with more donations on the way.

Everyone is working hard for a good cause and you can’t ask for more. We have made sure everybody has gotten food and we have had a lot of donations.

“We have a few donations that have been brought to my attention that just haven’t been calculated,” Murphy said.

RFL organizers have until June to raise the final $5,000 at the University level, but until August for the American Cancer Society.

Murphy is extremely optimistic that her team will not only reach the $70,000 goal but also surpass it.

The online donation system will remain for the rest of the month according to Dalrymple. Relay organizers will also host other small events to raise additional funds, such as raffling off a car donated by the Gus Ford Machado car dealership in Hialeah.

The funds raised from the raffle will benefit all of the RFL’s in Miami-Dade County, according to Dalrymple.

In the meantime RFL teams celebrated their hard work on Feb. 20 during a closing ceremony in the Graham Center. Among the awards given out were the Spirit Award and the Most Funds Raised Award.

The first was given to the American Student Pre-Dental Association.

“They have been working like crazy since kickoff,” Dalrymple said.

The Pre-Dental club formed five sub teams which allowed them to participate in the awards. The team raised $70,000.

www.geocities.com
Hatchbacks a cheap, fuel efficient mode of transportation

- Compiled by Kassandra Pool

Tired of paying $40 to $50 a week because your SUV’s a gas hog? Want to do your part to slow down our planet’s mad downward spiral into the next Ice Age — or at least pretend to? Then you should start looking for a four-cylinder hatchback for your next car.

Smaller and lighter than sedans, you’ll zip through traffic and squeeze into the tightest of parking spots like a glove. In Miami-Dade, where the road is shared with more than 2.4 million people, every inch you can save in size is not just an environmental bonus but one for your social life as well.

All the commute time and gas money you’ll be pocketing can be used for other things like a night out on the beach or a weekend in Orlando.

Now that the compact car revival is in full swing, it’s important to know the best one. Here are the most popular rides under $20,000: decide which one is right for you.

**HYUNDAI ACCENT - $10,775**

If you’re expecting bells and whistles, consider the spartan Accent as your beginner’s guide to masochism. You won’t find power locks, windows or air conditioning here, and with a 110-horsepower engine, cutting into oncoming traffic may become an everyday fault. Thankfully, airbags come standard and plenty. The Accent sports one up front for the driver and passenger as well as seat mounted and roof curtailed sets in case of side impacts. For $1850 more you can get all the automatic options, a/c, heated mirrors and radio for a reasonable comfort.

For another $1000, even stick shift phobias can be conquered. If the Accent sounds right for you, you might also like the Chevy Aveo5.

Starting at $10,895, you’ll fall in love with just three words: standard tinted windows.

**SCION XD, $15,170**

If you look for more in a car than space and gas mileage, Scion’s xD wants you to have it. That “it” is the ability to customize the car to your heart’s content.

Spohn, exhausts, light kits, navigation systems - the xD offers a plethora of design options that allow you to create a unique car to complement your own personality. Don’t get too excited just yet, though.

Dealer accessories are priced to impervior you so you’ll be looking for an after market vendor before you even pick the color of your car.

If you want actual carbon fibre flourishes, however, go with a Mini Cooper. Although it’s priced at a steep, student deterring $18,700, the Cooper has enough accessories and options available to satisfy the fussiest of car customizers.

The Mini is mini, so kiss carpooling and grocery shopping goodbye. Whichever hatchback you choose, you’ll not only be buying or leasing a car but saving yourself time, money and helping the environment.

So the next time you find yourself in a car dealer, skip past those super-sized wheels and go small, lean and green.

**THE GREEN MACHINES**

**HYUNDAI ACCENT**

27 city
32 hwy

**SCION XD**

27 city
33 hwy

**TOYOTA YARIS**

29 city
34 hwy

[www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)
JOIN OUR STAFF!

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.

Relay for Life organizers seek bigger yearly budget

in virtually every RFL event, which is what lead to them winning the Spirit Award.

The Golden Key Honor Society raised $6815, an amazing amount according to Dalrymple, earning them the Most Funds Raised award.

Jeffrey Knapp, director of the Center for the Art of Teaching, was the top individual fund-raiser. He managed to raise $5047.

With most of the fund raising over and awards handed out, the only thing left for RFL organizers to do is secure a permanent budget from the Student Government Association.

“We have had a lot of support from SGA this year,” Murphy said.

RFL staff will be meeting with SGA on Feb. 28 to present a proposal for a permanent budget of at least $5,000.

Murphy commented that she could only imagine what RFL could do with $5,000 in operating expenses compared to what they were able to with the $3,000 stipend from SGA this year.

“We would have gone over the $70,000 if we had the budget we needed this year,” Murphy said.

If you would like to make a donation to FIU’s Relay for Life you can visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~rfl.

And the award goes to:

Best Overall Greek Team:
Beta Theta Pi and Alpha XiDelta

Best Family Team:
SSWA/Phi Alpha

Best Friends Team:
Team Hope

Best Decorated Site:
Golden Key

Best Banner:
Honors Council

Best Cancer Fact:
Alpha Omicron Pi

Best Team Captain:
Pre Dental

Best Housing Team:
Lakeview South

Best Honor Society Team:
Psi Chi

OBSERVING THE LIGHT:

Students participate in the Luminaria ceremony which honors those who have died or been affected by cancer at the Relay for Life Feb. 15.

LUMINARIA LIGHTER: A Relay for Life organizer lights candles in preparation for the Luminaria ceremony.

LIFE!

9

The Beacon – February 21, 2008
www.fuam.com

Children’s Creative Learning Center at FIU

We offer an opportunity for optimal growth and development for each child.

Florida Gold Seal of Excellence School

Ages 2 1/2 to 5 Years
Early Education Program Monday- Friday 7:45 am - 6:00 pm
Express Educare/Flextime Program Monday- Friday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

University Park Campus • 11200 SW 8th Street • Miami
www.fiu.edu/~children (305) 348-2143
The Golden Panthers (1-5) were unable to obtain their second win of the season as they fell 6-0 to No. 18 Georgia on Feb. 15 at the Schutt Sports Invitational. It was a closely contested game through the first five innings, as the Golden Panthers headed into the sixth down just 1-0. However, the Georgia offense woke up against starter Desiree Fink to open up the game 6-0.

**FIU 11, ILLINOIS STATE 1**

The second win of the season for the Golden Panthers (2-5) was nothing short of an exclamation mark, as they defeated Illinois State 11-1 in the previous meeting, but the same offense did not show up in the second game.

**FIU 7, OHIO STATE 1**

The Golden Panthers (3-5) scored just one run against Illinois State on Feb. 17. The Golden Panthers defeated Illinois State 11-1 in the previous meeting, but the same offense did not show up in the second game.

**TENNIS**

Their offensive momentum lifted the Golden Panthers (3-5) to their second consecutive win against Providence on Feb 16. Kim Rodriguez added another two RBI. The Golden Panthers combined their bats and miscues by the Illinois State defense to score 11 runs.

**FIU 7, PROVIDENCE 3**

The Golden Panthers (3-7) scored just one run against Illinois State on Feb. 17. The Golden Panthers defeated Illinois State 11-1 in the previous meeting, but the same offense did not show up in the second game.

**OHIO STATE 16, FIU 4**

After soundly defeating their last two opponents, the Golden Panthers (3-6) were routed by No. 21 Ohio State 16-4 on Feb. 16. The Golden Panthers doomed themselves in the first innings, as they allowed a total of six runs, including five unearned. The Golden Panthers would not be able to dig themselves from this hole. A short rain delay in the seventh preceded the end of the game and the one-sided match.

**ILLINOIS STATE 8, FIU 1**

Hung-over from the Ohio State game, the Golden Panthers (3-7) scored just one run against Illinois State on Feb. 17. The Golden Panthers defeated Illinois State 11-1 in the previous meeting, but the same offense did not show up in the second game.

**FIU 6, GEORGIA 0**

The FIU Women's basketball team (12-13, 8-6 Sun Belt) will look to extend their 5 game winning streak as they travel to FAU (5-18, 1-13) and Troy (10-16, 3-12).

The numbers favor FIU in both games. The Golden Panthers have beaten both FAU and Troy this season, and the Panthers have a 21-1 all-time record against FAU and a 5-2 all-time record against Troy.

The streak started on a two game road trip with wins in Denver and North Texas.

FIU kept their momentum going during a three game home stand with impressive wins over ULL, MTVU and UALR.

Now, FIU will finish off their road schedule against FAU and Troy, for their first conference wins of the season.

A lot is at stake for FIU during this road trip. If the Panthers win both games, they will clinch a winning conference record. A pair of wins would pretty much assure that the Golden Panthers host their first round Sun-Belt conference game.

Also, with two wins, FIU would have a seven game winning streak, which would be the teams biggest since an 8 game burst in 2004.

Against FAU, FIU will need to contain the Owl's Carla Stubbs, who leads the team in scoring with 12 points a game and had a team high with 13 points when the teams met earlier this season.

FIU last played FAU on Jan. 5 at the Pharmed arena, when the Golden Panthers earned their first conference win of the season, 53-44.

Senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson led all scorers with 16 point and also pulled down 10 rebounds. That game marked one of FIU's best defensive performances of the season, as the Golden Panthers held FAU to 44 points– the fewest points the Panthers have allowed this season.

Only four days after FIU's home win against FAU, Troy came into town led by one of the conference's best players, senior guard Amy Lewis. The game was close, but FIU prevailed 55-49, thanks to a season high 18 points from junior guard Iva Ciglar.

This time, Troy comes into the game having lost 9 out of their last 10 games. Beating a team twice is never an easy task. Despite the 4-25 combined records of FAU and Troy bring to the court the Golden Panthers will need avoid coming into those games overconfident.

FIU will need to continue their solid fundamental play and effort that has brought the team its five consecutive wins.
Allen and Polizano to anchor rotation; bench deep with talent

“Ryan has tremendously improved over the last year under assistant coach and infield instructor Sean Allen,” Thomas said. Solid defender Jordan Arroz will start at shortstop as the sophomore has also played at second base. He batted .211 with six doubles and a triple in 53 games last season.

Sophomore Kevin Mirabal is likely to get the nod behind the plate after winning a toughly fought four-man battle. He batted .326 with two home runs and 16 RBI. Junior transfer Steven Stropp and freshman Ray Rodriguez could also see extensive time there as well.

Designated Hitter- Heavy-hitting sophomore Tyler Townsend has won this spot and will look to improve upon his surprising freshman campaign in which he batted .338, while hitting five home runs and driving in 32 RBI. He had offseason surgery after dealing with a nagging shoulder that bothered him all last season.

Bench- A satisfying bench can be expected this year as the depth is great. The team has about 14 players that Thomas will count upon to “swing the bat” as he described and provide defensive replacements. “There is a not a bench in sports that is not important,” he said.

Starting Pitching- First-year pitching coach Felipe Suarez mentioned the strengths of the rotation are the returning No. 1 and 2 guys, senior Chad Allen and sophomore Corey Polizano, respectively. He also explained how No. 3 starter senior Steven Stewart has the ability to be an ace as well. Allen is expected to take the mound on opening night.

The only cloudy area is mid-week starters. Four hopefuls will eventually fill the area: seniors Eric Horstmann, James Lajiness, Kyle Preshong and junior Jorge Ramos.

Bullpen- “The back-end of the bullpen controls

The Beacon – February 21, 2008
www.fi usm.com

JOIN OUR STAFF!
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.

EYE ON THE BALL: With new head coach Turtle Thomas at the helm, the Golden Panthers may soon find themselves back in the College World Series.
Thomas will prove us wrong

Oh, Zach Thomas, how I will miss thee greatly. For over a decade you roamed the middle of the Miami Dolphins’ once tenacious defense and never let up even when the defense was not so tenacious. You, along with Jason Taylor, were the unquestioned leaders of the defense, setting the example for everyone else by not stopping until the whistle blew.

Dolphin fans loved you to the point where it was like a long-term relationship, because every emotion was felt equally. When the fans got frustrated with the team, you got frustrated. When the fans got excited with the team’s play, so did you. And when the fans were frustrated to the point of leaving, you gave them a reason to stay.

However, like most relationships, they sometimes come to an end. The new Dolphins’ front office regime doesn’t see you as a long-term option. Bill Parcells and his cronies say you are no longer treated to the point of leaving, you gave them a reason to stay.

Maybe it’s for the best, though. You’ve suffered through enough hardships with this franchise and stuck by it even when you didn’t have to. That loyalty should be rewarded with a ring – a Super Bowl one.

The Dolphins are far from a Super Bowl team and you deserve better, especially if it means winning the big one. Knowing our luck, it won’t be finished until it’s too late for you. Twelve seasons and seven Pro Bowls later, twelve seasons and compiled a .301 average with 13 home runs and 130 RBI before deciding to finish out his career in his hometown. He was a clutch performer for the Cardinals in their 2007 run to the College World Series. He could also see time at third base.

Junior Ryan Mollica will start at second base after redshirting unexpectedly seven games into last season due to an elbow injury.

Panthers look to slug their way to top

After several months of hype and anticipation, the Turtle Thomas Era will finally begin on Feb. 22 as the FIU baseball team opens up its season with a non-conference, three-game set against perennial powerhouse Southern California at University Park Stadium.

Widely known for his recruiting and scouting prowess, Thomas brings a fresh new mentality to FIU baseball after taking over for former coach Donny Price, who was fired after 27 seasons with FIU. His extensive background in the afore mentioned areas give him a very high probability of carrying his past successes over to FIU.

While this is Thomas’s first head coaching job, he has worked as an assistant head coach with several successful programs, such as Clemson, Georgia Tech, the University of Miami, and most recently Arizona State University.

A disappointing 26-29 finish last year will certainly be on the minds of the returning players as Thomas will strive to improve upon that below average mark. Playing in the Sun Belt Conference, the No. 6 ranked conference in the nation, will include challenging opponents for the Golden Panthers in what figures to be an intriguing schedule.

Outfielders- The three positions are pretty much determined. Junior Jordan Karcher starts in left field, senior Raimy Fuentes will be in center field and right field will be occupied by senior John Petika. Fuentes and Petika are returning while newcomer Karcher comes as a transfer from Gulf Coast Community College.

Petika is the Golden Panthers’ top returning hitter as he batted .342 and led the team in home runs and RBI. He switches to the outfield after playing first base last year. Fuentes returns after starting 40 out of the 52 games last year. He hit .307 with three home runs and led the team in runs and 24 RBI. His ability to avoid strikeouts is promising as he struck out only 16 times in 163 at bats.

Infielders- Every position is solidified except for third base as Thomas describes the opening as “up for grabs.” The incumbents that are still vying for the spot are: senior and the only four-year team member Corey Lozano, freshman Javier Sujo, freshman Anthony Boza and freshman Jared Schlehuber.

First base will be occupied by Louisville transfer Jorge Castillo. He played at Louisville for three seasons and compiled a .301 average with 13 home runs and 130 RBI before deciding to finish out his career in his hometown. He was a clutch performer for the Cardinals in their 2007 run to the College World Series. He could also see time at third base.

Junior Ryan Mollica will start at second base after redshirting unexpectedly seven games into last season due to an elbow injury.

BASEBALL, page 11