SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3
A forum at the Frontiers Center in BBC showed how you can get a part of the economic recovery package to net commerce.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4
The GLAST nomination’s repeal will lessen students with commencement circumstances.

OPINION PAGE 4
The “green” movement, though noble, has become overromantic in admissions.

LIFE PAGE 5
A college-age-old tradition comes to stage in the new version of Werner Blau’s.

SPORTS PAGE 8
New martial arts inspired exercise program keeps students in shape at the Rec Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Contemporary Art Boot Camp, July 22.
3 p.m.; it’s a haul but if you’re looking for something this weekend, who doesn’t like fresco, dance, music, and a bit of art.

STIMULUS, page 3

Universities... aim to boost alumni membership.

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Both Student Government Councils came together to create a committee to study the merits of special elections, unveiled plans to make every current FIU student part of the Alumni Association, and among other things, tweaked the constitution at their first University-wide Council meeting on July 15.

Anthony Rionda, SGC-Maidique Campus president, motioned for the council to be against special elections after the SGC advisers of both campuses recommended to do away with them.

Speaking on behalf of both advisors, SGC-MC advisor Jose Toscano pleaded his case to the UWC that special elections, held after the spring general election, cost both University campuses upward of $1000 in coordinating and administering while only attracting around a combined 250 student voters. His suggestion was for the senate to approve or reaffirm students seeking office.

“To save all that time on both the administrative side and the student that wants to get elected or reelected into the senate, we are looking for you as the UWC to adopt the idea to have students come and be reaffirmed through the senate,” Toscano said.

During discussion on the motion, it was brought up that certain consequences may arise from eliminating special elections. One of them might be that students may circumvent the election process for the chance at an easier appointment in the fall, as well as the prospect of having officials in seats that were not voted upon by the entire student body.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein argued against the notion that the student body would be adversely affected seeing how not enough students run to fill every seat.

“Four people ran when there were 20 senate positions,” said Neistein referring to past BBC elections. “If there were four people running, they would have been unanimously reelected.”

Rionda then withdrew his motion in favor of creating an election committee to evaluate the election process. It passed unanimously.

Neistein and Rionda presented the idea of making every current student a basic member of the Alumni Association.

“Everyone would be an automatic member, and get all the discounts and perks,” said Rionda. “But if they wanted...”
FIU

Alumni Association challenge exceeded

The challenge set by FIU President-designate Mark Rosenberg exceeded its goals. According to the University, Rosenberg set a challenge of recruiting more than 2,000 members for the Alumni Association in less than two months.

The deadline was June 30, and by that date, more than 2,000 people have joined the Association. “We recruited more new members in two months than many other schools recruit in a full year,” said Duane Wolos, executive associate director of the FIU Alumni Association, to news.fi.edu.

LOCAL

State University System elects new chancellor

Florida Atlantic University President John Brogan was chosen by the Board of Governors as chancellor for the State University System. He was chosen by the Board of Governors as chancellor for the State University System.

Wiles, executive associate director of the FIU Alumni Association, to news.fi.edu.

The Beacon – Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Turtle-hunting ban now in effect

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed a strict ban on the commercial harvesting of freshwater turtles. The ban also prohibits the collection of turtle eggs, however it will exempt local turtle farms, who will be allowed to harvest turtles for breeding.

According to CBS4, turtle meat is in high demand in Asia which makes freshwater turtles an attractive target for hunters. The ban also prohibits the collection of turtle eggs, however it will exempt local turtle farms, who will be allowed to harvest turtles for breeding.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission passed a strict ban on the commercial harvesting of freshwater turtles. The ban also prohibits the collection of turtle eggs, however it will exempt local turtle farms, who will be allowed to harvest turtles for breeding.
SGA meets to update constitution

When SGC-MC senator of College of Arts and Sciences Gabriel Medina asked Rionda on his stance on the BOT’s recommendation to raise outgoing President Modesto Maidique’s bonus to $100,000, Rionda would not comment on his vote. Rionda was not part of the BOT committee that recommended the bonus raise, the money for which would come from the FIU Foundation.

The constitution was also tweaked at the meeting without the need of a student body vote. The first change was the striking of all mentions of University Park, which he voted in favor of. Had he voted differently, the outcome would have remained the same.

“I did not show any objection to it. It is better than us naming something that would take away from future fund-raising opportunities,” said Rionda. Rionda was referring to the fact that campus buildings are usually named or renamed to honor outgoing presidents, making it impossible for them to be renamed for money in the future.

“When we are Florida International University, not a campus,” Rionda said. “We have to get over it.”

Rosy Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, acknowledged that there was sentiment among the faculty, staff and students that they were not consulted.

She said, however, that the BOT was within its power to rename the campus. She told the UWC that she believes the renaming of the campus was not a thought-out process.

“I think this occurred as a response to certain trustees who put the motion on the table to be able to get Dr. Maidique,” Jones said. “It’s not like they went into this months or weeks thinking about the process.”

Seagrass vanishing at alarming rate

Study co-lead by University professor finds reasons why

A new study said the alarming rate at which seagrasses are disappearing not only threatens their existence, but also the stability of future food systems. The study, which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Early Edition on June 29 and was co-authored by University professor James Daughton, showed that the seagrasses of the world are disappearing at about 42 square miles per year since 1970, and humans are one of the main causes.

The comprehensive study looked at findings from more than 200 other studies that documented the loss of seagrasses around the world, the earliest record extending back to 1879. Justin Campbell, an FIU alum working on a Ph.D. in marine science, is studying the impacts of climate change on seagrass communities, which provide homes for aquatic life near the Florida Bay, such as sponges, barnacles, spiny lobsters and manatees. If the seagrasses reduce the effects of beach erosion by slowing down waves before they crash on shore, and by trapping sediments that would otherwise wash out to sea.

A decline in seagrasses could lead to an increase in beach erosion,” Camp- bell said.

“The problems seagrass commu- nities face are chronic, according to Fourquarean. There is an excess of waste being discharged into the water, making it difficult for the seagrasses to survive, he said.

Another major problem facing seagrass communities is boat scarring. As boats pass through shallow waters, their hulls and propellers destroy the communities, which take at least a decade to return to their original states, according to Fourquarean.

“Forty-five percent of the world’s population lives on 5 percent of the land near the coast, according to Fourquarean in a press release. Since seagrasses are located in shallow coastal waters, like the Biscayne Bay, overpopulation in these areas place seagrass communities in a vulnerable position.

“If there was a decline in the seagrasses around FIU, the water would not be as blue or as clear as it is now,” Fourquarean said.

Seagrasses are disappearing at an alarming rate, said William Denison, professor of marine sciences at the University and one of the study’s co-authors, in a press release.

“Globally, we lose a seagrass meadow the size of a soccer field every 30 minutes,” Denison said.

Reducing the amount of waste discharge and fertilizer in the water, and not walking through or boating over seagrasses, can help protect these endangered communities.

“Restorative efforts for clean and clear water are also key to protecting the seagrasses,” Fourquarean said.

While it does take seagrass commu- nities a long time to recover after they have been destroyed, there are ways of replacing damaged seagrass with seagrass that has been grown in a labora- tory. But this method has been met with difficulties.

The problem with growing and planting seagrass is an issue of scale,” said Campbell, adding that it would be difficult to grow and plant enough seagrasses to repair an already damaged ecosystem.

“It is terrible that the seagrasses are disappearing,” said Gloria Lynch, a renowned environmental science major. “More should be done to save them because they preserve our beaches by being one of the first defenses against erosion.”

Recovery Act to ease budget cuts

FIU is eligible for all of the schol- arships, according to Carter. Eligibili- ty is determined by GPA, major and whether or not the student meets the requirements for the particular scholarship.

“I hope that whatever struggle FIU is dealing with that some of the money from the Recovery Act event to offset or alleviate that,” Hacksaw said. “This is my first time being here, but I think the university and its increasing will continue to get the resources it needs to support its students.”

For additional information about scholarship requirements and how to apply, visit www.cbcfinc.org.
CLAST repeal indicates financial smarts, but students will suffer

The price of a low score on the SAT just went up.

As of July 1, 2009, Florida’s university system will no longer administer the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST). Until recently, students who had scored less than a 500 on the SAT could either retake the exam or submit third-party scores to the University. Given the current state of Florida’s university system, it is easy to understand the logic behind such a move. Requiring students to take the CLAST, which cost $80, would have brought substantially less revenue into the university system than requiring them to take two additional classes.

A university like FIU stands to bring in hundreds more per student under the new rules. Throw in the windfall earned from the increase in textbook sales, and FIU and the rest of Florida’s public universities stand to reap substantial financial benefits.

Yet this added revenue comes at a price. Currently, students who were accepted to the University and other state universities expecting to be able to take the CLAST and had planned their schedules accordingly are now being asked to take two additional classes. Those who had put off taking the CLAST and are close to graduation now find themselves six credits further from a diploma.

This increased financial burden is far from beneficial for these students. FIU, and Florida’s other public institutions, accepted these students under the premise that they would only have to spend $80 to make up for their low scores. Now they are being forced to spend ten times as much money, and far more time than the five hours it would take to complete the CLAST.

While the changes certainly make financial sense for Florida’s underfunded university system, their sudden and rigid implementation is unfair to students already admitted to their colleges. There is nothing wrong with applying these requirements to all students who have yet to be admitted to a University or other institution. The state has a right and a responsibility to impose high standards on students attending public universities. Moreover, some students do not stand doubt to learn much more from taking an entire class rather than cramming for a five-hour test.

Current students, however, deserve to be given the option of taking the CLAST or a similar test. Asking them to take on the added expense of two classes does more than hurt them financially; it betrays their trust. Students who were accepted and told they would only have to take an additional test should be held to the standards under which they agreed to attend the University.

Florida universities shouldn’t get students to attend their institutions under one set of requirements and then impose another. The Beacon believes that the repeal of the CLAST is justified and financially savvy in the long term, but students who were expected to be able to take the CLAST exam should not be forced to take additional classes instead.

WASTE OF TIME

‘Green’ movement necessary but overdue

It seems as if the days of choosing paper grocery bags as an earth-preserving precaution are long gone. Now, with all the emphasis on going “green,” even the eco-friendly reusable canvas bag option does not seem to be enough.

There is no doubt about it: our eco-negligence is burning a hole in our atmosphere and we are knowingly depleting all our earth’s natural resources.

But this is not a new concept.

The idea of a possible “greenhouse effect” was proposed in 1896, though scientists believed it would not happen for another thousand years.

However, in the 1950s and ’60s, scientists realized that global warming was beginning to take its toll.

Naturally, precautions were put into effect to help minimize carbon footprints. Hybrid cars were developed that would reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses released into the air, global warming education was brought to the masses and there came about an emphasis on recycling.

Small steps like these kept people aware of the need for reform and pushed us gently into a “greener” tomorrow.

But apparently these precautions were not enough to satisfy the eco-obsessed. In the past few years, “green” advocates have made their mission to drive the population crazy.

Al Gore’s 2008 documentary about global warming, An Inconvenient Truth, unearthed a wave of fear we have been harvesting since scientists first discovered that all of our technological advancements have been breaking a hole in our atmosphere.

I agree that small steps do need to be taken. However, many steps are happening too fast.

It seems as if an eco-friendly green movement is on the rise. Companies like Starbucks and Target are pushing their green schemes, but students are struggling to keep up.

Some students are finding that it is simply too much, that it is a full-time job to go “green.”

The only thing students are really doing is paying attention to their grades and getting a good G.P.A. in order to avoid the increase in costs associated with the green movement.

Students are paying more and more to go green. Some are finding that it is not worth it. The environmental movement is causing an increase in the price of the earth’s natural resources. The price of a low score on the SAT just went up.

There are green alternatives to all products hygienic, disposable and edible. The television, radio and Internet are constantly force-feeding us recycling tips such as composting pet faces and making the switch from non-biodegradable to re-usable.

Stories of ice caps melting and disappearing species are broadcasted constantly. Books on earth-saving advice are printed by the thousands every year and celebrity-endorsed “save the earth” projects are everywhere.

Don’t get me wrong: it’s great that we are finally doing something for our planet, but this sudden global toxic purge that the environmental groups are suggesting is a bit much.

Pushing the “go green” movement down the consumer’s throat is going to have the same effect that repetitive commercials have: They will be ignored. They become background noise and will either go over people’s heads or completely annoy them to the point of purposely not buying the earth-friendly products.

What the environmental groups need is to go back to the good, subtle encouragements. They can scare us every one in a while with stories of the polar animals searching frantically for a way to survive the alarming rate at which the poles are melting. But they have to be smart about it. Incessant advertisements will only annoy us and will honestly not get them anywhere.

There is reason behind Hondurus’ one-term policy

Douglas Rivero Special to The Beacon

This article is in response to Matthew Ruckman’s piece, which was published on August 7. For the full version of this article, visit the beacon.com.

Many support the June 28 coup undertaken by the Honduran military against President Zelaya in Honduras. Matthew Ruckman’s July 15 article cites Zelaya’s attempt to alter the Honduran constitution and his desire to form a closer bond with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as legitimate reasons for removing President Zelaya from power. Ruckman’s article however, just as FIU Professor Eduardo Gamarra in a recent FIU panel of “experts,” fails to truly understand the events that led to this coup in the first place. Their biased analyses, fueled by a strong hatred for anything hinting at communism, ignores the behavior of the Honduran oligarchy and the U.S. in fueling Zelaya’s push for greater social and economic justice in Honduras.

In 1992, the Honduran oligarchy, together with the United States, underwrote an extremely limited and biased constitution in Honduras during the height of Ronald Reagan’s genocidal war against the indigenous people of Latin America. The constitution was intended to protect the power of the upper classes in Honduras. The overall goal was to crystallize the economic and political power of the rich and their self-serving economic trade agreements with the U.S. It even calls for a one-term presidency.

Now does anyone even question the logic of having an executive possibly elected for just one term? Why? The oligarchy in Honduras did not want to have their people elect their own FDR who would push the drastic, necessary changes for the country in order to improve the most impoverished nation in Central America. It gives them time to remove a “populist” should one come to power.

Frank McCourt Jr. (July 19, 2008) Author of “Angels in America”
A cult classic hits the University stage

By DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

The shuffling feet of actors, the smell of cheap incense and the sounds of singing emerge from DM 150 as members of the theater program prepare for the looming production of Reefer Madness, their new musical production.

On this Friday night, less than a week before the preview performance on July 22, the cast is doing a complete run-through of the musical without costumes.

Based on the 1936 anti-marihuana cult classic film of the same name, this is the first time the musical will be performed in the Miami-Dade area.

At this rehearsal the cast runs through the song, “Listen to Jesus, Jimmy,” in which Jesus Christ performs a song and dance number to warn the play’s protagonist, Jimmy Harper, that his pot-smoking habit will lead him to eternal damnation.

“I floated down from heaven when I heard a lamb had strayed. Look at you, Jim, your brain has turned to marma-lade,” sings Christ (played by Fernando Lamberty) accompanied by a full chorus line.

At this point it is evident that this is not your typical musical. Certainly, no other musical can promise you sex, marihuana, satire and cannibalism all under the same roof. Not even Sweeney Todd.

“We’re going to be doing some pretty risky things up there,” said Joshua Dobarganes who plays Jimmy Harper, not wanting to go into details.

“This is a period piece based in 1936. Jimmy is a 16-year-old, all-American, goody-goody boy. Naive and very willing to grow up and do wonderful, wholesome things. The typical cookie cutter American boy,” Dobarganes said.

Sadly, Harper is lured into the seedy drug world after being offered “dancing” lessons by the local drug lord, Jack Stone (played by Jose Urbino). Harper takes the offer, hoping to be able to dance with his best girl, Mary Jane (Andrea Bovino). Of course, after taking one puff of a joint, he becomes a “reefer fiend.”

The musical then traces Harper’s downfall into a realm of hellish madness, reminiscent of Faust or Dante’s Inferno, and shows the destruction the demon weed inevitably inflicts, not only on Harper himself but on those who surround him.

Reefer Madness is based on the 1936 film of the same title, released as anti-pot propaganda during its time; it soon faded into obscurity before being revived in the early 1970s, when pro-pot groups discovered the film and mocked its over-the-top depiction of marijuana addiction, terrible screenplay and mediocre production values and acting.

The musical was later written by lyricist Kevin Murphy and composer Dan Studney in 1998. It was then released in Los Angeles, produced off-Broadway in 2001 and, finally, adapted to film by the Showtime network in 2005.

Despite the original film’s intention, its camp value has made it a staple of cult-cinema, and the musical it inspired serves as a satirical statement on society, authority and ignorance. “It’s about how people in power can use fear to manipulate and intimidate the public,” said Marina Pareja, director of this production.

“The show conveys the idea that authority and power can be dangerously abused, and it asks audiences to be aware of propaganda messages,” Pareja said.

The show is being produced by the Alternative Theater Summer Festival, consisting of actors, directors and designers from the theater department looking to gain experience and continue performing during the summer.

The ATSF, however, is financially independent from the theater department and has been operating since 2006.

“We try to show students how to build shows with very little resources. For Alternative Theater, we have a revolving budget from each summer. Our shows are quite small and we reuse all of our props,” Pareja said.

Despite the low budget, Reefer Madness promises great entertainment, biting satire and a singing and dancing Jesus Christ.

The show’s preview performance will be held tonight, July 22, in DM 150 and will then run from July 23 – Aug. 9, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sunday performances will also be held at 5 p.m. Tickets for the shows will cost $10 while the preview performance price is $5.
Manrara gives playful nod to family joke

DANCE, page 1

a hip hop duet with Ade Obayomi.
Her tight-knit group of cousins and friends always wait for a signature gesture.
"If you ever see her roll her hands around, kind of like a tumbling gesture, that’s for her family. It’s an inside joke," said her brother.
Cousin Leo Ponton, along with girlfriend Julie Vanegeas, wore shirts that read “Team Manrara.”
"It will definitely be in the top four, she has never been at the bottom, so I think that says a lot," said Bianca Lastra, a fellow dancer at studio DanceTown.
"She has been able to handle everything they’ve thrown at her, dance styles she has never even seen before," she added.
Manrara, a junior finance major, began performing in musical theatre at the age of 12, but her formal dance training did not begin until age 19 studying ballroom, ballet, pointe, jazz and hip hop.
Manrara told FOX that her strongest dancing style is salsa with a bit of ballroom flare.
"She is amazing as a dancer, always the one focused and setting the example for the class," added Lastra on Manrara’s dedication to dancing.
"I loved watching how much fun my parents and family would have dancing at parties," she said in a statement to FIU.
"Dancing and music always made their worries and problems go away for a while and allowed them to just have a great time.
Before becoming part of the show’s top 20, Manrara worked at a bank.
When asked by the show what she would do if she were not a dancer, she said that she would be a loan processor, but her passion has always been dancing and acting.
"I would love to support myself and make a living through dancing or acting and never have to return to the corporate world," she told FOX.
"I think the biggest impact for me was attending the first week’s live taping and hearing Cat Degele announce ‘Janette’ and seeing her shake and shimmy her way to the center of the stage," said her brother.
There will be a watch party today, July 22, at 8 p.m. at FIU’s Graham Center Pit.
On that show, the top eight will compete to stay in the top six.

She is an amazing dancer, always the one focused and setting the example for the class.

Flanigan Lastra, dancer
DanceTown

Site takes the guesswork out of everyday decisions

TREVOR NICHOLSON Contributing Writer

For years, mankind had to think for himself. The question of what car to buy, what candidate to vote for had to be made by the individual.
Thanks to hunch.com, all these tough decisions can be made by someone else.
All this thinking could put people in pretty uncomfortable situations where they could make the wrong decisions which, in some cases, could cost them large sums of money or even their lives.
The advantages of a Web site that attempts to make decisions for a person are obvious.
Hunch.com takes the guesswork out of decision making. Upon arriving at the Web site, you answer the preliminary 20 questions; these questions are used to get a base understanding of your personality.
Then, you are released into its extremely diverse and ever-growing number of quizzes, each one comprised of less then 10 questions to offer some solutions for your problems.
After completing a quiz it will present you with either percentages weighing in the two options or, for multi-option decisions, it will present the top three and a wild card.
Don’t like the suggestions? You also have the option to disagree with the results, this will help Hunch hone in on the best suggestions.
How does Hunch do it? No, it’s not magic and it’s not SkyNet from Terminator, at least not yet. The assumption Hunch has taken is along the lines of “two heads are better than one.”
Basically the site absorbs the knowledge of its users, runs it through an algorithm created by some computer scientists, and then uses machine learning to increase the relevance.
Apart from answering practical questions regarding what products to buy and the like, the site also answers important questions about the self. Users who are curious about how feminine they are or what character flaws they may have can answer a series of questions and find their answer.
Even the ethical questionians who have wrestled with for centuries can finally be answered. One hunch.com text tells users whether or not they should believe in god, while another answers whether or not one should baptize their child.
So quit being an individual using free will and let the collective power of the human population and an algorithm decide for you—because flipping a coin is so last month.
To try it for yourself head to http://www.hunch.com.

Chance meeting sets the dream of five in motion

ANA ALVAREZ Contributing Writer

For most college students, the thrill of commanding an audience as part of a rock band never comes closer than playing Guitar Hero.
For a pair of FIU students, members of the band Baker Acted, that dream is becoming a reality thanks to a fateful encounter in a Little Haiti parking lot.
The band first came together only a few months ago and the members had casually known each other from going to live shows all of the time.
“One night, we were in the parking lot of Churchill’s Pub in Miami, and I had mentioned to “Baker” (real name Rauses Fundeora) that I wanted to start a punk band,” said lead singer Ashley MacLaren.
“Then [future band member] Raul said, ‘Baker plays drums,’ then Baker said, ‘Raul plays bass,’ so we decided to start rehearsing and give it a go for the next show.”
Baker Acted consists of five members.
The singer is Ashley MacLaren, Jorge “Spaz” Sola, Raul Hernandez, Rauses “Baker” Fundeora, Ashley MacLaren and Danny Escobar.

MacLaren and Sola are both students at FIU and work hard to balance both school and their musical aspirations.
MacLaren, a junior at FIU, is studying political science and may minor in environmental studies. Sola is a senior and is receiving his bachelor’s degree in environmental studies.
“At times it can be tough to juggle everything, but I need both in my life. I try to balance them out but they can get in each other’s way,” Sola said.
Baker Acted has performed in venues all over South Florida and is quickly becoming something of a staple in the punk music scene.
Places where they have performed include clubs and bars such as The Firefly, Goo, H.O.M.E. and The Yard.
Although their musical influences range collectively from other bands such as The Dead Kennedys, Blitzz, Choking Victim, The Dresden Dolls and Subhumans, they try to fuse several different styles together to form their own sound, which they describe as “eclectic” and “in your face.”
While balancing the responsibilities of band member and student can be difficult, lead singer Ashley MacLaren has developed a system to deal with both, and she offers advice for aspiring rock singers at FIU.
“Set aside specific days or times during the week that are for making music. Setting a reward and goal is good too. Tell yourself you can focus all times during the week that are for making music. Setting a reward and goal is good too.
“I would say that the things that I learned in school have influenced my lyrics, which range from talking about politics, human rights and so forth.
“At the same time I am going to live my life to the fullest. I figured out a while ago that there is way more life than just going to school, getting a career, raising a family and dying.”
Baker Acted is booking more shows for the rest of July and throughout the summer, which are being announced regularly on www.myspace.com/bakeracted305.
Their next confirmed show is taking place at 8 p.m. on Aug. 28 at Goo, located at 150 N.W. 24th St. in Miami, Florida 33137.
**RAMOS, page 8**

mentioned things very well, it is different. The school sees potential to use his ability to its advantage, and naturally, will not let him go. But it doesn’t work both ways. According to NCAA bylaws, the school has no obligation to renew the scholarships of their athletes every offseason. In fact, former Golden Panthers guard Erick Nsangou finds himself playing at Barry University for that reason.

Coach Rouco decided not to retain his scholarship during the 2008 offseason. So it is unreasonable for the school to hold any athletic hostage after he already made it clear he would not like to return, especially since Asprilla can be released if he does not perform.

**THE FAN VIEW**

The fans, however, will never be happy with Asprilla’s decision. But that’s what fans do. Losing a player of Asprilla’s caliber will usually result in concern and scrutiny from their point of view, even among the most objective ones.

I have heard the opinion of many students and faculty on campus. Most will say Asprilla made a commitment he should stand by. Optimists will utter that Asprilla should give Thomas a chance and come back to a revamped roster.

Everybody will say that except for Asprilla. The facts that Freddy has not publicly commented and left the country so suddenly are signs that he has not handled the situation in a mature way.

But if he could not dunk the ball with force, snap rebounds, and deviate opponents’ shots, people would barely notice.

Nobody can speak for him, and nobody can make decisions for him.

As disappointing as it may be, fans should brace for the likelihood of losing a promising young athlete to what is part of the nature of college athletics.

**HEAT, page 8**

Shaquille O’Neal. It’s not known if the addition of Odom will satisfy Wade’s request of a roster change, but the 27-year-old guard wants Odom to come home.

“I want Lamar to do what’s best for him and his family because we love him as family, but on the other hand, we want him back home, to come home,” Wade said Friday in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. “His house is still there. It’d be exciting to see what happens.”

Aside from Odom’s offer, the Heat have also been rumored to be in talks with the Utah Jazz to bring veteran forward Carlos Boozer to Miami. The Sun-Sentinel reported the Heat “has not entered talks … but is monitoring” the situation.

But one University student thinks the Heat should not make any moves this season and instead wait for the coveted class of 2010.

“Stick it out another season. In 2010, there will be more free agents. Develop Chalmers and Hasley, then try to get Chris Bosh, Jamaal Magloire, Josh Smith or even LeBron James,” said Robert Fenton, a senior criminal justice major. “Boozer won’t solve the Heat’s problems of defense in the paint. I don’t think Riley will make a move, period.”

But Bell thinks Boozer would be a good addition for the Heat. “I think Boozer would help. It’d put two big men on the roster for the playoffs,” he said.

If Wade opts out of his current contract next year, he could seek a contract through 2015-2016, one that could be worth up to $45 million more.

**Non-stop aerobics engage students twice a week**

**BODYCOMBAT, page 8**

fight opponents in everyday settings.

“We do martial arts movements but it’s not a self-defense class,” he said. “It’s not a true martial arts class, but we mimic martial arts movements but it’s not a self-defense class,” he said. “It’s not a true martial arts class, but we mimic martial arts movements.”

He said hopeful participants should expect to be challenged by the workout program but not overpowered.

“People who come into the BodyCombat class for the first time often feel very achieved for their first session,” Ryan explained. “It’s very intense class, but it’s not overwhelming even to the beginner because the BodyCombat instructors are trained to help participants to choose an intensity that is appropriate to their level of fitness.”

With obesity increasing rapidly across the United States, aerobic exercises could help control the spread of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancers and type 2 diabetes. Adults in Florida have a 24.4 percent obesity rate, according to a 2008 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Edie used another statistic to demonstrate the importance of a demanding physical class like BodyCombat.

“Less than 65 percent of the adult United States population does any type of continuous physical activity, and this is a great opportunity for FIU students not only to burn calories, but to be taught by tremendously instructors.”

Edie believes the class he helps teach can also bring people closer to three health-oriented goals: “Manage weight, get in shape, live a healthy, long life.”

“More intense than any kick, jump or punch is the determination to not give up, because we do not stop throughout the class,” Edie said.

**Student: Heat should develop young players**

**HEAT, page 8**

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But on the roster for the play-offs,” he said.

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Shaquille O’Neal. It’s not known if the addition of Odom will satisfy Wade’s request of a roster change, but the 27-year-old guard wants Odom to come home.

“I want Lamar to do what’s best for him and his family because we love him as family, but on the other hand, we want him back home, to come home,” Wade said Friday in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. “His house is still there. It’d be exciting to see what happens.”

Aside from Odom’s offer, the Heat have also been rumored to be in talks with the Utah Jazz to bring veteran forward Carlos Boozer to Miami.

The Sun-Sentinel reported the Heat “has not entered talks … but is monitoring” the situation.

But one University student thinks the Heat should not make any moves this season and instead wait for the coveted class of 2010.

“Stick it out another season. In 2010, there will be more free agents. Develop Chalmers and Hasley, then try to get Chris Bosh, Amae Roostudini, Josh Smith or even LeBron James,” said Robert Fenton, a senior criminal justice major. “Boozer won’t solve the Heat’s problems of defense in the paint. I don’t think Riley will make a move, period.”

But Bell thinks Boozer would be a good addition for the Heat. “I think Boozer would help. It’d put two big men on the roster for the playoffs,” he said.

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Athletics should release player if he wishes to leave

Freddy Asprilla gave Golden Panthers fans plenty of reasons to head to the U.S. Century Bank Arena for men's basketball games last season.

"He wishes to leave," Athletics' sports director Sergio Bonilla said. "What made him stand out? Thunderous, rim-plowing dunks, the ability to inhale any rebound that came near him and a penchant for swatting opponents' shots away."

When new head coach Isiah Thomas speaks of the colossal Colombian, it is no surprise he is quite a fan himself. That's why Thomas would like to have Asprilla around while he attempts to reconstruct a Golden Panthers team that has failed to earn a winning season this decade.

"Lost in the optimism of Thomas' hire is the Golden Panthers' star big man, who has requested a release from his scholarship," he added.

The school did not grant Asprilla the release, and he reportedly missed the deadline to appeal. As of publication, Athletics has no update on this situation.

The Miami Heat are up for grabs for the best free agent around season in 2008-2009. The 75-minute class consists of 10 segments, varying from strength training to endurance and conditioning. The intensity of each segment is based on the speed of the music track. To start the class, students warm up by learning the moves that will be incorporated in the other tracks. By the fifth track, the energy level reaches its peak, then the next track slows down the pace. The final track gives students a chance to stretch and cool down.

"It's very engaging and energetic," said Phillip Edie.

Another benefit of the class is having instructors who guide the students throughout the workout. "I don't always do the punches correctly, but there's always someone there to correct you. You learn a lot and it's a lot of fun," Cagigal said.

Free agents have decisions to make

"There can't be any major franchise changes made without his commitment," said Riley at a press conference on June 18.

But that hasn't stopped the Heat from offering a five-year package worth around $35 million to forward Lamar Odom, who played with Wade on the 2003-2004 Heat before being traded for..."