Mayoral candidate’s campaign begins in Graham Center

JONATHAN DAVILA Staff Writer

A candidate nominated by the Miami-based Socialist Worker Party to run for city of Miami mayor in November began his campaign at the last week. Omari Musa, who was on the ballot for the same office in 2005, sat at an information table inside the Graham Center on Jan. 21. He handed out fliers and spoke to passersby about issues he hopes to address.

"The first thing I would do is introduce a resolution and organize people to demand jobs for all," he said in an interview with The Beacon. "We call for a mass program of public works."

The public works program would include the building of schools, day-care centers, housing and the reconstruction of bridges and roads, according to Musa. The idea of such a large program raised questions about the project’s feasibility.

"His ideas — they sound like they are not grounded in reality," Musa said. "It sounds like an example of someone who is overheating their boundaries in order to get elected."

Musa said the money would come from the more affluent families in the country. "We’ve got millions of people in the United States, literally millions, who live off of their money."

"They’re not practical," said Chris Cabral, co-president of the College Democrats and Student Government Association senator. "The city of Miami mayor does not have the power or the funds to do all of that stuff. It’s completely unrealistic."

Seangy Robaina, the executive director for the Florida Federation of College Republicans, also questioned whether such a program would be financially possible.

"It’s all great and good, but it’s a lot of money. Where will the money come from?" he said. "It sounds like an example of someone who is overheating their boundaries in order to get elected."

"I’m happy that I can do it," said West. "I’m happy that I can do it."

"I’m happy that I can do it," said West. "I’m happy that I can do it."

"Last year, they came in under budget requests to SGA."

"The rest of the semester will be spent organizing and passing the 2009-2010 budgets for SGA."

"The budget for the 2008-2009 school year was $9.6 million; the budget for 2009-2010 has yet to be finalized."

"We have various [budget] hearings coming up," said Chang, a finance major.

"Budget requests come from all of the departments at the University that are funded by SGA."

"Hearings for University-wide student service departments will be held in a joint meeting early in February. Fees for orientation and welcome back week, for example, are considered University-wide fees since they involve both campuses."

"For a department like career services, which has an office at both the UP and BBC campuses, the budgets are divided between the respective campuses."
Cuban generation presented to be documented

FU’s Cuban Research Institute, along with the University of Miami’s Latin American Studies Program and the Center for Latin American Studies, will be presenting a screening of a documentary titled El Telón de Azúcar (The Sugar Curtain) on Jan. 31.

The documentary, directed by Camila Guzmán Urraca, shows present day Cuba through the eyes of citizens who lived there during the 70s and 80s when the Cuban regime was at its economic best, according to a press release. The screening will take place at 5 p.m. at the Bill Coxfood Cinema at UM located on Miller Drive in Coral Gables. It is free and open to the public.

The Miami Herald

Broward schools brace for more budget cuts

After months of tapping into the reserves and being able to manage its budget with slight cuts, the Broward School Board will have to make bigger cuts that include cancelling programs and eliminating jobs.

The district had to cut approximately $130 million from its $2 billion operating budget in the last year but expects another $140 million to be cut next year. The elimination of some high school sports, transportation to magnet schools, cutting the number of days all employees work and eliminating jobs will all be on the table, according to an article in The Miami Herald. The Board will have a series of workshops in the coming months to find ways to cut and spare certain programs.

NATIONAL

Federal Reserve rates near zero

The Federal Reserve kept its key interest rate near zero percent on Jan. 28, and said it is prepared to take additional steps to try to fix the troubled U.S. economy and credit markets. They are also ready to purchase longer term treasuries if it determines that such a move would help credit flowing again.

The FR’s statement came two days before the Commerce Department is due to report on the pace of the nation’s economy in the last few months of 2008.

– Compiled by Paulo O’Swath

Foundation explores alternate funding

The MIU student was struck down during the Fall and Spring semesters.

“Sanchez also explained that whenever students eat at one of the University’s auxiliaries, such as Starbucks, it generates money for the University. Other successful fund-raising services that Sanchez mentioned were the bookstores, which last year raised $250,000 and the Department and Parking, which raises $25 for every University license plate sold.

Biais and Sanchez told Senate members of an idea to raise revenue, in which car bumpers will be used to advertise different companies. Sanchez estimates that, in the parking garages alone, about $250,000 could be generated for the University through this venture.

“State revenues are going down. It’ll be a while before they come back up again,” Biais said. “So we have to do our part to make other sources of revenue that we have some ability to influence.”

Executive Vice President and Provost Ronaldo Berkman mentioned the possibility of a one day furlough during spring break for University employees.

Berkman said he was looking at other universities that have employed this method and that discussions are still ongoing to see if the benefits of the plan.

If [University employees] took one day furlough, it would yield $1 million for the University,” he said.

Berkman also looked to quell the fears of faculty senators of any upcoming staff layoff or program closures. He claims he can not discuss any staff layoffs.

Socialist Party leader joins mayoral race

FACULTY, page 1

University.

“Are there a lot less people playing lotto, which means lotto money may also disappear for the University,” Sanchez said in her report.

“I think we all need to have an understanding of where money for the University comes from,” Biais said. “It comes from the state and it’s not enough. In fact, it’s getting less everyday.”

Biais and Sanchez also mentioned that one of the areas hit hard by the recession included the FIU Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization in charge of soliciting and encouraging funds for the University.

According to Sanchez, because of the economic downturn, the foundation faced a 23 percent loss, leading for the University.

“Our endowments do not have enough money,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez also explained that whenever students eat at one of the University’s auxiliaries, such as Starbucks, it generates money for the University. Other successful fund-raising services that Sanchez mentioned were the bookstores, which last year raised $250,000 and the Department and Parking, which raises $25 for every University license plate sold.

Biais and Sanchez told Senate members of an idea to raise revenue, in which car bumpers will be used to advertise different companies. Sanchez estimates that, in the parking garages alone, about $250,000 could be generated for the University through this venture.

“This is the first year in which Senate meetings were not being chaired by the SGC-UP president citing that the problems in the transition as the Senate learned to make the election process more efficient.

“What happened yesterday was completely within the senators’ rights. If the Senate doesn’t feel that it is ready to vote, then it does not have to,” Rosene said.

“There are a lot of bad things that you can take away from Monday’s meeting but there are good things that you can take away from it as well. We actually debated something,” said Chris Cabral, senator from the College of Arts and Sciences.

When the meeting convened that afternoon, several resolutions were read in the chambers, the majority of them being proposed several months ago. Among these was a recommendation by the council to University administration that any employee involved in an accident, in which an FIU student was struck down during a football game, should face a stricter set of sanctions.

Refining election process a priority

State revenues are going down. It’ll be a while before they come back up again,” Biais said. “So we have to do our part to make other sources of revenue that we have some ability to influence.”

Executive Vice President and Provost Ronaldo Berkman mentioned the possibility of a one day furlough during spring break for University employees.

Berkman said he was looking at other universities that have employed this method and that discussions are still ongoing to see if the benefits of the plan.

If [University employees] took one day furlough, it would yield $1 million for the University,” he said.

Berkman also looked to quell the fears of faculty senators of any upcoming staff layoff or program closures. He claims he can not discuss any staff layoffs.

Socialist Party leader joins mayoral race

MUSA, page 1

surplus value that working people produce. We’ll fight against.

unconditional legalization for all immigrants and

settlement of his job.

and harsher punishment. Their recom-

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

groups that employ this plan.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.

and Sciences.
difficult time. I can do the job.

August 2010 will be his 11th year as dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. As vice provost, West has five projects underway.

Surveys were sent out to study faculty and staff about the services offered at BBC, as well as their perceptions of the level of professionalism from all departments, including the office of vice provost. The survey results will be reviewed by the office of vice provost, and if needed, changes will be made to campus services.

Every two weeks, beginning Jan. 30, six classes have been scheduled to provide customer service training for BBC employees, though they are not mandatory. The classes alternate between mornings and afternoons, and four of them are already full with a total of 30 employees each.

One of West’s other projects involves an environment initiative to make BBC more environmentally friendly. Jennifer Grimm, the environmental coordinator for BBC, was hired for this purpose as well as other environmental projects.

For the next two years, we want to create meditation areas, with grottos where students can read, relax and think.

“We want this campus to have the feel of a small liberal arts college,” West said.

He has also been speaking with several deans about bringing more programs to BBC, including Dr. John A. Rock, dean for the College of Medicine at the University Park campus. According to West, they are now meeting about getting classroom and office space.

“The time I leave, I’m planning to have more programs here,” West said.

The University hired an architectural firm, Perkins + Will, to develop a master plan of five years for both the UP campus and BBC.

Some plans of expansion include a hotel by the Kempinski Conference Center and a new residence hall.

According to West, both the vice provost and Hospitality and Tourism Management teams have efficient staff members who will ultimately help the projects be realized.

“That’s another reason I decided to do it, because I recognize the strength of both of the teams.”

After stepping down August 2010, West will be on sabbatical, but will come back August 2011 to teach Hospitality Leadership, the capstone course he currently teaches.

**Dean West accepts vice provost appointment**

Becerra-Pineda to work on updating procedures, rules

Carlos Becerra-Pineda knew he always liked handling numbers in math class and now he handles the numbers of the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council.

“I like numbers and the idea of handling finances,” said Becerra-Pineda, a sophomore international business major.

“I was an intern last year for SGC-BBC President Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC President, while interning, and she knew I was good with numbers and accounting.”

Since June of 2008, Becerra-Pineda has been the SGC-BBC comptroller and with his position has come several financial challenges.

“You have to be a genius to keep up with the budget you have,” said Rashida Cohen, SGC-BBC Housing senator, to Becerra-Pineda.

With a grand total of $5,999,124 being allocated to the Student Government Association by the Activities and Service Fees budget, $553,055 was appropriated to SGC-BBC and Bernard Pines campuses for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The comptroller is responsible for assisting SGC-BBC Vice President Kishanu Paul in the management and disbursement of SGC-BBC funds, as well as auditing SGA committees, councils and departments to ensure proper spending practices, according to the SGA constitution.

As comptroller, Becerra-Pineda also attends finance committee meetings, executive board meetings, where council members discuss what each has planned, and what each is currently working on, and weekly general meetings with the rest of the council, to which students are welcome to attend to overview ideas, concerns and resolutions.

Becerra-Pineda is also responsible for verifying SGC-BBC Financial Proposal forms that need to be processed. These proposal forms go to the appropriate money is requested finance committee when unappropriated.

These forms go to the appropriate money is requested finance committee when unappropriated. These proposal forms go to the appropriate money is requested finance committee when unappropriated. These proposal forms go to the appropriate money is requested finance committee when unappropriated.

According to the SGA constitution.

In approval of hearings we want to have a fair distribution of the budget for next year, not to waste money on events that cater to a select portion, but rather, to the whole student body, and allocate funds we receive the best way possible,” Becerra-Pineda said.

“He’s a great guy, I share an office with him,” said Paul. “He’s meticulous at making sure that the students money are being represented accordingly.”

The most recent version of the Finance Codes, which regard the A&S fees, are from 1999, so Becerra-Pineda and Robert Chung, SGC-UP comptroller, have been working together to update the codes to apply to the University as a whole.

“I want to finish the Finance Codes this semester so they can be used for the upcoming years, as well as keep track of the budget (by) not spending too much on things that don’t benefit the students,” Becerra-Pineda said.

“His great guy, I share an office with him,” said Paul. “He’s meticulous at making sure that the students money are being represented accordingly.”

The most recent version of the Finance Codes, which regard the A&S fees, are from 1999, so Becerra-Pineda and Robert Chung, SGC-UP comptroller, have been working together to update the codes to apply to the University as a whole.

“I want to finish the Finance Codes this semester so they can be used for the upcoming years, as well as keep track of the budget [by] not spending too much on things that don’t benefit the students.”

“The good aspect of Miami is that you feel more secure and safe. It’s not corrupt, or at least we hope it’s not, and the transportation is so much different; everything works better here.”

Becerra-Pineda said.

First three months were difficult, getting used to the customs and language, but when I met people from Latin America, it got better.

Aside from being a student and SGC-BBC member, Becerra-Pineda is an employee of the Armani Exchange store in Aventura Mall.

“SGA is the only organization I’m a part of, so it’s helped me get involved in the aspect of student life,” said Becerra-Pineda, who also added that SGA has provided networking opportunities and has given him a sense of responsibility.

“He’s the man for the job,” said Emmanuel Osemota, Undergraduate General senator. “He is a diligent and hard-working individual.”
IN STORE INJUSTICE

Wal-Mart’s image stained with discrimination cases

ODETTE BARRENTOS
Staff Writer

Wal-Mart stores’ low prices are everywhere. Yet as you wander off seeking the biggest bang for your buck, a slight sense of questioning grasps your mind, but you disregard it with the next bargain you find. Chances are, you praise Wal-Mart for the amazing prices; your bargain-hunting success overshadowious your bewildment and you move on to the electronics section to find the most tempting prices of the season.

Yet, the question remains: How does Wal-Mart manage to stay on top when it offers consumers such ridiculously convenient prices all the time? Unfortunately, the world’s largest retailer is not so wholesome. Bigger than ExxonMobil, General Motors and General Electric, Wal-Mart is also the world’s largest company and generated $378 billion in the past year, according to Forbes. The best part about all this: It is also the largest discriminatory practice of our time.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is undergoing allegations of gender discrimination, sweatshop and exploitation charges. In 2004, the Supreme Court was introduced to the largest workplace-bias lawsuit in history, Dukes vs. Wal-Mart, according to Equal Rights Advocates. Betty Dukes, a 44-year-old greeter, at a Wal-Mart store in California, sued Wal-Mart under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, alleging gender discrimination.

On June 21, 2004, a federal judge ruled that her lawsuit could go to trial as a class action with the massive support of up to 1.6 million female employees (both past and present) of Wal-Mart in the United States. Dukes claimed she and all of the women lost promotions, bonuses, pay and ultimately their jobs because they complained. Male pharmacists, on the other hand, who formerly or currently worked at Wal-Mart, had faced different treatment in terms of pay and promotions. The suit threatens Wal-Mart with as much as $510 billion in punitive damage. The cases of discriminatory practices are rising from stores all across the country as more women—wives, mothers and grandmothers—speak out against the retail giant. The lawsuits have already brought important changes to Wal-Mart’s workers: women were recently hired into senior staff positions, a new job posting system for manager-in-training positions has been implemented and结构调整 have been made. In addition to gender discrimination lawsuits, Wal-Mart faces a number of other similar lawsuits that change the retailer with breaking labor laws. The enterprise has undergone attacks of exploitation and allegations of running a U.S.-based sweatshop.

One particularly involves 187,000 current and former employees who worked at Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club from March 1998 through May 2006. Workers protested against Wal-Mart for not allowing them rest breaks during their shifts. A jury last year awarded them approximately $78.5 million. Of course, Wal-Mart disagreed with the final decision of the case. But really, what is $78.5 million to the world's largest company? It certainly isn’t an arm and a leg of a loss. It barely even scrapes the surface.

With its absolute power in the world marketplace, Wal-Mart pressures its suppliers to drop their prices year after year. This is a huge threat to the free marketplace, as suppliers to drop their prices for Wal-Mart, and hence to tear itself to pieces.

Many other situations like this exist where the retailer forces its suppliers out of business, buying them out and ultimately destroying them. Those who do survive in the face of its pricing demands lose foundation and lay off employees. This creates a rippling effect of unemployment rates.

I’m sure that for many, this case may appear as though it does not affect those who are not involved. In reality, it affects everyone just as much as it affects the over 1.5 million women workers placing the lawsuit.

It affects the general portrayal of women in America today. The battles against the corporate giant is coming from the average American working woman and has created a voice of power and independence.

For that, I am glad—although I know it will be a long time before salary gaps, gender discrimination and unethical business practices disappear in our society. Despite all the cases and money awarded to victims, the Wal-Mart Corporation still comes out on top. I hear the word “change” and “equal” quite often nowadays, but I don’t see the actions coinciding with those terms.

Gender discrimination is still discriminating; you are not standing up for equality if you are allowing sexism and chauvinistic ideals to exist in this day and age. I was once a devoted follower of the “always low prices” tag—until I realized I was supporting discrimination in America, brought to you by your local Wal-Mart.

So, if you hunt around for the biggest bargains at Wal-Mart, then you’re fueling the prunts of capitalist, deceptive retailers that mistreat struggling working-class women in America (and in the rest of the world). Wal-Mart isn’t the sole reason why our economy is in shambles; it serves as a huge example of how great, power-hungry companies are doing us wrong.

We have to accept a certain level of danger so that we may remain a democracy, with all the liberties that entail.

Obama’s closure of Guantanamo Bay shows morality

MATHIEU RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

On Jan. 24, President Obama signed an executive order to close Guantanamo Bay, suspending all ongoing military tribunals and making plans to shut down the detention center and other CIA “black prisons.” This couldn’t come too soon. Since 2001, Guantanamo Bay has been used as a place to house suspected terrorists believed to be withholding information critical to the war on terror. It has been the elephant in the room concerning American foreign and domestic policy, especially in regard to the Bush administration’s aims of spreading “freedom and justice” abroad.

A hypercritical objective given that most inmates of Guantanamo never received a fair trial, the Associated Press reported that over 500 were recently released when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the government’s right to hold prisoners beyond the reach of U.S. courts.

Guantanamo also served as a citadel for torture and represented a big fatimple on the face of America; a place to brutalize individuals, too distant from U.S. shores for anyone to hear the scream. The Justice Department defined legal interrogation as something that was not the “…equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death.” It is a truth universally acknowledged: When you want someone tortured properly, you send them to Cuba. The detention facility became synonymous with the “human rights with your fingers crossed” policy that the Bush administration espoused, which placed our country alongside other practitioners of torture like Pol Pot and, ironically enough, Saddam Hussein.

The Washington Post reported that one U.S. official even said, “If you don’t violate someone’s human rights some of the time, you probably aren’t doing your job.” This is why the closure of Guantanamo and other CIA prisons comes as such a welcome event.

We can finally say that we believe in fairness and justice, without relying or laughably redefining torture.

It’s a feeling akin to what the Nazi opposition must have felt when the concentration camps were liberated; a collective sigh of relief with the ultimate knowledge that our taxes are not supporting the torture of some guy stuck in a hole and penned up like veal.

It’s a great feeling, but presents a daunting question: Are we safe without the information extracted through torture?

There are benefits in using torture but there is also peace in a grounded moral foundation. We have to prepare to accept a certain level of danger to remain a democracy, with all the liberties that entails.

What it comes down to is choice. To be a nation of laws, a person of ideals, or to be that other entity that cares about its own preservation at the cost of everything else—like human decency.

I’m glad Obama made his decision and recognized that the choice between safety and ethics isn’t a choice at all. In shutting down Guantanamo, Obama returned America to its proper place; a place where values are not shirked in the face of disaster, but instead held and gripped, so that we may rise above the tide of terrorism.
ORDINARY PEOPLE: About seven hundred students lined up to purchase tickets for the John Legend event.

Yoga club makes you go ‘Om’

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

Are you looking to de-stress this semester? Just get away from all the distractions and drown out the noise of school? Then look no further! The University Park Yoga Club offers opportunities to feed your mind and body with stress-relieving yoga and activities. But the Yoga Club isn’t your typical club with deadlines and inconvenient meeting times, it’s a club specifically made for its members to unwind from the tensing pressures of school and calm any anxiety that has been building up throughout the semester.

“We don’t have general meetings. General meetings tend to be ineffective in getting people to show up and it’s too stressful for students,” said Leonor Armas, president of the Yoga Club.

Yoga is a Sanskrit word that means union. It is not limited to physical exercise alone – that is merely one aspect of it. The physical exercises and breathing techniques were originally designed to keep the body strong and healthy so that the practitioner could more easily reach for some of the deeper aspects of yoga, according to the American Yoga Association.

The union between breathing and the body during exercise can also inspire a union between one’s self and environment, creating awareness that impacts everyday behavior. The AYA also states that yoga promotes a healthier lifestyle by ridding the body of toxins and encouraging the consumption of organic produce, avoiding the chemicals found in everyday foods. It not only benefits the body, but the environment.

“Yoga is a way to bring you to the present moment and be centered. It is about awareness and noticing your impact on yourself as well as others. Once you are able to approach situations with a clear mind and just be 100 percent focused in everything that you do, you get so much more out of life. Not only because you are always giving each little act your all, but because you end up with all of this extra time,” Armas said. The benefits of doing yoga are many, according to Armas. Such benefits include weight control, better posture, improved balance, better sleep and more energy.

For these reasons, some students have already joined the club.

“I want to synchronize my body and mind. I would like to promote the yoga lifestyle in all imaginable aspects of my life: personal, academic and professional. I’m looking to find balance in my own life with the help of the club,” said Dorian Santos, a sophomore psychology major and new club member.

The Yoga Club also works with the Art of Living organization which maintain programs such as YES +. YES + is a program that helps “empower young people with tools to eliminate stress, rid the system of negative emotions, develop social and leadership skills, heighten awareness and increase mental focus.”

Don’t stress if you don’t have much experience in the YOGA, page 6

2009 video games deliver brawls, shoot ‘em ups aplenty

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

I must admit I was a bit spoiled by 2008. It seemed like almost every other week, a stellar title made me sprint to the nearest GameStop and spend my hard-earned money. I’m talking about Grand Theft Auto IV, Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots, Left 4 Dead, Fallout 3, LittleBigPlanet, Gears of War 2 and Prince of Persia – just to name a few.

But 2009 has started off a bit slow. What once felt like an avalanche of glorious games now feels like scattered rain drops in the Sahara. I want something new to play, and I want it now!

So what do we gamers have to look forward to in the early portion of 2009? Let’s take a look.

F.E.A.R. 2: PROJECT ORIGIN (X360, PS3, PC)
The well-received supernatural first-person shooter F.E.A.R. has had two expansion packs since its original release on the PC in 2005.

Finally, players will continue the story of Alma, the creepy psychic girl who wants to destroy the world after some company impregnated her to try and produce genetically-engineered, psychic soldiers.

You won’t be in Point Man’s shoes this time around, though – F.E.A.R. 2 puts you between the ears of Michael Becket, a Delta Force operator.

Expect more Japanese-inspired horror and bullies aplenty when Warner Bros. ships F.E.A.R. 2 on Feb. 16.

STREET FIGHTER IV (X360, PS3)

It’s been 10 years since the release of a true Street Fighter fighter, and Capcom is bringing it back in style. The 2D fighter embraces cel-shaded visuals and gameplay more reminiscent of Street Fighter II Turbo than more recent iterations.

The coin-operated arcade game has already been released in Japan, and some arcades in the U.S. have imported it, so you may be able to get a sneak peek of the fighter at local arcades.

Console versions of the game will be in stores on Feb. 17, so start practicing your hadokens and sonic booms.

KILLZONE 2 (PS3)

This sci-fi first-person shooter was originally slated for release in late 2008, but was delayed for unknown reasons (cong, Resig, Tense). Guerrilla Games probably needed the extra time to polish the frenetic, guns blazing game-play that will feature worldwide, online multiplayer for the first time.

Up to 32 players can connect into one match, and the game will feature a class system similar to Call of Duty.

The single-player campaign will continue the story of the Interplanetary Space Alliance as they invade the home world of the Helghast, the planet Helghan.

Killer 2 drops on Feb. 27.

RESIDENT EVIL 5 (X360, PS3)

Imagine the great gameplay from Resident Evil 4 with HD visuals, agile enemies and new light effects. Now imagine all of that with online, cooperative gameplay and you’ll get Resident Evil 5.

Players will assume the role of Chris Redfield, one of the protagonists from the original title. Redfield is joined by newcomer Sheva Alomar, the second playable character, as they venture into Africa to uncover the origin of one of the series’ many viruses.

The critically-acclaimed survival-horror series makes its return, creeping onto store shelves on March 13.
A look at the best remakes throughout the years

It seems to me that Hollywood is running out of ideas. In order to make money, they rehash old movie classics and modernize them for moviegoers. The majority of the remakes fall in the horror genre, which includes Japanese horror (J-horror) films. While there have been pretty bad remakes in the past (Psycho, The Wicker Man), there have also been tremendously successful ones. Here is a list of the best remakes of all-time:

1) The Departed: Based on the 2002 Hong Kong film called Infernal Affairs, this Oscar-winning film features an amazing ensemble cast that twists and turns. Billy Connolly (Jack Nicholson) is assigned to work undercover with the Irish mob. Frank Stello (Jack Nicholson) is the head of the gang. They both want to get evidence to arrest the other. The Departed has become Martin Scorsese’s biggest hit grossing over $132 million domestically and winning four Oscars, including Best Picture and Director.

2) Scarface: Originally a 1932 gangster film starring Paul Muni, Scarface started the trend of Tony Montana imitations and inspired the hip-hop rap community. The story is set in 1983 where a Cuban refugee by the name of Tony Montana (Al Pacino) and his friend, Manny (Steven Bauer) build a drug empire in Miami, Florida. When it was released in 1983, the film was blasted by critics and bombed at the box office. Over time, Scarface has had cult following and eventually was ranked by the American Film Institute’s list of the ten greatest films in the genre “Gangster.”

3) The Thing: Though this remake takes certain elements from the 1951 film The Thing From Another World, it is different and gorier than the original film. Directed by John Carpenter, an American scientist expedition that is led by Kurt Russell is stationed in Antarctica. They are interrupted by a group of Norwegians chasing a dog in a helicopter. What they did not know is that the dog mutates into a horrible creature - an alien that has the ability to transform and take the appearance of anyone amongst them.

4) The Fly: The original 1959 film featured horror legend Vincent Price as a man investigating in a case where a scientist has a horrific accident using a teleportation device with a fly in it that causes to exchange the head and hand of a fly with his. Directed by David Cronenberg (Eastern Promises) and produced by Mel Brooks, the 1986 remake takes it a step further with Jeff Goldblum as brilliant and eccentric scientist who slowly transforms into a giant man/fl y hybrid after using his latest invention, two matter teleportation pods, where a fly flew into one of the pods. The film won an Oscar for its makeup, which took five hours to apply to the most extensive makeup stages to Goldblum.

5) Invasion of the Body Snatchers: This remake of the 1956 film, which in turn was based on a novel, is about a Department of Public Health worker (Brooke Adams) and her colleague (Donald Sutherland) who discovers that their town is slowly being invaded by pod-like aliens. Don Siegel and Kevin McCarthy, the director and star of the original film, have cameo in the film. Siegel plays a taxi driver who may or may not be a pod and McCarthy plays the same character he played in the original films, only to get run over by a car.

6) Little Shop of Horrors: Originally a 1932 film, Little Shop of Horrors was a mystery that feeds on human blood only and the bigger the appetite, the bigger the plant grows. One of the highlights of the film is Steve Martin’s role as a sadistic dentist who enjoys torturing his patients, except for one patient (Bill Murray) whose pleasure is pain.

Though this film

practise of yoga. No experience is needed and the cost is free. Just bring a clear and open mind and let yoga do the rest.

The club meets Wednesdays at the farmer’s market from 1-3 p.m., where club members get to work together with the Garden Club making organic smoothies with fresh organic produce.

John Updike, the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, prolific man of letters and erudite chronicler of sex, divorce and other adventures in the postwar prime of the American empire, died Tuesday at age 76.

Updike, best known for his four “Rabbit” novels, died of lung cancer at a hospice near his home in Beverly, Massachusetts. A prolific man of letters, he had written more than 50 books in a career that started in the 1950s, winning virtually every literary prize, including two Pulitzers, for “Rabbit Is Rich” and “Rabbit at Rest,” and two National Book Awards.

Although himself a declared Jew, Updike was called a mooskiet, a racist and an apologist for the establishment.

His standing within the literary community may never have been greater than in 2006 when he delivered a rave defense of bookstores and books, words on paper, at publishing’s annual national convention. Responding to a recent New York Times essay predicting a digital future, he scolded this “pretty grisly scenario” and praised the book paper as the site of “an “ence” in silicon and steel minds.”

“So, booksellers, defend your lonely forts,” he concluded.

His speech was applauded, dis- cussed and widely quoted, far more than the talk given at the same break- fast gathering by then Sen. Obama.
CROSS TOWN LOSS

GABLES DEFEAT: FIU tennis lost its first game of the season 6-1 vs. the University of Miami Hurricanes on Jan. 28. No. 13 Miami is 2-0 with this record while the Golden Panthers fall to 1-1. They are nationally ranked No. 53.

Van Gundy’s unconventional style inspires Magic

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Sports Writer

Stan Van Gundy just bought a new car.

A gift from the Orlando Magic coach to himself, a reward for his team’s sizzling start to the season. Not really. Van Gundy simply needed one because of engine problems in the old one.

Of course, that’s what happens when someone engulfed by work forgets to change his oil for 30,000 miles.

“It’s not to say that it’s a joyless existence,” Van Gundy said. “But you don’t have time to focus on the record and ‘Oh, well, we’re doing well’ and all that. The next game up is 1½ games behind Cleveland and only one game in the loss column behind reigning NBA champion Boston in the Eastern Conference standings, and the winning coach Thursday — Van Gundy or the Cavs’ Mike Brown — could wind up as the East coach in next month’s All-Star game.

For Van Gundy, a trip to Phoenix would very much be a double-edged sword.

“You want to play well and have the great record,” Van Gundy said. “But to be honest, what it would mean to me is I don’t get those four days off. I look forward to that time as a time at home where I can be with my family more. But I would love to see us on top of the East. Coaching the thing, that’s not a goal of mine at all.”

No, his lone goal is clear. In every Magic player’s locker, a picture of the NBA championship trophy is taped to a wall.

With Van Gundy at the controls, Orlando has emerged as a contender — a huge turnaround considering the Magic spent much of the previous decade as little more than also-rans in the East.

“It’s a long season, but obvious- ly, success helps you get through it,” Van Gundy said. “And it has been enjoyable.”

Damas hopes to bring expertise, motivation

BY JIM MURPHY

Mourners crowded into the Tampa Commonwealth Christian Church on Thursday to celebrate the life of Van Gundy's former teammate, Olympic gold medalist and Orlando Magic player Tracy Wolfson. The service was also attended by former Magic coach Stan Van Gundy, who was joined by his wife, Sally, and their two children.

Wolfson, 28, died in a car crash on Sunday in Orlando. The crash occurred on State Road 408, a busy highway that runs through the heart of the city. Wolfson was driving a Porsche sedan and collided with another car, causing it to flip over. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Wolfson was a star at the University of Miami and a member of the 2000 Olympic team, which won the gold medal in Sydney, Australia. He played for the Orlando Magic from 1998 until 2001, and during that time he averaged 9.6 points per game.

He is survived by his wife, Jessica, and two sons, Payton and Christian.

The service was attended by hundreds of friends and family members, many of whom came to pay their respects and mourn the loss of a talented athlete and dedicated father.

After the service, a large crowd gathered outside the church to pay their respects and offer condolences to the family. Many people cried openly and hugged one another. The memory of Wolfson's life and legacy will be forever etched in the hearts of those who knew him.
WE ARE THE

FIU may drop the ‘Golden’ from team name without asking student body, leaving unoriginal mascot in place

Having attended a number of FIU sporting events this school year, I’ve noticed a particularly conspicuous absence of an element of athletics that has been seemingly ubiquitous since 1987.

It’s not the apathy, which seems to be fading in favor of more fervor; and that’s a good thing. It’s the Golden missing before Panthers.

It’s part of a campaign by the Athletics Department to drop the Golden altogether, with FIU Panthers eventually becoming the name of the athletic teams.

I’m not an expert on the processes by which universities choose their mascots, but the greatest population of individuals represented by the mascot is the student body. I don’t remember being informed of any upcoming change before the preliminary decisions were made.

I do, however, have a fair amount of knowledge on the mascots, names and colors of a great number of Division I athletic programs, and I’ve come to find that although there are mascots that are shared, even forward Alex Galindo was gone, the Puerto Rican native has regained his crown as the team’s perimeter offensive leader. He is averaging 16 points since his last game back. Also from Puerto Rico is Josue Soto, trying to establish himself during the last few games.

“Nick Taylor has done a great job, but Josue gives us more of a scoring point guard,” said assistant coach Kevin Fricker.

Along with naming and coloring, this image becomes a unique feature for a university community. I believe the navy and gold–panthers market is cornered by Turtle Thomas. The man in charge of the baseball program made his final hire before starting the 2008-09 season, adding Frank Dumas to his coaching staff on Jan. 5, an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Miami-Dade College from 2003-2008.

During that span, MDC won four Southern Conference championships and recorded a 202-70 record. Now, with the baseball season starting on Feb. 20, Dumas shares his thoughts on joining the coaching staff in an interview with The Beacon.

The Beacon: How did you know coach Turtle Thomas before joining the coaching staff?

Frank Dumas: Who doesn’t know Turtle Thomas? I used to work at Miami-Dade College last year. I had a relationship with him through Miami-Dade Junior College as a feeder program trying to send him players.

MEN’S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Whether with eight games left in the season, the Golden Panthers (8-14, 3-6 Sun Belt) are now down to the most important stretch for a team with conference championship aspirations.

In losing the last two conference games to University of Louisiana Monroe and the University of North Texas, FIU will have to win at least six of its final eight games in order to finish above .500 in SBC competition.

Beginning with a Jan. 31 home contest vs. the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and ending with a home game against FAU, whom the Golden Panthers already defeated on the road. Arguably the biggest factor affecting the Golden Panthers’ success late in the season is their health and frontcourt.

In Gacesa’s last six games, the junior had 17, 12 and 20 points in three contests, but he averaged less than five points in the other three.

The Belegrade native has maintained a career-high average of 10.4 points and 4.6 rebounds on the season, however.

LEADING AGAIN

Even though guard Michael Dominguez led the team in scoring while forward Alex Galindo was gone, the Puerto Rican native has regained his crown as the team’s perimeter offensive leader. He is averaging 16 points since his eight games back. Also from Puerto Rico is Josue Soto, trying to establish himself during the last few games.

“Nick Taylor has done a great job, but Josue gives us more of a scoring point guard,” said assistant coach Kevin Fricker.

FINALLY STARTING: Guard Josue Soto started his first game of the season against the University of Louisiana Monroe on Jan. 24. He is expected to see more playing time the rest of the season.