The Beacon, January 28, 2009

Florida International University

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Seminar unites Florida’s RAs

“"They were all coming from different directions, wearing their different spirit gear with their school colors and they all ended up congregated in the quad," remembered Ron Thompson, interim director for Residential Life. "It was a very visual moment."

Thompson recalled the vibe of school spirit present at the annual Florida Residential Assistant Seminars which was hosted by the FIU resident assistants.

The conference started Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m. and ended the following day at midnight.

FLU to host ‘legendary’ performer

Hundreds of students lined up on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in front of the Graham Center Ticketmaster counter, all intent on purchasing tickets for “An Evening with John Legend.” The five-time Grammy Award-winning musician is set to appear on Feb. 11 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena, with the evening including a half-hour lecture and a 45-minute acoustic performance.

Ticket prices are set at $25 for floor seating in the arena and $20 for seating in the bleachers and can be purchased at both the Graham Center Ticketmaster and the Wolfe University Center Ticket Master at Biscayne Bay Campus. The event will take place Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“Niv Oudit, just after the Ivanka Trump lecture last semester, set out to find another big name and a relevant person to attend. We wanted to get people who were interesting,” said Ben Badger, press secretary of Student Government Association-City University Park.

According to Oudit, Student Government Association speaker bureau chair and main coordinator for the event, SGA was offered several names by many talent agencies.

Jodie Sweetin, Christian Siriano, Rachel Ray, Michael Moore, Tony Blair, Eric Brokovich and even the cast of Mythbusters were some of them, but Oudit said that many of them were either “way out of our budget or simply not conducive to the demands of the student body based on our research.”

LEGEND, page 2

Credit card debt, student loans and even tenure were the main issues addressed at the “Know Your Rights” Lecture Series, where lawyers gave sound advice to concerned students.

On Jan. 24, on the second floor of the Graham Center, Jeffrey Mollinaro, law school senator for the Student Government Association, with the help of SGA’s Student Advocate Cristina Loretto, invited a panel of four law professionals for the first of three events in the series.

Breakfast was provided by SGA and, as students began to trickle in, the panel opened with Marlon Hill, a partner at Delancy Hill PA, law firm, speaking about the purpose of the lecture.

“Having the legal community here in collaboration with the student leadership is key to providing students with the information they need to be less stressed and focus on their academics,” he said.

He proceeded to ask the audience, who consisted of about 20 dozen students, why they attended the forum.

Most were students earning their graduate degrees and said they came for general information.

“Most of these students are law school students,” Loretto said. “This came as somewhat of a surprise as more undergraduate students were expected.”

Ruth Johnson Martin, PA, addressed issues related to student debt and the unethical practices of many debt collectors, such as having reps men show up at people’s doors to scare them.

Duane Pincock, from Delancy Hill, continued addressing student loans and interest rates and how students have options when paying these loans off and should always avoid letting them accumulate.

The last speaker, Lisa Colon-Heron of the Caribbean Bar Association, spoke on landlord and tenant law and considerations that should be taken by students when renting and leasing.

During the question and answer section, the majority of concerns raised by students revolved around loans, debt and renting concerns.

“Student debt is a rising issue in our current environment,” Pincock said.

Though successful, SGA faced several challenges in coordinating the event.

“Basically one of our major challenges was the fact that we received a budget cut,” Loretto said. “Some of the food came out of our pockets.”

As for the guests, she said the lawyers volunteered.

Mollinaro shed some light on the long term goals of this event on campus.

“There are universities throughout the state that provide legal representation for their students,” he said.

Currently, according to Mollinaro, FLU does not offer these services and the event would inform students on critical financial matters.
The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2700. Hacking & Associates is located at 3350 S.W. 27th St., Miami, FL 33155. Fax numbers are 305-348-2712. Reserve your Campus to 305-315-4272. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: beacons1969@fiu.edu. Also write to www.beacons.com.

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FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Contributing Writer

The FIU Foundation has announced eight new members on Jan. 21.

“This new members are leaders representing a wide range of talent in our community,” said Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, vice president of University and Community Relations and executive director of the FIU Foundation, in a press release.

Six of the eight new members are University alumni. They include CEOs, presidents, vice presidents and principals in their respective fields.

The FIU Foundation is a charitable organization by the state of Florida and is considered a tax exempt organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. A non-profit corporation was established in 1969 in order to advance the University’s objectives through the encouragement, solicitation and administration of gifts.

According to the foundation’s criteria for director nomination, a candidate should have a high interest in becoming involved with the University and help to achieve its fund-raising goals.

In addition, all must pay an annual fee of $2,500 and are responsible for contributing an additional minimum of $7,500 or through their company or other funds obtained from other parties.

The money could go to any department, branch or activity of the University.

Some of the ideal skill criteria for the directors include the ability to raise and manage money, knowledge of higher education and marketing skills.

The new members include:

- David F. Allinson, founder, chairman and CEO of Enterprise Information Systems.
- Richard Brillant, vice president of Audit Services and chief audit executive of Carnival Cruise Lines.
- Nicholas G. Bustle, city manager of West Palm Beach.
- Roy Chavarria and manager for the commercial line of business at SunTrust Bank.
- Carlos A. Duart, president and CEO of Metro Engineering.
- Eileen Moss, partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon Law Firm.
- Marcel L. Navarro, principal at MMG Equity Partners.
- Caroline Rendito, CEO of Business Centers International.

Jan. 16

Charges are being pressed by vending company Diloreto and Sons after merchandise was stolen from a vending machine on University Park Towers. The unknown suspect damaged the doors in gaining access to the machine.

Jan. 17

A student started the engine of her vehicle upon leaving the Army ROTC parking lot when her car caught on fire. Lt. Obrien reported to the scene and reported that the fire was accidental.

A male student resident was victim to burglary. About $2,670 of merchandise and cash were stolen from his room in Heritage South. The suspect behind this crime is unknown and the case was issued a case card.
Diverse comedy show jokes about differences

SHERVIN BAIN
Staff Writer

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the “Stand Up for Diversity Comedy Tour” the Student Programming Council will be hosting Jan. 29, showcases the comedic styles of Sheng Wang, Michelle Buteau and Wil Sylvence.

The comedy show will be held in the Mary-Ann Wolfe Theatre in the Wolfe University Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. and those outside the University community are welcome to attend. A sign-in sheet will be provided for guests and students should bring their Panther IDs.

The purpose of the show is to kick off the semester, according to Andre Dawson, special events chair for SPC, and a senior biology and psychology major.

“We’re in a time period of change going on. We just wanted to give [students] a wide variety of comedy,” he said.

The comedy show, which is free, is part of the One World Celebration, hosted by SPC during the week of January 26-30.

“One World” week will feature themed days corresponding to different cultures around the world, such as a Mexican-themed day on Jan. 29 and a European day on Jan. 30.

“This comedy show is very diverse. We have an Asian comic, a female comic and a Haitian comic,” Dawson said.

According to http://www.diversityincub.com, the Web site for the comedy show, Sheng Wang’s comedy stems from his personal experiences and he is known for his absurd style and self-deprecating humor. Michelle Buteau recently finished a 10-city tour called “5 Funny Females.” She has also toured in Europe and performed at comedy clubs in London and Dublin, Ireland.

Wil Sylvence has appeared on BET’s Comic View, The Apollo Comedy Hour and Russell Simmons’ Def Comedy Jam, where he received a standing ovation.

SPC has hosted several shows in the past, including last year’s variety show Sept. 25 and “LOL Comedy series,” featuring the talents of Adam Hunter and Benji Brown, among others.

Desraneaux said that they expect between 200-250 people to show.

For more information, contact SPC at (305) 919-3280.

FOODGASM

Impressing your friends – and yourself – with a hearty stew

Last week was our winter – and it was cold to us native Miamians. All of a sudden, Uggs were trampling across our campus, scarves were trailing behind us in the icy wind and, no doubt, fuzzy blankets were layered on our beds to keep us warm.

We all know how to dress when the weather turns chilly, but how are we supposed to eat?

I personally enjoy cold weather foodgasm, my palate craves comfort food. Are we supposed to eat what we normally do in the summer?

Tour” the Student Programming Council starts the thawing process.

Don’t worry, these recipes don’t require a campfire. It warms up the kitchen and broiling, this is just the chef’s version of our home remedy chicken soup.

With the weather turns sweater-friendly, my palate craves warming foods like soups, stews and hot chocolate. For me, there is nothing like a hot, homemade Cuban stew called carne con papas, which translates to meat with potatoes.

It’s one of the warming, peasant foods from my culture.

The stew heats me from the inside out, foodgasmic spoonfuls of its bubbling tomato broth, with hearty chunks of stewing beef, simmering vegetables and potato – melting in my mouth.

Foods like this are warming because they are served piping hot and have a richness to them – a stick-to-your-ribs feeling – once they go down.

They usually make you think of your culture because a good hearty stew is made at home by your family at home, over many hours. It is hard to find a restaurant serving these dishes because of the time and care that is needed to produce them.

And, let’s face it, our average temperature in Miami is always raging at please-get-me-to-the-nearest-air-conditioner levels.

But when the wind hit me in the face last Wednesday and my already numerous layers of clothing weren’t keeping me warm, I hit the kitchen. I needed to recover from the frost in my hair and my numb toes.

I started my defrosting by setting my oven to broil and leaving it open just a tad.

Don’t worry, these recipes don’t require broiling, this is just the chef’s version of a campfire. It warms up the kitchen and starts the thawing process.

I decided to make caldo gallego, a white bean soup from Galicia on the northwestern part of Spain.

A soup of my heritage, caldo gallego

makes me think of my family in Spain and also lets me have a taste of what I’m missing abroad. I don’t make it often because it requires some time, but there is no better way to foodgasm and warm up at once.

First, I make the base to my soup, which is a good starting point for any soup or stew.

I carefully dice a large white onion and mince four large cloves of garlic.

I then sauté these with a little Spanish olive oil (Goya will do) in a large pot.

While the vegetables soften, I chop a small package of Spanish chorizo, which gets its pungent smell from red peppers and Spanish paprika, and two cups of smoked ham into bite-sized pieces and add them to the pot, stirring until the chorizo imparts its fiery red color on all the other ingredients.

The next step is to make a ham broth, which involves ham hocks and lots of time. If you don’t have the time, feel free to cheat – use store-bought ham or chicken stock to get the job done.

After adding the 6.8 cups of broth, and bringing it to a simmer, take some time to wash, peel and dice about two cups of yellow potatoes.

Also, open and rinse two 15 oz. cans of Northern white beans.

When your prep is ready, add the beans and potatoes to the pot, covering and simmering the soup for one hour. This hour lets all the cultural flavors mingle, cooks the meats and potatoes to a soft stew state and allows you some time to get hungry.

My mouth is watering just thinking of the delicious dish to come.

Right before serving the caldo gallego to your freezing friends, make sure to take one and a half cups of frozen collard greens, kale or spinach and add it to the pot, heating it until warm.

This gives the soup the last touch and ties it in with winter because it is a seasonal ingredient. You can certainly use fresh greens, but allow for more cooking time.

Personally, I just want to eat.

This soup turns out to be ethnic, rich and magically warming. It’s known as a restorative soup in Spain – and for good reason. This is Spain’s version of our home remedy chicken soup.

Its mix of strong Spanish flavors, hearty meats and vegetables and soft winter touches like white beans and greens gets us in touch with the season and gives us the warmth to let us escape our sweaters.

Serve this thick and hearty alternative soup with a piece of crusty bread and a glass of a good Spanish wine, like the crisp and tart Paco & Lola Albariño 2007 ($16), which balances nicely because of its light and elegant flavors.

This is all you need for a winter foodgasm.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

Dr. Leslie Baumann of the University of Miami Cosmetic Medicine & Research Institute*

is announcing a research study to determine if a new combination product improves acne in men and women ages 12 to 45.

You will be compensated for your time.

For more information contact the research staff at (305) 531-5788 or visit www.cosmeti research@med.miami.edu

*The University of Miami Cosmetic Medicine & Research Institute is located at Miami Heart Institute 4701 N. Meridian Ave., Nichol Building, Suite 7450 Miami Beach, FL 33140
A WEEKLY COLUMN

‘Greek anxiety’ should be overcome

I was talking to a friend of mine who was attending college out of state and she mentioned that there are no fraternities or sororities at her university. Considering the prominence of Greek organizations here (at least at the University Park campus), it was a little bit difficult to imagine campus life without that Greek element.

I spent the weeks leading up to this semester in thought about whether I should rush and see what it was like on the other side.

Unlike the freshmen who decide to affiliate with a Greek organization immediately upon starting college, I was too confused about any of the point of it was, what the letters meant and the whole general idea of founding fraternities and sororities, not to mention being skeptical of the clique-style of the groups. Recently, however, Greek students had comprised more of my social circle through friends, and I started to get to more of a grasp of what it was all about and a respect for students who took that route in college.

I suddenly had people on both sides of the issue pushing me in both directions: some encouraging me to attend rush events because I would be an asset to a Greek organization, and others telling me not to become part of the groups that they perceived as elitist and divisive.

The types of conversations point to another prominent aspect of the University Park atmosphere that cannot be ignored: tension between Greeks and non-Greeks.

Considering all of the good qualities that both Greeks and non-Greeks bring to our University, the amount of tension between the two groups is rather unfortunate, and it is not solely the fault of either party.

It is mostly created by members of both groups doing exactly what I’m about to do: Greek domination, but by the fact that being in Greek organizations strongly encourages campus involvement. Any student can apply to join organizations that fall under Campus Life and the Council for Student Organizations, and any student can attend the events that these groups put on around campus (with the obvious exception of private chapter events, such as meetings). There is no doubt that rushing is not a requirement for Greek life, but it is mostly created by fraternities and sororities, with different cultures and opportunities to network, have found the fraternity and sorority is a really good thing, but I certainly understand why some people would rather judge who they associate with on a case-by-case basis than by who is in the same organization as them.

I also know many people who are not interested in ever going Greek, who I will always be as close to as my future fraternity brothers and who also contribute greatly to this University.

At the end of my very deep contemplations of rush week (I was having dreams about the Greek alphabet), I did decide to pledge to a fraternity on campus and I haven’t had a single regret since. Being a pledge of this fraternity has required me to undertake many new responsibilities, but I will always be grateful for the opportunities I have been presented with.

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1. Eric Feldman

HOME SWEET HOME?

Dorm life lacking in liveliness

We pride ourselves in being a university with a diverse and active campus life, and rightfully so. But as FIU grows and the demand for on-campus housing grows with it, Changes must occur, namely a new focus on campus life program aimed at housing students.

Right now there are six residence halls and an apartment complex at University Park and another at Biscayne Bay Campus. These facilities house more than 3,000 students, many from out of state, others from out of the country. Those living on campus, who are seeking an on-campus residential experience at a truly international institution, rich with different cultures and opportunities to network, have found the right place. Those who are looking for something a little bit more, who want to call FIU home and want to feel like home is a fun place to be, may find themselves disappointed.

For all the money it costs (to live on campus), it doesn’t seem like I’m getting the full college experience, said Roger de Souza, a sophomore who has lived in Lakeview Village.

The housing quad is a beautiful place, with a swimming pool and volleyball court and even its own convenience store.

“What’s missing is noise, life. It’s too quiet around here and it can get depressing, even lonely,” de Souza said.

Others share the sentiment.

“I go out on a Friday or Saturday night and it is absolutely dead out here,” said Jade Byfield, an out-of-state student resident. “I came here because I wanted to go out of New York and come to Miami. But it’s disappointing, after how well they sell this school to me, to see a few people sitting outside doing nothing on a beautiful weekend night down here.”

FIU is first and foremost a university is: Miami, the city the rest of America is jealous of all four seasons of the year. Make FIU the number one venue in the area. We have the resources, we have the student body and we have the potential.

The future of FIU depends on the level of satisfaction of the students that call the University home.

ANDREW SOLOMON
Contributing Writer

What’s missing is noise, life. It’s too quiet around here and it can get depressing, even lonely.

Roger de Souza, sophomore student resident

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters can be sent to: opinion@fiu.com. Letters must be under 300 words and include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department. They may be edited for space/grammar.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Regarding the Jan. 22 story on the new president, I greatly value and appreciate the service of Trustees Frost and Puig. I believe that their comment implying that the most important quality the new President should have is “an immense understanding of the local community” is incorrect.

If FIU is to become the institution the community deserves, the new president must be able to lead it as it develops its promise. While understanding the local community will be important, understanding that a research university is, how to develop a medical school and how to prioritize in a very tight financial situation will be much more important capacities.

I believe our trustees, both individually and collectively, need to focus on what we are and we are to become, rather than where we are, if they are to properly fulfill their responsibilities.

Bruce Haupli
Professor of Philosophy
Former University Trustee

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Wednesday, January 28, 2009
The Beacon – 4
Financial inspires prison dream

Everyone is talking about the possibility of impeding FIU budget cuts. Well, not really everyone. Several people are talking about them – at least two.

The point is, budget cuts are impending. With the state Legislature planning on reducing funding to education once again, the University administration is going to have to start dramatically cutting costs or raising revenues.

Some people are looking at this situation and worryingly ask, “Will my major be cut?” or “Will they fire my history professor or Guillermo, the really nice custodian I always see in GC?”

Sadly, the answer to these questions could be yes. But it doesn’t have to be. If daring and bold action is taken, FIU may seize upon a golden opportunity to keep this school from developing into some second-rate educational institution like UM (just kidding): an opportunity like the one we have.

“Don’t fall, don’t fall, don’t fall,” is all I could think of before finally performing in front of students in the Pit on Jan. 15. “What in the world did I get myself into?” were my only thoughts leading up to Dance Marathon, So You Think You Can Dance auditions.

DM is a 24-hour philanthropy event where participants stand on their feet pledging their dedication to the Children’s Miracle Network. All proceeds and the event itself are given to the Miami Children’s Hospital.

When I agreed to cover DM for The Beacon, I was very excited and eager to cover everything and anything. Needless to say, my eagerness slowly went away when I realized that I had to audition for So You Think You Can Dance. If I flunked a dance class before, how the heck was I going to pull this one off?

I spent about a good week thinking of all the possible excuses I could come up with to tell my editor I couldn’t do it. I was secretly hoping that she would eventually tell me it was OK and that she understood and would let me skip the auditions.

By my luck, those words never escaped her mouth. It was the first week of school and I was telling my friends about needing a dance routine, when one of them said, “Have you heard about the ‘Yes’ dance?”

With a puzzled look on my face I introduced them to the “Yes” dance on YouTube. “Kasey, that is so you,” mentioned one of my friends as we watched these two guys “Yes” dance. It had to be one of the silliest dances I had ever seen. It looked easy and it was funny. It had finally been decided. I was going to “Yes” my way into So You Think You Can Dance.

Meanwhile, a friend of mine, who can actually dance, was preparing for the auditions as well. We were each other’s motivation and it was a comfort to know that we would be cheering for each other.

Irish dancer Cristina Rodriguez has qualified for the World Championship for three years and for the past five years at the Southern Regional Championship. Rodriguez is an involved student who rarely shows her5 dancing skills to her peers. For her, this was the perfect time to show fellow students a different side of her.

After not performing for a couple of years, I had a longing to express my dancing in front of a crowd once again. So, I filled out an application and auditioned, she said.

It was finally the day to audition. I had spent the night before in my living room practicing how to Yes the best and funniest way possible. I had made sure I texted all my friends and sorority sisters to come out and support me. Rodriguez and I were ready.

I was the first one up with my FIU shorts and shirt and hot pink socks. I was ready and crossing fingers not to fall. Knowing that I had the support was great and lessened my nerves.

When Cristina came up to dance, I made sure I was the loudest, cheering for her to do well. I didn’t make it to finals, but it was a great experience despite my hesitation at the beginning. Cristina along with nine other students performed on Jan. 21 in the ballrooms for the final round of So You Think You Can Dance.

I’m not a runner. Running leaves me out of breath quickly, so I prefer to jog. However, when I was in my early 20s, I used to run/jog 14 miles per week. These days I’d be lucky if I can do two.

Let me take that back. I have two legs. I can jog two miles per week or more if I want to. In fact, last Friday, I’ve been doing just that.

Every day I have been jogging and walking two miles. But let me tell you, taking the initiative to put on my running shoes is not easy.

Now, if you weren’t hibernating or out cold last weekend, chances are you know there were thousands of people from around the world running in our streets for the ING Marathon and Half Marathon. As I watched these people on TV and at the Health and Fitness Expo – many were signing up for Sunday’s race on Saturday – I couldn’t help but think about my personal desire to one day run a marathon and where I stand right now in terms of running.

I have come up with every excuse you can imagine to stay home and “run instead of going out for a jog. And by “run” I mean sit in front of the tube and watch episode after episode of reality TV.

When I got home from work Sunday evening, I was determined to go jogging, but when I walked into my room, I just wanted to crawl into bed.

I told myself I was very tired from going out the night before and having to wake up early for work that morning. I told myself that sleep would be beneficial to my weight loss and that my tummy was still full from my mid-afternoon snack.

Then I remembered the magic number: 202. Charlie, my boyfriend, was down to 202 pounds from 215 and I was...well, I didn’t know where I was because I’ve been too afraid of what the scale would read.

Charlie is on his way to becoming a health freak. Every day he goes for a run/jog and is now conscious of the foods he eats, a habit I both love and hate.

After my fourth lap, I was feeling great – almost too great. What made me feel so good? Runner’s high. Running releases a "high" in the brain according to a New York Times story published last year in March. Researchers in Germany reported that endorphins are associated with weight loss and that the more endorphins a runner’s body pumps out, the greater the effect, according to the article.

I had not felt this way in a long time. I practically felt like I could soar and at times I was actually running.

In a recent article in The Miami Herald, a sports psychologist was quoted as saying that “any type of exercise releases endorphins, which make you feel exhilarated.”

I’m slowly starting to like jogging again. And because I have committed myself to losing 30 pounds by the time I’m done to wear my cap and gown, I now feel a little more secure about regis-

"Runners high drives health goals"

Director of Development

Financial inspires prison dream

CABRALITICS, page 6

By converting a few simple buildings into a maximum security detention center, FIU would likely reap millions in federal money, all while providing an even richer and more valuable educational experience for its students.

Those interested in abnormal psychology could learn so much simply by questioning a few would-be suicide bombers, law students would learn more about the justice system at the new, state of the art Golden Panther Penitentiary than
Free photo-editing software lets you polish your pictures

With cameras coming standard on cell phones, anyone can let out their inner shutterbug and document their memories. But not every shot comes out great, here’s where a photo-editing program needs to be called in to save the day.

No, I’m not talking about Adobe Photoshop. At $699, it’s out of reach for most college students’ pockets. (Except for that one student driving the Lamborghini Murciélago on campus, they probably have the whole Adobe Creative Suite.)

I’m talking Picnik. Free and online at www.picnik.com, Picnik lets you edit your photos without even having to sign up for an account.

To start, go to its home page and upload a photo. From the first menu – the Edit tab – you can rotate, crop, resize and sharpen your shot, even spot-click away red eyes.

Your two new favorite tools in this first menu are exposure and colors. Exposure lets you play with saturation and temperature sliders to warm or cool the shot’s tones.

Once you’re done adjusting the basics, click over to the Create tab and take advantage of some of Picnik’s photo effects. Slap a sepia tone filter and make your family get-together look like it came straight out of the ’20s.

Juggle the 1960s and cross process effects to change the base tints to create unnatural colors and higher contrasts in your photos without having to learn how to process them in a lab.

Pick the Touch Up sub-menu and whiten teeth or magic away blemishes with a click. Finish your edits by choosing a frame for your photo: museum matte, rounded corners, drop-shadow or polaroid.

Advanced photo editors will want to upgrade to a premium account to use more advanced, Photoshop-esque features like color curves and levels to fine-tune their tones. At $24.95 a year for a subscription, Picnik keeps you out of the poor house that Photoshop throws you in.

Photoshop surgeons beware though: You won’t be able to hack and reshape your features here.

It’s a good thing though – Picnik keeps you honest.

On-campus prison could provide funding, jobs

On-campus prison could provide funding, jobs

CABRALTICS, page 5

they ever could in any classroom.

Students desperately needing jobs in this rough economy could work as prison guards or sentries and make far more money than any barista at Starbucks or waiter at T.G.I. Friday’s. Even academic dishonesty would be greatly reduced, as potential cheaters would be reluctant to risk spending three weeks in solitary confinement.

I know, I know. It all sounds too good to be true. Yet there are those that still complain, calling the opening of a world class, maximum security prison on campus a bad idea. They, however, underestimate the power of Golden Panther spirit and the importance of prestige.

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CABRALTICS, page 5

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Welcome home swimming, diving

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

It’s been two years since the swimming and diving team had a pool they could call their own, but this ended this past weekend.

On Jan. 24, the women’s team swam against Florida Gulf Coast University at the renovated Bay Vista Aquatics Center.

“It was very exciting to finally be there. It’s really nice, they did a good job,” said coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia.

The homecoming didn’t present good results as the Golden Panthers lost in every event to the Eagles except the one-meter dive. The Eagles beat the Golden Panthers with a final score of 187-56.

FIU freshman Namiko Shiabata, who qualified for the NCAA zone diving competition earlier in the season, placed first in the one-meter diving meet with a score of 223.73.

The Golden Panthers will have one final regular season meet to prepare for the Sun Belt Conference Championships when they swim against the University of Miami at the Bay Vista Aquatic Center on Jan. 31 at 11 a.m.

“We’ve got three weeks until the conference championships and that’s our main goal right now: to prepare for conference,” Lung-Zaharia said.

The team will honor its five seniors, Sara Giovannoni, Lundasy Juman, Chrisna Luus, Katelynn Stevens and Meredith Tisc, at the meet.

Taylor pays for hoops with school

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somebody all the way up the court.

Being a walk-on, Taylor does not have an athletic scholarship that takes care of his tuition.

The sophomore has worked hard enough in the classroom to compensate for that.

“I have academic scholarships,” said Taylor, who sports a 3.0 GPA. “It’s not all on me.”

Taylor is the beneficiary of the Florida Bright Futures scholarship, among others.

With his financials and schoolwork in check, Taylor thinks the Golden Panthers’ future is bright, starting with this season’s stretch run.

“I feel more comfortable, ready to contribute. We haven’t been winning like we feel we can. We’re getting people back. I think we’ll be alright.”

Taylor believes the recent return to health of Alex Galindo will have a big impact on the team and himself.

“Now I have Mike and Alex. Two deadly shooters on the corner,” Taylor said. “I should have more assists and more opportunities to get in the lane and create more.”

It is inevitable to Taylor, who won a state championship his senior year at Norland, that the Golden Panthers will be among the elite teams in the SBC soon.

“I expect to get a win. All I want is the win. I came from a winning program in high school,” he said. “We’re going to win.”

That can be perceived as a brash prediction, especially for a walk-on. But when watching an FIU game this season, it is hard to tell that number 23 ever even had to try out for his team.

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Miscellaneous

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SPORTS REPLAY

Indoor track takes off, baseball next

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU track and field team began its indoor season Jan. 23 in New York City at the Great Dane Classic.

The women finished in 17th place with 12 points, and the men placed 22nd with seven points.

“There was some good and some bad today, but this meet allowed us to get a good look at where we are,” head coach Eric Campbell said, according to fiusports.com. “It’s now time to come back home and continue to focus and prepare to come back to New York in a couple of weeks.”

Freshman Mercedes Ferguson led the way for the women’s side with four points for the Golden Panthers. She finished fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.18 seconds.

Right behind Ferguson was senior Lamirie Louisnant, who scored three points jumping 1.6 meters in the high jump.

Senior Stephanie Artemus finished eighth in the 800-meter; her efforts earned her one point with a time of 10:22.85 minutes. Junior Katrina Edwards finished eighth in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:19.88 minutes.

Led by senior Andre Reid, who scored four points, eight Golden Panthers scored points for their team. Reid landed in third place in the 55-meter hurdles, finishing in 7.51 seconds.

Less experienced but finishing in eighth place was freshman Sebastian Castillo. He scored one point for the Golden Panthers by running the 3000-meter in 8:44.30. The FIU men’s and women’s track & field teams will compete in the New Balance Invitational in two weeks in New York City.

BASEBALL

For the first time, the annual FIU Diamond Dinner held to raise money for the baseball team will also include the softball team. It will be held Feb. 7.

The program will start with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Silent and live auctions will take place to help raise money for the two programs. Hall of Fame coach Ron Polk will be the guest speaker for the event.

“I am very excited to be a part of my second Diamond Dinner event,” said baseball coach Turtle Thomas, according to fiusports.com. “Last year we had over 440 guests and this year we have set our goals even higher. We are very proud and honored to be sharing the dinner with coach McClendon and the FIU softball team. Our guest speaker, Ron Polk, is one of the greatest college speakers we could have asked for. With the addition of the softball team’s least turnover prone players, the FIU Diamond Dinner has all the elements to be the first-class event that we know it will be.”

Seats for the event are $100, with tables available for $1,000. Proceeds will benefit the University baseball and softball programs. In order to reserve a seat, attendees must fill out the registration form and fax it to the Director of Special Events, Sandra Perdomo, at (305) 348-1185.

SPORTS NOTEBOOK

Fewer turnovers leading to success; stars to return soon

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Despite what has been a very injury-plagued roster for the men’s basketball team this season, over the last six games, the team has been reluctant to cough up the ball.

During the first 16 games of the season, the Golden Panthers averaged a little more than 17 turnovers per game. This led to a 5-11 record throughout that span. The last six games, they averaged just 12 turnovers per game, which resulted in a 3-3 record.

So how have the Golden Panthers protected the ball more efficiently? Point guard Josue Soto is one of the team’s newest members looking to take on the majority of the ball handling responsibilities. His plan to limit turnovers is very direct. “We just need to be strong with the ball,” Soto said. “I have to be a leader and be vocal with my teammates.”

Guard Nick Taylor is one of the team’s least turnover prone players, considering his minutes played. Soto will now be taking over the starting position, but Taylor and Soto’s friendship helps them both get on the same page with the offense. “Nick and I are friends. We know our roles, and we know how to get our teammates moving,” Soto said.

Center Freddy Asprilla missed the last two games due to back games. The Golden Panthers dropped both games without their big man, even though he is the team’s leader in rebounds.

Asprilla expects to return to action against New Orleans on Jan. 29. “I’m 100 percent sure I will play,” he said.

HICKS IS BACK

Once one big man hit the bench, 7-foot Russell Hicks returned to play on the court Jan. 24 against the University of Louisiana - Monroe. In just 17 minutes, Hicks scored 17 points and scored 11 points and brought down five rebounds.

Assistant coach Kevin Fricke says the staff is not sure if both big men will play together because Asprilla and Hicks have not played together in practice recently. “It all depends on what we see in practice,” Fricke said. “We’re not going to depend on a crystal ball.”

RETURNING SOON?

Forward J.C. Otero was practicing in full force with the team on Jan. 26. During a play in the post, Otero fell and did not return to practice.

“He’s been practicing with the team, but I don’t have a timetable for his return,” Fricke said. “We hope to get him back in a few weeks.”

WALK HARD

Sophomore point guard keeps team afloat during injuried stretch

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Most walk-ons do not contribute in this capacity. Most walk-ons are not asked to play the second most minutes on a team at this level, or even play much at all. At least not this early.

Nick Taylor has started every game he’s played this season, a year after he was thrust into action as a redshirt freshman for the Golden Panthers late last season.

The difference is, Taylor is having career best averages across the board, the ultimate improvement for the former Miami Norland high school product.

Besides playing roughly 32 minutes per contest, Taylor is also 12th in the Sun-Belt conference in assists and fifth in the SBC in assist/turnover ratio.

Taylor’s steady presence has been a constant during an injury-riddled season for FIU.

“The kid works his butt off,” said head coach Sergio Rosco.

Apparently, the 5-foot-10 point guard’s work has paid off, but he is also more confident in his game. “I worked on speed this year and shooting,” Taylor said. “Other than that, it’s just been confidence with coach giving me more of a green light to do what I have to do.”

Taylor has enjoyed moments where his upstart self-sufficiency has led to big plays for his team. In the season-opening game vs. Eastern Kentucky on Nov. 14, Taylor scored 20 points in a loss that saw the Golden Panthers take a 13-6 lead against the then-ranked Hurricanes.

The lead fizzle and FIU lost the meeting, but Taylor played a big part in keeping a team decimated by injuries close as long as it could.

Despite improvement that has allowed Taylor to become a capable player, he still sees room for improvement, even in one of his stronger skills. “As far as my defense, I’m hoping to get better,” Taylor said. “I think I actually slipped, I want to get like I was last year, which was more of a junkyard defensive player.”

It was the Miami game where Taylor was called upon to guard All-Atlantic Coast Conference guard Jack McClinton, a task he welcomed. “Jack was tough but it was fun,” Taylor said. “However long the court is, I want to get on the court.”

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