Students, faculty bear witness as President Obama takes the oath

On Jan. 20, Barack Hussein Obama became the 44th president of the United States. The whole world watched as the senator from Illinois repeated the oath that 43 others had taken before him. The country is embarking on a four-year journey with him as it looks to fix many of the troubles that the country faces. And here is where our journey begins.

Washington D.C., 8:45 a.m.: Obama, his wife Michelle and his daughters Sasha and Malia attend a private prayer service at St. John’s Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square, while thousands of Americans make their way to Mall to make sure they have a spot to watch history unfold.

Miami, 9 a.m.: Fransico Sanchez, 31, wakes up on the streets of Miami and makes his way to the Government Center in downtown.

Washington D.C., 10 a.m.: Obama and Michelle meet President Bush and his wife Laura to have coffee at the White House before departing for the Capitol.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Capitol in downtown.

Washington D.C., 10 a.m.: Obama and Michelle meet President Bush and his wife Laura to have coffee at the White House before departing for the Capitol.

OBAMA, page 6

SOUTH FLORIDA CARNIVAL EMULATES CONTEMPORARY ART

LaPointe works to fulfill campaign promises

David Barrios
Senior Staff Writer

Inside her private office, the vice president of Student Government Council at University Park, Paige LaPointe, sits watching President Barack Obama’s inauguration streaming live to her computer screen.

“It’s a big day. It’s incredible. And I don’t even really care much for national politics but it’s such an historic event,” LaPointe said.

LaPointe, like the president himself, reached her position by slowly climbing through the ranks.

“I began my career as an intern during my freshman year in the internship program. From that, I ran for a lower division senate seat during my sophomore year, upper division during my junior year and just walked up the steps,” said LaPointe about her involvement in SGC-UP.

LaPointe, a native of South Florida, ran with Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP, in March 2008 as his vice presidential pick.

“We had the idea. Since he was running, he approached me and asked if I would be his running mate. It wasn’t a formal approach. We were just geared up since elections were approaching and that was it,” said LaPointe.

“With A.J., I feel that we’ve accomplished a lot. We’ve been able to work throughout the year to maintain a good relationship in and out of the office.”

Paige LaPointe, vice president Student Government Council - University Park

“With A.J., I feel that we’ve accomplished a lot. We’ve been able to work throughout the year to maintain a good relationship in and out of the office.”

Paige LaPointe, vice president Student Government Council - University Park

“The travel a lot. In the past [as president], my job would have simply been to represent the student body,” said Meyer, in a recent interview with The Beacon. “But in this last year, I’ve found myself delegating many of my tasks to Paige.”

LaPointe said that one of her main tasks during this administration has been to “hold down the fort,” while forms, including the expansion of the PantherTram system into a point-to-point system to alleviate traffic, the development of PantherTV— a television station for the campus — and the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan. LaPointe has fronted several
South Florida farmers, shelters worry about frigid temperatures

Despite temperatures in the low 40s and upper 30s, emergency homeless shelters didn’t fill to capacity as many had anticipated. Farmers, however, were spared from freezing crops as wind chill warnings were issued throughout S. Fla. According to the National Weather Service, the storm is not over as they expect temperatures to reach throughout S. Fla. from freezing crops as wind chill warnings were issued many had anticipated. Farmers, however, were spared from freezing crops as wind chill warnings were issued throughout S. Fla. according to a press release. That warned of temperatures as low as 30 degrees and wind chill factors that would make it feel like 10 degrees. South Florida farmers, shelters worry about frigid temperatures.
Wealthy is on everyone’s mind, but who said being wealthy can’t be fun? The Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center will host a co-ed sand volleyball tournament at 1 p.m. on Jan. 24 on the volleyball court beside Bay Vista residence hall.

Todd Bowyer, a senior kinesiology major and intern from James Madison University and Mark Diesjus, senior advertising major and resident assistant at Bay Vista, are in charge of organizing the event. "The purpose of this event is to get students involved in a recreational program, get them active through athletic events, and since it’s on a Saturday, it’s not going to be conflicting with classes," Bowyer said.

Players will play in teams of two, and two to three prizes will be available for the winners, according to Bowyer. The number of teams and prizes will depend on the number of students attending.

The head-to-head tournament is free and open to all University students. Non-students may participate as long as their partner is a student. Refreshments will be provided at the event and participants should wear athletic attire, according to Bowyer.

"Students will get the enjoyment of a new experience and activity at BBC," said Warren Shav, assistant director of BBC Campus Recreation. “Our department is focused on bringing in new and dynamic programs to the students and staff. Beach volleyball is a great cardio activity and is also a lot of fun. The tournament should help us reach another segment of students who might not be interested in the usual football or basketball intramural.”

Any physical activity helps burn calories and aids in weight loss, according to Bowyer. By participating in the tournament, as in any physical exercise, students can improve their cardiovascular health.

"It’s a great opportunity for students to meet and greet, but also strengthen and condition the body at the same time," said Envensky Joseph, a junior majoring in exceptional student education.

Prior registration is not required for this event, according to Bowyer, though registering early will help give the Recreation Center an idea of the possible turnout. Participants must also sign a waiver form, which will be provided the day of the event.

Registration sheets are available at the front desk of the Fitness Center in Wolfe University Center, and at the front desk of Bay Vista residence hall.

“I think the volleyball tournament is a great way to get students to participate in an active and fun program,” said Andrea Reynoso, a sophomore physical therapy major. “It allows the student to forget about class and enjoy a recreational activity.”

For more information, contact the Recreation Center at (305) 594-5678 or visit http://wuc.fiu.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=77.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

PARADISE AFSHAR

Staff Writer

I hate saving money! No, wait. I don’t mean that...

I just hate thinking about the idea of trying to save money. To me, living on a budget and watching every dollar I spend is torture and way too much math to handle. I just look at watching every dollar I spend very closely as a form of being frugal easier on me.

But with the economy the way it is these days, I have been trying to keep an eye on how much I spend. Luckily for me, I did find a few places that made being a little frugal easier on me.

I normally go out to brunch every weekend with my little brother, Arash. We have this tradition of going to moderately priced restaurants, meaning that it costs about $25 - $35 for both of us. But this week, I actually made sure to cut back on how much we spent on food.

Instead of going to traditional chain restaurants, we opted for the Flashback Diner (220 S. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach.)

Now, I am one of those people who cannot just walk into a diner without eating breakfast and I will tell you right now the breakfast at this 24-hour diner is worth the trip. To top it off, you can order dishes named after celebrities.

I had two eggs, home fries and toast, all for $4.99. You might think I am crazy when I say this, but those had to be some of the yummiest scrambled eggs I have had in a while. And the fact that they were so cheap made them taste even better!

I loved this place from the moment I walked in. What made it love it even more was the bill, which came out to $17 for the two of us.

I saved almost half of what I would have spent anywhere else and got two great meals out of it.

Since I am so great at saving money, I took the nearly $10 I’d saved on lunch and decided I should reward my efforts by getting my eyebrows, which were in dire need of some maintenance, done at Nai Time (14701 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach).

But I didn’t mind going there instead of going to my normal eyebrow lady, who charges $18 for a wax.

Now, I do not recommend going to a new eyebrow place if you want a shape, but for a cleanup I think it is okay to cheat on your normal waxer and go somewhere new.

My friend Natalie McNeal, a former Miami Herald reporter, has this amazing blog called “Frugalista.” I adore this site and I am not saying that because I think Natalie is awesome, but because her site has tons of tips that make saving money exciting, even for someone like me.

She blogs about free giveaways that companies are having and I totally took advantage of one of the posts she has up.

Turns out, Suze Orman, a personal finance blogger and a frequent guest on major news networks, is giving away her book, 2009 Action Plan: Keeping Your Money Safe & Sound, for free! And guess who has ordered her free copy; me! Maybe this way I can learn how to save my cash.

After this weekend I am a lot better at saving money and it doesn’t seem as bad to me anymore. I can do it.

Weekends with Paradise is a bimonthly column that highlights North Miami area nightlife. If you have any suggestions for places I should visit, please e-mail me at paradise.afshar@fiu.edu.
Desperate deals call out to cost-conscious shoppers

Kimberly Engelhardt
Contributing Writer

Have you heard? The nation’s unemployment rate rose to 7.2 percent in December as employers slashed 524,000 jobs.

Perhaps you know somebody without a job; I certainly do.


As the modern depression-resistant college student that I am, it’s a great time to understand: “The laws of cat pythons for sale” and one that took me a couple of years ago this would have been unheard of.

Even Staples has gotten into deep discounting, Leinwand said in a Brandweek interview. “Discounting has its consequences because people get used to those price points,” he said. “Plus there is no shame in competing directly with dollar stores ... they have better margins than many retail channels.”

I could get used to this. Fifty percent off I’ll definitely be stocking up on the cheap, cheaper, cheapest deal game.

I’ll definitely be stocking up on pens and Sharpies, especially Sharpies, so I can make a huge sign that says, “OK, I’m buying your stuff. I’m saving the economy.”

Now save me! Hire me!

Dollar deals are a better alternative to deep discounting, Leinwand said in a Brandweek interview. “Discounting has its consequences because people get used to those price points,” he said. “Plus there is no shame in competing directly with dollar stores ... they have better margins than many retail channels.”

I could get used to this. Fifty percent off is so last year. Embrace the deep discounts and, of course, spend with moderation.

The blogosphere is a realm of freedom, a world of thought where anyone can occupy with their thoughts. A message to bloggers of this “Pajama Revolution,” as Blevins suggests in the words of a grumpy old man: “Get off my lawn!”

Blogging is deviating the masses from the spectrum and let’s face it, the world needs as many objectivists as possible.

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The emergence of this progressive rivalry is distorting the distinction between journalists and bloggers.

Hopefully, journalists can find a way to turn the public back on their side again, before bloggers completely invade our space.

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GENEVIEVE STEEL
Staff Writer

This week, an unexpected artistic adventure developed for me when I visited the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach, Fla.

As I strolled through, I began to notice the overwhelming amount of artistic expression; but it wasn’t in the kindergarten or fourth-grade art displays. I made my discovery far from what most deem as art. Blinking lights, vibrant signs, colorful, flailing mounds of popcorn and cotton candy, toys, greasy food and rides. They all began to take shape as magnificent installations, sculptures, paintings and performances.

There was so much eye candy. Being familiar with exhibitions decades and edging into contemporary art, I was reminded in a uniquely strange, even fixating way, how artists are influenced by popular iconography.

Contemporary art has become a transitional marketplace where art collectors and hobbyists can have a range of tastes and interests. Some artists stage their work to seem artificial, resembling something mass produced. One of my favorite genres is the world of kitsch art and craft. In kitsch the cornier and worst taste, the better.

KITSCH FAIR:
prize display (top), marquee (center) and entrance (bottom) with art.

Contemporary artist, Bruce Nauman and Matthew Barney, and the strange sets he creates using animal-like people, bright colors and cheesy music.

Another fair classic is neon signage. And I found, sure enough, up in the sky above me as I walked toward the rides accompanied by screams of delight, a multi-neon cowboy with his arm blinking up and down. He reminded me of another mega famous contemporary artist, Bruce Nauman and his neon clowns. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami had a big installation of his a few years back.

The Fireball also enticed me to the feeling of the ride. The style of its layout was from the late 1950s with flaming, rhythmic, three-toned, red, orange and yellow blinking bulbs. Along with others, they looked like massive public art installations, except you can ride these. They are fairly accessible to the public and are more sophisticated.

Most people wouldn’t consider taxidermy a fine art form, yet it was used quite often in the contemporary installations and sculptures and may look quite handsome when communicating, “You will see wild animals here.”

Accumulation is a fantastic attribute of post modern art, which falls into the contemporary category too. The souvenir stands and some of the game booths took on a surprising air of methodical organization and strategic positioning.

I was really impressed with the train station. It was so tediously developed that it had been inside a gallery and not next to a bunch of Navajo jewelry and aromatherapy foot scrub, it would surely have made it to the Whitney Museum of Art via NYC.

Some of the characters at the fair seemed to be plucked right out of a John Rivers movie, a Mel Brooks comedy or a Duane Hanson sculpture.

Overall, the fair seemed like a mini-sliver of a happy-laden day in New York City’s Coney Island. But something about the people walking around ignoring the beautiful art and socializing reminded me of what actually goes on at an art opening in Miami.

THE CINEMATIC

Award-winning documentary recreates, animates early 80s Lebanese war

One of the best documentarians and frontrunners for this year’s Best Foreign Language Oscar, as well as Golden Globe winner for Best Foreign Film, Wafie with Bashir splices the filmmaking world of animation and documentary to create an unforgettable film.

A pack of 26 zombie-like, armed soldiers are walking through a crowded street. They are outside the apartment of the man who killed them, stalking him and looking for revenge.

Though it sounds more like the intro to a horror film, this is how the documentary starts. It is a nightmare told to Ari Folman, the film’s director, that one of his army buddies consistently suffers from.

Folman was one of many Israeli men who were in Lebanon in the summer of 1982, when the Israeli defense forces pushed through the southern part of the country toward Beirut.

Most of them were present when Christian militiamen slaughtered 3,000 civilians in order to avenge the death of Lebanon’s newly elected president, Bashir Gemayel, who was assassinated days before.

The two men conclude that there is a connection between the dream and their Israeli Army mission in the first Lebanon War in the early 80s. After finishing the conversation with his friend, Folman is haunted by a weird recollection of naked soldiers walking on the beach in Beirut as the city’s destroyed skyline is illuminated by flares. This is the only memory that Folman has of his participation in the war. This sparks an interest in Folman as he decides to interview other soldiers that were with him at the time. As he interviews his army and anyone who knows who he involved with the Lebanon War, certain memories start to resurface in Folman’s
Americans’ mindset of hope strong at Obama’s inauguration

Boca Raton, 10:30 a.m.: At the St. Andrew Retirement Community, dozens of retirees flock into the South Auditorium for an inauguration watch party. Marie Issacson waits patiently outside as workers make final preparations before the auditorium opens.

“These people worked really hard for Obama. It was like no one was ever home. They were always at Obama’s office. My husband worked really hard on the campaign. Whenever he was gone, I just knew he was at Obama’s office,” she said.

The 72-year-old retiree has seen her share of history. Her father William was a refrigerator engineer for the Army and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. At the age of 5, Isacson saw the Japanese planes fly by her home before they bombed the United States fleet. Years later, she saw the civil rights movement before her eyes, man walk on the moon, the Berlin Wall fall, yet she never thought she would see what she saw on Jan. 20.

“I didn’t think I’d ever see a black president. I just knew he was at Obama’s office,” she said. “[Obama] really hard on the campaign. Whenever he was gone, I just knew he was at Obama’s office,” she said.

Miami, 11 a.m.: Between the Government Center reading a book about the end of days. He looks up, catches a glimpse of the coverage and quickly returns to his book. “It just doesn’t fit the criteria. He just came in too quick. I’d just rather be sure this is the right person for the job for president,” said the 31-year-old homeless man.

North Miami, 11:30 a.m.: Michael Gonzalez watches the sea of people in the Mall on the big screen TV in the Wolfe Center before scurrying into class. He can’t believe he is a part of history.

“Yes we can and yes we did,” the junior said. “Our generation made a difference and we’re going to be the ones leading change.”

Boca Raton, 11:45 a.m.: Retired naval commander Phillip Lorber sits at his table with his wife Neta, watching the ceremony unfold.

“Here’s your lede son, this is the most exciting event in our country and I’ve never seen this much excitement before. Obama is facing the most monumental problems since [Franklin D. Roosevelt],” Lorber said. “His legacy will depend on the solutions he produces.”

The 72-year-old retiree has seen her share of history. Her father William was a refrigerator engineer for the Army and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. At the age of 5, Isacson saw the Japanese planes fly by her home before they bombed the United States fleet. Years later, she saw the civil rights movement before her eyes, man walk on the moon, the Berlin Wall fall, yet she never thought she would see what she saw on Jan. 20.

“The country voted a certain way and we need to give these people a chance,” Savage, 102, said. “It’s going to take time to fix all of these problems so I hope people have patience.”

Washington D.C., 12:30 p.m.: “America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words: with hope and virtue...” Let it be said by our children’s children that when we were tested we refused to turn back nor did we falter. And with eyes fixed on the horizon and God’s grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations,” Obama said in his inaugural address.

In order to create this odd and fascinating documentary, the collaboration of art director David Polinsky and director of photography Yoni Goodman allowed Folman to unravel the memories and bloodshed of the war he experienced in.

Waltz with Bashir also brings you to questions how well prepared the Israeli soldiers were for the Lebanon War. For instance, a young group of soldiers storming the beach fire their guns at the first thing they see – a car occupied with a family of three. Another sequence of the film shows the young soldiers shooting off the canons on their tanks wildly despite not knowing why they do so.

The final sequence of the film is deprived of any animation. At the end, rolling graphic footage of the aftermath of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps’ massacre show the viewer the impacting reality of what happened in the Lebanon War.

WHERE: Maurice Gusman Concert Hall
WHAT: International Chocolate Festival
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: Fairfield Tropical Botanic Garden
CONTACT: 305-647-1651

WHERE: In A Plane Crash
WHEN: 9:00 a.m.
WHERE: Churchill’s Pub
CONTACT: 305-757-1807

WHERE: Miami Heat Vs. Orlando Magic
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines
CONTACT: 877-777-1000

WHERE: South Beach Comedy Festival
WHEN: 8:00-10:30 p.m.
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
CONTACT: 305-673-7000

WHAT: DIED IN A PLANE CRASH
WHERE: 12:08 p.m.
WHAT: BOCA RATON, 12:05 p.m.
WHAT: MIAMI, 12:08 p.m.: Wilbert Mitchell, a 68-year-old homeless man, didn’t hear or see the inauguration, but he knew the importance of the day.

“He’s just like Moses,” he said. “He’s going to do a great job. Anything he needs from me, I’m ready to help.”

WHAT: American Airlines Arena
WHAT: Celine Dion
WHAT: 12:05 p.m.: Obama begins his inauguration speech.

WHERE: Culture Room
WHAT: Gaelic Storm
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

WHERE: GC Game Room
WHAT: Smash Bros Video Game Tournament
WHERE: 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Vagabond
WHEN: 11:00 p.m.
WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improv Show
CONTACT: 954-564-1074

WHAT: The Song Remains the Same: A Tribute to Led Zeppelin
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Maurice Gusman Concert Hall
CONTACT: 305-382-2203

WHAT: Miami Jewish Festival
WHERE: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Sunrson Cameras - Intercoastal B
CONTACT: 305-949-0064

WHAT: Mamma Mia! (Performance)
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
WHEN: 11:00 p.m.
WHAT: Just The Funny Improv Comedy Theatre Company
CONTACT: 305-949-0064

WHERE: GC Game Room
WHAT: Smash Bros Video Game Tournament
WHERE: 7:45 a.m.
WHERE: GC Game Room
CONTACT: 305-348-2297

WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHAT: WALTZ WITH BASHIR
WHERE: 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
WHAT: Celine Dion
WHAT: 12:05 p.m.: Obama begins his inauguration speech.

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WHERE: Sunrson Cameras - Intercoastal B
CONTACT: 305-949-0064

WHAT: Mamma Mia! (Performance)
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Broward Center AuRenée Theatre
CONTACT: 954-462-0222

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

WHERE: Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124
Team needs more experience, balance to flourish next season

**BONILLA, page 8**

midway and forward Adley Bosilj played more than 15 minutes in just six games.

Meanwhile, guard Monika Bosilj had to assume the majority of the scoring responsibilities with no true partner in crime to complement her.

In other words, the roster is as thin as Calista Flockhart.

Even with 10 games left against conference teams, recovering from the first 19 games with injuries and limited depth is too tall a task for the team this season.

This is a team that leads the conference in turning the ball over and is last in scoring. Those types of problems cannot be remedied over the next 10 games.

It would take 10 games plus the off-season to fix those problems. Giving more freshmen a chance to log in some minutes for next season doesn’t look like such a bad idea right about now.

Guard Asia Wilson is a freshman with explosive speed who can drive to the basket but has some trouble completing the score.

Giving her more minutes to prepare for a role as a reliable backup next season might make sense for the Golden Panthers.

Now. I would hate to see the team just give up. But even more so, I would like to see the women’s basketball program catch and take a break.

Rewinding to last season, the team was heading into the latter stage of the season with a full band of steam, then leading scorer LaQuetta Ferguson tore her ACL and her season and career as a Golden Panther was over.

The team had so much depth that it managed to advance to the second round of the Sun Belt Conference tournament before being eliminated vs. the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

If it’s not one major injury, it’s two equally debilitating ones to Hurlassa and Adley. Hurlassa was that extra shooter to help out Bosilj and an extra target for the young point guard Gonzalez. Adley coming off the bench made the team deep in the frontcourt, allowing Carey and forward Jasmine Jenkins to be more effective. The pieces are there – just not together this season.

Statistically, the Golden Panthers are far from done.

It’s just that with the unfortunate luck of the team, a preparation plan for the next campaign should be a priority.

So, as much as I would like to say the team could still make a push for the Sun Belt tournament, the team’s biggest issues this season are strong as ever.

Ending the season with valuable experience for the freshmen and sophomores will make 2009-10 a more enjoyable campaign to watch. Especially if the younger players can use the time to develop.

**DOMINGUEZ, page 8**

Although he possesses other skills valuable to the team, it’s apparent that Dominguez’s best attribute is his ability to put the ball in the basket. He currently averages 14.4 points per game, third behind Galindo (15.2) and Jenkins (18.4) and is last in scoring. Those types of problems cannot be remedied off-season to fix those problems. Giving more freshmen a chance to log in some minutes for next season doesn’t look like such a bad idea right about now.

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**Huizenga completes sale of Dolphins to Ross**

**STEWEN WINE AP Wire**

Thanks to Bill Parcells, Stephen Ross takes over the Miami Dolphins with the franchise’s fortunes on the upswing.

And Ross expects to keep Parcels around.

Ross, a New York real estate billionaire, completed his purchase of 95 percent of the franchise for $1 billion Tuesday, with Wayne Huizenga retaining a 5 percent interest.

Ross then addressed speculation he and Parcels might not be hitting it off. The sale triggered a clause in Parcels’ contract allowing him to leave and still receive the $9-12 million remaining on the four-year contract he signed a year ago.

“Parcels is in charge,” Ross said in a conference call. “He’s staying, and I think we’re very fortunate to have someone like Bill Parcels, who I think people have come to recognize as probably the best football mind in America.”

When the first phase of Ross’ purchase was completed last February, the Dolphins were coming off a 1-15 season, the worst in team history. Under the new Parcels regime, they improved to 11-6 this season and made the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

Ross plans to meet Friday with Parcels, general manager Jeff Ireland and coach Tony Sparano, and said he forswore no changes on the football side. Ross said he found the atmosphere at the Dolphins’ recent playoff game electrifying and wants to build on this season’s success.

Ross said Bryan Wiedmeier will remain as team president, and negotiations regarding a position on the business side are ongoing with Arlen Kantarian, former U.S. Tennis Association CEO.
Michael Dominguez has impacted the team beyond his shooting

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

When Golden Panther guard Michael Dominguez decided to attend FIU after two seasons at Northeastern Junior College, he knew he could immediately help a team whose goal is to win the Sun Belt Conference. “I came to start. They didn’t really have any shooters besides Alex [Galindo]. I knew I could come in and make an impact,” he said.

Dominguez, making good on his word, has been one of the key additions to this season’s Golden Panthers basketball squad. The junior guard has been the go-to three-point shooter, knocking down a team-leading 52 shots from beyond the arc so far this season. He’s also the team’s best free-throw shooter, knocking down 83 percent of his attempts. But what he also brings to the team is something that won’t be seen on any stat sheet.

“He’s a very, very good defender. He probably has the highest IQ on the team that we have,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The first-year Golden Panther knows that it’s his knowledge of the game, not just his shooting stroke, that makes him special to the team. “I’m not going to shoot well every game. I’ll be diving for loose balls. I’ve only missed one practice. I try to be a leader by example,” he said.

The New Mexico native has also played in the starting lineup. Rouco said that besides point guard Nick Taylor, Dominguez has also brought intangibles and leadership to a team that has dealt with an array of adversity this season.

MR. BIG SHOT

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GREAT SCORER:
Junior guard Michael Dominguez is third on the team in scoring, but has also brought leadership, floor intelligence and experience to a team that has dealt with an array of adversity this season.

NOTEBOOK: MEN’S BASKETBALL
Soto, Hicks set to rejoin team

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

FIU will look to hand Louisi-
siana-Monroe its sixth loss in as many games Jan. 24 at Louisiana-
Monroe. The streaking Golden Panthers (8-12, 3-4 Sun Belt) will
look to win their second straight road affair against the Warhawks (5-13, 1-6) and continue their recent climb in the standings.

Forward/center Freddy Asprilla is still battling a sore back, according to head coach Sergio Rouco, but the Sun-Belt conference leader in rebounds will play in the game, and there is a good chance he will be joined by the player he replaced in the starting lineup. Rouco said that senior center Russell Hicks is close to returning from a stress fracture he sustained in his left ankle that has held him out since November.

HELP ON THE WAY
After the Golden Panthers practiced on Wednesday, Hicks walked off the stationary bike he was using on the sideline as FIU women’s basketball assistant coach Sergio Rouco climbed into the seat...

Hicks will soon be able to move from the machine to the court. The Pre-season All-SBC performer was averaging 8 points per game before his injury and will give the Golden Panthers arguably the best pair of centers in the conference, as Asprilla is having one of the best seasons ever for an FIU freshman.

FIU will also welcome the return of sophomore point guard Josue Soto, who practiced for the first time last week since he broke his hand before the season. The Florida State transfer has yet to play a game for the University.

THE STROKE
Senior Marlon Bright does not take a lot of three-pointers, but when he does, he makes them. Bright is 5-of-13 from beyond the arc, and only has one game in which he has attempted more than one three-pointer and not converted.

OUTSIDE SHOOTER: Senior Marlon Bright does not take a lot of three-pointers, but when he does, he makes them. Bright is 5-of-13 from beyond the arc, and only has one game in which he has attempted more than one three-pointer and not converted.

Issues too many to overcome this year

For the first time in 2009, women’s basketball head coach Cindy Russoos had a reason to smile. Her team snapped its six-game losing streak against Denver University and it was the team’s first win since Dec. 22, 2008.

Yet Adley’s return and the progress of forward Elisa Carey may have come a little too late for the 4-15 team. As painful as it is to utter the worn out adage, “Get ready for next season,” the Golden Panthers might be better off trying to regroup and develop players for next season’s team.

This season, sophomore Michelle Gonzalez is the lone point guard. Fanni Hutlassa, a forward, was lost...