Students seek to register new voters

As November creeps closer, students diligently campaign for the candidates of both the Republican and Democratic Parties vying for presidency.

These students wake up early, come to FIU and set up information tables in between fraternity and sorority rush tables. Members stand in the middle of the Graham Center with voter registration documents at hand and ask each student who passes by if they are registered to vote.

These groups face a daunting task: getting college students – a group that has historically been apathetic to politics – to vote.

There is some good news, however. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, young voters to the Democratic Party.

“Here is the failures of the Bush administration that have brought young voters to the Democratic Party, and has made them very eager to vote Democrat,” Cabral said.

The barrier-breaking campaign of Barack Obama as the first African American to clinch the Democratic nomination has captured the attention of many FIU students. Cabral pointed to Obama’s strong youth support, which led to his victory in the Iowa primary.

“He has inspired young voters by speaking about issues relevant to them, such as the Iraq war and disappointment with the Bush administration makes it almost too easy to attract young votes to the Democratic Party.”

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, student evaluations, according to the press release, organized departments and dismantled others and fired at least 20 HCET employees, according to a Miami Herald article published on Aug. 15, 2005.

Maidique’s weekly newsletter stated the case had been previously presented to the state’s Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a court-appointed arbitrator, both of which found no evidence of discrimination.

The July 18 verdict, however, cites evidence of mismanagement at high administration levels led to drastic changes in the makeup of the accounting section.

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Pending lawsuits could cost FIU

MAKING NOISE


Youth shows interest, for a change

Youth shows interest, for a change

affordable college education and universal healthcare," Cabral said. John McCain supporters have noted that while the current president's approval ratings are low, Democratic-led Congress has an approval rating even lower than the President's. According to Young Voters, there is still a strong youth movement for McCain and other local Republican politicians, such as U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

"There has definitely been an increase in youth participation [such as McCain's campaign] and more efforts have been made for young voters," said Juan Carlos "Juanky" Robaina, who is the current South Florida coordinator for Students for John McCain.

Keith Fernandez, an FIU student who is working with the Ros-Lehtinen campaign, has noticed a rise in youth participation in the congresswoman's run for re-election.

"The youth [is] getting involved at every level; a good portion of our events are young people," Fernandez said.

Fernandez estimates that nearly 40-45 percent of the people who attended Ros-Lehtinen's Kick-Off Party on July 19 were young people.

"I think Obama is very good at connecting with the colleges and the younger generations, while McCain is more of an establishment kind of guy," Fernandez said.

With the new elections coming, the conclusion of a new medium: the Internet. Both Republican and Democratic candidates have used the Internet and social networking to advertise their campaigns.

"The Internet has helped this generation become the most informed generation in American history," Cabral said.

Aside from the Internet and voter registration drives, groups supporting Republican and Democratic candidates are also canvassing—going door to door, asking for support or giving out information about a candidate. Many students also spend time phone banking and hosting social events with candidates, such as bowling parties. Some groups on campus, such as the conservative Leadership Institute and the liberal Democracy for America, advocate causes on campus and help students make their own grassroots campaign.

While these groups are focused on getting their candidate into office, both agree that this needs to be the year the youth will finally stop being typecast as uninterested and finally come out to vote.

"Why vote? Because our future depends on it. No matter who you vote for, get your voice heard," said Jason Alonso, president of Democracy for America.

"There's no other way to put it: If you don't vote, you're stupid," Robaina said. "What right do you have to complain if you didn't vote?"
Personal trainer course welcomes all shapes, sizes

KISHORE SAWH
Staff Writer

It may be a bit late to realize a summer six pack by the season is over, but don’t give up: this is Miami, and beach days are not going away any time soon.

Biscayne Bay Campus’ Recreation, in partnership with the National Exercise Trainers Association, may hold the key to your success with their upcoming Personal Trainer Certification program. For those looking to fulfill their state New Years’ resolution of having a beach body, or just to have a healthier lifestyle, this may be the chance to do so.

“Becoming a personal trainer is a great way to earn extra money and stay in shape,” reads the program flyer floating around campus.

It is a sentiment shared by Warren Shaw, assistant director of campus recreation who is a key person for this agenda.

Shaw, an FIU alumnus who garnered his master’s in Sports Management in 2001, makes it a point to address a possible concern.

“These classes are open to any and anyone – no specific fitness level needed. All you need is some time ahead to study the book to be able to apply what you have learned during the class,” Shaw said.

Andrea Reynoso, the only BBC Fitness Center staff member enrolled in the program, is still motivated to take the class despite her small stature.

“It’s always something that’s been interesting to me. It’s good to help yourself stay fit and help others stay fit – also good to be health conscious,” said Reynoso, who is a sophomore double majoring in physical therapy and athletic training.

“I don’t need it as a job. It’s a good knowledge base and it’s convenient. It’s right here.”

Aside from convenience, Reynoso also thinks that, in today’s world, the extra certification looks good on a resume.

The course is accredited by National Exercise Trainers Association, which has graduated over 120,000 thousand fitness professionals since its inception in 1977, according to its Web site, netafit.org. The association is currently approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, among other professional standard organizations, and are considered leaders in their field.

According to Shaw, this was among the primary reasons for FIU choosing NETA to partner with, as well as their willingness to do the class at FIU while offering students a significant discount.

The course will be held August 23 from 8 a.m to 5 p.m and August 24 from 8 a.m to 3:30 p.m. It is an intensive two-day course that will entail classroom as well as hands-on time.

The class will offer health and fitness assessments, exercise programming for healthy adults, exposure to cardiovascular and strength training equipment, dynamics of communication and leadership skills, and an exercise science refresher, according to www.netafit.org.

A written exam will be held at the end of the course. If passed, a National Certificate valid for two years will be granted.

The cost for the entire course will be $299 for FIU students and staff, and up to $370 for all others.

A maximum of 25 people can register, so those interested should register sooner rather than later.

Personal training classes are just the tip of the iceberg of what NETA offers.

“May do other types of classes with them [NETA] if this one does well,” Shaw said.

NETA also has Pilates instructor classes, as well as Yoga and group instructor training.

Shaw also revealed that it is a desire of Campus Recreation to have a personal trainer on staff as it is a frequent request.

“It would be great for an FIU student to be one of our personal trainers,” Shaw said.

So as another incentive, there might be employment opportunities available to those interested that become qualified.

To find out more about the Personal Trainer Certification program, call the BBC Recreation Center at (305) 919-5678 or visit it at www.netatfit.org.
A higher minimum wage only affects those workers who are actually making minimum wage. Those with a house and a family who are making a couple dollars more than the legal minimum will not get a raise since they are already making more than what the benevolent government demands.

Biggie said it best: “Mo’ money, mo’ problems”
KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

If you see Super Mario walking around University Park, don’t look around for any green warp pipes or goombas. If he didn’t jump off your TV screen, that can only mean that Yasumicon is back for its sixth year.

The three day anime convention kicks off this Friday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. in Gracie’s Grill. Admission for the first event is $7 and it includes dinner and musical performances by local artist Benjamin Bear and his wife Jaylyn Coffin. There will be giveaways and prizes for the person with the best costume, and the remaining two days of the convention are absolutely free.

Yasumicon is coordinated by the Anything Goes Anime Club. According to Junior Ben F. Badger Jr., Yasumicon’s president, the event is one of the largest student events at FIU with last year’s attendance reaching up to 2,700 people.

“The 2,700 [people were] a mixture of students, alumni, community members and even some people as far away as Tampa, Georgia and even California,” Badger said.

This year, the group expects anywhere between 3,000 to 4,000 people to come out for the weekend and enjoy an array of entertainment and panels. Panels are small lectures given to guests explaining what various anime related concepts are. There will be panels such as retro anime, parents guide to anime, teaching in Japan, snacks and a lot more.

Last year, the snack panel featured free Japanese snack samples and commercials from Japan were shown.

“We had prepared 100 of the snack packs we were giving out and nearly all of them were gone by the end of the panel. The room was completely packed and everyone loved the commercials we played,” said Elyse Coleman, vice president of Anything Goes Anime.

The group began planning the event about a year ago when Yasumicon wrapped up around the same time. From printing flyers to going to comic stores, the club has been heavily promoting the event for the past month or so in the hopes of making it bigger and better than the previous year.

With more panels and more room reservations, students and guests can enjoy a variety of activities. Most events will take place in Graham Center rooms 140, 150, 243, the GC Ballrooms and the Green Library room 100.

If attendants want to see some action, they might look forward to the Adrian Empire demonstration. The club takes pride in recreating renaissance era armor and weapons and fighting with each other. No need to worry though, the members of the club fights with dull weapons and in armor, so no one gets hurt.

Brandon Potter is the guest of honor at this year’s Yasumicon. Potter’s credits include the voice of Shanks in Funimation’s “One Piece,” as well as Sven Vollfield in “Black Cat,” Barrett in “Glass Fleet” and many more. He is also one of the directors from Funimation.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, the convention will be open from 11 a.m. to midnight and on Sunday, Aug. 3 it will open at noon and will run until 6 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Funimation, Bandai Entertainment, Viz Pictures, Right Stuf, ALC Publishing, Tate’s Comics, Noobie Games, Monster and Bull Throttle among others.

“Yasumicon is simply a great way to have fun. We are a family show and encourage everyone to attend, even if you’re not into Anime and video games, you will be able to have fun at our convention. It’s a safe way to kick back and relax,” Badger said.

www.fiusm.com
Primetime success leads “Office” star to the big screen

STEVEN MESA
Contributing Writer

After conquering primetime television as Dwight Schrute, the sycophantic assistant to the regional manager on NBC’s “The Office,” Rainn Wilson is setting his sights to the big screen.

Wilson, an Emmy-nominee, plays the former drummer of an 80’s rock band who gets fired before the band makes it big in The Rocker, which comes to theaters Aug. 20.

Wilson had some harsh words for some legendary rock bands like Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, as well as many metal bands of the 80’s. “I know most of the girly rockers can kick my ass, no matter how much mascara, eyeliner, blouses and leopard prints they wear,” Wilson said. “It seemed like it was heavy metal aimed specifically for girls and women.”

Following The Rocker, Wilson’s next role is as a college professor in the sequel to the 2007 summer blockbuster, Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. The Transformers role will be Wilson’s first blockbuster, and it may just push him past his current status as comedy bit player and into the next level of popularity.

Besides his upcoming role in the Transformers sequel, Wilson has also written a script called Bonzai Shadowhand for Oscar-nominated director Jason Reitman (Juno). “It is a very dark comedy with a great role for me in it as a down-and-out ninja living in the San Fernando valley in a halfway house,” Wilson said.

SUNDAY • AUGUST 3
WHAT: George Michael
WHERE: Bank Atlantic Center
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $50
WHAT: Bow Wow
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $30
MONDAY • AUGUST 4
WHAT: Catch 22 with Supervillians
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $13
WHAT: Lochai World Erotic Art Museum
WHERE: South Beach
WHEN: 11:00 a.m
HOW MUCH: $15
TUESDAY • AUGUST 5
WHAT: Executive Fitness Boot Camp
WHERE: Bayfront Park
WHEN: 6:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: $10
WHAT: Academy of Movement Arts
WHERE: Ocean Bank Building
WHEN: 5:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $34
WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 6
WHAT: Coheed & Cambria with Secret Machines
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $20

THURSDAY • JULY 31
WHAT: The Soundtrack of your Summer Tour
WHERE: Mizner Park, Boca Raton FL
WHEN: 5:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $25
WHAT: Mark Knopfler With Jessica Hoop
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHEN: 8:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $20
FRIDAY • AUGUST 8
WHAT: Ron White
WHERE: Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts
WHEN: 8:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $30
WHAT: Sound Abyss with Dear Dad, Yours Truly
WHERE: The Wallflower Gallery
WHEN: 10:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: $5
SATURDAY • AUGUST 9
WHAT: The Sneak Preview with The Falling Alarm
WHERE: The Wallflower Gallery
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $10
WHAT: Aquarium Behind The Scene
WHERE: Anne Kolb Nature Center
WHEN: 2:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $1
SUNDAY • AUGUST 10
WHAT: HippieFest Feat. Burdon & The Animals w/ H Jack Bruce
WHERE: Pompano Beach Amphitheatre
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: $20
WHAT: Sundays at Fairchild Tropical Garden
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Garden, Old Culter Rd.
WHEN: 11:00 a.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

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

- Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado
Postseason experience, recruits hope to keep team a contender

SPIRIT

ACADEMIC CENTER, page 8

Despite the bigger staff, it needs to be more strict about timing and scheduling,” she said. “Sometimes there would be one tutor for English and they would available only on Mondays.”

Zarragqui says student-athletes must turn in a progress report weekly to their assigned tutor. This is the method the tutors use to keep tabs on their students’ performance.

APR Specialist Garcia is in charge of keeping FIU’s APR scores up to par by assessing incoming transfer students’ possible effects on FIU’s APR scores up to par by assessing incoming transfer students’ possible effects on APR and working alongside the SAAC.

Champion: Carlos Sastre after winning the 2008 Tour de France on July 28, 2008.

NCAA bylaws state that sports programs must obtain at least an APR score of 900 or they will face scholarship losses. For two consecutive years, the football, baseball and men’s basketball teams scored less than 900.

As a result, three of those teams will be unable to participate in postseason play if they do not score at least 900 next year. If the same teams do not score 900 the following year, they will be banned from Division I and the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Former FIU baseball head coach Danny Price was at the helm for 26 years during the period in which the SAAC did not have the number of resources it has today.

“They offer summer school now for athletes. That never happened before,” Price said. “There is so much more help available than when I was coach.”

On the student-athletes enrolled in summer 2007, 95 percent graduated.

All-time hits leader former FIU baseball player Brian Pillain played under coach Price and graduated in Spring 2007. During his college career, he saw the center’s progression.

“My last year, the academic center had so many resources,” said Pillain. “At that point I already knew what I was doing, but that extra help would’ve helped me out when I was younger.”

FIU’s initiative to bolster the center’s resources produced results when the Athletics program graduated the highest number of student-athletes this past spring. The student-athletes posted a higher GPA (2.90) than the rest of the general student body.

As the center searches for a new Director, Athletic Director Pete Garcia says the revamped SAAC are the main reason for the record number of graduates.

“It is evident that having the right resources in place with the right people has paid dividends for our athletic program,” he said. “Because of the commitment we have secured from everyone, beginning with our student-athletes, the results we have accomplished are no surprise. And we expect to continue to do well because academics will never be compromised at FIU.”

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thank you for reading
our summer issues.
Back-to-school issue Aug. 25
We’ll see you in the Fall!

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124
FIU upgrades academic center’s resources

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Student-athletes’ performance in the classroom from 2003-07 has lost the Athletics department a total of 17 scholarships in the past two years. Low academic standings have put three programs in danger of postseason banishment and expulsion from Division I and the Football Bowl Subdivision.

In order to prevent severe penalties, FIU added a number of resources to the Student-Athlete Academic Center this past year.

Along with the goal of helping student-athletes graduate, preventing the termination of athletic programs is a new task the center must undertake. FIU increased the center’s operating budget from $62,000 to $195,000, purchased 20 personal computers and 25 laptops for students use and doubled the number of tutors from seven to 14.

“The SAAC is the lifeline of the Athletic department,” Academic Progress Rate specialist Monique Garcia said.

Garcia is one of the new compliance officers hired by FIU to help the University meet the APR score needed to meet NCAA standards. The APR takes into account an institution’s academic performance over the previous four academic years. The APR is calculated by giving points to each team based on the number of players in good academic standing and on the number of players who remain in the institution.

President/Modesto A. Madaule and Athletic Director Pete Garcia were instrumental in the SAAC- receiving more resources and oversaw the hiring of new staff members.

Such a position is the Director of the Student Athlete Academic Services, who is charged with managing the center and supervising four advisers, a Learning Specialist, an office manager and five tutors.

Former Director of SAAC Shirelle Jackson no longer works at FIU and Assistant Director Damielle Rivers is acting as the interim director in her absence; Rivers declined to comment.

The center’s tutors offer general and subject-specific tutoring, but tutoring in the basic subjects like Math, English and Sciences is the SAAC’s primary focus. Business Calculus, Statistics and Accounting are examples of the advanced courses also available for student-athletes.

Tutors at the center include professors, graduate students and undergraduates.

One of the Economics tutors added during Fall 2007, senior Cristina Zamalaka, says that there are ways the center could be more efficient.

ACADEMIC CENTER, page 7

THE IMPROBABLE RUN

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

When the men’s soccer team walked off the field in Birmingham, Ala. last Nov. 18, there was a strong feeling of disappointment but at the same time, there were reasons to stay positive and reflect on what was an improbable championship finish.

The Golden Panthers finished the regular season at 3-13-2 before pulling off consecutive upset wins in the Conference USA Tournament before losing a heartbreaker to the No. 1 seeded Southern Methodist Mustangs, 3-2, after junior Christian Caporaletti scored the go-ahead goal in the 74th minute.

A shocking 2-1 victory was capped off when junior Jonathan Caporaletti scored the go-ahead goal in the 74th minute.

“After the first game we really pumped the gas and our fitness level picked up and we were ready to propel his team to the Conference tournament as the No. 7 seed.”

Their first round match up was against a No. 2 seeded Southern Methodist University team that was nationally ranked during the regular season and defeated the Golden Panthers in their first meeting 2-0 on October 20.

A shocked Caporaletti said, “It was mostly not being responsible and taking care of business during the summer.”

Eketebi agreed.

“During the postseason our fitness level picked up and we trained the guys all year long that we were not as bad as our record indicates.”

The disappointing regular season that saw the team win three games was not a complete failure as the team was fortunate enough to land a spot in the postseason tournament as the No. 7 seed.

Their first round match up was against a No. 2 seeded Southern Methodist University team that was nationally ranked during the regular season and defeated the Golden Panthers in their first meeting 2-0 on October 20.

A shocking 2-1 victory was capped off as FIU defeated Marshall Thundering Herd 3-2 after junior Juan Guerra [who was unavailable to comment] scored in the second overtime to propel his team to the Conference Finals, a destination that seemed almost impossible.

No-name Dolphins searching for star player

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Wire

The billboards line the highways in South Florida, advertising “A New Beginning” for the Miami Dolphins with photos of the first-year reign of head coach Tony Sparano, vice president of football operations Bill Parcells and general manager Jeff Ireland.

There isn’t a player’s face on the cover of the team’s media guide, either, or a proven leader on the field. After trading away Pro Bowlers Jason Taylor and Zach Thomas in the offseason, the No-Name Dolphins are searching for a star.

“We must not have a lot of talent if we have the GM and the head coach on a billboard,” linebacker Channing Crowder said, laughing.

About 500 fans attend Dolphins training camp daily, many sporting aqua and white jerseys that are almost entirely Nos. 99 (Taylor), 54 (Thomas) and 13 (Dan Marino). Or simply put—men who are no longer playing for Miami.

Sparano even joked at the start of training camp that the first time he saw the marketing campaign, he nearly drove off the road. His roster might be just as startling.

The competition to replace Taylor now includes unproven players Charlie Anderson, Quentin Moses and Rob Ninkovich. At middle linebacker, unknowns like Edmond Miles, Kelvin Smith and Kelly Poppinga are vying for Thomas’ old spot. Regardless of who earns the job, the Dolphins are likely to lose Pro Bowl-caliber production.

“I’m not going to be Jason Taylor,” said Moses, who had 1.5 sacks in seven games in his rookie season. “Jason was Defensive Player of the Year and probaly a Hall of Famer for all his hard work and trying to get better as a team so we can do what those guys did.”

Of course, this is an organization that produced the famous No-Name Defense that surprised the NFL with the league’s only perfect season.

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