Column: Steve Mesa looks to this month.

In order to reform American education, how do we must eliminate the established system. It may have to, so we understand the Athletics Department. It’s a partnership that needs to be along with it.

The Scholarship Committee is awarding more grants, and we’re done and PantherTV is online. It’s not funded.

During his administration, Meyer said that there were two failures ahead of him before he steps down from his position on May 1. Meyer, SGC-UP president for the 2008-2009 school year, reflected on his accomplishments and regrets while being in office. He ran on several major platform points including the expansion of the PantherTram system into a point-to-point system to alleviate traffic, the development of PantherTV and the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan.

Meyer said during a farewell interview with Student Media that he is still pushing forward for the establishment of PantherTV, a television network for FIU.

“We’re looking to secure funding for PantherTV within the next two weeks,” he said.

To date, PantherTV has yet to be created and we’re running a dramatic series. Course leads to on-campus housing.

At the Bay PAGE 4

Meyer discusses final plans.

With his presidential term coming to a close, Student Government Council at University Park President Adam J. Meyer still has a lot of work ahead of him before he steps down from his position on May 1. Meyer, SGC-UP president for the 2008-2009 school year, reflected on his accomplishments and regrets while being in office. He ran on several major platform points including the expansion of the PantherTram system into a point-to-point system to alleviate traffic, the development of PantherTV and the implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Action Plan.

Meyer said during a farewell interview with Student Media that he is still pushing forward for the establishment of PantherTV, a television network for FIU.

“We’re looking to secure funding for PantherTV within the next two weeks,” he said.

To date, PantherTV has yet to be created and funded.

“It’s not a one year thing where we start it and we’re done and PantherTV is online. It’s not something that can happen in one year,” Meyer said. “That’s one of the issues with one-year terms for presidents — that I can’t see the program through. We’re laying the foundation.”

Meyer said that there were two failures during his administration.

One of those were the environmental issues that we wanted to make a key goal during the year. We would like to have seen more in that area. There were issues in respect to leadership in that area," Meyer said.

Meyer also said that he wished he had been more available but had to fulfill obligations as chairman of the Florida Students Association.

“Not by any means was that necessarily a failure. What resulted from that was definitely a disappointment. I have not been in this office as much as I had hoped to. I’m traveling a lot. It’s a toll on myself personally and on this office. Paige [LaPointe] and Anthony [Rienda] have done an excellent job of taking the reins while I’m gone,” Meyer said.

Meyer discussed the Relay for Life incitement when the organization, a charity for cancer treatment, was unable to hold its annual event at FIU Stadium. Student outrage ran high as rumors spread that football coach Mario Cristobal had scheduled a football practice that would interfere with the event, which had been planned during the Fall of 2008. Cristobal, however, stated that he would cooperate in any way possible to aid Relay for Life. The event was eventually moved from the football stadium to the front of the Ryder Business Building.

“I don’t think that it tweaked the relationship between the student body and athletics? Most definitely. Do I think that the relationship between student groups and athletics has changed slightly? Sure. Do I think that it should? It may have to, so we understand the Athletics Department. It’s a partnership that needs to be solidified,” Meyer said.

Meyer, page 2

Scholarship competition

As of April 10, 2009, SGC-BBC has spent $91,420.34, or 57 percent, of its budget. The four largest expenditures by SGC-BBC this fiscal year were emoluments, promotions and giveaways, food and travel. The emoluments account is used to pay SGA government officials. In 2008-2009, SGC-BBC spent $90,240 on emoluments. Promotions and giveaways include lectures, fliers and items such as mugs and pencils. In 2008-2009, SGC-BBC spent $19,118.96 on promotions and giveaways. On February 10, 2009, SGC-BBC spent $16,250 on Lordly and Dome Inc., a company that specializes in giveaways.
BOOKING guests for universities and colleges. SEC-BBC, a comptroller
Carlos Becerra-Pineda said this year’s administration was more conservative
with its budget, even as previous administrations and made
sure all money spent was in students’ best interests.

“The performance will be held from April 16-19 at the Wertheim Performing
Arts Center,” according to Professors Joanne Barrett, one of the key
organizers and choreographer.

“Perpetual Motions” will be showcasing students and faculty work along with various styles of dance.

The program bowing outside with show students’ best interest.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

FUTURISTIC SPENDING

According to Becerra-
Pineda, there are $30,000
left in the budget for SGC-
BCC to spend and part of the
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 1

Pantheors account at http://my.
fiu.edu, the Student Self Service and proceed to the Student Center tab.

Once there, the student goes under
Academics. There will be a link that
reads Scholarship Application.

The link leads to the application center and recommendation letters
that reads Scholarship Application.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 1

Pantheors account at http://my.
fiu.edu, the Student Self Service and proceed to the Student Center tab.

Once there, the student goes under
Academics. There will be a link that
reads Scholarship Application.

The link leads to the application center and recommendation letters
that reads Scholarship Application.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 1

Pantheors account at http://my.
fiu.edu, the Student Self Service and proceed to the Student Center tab.

Once there, the student goes under
Academics. There will be a link that
reads Scholarship Application.

The link leads to the application center and recommendation letters
that reads Scholarship Application.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 1

Pantheors account at http://my.
fiu.edu, the Student Self Service and proceed to the Student Center tab.

Once there, the student goes under
Academics. There will be a link that
reads Scholarship Application.

The link leads to the application center and recommendation letters
that reads Scholarship Application.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 1

Pantheors account at http://my.
fiu.edu, the Student Self Service and proceed to the Student Center tab.

Once there, the student goes under
Academics. There will be a link that
reads Scholarship Application.

The link leads to the application center and recommendation letters
that reads Scholarship Application.

Along with spending on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
large amount of money was
saved and used on food. Becerra-
Pineda also spent to attract students
money is going to be used to build a garden between
Academic I and II.

Meyer’s main goal is to make sure that A&S fees are
used on student endeavors and making sure his admin-
istration is the most transparent in 2009-2010. Neis-
tein plans to put every detail of SGC-BBC’s
web site when he takes office.

There will be no equiv-
ocations when it comes to students’ awareness of budget expenditures,” Neis-
tein said.

Competition offers 19 scholarships

Besides the GPA requirements, there are other scholarships that
require proof of financial needs, or specific academic major, or for students with
specific career goals, or for students with community service and human
rights experience.

Then there are scholarships for
immunoculaLa-Salle High School
students or employees of the
family of employees of specific
companies (i.e., Sedano’s and Coral
Gables Hospital).

The chances of winning one

of these scholarships, if the students fit
the specific requirements, are much
greater than for a general scholarship.

At its last meeting, the council ap-
proved 10 percent of scholarship appli-
cants won scholarships. Most students who were awarded scholarships were

To see the requirements of each
scholarship available, go to http://
scholarships.fiu.edu and look under Scholarship Descriptions for
further details on each scholarship.
AT THE BAY

GREEN ON FILM

Festival showcases students’ environmental initiatives

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Copy Editor

The Wolfe University Center hosts a series of green events throughout the year, but this time they wanted to do things a little different: let students decide.

Zach K. Trautenberg, IT and marketing specialist, decided to organize the “Wolfe University Center Go Green Film Festival,” a contest in which students can make and submit a five-minute original public service announcement in DVD format. Participants can choose from one of the following topics: the “Do’s and Don’ts of Recycling,” “10 Things You Can Do to Green Your Life” or “Coastal Environment at Risk.”

Trautenberg said he wanted to do something about environmental awareness that didn’t involve the University telling students what to do.

“We wanted to engage students and staff to learn from their viewings,” Trautenberg said. “We believe that the show is not only about the film content, but also about the students who produce it.”

Students can submit applications to participate in the contest until today, but the films are due April 20.

Entries will be screened on Earth Day, April 22, at the BCC’s Wolfie Center in Panther Square at noon and voted on by students and staff attending. Food and refreshments will be served during the event. According to Trautenberg, any genre and type of film is acceptable as long as it is creative.

“The idea is to get the message across,” Trautenberg said, referring to the film festival’s message: environmental awareness.

According to Trautenberg, the contest was made only for students, “but if you want to include a little brother and sister in the video, it’s OK.”

All contestants will be receiving an organic T-shirt regardless of how many votes they get. T-shirts will be grey or blue and will read on the front “Organic Florida International University.”

On the back they’ll read “I am a green T-shirt.”

The film’s brand is Edun Live, which makes clothes in the Kingdom of Lesotho, Africa, to raise money to fight AIDS in the country where “over 30 percent of the workforce [is] HIV positive,” according to the brand’s Web site.

Contest winners will get a $100 certificate for the FU Bookstore and will have their PSAs streamed on the WUC’s Web site.

Trautenberg said the inspiration for the film festival came from the “Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming” national contest. The competition recognizes campuses who propose original global warming solutions videos by streaming them on their Web site and awarding free concerts to the best campus-based climate action, according to the National Wildlife Association’s Web site, who organizes the event.

According to Trautenberg, the environmental coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost, Jennifer Grimm, came out with the ideas for the proposed topics, which she’s helping promote to all the different environmental science classes.

“I think it’s a great thing to bring the green initiative to people so that they can get involved,” Grimm said.

Among the students getting involved in the festival are the members of the Film and Club Natalie Cohen, a freshman journalism major and the club’s president, said students from her club will submit entries individually. She is also planning on focusing on the “10 Things You Can Do to Green Your Life” theme.

“It’s nice they’re doing something artistic that’s green as well,” Cohen said. “When you have a group of students trying to do something together, that itself raises awareness.”

This isn’t the first time the WUC has done something for the green initiative.

Gregory Olson, senior director of student affairs and WUC director, said the University had participated on other green initiatives previously to comply with the University’s Commitment Task Force established on September 17, 2007, which aimed at having long-term efforts of environmental sustainability in the community.

Other WUC events with an environmentally-friendly theme have included the “Go Green Lunchtime,” where an event planner taught students how to make greener events; the “Go Green Bingo,” where students had to complete a bingo based on green activities they had done and the “Go Green Day,” where a fair was set up and businesses from the community showed their green products, according to Trautenberg.

“We wanted to get students to do something before break. This was just part of going green,” Olson said. “If it’s successful, we’ll do it again.”

Applications for the film festival can be found at the WUC Web site at wu.fiu.edu.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE TIPS

SUNNYSIDE CINEMA

Colin Fielding/THE BEACON

Pre-gaming plans for this concert season

Summer is here and that means my favorite time of year is about to start: concert season.

Those who know me would probably never peg me as the rock show, but I have a mini confession – I used to be a semi-emo kid in high school, only I never rocked the hair style.

But as a result of my experiences, I know pre-gaming a concert, but also for those who have kids. For only $5, you can eat a good meal while the kids play with the Wii and other toys they have in the play area.

I had a tuna sandwich for $7.95, which to me was made perfectly because there was no mayo mixed with the fish.

Next, they even gave me big chunks of tuna instead of the shredded pieces that normally come with a tuna sandwich. It also came with chips that tasted like Frito’s, only they were long and colorful.

The menu is healthy (there is nothing fried or oily) and the food gave me the energy I needed to fight off people at the concert – no one has ever been to a pop-punk show without hitting someone or getting hit.

Even though this place is kid-friendly, don’t let it stop you from enjoying it. The kids aren’t too loud and the mood is so relaxing that you will be thinking more about munching kids than about the food.

But the most important part of a concert is the post-game. You just want to go somewhere that you can go over play-by-play with your friends about everything that happened minutes earlier.

I love going to Steve’s Pizza, at 1201 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami. If there was ever anywhere that has a punk-rock feel to it, this is it.

The place just looks hardcore, even though the entire restaurant is a little bigger than the average dorm room. The smell of pizza in this small area is not intoxicating.

You can’t help but notice that every piece of furniture is written with the word “Punk.” There is a collection of punk bands on the back wall and a punk room filled with dance floors and tables.

The place has white seats, light purple walls and dark wood floors – all of which screams modern and welcoming.

This place is not only great for pre-gaming a concert, but also for those who have kids. For only $5, you can eat a good meal while the kids play with the Wii and other toys they have in the play area.

I ordered a cheese pizza and right from the time you order you notice that these people take pizza seriously. Their motto is “the best pizza you’ve ever had.”

It may sound cynical but think about it, at most shows, food and drinks cost so much it is way more effective to eat and drink beforehand.

The last concert I went to, it was $3 for a slice of pizza that was the size of a Pizza Hut slice and had probably been sitting under heat lamps for eight hours.

Why not wait an extra couple of hours and get a slice for 50 cents less that is twice the size of the one from most venues? It’s a win-win situation, and in these economical times, every dime counts.

So this summer make sure you go to a show or two. Concert season is almost in full swing and no matter what kind of show you are going to, you will enjoy these two spots, I promise.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise affidavit@fiu.edu. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.

WEIGHTS WITH PARADISE

CYNTHIA FRANCISQUINI/THE BEACON

SPRING SNACKS: Naor Nuizadhi, a senior nutrition science major, serves Wanel Webster, a junior advertising major, healthy food alternatives, demonstrated in the “Be Hip Be Fit Series: Health Food Seminar” in Panther Square, April 13. The seminar focused on making quick meals without cooking.

Pre-gaming plans for this concert season

Sunset is here and that means my favorite time of year is about to start: concert season.

Those who know me would probably never peg me as the rock show, but I have a mini confession – I used to be a semi-emo kid in high school, only I never rocked the hair style.

But as a result of my experiences, I know pre-gaming a concert, but also for those who have kids. For only $5, you can eat a good meal while the kids play with the Wii and other toys they have in the play area.

I had a tuna sandwich for $7.95, which to me was made perfectly because there was no mayo mixed with the fish.

Next, they even gave me big chunks of tuna instead of the shredded pieces that normally come with a tuna sandwich. It also came with chips that tasted like Frito’s, only they were long and colorful.

The menu is healthy (there is nothing fried or oily) and the food gave me the energy I needed to fight off people at the concert – no one has ever been to a pop-punk show without hitting someone or getting hit.

Even though this place is kid-friendly, don’t let it stop you from enjoying it. The kids aren’t too loud and the mood is so relaxing that you will be thinking more about munching kids than about the food.

But the most important part of a concert is the post-game. You just want to go somewhere that you can go over play-by-play with your friends about everything that happened minutes earlier.

I love going to Steve’s Pizza, at 1201 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami. If there was ever anywhere that has a punk-rock feel to it, this is it.

The place just looks hardcore, even though the entire restaurant is a little bigger than the average dorm room. The smell of pizza in this small area is not intoxicating.

You can’t help but notice that every piece of furniture is written with the word “Punk.” There is a collection of punk bands on the back wall and a punk room filled with dance floors and tables.

The place has white seats, light purple walls and dark wood floors – all of which screams modern and welcoming.

This place is not only great for pre-gaming a concert, but also for those who have kids. For only $5, you can eat a good meal while the kids play with the Wii and other toys they have in the play area.

I ordered a cheese pizza and right from the time you order you notice that these people take pizza seriously. Their motto is “the best pizza you’ve ever had.”

It may sound cynical but think about it, at most shows, food and drinks cost so much it is way more effective to eat and drink beforehand.

The last concert I went to, it was $3 for a slice of pizza that was the size of a Pizza Hut slice and had probably been sitting under heat lamps for eight hours.

Why not wait an extra couple of hours and get a slice for 50 cents less that is twice the size of the one from most venues? It’s a win-win situation, and in these economical times, every dime counts.

So this summer make sure you go to a show or two. Concert season is almost in full swing and no matter what kind of show you are going to, you will enjoy these two spots, I promise.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise affidavit@fiu.edu. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.
CUBA SERIES: TWO OF TWO

DIPLOMATIC SLIPS

There is no better voice than Cuba's freedom fighters

JULIO MENACHE

What do Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Cristina Kirchner of Argentina and Nicholas Sarkozy of France all have in common? Each is a democratically-elected leader. Each is the president of one of the wealthiest capitalist countries in the world. Each has expressed interest in re-establishing relations with the only communist government in the Western Hemisphere, Cuba.

Now the United States’ own Congressional Black Caucus, made up of African-American democratic legislators from various states, has joined the ranks of these leaders by not only meeting with Raul and Fidel Castro, but also committing their cardinal sin: refusing to meet with the much-repressed dissident leaders on the island.

When pressed about not meeting with democratic activists on the island, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), head of the caucus, noted she was not coming to set terms to negotiate, but merely to “talk and listen.” Yet the voices of these dissidents have long been muffled by Fidel Castro’s communist dictatorship. By not agreeing to “talk and listen” to the opposition and include the groups in their visit, these legislators have set the wrong note for future talks. “We now stand alone because all Latin American countries have left [the dissidents] behind, all the way from Mexico to Chile and Argentina,” said Paya in a statement on his Web site.

If Rep. Lee and her colleagues had taken the time to move past the protocol and taken the time to visit opposition leaders, they would have seen a diverse group of civil society that has fought to stay alive. The fact is that the regime’s greatest crime is not allowing for any other forms of association outside the Communist Party. It is from this fact that every other human rights violation stems out, leading to censorship of opposition newspapers and outlawing of political parties and labor unions outside the Castros’ control, and the eventual jailing of anyone who stands a chance to oppose the regime.

If the Congressional Black Caucus would have met with dissidents, they would have found out that nearly 90 percent of political prisoners in Cuba are Afro-Cuban or mulatto, who use methods of non-violence, such as civil disobedience and hunger strikes to gain worldwide attention to their plight, much like Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated in his struggle against segregation. Yet, interestingly enough, as the world has been demanding dialogue between Cuba and the United States, it has already happened. Oswaldo Paya in 2005 instituted Program All Cubans, a simple survey that called for a dialogue between Cubans, both on the island and in exile, to list what type of government they wish to see in Cuba’s future.

The 16,000 Cubans and Cubans in exile have come to terms with seeing Cuba become more democratic, with free and fair elections with multiple parties. Great freedom of the press, assembly, enterprise, as well as amnesty for all of Cuba’s political prisoners was also included. Now Paya is looking to continue working on this “living document” by calling for another national dialogue to take place. The main objective of the dialogue would be to “guarantee respect, in law and in practice, for the civic, political and human rights of all Cuban citizens, and for their free participation in the process of democratic change and national reconciliation.”

The [Cuba] people are the legitimate owners of this country, although they have their hands tied,” said Oswaldo Paya in a statement for the Ibero-American summit back in 1999.

“All the statements and personalities who visit us should realize that. You are welcome – but don’t ignore the owners of the house.”

If the United States is truly committed to establishing better ties with Cuba and truly talking only about its issues, it must include dissidents in the conversation in order to secure that Cuba may someday see a democratically-elected government that secures in people’s human rights, both in writing and in practice.

Solutions to our flawed public school system do exist

ODETTE BARRIENTOS

If parents chose schools for their children, standards would be set and met on the threat of shutting down. Choice would lead to competition.

I’ve grown to really hate monopoly – the lack of choice in a country that threatens freedom. There is something very scary about companies that use their power to crush the competition. But what happens when there is no competition and there never has been?

This is exactly what is happening with the public education system in America today. Since the beginning of our kindergarten days, we have been told that we will go to school, what we will have for lunch and a myriad of other things.

For 13 years, everything is decided for you. Whether those decisions work for you, it doesn’t matter. Taxpayer dollars are going to pay for every aspect of public education, whether you like it or not.

Unfortunately, American schools are government monopolies.

Some get the best out of public education; others are cheated out of a good deal. There are people in this country that graduate high school with barely enough skills to compete in the real world. Even worse, some just never graduate.

When compared on an international level, American kids fall behind and fade away to Asian and European counterparts. A 2003 study conducted by UNICEF took the averages from five different international education studies. Researchers ranked the United States No. 18 out of 24 nations in relative effectiveness of its educational system.

The UNICEF report found that educational success or failure is not directly linked to funding, citing that there is no clear link between student-to-teacher ratios and test results. Yet, I’ve always heard that more money needs to be put into public education.

“If money were the solution, the problem would already be solved. We’ve doubled per pupil spending, adjusting for inflation over the last 30 years, and yet schools aren’t better,” said Jay Greene, author of Education Myths.

Scores from the 2006 Program for International Student Assessment showed that U.S. 15-year-olds fell behind their peers from many industrialized countries. The average science score of U.S. students lagged behind those in 16 out of 30 countries. In math, only four countries had average scores lower than the U.S.

What could possibly be wrong with our public education system?

“The solution is choice; getting rid of the government monopoly in the school system,” said Greene.

Taxpayer dollars should follow children wherever they choose to go in the form of a voucher or education tax credits. This is not a radical move, it’s just smarter. It is a method already used in America.

Existing voucher programs include food stamps, low-income housing vouchers, the GI Bill and Pell Grants for college students, federal day-care grants and Social Security. Social Security distributes about $400 billion per year to millions of seniors to spend as they wish. Why can’t kids in America choose to spend the money they’re entitled to in the school of their choice?

If parents chose schools for their children, standards would be set and met on the threat of shutting down. The “D” and “F” schools would be set and local schools would compete to be the best. The “D” and “F” schools would shut down.

If parents chose schools for their children, standards would be set and met on the threat of shutting down. The “D” and “F” schools would disappear because no one would send their children there.

Choice would lead to competition; competition would lead to better performance.

Attempts to promote choice in U.S. legislation have failed repeat-
Acting, directing course spawns television show

ELISE PUGI Staff Writer

In mid-afternoon, a dimly lit room in Deuxieme Maison flip-flops between the tense drama of a soap opera and the energetic free-flow of college theatre.

This is Professor Phillip Church’s course, Introduc- tion to Acting & Directing for TV & Film, that inspired an ambitious project to produce a scripted drama series right in FIU.

Church decided that producing the show, “The Living and the Learning,” would give theatre majors practical experience into the world of TV. “Because of the cross-over nature of theatre and film it is not realistic anymore to just have experience in theatre acting,” said Church, whose students have been gaining valu-

able experience in camera work, directing, production manage- ment, and screenwriting. “This show is something that will engage the entire FIU community, although the nine main characters will be played by the students in my class, we will open auditions for secondary and supporting actors.”

The show will partner the 12 theatre majors currently enrolled in the course with a dozen amateur screenwriters, directors and producers.

Although it is still in its initial stages, Church summoned a meeting on the morning of April 11, that incited creative brainstorming and dialogue between the future writers and producers of the show.

The group came from such diverse majors as chemistry, English, journalism, business, and advertising.

“Our hope is to show the human condition and struc-
ture of campus life and how it is reflected,” said Church during the meeting. “We are not trying to make a High School Musical, we want to express truths, but avoiding becoming a public service announcement.”

The show aims to produce twelve 20-minute episodes and will follow the lives, relation-
ships and conflicts of nine diverse and dynamic characters, some of which will be interrelated.

The specifics are still in the drawing board, but during the meeting the possibility of having a Student Government Associa-
tion official, a college journalist and an athlete on the show were mentioned.

Teamwork between such a diverse group of students trying to visualize the central themes and characters representative of a student body is one of the concerns of production. But during the meeting all future writers and directors were enthu-

siastic to offer ideas and work together.

“The challenge of a project like this is trying to speak for a community as diverse as a college campus,” said Sebastian Church, jour-

nalism major from University of Central Florida and the son of Phillip Church, who will be screenwriting for the show. “It is going to be difficult to conceive but the important thing is that we all collaborate.”

Dante Medina, a public relations freshman, believes it is important to feature characters that are often misunderstood.

“We should not only hold on to the usual rules, but we should also have charac-
ters, like loners, that often go unnoticed,” Medina said.

The show will start airing in the Fall of 2009 but during the summer the produc-
tion crew will start schedul-
ing episodes and hopes to produce one or two of the shows.

The episodes will be screened throughout the University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus during the Fall.

GAMES GALORE

Online video game streaming debuts

At the annual Game Develop-
er’s Conference that took place March 24-27 in San Francisco, the world wa-
given its introduc-
tion to OnLive, an online video game service that will supposedly render high-end PCs and consoles obsolete.

OnLive will stream videogames directly to your PC with essentially no latency while super servers do all the hard work for your PC. All that’s required is a one-megabyte browser plug-in and a monthly fee, with pricing yet to be announced. Ubisoft, EA, Take-Two and other publishers have already signed themselves on to the publish games for OnLive. Crysis and Grand Theft Auto IV were especially among the titles demoed at GDC.

So this is it. OnLive will revolutionize gaming.

No, wait. It’s going to fail. Miserably.

Actually, I really don’t know what to think.

On one hand, I’m intrigued at the possibility of never having to upgrade my PC or console to play the latest and greatest of games. I never played Crysis because my PC is just not as young and energetic as it used to be. Never will I have to worry about such a scenario again if OnLive delivers on its promises.

On the other hand, there is the issue of bandwidth.

When the mighty Al Gore invented the Internet, I don’t think he foresaw one billion people watching streaming, HD videos on YouTube in 2013. Comcast has already placed a cap on residential Internet use to take steps toward keeping our online highways uncongested. So what will happen when if millions of users are trying to play the latest Madden or Grand Theft Auto via OnLive?

OnLive servers, using an extremely complicated algorithm that’s been
in the works for seven years, will be compressing these huge video games. Standard definition games will be delivered over a 1.5 megabits-per-second connection, and 720 pixels-per-inch definition will be delivered over a 5 megabits-per-second connection. Imagine playing streamed video games like you watch streamed videos on YouTube.

Is there enough Internet juice out there for OnLive to pump these HD games out? Will it really deliver on its promise of lag-free gaming via compression?

I’m not an Internet know-it-all, but I have my doubts. And what about online multiplayer? It’d be great to finally challenge my fellow Street Fighter IV players that don’t have the same console as I do. And the one-on-one gaming like that might work just fine via OnLive.

But what about playing Call of Duty: World at War? How will that work out with 16 players just fine via OnLive. And the one-on-one gaming like that might work great to finally challenge my fellow

GAMES, page 5

Summer is approaching. Whether you like it or not, franchises will be revived and some original movies will crop up that aren’t sequels or prequels. The summer could also be billed with the return of veteran directors such as Sam Raimi and Quentin Tarantino with new films. Here are some upcoming movies that are likely to keep you in the movie theater until school starts again.

**May 1 X-Men Origins: Wolverine**

Last time we saw Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), he sank his metal claws into Jean Grey/Phoenix (Famke Janssen) to save the world in 2006’s X-Men: The Last Stand. Three years later, Jackman returns to the role that made him famous in origins story of Logan/Wolverine. Some characters from the previous films are revisited such as X-Men’s Victor Creed/Sabertooth (Lee Scheurer) and X-2’s William Stryker (Danny Huston). New characters introduced from the X-Men universe include Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds) and Gambit (Taylor Kinch).

**May 21 Terminator Salvation**

Despite its notoriety for being the set where Christian Bale underwent his infamous rant, Terminator Salvation is the franchise’s fourth film and the first one that does not feature “The Governor” Arnold Schwarzenegger. Eleven years after the events of Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, John Connor (Bale) leads the resistance fighting Skynet and their army of the Terminators in the year 2018. Connor recruits a Terminator who calls himself Marcus Wright (Sam Worthington), who last memory was being on death row. Together, Connor and Marcus must team up to infiltrate Skynet and destroy it from the inside.

**May 29 Drag Me to Hell**

Sam Raimi (Evil Dead and the Spider-Man trilogies) returns to his horror and supernatural roots in Drag Me to Hell. Christine (Allison Lohman) is a Los Angeles loan officer who refuses to give an old woman an extension on her home loan. Several hours later, the old woman attacks Christine on her way to her car and places a powerful curse that will take Christine’s soul to hell in 12 hours. Haunted by an evil spirit and misunderstood by her boyfriend (Justin Long), Christine seeks a seer’s help to save her soul from eternal damnation.

**June 24 Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen**

Michael Bay returns to the director’s chair for the sequel of last summer’s hit movie, Transformers. After their first epic battle on Earth, Starcream returns to Cybertron and assumes control of the Decepticons where he returns to Earth to destroy the Autobots and enslave the human race. Shia LaBouf, Megan Fox, Tyrese Gibson and John Tatum are among the cast members returning for their second Transformers outing.

**August 7 G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra**

The Hasbro action figures known for their “kung fu grip” are coming to the big screen thanks to director Stephen Sommers (The Mummy, Van Helsing) and producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura. The movie is an origins story of the rise of the Cobra organization as well as the first of many conflicts between Cobra and the Global Integrated Joint Operating Entity. On the side of the elite G.I. Joe squad is team leader Hawk (Dennis Quaid), lead soldier Duke (Channing Tatum) and mute ninja Snake Eyes (Ray Park). In the other corner, is the Cobra organization with a designer (Christopher Eccleston), a spy (Sienna Miller) and Cobra commander (Joseph Gordon-Levitt).

**21 Inglourious Basterds**

Quentin Tarantino’s sixth film is set during World War II where a lieutenant, Aldo Raines (Brad Pitt), organizes a group of Jewish soldiers (including director Eli Roth, and “The Office’s” B.J. Novak) known as “The Basterds” and joins forces with a German actress and undercover agent (Diane Kruger) to take down the Third Reich. Inglourious Basterds also features an outstanding all-star cast that includes Mike “Austin Powers” Myers, Chris Leachman and Samuel L. Jackson as the narrator.

$4BN Hedge Fund Seeks Part-Time Quantitative Assistant

**LOCATION:** Coral Gables, FL

**DESCRIPTION:** Multi-billion dollar hedge fund seeks a part-time quantitative assistant. Current roles would be to process financial data, automate investment process, etc.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Proficient in Excel VBA macro programming
2. Fluent in spoken and written English, and great communication skills
3. 25+ hours per week, of which 4-5 hours will be in the weekends
4. Working permit is required (for non-US citizens)
5. Experience in other programming languages, and in database is a plus, such as Microsoft Access, C/C++, etc
6. Quantitative experience on FactSet, Bloomberg, and CapitalIQ (equity/debt screening etc) is a plus
7. Strong background in mathematics or related disciplines a plus
8. Finance/Economics background a plus

Please submit resumes to quantitative@firtree.com
New hire creates recruiting buzz

THOMAS, page 8

exit in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

“Thomas’ recent stop with the New York Knicks does not
sparkle the way his stellar career as a point guard did for the
Detroit Pistons in the 1980s.

In September 2007, he and Madison Square Garden were
sued for sexual harassment by employee Anucha Browne
Sanders. MSG and the Knicks were ordered to pay $11.6
million for the incident, and Thomas was not found personally
liable.

After recently enduring two losing seasons with the Knicks,
Thomas said he is prepared to prove his worth in college
basketball and defend his professional coaching career. Thomas
preceded his period with the Knicks with three playoff appear-
ances with the Indiana Pacers.

“If you’re speaking overall, I would say that I have had three
successful seasons and two losing seasons,” Thomas said of his
tenures with the Pacers and Knicks. “So I would say that I’m
up.”

Thomas, who coped with criticism near the end of his
stint with the Knicks, does not brush aside the assessments of
critics.

“Critics are necessary, and not always wrong,” Thomas said.
“Sometimes they are wrong, but that doesn’t mean that I cannot
learn lessons from that. I have won at every level, and if you’re
going to get to the top of the mountain at every level there will
be a lot of people that criticize you.”

RECRUITING BOOST

The Golden Panther brass believes that Thomas has the ability
to attract among the best recruits worldwide. The 12-time NBA
All-Star is a popular figure for his prowess with the Pistons a few
decades ago.

“In the last 48 hours, I have gotten more than 500 text messages
and e-mails from potential student athlete basketball players,”
Garcia said. “Obviously we will stay within the NCAA rules, but
the kind of athletes that Isiah Thomas will attract will be the best
anywhere not only in this state but the entire country.”

Garcia sees no boundaries to acquire future players.

“We are an international school, our team right now is
composed of a bunch of international players. We are not going
to leave any stone unturned,” Garcia said. “I’ve seen the way that
he can recruit. I have always said that everything in life revolves
around recruiting whether it’s a coach, a dean, a staff member, or
a spouse. It’s all about recruiting.”

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Want to work for FIU Athletics Media Relations?
If you have federal work-study, this is your chance.
Please contact John Angel. 305-348-1357

Starting guard expects to learn
from new coach

POINT GUARDS, page 7

“Sometimes we’re the last to know that there’s a game going on,”
Soto said.

“A lot of the players on the team, I never knew they had a
game,” Soto said.

“Getting Ish in and giving him the opportu-
nity to teach Soto and show him that he’s a
point guard as well,” Alvarez said. “I think
he’s the right coach for his development.”

COACH ROUCO

Former head coach
Sergio Rouco was reas-
signed on April 13 by
Athletic Director Pete
Garcia. His staff recruited
Soto two years ago, but
the starting point guard
has yet to contact Rouco.

“I’m planning to, but
I don’t think it’s a great
time to talk to him,” Soto
said. “I think he’s going
to be a little hurt. I still
think he’s a great coach.”

He did not know if any
other player had spoken
to Rouco following his
removal from the head
coach position.

Rouco coached at
the University for five
years and posted a 55-94
record.

Soto is looking ahead
and wants his new coach
to show him how to
become a better defender
and leader.

“He was a great
defender, a great leader;
that’s why he’s in the
Hall of Fame,” Soto said.

“If we’re going to be
successful, I need to be
the leader.”

CONSULTANT

Art Alvarez is the
president and CEO of
the Amateur Athletic
Union Miami Tropics;
he coached Soto before
he reached the Division
I level. Alvarez said he
consulted Thomas about
Soto and other players he
had worked with.

“We had a nice conver-
sation. We wanted to make
sure that we were on the
same page,” Alvarez told
The Beacon following the
press conference on April
15. “Not only with Josue
Soto and Freddy but the
Martavis Kee transfer
from temple and J.C.
Otero. I wanted to make
sure he had a plan for
those kids. He does have a
plan, and we’re going to
be working together for a
long time.”

Alvarez thinks Thomas
is the teacher Soto needs
to improve himself as a
point guard.

“Bringing Isiah in and
giving him the opportu-
nity to teach Soto and
show him that he’s a
point guard as well,”
Alvarez said. “I think
he’s the right coach for
his development.”

JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our
offices located in
GC 210 and
WUC 124.

CONTRIBUTED

As a dietitian in the U.S. Army Reserve, you’ll have the opportunity
to work with outstanding health care professionals, participate in
humanitarian missions and continue your education. You’ll improve
the health of our Soldiers, as well as local populations. You’ll be
able to work in your community and serve when needed.

To learn more about the U.S. Army Reserve Health Care Team,
call CPT David Moore at 877-266-0081, email
david.moore5@usarec.army.mil, or visit
healthcare.goarmy.com/info/armietl.

LASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Want to work for FIU Athletics Media Relations?
If you have federal work-study, this is your change.
Please contact John Angel. 305-348-1357

THE STRENGTH TO HEAL
begins with good nutrition.

As a dietitian in the U.S. Army Reserve, you’ll have the opportunity
to work with outstanding health care professionals, participate in
humanitarian missions and continue your education. You’ll improve
the health of our Soldiers, as well as local populations. You’ll be
able to work in your community and serve when needed.

To learn more about the U.S. Army Reserve Health Care Team,
call CPT David Moore at 877-266-0081, email
david.moore5@usarec.army.mil, or visit
healthcare.goarmy.com/info/armietl.

©2007, Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

JOIN OUR
STAFF!

Stop by one of our
offices located in
GC 210 and
WUC 124.
BRINGING FAME: Isiah Thomas was announced as the new head coach of the Golden Panthers' basketball team on April 15. His five-year deal is worth approximately $1.1 million, according to Athletic Director Pete Garcia. Thomas compiled a 187-223 record during his five-year NBA coaching career.

Coach gives away first year’s salary, brings troubled past

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When new FIU men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas approached the podium at the U.S. Century Bank Arena for his introductory press conference April 15, one of the topics discussed were the terms of his five-year contract.

When Athletic Director Pete Garcia announced that the deal is worth approximately $1.1 million, concerns that the former NBA All-Star's salary would be too expensive for the $22 million budget were answered.

But when Thomas said he would be donating his first-year's salary worth to FIU, the Golden Panthers newest coach created a wave of bewilderment.

"I wanted to help this university," Thomas said. "I didn't want to be a financial burden."

Garcia said that when Thomas learned about layoffs and budget cuts, he told University President Modesto A. Maidique that the school would not have to compensate him in his first season.

Garcia also remarked that the Athletics Department, in light of recent budget cuts, received a $5 million donation to upgrade the arena from the Capital Improvement Trust Funds.

"I like rolling up my sleeves. I like taking some from the bottom and building it to the top. There's a lot of risk in that and there is also a lot of reward in that. But that's how I grew," Thomas said. "I want to take FIU to the next level and I know it's going to take a lot of hard work, but I'm willing to pay the price to do that."

Garcia was hardly surprised by the gesture.

"GREAT HUMAN BEING"

"I know Isiah Thomas, and I guarantee you one thing. We are getting a great human being," Garcia said. "He has been an exceptional husband for over 20 years. A great father, a great son."

"I'll let him talk about basketball, that's his passion, but I will tell you one thing. Nobody will outwork this man."

On the basketball side, however, Thomas takes over a program that has not had a winning season since 1999-00. The Golden Panthers are coming off a 13-20 campaign and an early

Players hope to learn from NBA Hall of Fame point guard

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

When Isiah Thomas, a Hall of Fame point guard, was announced as the head coach of the Golden Panthers' basketball team, point guards Josue Soto and Nick Taylor were ready to start learning.

"I'm going to pick his brain all the time," Taylor said. "He's one of the top point guards of all time. I'm going to ask him questions, try to get as much knowledge as I can."

Soto was the starting point guard last season and Taylor was his first backup. Thomas' resume impressed the point guard duo, who did not expect to have Thomas as their new coach.

"I was surprised, but I was also excited," Soto said. "Having somebody that has played at the highest level, makes you think, 'What can he do to make you better?'"

Thomas comes into FIU with no experience coaching at the college level. As an NBA coach, he compiled a 187-223 during a five-year span. With the New York Knicks he went 56-108 before being fired in 2008.

Taylor hopes Thomas' national championship in 1981, NBA championship in 1990 and 13-year professional career will provide him with unique insight.

"Wow, that was my first reaction," Taylor said. "As a fellow point guard I think he's going to be able to show us his perspective."

Looking for direction: Point guards Josue Soto and Nick Taylor (left, right respectively) both hope new Hall of Fame point guard of a coach could help develop their skills.