SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 2

Windows 7 and Mac OS X Development brings you the Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine’s Day date ideas.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

With the start of the Reps Committee Workshops at BCC, pulling an all-nighter could be a thing of the past.

OPINION PAGE 4

Questions still keep flowing about the future of the Republican Party. How can the party survive the 2010 midterm elections and regain power in Washington?

OPINION PAGE 4

China owns us and it’s our own fault. How the economic state of the economy put the U.S. properly?

LIFE PAGE 5

Gables Grub Walk aims to engage people on the first Friday of each month.

SPORTS PAGE 4

Coach Maria Cristina continues to try and establish a program at Northwestern High School.

SPORTS PAGE 4

The Golden Panthers add several key players on offense, including a blue-chip wide receiver, a quarterback for the future and strength on the lines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paramore Kristy and Feb. 1 and 2 pm.

Women’s Basketball vs. Miami, Feb. 1 and 2 pm.

Super Bowl Watch Parties on Campus, Feb. 7, 7:00 pm.

FIU students are already making their plans for Super Bowl Sunday.

Where to see the big game

ANTHONY CENTENO Contributing Writer

On Feb. 7, Miami will be hosting the biggest American sports event of the year: the Super Bowl.

This year, the Indianapolis Colts and the New England Patriots will be squaring off in the 44th annual Super Bowl, which will be held at Sun Life Stadium.

FIU students are already making their plans for Super Bowl Sunday.

“Since this year’s Super Bowl is in Miami, I plan on hanging out with friends, having a barbecue, and enjoying the Miami sun over the Colts,” said sophomore journalism major Christina Watkins.

Barbecues and get-togethers are classic Super Bowl traditions.

If students living on campus would like to watch the game, Housing will be holding events on game day. University Park Apartments will be hosting a Super Bowl watch party with food and drinks provided.

The festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the lounge of Building A.

University Park Towers will also be hosting a watch party from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the lounge. Students can enjoy food and drinks while watching the game on a big screen TV. These events are not exclusive to residents only, all students are welcome to join.

However, if students are interested in going out to enjoy the game, then they’re already in the right place. Sports bars and restaurants all over Miami will become hot spots to watch the main event.

“Even if you aren’t a big football fan, you can still go out and enjoy the atmosphere,” said senior hospitality major Luis Vasquez.

If sun, fun and football sound like a great combination, then one may want to check out Ocean’s Ten on South Beach. This sports bar is fully equipped with great food, full bar and big screen plasma TVs throughout.

SUPER BOWL, page 5

Safety questions addressed

PA system, emergency procedures among topics

JASMYN ELIOTT BBC Managing Editor

Emergency telephones, fire safety and the lack of an alternate evacuation route were just some of the issues raised during the forum of Safety and Emergency Planning held on Feb. 2 at the Wolfe University Center.

The forum allowed students, faculty and staff to voice their concerns on various safety-related issues affecting the University, with the Emergency Management Group present as a panel.

“There is no more important thing we can do than create a safe environment,” said Vice Provost Steven Moll during his opening remarks. “If we don’t, students don’t learn and we fail in our mission [to educate].”

The EMG is responsible for restoring order during times of distress such as a natural disaster. The group comprises the following: EMG Assistant Director Dorothy Miller, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Cheryl Nowell, Vice President of Academic Affairs Elizabeth Bejar, Chief Bull King of FIU Police and Director of the Victim Advocacy Center Sharon Aum. Nowell, Bejar, King and Aum are also members of the University Consultation Team, responsible for dealing with disruptive or at-risk students.

Several of the concerns voiced by those in attendance dealt with communication, or the lack thereof. Staff, for example, complained about the confusion on whom to call in case of an injury or a disruptive student. 911 or FIU Police?

According to King, every fall, faculty receive a red folder during orientation. The folder contains a handbook dictating what to do in certain scenarios, which includes a contact number that corresponds with the severity of the situation.

FORUM, page 3

Class offers in-depth study on HIV/AIDS

MARIELLA ROQUE Contributing Writer

Biology of AIDS, a class offered at FIU since 1997, allows students to learn about AIDS from both biological and socio-psychological perspectives.

Ophelia Weeks, Ph.D. and associate professor, thought of the idea while taking a sabbatical in 1996 at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga.

Weeks said she felt many people were uneducated in the subject of HIV/AIDS. She returned to FIU motivated to make a change.

“Students look at AIDS as somebody else’s disease, [saying] ‘it has nothing to do with me.’” Weeks said. “But they come out of the course much.
I think renting books is great for those students who have a hard time paying for new ones.

Alessandro Gallego, sophomore
Computer Science

Project ‘shocks’ misinformed students

AIDS, page 1

The course is offered in the Spring and Fall semesters at the Modesto Maidique Campus and holds a maximum of 40 students.

The class is usually full within the first few days [of registration]... Weeks said.

One group, nicknamed the “Grey Team”, decided to design a magazine targeting the FIU community, specifically housing students.

“We felt it was a good way to start informing people,” said senior Rachel Robles, pre-med major and one of the group’s members.

A hundred copies of the magazine were passed out to students in the Everglades apartments, University Park Towers and the Engineering building as well as various spots around MMC.

The magazine displayed a series of condom advertisements geared toward college students, an interview with an AIDS victim, various HIV facts and a survey conducted on 86 anonymous students in the residence halls with questions about the disease.

Robles explained that the results “shocked” her and opened her eyes to the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The results showed that frequently, students selected the incorrect answer.

Among class experiments, a series of condom advertisements were placed around the library and in the student union, to make notes on the margins normally at their discretion.

“Make sure your books, which will ask for a credit card to register into the bookstore system. Even though the student can use other means of tender, like cash, a Panther card or book advance, the credit card is needed in order to have a means of charging for consequences like late fees.

They also allow renting to be done online and have the books delivered to the student.

“It really has caught on. Lots of schools are calling and lots of national press are picking up on the fact that book rentals are now being offered from the big college bookstores,” Krablin said. “It’s all part of the overarching plan as it correlates textbook affordability, which is to increase the options available.”

For more information to go to the FIU Bookstore in the Graham Center or visit fiu.bookstore.com.
BERNISHKA HANNA, a junior and accounting major, and ANA PEREZ, a junior journalism and greens on a foot-long virgin olive oil, mayonnaise comes with Gruyère cheese, core white tuna melt, which selection of cheeses from day.

I know not every girl (or is a win-win situation. But Valentine’s Day is this weekend and Bowl is coming up. I did not think it

I, a huge fan of cuddling on Sundays, but when I looked at my calendar this month I did not think it would be possible. The Super Bowl is coming up this weekend and Valentine’s Day is the weekend after, both of which are busy days. For girls who are sports fans like me, this is a win-win situation. But I know not every girl (or guy for that matter) feels the same way.

No worries, it is really simple to mix the two days so everyone is happy. If you are in a relationship and you are the one who cannot stand sports but your significant other is a sports junkie, go out for brunch at The Cheese Course, 1679 Mark St, Weston, on game day. They have an amazing selection of cheeses from around the world, wines, sandwiches and salads. I am in love with the Alba- core white tuna melt, which comes with Gmeyre cheese, shredded carrots, extra virgin olive oil, mayonnaise and greens on a foot-long baguette for $8.45. They also hand out free samples in the left hand corner of the store. You did not hear this from me, but stand by there while waiting for your order to come out. Free cheese, crackers and pesto – yes please! Now, I promised something for the guys too. Why sit through a brunch when you could be doing something football-related?

Well, because NFL stars tend to go to this place a lot. I have seen Dan Marino, Jason Taylor and Zach Thomas from the Dolphins there, or in the same plaza, quite often. Although he never played for the NFL, Dwanye “The Rock” Johnson has been sighted there a time or two. Who knows whom you will see on game day. One last thing: if you bring your guy out to this place on Super Bowl Sunday you are legally bound to sit through the whole game with no complaints. So let’s talk about Valentine’s Day, my least favorite day of the year (sorry; I’m a single lady, bitterness slips in). Since this is the first Sunday without football of the year, I say spend it with your special someone on the field. Head over to the Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Sr. High School, 2601 NE 151 St., North Miami, and pick up a couple’s game. If you cannot play, it will still be fun trying something new. Besides, it is a nice break from that played-out Valentine’s Day tradition of dinner and a movie.

Really, nothing says “I love you” like risking a Marsh Brady moment with your significant other.

Top it off with something laid-back, like a picnic on the bleachers, or you can just get ready for a night out afterward. Enjoy the game, have a great Valentine’s Day, and GO SAINTS!

Lastra also suggested his first rule for test taking: Count how many questions you have and the time on the clock. Calculate that and you know how much time you have for the test.

According to Lastra, this is the first time the University offers these courses and they will be offered twice a week in the second and third week of the month between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

In February there will be two more workshops added on memorization tips and techniques, and general management. These workshops will teach students how to balance and schedule everything out,” he said.

Lastra also suggested his first rule for test taking: Count how many questions you have and the time on the clock. Calculate that and you know how much time you have for the test.

According to Lastra, this is the first time the University offers these courses and they will be offered twice a week in the second and third week of the month between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The workshops do not focus on one specific course but instead provides general information to prepare students for an exam by teaching them specific test-taking, studying and note-taking tips.

Yeroshova believes that although she has been teaching tests “forever,” the workshop was still helpful.

“It is very informative and he actually points out tricks to help during a test. There are a lot of small tips that are very valuable,” she said. “These courses help calm my mind. If I do blank out I can compose myself and start from the beginning.”

The workshops have no additional cost and according to Coaches, the Invitational Scholars Club has helped promote the workshops.

Although Lastra is currently the instructor promoting, several other tutors have shown enthusiasm.

“Other tutors have expressed an interest in possibly doing the workshops in the evening, making it available to more students,” she said. “He is very energetic and he really understands what he is doing. He took the initiative to start the program and he is just the perfect person to teach this,” Coaches said.

Alternate routes discussed

FORUM, page 1

However, he also noted that “911 calls transfers to Public Safety,” but the extension 7-2626 links directly to their offices.

And another concern raised during the forum regarded the unsynchronized fire alarms in the connected buildings Academic I and WUC.

“If the fire alarms in WUC are going off, how do we tell the people in Academic I not to come in?” said Vicky Owles, associate director of Campus Life.

According to King, as late as last Fall, FIU Police has been in talks with the City of North Miami to rebuild and reopen the former NE 151 St Bridge as an alternate route in the event of the flooding of NE 151 St. They are also campaigning to get a federal grant to aid in rebuilding the route.

According to Mell, the process is taking so long because city commissioners are afraid of “losing constituents” who have thus far vehemently opposed the project, arguing that the rebuilding of the bridge would cause a higher traffic volume from the University.

Even so, King remains determined to find a solution.

“It is an issue on the front burner,” he said.

In the same vein as evacuation, the ongoing issue of a lack of an alternate hurricane evacuation route was brought up. Citing particularly rainy weather on Feb. 1, King said, “If the roadway is closed up, we are locked up. It is a true disaster waiting to happen.”

According to Coaches, the Invitational Scholars Club has helped promote the workshops.

Although Lastra is currently the instructor promoting, several other tutors have shown enthusiasm.

“Other tutors have expressed an interest in possibly doing the workshops in the evening, making it available to more students,” she said. “He is very energetic and he really understands what he is doing. He took the initiative to start the program and he is just the perfect person to teach this,” Coaches said.

Alternate routes discussed
REPUBLICANS NEED TO UNITE WITH NEW IDEAS

JOSEF MENACHE
Staff Writer

A year into President Obama’s first term, it seems that the stars may be aligning for Republicans. According to a Rasmussen Reports’ public opinion poll, President Obama’s approval rating has sunk to under 50 percent, with only 32 percent of Americans feeling that the country is headed in the right direction.

Following the stimulus bill, unemployment went up instead of down, and with many Democrats facing tough Republican opposition during the 2010 Congressional elections, the president may be headed into some stormy weather.

And yet, while the GOP may be able to win a handful of seats, I don’t expect them to take back the House and Senate like they did in 1994. While the number of registered Democrats has fallen to its lowest level in seven years according to Rasmussen, Republicans have not been able to capitalize on this, suffering from even worse numbers.

Since the presidency of George W. Bush, the party has become a mere caricature, devoid of strong leadership and a strong message that will resonate in the minds of the American people. The GOP itself is in need of both short and long-term reform, if it ever wishes to regain the trust of the American people. And here’s how they can do it:

COME UP WITH MORE SOLUTIONS THAN CRITICISM

Politico recently reported that the GOP privately hopes to make a resurgence through an “80-20 strategy,” which in simple terms, translates to 80 percent pushing Democratic policies, while using the remaining 20 percent to put forth an alternative plan.

In reality, the GOP has been using the same tactic since President Obama was elected, earning the dubious distinction of the “Party of ‘No.’” Instead of coming up with a resounding counter message — you know, one that has reason and facts — the GOP resorts to name calling and fear tactics, which can lead to some pretty interesting slogans in “Flea Parties” and town halls, including my personal favorite, “Keep government out of my Medicare.”

Scaring those in your party to submission trivializes our democracy, one that was built on the principle of having an educated electorate. The party needs to reverse its strategy. It should spend most of its time presenting its ideas instead of attacking. If Americans are truly tired of Democratic rule, they’ll come to it on their own terms. They don’t need to be reminded by Republican officials, they just need to know that the GOP has an alternative.

LOOK FOR A LEADER TO UNITE THE PARTY (HINT: IT’S NOT SARAH PALIN)

Just as the party will be haunted by memories of Bush’s presidency, the party must look past the wench from Wasilla.

While some conservatives may argue, “Oh, but she really gets on liberals’ nerves, she must be getting to them,” that logic entirely misses the point.

If anything, liberals are doing more laughing than loathing against “poor” Sarah. What the party needs to do is find a leader that can articulate about the principles of the party: less government, lower taxes, high prosperity, and frame it to the mood of the American people.

With unemployment at an all-time high, and many Americans feeling disillusioned by the slow pace of the economic stimulus bill in creating jobs, the party will be able to make some ground with a convincing message. The GOP should look toward old faces such as Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, along with new faces such as South Dakota Senator John Thune for future leadership, not radio personalities or soccer moms.

DON’T PURGE THE PARTY

After Democrats took over the White House and Congress, I watched in horror as the GOP began to eat itself alive.

The GOP should look toward old faces along with new faces such as South Dakota Senator John Thune for future leadership, not radio personalities or soccer moms. Republicans need to be the party of principle and pragmatism, not the party of parody and bitter partisanship. And most importantly, not the party of “No.”

China challenges United States’ domination

CHINESE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOUNTING AMERICAN DEBT CRISIS

AUGUSTA MONTEALVO
Contributing Writer

“You’ve been pwned!”

If you’re anything like me, you’ve used this phrase to exclaim that you’ve been a victim in a competitive game of bowling, Yahtzee, Madden and so on. We plebeians only have the ability to say this in jest, and we’re not vying for Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

However, Bush and Obama? They are vying for the world’s Best Picture award for their movies that are coincidentally titled China and India (another emerging leader).

As Bush once said, “The U.S. is the proverbial shadow and is emerging as the new world leader.” Obama? Not so much. He is so preoccupied with domestic affairs such as health care reform, taxes and his socialist agenda that he has allowed countries like China and India (another emerging leader) to take the reins.

Money is power, then it’s no wonder the U.S. is trailing. Our president is spending money with his “Recovery” act like it’s going out of style.

Since Bush left office, Obama has increased the gross debt in the U.S. as a percentage of gross domestic product from about 70 percent in 2008 to over 90 percent in December 2009, according to Newsweek. Some economists project that in 2010 Obama will be metaphorically financing a brand new Lexus when he should be borrowing his cousin’s 1977 Ford Pinto.

While he’s goofing off, brothers China and India are hard-working entrepreneurs hitting the daily grind and wisely investing in a well-diversified portfolio.

Bad decisions by the U.S. have left the door open for smarter, bolder countries to take over. Generally speaking, I am an aggressive person who doesn’t like losing. This may be the root of my disappointment in both the president and my country.

Obama needs to recognize this rear-naked choke, i.e. debt. China has us in this will eventually force us to tap out.

All the U.S. needs to not only repay debt, but stop incurring more if it is to regain control on the world — we cannot be pwned!
Buffalo Wild Wings. “The crowd goes wild with every touchdown, it’s crazy.” This sports grill offers a bountiful menu, including buffalo wings, cold drinks and other foods off the grill. Sports fans of all kinds can enjoy this bar located in the front section of Dolphin Mall. Also at Dolphin, T.G.I. Friday’s is upping the ante with several drink specials, including $2 drafts and bottles. Those seeking food to go with their drinks can enjoy their special of an appetizer, an entree and a dessert for $12.99.

Those who stick around until 9 p.m. can enjoy their usual Happy Hour with 50 percent off alcoholic beverages. The recently-opened Bird Road Sports Grill will be holding its own Bowl event.

The American Collections sits right on Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Andalusia Avenue, just a block away from Miracle Mile. The gallery has dedicated its efforts to the proliferation of contemporary Latin American art with the inclusion of some European and American artists in its repertoire as well. The gallery built its success on the principle that “the dynamic of a good contemporary gallery should be to provide the most well-rounded assortment of renowned masters and emerging talents. [This] has made The American Collection an exciting and eclectic organization,” according to their Web site.

There’s a pocket of smaller art galleries next to Ponce Circle Park, which is nice for your feet or for your gas tank for those not planning to do the trek on foot. The Klara Chavarría Contemporary Collection an exciting and eclectic organization. “The works of Michelle Concepcion, Florian Depenthal, Andy Moses, Linda Tsouy and Aaron Karp. The gallery says the exhibit ‘offers a fascinating view of how accomplished mid-career artists approach abstraction in very different ways.’”

Literature geeks and art fans collide at the H. Benitez Fine Art Gallery at 305 Akazura Ave., Suite 4. Starting at 6 p.m., the gallery will open its doors to fans of Janet Diaz Bonilla, who will be signing copies of her latest novel, Rainbow House. The novel is about Camilla Miranda, a young woman who holds a dark secret.

The book signing is in conjunction with a preview of the gallery’s new collection. Humberto Benitez works with only a limited number of monochromatic origina ls. The artist is known for clearing his studio and surroundings from all colors, then blending with the strength of a single tone. What he came up with is a series of black and white pieces that make a contrast to the colorful display of Bonilla’s Rainbow House release party.

You’ll probably be famished from the walking but hope is in sight.

“Once you hit downtown Coral Gables, there will be a plethora of restaurants. Step into Books and Books on 265 Aragon Ave. for a look at some art and live music and, while you’re there, grab a bite to eat at the café where they offer everything from chilled gazpacho to red velvet cupcakes. There’s also a cash wine and beer bar available.”

WALK OF ART

SUPER BOWL, page 1

Miami gears up for Super Bowl

Super Bowl excitement without the beach-bound traffic, Buffalo Wild Wings may offer another solution. “I love going there, especially for a football game,” said Priscilla Gomez, an avid customer of Buffalo Wild Wings. “The crowd goes wild with every touchdown, it’s crazy.” This sports grill offers a bountiful menu, including buffalo wings, cold drinks and other foods off the grill. Sports fans of all kinds can enjoy this bar located in the front section of Dolphin Mall. Also at Dolphin, T.G.I. Friday’s is upping the ante with several drink specials, including $2 drafts and bottles. Those seeking food to go with their drinks can enjoy their special of an appetizer, an entree and a dessert for $12.99.

Half-time will feature its own events, including a Spin-the-Wheel contest where customers can win coupons and certificates for various appetizers and dishes. Flanigan’s near Doral will also be showing the game across its many TVs. Budweiser beers will be going for $2.79.

Those who stick around until 9 p.m. can enjoy their usual Happy Hour with 50 percent off alcoholic beverages. The recently-opened Bird Road Sports Grill will be holding its own Bowl event.

Specials on beer and their award-winning chicken wings will be offered as all the grid-iron action is displayed across multiple flat-screen TVs. Located relatively close to the Modesto Maidique Campus, students can enjoy the Super Bowl excitement without breaking the bank. Be prepared this weekend as the game day excitement spreads from the field to across the city.

Whether you’re a Colts fan or a Saints fan, this Sunday, Miami is the place to be.

Additional reporting by James Radziwiecz.

The BEACON REVIEWS: EDGE OF DARKNESS

Mel Gibson reprises iconic revenge role

DAVID BARRIOS
Opinion Editor
Like it or not, Mel Gibson is a Hollywood icon. He’s survived a post-apocalyptic wasteland, gained the ability to hear women’s thoughts and, in between, helped found the United States and Scotland. The fact that he is a raving anti-Semite is a moot point.

He just looks like an icon. It’s been eight years since he’s been in a starring role and, sure, there are a few grey hairs on his head and, sure, his wrinkles have grown deeper and more cavernous, but it’s still Mel, just like Clint Eastwood is still Clint and Lee Marvin was always Lee Marvin.

Of course, the one tying factor between these three actors is simple: They know how to play “revenge.”

And make no mistake, that’s what Gibson is looking for in his latest film, Edge of Darkness. Directed by Martin Campbell (Casino Royale, Goldeneye), the film follows Boston homi- cide detective Thomas Craven, another offshoot of the typically wrongly man, whose daughter is gunned down at his doorstep after returning home from vacation.

The motive for the murder seems clear; probably an old score being settled by an enemy of Craven or an unknown debt that went unpaid. Stay on the force long enough and of course you’ll rack up some enemies. But Thomas Craven is a straight cop who doesn’t drink and doesn’t...
**FISTFULS OF TECH**

**App Store’s biggest flaw: no return policy**

The Apple App Store has completely altered the way I spend 99 cents. Apple’s mobile application directory has led the share of success. Recently, Steve Jobs, Apple’s CEO, announced that the App Store held 3.4 billion app, an impressive feat for any mobile app catalog. The App Store’s application range is up to 99 cents. The store’s price structure, though convenient and beneficial to developers, has completely spoiled my internal calculator. Before the App Store, I would walk into a convenience store and not even bat an eye when I dropped $3 for a bag of South of Border Nuts and a Mountain Dew. App developers can contribute to a future case of adult onset diabetes 99 cents for an app for my iPhone that will arrange my groceries by today’s news on the food pyramid. As I slowly come to that sad reality, I think I know the reason why. The App Store’s purchasing practices are, in many ways related, very black and white. Unlike the Android Market, where there is a 24-hour trial period, there is no return policy in the App Store. If you spend $10 or so on an app you soon discover requires a very expensive desktop client, or that app turns out to be awful, you are stuck. Apple’s store policies are brilliant yet flawed in that sense. The business of the App Store, a profit split that sees the developers keeping 70 percent of the cash their apps make, yields a growing marketplace for amusing trash. Thus, developers can submit their apps and become millionaires overnight, exemplified by the popular iPhone game “Doodlejump.”

But at the same time, the fact that the store is so limited to the consumer really holds it back. I would be quite the spendthrift in the App Store if I knew that I could get my money back if I was unsatisfied. Hell, if I can do it on Amazon, I should be able to do it on the App Store. Maybe I am just bitner because I have a couple of high-priced apps purchasing digital card on my drive. In the end, I think users need the reassurance that they have in the grocery store or the mall, that if they are unsatisfied with a purchase, they can get their money back. That would make the App Store not only the best place to buy apps but one of the best shopping experiences on the Internet. *Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.*
Cristobal said. “I think everyone in the guys that we’ve developed these young men. We’ve bred champions for a long time,” Cristobal said. “I think everyone in the guys that we’ve developed these young men. We’ve bred champions for a long time,”

“The most important part of this class might just be the five guys being brought in for the defensive backfield. A trio of All-of-Dade first-teamers, Anthony Williams, Richard Leonard and Kambrell McGee, make up what Cristobal called one of the top defensive back classes in the country.

**TRUE STORY**

Recruiting day is a time for heightened expectations. For every Willis Wright that looks like a can’t-miss prospect, every team likes to think their coaching staff was able to pick out 20 plus play makers that nobody else can compare with.

For all of the talk about the improved recruiting classes that Cristobal has brought in, there is still a need to see actual on the field improvement next season.

The only reason Hilton’s story is so nice for FIU fans is because he stepped onto the field here we’ll figure out what his true strengths are and we’ll utilize those into the offense.

The big story for FIU was whether or not Miami Springs wide receiver Willis Wright who also received interest from schools such as Georgia Tech and Duke.

“We got two real big bodies so far and we are looking to add more later on.”

Dillard is expected to contribute into an all-conference performer.

“We’re looking to possibly save a couple of scholarships for the spring from a junior college perspective to find more mature bodies,” Cristobal added.

When the faxes stopped coming in and the dust settled, it became clear that only half the battle was won for the Golden Panthers. The rest is left in the hands of Wright, Medlock and the remainder of the class, hoping to make it happen where it matters the most on the field.

Northwestern pipeline growing

**JONATHAN RAMOS**

Sports Director

FIU cornerback Anthony Gaitor has many fond memories of the times when he manned the defensive backfield at Northwestern High, but he doesn’t remember playing much with a young Kambrell McGee.

If McGee has his way, Gaitor will definitely remember him now. With FIU straining for defensive backs heading into 2010, McGee, a cornerstone, will get another chance to share the field with Gaitor as Golden Panther next season, as he signed a letter of intent to play for FIU next year.

McGee will also get the chance to team with former Northwestern Bull teammates, Wayne Times and Kenny Dillard.

“It feels good playing with my former teammates,” Gaitor said. “I’m glad they come to FIU.”

Head coach Mario Cristobal has emphasized recruiting at the local powerhouse, which won a pair of state titles last decade. Times had been lean for the freshman team, and Cristobal believes the trio of incoming cornerbacks that Richard Leonard and Kambrell McGee and toward the recruiting process.

“Be his wantung to be a Panc the year. He made public and he stuck with it,” Cristobal said. “It’s important to note that, because you get on the Internet nowadays and you’ll see kids switching back and forth 10 times and pulling off hats and forth.

“Is it what it is, but when you see a young man that knows what he wants and eliminates all the play opportunity,

“COMING BACK LATER?”

FIU also picked up key transfers, including former FIU quarterback Josh Brisk, who is expected to fill the cleats of Carlos Munera. Perhaps the most satisfying transfer for FIU came from running back Jere

**COMMITMENTS, page 8**

Among them, Jericho Lee and Jordan White are incoming defensive tackles while Isame Faciane, Bryan Robinson and Jeremy Jermin will likely play defensive end.

“We went big. Jordan White is an explosive game changer and a big body that we have lacked inside for a long time,” Cristobal said. “He’s got a good size and has a good arm on him. Once he gets here he’ll figure out what his true strength are and we’ll utilize those into the offense.”

Harden was the Golden Panthers main target in the 2008 class, but he elected to play at Syracuse out of high school. After one season with the Orange, the former St. Thomas Aquinas star came back home to play at FIU.

“One thing that I think some local players are finding out is that either you pick FIU earlier, or come back later,” joked Cristobal.

The Golden Panthers will bring in 11 defensive players and nine offensive players overall, in addition to Brisk on special teams, in Cristobal’s fourth recruiting class.

After NCAA sanctions limited the team’s ability to give out a school allotment of scholarships in recent years, FIU will bring in a full class.

Besides the surprise acquisition of Wright, Brisk was pleased with the class, regardless of whose name came through the fax machine.

“Like it’s being a little kid at the Christmas tree,” Cristobal said. “Is it the fire truck or a Tonka toy? You’re just grabbing faxes as they come out.”
ONE MORE STEP

Wright highlights class;
Cristobal emphasizes size

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

As FIU coach Mario Cristobal waited to receive confirmation from committed recruits Wednesday morning, he was also hoping to add prospects to the Golden Panthers recruiting class who had yet to make a decision.

When the header on one of the pages coming out of the fax machine was from Miami Springs High, he knew good news was on the way.

That news came in the form of Willis Wright, a wide receiver that chose FIU over West Virginia in the last minute of the recruiting process.

Wright is one of 21 prospects who signed letters of intent with FIU on Feb. 3.

“It was like déjà vu,” Cristobal said. “I was really happy because when the header on the fax says Miami Springs, usually good things happen. What else can you say about Willis Wright? The entire country was covering his services.”

Wright, a three-star prospect according to rivals.com, had a similar signing day scenario to that of T.Y. Hilton in 2008.

Like Hilton, Wright starred at Miami Springs and chose FIU over West Virginia, among other schools.

Despite those parallels, Wright has a different playing style than his former high school teammate.

“If you can compare him to T.Y., but he’s different,” Cristobal said. “He is an outside receiver that plays football with tremendous explosion. There is a reason Nebraska, Florida and Miami tried to come down and get him.”

Along with Wright, FIU filled glaring needs along the defensive line, offensive line and defensive backfield en route to accumulating arguably the best class in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Golden Panthers added five defensive linemen, hoping to shore up what was one of the worst defensive units in the country last season.

COMMITMENTS, page 7

QUICK FACTS ABOUT 2010 CLASS

Offensive Players: 8
- Two OL
- One QB, two RB
- Three WR

Defensive Players: 11
- Five DL
- One LB
- Two S, three CB

FIU head coach Mario Cristobal introduced his 2010 recruiting class to the media in the morning and later in a public event at FIU Stadium.

Wright has accolades, but production is what matters

I

t was déjà vu for Mario Cristobal.

Two years ago, the library at Miami Springs Senior High was the site of wide receiver T.Y. Hilton’s signing day decision to come to FIU, a decision that has paid dividends for both Hilton and FIU as he has emerged as one of the top play makers in the Sun Belt Conference.

And on Wednesday, wide receiver Willis Wright was in the same library, and he had the same decision T.Y. did: Stay home for FIU, or go to West Virginia and its greener BCS pasture.

Happily for Cristobal, Wright, the first ever ESPN.com 150 player in FIU history, followed the same path as Hilton.

The story of Hilton’s decision to turn down BCS schools in order to be a Golden Panther has entered into FIU lore (at least, as much as something can enter FIU lore), and maybe one day Wright’s story will prove to be similarly discussed.

But for Cristobal, now that Wright has signed on the dotted line, the only story he is concerned about is the one that takes place when Wright steps on campus.

BREAKING IT DOWN

FIU’s 2010 recruiting class is, at least at first glance, the strongest in school history, as has been the story every season since Cristobal took over.

Wright is the crown jewel, the guy to get the fans excited and to make headlines, but with FIU’s depth at wide out, he might follow a similar path as last year’s heralded recruit, Larvee “Pooh Bear” Mars, who spent much of the season buried on the depth chart behind more experienced players.

If the 6-foot-2, 205 pound wide out doesn’t make an immediate impact, there are certainly others in the class who look like they can make a more immediate impact.

With FIU’s struggles on the offensive and defensive line, there was a lot of room for newcomers from last year’s class, like freshmen Andrew Martin, Rupert Bryan, Dave Istanich, Tourek Williams as well as JUCO transfers like Thacher Starling and Cedric Mack.

And despite the emergence of those young players, there may still be plenty of room for David Deslise and Cred- nick Davis on the offensive line and Jeremy Jermin, Bryan Robinson, Jerricho Lee, Isame Faciane, and Jordan White on the defensive line, all of