WEATHER

LOW: 79  HIGH: 88
Scattered T-Storms
FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY
LOW: 79  HIGH: 90

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bodhi Beach Guru, June 24, 7 p.m. The band will be playing at The Culture Room in support of their upcoming album. Door is $10. After joining the band will be former Shovels Never and The Ready Set.

The American Black Film Festival, June 24-27. This weekend, the American community.

NEWS

Dr. Leatherman releases a list with the top 10 U.S. beaches. Known as “Dr. Beach,” Leatherman is chair professor and director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at FIU and has been compiling this yearly list for 20 years. “I came to FIU in 1997 to become the first director of the International Hurricane Center and to build it from basically a concept into a major center which I have certainly done,” Leatherman said. In 1997, he brought the IRHC from Maryland to FIU. “In addition to all of his coastal research, he was very instrumental in helping to define our Wall of Miami full-scale testing initiative and played a key role to obtaining the $10 million Center of Excellence Award,” said Carolyn Robertson, assistant director of the IRHC at FIU. The Wall of Wind is a machine used to test the effects of hurricane-force winds on buildings.

According to Robertson, Leatherman defined and wrote a grant proposal and worked with the State Board of Governors to obtain the Center of Excellence for Hurricane Damage Mitigation and Product Development. The decision to start rating beaches, however, wasn’t all that thought out; while heading to catch a plane to China, he received a surprise telephone call from a travel magazine. The magazine, knowing his work involved visiting beaches all over the world, wanted his opinion of the top 10 beaches in the country. In 1991, his list was published on Memorial Day weekend. He has been releasing the list every year at the same time since then.

“I’m the most published coastal scientist in the U.S.,” Leatherman said. “I spent two years traveling the U.S. coasts, visiting and assessing all the major public recreation beaches.

BUDGET Cuts
Program closures postponed

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees has agreed to postpone cutting four popular degree programs. During a June 12 meeting, the trustees unanimously voted to allow the administration, until the next Board meeting, to present an alternative budget that would allow the programs to survive, as well as give outgoing President Modesto Maidique his successor, Mark Rosenberg, time to look for donors for the programs. The move to save the programs was met with applause by audience members, many of whom were students and faculty. “This was a very rational decision,” said senior Jeremy Paulovkin, who addressed the BOT on behalf of students in the religious studies program. “It was worth the slight discomfort and nervousness [of addressing the Board].” The BOT did, however, agree to cut 11 degree programs.

“No one wants to see anything cut, but we just don’t have the money,” said Trustee Patricia Frost. Before the Board made its decision, BOT Chairman David Parker designated time for members of the public to speak out. Each speaker was given two minutes. “I chose seven speakers from across constituency of the University,” said Parker during the meeting. Religious studies student Paulovkin presented the Board with a petition of 1,771 signatures, asking for the religion program to be saved. “Fifty percent of the master’s students in the religious studies program come from the University’s undergraduate religious studies order. Not knowing what would come of the phone conversation, he simply named 10 of the best beaches that came to mind. Later that summer he received a copy of the magazine listing all of the beaches he mentioned, in the order in which he named them.

“The unoffi cial consensus appeared in 1989 in Conde Naste Traveler’s magazine,” he said. “In 1991, many of the newspapers in the U.S. printed the story.” Reporters wanted to know what criteria Leatherman had used to rate the beaches, but there was none. He then decided to come up with 50 criteria to rate each beach.

In the span of two years, he surveyed 650 major public recreational beaches in the country.

In 1991, his list was published on Memorial Day weekend. He has been releasing the list every year at the same time since then.

“T’m the most published coastal scientist in the U.S.,” Leatherman said. “I spent two years traveling the U.S. coasts, visiting and assessing all the major public recreation beaches.

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

FIU’s distinguished Dr. Beach speaks out

Rosenberg preparing to take reins

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

As the Board of Trustees met in the GC Ball- rooms, FIU outgoing President Modesto Maidique gave his last speech to the board members, listing the long list of accomplishments the University reached under his tenure; doctoral degree produc- tion grew 6,000 percent, the University’s total operating budget grew from $93 million to $772 million, and the addition of a law school and a new medical school set to open this Fall. After 23 years of service, Maidique will resign as president and FIU will not only see a new chief executive officer but also two other top administrators.

During a presidential transition, it is common for high-level positions in the University to remain open for the incoming president to place his own officials. However, last summer the BOT awarded Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez, and thenProvost Ronald Bertman, hefty retention deals. Yet the deals failed to keep the two highly sought individuals, as Sanchez has returned to consulting and Bertman is now the president of Cleveland State University.

The school year will therefore begin with three brand new top administrators: Mark Rosenberg as president, John Miller as CFO and Doug Wartzok as the new provost.

ROSENBERG

This June, the BOT approved a five-year, $475,000 contract for Rosenberg, the fifth Univer- sity, whose term officially begins Aug. 3, said he wishes to follow the footsteps of Maid- ique, but to also spend time focusing on “finance administration.

Green attitude replaces old recycling bins

SERGIO MONTALEGRE
BBC Photo Editor

The Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses are now littered with bottles to encourage students to recycle. The Student Government Association and Univer- sity Custodial Services came together to introduce a new recycling program using bottle-shaped recycling bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

“We want students to use the bins as a way to make the campus much more environmentally friendly,” said David Fonseca, director of environmental affairs for SGC-BBC.
FIU
College of Law voted among most diverse

The College of Law was placed second on The Princeton Review's list of schools with the most diverse faculty.

The rankings are based on an 80-question survey submitted by 19,000 students. The survey asked students to submit feedback on various aspects of their school, including campus life, student body and academics.

The College of Law was placed second on best law schools in 2009 edition, a guidebook. Others that made the list are Temple University, Southern University and Howard University, which ranked first.

LOCAL
Heat wave sweeps South Florida

Temperatures hit record levels as a sweltering heat affects South Florida.

On Sunday, temperatures in Miami hit 96 degrees, breaking the original record of 95 degrees set in 1956.

Taking into account humidity, it will feel like anywhere between 105 to 110 degrees.

According to CBSS, the most at risk are young children and elderly people. People showing signs of heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

One of Rohoboy’s goals for this year is to have a constitution that does not have to be reviewed every year.

“At last day’s meeting there is no document of anything I want to see,” he said.

After he spoke, the Senate had an opportunity to question him. No one did, however, and Rohoboy was approved unanimously. Rohoboy later said that he would have liked to answer questions.

According to some senators, the lack of questions was not due to a lack of knowledge or interest in the Senate’s part.

“The Senate was e-mailed a copy of Luis Rohoboy’s resume and goals,” said senator from Arts & Science, Gabriel Medina.

“One of the positive aspects about last year’s student government was the stellar work of the judiciary.”

“SGA Senate was well informed on who Luis is,” said Senator Loren Frante.

BOT cuts 11 programs, degrees

BUDGET, page 1

A program,” said Paulovkin during his speech. “If you eliminate this program, the major will not survive.”

“We can raise significant money for the University over the next year or so,” said Nathan Katz, dean of religious studies. “Don’t cut this program preemptively.”

Robert Wolff, program leader for Recreational Sports Management, one of the programs that was being considered to be cut, claimed the numbers presented to the Board were outdated. According to him, Hugo Jimenez, assistant director of Technology, sent him the current numbers, that differ from the ones the BOT looked at.

“In today’s meeting they used outdated numbers,” Wolff said. “We’re not losing money, we’re gaining money, and I’m surprised they didn’t switch to the new numbers.

“We’re a money maker. They would gain nothing by getting rid of us.”

According to interim provost Doug Wartzk, the elimination of the first four programs would save the University $1 million. An additional $3.5 million have been saved by restructuring moves by various schools within the University, such as faculty cutting and staff.

The next BOT meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11.
University Park campus has been renamed in honor of outgoing University President Modesto A. Maimique.

The renaming, proposed by Board of Trustees Chairman David Parker during the June 12 meeting, was approved unanimously.

"For more than two decades, President Maimique has demonstrated his strong, passionate and unyielding commitment to FIU, leading this University’s historic transformation," said Parker in a press release issued by the Office of Media Relations. "The Board of Trustees are the expression of our gratitude for his tremendous contributions to FIU and the community at large."

An official naming ceremony will be scheduled for the Fall.

Two decades ago, my dream was to transform FIU into a major urban public university,” Maimique said in the press release. “This transformation now has all the major components in place to join the ranks of the nation’s top universities. This honor is the pinnacle of this incredible journey.”

According to a press release sent out by the University, the increase will vary upon what date students enrolled in the University.

An undergraduate student who enrolled at the University before July 1, 2007, taking a 15-credit semester should expect an approximate tuition increase of $185.68 per semester.

A student who enrolled after July 1, 2007 with the same semester course load should see an increase of $287.92 per semester.

In addition, the University will be implementing a $4.42 per credit hour technology fee, an increase in student activity fees (now set at $11.60 per credit hour) and a financial aid fee (5 percent of tuition). According to News@FIU, most of the money will go toward funding libraries, as well as hiring faculty and academic advisors. The remaining 30 percent will go towards funding financial aid for needy students.

While there will be an increase in financial aid, Florida Bright Futures will be eliminated.

Five months after Joseph J. West, dean of the School of Hospitality Management, agreed to become vice provost for Biocay Bay Campus through August 2010, he changed his mind.

"After 10 years as dean, a return to the faculty is too tempting to further postpone," said Douglas Watrozy, interim provost, in a University-wide e-mail.

According to News@FIU, the law will allow tuition increases until Florida universities in Florida voted to increase by 15 percent increase in tuition

According to the Board of Governors, the increase is expected to bring in $23.8 million in tuition money.

The law will allow tuition increases until Florida universities, which boast having some of the lowest tuition in the country, reach the national average of $3,735 per semester.

The state already approved an 8 percent increase, with the remaining 30 percent coming from the last BOR meeting.

Due to the University’s massive budget cuts, the Golden Panther Band has been eliminated.

The matching band’s future was uncertain after two of the University’s closest departments, Student Government and the Arts and the University’s athletic department, were forced to cut its

Building unable to get funding

The Golden Panthers baseball team is the University’s lone intercollegiate athletics program that will face NCAA penalties for the 2009-10 academic year, according to an NCAA report. According to the student newspaper, the program will see Athletics lose a total of 17.87 scholarships due to low Academic Progress Rate scores.

However, baseball will still face some penalties. This upcoming season, the baseball team will be limited to 15 practice hours per week, 125 playing days and 54 games.

In 2008, four different teams lost a total of 5.75 scholarships. The prior year, eight teams suffered the same fate. In 2007, the program’s history, on April 25, 2008, the team then won in the first round of the NCAA regionals against Princeton University. But the University was eliminated in the second round.

The Golden Panthers tennis team stormed through the Sun Belt Conference to become champions for the fourth time in the
Neistein said, “We are in a recession. If you do not pay for tuition, Printing should be free.”

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein has his goals for his presidency not only include being more involved with the student body, but also working closely with it to know exactly how to meet student needs. Almost two months into his term, Neistein has already accomplished his first goal: free printing.

“At one point accessible to students. Due to student abuse, it was revoked and prices went up to 8 cents for black and 25 cents for color printing. Free printing was at one point accessible to students. Due to student abuse, it was revoked and prices went up to 8 cents for black and 25 cents for color printing per page. Students should take advantage of the program wisely and only print what is needed. Any credit remaining will be reimbursed into the SGA budget and used for future programs and funding,” Trautenberg said.

For students, saving money on a pack of printing paper is no longer an option: it’s a necessity. “It’s crazy to think you can go through a whole pack of paper during a semester, said Eddie Vilchez, junior marketing major. “It’s surprising how many notes and research papers you are going to compete nor combating with the administration. We are going to work more with it.”

He also believes that for a successful 2009-2010 SGC-BBC council, all members must work closely with the students and the University, and make full use of the tools they are given once they step into office.

“Students who were part of SGA in the past didn’t take initiative to fulfill the powers they were given,” Neistein said. “There’s going to be more programs that SGC-BBC is going to be part of, not only monetarily, but physically.”

Neistein accomplishes first goal: free printing for students
Point Counterpoint

Maidique earns campus name

Iris Febres
Opinion Editor

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the renaming of University Park to Modesto Maidique Campus on June 12. The move is meant to honor Maidique for his 23 years of service to the institution. Surely, renaming a campus is a rarity, right?

It’s not. According to Miami Herald archives, UP was known as Tamiami Park as far back as 1986. It is clear that Maidique spearheaded multiple legacies for the University, including a medical school (slated to open this August), a law school (which held top bar exam scores in 2007 and this year) and entering Division I in the NCAA. Modesto Maidique University. We cannot let go in droves, and whole programs abolishing the name of the entire University to honor Maidique’s done a bang-up job.

The renaming [to Modesto Maidique Campus] doesn’t fit. It smacks of insensitivity to change, dreadfulness. It’s better than nothing. It’s better than it sounds. It’s better than the University. This change, decided without input from the student body, hasn’t been well received amid its multiple legacies for the University, hasn’t been well received amid its student body, hasn’t been well received amid its Board of Trustees, will recognize me for the 23 years of employment at the University. Surely, it will.

Over Summer A, the Board of Trustees decided that the FIU University Park campus would be renamed after outgoing President Modesto A. Maidique, in honor of his 23 years of employment at the University. This change, decided without input from the student body, hasn’t been well received amid the climate of cutbacks and layoffs sweeping the University. It is the cost of the name change, or maybe the eye-rolling sentimentality of it all leaves most wondering what the BOT was thinking. Good or bad, the timing is dreadful. It smacks of insensitivity to change, dreadfulness.

I, for one, agree that Maidique worked here a long time and did some great things for the student body. But, he is not the Board. He has been let go in droves, and whole programs abolishing the name of the entire University. Surely, it will.

The lifestyles of Iranian women are not as oppressive as those in other Middle Eastern countries and the public should recognize that. People can see that Iran is farther ahead of its neighbors. People can see that Iran is farther ahead of its neighbors. Iran is farther ahead of its neighbors. Iran is farther ahead of its neighbors.

I was not only proud of Apple, but pretty happy with how embarrassed AT&T should be. At the time of a major product launch, and a major software update, AT&T still cannot support MMS, a feature supported by essentially every other phone in the universe with a camera.

AT&T is sticking by their guns for now, saying that MMS is to be expected by the end of summer. As far as data tethering is concerned, AT&T has said that it will support it, but has given no definitive timeline.

This year’s WWDC was a wake-up call for AT&T, coupled with the increasing number of iPhone users taking their software unlocked phones to other service providers.

AT&T, go out of your way to get new customers, sure, but don’t forget the ones that pay your massive bill every month.
Restaurant Review

Asian eatery offers affordable cuisine

JASMYN ELLIOTT  Staff Writer

If you're craving tasty Asian food then head over to Pei Wei, located at 13616 North Kendall Drive. Although this restaurant is an offshoot of the more upscale P.F. Chang's Chinese Bistro franchise, don't let the casual atmosphere fool you. The quality of the food is just as good, but much more affordable. Prices range from about $4 to $9, plus tax.

For the less adventurous diners I highly recommend the Lo Mein Noodle Bowl. You can choose between chicken, beef, vegetables, tofu or shrimp (at an additional cost of $1) and features the familiar garlic-infused sauce along with the egg noodles topped with carrots, scallions, bean sprouts and shiitake mushrooms.

Another favorite is the Honey-Steamed Chicken. Although it has a honey glaze, the skin is crispy and there is the added bonus of choosing white or brown rice topped with scallions, adding a refreshing kick.

If you're looking for something spicy, you have a few choices. Try the chili sauce on the table or order the Orange Peel Signature Dish with the choice of chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu. Other dishes similar to this either emphasize the sweetness of the orange peel or the spice of the peppers; Pei Wei manages to strike a near-perfect medium.

Another spicy dish worth your while would be the Thai Blazing Noodles. It's kick comes from the tomato black pepper sauce along with the added seasonings of cilantro and Thai basil. A word of caution: This dish is not for those who have a weak palate, as it is a sinus clearer. Be sure to check for the notation on the menu indicating the spicy factor. Besides the great food, they have free refills on fountain sodas, wooden chopsticks on the table (for the show-offs), and complimentary fortune cookies. Pei Wei is busy during the day, so while it may not necessarily be the best place for an intimate date, it will definitely be the perfect place for a casual outing with a loved one or a small group of friends or family.

The friendly staff, comfortable seating and open view of the kitchen makes Pei Wei a lovely place to frequent.

LIFE!

Animation convention to take over Graham Center

ANA ALVAREZ  Contributing Writer

Japanese animation, known to fans as anime (commonly pronounced an-ay), is an artistic world of highly stylized, futuristic cartoons that have taken much of the world by storm. What do you get when you combine the sights, sounds and food of Japan with anime’s futurist and vibrant style? Two-day festival of entertainment and fantasy coming to FIU: Yasumicon.

Hosted by the FIU Anime Club, “Anything Goes Anime Film Club” (AGA), this year’s festival will include live music, video gaming and costume contests, and plenty of surprises.

Yasumicon, an annual anime convention held at FIU, is Flori- da’s largest free-to-the-public anime convention. Established 7 years ago, it is the fastest growing anime convention of its kind and will be taking place July 11 and 12.

The entire Graham Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus is reserved for a weekend of fun, anime panels, live music and entertainment, which will be open to guests of all ages.

“Last year, 3,300 people attended to the festival. It was the largest record of attendance ever. This year, we are expecting anywhere between 3,000 to 4,000 people,” said vice chairman of Yasumicon 2009, Ben Badger.

Doors will open at noon on July 11 and the festivities will run until midnight. On the following day, the festival will commence at noon and end at 6 p.m. Food and refreshments will be sold, both in their own cafe which offers authentic Japanese cuisine, and at certain Aramark food locations, which will be available for the event.

Artists will have a chance to display their works, which are inspired by anime culture and video games.

Music will also be a big part of the festival. Performing at the Yasumicon Festival this year is the musical band Arm Cannon. Based out of New York, Arm Cannon performs a fusion of video game, anime and 1980’s music, aiming to put their own spin on themes songs from “The Power Rangers,” “Megaman” and “Ghost-busters,” among others.

The Yasumicon festival attracts all types of people, from high school students who are considering attending FIU to current students and anime aficionados from around the state.

“A lot of prospective students will come with their parents to see FIU for the first time. Our objective is to have the medium can meet and interact with each other,” said Pedro Cortes, chairman of Yasumicon 2009.

Two of the biggest draws are the cosplay and costume contests, and this year a new wrinkle has been added to heighten the excitement. Cosplay, which is short for costume play, is

Hangover star discusses ‘special’ film

By STEVE MESA  Staff Writer

What happens when you combine an impending wedding, four guys, Vegas and a whole lot of alcohol? Either an unforgettable bachelor party or, in the case of The Hangover, a party no one remembers.

The movie is the adventure of a lifetime: “Phil” (Bradley Cooper), “Stu” (Ed Helms), offbeat “Alan” (Zach Galifianakis) and the groom, “Doug” (Justin Bartha). The plan is to give Doug the ultimate bachelor party in Vegas, but the plan goes horribly awry. Phil, Stu and Alan wake up the morning after arriving in Vegas to find their hotel room a mess, the groom missing, and, worst of all, they can’t remember anything. It’s up to the three of them to work as a team and retrace their steps to find their buddy and make it to the wedding.

The Beacon was able to sit down with actor and Hang-over star, Bradley Cooper (Wedding Crashers, Yes Man) at the Lowes Hotel in South Beach. In the film, Cooper portrays Phil Wenneck, one of Doug’s best friends and the apparent alpha male of the group.

Cooper first met the film’s director, Todd Phillips, two years ago. About a year later, just before The Hang-over was ready to be filmed, he received word from Phillips that he got the role of “Phil” in the upcoming blockbuster.

“I really didn’t think I could pull it off for some reason,” Cooper said. “I just thought I did not feel secure about me playing that role.”

Cooper said that Phillips believed in him. He listened and, two weeks into filming, the role “clicked” for him.

The filming of The Hangover was not the first time that Cooper worked with Bartha and Galifianakis. Cooper has been friends with Bartha since they worked with each other for the first time in 2006’s romantic comedy, Failure to Launch and for a second time in the upcoming anthology film, New York, I Love You.

“I met Zach in Vancouver a long time ago where we were both shooting separate television series,” Cooper said. “He and I shared a car to drive to Vegas for the film and we bonded on the trip.”

Cooper went on to say that he, Galifianakis and co- star Ed Helms became very good friends. While filming the movie, Cooper and the guys had no breaks during their 16-hour days for over six weeks. Cooper said that any down time that they had was spent sleeping and relaxing.

“We went all over Vegas because of the movie and to places we probably would not have gone to,” Cooper said.

Cooper said the hardest scene to shoot involved a naked Chinese man jumping on his neck.

“We shot that scene 40 times with the guy jumping on my neck and his balls in my face,” Cooper said. “After we shot that scene, we thought ‘Wow, this movie could be really explicit.’”

The year 2007 was the busiest year for Cooper when he filmed five films including The Midnight Meat Train, Yes Man and He’s Just Not That Into You.

“At one point, I was shooting three movies that were overlapping,” Cooper said.

Some upcoming films featuring Cooper include Case 39, a horror film starring Renee Zellweger with an unknown release date and All About Steve, a romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock to be released on Sept.

For more fun entertainment related interviews, reviews and previews visit the Life section on FIUe.com.
Giants in the 1940s.

TOWERS, page 8

and Mike Martinez going to continue improving, but there is a slew of talented incoming freshmen who should be able to replicate last season’s crop.

Last year’s recruiting class ranked 15th in the nation, and had some of the top high school players from all over the country so you know they’ll be well prepared to contribute.

The biggest key is the young pitching, which takes a little while longer to develop and which didn’t quite pay the dividends their hitting counterparts did.

Guys like Mason McVoy, Justin Leah, Aaron Arbsoley and Andre Varquez will have to step up and find some consistency to their obvious talents for the pitching to make up the difference for some of the lack of offense.

THE NEXT STEP

Scott Rembisz started off strong, but faded down the stretch, and he’ll really need to step his game up in order to be a legitimate ace.

Smart money is on him showing up, as leading the team in 90 IP Rembisz was a horse, and some of the fade down the stretch might be attributable to fatigue.

With a full year in a Division I conditioning program, that shouldn’t be a problem again.

Tim Joe is also a solid bet to go to the next level; like Rembisz, he is a strong FUCO transfer who showed the ability to carry an offense for games at a time.

Joe isn’t a Townsend’s level, it isn’t a stretch to assume he’ll be able to anchor another strong offense.

Joe isn’t the polished hitter Townsend was and doesn’t have his ability to spray balls all over the field, but he might have as much natural power to left field and his slugging will be sorely needed on a team that will have no problems getting on base but may struggle getting those guys in.

SECRET WEAPON

It might be odd to call a Freshman All-American a secret weapon, but it might be an understatement if Mike Martinez is as good as some think he is.

“I think he’s going to be probably one of the best hitters to come through FIU,” raved Townsend in an interview with Student Media this past April.

“He hits the ball right field as good as any right-hander I’ve seen.”

Martinez brings a professional approach to the plate for such a young hitter, bringing a right-handed Townsend to mind.

If he progresses, mentioning him in the same breath as Townsend won’t be as crazy as it may seem now.

Basketball team stays on track

BAKSETBALL, page 8

form of postseason banishment.

In order for the team to remain free of penalties, it must maintain its improvement in hopes of eventually raising its four-year rolling average.

The four-year rolling average includes the previous four academic years, and the University must maintain that average at 925.

The basketball team currently stands at 874, but the 2007-08 season was a drastic improvement in hopes of eventually raising its four-year rolling average.

The basketball team currently stands at 874, but the 2007-08 season was a drastic improvement in hopes of eventually raising its four-year rolling average.

Garcia said she sat down with Thomas and discussed the matter the first week he arrived on campus, and Thomas will be assisted by an experienced individual.

According to athletics, Thomas is not allowed to comment.

“He has an assistant head coach in Anthony Anderson from Texas Christian University and he understands,” Garcia said.

“He has taken on a very active role in what we do here.”

The basketball team was not the only FIU team to improve, as only the baseball team was in line for a penalty, and it was waived.

“What I love about FIU, is that every kid that comes to FIU and plays for FIU, we are committed to that kid,” Garcia said.

“That’s how every single one of my coaches think, and that’s what makes it so easy to be able to improve scores, because they are not just numbers.”

Looking back at the 2005-06 year, for all these sports, those kids were absolutely just numbers.

When I came here I was floored because they are not just numbers here.

Athletic Director Pete Garcia was unavailable for comment after numerous attempts to reach him.
Men's basketball increases APR score by 155 points

### Dreams of going pro a reality for two friends

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Sports Director

Tyler Townsend and Ryan Mollica have wanted to reach the professional baseball ranks since they were both just toddlers playing t-ball. But coming out of high school, both players were overlooked by colleges as they were offered just a single Division I baseball scholarship between them. The second-baseman Mollica had to walk-on at Central Florida Community College, then he transferred to FIU in his sophomore year.

“I've been playing with a chip on my shoulder since high school,” Mollica said. “I always look back at that, not really getting many breaks or chances.”

Major League Baseball scouts could not ignore Townsend's career at FIU, but Mollica would be reminded of his high school days again when he was chosen in the 47th round of the 50-round draft. Together, they were an offensive duo with a strong baseball background hitting back-to-back in the lineup the last two seasons, a strong baseball background hitting back-to-back in the lineup the last two seasons, and the Orioles.

Townsend was the first Golden Panther selected in the 2009 MLB First Year Player Draft on June 9 at 10:30 p.m. He was drafted in the third round, but has yet to agree on the contract's worth just yet. If he does, he will play with Aberdeen Ironbirds, a single-A team affiliated with the Orioles.

Mollica saw Townsend develop throughout the three years at FIU.

“He always had a nice swing, and he’s a good kid,” Mollica said. “I thought he really surpassed what I thought he would be.”

Mollica also saw three of his teammates get drafted before him and on the last day, he almost lost hope. He was the second-to-last second baseman selected.

“It was bittersweet. I was hoping to get drafted before them,” Mollica said.

### DRAFT DAY

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### DRAFT, page 7

The men's basketball team saw a four-win improvement from the 2007-08 season to the 2008-09 campaign and advanced the farthest it had in the post-season since 2005.

The slight betterment on the court was just a marginal amelioration compared to the jump the Golden Panthers made in the classroom last season.

When the NCAA released its Academic Progress Rates (APR) for this year, the team improved its score by a whopping 155 points, relieving the team of any penalties the NCAA could have imposed.

After the school had applied for various waivers in an attempt to get relief from NCAA-imposed “contemporaneous and historical penalties,” athletics was quickly rewarded when it came to this team.

“We did not even have to apply for anything,” FIU APR specialist Monique Garcia said with a smile. “Because the NCAA automatically said, ‘Here you go,’ and relieved us.”

The team went from an 800 score in the 2006-07 campaign to 955 during the 2007-08 year.

It was the largest improvement of any FIU team when this year’s single-year scores were released.

The NCAA uses the APR to estimate how many student-athletes from each program are on pace to graduate.

Each student-athlete is worth up to two points: one point for staying academically eligible and another for remaining enrolled with the institution.

The APR scores are calculated by dividing the team’s accumulated points by the maximum number possible, then that number is multiplied by 1,000.

The APR scores the NCAA releases are based on a four-year average. Athletics provided Student Media with the single-year scores.

A voided were a contemporaneous penalty, which can limit the amount of scholarships a team can give, and a historical penalty, which places even further punishment on teams in the post-season since 2005.

The men's basketball team’s 2006-2007 APR score.

### MAKING THE GRADE

Men's basketball increases APR score by 155 points

### Dreams of going pro a reality for two friends

SERGIO BONILLA  
Sports Director

Tyler Townsend and Ryan Mollica have wanted to reach the professional baseball ranks since they were both just toddlers playing t-ball. But coming out of high school, both players were overlooked by colleges as they were offered just a single Division I baseball scholarship between them. The second-baseman Mollica had to walk-on at Central Florida Community College, then he transferred to FIU in his sophomore year.

“I've been playing with a chip on my shoulder since high school,” Mollica said. “I always look back at that, not really getting many breaks or chances.”

Major League Baseball scouts could not ignore Townsend's career at FIU, but Mollica would be reminded of his high school days again when he was chosen in the 47th round of the 50-round draft. Together, they were an offensive duo with a strong baseball background hitting back-to-back in the lineup the last two seasons, but their draft day experience were two different stories.

Townsend was the first Golden Panther selected in the 2009 MLB First Year Player Draft on June 9 at 10:30 p.m. He was drafted in the third round, but has yet to agree on the contract's worth just yet. If he does, he will play with Aberdeen Ironbirds, a single-A team affiliated with the Orioles.

Mollica saw Townsend develop throughout the three years at FIU.

“He always had a nice swing, and he’s a good kid,” Mollica said. “I thought he really surpassed what I thought he would be.”

Mollica also saw three of his teammates get drafted before him and on the last day, he almost lost hope. He was the second-to-last second baseman selected.

“It was bittersweet. I was hoping to get drafted before them,” Mollica said.

### Big Leaguers: Former Golden Panthers Ryan Mollica and Tyler Townsend were selected in the MLB First Year Player Draft. Townsend was picked in the third round by the Baltimore Orioles.

So coach, once again congrats. Guess what your prize is for one of the more remarkable turnarounds in FIU baseball history? You get the opportunity to try to avoid doing the exact opposite, as all four of those players have decided to take the money and go play pro ball.

You are one of the top recruiters around these parts, as you’ve managed to build a pretty good talent base in your short time here. I’m sure you aren’t too concerned, as it’s the reality of the situation, and something you have dealt with in your numerous years at this level.

However, your fans will undoubtedly be worried. That is what fans do, after all.

So to put their minds at rest, here’s a list of reasons why the team should be able to stay afloat next season.

### YOUTH MOVEMENT PAYS OFF

You’ve made a point of stockpiling youngsters and have lived up to your reputation as a great recruiter so far, adding a ton of freshmen and junior (community) college (JUCO) transfers who were able to step in right away and contribute.

Not only are returning sophomores like Pablo Bermudez, Raiko Alfonso...