THE BEACON
A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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www.fiu.edu

WEATHER

Station used as teaching tool

JUAN PRADO
Contributing Writer

Unknown to many students, the weather station located on the rooftop of the Primera Casa building constantly searches for changes in climate conditions. The job of the station is to track down climate changes occurring in the area and to provide data on such changes. “It is a good idea to have a weather station, now I can check the weather,” said Patricia Mendez, a junior. Rene Price, manager of the station and Earth Sciences department professor, said the data from the weather center serves to investigate vertical differences in wind speeds during hurricanes. The data helped identify the velocity of the wind at different altitudes during the passing of Hurricane Katrina. The station is also used as a teaching source for students to learn about changes in weather patterns.

“I do use the data as a teaching tool in my hydrogeology courses. Students use the data to determine rainfall amounts and evaporation from FIU, parameters that are important for the water budget,” Price said. Hydrogeology is the study of the distribution and movement of groundwater. Students in this field use water budgets to determine changes in groundwater levels among other things.

Price said information gathered from the station has been requested not only by FIU students, but also by The National Hurricane Center, scientists from the University of Miami and local elementary and high schools.

“The National Weather Station requested data for Katrina because of wind distribution. The University of Miami requested data about water

FIU’S IDOL

Putting a face to a name was the goal of Student Government Association during FIU Day, when students and administrators lobbied for support from the State Legislature in Tallahassee on March 11. While other universities cancelled their visits to the capital, SGA wanted FIU students to be on the minds of legislators who will be voting on FIU’s future in the coming weeks.

Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera was one of the first legislators SGA sat down with.

“There is no money,” Lopez-Cantera said in regards to the current state of Florida’s available funds. Due to a string of fiscal shortfalls, budgets have had to be cut throughout all areas of the state. An additional $1 billion is expected to be cut from the total budget, bringing overall cuts to $3 billion. While meeting with various legislators, SGA focused on five main points: the College of Medicine, budget cuts, faculty and staff salaries, Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO), trust funds and the major gift-matching program.

The overall strategy of SGA was not to ask for additional funding, but to make the cuts to these key areas as small as possible.

Katiana Saintable, president of Biscayne Bay Student Government Council, made constant statements to Reps. reminding them of the importance of PECO funds. The funds are used for construction and to fix structures such as those at SGA’s lobbying session with him. “I’m fully supportive of schools in your area.”

Viviana Jordan, director of legislative affairs for SGC-UP said this year’s FIU Day went well. “I think things went very well in terms of receptions of our issues,” Jordan said. “They were really interested in us.”

Despite the success of these meetings, many SGA members felt that more legislators who do not support FIU should have been addressed. The majority of representatives lobbying already support FIU or are from South Florida precincts.

“It’s important that we not just tackle the people who are from our district or who are FIU alumni, but those people who are from North and West Florida,” Saintable said. “The people who are ‘F-I-Who,’ we also need to get them on board.”

Katiana Saintable, SGC-BBC President

The people who are ‘F-I-Who?’, we also need to get them on board.

For complete coverage of FIU Day, visit www.fiu.edu.

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Tuition control could shift
DAVID ROYSE
Associated Press Writer

Voters would get a chance to change who sets tuition and controls the education system in Florida under a proposed constitutional amendment approved Friday by a House panel. If passed, the change would be in part reverse what voters did when they eliminated the elected education commissioner in 1998 and later created a Board of Governors to oversee universities.

Proponents argued the board created a unified system of schools rather than have state universities competing with each other in the Legislature for resources. It also was meant to better insulate schools from turf battles and political interference from state officials.

The proposed amendment, voted on by the House committee would return to an elected education commissioner instead of an appointed one and shrink the Board of Governors.

While the amendment would make several changes to education governance in Florida, the 17-member Board of Governors that oversees the university system is at the center of the move to change the constitution.

The board voted earlier this year to raise tuition, saying students cannot get an adequate education with the lowest tuition in the nation.

But that angered legislators particularly Senate President Ken Pruitt - who say only they can decide what tuition will be. Many legislators are set against raising tuition, saying it’s a hardship on Florida’s families.

Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, is fighting the Board of Governors in court over the tuition increase. The proposed amendment would settle the question, making it clear that lawmakers can set how much students will pay.

The proposed constitutional amendment...
Maidique’s new contract includes supplement funds

CHRISTINA VEGA
News Director

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously last month to change the terms of University President Modesto Maidique’s contract. The board, which is responsible for budgetary issues, compliance with state mandates, and the quality of education at FIU, made changes to Maidique’s terms of employment with other university officials. All of the changes reflect an “absolute financial tradeoff,” according to BOT Chairperson David Parker.

As part of the changes, Maidique’s salary supplement was reduced to $79,414.44 to add his base salary of $397,072.21. The supplement is given by the FIU Foundation, which seeks out and receives donations for the University. The addition of the salary supplement brings Maidique’s base salary to $476,486.65.

According to Parker, it made sense to change the terms of Maidique’s compensation because the president receives the supplement regularly, as if it were already part of his base salary. “I looked at the president’s compensation last year—the entire structure of his compensation—and in a conversation with the president, I didn’t feel it was fair and appropriate to have what essentially was base salary not included in the definition,” Parker said.

The board will modify Maidique to receive more compensation if he retires from the presidency and takes another position at the University. In a tradeoff for incorporating Maidique’s supplement to his base salary, the board also changed the president’s contract to limit the term for which Maidique can receive his presidential salary while in another position at the University. The president will only be eligible to receive funds for up to five years.

“The board decided to change the rate at which the president accrues vacation time to six weeks a year. If the board changes his compensation again in the future, they think it will be fairer.”

These photos simulate the new $34 million College of Nursing and Health Sciences building, slated to open at University Park in December 2009. A grand breaking ceremony will be held April 10 with University President Modesto Maidique, CNHS Dean Divina Grossman, and community partners in attendance. The building will include two structures, with teaching facilities located in one structure, and administration in the other. Above ground walkways will connect the two structures.

The building will be just a part of FIU’s Academic Health Sciences Complex set to be built on the northeast corner of UP, and which will eventually include the FIU College of Medicine.

Compiled by Beacon Staff

COMING SOON

Flash

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*Revelant experience desired - Deadline is Friday, March 16
Visit GC 210 or call 305-348-2709 for more information
Watch the weather:
Web site provides data

WEATHER, page 1

flow,” Price said.

The weather station started operations in August 2004. After the equipment was purchased and installed, no additional money has been needed for continuing its operation.
The station only requires to be maintained a couple of times a year when the rain collector needs to be cleaned.

Some of the equipment the station uses are a rain gauge, a wind speed and direction anemometer, and a barometer.

Other instruments include sensors to measure air temperature, relative humidity, ultraviolet radiation and solar radiation.

The station also has a Web site that allows people to check out the latest changes in weather.

It also electronically transfers all the data collected from the rooftop to PC 329 where the computer updates the information that appears on the station’s Web site every 10 minutes.

Data on the Web site displays the current weather, highest and lowest temperature for the day, a time series plot that shows information for the last 72 hours and a meter that shows wind direction and humidity among other factors.

“We don’t have many stations in the area to collect data,” said Xavier Zapata, research assistant for the station and Earth Sciences graduate student.

According to Price, the station was purchased through a program called GeoSCOPE, which is a summer research program designed for undergraduates to work as interns along faculty from the Earth Sciences department.

The station was funded with a grant from the National Science Foundation Program: Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG).

“No I [can] check the weather more often. I am always cold, so I would like to know about the weather outside before leaving my house in the morning,” Mendez said.

Although there is a link to the National Weather Center on the Web site, the weather station at FIU does not work with them.

The link serves to check the weather conditions of the surrounding areas.

For more information visit the weather station’s Web site at: http://www.fiu.edu/~pricer/weather.htm.

STORM WATCHER: Graduate Student of hydrogeology in the Earth Sciences department Xavier Zapata analyzes a spreadsheet of figures on the salinity of water in the Everglades.

Ready to walk

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Steven & Dorothea Green Critics’ Lecture Series presents

DAVID ADJAYE
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PRIVATE RETREAT

MARCH 14, 2008 • 8PM
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS | GREEN LIBRARY, GL 100

Hailed by Time Magazine as “the young wonder of the London design world,” and one of the most sought after architects in the UK and internationally, David Adjaye will share his artistic vision. The event is free and open to the public. Reception will follow.

For more information call: 305-348-2890
Schnebly’s Winery gives visitors a taste

On March 10, Professor Patrick “Chip” Cassidy took 15 advanced wine technology students on a field trip to Schnebly’s Winery in Homestead.

Students had the opportunity to try over six fruit-based wines, including the Schnebly version of chardonnay, made from the carambola, or star fruit.

I really enjoyed this experience because wine is a passion of mine, and the visit gave me the chance to try something new.

Schnebly’s is one of a kind because the wine is not derived from its usual fruit - the grape.

Instead, owner Peter Schnebly began making his wines from Florida’s exotic fruits like passion fruit, mango and lychee. “Our goal is to be the best winery you’ve ever visited,” Schnebly said. “There are already 5,000 winery’s making grape wines in the U.S., why would we want to do that?”

Although wine grapes are impossible to grow in South Florida because of the climate, tropical fruits are abundant.

Schnebly farms used to only plant farm fruits, but today they make wines out of the “spoiled” fruits they are unable to sell to retailers.

The Schnebly definition for “spoiled” fruit is a fruit that is at its peak of ripeness.

“For any fruit that has a spot on it, or is perfectly ripe, like a mango that you can tell is juicy and ready to eat can’t go to Fresh King, our produce company. Instead, we use it to make wine,” Schnebly said.

The winery is also exotic in its appearance.

It creates a tropical ambiance while giving the vintage feel of west coast wineries by importing antique detailing for the tasting room.

A sales shack in the middle of a couple of my favorite wines.

“We really wanted a wow-factor when you die because there weren’t so many other cartel factions trying to have the power that he once had,” Ramirez said.

Perez claims to have learned much from her home country and hopes viewers will appreciate it.

“Colombia has undergone total renovation, leaving behind our recent past - we think nothing of it, so should you.”

A fan of independent films, Perez grew up in Medellin, Colombia. “Pablo is Gone,” which is constructed of interviews and narratives, is her first documentary.

“I know it will become a great success, one that students at FIU and anybody can appreciate,” Perez said.

FIU alumni and public relations liaison Steve Ramirez said the film will include images of Perez’s visits to Colombia.

“Through the documentary she’ll be showing interviews as well as footage from her trips to Colombia from last year and this year as well,” Ramirez said.

“Through that, she will highlight the changes that have taken place within the country presenting a new image in a positive way and not in the stereotypical manner that it was known for - drugs, violence and the corruption that typically the average citizen would know, would always describe what Colombia is.”

Although Perez wants people to see Colombia in a positive way after Escobar, Ramirez said there are people who think life in Colombia was better off when Escobar was around.

“A friend of mine, who is Colombian, believes that the country is worse than it was without him [Escobar] because there weren’t so many other cartel factions trying to have the power that he once had,” Ramirez said.

“Furthermore, he believed that Pablo was more of a business man rather than a drug lord.”

Perez claims to have learned much from her home country and hopes viewers will appreciate it.

“Colombia has taught me to enjoy the simplicity in life, being humble and respecting other human beings,” Perez said.

“I strongly hope people will see the Colombia I have grown up in and grown to love.”

The on-campus screening is free to all students and staff.

For non-students, it is $7 at the door. For more information, visit www.pabloisgone.com.

Documentary chronicles Colombia’s reinvention

ASHLEY WOJNAR Contributing Writer

Paola Perez used money from her savings to fund “Pablo is Gone,” a documentary about present-day Colombia’s social landscape after the death of drug czar Pablo Escobar, which she directed.

Perez’s documentary will be played at Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center Theater on March 21 at 8 p.m.

Of Colombian descent herself, Perez wanted to portray the Colombia she knows to the world and not the drug smuggling, kidnapping stereotype.

Champagne, made and the peoples’ influence is present in other career fields beyond the drug world.

“The only thing I have in common is the language,” Perez said.

They have completely renovated their image, leaving Colombia’s old past behind,” Perez said.

“The documentary tries to help bring forth a new meaning to being a Colombian

Friends of Wine to present German Tastings

Friends of Wine will host German Wine Tasting on March 24 from 5 to 6 p.m.

The event will be held in the Hospitality Building Dining Room and costs $4 for members and $8 for nonmembers in cash only. People wishing to attend must be 21 or older and have a valid ID.

Spring Fling concert hosted by SPC

The ninth annual Spring Fling concert will be held by Student Programming Council March 28 in the Hospitality Management Patio. Artists, including Mario and Fat Joe, will be providing entertainment from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning. Tickets for FIU students are free, and general admission is $10 in advance and $15 the day of.

Final Last Late Day Latte

On March 27 Campus Life will present the last Late Day Latte of the semester. The event will be held in AC1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Stretching the Bill

Multicultural Programming and Services will teach students how to be financially savvy on March 14 in WUC 253 at 1 p.m.

SPC Presents I Am Legend

Student Programming Council hosts a movie night on March 13 in the WUC Theater. “I Am Legend” will begin at 5 p.m.

– Compiled by Ana Perez, Beacon staff.

SCHNEBLY NOT SCHNAPP!

Mango wine, as sweet as it sounds, substitutes well for dessert wine for those with an open mind. (Left) Peter Schnebly, owner of Schnebly’s Winery, ends his tour of the winery with his open赫n policy of free tastings as long as visitors retain their Schnebly tasting glasses. “Our goal is to be the best winery you’ve ever visited,” Schnebly said.

NEWSFLASH

Friends of Wine to present German Tastes

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– Compiled by Ana Perez, Beacon staff.
Chris Cabral
Art & Life Editor

Here’s an interesting piece of historical trivia. What do presidents Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and Wilson all have in common? All three had equal or fewer years of political experience when they became president than “inexperienced” men. Barack Obama has right now.

If true, this would have to defend his grand total of two years of political experience as Governor of New Jersey. And some ruthless opponent of FDR would no doubt circulate an e-mail with pictures of him in a wheelchair and attack him for having served as Governor of New York for only four years.

Often lost in the discussion over presidential experience is the fact that the arguments being deployed by the Clinton campaign could derail the Democratic candidate if they actually work. One argument is that experience in government is the most important qualification to be commander-in-chief, ergo Obama is too inexperienced. His level of experience was so inadequate, previous presidents with this level of experience would have stood out as failures. Instead, according to a recent issue of Time Magazine (“Does Experience Matter in a President?” on Jan. 10) there appears to be no correlation between political experience and success in the White House.

Moreover, people on both sides of the aisle hold up various “inexperienced” presidents as models to aspire to. Republicans idolize Ronald Reagan. As their party’s nominee attacks Obama, Republicans should remember that Obama has more experience in elected office than Reagan did. Furthermore, Clinton supporters should remember that for someone with less experience than Obama, Roosevelt did a pretty good job dealing with a depression and World War Two.

Clinton is trying to convince voters that she has vast experience as first lady relating to foreign policy. One example she cites is a “dangerous” trip to war-torn Bosnia taken in 1996 for a USA show. Yet her mission was hardly life-threatening. She was accompanied by singer Sheryl Crow and comedian Sinbad (New York World March 26, 1996), Sinbad would later recount the harrowing decisions they faced.

“I think the only ‘red phone moment’ was: do we eat here or at the next place?” The Washington Post reported on March 11.

Sinbad went on to mock the claim that it was some sort of perilous mission.

“What kind of president would say, ‘Hey, man, I can’t go ‘cause I might get shot so I’m going to send my wife... oh, and take a guitar player and a comedian with you.’?”

Clinton and Obama would both be better presidents than John McCain at a time when this country needs to move away from the failed policies of George W. Bush. Yet when Clinton emphasizes experience, she is reinforcing the same attacks McCain is likely to use against her.

Clinton’s 35 years of experience which she points conveniently includes every job she has ever had since college, lumping in her years as a corporate lawyer in the same category as U.S. Senator. Such a weak claim would wilt against a Republican nominee who has been in Congress since 1983.

The weakness of her strategy is evident in her now infamous “3 a.m.” ad. A strikingly similar ad made the rounds on the Internet early last year, using the exact same premise to promote John McCain. Clinton’s ad is said to take inspiration from another commercial: the red phone ad used by Walter Mondale against the inspirational and inexperienced Gary Hart during the Democratic primary of 1984. Mondale won the nomination, but he lost the electoral college 525 to 13.

In 1932, the American people could have gone with the experienced Herbert Hoover over the inexperienced but eloquent FDR. Even in 1992, distinctions were drawn between George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, who had no foreign policy experience. At each turn, the American people chose hope for a better tomorrow over the false fears created by more experienced opponents.

Our generation will be trusted with the same decision. The Democratic candidate must focus on the issues, and the promise of a better America, they must not allow the myth of their own “inexperience” be used to distract Americans from the real choice: whether or not to allow movement in a new direction.

Chris Cabral is the president of the FIU College Democrats and FIU Students for Obama.

Models, actors’ unskilled professions lacking legitimacy

They are beautiful, pretty, enthralling, and that’s a reason in itself. This is because people like looking at beauty, almost as much as beauty likes looking at mirrors.

though they are paid exorbitant sums of money. That’s because when someone says “I want to be a model” or “I want to be a movie star” I can’t help but chuckle. I don’t think they are real professions, much less careers. Does reading lines and holding up shampoo bottles qualify as work? These jobs are not legitimate professions, much less careers. Does reading lines and holding up shampoo bottles qualify as work? These jobs are not legitimate professions, much less careers. Does reading lines and holding up shampoo bottles qualify as work? These jobs are not legitimate professions, much less careers.

SET DESIGNER WHERE TO BE. WHERE IS THE WORK, say, by the director what to do and by the writer what to include Tree-ing and Parrot-ing as work, Invisible strings, told by the writer what to do. Where is the work, the human in there? The actor seems to be a kind of talking mannequin. Obviously, otherwise, to look pretty. Man doesn’t, after all, live by bread alone. But if that’s purpose, what do the rest of us have? Are we some kind of super-purposeful ambition-robots with our demanding careers? I’m definitely not and if you’re reading this during class, you’re not either.

The point is, if we lower the bar enough to include Tree-ing and Parrot-ing as work, in the traditional sense, we lose a little self-respect.

It’s kind of like when my boss asks me why I was late to work. I could say that I lost track of time because I was working at home, or be honest with myself and tell him I decided to sleep in. While I don’t think actors or models are actually sleeping, except for those Ambien commercials, it is pretty close. All I ask for is a little honesty.

My rejection of modeling and acting as work? These jobs are not legitimate professions, much less careers.

To fend for themselves? I think the Housing and Dining department need to work more closely with graduate programs and Admissions to fully address these needs. That’s why I am writing this letter. We all experience it every day with deteriorated pupils and elevated blood pressure. They are beautiful, pretty, enthralling, and that’s a reason in itself. This is because people like looking at beauty, almost as much as beauty likes looking at mirrors.

As a graduate student, I have quite a workload in front of me with many time constraints that puts even eating and sleeping on the back burner. Unfortunately, I was assigned to live in Lakeview North and, thereby, assigned the Flex 10 Meal Plan. I resent being told by Panther Dining when, where and how I can use my meal plan and what time. Its “to-go” policy says that I can only take out one box per meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) or after a “significant amount of time” has passed.

This may seem petty to many but to a grad or doctoral student time is a precious commodity that cannot be wasted on multiple trips to Fresh Food when projects, papers and research are waiting to be done. Also, many International MBA and Finance majors have classes that run through our regular winter and spring break, and other grad students have classes that run past 9-10 p.m.

Did you know that Fresh Food is closed during these times so these students, despite having paid for the meal plans, are forced to fend for themselves?

I think the Housing and Dining department need to work more closely with graduate programs and Admissions to fully understand the needs, time constraints and workloads of their graduate students, and thereby, refrain from assigning us to dorms without access to a kitchen and forcing us to take on meal plans that are inconsistent with our needs. Thank you for your time.

Angel Demdul Graduate Student Architecture major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meal Plans do not cater to graduate students

As a graduate student, I have quite a workload in front of me with many time constraints that puts even eating and sleeping on the back burner. Unfortunately, I was assigned to live in Lakeview North and, thereby, assigned the Flex 10 Meal Plan. I resent being told by Panther Dining when, where and how I can use my meal plan and what time. Its “to-go” policy says that I can only take out one box per meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) or after a “significant amount of time” has passed.

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Angel Demdul Graduate Student Architecture major

EXPERIENCED?: Walter Mondale and Sen. Hillary Clinton are the “experienced” candidates.

Obama has more experience than some past leaders

Opinion Editor

Joseph Marhee
Contact Us
www.flism.com
March 13, 2008

Observation of histori
For someone like me, South Florida is pretty much a barren wasteland for live music nine months out of the year. Whether it is because a lack of interest in live music or a lack of quality venues, it seems most of the year doesn’t provide much to get excited about.

Which is why I always love when Langerado rolls around, as it did on March 6-9 at Big Cypress Miccosoukee reservation. It represents the beginning of a few-months period where there are actually opportunities to see bands live and, the festival itself represents a pretty great opportunity to see live music.

Alright, I have to admit, I didn’t get to experience Thursday night, due to circumstances mostly beyond my control, though I can say the three-hour wait in line to get into the festival in my car wasn’t exactly a fun time, it did offer me a rare glimpse at the night’s sky, something we don’t get to see every day in South Florida.

After setting up camp and getting situated, I caught about three hours of sleep Friday morning before making my way into the festival grounds. Along the mile and a half walk from my tent to the entrance I was offered everything from “chocolate” to “molly,” though, since I was on the clock – and not at all interested in having to spend some time in the chill out tent – I politely refused.

First up was Brett Dennen whose set was enjoyable if forgettable. His lack of any real stage presence didn’t do much to add to his lifeless songs, which aren’t great.

The next two acts, The Wailers, Bob Marley’s legendary backing band and G. Love and Special Sauce, each brought something different to the table, though both performances had the energy you need to get through a hot day in the swamp.

The Wailers spent most of the time recreating Marley’s classic songs while G. Love hyped up the Roots and Beastie Boys, the two hip-hop acts who would close the night and who G. Love shares a similar groove with.

After skipping 311 in favor of a nap, I caught the Roots who absolutely brought the house down, despite arriving onstage nearly a half hour late. Their cover of Bob Dylan’s “Masters Of War” was one of the most thrilling political statements I’ve ever witnessed as drummer Questlove and his guitarist (“Captain Kirk”), along with tuba player (“Tuba Gooding Jr”) riffed on “The National Anthem” and Dylan’s
KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

The moment students have been waiting for since the semester began is almost here. As of this Thursday they will be two glorious days away from an entire week free of academic obligations Spring Break! Students, such as freshman Ivana Harris, are excited about the break.

"To me [Spring Break] is a time to relax and enjoy the days with friends and family. It’s like a getaway to ease school stress and catch up with sleep," Harris said.

Students may have their bags already packed, ready to travel somewhere new and exciting. Others, though, may simply head back home to spend time with their families during the break.

Some may be planning to go to South Beach for a tan and enjoy the nightlife available amid thrilling scenery, but for those still interested in traveling elsewhere, here are some places to consider.

GRAHAM CENTER
TRAVEL LEADERS AGENCY

Located on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, Puerto Plata offers tourists picturesque beaches coupled with a backdrop of mountain ranges.

Travel Leaders offers students a stay there one night for $389 per person. The package includes round-trip midweek air to Puerto Plata, D.R., round-trip airport transfers, accommodations for number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages, activities and non-motorized water sports are included in the package. Hotel tax and service charges are also covered.

If Puerto Plata doesn’t cut it for you, then Punta Cana might be the perfect place with a beach on the east coast stretching 50 kilometers.

An array of water sports is available for student tourists to enjoy, which includes snorkeling, flying boats, sports fishing and double-decker party boats. Other activities available include horseback riding, safari-type excursions on four-wheel bikes, jeep safaris, moonstruck or helicopters rides and buggy rides.

Travel Leaders is offering a five-night stay from $854.00 per person. Round-trip midweek air to Punta Cana, D.R., round-trip airport transfers, accommodations for number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages, activities and non-motorized water sports are included in the package. Hotel tax and service charges are also covered.

Another package the agency offers is a seven-night stay in Jamaica from $862.00 per person. This package includes round-trip midweek air to Montego Bay, Jamaica, round-trip airport transfers, accommodations for number of nights selected, all meals, snacks, beverages, activities and non-motorized water sports, as well as hotel tax and service charges.

Other than sandy beaches and calm blue waves, Jamaica offers tourists opportunities to climb waterfalls, ride horses, swim with dolphins, hunt for ghosts in old houses, bicycle along mountain trails and scuba dive in the Caribbean.

For more information on the above packages visit the Travel Leaders website at www.ftatravel.com or their office in GC, next to the piano lounge.

DADELAND TRAVEL AGENCY

If getting on an airplane isn’t something you look forward to, then hopping on a cruise ship might be more enjoyable. Dadeland Travel Agency is offering a five-day Western Caribbean cruise through Carnival Cruise Lines starting at $549 per person. The cruise offers enchanting beaches, rainforests and an exciting nightlife. Travelers are also given optional daily activities. Their departure is March 15 and arrival date is March 20.

For more information on the above rates visit www.dadelandtravel.com.

Cruises and Tours Unlimited

Another cruise ship to consider is the Disney Cruise Line, which offers a three-night cruise to the Bahamas. The cost is $1300 for two persons.

The Bahamas is known for its tropical climate, history and culture.

With Disney Cruise Line travelers can enjoy different activities program for adults, teens and children. Options include attending live musical stage shows or spending a day exploring Castaway Cay, a private island in the Bahamas. Departure date is set for March 13.

Carnival Cruise Line also offers a three-night cruise to the Bahamas. The cost is $689 for two persons. Departure date is set for March 14.

Unlike the Disney Cruise, Carnival Cruise offers the “Fun Ship” Fascination which is a range of lounges, nightclubs, and fun-filled onboard activities.

For more information on the above rates visit www.iwantacruise.com.

Other booking options include American Airlines, where students can receive 10 percent discounts on flights. For details visit www.aacollege.com.

South Florida’s dismal music scene sees some relief

LANGERADO, page 6

Spring break trips, cruises abundant for students

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

powerful anti-war protest song for over 20 minutes. Despite the abridged set, the Roots were the band to see at Langerado.

The Beastie Boys came on after The Roots and they didn’t start slow, but I was so far back in the crowd, and the volume was so low, I couldn’t take another day in the sun.

We packed up early, bid adieu...
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
Did you know that every time you start up your engine you’re sinning? That’s what Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican has listed on their new list of seven social sins: Thou shall not pollute the environment.

Since the Vatican has decided to flex some of their metaphysical muscles, I’m going to dip my toes into the fiber-optic sea and craft some of my very digital own.

Because being in college at the height of the digital age has made wireless life so easy, we sometimes forget to interact with our fellow pulsing bodies in meatspace, and easy, we sometimes forget to interact with the tiny, disembodied voice at the other end of this wireless line is infinitely more interesting."

The exceptions to this rule would be doctors, journalists and parents who left their children with a babysitter at home: they’re on call 24/7. You, on the other hand, can and should unplug yourself from your phone for the hour it takes to eat. Your friends will thank you.

COMMANDMENT 5

Thou shalt deal with emotions face to face. Professing your undying love via text message can be cute, endearing even. But breaking up, even asking for a divorce, by message? Just no.

As tempting as it may be to neatly package and send your emotions through a short message service, you’re dehumanizing the person on the receiving end by blatantly disregarding their feelings. Did they look like a robot when you first started dating? Chances are not, so treat each other as people and deal with your emotions the messy, face-to-face way – you’ll grow stronger because of it.

COMMANDMENT 6

Thou shalt not post a blog rant about work and/or private photos online.

Google the net and you’ll find stories of people fired from their jobs for posting blogs about work online and how companies are researching potential employees’ MySpace and Facebook accounts to see who they really are.

Do yourself a favor and keep a physical personal journal that you can load with all the raging, tawdry details of your life that you can tear up into bits and eat if you find yourself to have to make it disappear.

Otherwise, be smart about your online life: keep a public account for your squeaky clean image and a private account for documenting your weekend shenanigans. You’ll keep both your best face forward and your credibility intact.

COMMANDMENT 7

Thou shalt use technology wisely. Shiny, new digital toys like laptops, phones and cameras are great tools but can seduce us into forgetting simple manners.

Remember there’s a whole living, breathing world outside of the box and you’ll be on your way to finding the balance between life on and offline.
BASEBALL

**TROY 13 FIU 12**

Five Golden Panthers (5-7) errors overshadowed another double-digit offensive performance as they lost to Troy (10-2) on March 7 at Riddle-Pace Field.

The loss marked the first Sun Belt Conference game for both teams. Sophomore Jorge Ramos (1-1) was charged with the loss as he pitched 2.1 innings and gave up five earned runs.

Troy reliever A.J. Howard (3-0) gave up three runs in 2.0 innings of work. Headed into the seventh inning, the game was a back and forth game with several lead changes. A five-run seventh inning, by Troy put them over the top, and the Golden Panthers fell 13-12.

**FLU 8, TROY 2**

Golden Panther (6-7) starter Corey Polizzano (2-1) whiggled his way out of trouble through 6.1 innings to even the series against Troy (10-3) on March 8. He allowed eight walks; Tory starter Kasey Barret went the distance and gave up four runs in the loss.

He allowed eight walks; Troy stranded a total of 12 runners during the game. Troy starter Tim Wheeler (1-2) pitched 7.2 innings as he allowed seven earned runs and 10 hits. Senior John Petika went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBI. Florida Atlantic got on the board early with a bases loaded single by Petika. The closest Troy would get was a walk and three RBI. Harvard starter Ale Falk started the seventh inning with a run of its own. Ashley Falk started the seventh inning with a home run to tie the game, then first baseman Carolina Rojas hit a walk-off RBI double to complete the 3-2 comeback.

**FLU 13, HARVARD 2**

The 2008 Blue & Gold Felsburg Memorial got underway at University Park on March 7 with a 13-1 rout against Harvard University.

The Golden Panthers’ (7-16) 4-1 on March 9. Florida Atlantic scored in the second inning to Troy (11-3) on March 9. Also for the second time in the series, by Troy doomed the Golden Panthers. FIU starter Steven Stewart (0-2) allowed a career-high nine hits and five runs in 5.2 innings of work.

Sophomore Brian Santana and senior James Lajiness allowed seven runs in the seventh inning. After the seventh inning, the Golden Panthers found themselves down 12-3 and neither team would score another run.

**SECOND BASEBALL**

**FLU 13, HARVARD 2**

Another strong performance by Golden Panther (8-16) starter Kasey Barret set up a late rally for FIU against Oregon State on March 8.

Neither team began scoring until late in the contest. Oregon State scored in successive innings to take a 2-0 lead. FIU responded in the sixth inning with a run of its own. Ashley Falk started the seventh inning with a home run to tie the game, then first baseman Carolina Rojas hit a walk-off RBI double to complete the 3-2 comeback.

**HARVARD 2, FIU 0**

Harvard won its first game of the season on March 8 against the Golden Panthers’ struggling offense. Harvard starter Shelly Malick did not allow a run through 7.0 innings to earn the team’s first victory of the 2008 season.

**OREGON STATE 4, FIU 1**

Oregon State tallied a season-high 14 hits to defeat the Golden Panthers (8-16) 4-1 on March 9.

FIU scored in the second inning and would not score for the remainder of the game. Oregon State scored in the same inning and added three more in fifth inning to complete the Gold & Blue Felsburg Memorial.

*Compiled by Sergio Bonilla*
CONFOVERALL  A
the staff. Season.
sive line coach. Alma mater, West Virginia, as interior offen-
with the Indianapolis Colts. Earned fi rst team All-Mid-American Confer-

New acquisition brings different offense than predecessor

Before Purdue, Legg coached at Marshall where he served as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator in 2001-02. Marshall ranked third nationally in total offense both years, averaging 505 and 495 yards per game, while compiling a 21-4 record and winning both bowl games.

In 2001, Legg coached Gregg Kellett, who learned fi rst team All-Mid-American Conference honors and signed a free-agent contract with the Indianapolis Colts. From 1995 to 2000, Legg worked at his alma mater, West Virginia, as interior offensive line coach.

He also was offensive coordinator his fi nal season. The Mountaineers were 39-31 and played four bowl games during his six years on the staff.

Legg’s other experience includes one season as offensive line coach at Virginia Military Institute in 1984, four years as offensive line coach at Eastern Illinois (1989-93) and one season as offensive coordinator at West Virginia Tech (1988).

Legg was drafted in the fourth round of 1984 by the Houston Oilers, but it was the fourth round of 2004 by the San Diego Chargers, tackled Kelly Butler (sixth round of 2004 to the Detroit Lions), guard Uche Nwanyi (fifth round of 2007 to Jacksonville Jaguars) and tackle Mike Otto (seventh round of 2007 to Tennessee Titans).

“Will bring the kind of leadership that will help our program get to the next level and we’re thrilled to have him on staff,” coach Cristobal said.

-Raysports.com contributed to this report

New point guard and post player will complement senior offensive leaders

Golden Panthers cannot continue improbable run

NEW COACH, page 12

Offensive Mindset: Bill Legg was the offensive coordinator for Purdue when he concentrated on working with the offensive line.

ONE SHOT

However, if FIU stays healthy and does not manage to at least be over .500 in the win column, Rouco must go.

It will be too much. Galindo and Hicks, who scored 25 points per game combined this year, will both be 23-year-old seniors at the beginning of the upcoming season.

Expectations should be held on two to take their game to the next level, as they both have potential to do more.

With Soto and Asprilla as complements, Rouco will have his most talented starting lineup, since he arrived at University Park four seasons ago.

Soto told me he expects an NCAA tournament appearance, off the bat.

The coach deserves to have a chance to lead the team he put together, but talent alone does not win.

So, come on, coach, let’s see it work.

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“He will bring the kind of leadership that will help our program get to the next level and we’re thrilled to have him on staff,” coach Cristobal said.

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**Rouco deserves one more season to coach incoming talent**

As his four seasons leading the team and has yet to reach double-digit wins this season, despite having two all-conference performers on the roster, Alex Galindo and Russell Hicks. Although it may seem easy to fire the coach, there are a few reasons why Rouco should get one more chance to turn around FIU’s fortunes when the 2008-09 season tips off next year.

Be patient, Pete Garcia. Two of those reasons will likely be putting a smile on your face next season, Freddy Asprilla and Josue Soto. These two players will make or break Rouco’s FIU career and play a big role in the Golden Panthers return to significance, if they live up to their promise.

**FLING NEEDS**

In Soto, the Golden Panthers have found a point guard for the near future, a weak link for the team last season. Over the last two seasons, a Golden Panther guard has been unable to stay on the team. In 2006, the Golden Panthers lost both starting guards Elvis Lora and DeJean Prejean to academic ineligibility. This season, FIU lost backcourt mates Michael James and Kenneth “Redd” White due to suspension and quitting. Despite a valiant effort by freshman walk-on Nick Taylor to run the point, he is simply not the playmaker that Soto has the potential to be.

**CLOCK TICKING:** Head coach Sergio Rouco has a 42-74 record in four seasons.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: UALR 57, FIU 52**

**Golden Panthers end season with narrow loss**

**DARREN COLLETTE Staff Writer**

During their season, the Golden Panthers defied the odds. They played through injuries, and plowed their way to the No. 7 seed in the Sun Belt Conference. On March 8, FIU Golden Panthers (13-18) fell 57-52 to the No. 2 seeded University of Arkansas Little Rock Trojans, as they were knocked out of the Sun Belt Conference. “I thought it was a hard fought game, and there were some nice things. We just fell short in a couple of areas that cost us the game,” coach Cindy Russo said.

UALR came in as the No. 2 seed, thanks to winning the Sun Belt Western Conference Division. Despite being a No. 7 seeded “underdog” playing without three starters, it was clear that FIU had a home court advantage in that game. After a week of down time, UALR showed signs of rust and was outsized by FIU 6-0 over the first 6:11 minutes of play before Cooper converted on a lay-up while being fouled. FIU controlled the vast majority of the first half thanks to its swarming defense, before the Trojans finally took the lead with 5:11 to play in the first half on a lay-up by Sitzman that made the score 17-15.

UALR went on a run that encompassed over five minutes of play. The Golden Panthers regained their composure and scored the final four points of the first half. At halftime FIU trailed UALR 23-22. "Let’s go and do it. Let’s win this game. We came in low scoring, so we were like, ‘let’s do the same thing on offense and defense, and we are going to win the game’,” said Iva Ciglar, at the close of the first half.

At the start of the second half, the game remained tight as the teams traded baskets and the lead changed eight times. FIU grabbed a lead when sophomore guard Monika Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer that put FIU up 36-35 with 15:40 left on the clock.

**WOMEN’S, page 11**

**OVER THE TOP:** Senior forward Jasmine Jenkins attempts to grab a rebound against UALR. Monika Bosilj connected on a 3-pointer that put FIU up 36-35 with 15:40 left on the clock.

**SERGIO BONILLA Sports Editor**

Head football coach Mario Cristobal announced the new offensive coordinator, Bill Legg.

He is the former Purdue co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach, and he replaces James Coley who left for Florida State last month to become tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator. “Coach Legg is a veteran who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him,” coach Cristobal said. “He is a great teacher, a great communicator and a dynamic leader who has worked at championship programs.”

Legg, 45, coached five seasons at Purdue and was the co-offensive coordinator for the last two. Calling most of the offensive plays, the 2006 Boilermakers led the Big Ten in passing offense (291.6 yards per game) and total offense (415.7), ranking sixth and 13th nationally.

In 2007, Purdue again led the Big Ten in total offense (435.92) and scoring offense (34.31) and ranked 12th nationally in passing offense (291.6 yards per game) and 13th nationally.

In 2006, the Golden Panthers lost both starting guards Elvis Lora and DeJean Prejean to academic ineligibility. This season, FIU lost backcourt mates Michael James and Kenneth “Redd” White due to suspension and quitting.

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In 2007, Purdue again led the Big Ten in total offense (435.92) and scoring offense (34.31) and ranked 12th nationally in passing offense (307.15).

Legg coached the Purdue offensive line from 2003 to 2005, but concentrated on a majority of the first half: senior Rolando Clarke and Xavier Shannon.

The Golden Panthers offense ranked last in several categories in the Sun Belt Conference during the 2007 season, including scoring offense (15.1 ppg), passing offense (150.6 yards per game), and total offense 269.7 yards per game.

The team’s rushing offense was ranked second last (119.1 yards per game).