Inside a small area on the second floor of the Student Government Council office, heavy with traffic and interns, sena-
tors and members of the execu-
tive branch of the organization discusses plans to bring musican-
ian John Legend to perform and to lecture at the U.S. Per-
centum Bank Arena, all while making plans for lunch at Einstein Brothers.

In a room at the end of the office sits Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC at University Park, with a Barack Obama poster on his door and a black-
berry phone in hand while taking a multivitamin to keep
him alert and on task.

Representing a student body of more than 30,000 in a
time-consuming task, explains
Meyer, a native of Long Island, New York.

Serving as student govern-
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of the Florida Student Associa-
tion, and the only student
member on the State University Systems Board of Governors.

And I also work at the Brooks
Brothers store,” he said.

Meyer’s main job at the
University is to represent the
students to the administration
while holding a seat on the
Board of Trustees — entitled to
him since he sits on the BOG.

Meyer deals with University
administration constantly.

“The way we try to work
with the administration is so
different than, if we’re
expected to give
something to them, they’ll
at least concede something
for the student body,” he said.

“When the athletic fee was
increased again this year, there
was somewhat of an uproar, but
there was a trade off for this:
Small venues in the
stadium are open for free to students
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The Student
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SGC at Biscayne
Bay Campus and
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The distribution of these funds is determined by the SGA Senate.

It’s time consuming but
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The grants just keep on comin’

PAULO O’SWATH
Asst. News Director

A week after being given one of the most prestigious grants in the nation, the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum has been awarded yet another grant.

According to a recent press release, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded the Wolfsonian with a $65,000 grant that will go toward the support of the funds used to conduct research in the digital field.

The MacArthur Foundation is founded to support creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just and peaceful world, according to the press release. The foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

The grant will also go toward the museum’s role in the 2009 WebWise Conference that will “Share research and ideas related to the impact of technology among museums and libraries — content holders — and researchers from the field,” as stated in the press release.

“I think it is great that the Wolfsonian is getting all these grants and awards from these different foundations,” said Ana Nunez, a graduate student.

“The grants just keep on comin’,” she said. “It’s been amazing. I think this is wonderful for the whole art department and Wolfsonian-FIU Museum." 

SCHIP bill, which will be taken up by the House of Representatives muscle Wednesday as the House of Representatives passes children’s health insurance

The federal tax on cigarettes.

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as for the people that care
dence and wellness as well

example anybody who is

in the health profession, or

work in one way or another will interface with
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The 2009 WebWise Conference’s theme for this
year is called Digital Debates and it will address issues
such as institutional control, collabor-

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The bill’s supporters say the legislation would extend
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the federal tax on cigarettes.

— Compiled by Paulo O’Swath

Home health care issues addressed

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SGA president has high hopes, dreams

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

She is a student trying to balance academics, work, family and personal life, but also the president of the Student Government Council—Campus Life director.

Ana Maria Silva, a junior majoring in international business and marketing, and minor in mass communication, was elected SGC-BBC president during the Spring term of 2008.

Silva is responsible for attending the inauguration as a part of the trip, said Rebecca Dinar, Offi ce of the Vice Provost, provided Neistein knew that she would do a profound job,

"My personal goal is to market Silva then served as intern-"said Sholom Neistein, speaker of the SGC-BBC Senate. "People have been working with their Derby IDs and will have the chance to attend the inauguration live beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in Wolfe University Center.

The event, which is co-sponsored by Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Office of Campus Life and Orientation, the Black Student Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be open to all students, faculty and staff, according to Craig Cunningham, director of CLO.

"We want to offer an opportunity for the FIU community to gather together to watch and celebrate this historic occasion for our country," Cunningham said.

A live disc jockey will be present and attendants will receive free food and refreshments with their Derby IDs and will have the chance to attend the inauguration live beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in Wolfe University Center.

Following the watch party, the BBC Multi-Faith Council will host a prayer for the new president in WUC 157 at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Campus Life and Orientation at (305) 919-5804.

Student to be witness to history

PARADISE AFSHAR
BBC Lifestyle Editor

Sholom Neistein can recall with ease that Andrew Jackson was the flrst president to survive an assassination attempt.

The junior majoring in biology will become a part of one of the biggest events in modern Amer-

icn history — the inaugu-

ration of President-

elect Barack Obama.

That’s defi nitely something for him to con-

consider, Neistein said. "I never saw myself going there — it’s history.

Although he said that the reality of going to the inauguration has yet to hit him, Neistein will be one of an estimated 1.5 million people who will be standing on the National Mall to watch Obama’s swearing-in, according to White House and Washington D.C. residents.

Neistein is the only flIU student attending the inauguration as a part of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, a four-day event for future leaders.

Neistein says he feels honored to represent flIU.

The UPC, according to Neistein’s site, offers alumni of select honor societies the oppor-

The site also states that the invitation to attend this event is extended to students with academic excellence and members of select honor societies, such as the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, of which Neistein is a member.

Various organizations and departments, such as the Office of the Vice Provost, provided Neistein with nearly $3,000 to attend the inauguration.

"This oﬃ ce is pleased to be a part of the trip," said Rebecca Dinar, Diﬀ ofice of the Vice Provost outreach coordinator.

According to the UPC Web site, the conference is comprised of private events and activities which will feature keynote speakers and political experts, as well as public ceremonies.

Neistein will also be attending the Inaugural Parade and the Inau-

gural Ball.

"I was very excited when she was running for president because I knew that she would do a profound job," said Sholom Neistein, speaker of the SGC-BBC Senate. "People have been working with their Derby IDs and will have the chance to attend the inauguration live beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater in Wolfe University Center.

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Student body unites to celebrate 44th president

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

Classes and other academic obligations are no excuse for students missing the chance to watch the swearing-in of the first african-american president in American history.

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation will host the Inauguration Day Watch Party at the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square on Jan. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The event, which is co-sponsored by Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Office of Campus Life and Orientation, the Black Student Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be open to all students, faculty and staff, according to Craig Cunningham, director of CLO.

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Neistein said. "I believe that better change will come."
FUTURE AMENDMENT

Campus preachers necessary, evil

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

“You’re going to hell!”

You might have heard this if you have ever made the mistake of frequenting the fountain behind Graham Center during the daylight hours the past couple of weeks. A crazy man, sometimes clad in leather, quoting scriptures and squawking at unfortunate passersby, has taken up residence outside of Graham Center.

This man, who invades our fair campus every semester, is what is called an “open-air preacher.” The man pulling the trigger on damnation in our courtyard is Preacher JK, persona non grata No. 1.

A new term for most, an open-air preacher is somewhat different from a bag lady, once removed from the common churlishman and a small step away from the grand wizard. Their mission seems simple: to damn sinners and save Christians while being as rude as possible.

The crazy man despising our lunch area, however, is not alone.

There exists a much larger network of open-air preachers and it seems to be the new trend in Christian evangelism, one the author H.L. Mencken labeled as aptly: “Puritanism: the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.”

Preachers, like JK, permeate many campuses along the East Coast and Midwest. For instance, Brother Micah regularly plants himself at the University of Central Florida, heckling undergrads. Another spends summers in Pennsylvania and wintery months in the Carolinas’ universities.

There even exists Web sites like openairpreaching.com and street-preaching.com that act as a how-to manual explaining who to contact and what to do if you are ever arrested while preaching.

They go even further and explain how to deal with common questions and how to draw crowds. The preachers, apart from targeting college students, regularly position themselves outside of bars, car shows and any particular effect, but just for its own sake.

The preachers’ actions beg the question on how protected the freedom of speech should be. In public places, can a lone man ramble on about everyone around him being sinners and Satan worshipers? Can he enjoy our freedoms while at the same time cry for our eternal torture?

I think so; I believe the freedom of speech is absolute. He can express his views as long as no one is hurt and his speeches do not lead to violence. They do have a seat in our collective consciousness, even if they have no value because maybe that man’s views and views can act as a warning for others of what not to become. Or maybe we can just laugh.

So while these crazy men may be annoying, they do have their place.

Some may say these open-air preachers are divisive and bigoted. I don’t say that. I don’t think they are divisive at all. In the end, the crazy man calling condoms, evolution and gays sinful may be the most unifying force the campus has.

It shows the common thread that ties us all together. I’m not talking about the divorce, the homicide, the shooting down of a minority, but that quality that is ingrained in mostly everyone – respect.

As Hemingway said, we will be “strong in the broken places.”

There exists a much larger network of open-air preachers and it seems to be the new trend in Christian evangelism.

KATIA PINEDA
Contributing Writer

It’s been mind-boggling, to say the least, to define my stance on the current crisis in the Middle East. Last week, I spent the day at a pro-Israel rally in Miami Beach, then watched CNN’s coverage of the conflict and proceeded to mourn over the death of innocent men, women and children that reside in Gaza and have been marginalized for years.

Despite my tendency to show disdain toward warfare, I can’t help but vindicate Israel for its actions. It is inevitable that, at some point, every country will have to defend itself. Although both sides are, without a doubt, to blame, it seems abominable for anyone, especially the United Nations, to expect Israel to cease fire for more than the three-hour period it has accepted to allow the exchange of supplies and aid.

JK, persona non grata No. 1.

I recently had an epiphany: although I mostly attended Catholic schools, I felt hypocritical and I think so; I believe the freedom of speech is absolute. He can express his views as long as no one is hurt and his speeches do not lead to violence. They do have a seat in our collective consciousness, even if they have no value because maybe that man’s views and views can act as a warning for others of what not to become. Or maybe we can just laugh.

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ENDLESS WAR

Deeply rooted traditions get in way of Gaza peace process

KATIA PINEDA
Contributing Writer

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His name is Christopher Wallace. He has been known as Biggie Smalls, the corner free-style rap king. The Notorious B.I.G. is what he called himself when he became a music superstar and now the biggest name known to the hip-hop rap world gets the silver screen treatment in Notorious.

The film begins in 1983 where the young Wallace – played by Woolard – had no aspirations to be a rapper. A formerGolden Globe-nominated rapper and Brooklyn rapper Woerland.

The actor that really shines in the movie is newcomer and Brooklyn rapper Woerland. He not only personifies the legendary rapper, he submerges himself in the role whether he is battling a local “wannabe” rapper or letting his emotions out – physically or musically. The script infuses some of the lyrics from the Notorious B.I.G.’s songs in the dialogue, including a scene where a young Biggie writes down his first rhymes on a notepad. Notorious could have been the type of movie that follows a formulaic plot, but the movie manages to avoid such clichés. The true source material comes from one of the screenwriters Chos Hadari Coker, who wrote a biography of Biggie and was the last person to interview him.

Coker’s writing helps capture the gritty reality in Wallace’s life. He also captured the essence of the Notorious B.I.G and the main figures in the rapper’s life including his mother and Combs.

The soundtrack is definitely the highlight of Notorious. While some songs that are featured are sung by the real Notorious B.I.G., Woerland brings his game to the table to recreate Biggies’s trademark baritone and commanding tone. Aside from Woerland providing the film voice of Wallace, Antoine Smith plays the rapper’s widower, Faith Evans. Smith has a tremendous voice when she sings one of Evans’ songs, “You Used To Love Me.”

Another actress that sounds identical to her on-screen persona is Naturi Naughton as former Junior MAFIA member and artist Kimberly “Lil’ Kim” Jones. When Jones sings “Get Money” with the rest of the Junior MAFIA crew, she recreates the sultry, sexy and raw sound and performance that made Lil’ Kim recognizable.

Jones is not a newcomer to the music scene, she was in a girl group called 3LW and made her Broadway debut by landing a role in Hairspray.
Health leave until June for Apple CEO

JESSICA MINTZ
AP Wire

Apple Inc. co-founder and Chief Executive Steve Jobs said Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until June, even though just a week ago the cancer survivor tried to assure investors and employees that his recent weight loss was caused by an easily treatable hormone deficiency.

Apple’s stock dropped 6 percent.

Jobs, 53, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple’s helm despite the hormone problem, and that he had already begun a “relatively simple and straightforward” treatment.

But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

“During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought,” he wrote.

Apple’s shares have surged and crashed over the last year in step with investors’ fear that without Jobs, Apple would not be able to sustain its growth or its high-end minimalist style.

Last week, Jobs said his disclosure of his hormone problem was “more than I wanted to say, and all that I am going to say” about his health. It came on the eve of Macworld, the biggest Apple trade show of the year, and Jobs said he wanted everyone to relax and enjoy the event.

Even so, the limited amount of information in that announcement did little to soothe Wall Street’s nerves. Medical experts not involved in Jobs’ treatment said it was unclear what was behind his weight loss, but some specialists said Jobs’ past pancreatic cancer could be the problem, since the organ makes digestive enzymes that are key for nutrition.

Apple’s history of keeping information about Jobs’ health under wraps is only fueling the speculation.

The company waited until after Jobs underwent surgery in 2004 to treat a very rare form of pancreatic cancer — an islet cell neuroendocrine tumor — before alerting investors.

And last summer, Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple insisted Jobs’ weight loss was due to a common bug, even as The New York Times cited anonymous sources who said Jobs had undergone “a surgical procedure” to address the problem.

Apple spokesman Steve Dowling would not elaborate on Jobs’ condition or what was discovered in the past week.

“They’ll tell you the least they can tell you,” longtime industry analyst Roger Kay of Endpoint Technology Associates said after Jobs’ disclosure Wednesday. “They’re trying to have it both ways, to protect their guy’s privacy and feelings and at the same time somehow signal the market.”

Apple’s chief operating officer, Tim Cook, will take over Jobs’ responsibilities while he is on leave, though Jobs said he plans to remain involved in major strategic decisions.

Cook is seen as one of Jobs’ most likely successors, along with Apple’s top marketing executive, Philip Schiller. American Technology Research analyst Brian Marshall — who last week predicted Jobs would step down this year — said Wednesday’s announcement tips the bets in Cook’s favor.

“The company has been soft-signaling to the Street for a while now that Steve Jobs is not going to be CEO forever,” he said. “This will be sort of a trial period for Cook to be chief executive.”

THERE SHE IS

Miss FIU 2009 winner Stephanie Lozano takes a lap around the stage after Tuesday night’s pageant results. Lozano won $850 toward her talent costume and gown for the Miss Florida pageant.
NOTEBOOK: MEN’S BASKETBALL

Freshman dominates, wins player of the week

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Golden Panthers forward center Freddy Asprilla was named the Sun Belt Conference co-Player of the Week on Jan. 12.

The freshman big man received the honor after dominating the paint against Sun Belt Conference opponents during the week of Jan. 4.

During that stretch, the Villavicencio, Colombia native had 21 points and seven rebounds in a win against Western Kentucky on Jan. 8 and 28 points with 10 boards in a loss at Middle Tennessee.

“I’m very happy and appreciative … I work hard everyday,” he said.

Asprilla has been the starting center for the Golden Panther basketball team since incumbent starter Russell Hicks went out with a stress fracture in November.

Since then, Asprilla scored in double figures in eight out of the last nine games and grabbed 10 or more rebounds in six out of the last nine, including a career-high 15 rebounds in a loss at Troy on Jan 3.

“Freddy is a beast, man. He can rebound and he can handle. He’s an animal. He’s been more mean and hard – more aggressive,” said teammate and Asprilla’s close friend former J.C. Otero.

In 15 games this season, he averaged 25.8 minutes, 13 points on 52 percent shooting and 8.5 rebounds.

Head coach Sergio Rouco was surprised at Asprilla becoming such an efficient scorer so quickly, but said he always knew he had a great rebounder on the team.

“I saw a kid that was raw – just reaching his potential. He’s a great rebounder. Wherever he plays, he’s going to make his money as a rebounder,” Rouco said.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Rouco said that this season the team will continue to focus on feeding the ball to Asprilla in the post, but also said the big man must improve his conditioning and develop a perimeter shot.

However, those goals will be on the to-do list for next season. A short-term goal for Asprilla is to bulk up.

“He’s trimmed down. Now, he needs to get stronger,” Rouco said.

Recruiting class reaches 20 verbal commitments

FOOTBALL, page 8

From Belle Glade Central and Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College product Thatcher Starling, who is already on campus.

Thatcher, Bryan and Dillard are three-star recruits, according to Rivals.com.

Significant local commits include lineman Giancarlo Revilla from Miami Killian, who spurned offers from other Sun Belt Conference teams such as Western Kentucky and Troy.

Defensive back Derrick Jones Jr. from Miami Springs, the same school as T.Y. Hilton, chose the Golden Panthers over the likes of conference rival Florida Atlantic.

With national signing day less than a month away, FIU is expected to sign roughly 25 players in the 2009 class.

IN THE RUNNING

The Golden Panthers are also competing for several uncommitted top prospects. Quarterback Nico Flores of Miami Beach, who holds offers from an SEC and Big East conference team in MSU and South Florida, is considering FIU.

The Golden Panthers are also pursuing 6-foot-7, 356 pounds Claudyson Calixte, who is ranked in the top 100 offensive tackles in the 2009 class by Rivals.com.

Both players are considered three-star prospects by Rivals.com.

Leading scorer contained, forward nearing return

WOMEN’S NOTEBOOK, page 8

The team has had continuous trouble battling the press-defense which has produced many turnovers for FIU, allowing the opposing team too many opportunities for fast break points.

The conference’s worst scoring team will continue to be hurt by turnovers, especially when the leading scorer is double-teamed most of the time.

If the bench players can’t take on more of a role, a five-game losing streak could end up much longer for head coach Cindy Russo, who hasn’t spoken out about her team’s performance for quite some time.

“Every game someone new steps up, and I hope there’s a game soon where everyone on the team is on the same level,” Bosilj said.

“We need to stay together so that we can bring the ‘w’ home; the coaches are putting a lot of pressure on us during practice so that we can be prepared for upcoming games.”

Bouncing back from this slump might be alleviated by the possible return of injured forward Marquita Adley. Consistency and preparation will be key factors for this team that has lacked momentum since the start of the season.

“We start doing it [winning] and then we stop,” said Gonzalez. “I just want to win, that’s all that is on my mind.”

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

Room for rent with DSL + utilities, located 2 miles from FIU on 711 SW 73 Ave 33144, $425 monthly. Call 305-305-4044

FOR RENT

HONOR STUDENTS: Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society is seeking motivated students to establish a campus chapter. Contact: Director@PhiSigmaTheta.org

1987 Chevy SS Monte Carlo for sale $4500 or best offer. New pearl white paint job, headers, exhaust, rebuilt motor. 305 horse power. For more information, call (305) 753-0838.
Poor communication makes good players into a bad team

You’d think a 5-foot-10 guard with the ability to shoot from the outside would never go scoreless in a game. You’d think a point guard with ball-handling skills of a juggler would not have 107 turnovers in 16 games.

Yet both these instances are true for the Golden Panthers’ women’s basketball team (3-14, 1-5 Sun Belt) that plays at opposite ends of the spectrum.

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, a dismal season thus far is not owed to just inconsistent performances; it is the result of players struggling to convert their individual abilities into team victories.

The team’s roster on paper does not compare to last season’s, but it is worth at least a .500 record. It is not worth a 35-point performance against Middle Tennessee State University with no player reaching double-digit scoring. That’s for sure. And it isn’t worth the worst record in the Sun Belt Conference.

So what is the root of the chemistry starved team? Not enough communication.

On offense, when a player is double-teamed or pressured, she might as well be a deer caught in headlights. The pressure brings futility to a situation remedied by an unguarded teammate. More importantly, it is fixed through communication and knowing where the open teammate might be.

Lack of communication is a habit the Golden Panthers seem to just can’t quit.

Therefore, they lead the conference in turnovers and rank last in scoring. Those same turnovers make it difficult for the team’s defense to set itself and prevent fast-break points.

Turnovers cause a powerful domino effect that hurts the offense, weakens the defense and eventually inflates the number of losses.

If the Golden Panthers handled the full-court press and double-teams with just a little more efficiency, they would be at least the .500 team their talent should allow them to be.

So, the team’s individual pieces are competent enough to make it to the tournament. They just need to start playing more conservatively and cohesively. If they communicate, the season is safe. At least you’d think it’s safe.