Cuban immigrant among Med School’s first 40 students

ELSIE PUIG
Staff writer

A framed El Nuevo Herald article hangs on the wall of Hanadyz Ale’s Kendall apartment.

It shows a picture of her grinning for the camera and opening her arms wide in front of the billboard announcing the Fall opening of the FIU School of Medicine.

Ale, who knew from the beginning the new College of Medicine was her dream school, became one of its first students.

A story like hers can only happen in a place like Miami, and she would not have it any other way.

“I feel indebted and committed to the hospitality that Miami has shown me,” Ale said.

Ale, 25, came to Miami from Cuba five years ago focused and determined to become a doctor.

She knew it wouldn’t be easy, so she set on her goal with fierce ambition and perseverance.

“I remember going to FIU when I came from Cuba, wanting to know how I could become a doctor, and the advisor detailed a long and cumbersome process,” Ale said.

With all of it behind her, she can go over the steps without wincing. 3,332 applications and 300 interviews later, she became one of the 40 chosen to become the College of Medicine’s first class.

She waited anxiously for the opening of the College of Medicine and was one of the students who religiously attended press conferences, remembered Dr. Med School, page 2

Rionda completes SGC-UP team

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Anthony Rionda has a cold. The 21-year old political science major has just gotten off the phone with Student Government Council at University Park Vice President Paige LaPointe, as he sits in her office. He needs the password to her computer to access it while she is out of the office.

“She’s not coming in today,” Rionda said. Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP, is also not in the office this afternoon.

“At our previous meeting – held at the Wolfe Theater from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – is that the bad news kept coming.

“I think it’s reasonable to think that in a couple of years the tuition for the state of Florida will reach the nation’s average,” Maidique said.

“And not the average of the nation in seven years.”

Students in Florida pay an average of $3,500 in tuition per semester, and the average of the nation is double that amount, according to Maidique.

Florida is now well below average in state contribution and at the bottom of the pile in student tuition.

“With the amount of work that I have this year, my job has even more to expect next year.”

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She waited anxiously for the opening of the College of Medicine and was one of the students who religiously attended press conferences, remembered Dr.
Chief of staff a ‘great resource for SGA’

Among the revisions were the separation of meetings between the executive branch and the Senate and the establishment of a proportional representation system in the Senate.

“That rather than have one senator representing each college, we set it up so that one senator would represent 1,000 people per college,” Riorda said.

The House meetings, prior to the revisions, were held on Wednesdays and were chaired by the president of SGA.

“That just didn’t make any sense,” Riorda said. “So we fixed it so that the Senate speaker would actually chair the meetings independent of the president.”

The revisions set that Senate meetings would be held every Monday from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., while cabinet and executive meetings would be held on Wednesdays during the same times.

In the end, Riorda feels that his job is a collaborative effort between himself and all of SGA.

“If it wasn’t for those people below me or everyone in SGA, we wouldn’t be able to get what we needed done. I just like to work behind the scenes,” Riorda said.

RIONDA, page 1

Riorda acknowledges that his job entails a lot of work.

“It’s certainly not a job in which you can be out of the office for two or three days at a time. You can lose track of what’s going on fairly quickly. It takes a lot of work to know what 16 people are doing, knowing where AJ is and helping Paige with whatever she’s up to,” Riorda said.

Meyer was elected in the first contested election in several years with over 3,500 votes going to the polls in the 2008 elections. Riorda was asked by Meyer after his victory to assume the position of chief of staff.

“Paige and I chose [Riorda] for the job because of the exceptional work he provided for Marbely Hernandez [former pres. of SGC-UP] and me in last year’s administration. He has been an advocate for students’ rights and needs as well as for bringing an outsider ‘non-greek’ perspective into every equation,” Meyer said.

During his time as lectures coordinator, Riorda arranged for several keynote speakers to speak at the University, including Ivanka Trump, Martin Luther King III, Jeff Corwin and Rudy Giuliani.

“He’s just been a great wealth of information, a great resource for SGA and, personally speaking, a really good friend and lad,” Nivv Oudit, current SGA lectures coordinator.

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ALFREDO SOTO
Maidique sets up progress strategy amid budget cuts

TOWNHALL page 1

In addition, the University has embarked on a new strategy that Maidique calls FIU 3.0, or FIU SG, to continue to make progress and build a research university, yet recognizing that available funds are diminishing.

“We have watched over the last two years $30 million in reduced funding. This is a massive cut. We have to become a leader, anything that is incumbent we have to look at, if it can be outsourced, we will outsource it,” Maidique said. “We have to look at technology. We have to look at reducing our costs. We have to look at partnerships.”

Furthermore, under the new FIU 3.0, funding will only be allocated to critical areas. According to Maidique, there are two critical areas of strategies: international and put together, health, life, science and the environment.

“We want to become the school of choice nationally for international studies, and we are going to weave international throughout the curriculum,” Modesto A. Maidique, president FIU.

“Maidique said that a new building for the residence halls is part of their plans.

“We have established a committee to look at the dorms,” Jones said. “But a new facility could have multiple services because it needs to pay the mortgage of the new establishment.”

Maidique also added that a new building, part of the School of Hospitality Management, could have services and serve as a hotel.

Students expecting to see changes in the buses were not so lucky. According to Maidique, the cost of maintenance to the buses is expensive and the University cannot afford to make any changes.

Among the speakers at the meeting were SGC-BBC President Ana Maria Silva, who gave a welcome speech and SGC Vice President Kenasha Paul.

There were about 170 people attending the meeting, according to Silva.

Although Dean and Vice Provost Joseph West was absent due to a trip to China, administrators present included Cathy Akins, assistant vice president of students affairs, Bill King, director of Public Safety and Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Science.

What I can tell you is that FIU was here before us — and FIU will be here after us. We are not Lehman Brothers. We are not Circuit City,” Maidique said.

Students eligible for the Cundo Bermudez Scholarship must have a 2.5 GPA and be fully admitted into the School of Art and Art History. “FIU has welcomed Cundo’s work for many years,” said Teresa Calliva, director of sales and marketing for the Kiwanis Club of Little Havana. “We hope that Cundo’s love of art, and his great relationship with FIU, will live on through this scholarship.”

Cundo Bermudez was born in Havana, Cuba on Sept. 3, 1914. In 1930, he was enrolled at the renowned Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes, where he studied painting for two years.

In 1941, he graduated from the University of Havana with a degree in law and social sciences and, in 2005, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of the arts from FIU.

“I have fun at what I do; the pleasure I get from painting is vital for me. I enjoy art like Mozart enjoyed his music. Some people are concerned over philosophic postulates, over universal chaos, over the atomic bomb. For me, painting is a celebration of form and color, and nothing more,” Cundo said in a past interview. Applications for the scholarship are now being accepted.

Art scholarship honors memory of Cuban painter

NATALEE GIL-DEL RIO Staff Writer

A group of volunteers with hopes of changing the world through service to children and communities has established a fund in memory of Cundo Bermudez, a renowned Cuban painter, to benefit two FIU students majoring in art or art history.

This group, known as the Kiwanis Club of Little Havana, helps shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged and care for the sick. They develop the youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for pediat-ric research and much more, as stated in the Kiwanis’ Web site, Kiwanis.org.

Kiwanis has donated a total of $16,000 to the fund to provide assistance to two juniors accepted into the School of Art and Art History at the University.

“I think it’s great that the Kiwanis of Little Havana are thinking of our art students. Anyone who receive this scholarship should feel very privileged,” said Ivana Harris, a sophomore. “I personally admire Bermudez’s work and think naming a scholarship on his behalf is something very special that Kiwanis has created.”

Modesto A. Maidique, president FIU, be very informative giving the students a real perspec-tive of what is in store for our University’s budget,” said Tanya Meyers, a public relations student and vice pres-ident of Chapter Development and Finance of Public Relations Student Society of America. “I am excited about his vision for our University being an international university and targeting national and international students based on our loca-tion and demographics.”

Those students wondering when improvement will be made to the residence halls were given some hope, as Maidique and Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs, said that a new building for the residence halls is part of their plans.

“We have established a committee to look at the dorms,” Jones said. “But a new facility could have multiple services because it needs to pay the mortgage of the new establishment.”

Maidique also added that a new building, part of the School of Hospitality Management, could have services and serve as a hotel.

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Med School acquires perfect student candidate

Barbara Roller, assistant dean of Student Affairs, holding up a picture of Hanadys. Roller was Hanadys professor for various classes and former pre- med advisor.

Alec’s first steps took her to Miami-Dade College before transfer-ing to FIU through the Honors College where she majored in biology, graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

“Both Miami-Dade and FIU opened their doors to me and I am so grateful.”

Alec said that she was accepted to the School of Medicine largely because of Hanadys. Alec noted that Hanadys is a biology and chemistry major.

She also volunteers regul-larly at Miami Children’s Hospita.

“I think doctors some-times forget that they are dealing with human beings, who have to be treated with compassion,” Alec said.

Roller said admission into the school followed a holistic approach judging prospective students, not only on their GPA and MCAT scores, but also on their interpersonal skills.

“We needed someone like Hanadys, who was sensitive to the health needs of our community and could communicate with them,” Roller said.

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College of Medicine

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Med SCHOOL, page 1

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Parliamentarian implements judicial reforms

BARBARA QUIANO
Assistant News Director

Unfraught of speaking her mind, Jessica Jacques takes charge as parliamentarian, guiding the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus to a more established future.

Appointed in the summer of 2008, Jacques, who slated to be chief justice in the fall, was chosen as parliamentarian, a position that allows her to work with the Student Government Association constitution.

“Aside from general meetings, where I make sure they run according to order, I also attend Senate meetings, making sure they follow Robert’s Rules of Order,” said Jacques. “It’s a set of rules and procedures we follow for our meetings and the way we do business.”

The student judiciary, as stated in the constitution, serves as the internal standards board for SGC-BBC. This board is assigned responsibilities and duties that are necessary to maintain proper division of powers, and is the chief agent for interpretation of the SGA constitution.

“We offer a complaint about anything at SBC, it goes straight to the judicial board and Jacques is looking for a specific, more organized way to go about this process.”

Jacques said.

“I feel like we’re not serving the students right, they have a right to complain, but there’s nothing in writing. You can come and tell me your complaint, but that can get thrown out the window,” said Jacques. “So we would set up a form to then have a hearing, presenting more of an organization.”

There is nothing set up at the moment, but Jacques plans on achieving that goal in the future.

“As the one who initiated the board to be what it is supposed to be, I’m not going to be able to do everything in this span of time, but each member is supposed to speak during the meeting.”

“If you go to a job, whatever rule it is that they set for you, either you follow it or you leave,” Jacques said.

Born Aug. 31, 1987, Jacques was raised in Cape Haitien, Haiti. She arrived in Miami Sept. 10, 1997.

“She wasn’t as dramatic for me, because I was younger, but it was very different,” Jacques said.

She attended Miami Northwestern Senior High School, taking part in the academy of hospitality and tourism program her sophomore more through senior years. She graduated with honors in June 2005 in the top 20 percent of her class.

“I want to go to grad school to get my master’s business administration,” Jacques said.

“Right now I’m considering a career in event planning or event management, probably corporate.”

Being a part of SGC-BBC has prepared Jacques to excel at fostering teamwork, while also developing personal goals.

“She fulfills her job with utmost integrity, always doing everything by the books, by the constitution,” said Sholom Neistein, speaker of the SGC-BBC Senate. “She’s extremely assiduous in anything she does.”

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

When you’re having a bad day and all else fails, go fly a kite

Last week I thought I had one of the worst weeks ever.

A fight with a friend, along with problems at work and school and the realization that I am not going to have a Valentine’s Day date, left me wallowing all weekend.

The first thing I did on Friday night was get into bed. Turn off the lights, cuddle up with my dog Karma and watch Sleepless in Seattle.

Those are my absolute favorite love movies, and it was a rather bad of a week. I’ve had, they can always turn my mood around.

But as much fun as wallowing is, I needed to cheer myself up. So I decided to make the best of my bad mood and go out alone on Tuesday – hey, I needed some me time.

I started by going to Jerusalem Market & Deli (16275 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Beach) – which is one of my favorite places to go when I want to pig out on some Middle Eastern comfort food.

I went in just wanting a hummus sandwich, but then I saw the one drink that can make any bad week better – carbonated yogurt. For those who don’t know carbonated yogurt, or daugh, as the Persians call it, is one of the staples of Middle Eastern cuisine.

I prefer mint-flavored daugh, which tastes like cold creamy milk, club soda and mint mixed together. Add a little salt on top and you’ll be in heaven, I promise.

As I sat there eating my sandwich and drinking daugh, all of which I bought for about $8, I began to feel the stress of the week lift off my shoulders and felt super relaxed when I left.

Not wanting to let go of my good feeling, I headed south down Collins Avenue, because “These are the Good Ole Days” by James Otto blasting from my radio.

By the way, if you are ever having a bad day, play this song and it will make you smile.

As I was really getting into the second verse, I noticed a couple of kites flying over in Haulover Park (10800 Collins Ave., Miami Beach).

So I pulled over and bought myself a kite from the Kite Store, located right in front of the park. Right next to the Kite Store, there is a big open field, where you can fly your kite.

The best part is that the beach is right across the park, which allows you to relax and enjoy the ocean. When I’m upset, there is nothing that makes me feel better than sitting alongside the ocean, especially if you bring a good book with you, like Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert.

I got this really cool black kite with a pirate skull on it for only $5.

As soon as I bought the kite, I wanted to try it out, but I have bad luck with those things, so I decided that I would use it when I met up with my friend Brandon later that day.

That way, if I couldn’t get the kite to fly, I could just blame it on him.

At this point, my day could not have gotten any better.

I had a good meal, a new kite and I was about to meet up with Brandon, whom I haven’t seen since high school, for coffee and to try out the kite.

I needed to spend some good quality time with Brandon before he is on leave from the Coast Guard for the next two weeks. And of course, as soon as I started thinking about my wonderful day and I’m screaming the lyrics to “Chicken Fried” by the Zac Brown Band, I got hit by a taxi.

Yes, that’s right, as ironic as it sounds, on the day that I was trying to make myself feel better from a bad week, I was hit by a cab.

And to make things worse, the driver drove off after the accident to drop off his passengers, so I had to pull over in a shopping plaza and wait for the nice Sunny Isles police officer and the taxi driver to come back.

Don’t get me wrong, I am grateful that other than my shoulder killing me, I am OK, and that my car is fine for the most part, but there is some humor in getting into an accident on a day where everything is supposed to go right.

After about half an hour, the other driver came back, tickets were issued and I got back to driving.

I missed my coffee time with Brandon, so I never got to fly that pirate kite I bought.

The odd part is that while the car crash would have made my week unbearably, it doesn’t bother me that much now. Maybe it is the endless amount of romantic comedies I watched, or the good food and awesome kite I bought.

But I feel that even the accident was a blessing in a way since my car and I came out of it OK.

Even with the car crash I know this week is going to be a lot better than last week.

Because it’s what you make of it that makes all the difference.

Weekends with Paradise is a bi-monthly column about things to do in North Miami Beach. If you know anywhere that I should visit in the North Miami area e-mail me at paradise.afsahr@f axum.com.
FIRST BLUSH
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The future isn’t looking so bright. State legislators, in the doldrums of a budget crunch, have started to consider cutting funding to a program that was once considered untouchable: the Florida Lottery-funded Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

In a December 2008 report, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability made recommendations regarding cutting costs, specifically to the state’s Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Since the inception of the state’s education lotteries over two decades ago, the lottery has transferred more than $19 billion to the state’s education trust fund, according to the program’s Web site.

Bright Futures administers scholarships to Florida students who achieve high academic standards throughout high school and college, achieve high scores on college entrance exams and opt to attend in-state tertiary level institutions.

The lottery itself was authorized by a constitutional amendment passed by a majority of voters in 1986.

The following year, the Florida Public Education Lottery Act was enacted to implement the amendment, in a manner that would enable the people of the state “to benefit from significant additional moneys for education” and still be able to “play the best lottery games available.”

It specifically pointed out that the proceeds from the lottery games should not substitute existing resources for public education, but be used as supplementary funding.

“Regardless of how the legislature decides to trim the costs of the [Bright Futures] scholarship, some students will have to find other ways to pay higher tuition, or not go to school at all.”

Regardless of how the legislature decides to trim the costs of the scholarship, some students will have to find other ways to pay higher tuition, or not go to school at all.

After making these recommendations, the OPPAGA went on to suggest ways the lottery revenue could be increased, by growing retailer and customer participation. The implication: reduce spending of lottery revenue on Bright Futures while encouraging retailers to stimulate customers, so we can capture more in tax revenue.

More gambling and less tertiary education is the solution to the budget problems faced by the state.

Nowhere in the report are recommendations in the event that the lottery generates the same or higher rates of income in the coming years.

“It’s a long shot, but shouldn’t legislators be asked to consider leaving the program alone if lotto revenue does not fall?”

According to the Department of Education, FIU received close to $20 million in monies from the Bright Futures Scholarship Fund during the 2007-08 school year. An average of about $2,250 was received by a total of 8,836 students who qualified for aid under the program.

In the Fall 2007 semester, 18,747 full-time undergraduate students enrolled at the University, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

At a glance, it appears that the projection of students affected by this program is significant.

The Financial Aid and Enrollment Services Offices did not respond to requests for comment.

Ferral Liger, a senior majoring in biology and former Bright Futures recipient, feels that the debt he has incurred since the suspension of his scholarship is a “debilitating factor” in his life and that students will face undue financial pressure when forced to make up for scholarship funds by other means.

In a statement in the Dec. 28, 2008 issue of the Orlando Sentinel, Arthur “AJ” Meyer, president of Student Government Council at University Park, said he hopes legislators look at the program’s efficiency and effectiveness without necessarily making cost-cutting a main goal.

Meanwhile, a statement on the Office of the President’s Web site informs students that budget cuts have caused enrollment caps to be put in place so that students with solid B+ averages would have to be turned away, classes could become more crowded, advisers more overworked and fewer opportunities to take classes needed for graduation might be available.

The Florida Lottery transferred $1.28 million to the Education Enhancement Trust Fund in fiscal year 2007-2008, making it the sixth time since its formation that the billion dollar mark had been surpassed.

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program, which was created in 1997, has received more than $2.3 billion and reached more than 400,000 students.

If state legislators are going to consider reducing appropriations to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program based on projections that state lottery revenues will fall, then they should also consider the inverse scenario.

If lotto players are going to be encouraged to play more lottery, then the intention should be to increase education appropriations.

More gambling and less studying does not make for a brighter future in the Sunshine State.

Palestinians losing all hope in ending ‘endless war’

MOHAMED ABDIHAKIM Contributing Writer

“It shouldn’t be like this ... children, little children shouldn’t be dying like this everyday,” said Foad Farahi, an FIU alumnus.

Farahi, like people throughout the world, turns on the television to hear the latest death toll in the Gaza conflict.

There have been protests all over Florida and the county demanding a cease-fire and an eventual end to the unnecessary bloodshed.

There have been battles that made up the conflict between Arabs and Jews of Palestine dating as far back as 1948. Children were orphaned, parents buried, children and families were broken.

Two groups of people have been struggling for the same patch of land, experiencing dire losses of life.

As long as there was violence making its way through Palestine, there has been cries against this conflict.

“I have been against this war since I found out it was going on,” said Ammar Dandia, a sophomore majoring in mathematics.

The massive number of casualties reported on the news everyday has drawn forth a fatigued and sympathetic reaction from the youth and elderly alike.

Muslims in the United States have come to grips with an unforeseeable realization: This war is most likely going to get worse before it gets better. Several members of the Palestinian community have reported that the Palestine Liberation Organization was in express disarray for the hopelessness that this conflict has placed Palestine in and say that despite the perception that the conflict is endless, a compromise is the way to go.

“Sharing is not as bad an idea as many have labeled it to be. It would certainly bring hope toward finally ending the enmity between the two peoples,” said Aisha Ahmed, a freshman majoring in health administration.

The hope for an end to this war is more a naive commodity than it is a real goal. Peace seems so distant in Palestine that people have come to the conclusion that something has to give. That “something” is one of the sides surrendering.

Seeing how this is a war fueled purely by religious differences, this is among the most unlikely turn of events. FIU students have apparently also picked up on this.

“This war has to be 60 percent religion. It almost seems like a simplistic ‘Jews vs. Muslims’ boxing match.”

Rasha Baksh
Freshman, chemistry major

FOR ISRAEL: In downtown Miami, demonstrators protest the attacks on the Israeli army in Gaza.
CRYOUT FOR SUPPORT

New group helps women vent

MELISSA VARGAS
Contributing Writer

Hope to provide women with an outlet to express their frustrations, hopes and problems, Caring and Reaching Young Women of Youth and Tomorrow is one of the University’s newest support groups.

The idea behind CRYOUT, which was established last Fall, is to provide a place for women to vent and share experiences about relationships, family, school, work, body image and more.

Nye Williams, an advertising major and sophomore, has only missed one meeting and is satisfied with the group. “It was nice to be surrounded by a group of people you can vent, worry, complain to, or share your joys with,” said Williams, who recommends the group to all female students.

So far, many women like Williams have found it very beneficial and constantly go back to the meetings, according to Sarah Paulick, a psychology student who co-directs the group.

Because the support group allows women to find commonalities with other women who until then had not crossed paths, Paulick said that has motivated them to continue attending meetings.

Understanding that she is not a professional and cannot offer remedies beyond her advice to any of the attendees, Paulick said that she chose to be the director of the support group in order to help women with issues that affect all women.

Before each session begins, the women sign in and read the disclaimer to understand what CRYOUT has to offer them.

“We state that CRYOUT is not a therapeutic group nor is any treatment being implemented. We do, however, provide support to the girls and hope to see more young women attend,” Paulick said.

The women in charge of the group are not certified therapists but they provide the members with information on professional help they can seek, such as the Counseling Psychological Center, Residential Life and the Victim Advocacy Center on campus. The meetings are free.

CRYOUT meets twice a month in different residence halls from 7-8 p.m.

For more information on meeting dates, visit the Women’s Center located in GC 2200.

 Cryout for Support

Bob Marley fest brings students, faculty together

BY DAVON JOHNSON
News Editor

Mellow vibes flowed freely as students connected through Jamaican music and food while invoking the memory and music of Bob Marley.

“The West Indian Student Association, in conjunction with Club Africa, the Student Programming Council, the Student Organization Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus and www.yardmassive.com, hosted a Bob Marley celebration period on Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.”

“Crying this event to honor the life of Bob Marley and his accomplishments,” said Michelle Garel, higher education master’s student and WISA president.

There were more than 100 students, faculty and staff in attendance.

“This is a colorful, diverse experience and it’s nice to know about the Jamaican culture,” said junior physical therapy major Zane Bracy.

Black, gold, green and red balloons and cloths decorated the tables at the event to pay homage to the Jamaican culture.

“Marley was born and raised in Jamaica but was very close to Africa,” said Garel. According to Garel, they incorporated red into the colors of the celebration to pay tribute to Marley’s Rastafarian religion and beliefs.

To complement the Jamaican-themed event, Caribbean Music Farm, a local band that plays island Web site. The band members hail from Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad.

“SPC-BBC” helped co-host this event not only because it fell within our Pan-African Week, but also because we thought it would be a great way to honor the service, music and life of a great man,” said senior tourism major Georgia Bedeu, marketing director of SPC.

“I’m glad [WISA] put this event together,” said freshman criminal justice major Rochelle Davis, who is Jamaican. “I feel so close to my roots.”

Attendees also received free food catered by Eric’s Deli. The menu included curry chicken with rice and peas. The refreshments offered also followed the Caribbean theme with Ginger Beer Reggae Style and Jamaican Kola Champagne, as well as strawberry and orange juice, lemonade and soda.

“It’s a warm and positive event where everyone can get together and feel all right,” said Noel Browne, Caribbean Music Farm’s leader and lead singer.

Bob Marley fest brings students, faculty together

The event was scheduled to run until 4 p.m. but was cut an hour short so that it wouldn’t conflict with SGA’s General Town Hall Meeting, which took place in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and featured guest speaker President Mestudos A. Maldique.

Digital television pushed back to June

JOELLE TESSLER
AP Wire

After weeks of debate, Congress is giving consumers four more months to prepare for the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting.

The House voted 284-159 on Wednesday to postpone the shut-down of analog TV signals to June 12, to address growing concerns that too many Americans won’t be ready by the Feb. 17 deadline that Congress set three years ago.

The Senate passed the measure unanimously last week and the bill now heads to President Barack Obama for his signature.

“The change is being mandated because digital signals are more efficient than analog ones. Ending analog broadcasts will free up valuable space in the nation’s airwaves for commercial wireless services and emergency-response networks.”

The delay is a victory for the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress, who maintain that the previous administration mismanaged efforts to ensure that all consumers — particularly poor, rural and minority Americans — will be prepared for the switchover.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more than 6.5 million U.S. house-holds that rely on analog TV sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals still are not ready. People who subscribe to cable or satellite TV or have a newer TV with a digital tuner will not be affected.

“The passage of this bipartisan legislation means that millions of Americans will have the time they need to prepare for the conversion,” White House spokeswoman Amy Brundage said in a statement.

Wednesday’s vote came one week after House Republicans blocked the bill under a special fast-track procedure that required two-thirds support to pass. This time, the bill passed the House under a regular floor vote, which requires a simple majority.

Among Democrats, 241 voted for the bill, while 10 voted against it. Among Republicans, 23 voted for the bill, while 148 voted against it.

“The country is not prepared to undertake a nationwide transition in 12 days without unacceptably high consumer dislocation,” acting FCC chairman Michael Copps said in a statement. “We’ve got a lot of work to do, but we now have an opportunity to do it better.”

The National Association of Broadcasters also welcomed the delay. The group said it will provide new television spots to promote the June 12 deadline, and work with stations to coordinate additional analog shut-off tests to raise awareness and help consumers prepare.
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FIU Federal School Code: 009635
February brings screams, not sweets, to screens

January has come and gone, but February is here for a brief period of time. While February is usually about Valentine’s Day rather than love, the movies that come out this month celebrate psychic espionage, a hockey-masked killer and football players turned male cheerleaders.

You cannot go wrong with this mixture of genres. Here is a look at this month’s movies:

FEB. 6
PUSH

A government agency known as the Division, led by a determined agent (Djimon Hounsou), is genetically transforming citizens into an army of psychic warriors and killing unwilling participants. A young man with these abilities (Chris Evans) is hiding in Hong Kong from his father a decade ago. His mission is to stop at nothing to dispose of his father’s former employees responsible for her death.

FEB. 13
FRIDAY THE 13TH

The hockey-masked killer with mommy issues is back in the re-imagination of the 1980 horror film, Friday the 13th. In 1980, Pamela Voorhees went on a killing spree at Camp Crystal Lake because she held the camp counselors responsible for her son Jason’s accidental drowning. Alive and living in the woods, Jason sees this action and vows to avenge his mother’s death by killing anyone who gets near Camp Crystal Lake. Two decades later, a group of college kids settle in a cabin near the lake to have a great weekend of sex, booze and drugs. When a lonely traveler stops by, Nick (Eric Christian Olsen) and Shaun (Nicholas D’Azzo) are the stars of a high school football team and are not looking forward to another summer at football camp. Nick hatches a plan to join their school’s cheerleaders at cheer camp and they both find themselves in a sea of gorgeous girls.

You are thinking big about the kind of social impact you want to have after you graduate; you want to be a leader for business and society; you are a future nurse, poet, businessperson, doctor, engineer, teacher, lawyer, politician; you are committed to diversity in public and private management; you are ready to work and play with engaging students from a variety of backgrounds; you are in or beyond your sophomore year. We want you to come to New Haven, Connecticut, for a fully funded, two-week session in June to discover how an MBA could prepare you to change the world.

Learn more and apply online at som.yale.edu/premba.

Applications due by February 16, 2009.
Sorority/Women’s #1

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Golden Panthers also got the team, former Mississippi State quarterback Wesley Carroll. As a freshman, Carroll was named to the Southeastern Conferences Coaches’ Freshmen ALL-SEC team after throwing for 1,392 yards and nine touchdowns. Carroll may be competing with Wayne Younger for the starting job in 2010. Carroll must sit out a year due to NCAA transfer rules.

Protecting Carroll in the near future will be offensive linemen Rupert Bryan, Gincarlo Revilla, Austin Toltle, Derek Wimerly and Istanich. During his National Signing Day press conference, Cristobal said the offensive line was the biggest area that needed to improve when he first came to FIU.

“Tyrone is all motor kids, high energy kids. They play with great energy and passion and their nasty guys. I’m biased, I always will be biased. I think it’s all about the offense line. When your offense and defensive line perform like they can, it changes the demeanor of that team,” Cristobal said.

Looking forward to a tasty autumn

JULIAN, page 12

on pieces of revenue that some feel are “rightfully theirs.”

It is then refreshing when the process of procuring dinner for the next few autumns, when an administration takes every precaution to ensure the highest level of integrity during its selection process, not just from an external standpoint, but from an internal one as well.

When thinking of a nice dinner, one must not omit the vegetables that offer vital vitamins and minerals, which sustain us and help us grow. They might come from a tree or a root or something that can grow from the ground in any way.

On the subject of vegetation, consider the tree as the pillar of a category that gives oxygen, a sustaining life process that is necessary for development, and life, and more importantly, it has the ability to create new trees, to be traveled across the landscape.

For consideration of a moment Butch Davis, current North Carolina head football coach, a tree; one of those pillar types. Sure, he hasn’t got a national title, but he was the captain who steered a sunken ship back to the surface across town in the late 90’s, and the shipwright whom constructed the hull of a national champion.

Now consider a tree growing on its own, and mighty quickly, from the concurrence of legumes, but from the concurrence of all that is on the plate.

Choice coaches have a way of selecting, recruiting, and bringing in choice players. Over the past two recruiting cycles, of the 47 recruits that were announced on the two signing days, over 90 percent were team captains. This speaks to the level of leadership, and integrity on, and off the field that FIU is trying to build, and have become the cornerstone, that serves as its representative centerpiece.

A good dinner is balanced, and often features a variety of quite palatable inclusions, but the representations on television and in film of the best dinners, have all of the palatability, and add family. The kind of broth-erly attitude of unity that has begun to pervade the FIU locker room positively, immensely positive, and to maintain that, which was probably the single most important piece added to an 0-12 team that was a possession away from a bowl game two seasons earlier.

The table has once again been set, with excellent fixings, and all the trimmings for a perfect family occasion and at the table sits the students and the fans, looking forward to the new tastes, and the return of those from last season, with the seasonings of another spring and summer. I’m excited for football – are you hungry too?
CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Wire

Rashad Johnson is the no-star All-American, the player overlooked by every scouting service in America, and most college coaches, too.

Johnson walked on at Alabama in 2004. Now after 30 starts and 11 career interceptions, the safety is likely bound for the NFL. He wouldn’t trade his path for anything or be something in their lives and get disappointed and say they can’t do it. I can always relate this story here."

"That’s something, when I get older and get my kids and grandkids, that’s something I can talk with them about and use it to help them with anything they have in their lives,” Johnson said. "If they want to do something or be something in their lives and get disappointed and say they can’t do it, I can always relate this story here.”

In football-crazy America, more attention than ever gets paid to the annual pursuit of the perfect recruit — a chase that culminates Wednesday with national signing day, when players officially accept offers. The AP reviewed the top 50 recruits as named by Scout.com and Rivals.com from 2002-04, two services that essentially began as start ups but sold in recent years for tens of millions of dollars.

The AP found that when picking the 10 players with the brightest football futures, the services were right a little more than half the time, based on whether a player started 20 games or more in college, his recognition for awards or whether he made it to the NFL. When it got to picks 11-50, the services were even more hit and miss. Longtime evaluators for both sites quote similar statistics. They figure they’re on target as much as 60 percent of the time, which they see as a decent record given everything that has to go right for a recruit to become a standout.

Bad grades and big parties, immaturity and injuries — any number of pitfalls can bring down a five-star athlete. On the flip side, avoiding problems can help push a player thought to be lacking something — speed, size, toughness — to the top of the class.

Proving that science of recruiting is far from exact, Rashad Johnson is the top player overlooked by every recruiting service in America, more attention than ever gets paid to the annual pursuit of the perfect recruit — a chase that culminates Wednesday with national signing day, when players officially accept offers. The Associated Press reviewed the top 50 recruits as named by Scout.com and Rivals.com from 2002-04, two services that essentially began as start ups but sold in recent years for tens of millions of dollars.

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Proof that science of recruiting is far from exact.
2009 FOOTBALL RECRUITING

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Recommending a five-and-out line that ended the season ranked second overall in Palm Beach County.

**Weasley Carroll**
QB
6-1
195
Mississippi State
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Threw for 1,392 yards and nine touchdowns as a freshman at Mississippi State in 2007.

Jonathan Cyprien
S
6-1
210
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.

Was a All-Miami-Dade and District 12-6A First Team selection.

Kenny Dillard
LB
6-1
210
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.

Florida All-State Class 6-A First Team selection. Led Miami-Dade County with 138 tackles. Had 10 sacks.

Cain Elliott
LB
6-2
215
Winter Springs
Winter Springs, Fla.

All-County Florida selection, district 2-6A First Team selection.

Joshua Forney
OL
6-4
255
Maize Catholic
South Holland, Ill.

First Team All-Chicago Parochial and First Team All-ESCC Conference.

Jack Griffin
K/P
6-1
185
St. John Neumann
Naples, Fla.

14th ranked kicker by rivals.com and First Team All-Catholic County.

David Istanich
OL
6-6
305
Jenison
Johnstown, Penn.

Selected FIU over Big East schools Pitt and UConn. First Team All-State Class 3-A.

Derrick Jones
DB
5-9
185
Miami Springs
Miami Springs, Fla.

District 14-6A First Team and All-Dade County selection.

Jarrell McGee
S
5-9
185
North Dakota State
Cocoa, Fla.

Tied 4.4 speed, excellent hitting ability. Earns a lot of respect for his tackling.

Dana Mallory
OL
5-9
185
Gulliver Prep
Miami, Fla.

Explosive runner with home run speed. First Team Class 2-A All-State. Ran 4.38-40 yd dash at scout.com camp.

Larvez Mars
LB
6-0
210
Apopka
Apopka, Fla.

Perhaps the top incoming recruit at Florida football history. 8th rated LB by rivals.com.

Blair Fevola
OL
6-3
275
Killian
Miami, Fla.

First Team All-State Class 6-A selection. Ranked as #22 center by scout.com.

Markeith Russell
LB
6-1
210
North Miami Beach
Miami Beach, Fla.

All-Dade selection, First Team All-District 12-A.

Thaddeus Starling
DE
6-4
265
Hutchinson C.C.
Hutchinson, Kan.

First Team All-Jayhawk Conference, listed in rivals.com Top-100 JUCO recruits.

Terrance Taylor
S
6-0
187
Archbishop Carroll
Miami, Fla.

73 tackles, two force fumbles, four fumble recoveries and three interceptions as a senior.

Wayne Turner
WR
6-0
180
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.

Elusive multitalented offensive weapon. 476 passing yards, 173 rushing yards, and 584 receiving yards in ‘08.

Edgard Thielor
WR
6-3
193
Burley County CC
Bradenton, Fla.

Physical possession receiver with excellent ball skills. Three Star prospect rated by scout.com.

Austin Tottle
OL
6-4
300
Ocoee
Seffne, Fla.

All-Pinellas County selection, First Team All-District 12-A.

Rockey Vann
WR
6-0
170
Ocoee
Ocoee, Fla.

Committed verbally to Florida last August. First Team All-District 6-A.

Jarvis Williams
WR
6-5
187
Miami Central
Miami, Fla.

Will give FIU immediate size upgrade at wide receiver. Played in Dade vs. Broward All-Star Game.

Dezhi Wimmer
OL
6-5
275
Hollandale
Miami, Fla.

Hollandale Offensive Line MVP. Preseason All-Broward. Committed to FIU verbally in September.

*Transferred from Mississippi St. Must sit out for one year

** Junior College Transfer

REINFORCEMENTS ON THE WAY: Wesley Carroll will bring major conference starting experience to FIU at the quarterback position in 2010.

The stop front of college football recruiting has become a place where players and coaches wait to prey on unsuspecting youngsters, who, while perhaps just wanting to play football, may be lured from the conformity of NCAA regulations in an effort to capitalize on recruiting haul features five offensive linemen among 22

** Charlie Grau Senior Staff Writer**

FIU just landed on Mars.

On National Signing Day, the Golden Panthers locked up 23 commitments including Apopka line-backer Larvez ‘Touch Bear’ Mars.

Mars, who played in the U.S. Army All-American game, is the first All-American and four-star recruit FIU has ever picked up. In his senior year, he recorded 158 tackles, 15 for loss, four forced fumbles and an interception. The 5-foot-11, 210-pound line-backer chose FIU over Iowa State.

“He really changes you on defense,” said head coach Mario Cristobal.

Accompanying Mars will be line-backers Kenny Dillard from Miami Northwestern and Makeith Russell from North Miami Beach. Both players were All-Dade selections.

Together, the three line-backers won four state championships and Cristobal believes they can bring that championship swagger with them.

“We feel that we have one of the best line-backer classes in the country,” Cristobal said. “We expect all those guys to have an impact together. Those are three down hill, explosive, extremely fast and athletic men that can rock n’ roll.”

When he first arrived at FIU, Cristobal was a All-Miami-Dade and District 12-6A First Team selection.

育

** Andrew Julian Sports Director andrew.julian@fiusm.com

DINNER IS SERVED WITH RECRUITING CLASS

Recruiting, or what college football has become, is a crowded meat market where game film and football camp 40-times hang on the walls in vast arrays, varying in degrees from 4.3-kobe beef types, to chuck roasts, hoping for a last minute offer because of excess weight, small stature, or damaged packaging (injuries).

The patrons are coaches and boosters who shell out time and resources to capture the finest cuts of wide receiver and defensive end – and often try to sift through the sale freezer to find a cube steak that might turn into an all-conference running back.

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** Commentaries: Maria Cristobal is excited about what has been ranked the second best recruiting class in the Sun Belt by many news sources.

** CONTENT COACH: Maria Cristobal is excited about what has been ranked the second best recruiting class in the Sun Belt by many news sources.

SIGNING DAY, page 10

Dinner is served

with recruiting class

** Charlie Grau Senior Staff Writer**

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SIGNING DAY, page 10