3-11-2009

The Beacon, March 11, 2009

Florida International University

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SPOTLIGHT

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Women job seekers get their dose of confidence at the National Women’s Leadership Conference on March 6.

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COSMURO’s De La Fe holds social anxiety and what you can do about it in Paris.

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COSURU’s Ede Feldman discusses the importance and longevity of classic novels, along with portraits of France.

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THE BEACON
A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University
www.fiu.sm.com
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

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Gov. Crist promoting low-cost insurance plan for Florida

Gov. Charlie Crist is promoting a less expensive health insurance program for the many uninsured residents of Florida. The plan, known as the Cover Florida Health Care Access Program, has saved uninsured residents $2.3 million. According to NBCNews.net, Crist’s administration has partnered with six private insurance companies to offer lower rates. More than 76,000 Floridians have taken part in the program since January. The initiative offers insurance plans that cost on average $155 per month, as opposed to other plans that cost about $700.

Florida unemployment moves to 8.6 percent in January

Florida’s unemployment has been rising rapidly in the past few months.

According to state officials, the unemployment rate hit a 16-year high at 8.6 percent. This comes near the record set in 1992, when unemployment in the state was 8.9 percent. This is up a full percentage point from 7.6 percent in January.

This comes after an announcement that the national unemployment rate reached 8.1 percent for the month of February.

NATIONAL

Obama overturns ban on stem cell research

On March 3, President Barack Obama signed an executive order eliminating the Bush-era limits on funding for stem cell research.

According to CNN, Obama’s order supersedes an order signed by Bush in 2001 that prevented the National Institutes of Health from funding research on embryos. The order signed by Obama, however, allows researchers to use embryonic stem cells using 60 cell lines that existed at that time.

“In recent years, when it comes to stem cell research, rather than furthering discovery our government has forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values,” Obama said during the event at the White House.

Critic scrutinizes Chavez’s regime

DIANA JORDAN  Staff Writer

The Latin American and Caribbean Center (FLU) hosted a panel on “Venezuelan Political and Economic Realities,” a lecture by Venezuelan politician, economist and journalist Teodoro Petkoff on March 6 in the Weithman Center for Fine and Performing Arts. Petkoff, a critic of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, spoke to a crowd of more than 100 people.

He considers Venezuela a country that “is mortally divided between two groups who mutually despise each other,” consisting of those who support the government and those who do not support Chavez.

During the presentation, Petkoff referred to the polarized divisions within the country and outlined four key groups within the Venezuelan population that keep Chavez’s government in power.

He said the country’s armed forces, which “are controlled by a combination of ideology, corruption and fear,” are Chavez’s most powerful and influential streams of support.

He then dubbed the second form of support the “Bolivariana” bureaucracy, a term which refers to bolivarianismo—an ideology founded in South American countries such as Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela influenced by Simon Bolivar.

This second group increased from 900,000 in 1998 when Chavez came to power to 2.3 million followers at present.

The third group of supporters, referred to as the “Bolivariana bourgeoisie,” have “risen from dishonest business conducted with the government that [has] resulted in tremendous fortunes,” according to Petkoff.

Lastly, he stated that the fourth group is composed of “the humble, Venezuelan masses that have come together with the country’s leader throughout the past decade.”

Petkoff then painted a picture of a poverty-stricken Venezuela. He said the government is “indispensable” to certain supporters by describing how Chavez’s government is “the life blood for the provision of instruments.”

These instruments can include a scholarship for the father to pursue a trade or the mother for the money to learn how to read.

“These people continue voting for him because they believe they are provided for and OK,” he said. “A person can only truly understand a dictatorship when they have lived in the midst of one.”

He continued by explaining how his country is “neither a conventional democracy nor a conventional dictatorship.”

When asked what exactly needs to be done in order to restore the country, he said, “Making the resistance visible is the most important measure that must be taken; it must be made known that a resistance exists.”

The lecture did not go over well with some members in the audience such as Venezuelan exile Eva Sara Landau.

“Mr. Petkoff did not acknowledge those like myself who have been exiled from their country. He stands in the middle of important issues,” Landau said. “With him, nothing is black and white, much is left in a gray area.”

POLICE NOTES

Feb. 25

A 2006 red Samsung cell phone was found at the Starbucks coffee shop and given to a Starbucks employee. The owner of the cell phone was informed but, upon retrieving her cell phone, discovered that an unknown male claimed the item as his own. The phone was valued at $200 and a case card was given.

A complaint reported that a vehicle driving alongside the victim’s egg carton at her West River Street location. The accused vehicle’s egg remnants were on the door panel, along with an empty carton of eggs in the back seat. The driver reported that it was accidental that the eggs hit the victim’s vehicle, as the other passengers in the car given the eggs to him and he disposed of them out of the vehicle. The victim did not press charges.

A student reported that after parking in the Gold Garage, she was notified by an unknown person that her gym bag and cell phone were missing. The victim did not press charges. The victim did not press charges.

Feb. 26

A female FLU student reported that while parked in Lot Five, her car was damaged. The vehicle was struck approximately three times with an unidentified object.

A vehicle burglary was reported in which a 2003 Ford truck was broken into. The front drivers-side door was damaged, with the pop-up lock broken, leaving the door inoperable. The broken lock was valued at $200, along with a stolen iPod at $200.

A stolen FLU decal was reported by a student, after being issued a citation by parking enforcement on Feb. 11. The student was unable to find his decal and was parking in the GC loading area. The victim claims to have never parked in such a location and believes that the decal was stolen around such time. No decal number was provided and a case number was given.

Compiled by Cheryl Malone

Join our staff!
The Beacon is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Department cuts addressed

We believe that we have to manage through this crisis over the long term.

Vivian Sanchez
chief financial officer

“We believe that we have to manage through this crisis over the long term,” she said. “We refuse to look at this crisis in one-year increments.”

Berkman praised the deans that worked and persevered through last year’s cuts and encouraged them to keep looking at their programs and submit suggestions for generating revenue, which are due April 3.

“The deans know their units better than I know their units … and they ought to be the individuals who come up with the plan,” Berkman said.

He presented strategic imperatives that would make it possible for the University to survive, which are the same as last year’s and included:

• FIU as a top 15 public urban research university
• Increase in undergraduate retention and graduation
• Improvement in health and life sciences
• Student life and alumni affinity
• Advancement and human resource development

Last year’s tiers were slightly different, along with their criteria. Arts and sciences, public health, library and medicine were priority one while nursing and hospitality were priority two. Priority four included all centers and institutes, which ended up being cut altogether.

The criteria then were essentially whether the program or department was essential to FIU’s core curriculum or high mission alignment.

On a lighter note, Maidique said that he has high hopes for the University. He mentioned the ranking of the business school as the top one in South Florida in the last issue of Business Week, as well as the baseball team’s 5-0 victory against Troy University on March 6 and the high chance of bringing the largest research team to strengthen the University’s research capability.

“That gives you some points of light that keep me going,” he said.
Row Club and Crew brings back the waves

LORENA ESTRADA Staff Writer

With a handful of new club members, coaches Syd McKay and Henry Kupczyk decided to bring back the sport they say has been “swept under the ground.”

The Rowing Club and Crew started rowing again Feb. 23 at Biscayne Bay after being inactive for nearly two years due to the reconstruction of the Aquatic Center.

“We’re just hoping that everyone gets our message this year. We were a part of the Biscayne Bay Campus. Give us our home back,” said Kupczyk, assistant coach and captain of the Rowing Club and Crew.

The club, which was founded 15 years ago, used to be located underneath the pool area at the Aquatic Center, until they were asked to leave by the BBC Department of Recreation in June 2007.

The Rowing Club and Crew was then relocated to the Marine Biology building laboratories, where they store their equipment.

“The Marine Biology labs were kind enough to let us get started here,” Kupczyk said.

However, there is one negative aspect about their new location: it is hidden.

“We didn’t have to show up at club fair in the past because our boats were visible to students,” said Kupczyk, who is lobbying to get back to the Aquatic Center. “They would come up and ask about the club on their own.”

When relocated, the club also lost its boathouse, a necessity for the maintenance of equipment. The boats have been sitting outside in the sun for nearly two years, and the sun rays have been damaging their quality and appearance.

“We’re [now] concentrating on boat repairs,” McKay said.

Still, McKay and Kupczyk are optimistic about having the club they once used to have, which had up to 30 members and used to compete in regattas, or boat races.

In 2003, the rowing club competed in the Indian Creek Regatta at the Ronald W. Shane Watersports Center in Miami Beach against other universities, including University of Miami and University of Florida. The women came in seventh place and the men came in second place, losing to UM.

Students from both campuses are welcomed to sign up to be part of the club; the only requirement is that they know how to swim. Students have to take a demonstration swim test in the Aquatic Center and can begin learning how to row, according to McKay.

“Rowing is a sport in which you work as a team,” said McKay, who has been rowing since the age of 15. “It requires coordination, and it takes people to work.”

The Rowing Club and Crew practices Mondays and Wednesdays at the bay from 4-6 p.m.

Students interested in signing up can contact Henry Kupczyk at crew@fiu.edu.
Top Chef contestant serves up southern comfort food

I’m back! The South Beach Wine & Food Festival has been over for a few weeks, and I can say that I am back to at least 90 percent functionality.

I even discovered some new foodgasm. This year’s BubbleQ, the festival event that serves up barbecue and champagne, was hosted by “Top Chef”’s head judge Tom Colicchio, and some of the show’s past winners and contestants were barbecuing.

Out of all of the “Top Chef” celebrities at the party, I was mostly interested in season three contestant Howie Klienberg, since he just opened up Bulldog Barbecue (15400 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami).

Before Bulldog’s opening, there was a lack of barbecue presence in North Miami. Klienberg’s interesting concept is bound to be a sure hit for originality in the neighborhood.

Bulldog mixes modern and chic decor with down and dirty southern style, complete with brown paper table cloths and rolls of paper towels bolted into the wall. It gives the restaurant its classy Miami ambiance with stainless steel countertops and red walls. The decor is reminiscent to a Cajun crawfish boil where food is just tossed on the newspapered table top and devoured while wearing a bib.

The atmosphere oozes comfort.

The menu continues the feeling of ease by segmenting choices into untraditional titles. For instance, salads can be found under the “Grass” section of the menu, while the kiddies can eat from the “Puppy Chow” selections. But for the college student on a budget or for the “Biscuit,” the sandwich picks serves with your choice of fries and Carolina slaw.

One dish stands out as the top dog – the Black Angus Burger. This burger was definitely a foodgasm and described as “the best burger I’ve had since moving to Miami” by one of my guests.

For $10 you could not possibly find a better burger. This gourmet foodgasm tastes fresh and meaty and comes with your choice of cheese, sweet melty-in-your-mouth caramelized onions, creamy chipotle mayo, arugula and a thick slice of tomato. Together, all these components are so delicious that you almost want seconds. But with a hearty side of Chipotle Fries, you will feel like you never want to eat again.

I don’t want to subject the Chipotle Fries to merely a side dish mention. These fries are “the fries.” This was the first dish I tried at Bulldog and immediately could tell that this would be a foodgasm I would inevitably come to crave.

I will go back, if just to have these salty, spicy, perfectly cooked – not-too-crispy, not-soggy French fries. Make sure to order a side of the chipotle mayo to dip them into. Don’t be scared by the mention of the chipotle pepper, although these fries – and mayo – carry a little back of the throat spice, the end-all sweet melt-in-your-mouth cara-

olate smeared across your face, the end-all sweet ribs pack their flavorful bark with a crispy crust, smothered in a marshmallow cream that is blow torched to give you that camp-fire feeling. This rich dessert will leave you waddling for the door, with chocolate smeared across your face, the end-all at Bulldog.

Make sure to have a homemade lemonade or sweet iced tea with your meal and enjoy the Southern comfort. I’m surprised to say I’ve added barbecue to my foodgasms.

In North Miami. Klienberg’s interesting concept is bound to be a sure hit for originality in the neighborhood.

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BARK OR BITE: (Top) Columnist Bianca Rojas holds her pick for student budgets, the Black Angus Burger, before devouring it. [Middle] Squeeze bottles with homemade “Red” and “Yellow” sauce enclose a bulldog embalmed ketchup bottle. (Bottom) A goody and chocolatey foodgasm dessert, the ’Smore Pie is an “end all” for Rojas.

foodgasm

HALI NEAL
Contributing Writer

On Point Poetry Club will celebrate women with spoken word poetry during its upcoming event, “True Beauty of a Woman,” featuring poets from HBO’s “Def Poetry.”

“We want to take time to appreciate women through poetry,” said Ana Pierre-Louis. On Point Poetry member.

“True Beauty of a Woman,” sponsored by the On Point Poetry Club and the Student Programming Council, will take place March 12 in the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and the event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff and the general public.

“Women are enthused about poetry, about the art and we love to entertain. We take no stances, but we express issues in both the positive and negative light,” said Toussaint. “We cater to people’s needs about the variation of poetry we are enthused about.”

This is On Point Poetry’s fourth event of the year, but this time they’re bringing recognized poets.

“They are two lovely, talented, energetic, insightful, beautiful women and HBO nationally-known slam poets,” Toussaint said.

The event will also feature Ray Dominguez, president of Write Side Poets and Lindsie Fleurizard, On Point Poetry member.

“(On Point Poetry) is a positive group of students who are enthused about poetry, about the art and we love to entertain. We take no stances, but we express issues in both the positive and negative light,” said Toussaint. “We cater to people’s needs about the variation of poetry we speak.”

For more information, visit myspace.com/onpointpoetry.
History might really be going down

If Joe Lieberman decides to run for president in 2012, we can finally stop teaching about the Holocaust in public schools.

After all, if a Jew seeks to once again be the prime minister of the country, we must become enlightened by the notion of having a portion of the chosen people finally in the highest echelon of government.

If you find this argument ridiculous, then you should also find the renewed effort to get classic novels such as Huckleberry Finn, To Kill a Mockingbird and Of Mice and Men out of the class-room because of their portrayals of African-Americans.

According to a Feb. 28 News-wool article, the triumph of the Obama presidency has once again called attention to books such as these and has renewed the debate over their appropriateness in the classroom, with many arguing that the uneducated representations of African-Americans would be counterproductive to the morale of students who should be believing that they can do anything, because Barak did.

"I think at the time when we have this very articulate, smart and intelligent black man running the country, we don’t need to reinforce the same negative stereotypes to young people," said John Foley, a high school teacher in a suburb of Washington state, in the News-wool article.

I seem to remember Vice Pres-ident Joe Biden making similar remarks about Obama before the election and getting readily chas-tised for implying that most African Americans are not articulate.

I always have, and still do, believe that the issue of race should be downplayed. I did not understand why kids who went to the same schools I did and who lived in my same neighborhood got scholarships that I didn’t because of their skin color.

But there is a difference between downplaying issues of race and ignoring them, or worse, ignoring history.

Citing the teaching material in schools that show the quality of life of African-Americans over the past 100 years in this country, just because a majority of that ethnic group now leads the nation, is actu-ally counterproductive because it diminishes the significance of the progress we have made so far.

"These stories let kids know just how amazing it is that this man is president right now," said Mark Anthony Neal, a professor of African-American studies at Duke University, to Newswool.

"It is also very difficult to help but think that those who want to stop teaching these books just don’t get it, on many levels.

Not teaching a book because it has the “N” word in it is akin to getting fired at Comedy Central for airing an episode of “South Park” which used the “N” word over and over again.

"South Park," through its comedy, was attempting to bring up a very relevant and poignant discussion of the word, not condone its use.

Huckleberry Finn is the same way. Despite the littering of the potentially harmful word throughout its pages, Mark Twain filled his timeless novel with depictions of the African-American slave as a good person, giving Huck many opportunities to ques-tion society’s motives for wanting to capture his new friend.

Counterproductive is the only way that I can describe civil rights activities seeking to stamp out a book which espouses civil rights.

America may be at the most post-racial stage it has ever been, and I can certainly understand why parents would not want their kids exposed to stories that make their people appear down-hearted, but ignoring history would be a sad, sad day for schools.

Japan and the United States are no longer at war, but we have not stopped teaching lessons on World War II, which include both the carnage that Americans faced and the racial slurs and federal intern-ment of Japanese persons.

Books like Twain’s provide students, who were not around during racism’s peak, to get a glimpse of society at that point in time.

There can be discussion over what grade level is appropriate for this material and whether indi-vidual classrooms would benefit from these novels, but any discus-sion to end the teaching of them outright is quite ludicrous.

So keep Huck and Jim. Keep Lennie and Curlee. Not only would ripping them out deprive kids of history, but of a good story as well.
With the Republican Party struggling to recover from numerous electoral defeats, only one man is up to the task of leading them.

During these trying times, they need a hero and that hero is Michael Steele.

Resent on all sides by a relatively popular president, the sting of two straight defeats in federal elections and only one senator keeping them from losing massive amounts Congressional power, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee knows exactly what it will take to revive the GOP.

Two simple words that will change the way we look at the Republican Party and politics itself, and those two words are "hip" and "hop."

With his trademark boldness and charisma, Steele has promised to appeal to old and young alike by "applying the party’s principles to urban-suburban hip-hop settings," according to a Feb. 19 article in the Washington Times.

He’s even promised that the changes would be, and this is an actual quote, “off the hook.”

Like a modern day street poet or an MTV veejay, the 51-year-old Steele has taken to peppering his vocabulary with hip-hop culture, as only a Georgetown graduate like Steele could understand it, has so much to bring to the GOP and Republicans have so much to offer in return. The possibilities are nearly endless.

Take Barack Obama’s plans to increase taxes on the wealthy to pay for things like education and health care. One factor conveniently ignored by the Democrats and the liberal media is the effects of such tax increases on our nation’s most precious resource: rappers.

According to my calculations, the average member of the Wu-Tang Clan stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars a year, while fourteen of five Cash Money Millionaires will be unable to purchase adequate amounts of “ice” for themselves and their families.

The part of the economy that is built on the purchase of rims, grills and the assorted trappings of flyness are sure to suffer.

Moreover, the considerable damage done by these tax increases to the images of rappers who have based much of their careers on the benefits of such conspicuous consumption is incalculable.

Republican economic policy is clearly preferable for rappers who like to “shine,” “ball” and “floss.”

And as Michael Steele has magnificently illustrated, the use of slang makes the Republican agenda seem so much more fun. Who could say no to a congressman or woman smoothly saying, “I just want to cut your taxes, baby?”

House minority leader Lil’ John Boehner would be wise to be a little less like George W. Bush and a little more like the ODB. Perhaps he could lace his remarks to the media with just a little more profanity.

After all, these times call for honesty and passion, not the restrained remarks of an old-school politician.

I’m sure the American people would appreciate his candor if he just came out and said, “The housin’ crisis is a f---in’ mess, yo. And the President’s response is helluva whack! All you Democrats need to stop this crazy spending before I stick you.”

Such a response would embody the anger felt by many conservatives while simultaneously injecting a much needed “street cred” into the Republican Party.

With the help of visionaries like Michael Steele, the Republican Party could win over the young generation and the children, who, I am told, are our future.

And together they can bring the Republicans back to the White House, give money back to the wealthy, and put the “G” back in GOP.

“Jive Talkin’” is a stab at all things Capitol Hill every other Wednesday.
Highlights from Relay for Life 2009

**Top:** Students gather to light votive candles in memoriam of cancer victims past. The candles were placed in bags with the victims’ names and used to light up the walkway around the Ryder Business Building for participants throughout the night.

**Left:** Senior Noor Daghistani, a member of Music Saves Lives, dresses up as Cinderella for a Disney Princess themed lap.

**Bottom left:** Student organizations raised money by selling burgers and hotdogs for $2 to donate to the American Cancer Society.

**Bottom right:** The American Cancer Society walks along with their banner in support of cancer survivors during the early hours of Relay for Life’s 15-hour vigil.
Pulse

Anxiety affects everyone differently, FIU offers help

If I admit that I’ve experienced anxiety just by interacting with other people, my friends would not believe me. I’ve never been diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder and I probably will never will because it doesn’t interfere with my daily life enough for me to seek help. However, in years past, I used to get really nervous about public speaking, talking to strangers and even hugging friends I had not seen in a while. Of course the worst of this was public speaking, and even today it still makes me a bit nervous. Although my boyfriend calls me a hermit - I’ve gradually embraced the name – I’ve gotten a lot better at this social thing. In part, I think a lot of it had to do with growing up realizing that it’s OK to unwillingly make a fool of myself in front of others. I also think my boyfriend’s calm demeanor has helped. In extreme cases, some people will turn to booze or drugs to help them relax, according to the WebMD.com.

If you feel you may suffer from social anxiety, consider the following tips:

1. Avoiding social situations that you fear, or enduring them with intense anxiety or distress; having persistent and unreasonable fear of a situation that involves unfamiliar people or being judged by others and even worrying about being anxious.

2. But if you are a social butterfly, you probably don’t suffer from social anxiety. Consider your luck. But if you feel you may suffer from this disorder, getting help would be a good idea.

And if you are hesitant about seeking professional help, keep in mind that you don’t deal with anxiety the same way your friend, professional help, keep in mind that you don’t deal with it. The University’s Counseling and Psychological Services Center offers “short-term psychotherapy to address specific issues including general anxiety,” according to its Web site.

Now crawl out from under your shell and start having fun! Pulse is a weekly column examining the state of college health.

Dreamgirl pageant raises funds for philanthropy

The men of Pi Kappa Alpha crowned their next Dreamgirl March 5 during their annual pageant, which helps raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

Melissa Sabatier, member of Alpha Xi Delta, won the 2009 Dreamgirl Pageant. “I’ve seen these guys come in as boys but leave as men,” Sabatier said during her last round. As the 2009 Dreamgirl, she will help these men establish a local philanthropy.

Seventeen other women ran for the title of PIKE’s Dreamgirl, most were sorority members.

Throughout the pageant, contestants were asked questions in several rounds and many of them showed their strong interest in charity and community involvement.

In the first round, each contestant introduced herself, and in the following rounds each was asked a series of questions.

Jessica Padilla talked about the work she does in the Dominican Republic to help the disadvantaged every spring break. She has never taken a spring break just for pleasure, but has decided to go on an alternative spring break to help those who are less fortunate.

Shakerra Bowe, a sister of Sigma Lambda Gamma, stood out. As a mother of an 8-year-old boy, Bowe hopes to open a free tutoring center for impoverished children in the next five years. This could really make a difference in our community, especially since, according to The Miami Herald several after-school care services have been taken away this past year.

Two of my Alpha Omicron Pi sorority sisters – Zuzeyn Hernandez and Tatiana Romero – participated in the pageant. Hernandez was second runner up, and in the last round, she discussed what the title of Dreamgirl meant to her, and how, if Dreamgirl or not, she’ll always be there for the fraternity.

The 2008 Dreamgirl, Kayla Alonso saw something in every contestant this year. “I’d have to say this Dreamgirl pool was a great one. I was really impressed. These women, every single one of them seemed passionate about Pi Kappa Alpha and had something to offer as a potential Dreamgirl,” Alonso said.

This year, Alonso got to hand her title down to fellow Alpha Xi Delta sister, Sabatier. “Passing the title to a sister is a great feeling. Not even so much because she’s a sister, but because PIKE means a lot to me and how, if Dreamgirl or not, she’ll always be there for the fraternity.” Alonso said.

Get the latest insight into Greek life right here, every other Wednesday.
FIU stadium to host first round games in Gold Cup

AP WIRE

FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia in conjunction with CONCACAF announced today that FIU Stadium will host a first round Gold Cup Soccer doubleheader on July 10.

“This is part of the original plan of designing this stadium,” Garcia said. “We wanted to host major events at our stadium and we’re very excited about being able to be the host of a quality event like the Gold Cup.”

The CONCACAF Gold Cup will be played in a record 13 different U.S. cities, opening at The Home Depot Center in Los Angeles on Friday, July 3 and concluding with the championship match Sunday, July 26 at Giants Stadium outside New York.

FIU is also in negotiations to bring several other major soccer events to South Florida. “We’re excited for both FIU and the entire South Florida soccer community,” said Garcia. “Right now we’re working on a handful of major soccer events to be held here over the next year.”

The 13 cities are more than twice than the number previously used for the continental championship and shy of only the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain and the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which used 10 venues each in Japan and South Korea. The 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States was played in nine different venues.

“By expanding the Gold Cup to 13 venues, it will give fans more opportunity to experience the championship in person,” CONCACAF President Jack Warner said.

The Gold Cup will make its first appearance in four cities: Columbus, Ohio; Phoenix; Philadelphia and Washington. A Gold Cup quarterfinal will be the first sporting event to be played at the Dallas Cowboys New Stadium.

Each venue will host a doubleheader except for the final at Giants Stadium, with the quarterfinals set for Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia (Saturday, July 18) and Dallas (Sunday, July 19), and the semifinals at Soldier Field in Chicago (Thursday, July 23).

Besides Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus (July 7), RFK Stadium in Washington (July 8) and the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona (July 12), other first-round venues include: Qwest Field in Seattle (July 4), Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum in Oakland, California (July 5), Reliant Stadium in Houston (July 9), FIU Stadium in Miami (July 10), and Gillette Stadium in the Boston suburb of Foxborough, Massachusetts.

The three first-round groups for the qualifiers include Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States from the North Zone; Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua from Central America; and Jamaica, Grenada, Guadeloupe and Haiti from the Caribbean, and schedule will be announced at a later time.

The Gold Cup was played in six different cities in its two most recent editions, including two stadia in Los Angeles in 2005 (the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and The Home Depot Center).

This will be the second time Giants Stadium has staged the final and first since 2005. Miami will see the Gold Cup for the seventh straight time, although it will be the first time at FIU Stadium, while the Los Angeles area will stage matches for the eighth time in 10 tournaments. Groups and a full schedule as well as ticket information will be available in the coming weeks.

SPRING INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

MEN’S OPEN #1

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Golden Panthers fall in SBC quarterfinals

Sergio Bonilla
Asst. Sports Director

Nothing went the Golden Panthers’ way.

The Golden Panthers men’s basketball team’s misfortunes began with two early foul calls on freshman Freddy Asprilla and ended with fade away shots from Player of the Game Orlando-Mendez Valdez.

During the second round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers took Asprilla out of rhythm with double teams and out of the game with fouls.

Once the freshman conference Player of the Year was not a presence, the rest of the Golden Panthers’ starters began to struggle offensively.

“I thought we fell behind early when we couldn’t get our big boy playing. We had to sit him. You can’t beat the No. 1 team when four of your starters go 0-of-32 from the field,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

The team’s poor shooting performance was too much to overcome, said head coach Sergio Rouco.

Player of the Game award for the game went to Freddy Asprilla, who scored 21 points in both halves. The Hilltoppers defense limited the Golden Panthers with 5:32 left in the game.

Asprilla scored eight points with seven field goal attempts. The Hilltoppers defense limited the Golden Panthers with 5:32 left in the game.

For the Hilltoppers, Jeremy Evans led all big men with 10 points. With 4:51 left in the game, Asprilla and Evans ran into each other in the post. An intentional foul by Asprilla made Evans charge at the freshman before his teammates stopped him.

The Hilltoppers lead inflated to 20 points less than four minutes later. This was the third meeting between the two teams. The Golden Panthers upset the Hilltoppers at home 81-79 on Jan. 8. Roughly 12 hours after their loss, the Hilltoppers practiced in the U.S. Century Bank Arena before finally leaving Miami.

The Hilltoppers went 12-23 of the season and now will face either the North Texas Mean Green or the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

Coach Ronco’s 2009 season is over but he wanted to warn the SBC of the team’s future starting with Asprilla’s development.

“I wouldn’t trade my guys for anything,” Rouco said. “We’re going to be back. The program is headed in the right direction, especially with Freddy. I don’t think they want to see him mad coming back next year.”

The reality is, the Golden Panthers will need to make it through the SuperDraft in order to make it back next year. The team’s future is not looking good. The program is not what it used to be and it’s hard to see the team’s future.”

I sigh quite heavily, teacher.

“T” is for Incomplete in classes at the college level. A place holder for which you may finish the submission of the class work, and be re-evaluated at a time shortly after the semester ends.

I sigh quite heavily, and wish I could offer an answer to the FIU men’s basketball team.

The players combined to miss more than 125 games due to injury, the between the projected regulars from last summer and Michael Domínguez, who was the only Golden Panther not to miss time due to an injury or ailment.

Despite the bevy of injuries, FIU still managed home record over 500 (10-7), but being without Freddy Asprilla for 10 games and Alex Galindo for 14 games made it hard for the team to go on the road and score consistently.

FIU was just 3-12 on the road.

The injuries also affected continuity, as the point guard situation was settled and un-settled throughout the season and FIU was forced to accustom itself to two, very differently styled point guards.

It’s more than fair to say the injuries kept the team from developing any sustained consistency this season, and I think it’s equitable to think this team may have been better without the injuries as well.

Coach Sergio Ronco told me at the beginning of the season that this was the best character group he’s had during his time at FIU, and I wouldn’t disagree with the way the players, who weren’t expected to have major roles, contributed early in the season with the injury situation the way it was.

All of this turmoil makes for a difficult final assessment of the team.

There were good and bad, but there was mostly incomplete.

And “T” would perhaps mean this team would be able to continue its season, all faculties intact, for another week or so and turn in a finished project for evaluation on the first day after spring break.