Cristobal: “Best class in Sun Belt history”

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National Signing Day for college football is where a championship run could begin. It’s where the pieces that you have been assembling all throughout the year in recruiting become assembled into a finished product, ready to suit up for their schools.

“We’re going to find a way to get after the best guys we could possibly find regardless of the competition. We just no longer view ourselves as the little brother in the conference. We just no longer possibly find regardless of the competition. We just no longer...”

Mario Cristobal believes this recruiting is the best the school has ever had. The Panthers received 19 in-state recruits and four from the state of Louisiana. Of those recruits, six of them were signed to play linebacker.

“The fact that he would turn those down to stay at FIU, and I still believe that FIU is the program and the where it’s headed. “It says a lot about the program itself,” said Dunn. “The fact that he would turn those down to stay at FIU, and I still believe that FIU is a better situation because of the talent pool here and the fact that now you have a school in Miami that has their own stadium. I don’t think it was that bad of a deal to do that, I thought it was a smart move.”

Jasper had 11 other schools that offered him scholarships. One of them ironically being Marshall, who played against FIU in the Beef O’Brady’s Bowl. Although Marshall may have come out on top in that game, it’s the Panthers who were able to come out on top in the recruiting trail.

“They winning the bowl game and beating FIU wasn’t really that big of a deal, because we have a new season coming up,” Jasper said. “I know we’re going to be strong this year, and I feel like this is a big program on the rise.”

He finished his senior season with 27 catches for 421 yards and seven touchdowns, ranked 12th in class 5A for Miami-Dade schools. He also made second team All-Dade for the Athlete position.
Student Academic Support building put on hold, short by $10 million

PECO, PAGE 1

submits a five year strategically planned capital request to the state that addresses University growth and development, along with the capital needed to provide the right amount of resources for students and the University in general.

The intent is to match FIU’s plans according to what is approved by the BOT with the hope of obtaining the necessary funding.

It has been estimated that the University will not receive desired funding until the 2014-2015 school year.

I hope this does not mean tuits hikes for students,” said senior psychology major, Anthony Gallardo.

For the 2010-2011 school year, $31 million was requested for the building of the Student Academic Support building, but as of 2012 FIU is short $10 million to finish its construction.

Kenneth Jessell, vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, said that contracts have already been signed with the architects, engineers and construction managers although FIU does not have the last bit of funding.

The purpose of the Student Academic Center will be to provide students with a one-stop shop for all their administrative needs and student services.

The plan is to cross train staff so that in the future a person would be able to assist students, no matter what their needs were.

Based on changes in construction costs and on revision of the original plan, it is expected that this 70,000 square foot building will start being constructed in the next couple of months.

It will be located east of the Graham Center.

“FIU should find a way with existing budget limitations and cutting of funds to make sure students receive the best resources,” said Alex Rosales, an FIU alum.

The University is currently working with the Board of Governors to work with cash flow and delay bills far enough in order to get the money needed to continue its projects.

PG6 to add 2,000 parking spots, location still to be determined

PARKING, PAGE 1

a better opportunity to take advantage of the service.

The Panther Safety Tram, which provides a service within both campuses Monday through Thursday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. and until 11 p.m. on Fridays, transported more than 12,000 people within the last four months as well, according to Foster.

“All in all, we’re pretty pleased with [the programs],” he said.

“Housing is building the next phase of housing on that lot. That whole parking lot will go offline and will become a construction site. There are 211 student spaces in there that will be taken out,” he said.

“The housing kids won’t be so excited. All we can do, though, is tell them where the available parking spaces are.”

Recently, Parking and Transportation attended a town hall meeting hosted by the Student Government Association to discuss the changes.

However, the department will be hosting another town hall meeting to have a discussion and question-and-answer period with housing students, faculty and staff.

The date has yet to be announced.

The construction on Lot 12 is expected to end in 2013.

PG6 SITE NOT BEEN DECIDED

Students looking forward to the construction of PG6, a new parking garage similar to PG5 which is supposed to add around 2,000 parking spaces, will have to keep waiting.

“We’re still in discussion as to where that would be [built]. We do not have a decision yet as to what site,” Foster said.

Foster said that the delay in construction is partly to do with upper administration.

“Upper administration makes decisions based on the way they see the University is going to grow. President Mark Rosenberg has an extremely aggressive growth plan, and so he has to keep that in mind with everything, including parking and transportation,” he said.

In an interview with Student Media in October 2011, Foster said it would take two to three years to get the new parking garage.

CATS SHUTTLE SCHEDULE CHANGES

Parking and Transportation is implementing a schedule change beginning Feb. 6 to its CATS shuttle, which transports students between the MMC campus and the Engineering Center.

Students who take the shuttle at 7:20 a.m. from MMC to the Engineering Center will now arrive earlier, as the schedule has been changed to 7:00 a.m. instead.

The schedule change was executed because of complaints the department received from students that were arriving 10 minutes late to their 8 a.m. class.
Panthers conclude its two-game road trip at FAU

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The mood after a close and controversial 66-64 game between FIU and Florida Atlantic on Jan. 21 could not have been any more polar opposite.

For the Owls, smiles and jokes filled the press room from Owls’ Raymond Taylor, Jordan McCoy and Greg Giangi. Winners in five of the last seven meetings, Florida Atlantic (9-12, 5-3 SBC) seems to be getting use to beating its rival from Miami.

“Fortunately, we have been on the winning end of a lot of these games,” Taylor said after the game on Jan. 21. “Hopefully if we keep this on, it’s not going to be a rival too much longer.”

For FIU (5-15, 2-6 SBC), shock, frustration and disbelief that a questionable foul call by the referee with 0.6 seconds remaining in the game propelled it to another victory. For the Panthers, they will get their second opportunity to defeat the Owls on Feb. 4 in Boca Raton. For the Panthers, their last win at FAU Arena occurred in 2009, with a 58-53 decision.

CONTAINING MCCOY
Jordan McCoy appears to have saved his best offensive games for FIU. Last season, McCoy notched his career-high 19 points against the Panthers. In the last meeting against the Panthers, his 18 points and 11 rebounds proved to be the difference as starting forward Kore White sat out most of the game due to a hamstring pull. At 6-foot-6, McCoy is an undersized forward, but his skill set has given FIU problems.

“My best attribute is my quickness,” McCoy stated after the Jan. 21 game. “I just try to work the inside position and use my strengths to my advantage.” In order to neutralize McCoy, who enters the matchup scoring less than five points per game on the season, the Panthers have to limit him from getting offensive rebounds and easy put-backs.

NO PLACE LIKE THE ROAD
Although the Panthers have a losing record on the road, according to head coach Isaiah Thomas, the team has played its best basketball on the road this season. “We give good effort,” Thomas said. “We play better on the road.” Four of the Panthers’ five victories on the season have come away from U.S. Century Bank Arena. At home, the Panthers have struggled, posting a 1-6 record. The Panthers have two remaining road games on the season, a trip to Arkansas against Arkansas-Little Rock follows by a trip to South Carolina, playing against the Gamecocks.

EYES TOWARDS MARCH
The Sun Belt Conference tournament is a month away. Currently the Panthers are in close proximity of obtaining the number seven seed in conference tournament. Instead of looking at the big picture, Thomas wants his team to focus on one practice at a time in the final month of the regular season.

“Let’s just show up and keep trying to keep getting better,” Thomas said. “Keep getting better and one game at a time.”
Jasper, Durante chose to stay home at FIU

SIGNING DAY, PAGE 1

Jasper will get a chance in practices to go against first team All-Dade defensive linemen and be bullied by in practices to go against first team All-Dade defensive linemen and be bullied by Dr. Krop High. Durante made seven interceptions this year for Krop, four of them returned for touchdowns, all while recording 20 tackles. In the beginning of the season, Durante says he had no scholarships or recruiting offers coming to his schools. At his official signing of the letter of intent to become a Panther, he had four Payday bars in front of him, to represent the four $400 bars in front of a Panther, he had four letter of intent to become a Payday bars in front of a Panther, he had four letter of intent to become a.
Miami Heat fans attend the basketball games for the “Heat experience,” but they might overlook an important member on the sidelines. He’s amongst the crowd, cheering for our team and encouraging fans. Miami Heat’s public address announcer and University alum, Michael Baiamonte, brings “the noise.”

Known as The Voice and as one of the most recognizable voices in the South Florida sports market, Baiamonte has stuck with the team through injuries and triple doubles. And he is excited for the great things the team is going to do this season.

“I’m always expecting great things for the Heat,” said Baiamonte. “I am looking forward to being a part of it— a very small, but very fun part of the home games.”

Regardless of how small of an impact Baiamonte believes he has on the game, his signature phrases like, “Stick it up and make some noise for your Miami Heat,” “Too many steps,” or “Dos minutos (two minutes)” really draw the crowd in. His enthusiasm is contagious throughout the game.

“The team wanted me to come up with some idea of a call to action, something to ask the fans to do in order to recognize and greet the team. I thought [of things that] might sound good, that would be easy to say, but not be a lot of work.”

The reaction Baiamonte got the first time he said it, “No one did anything. Nobody got the first time he said it, ‘I am here to do something about the fact that the murders occurred.’”

However, Epping did not only go back in time to help the Dunning family—he wanted to change much more.

After finding out that his local burger joint owner, Al Templeton, had found a way to travel back in time, the 25-year-old high school teacher was convinced by the dying man to try to save the world by preventing the Vietnam War by saving the life of John F. Kennedy. In his best-selling 2011 novel, "11/22/63," Stephen King explores the concept of time travel through Epping’s story. Throughout his book, King suggests that no one can change the past, but history can be slightly altered.

For example, Jake Epping faces every possible obstacle in his path to save not only Kennedy, but Dunning, sudden bad health, citizens determined to get in his past and the past itself, working to maintain “the order of the universe.”

The novel also fearlessly addresses the many conspiracy theories that have been created because of speculation in the killing of JFK. In the book, Templeton states that he is 95 percent sure that Oswald did the deed. Jake Epping attempts to verify this information before going after the suspected murderer.

In his afterword, King writes that, after doing much reading on the incident, he is between 98 and 99 percent sure that Lee Oswald indeed killed JFK and that he prepared for controversy before the novel was released. The facts and details in the novel are based off of his research. This allows the reader to be transported to 1958—when Jake Epping steps into Templeton’s time warp.

While the novel is excellent, like almost all of Stephen King’s books, it is not a light or short read by any means. The novel is most certainly a time-consuming read. If you are a fast reader, it is a great pick.

Otherwise, I suggest saving this one for the summer or for a time when you are sure you will have a lot of free time. The novel’s ending is bittersweet. Jake Epping does change the past, but without consequences.

When Epping realizes the reality he has created is worse than the one that would have existed if he left things alone, the novel twists yet again as Epping goes back in time once more.

Without giving away more of the story, readers will be satisfied by the way Epping’s story, especially his love interest with Sadie, a woman he met when he traveled back into the 1960s, concludes. The ending manages to find the perfect balance of leaving the reader happy for Epping while not being predictable.

Overall, the novel is a stunning piece of investigative history work and is instructive. I learned much about the Kennedy and Oswald situation that I was never aware of but should have known.

It is a novel that should be saved for when the reader (and in many of our cases, busy college students and professionals) has time to learn.
Glenn Close, who has been delivering stunning performances for three decades, has taken a big risk with her latest role in the film, “Albert Nobbs.”

Set in the late nineteenth century, the film focuses on Albert (Close), the reserved butler who works at the Morrison Hotel. Since the age of 14, Albert has kept a big secret: he is a woman under wraps.

With the hotel in need of renovations, Nobbs shares her bedroom with the house painter, Hubert Page (Janet McTeer), for a night. Unable to hide her disguise from him, Albert’s secret is revealed to Hubert, who reassures her that she has nothing to fear.

After years of saving money underneath the floorboards and a boost of confidence from Hubert, Albert’s dreams of opening up a tobacco shop and finding love begin to seem a little less impossible. “Albert Nobbs” has been something of a pet project for Glenn Close. Often times, men pose as women for comedic purposes, but a woman portraying a man is rarely done.

Her performance as Albert does not command the screen as she tends to do in her film and television work. Instead, she adopts a subtle and meek personality that fits her character just right.

While Close does a decent job as Albert, Janet McTeer is the true scene-stealer. Her portrayal of the confident painter does a better job at grasping the audience’s attention than the lead actress’ portrayal of Albert. This may be attributed to the outgoing personality of Hubert.

Aside from these performances, the film leaves little else to care about. The supporting characters barely develop, if at all, and that doesn’t add much to Albert’s journey for an identity.

Mia Wasikowska has had better roles than the dull Helen, who is the object of Albert’s affection. The inclusion of Aaron Johnson is the most pointless of them all—he doesn’t serve to do much more than take off his shirt and look annoyed in most scenes.

The screenplay, co-written by Close and John Banville, doesn’t help the film much either. It doesn’t dive into the history of Albert and, with a character that has been willingly cross-dressing for decades, one wants to know the reasons behind this drastic choice.

Rodrigo Garcia, whose work on “Mother and Child” proves that he fits well in intimate tales of women, drops the ball on this one. His slow style just doesn’t work well with the film.

Many people, including the Academy Award voters, have hailed the performances of the actors, but the true stars of the film are the make-up artists who have earned a well-deserved nomination this year. Marial Conolve, Lynn Johnson and Matthew Mungle manage to give both Janet McTeer and Glenn Close enough masculine features to pass them as men. That is something that deserves recognition.

There is a certain TV quality to the film that keeps “Albert Nobbs” from achieving greatness. It may be a personal project to Glenn Close, but, much like a few other films this year, it is not any better than the average Oscar nominee.

“Albert Nobbs” is currently in theaters and showing at AMC Sunset Place 24, Coral Gables Art Cinema, Paragon Grove 13, Regal South Beach Stadium 18, Frank Theaters Intra-coastal 8 and AMC Avantiura 24.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival. Email at life@fiusm.com.
Senate rife with confusion during audit discussions

Discussion appeared to be unfolding as though senators were being pressed to decide on the budgets right there.

Penmanship, a dying art despite supportive study

It appears as though the relationship between penmanship and academic achievement is simply a correlation without any direct indication of causation.

Since I am generally keen on preserving the skill of penmanship, these research results only add more to my conviction that penmanship is an important skill. This is just the early beginnings of research on the importance of handwriting, but it is a good start for the advancement of penmanship.

For now, it appears as though the relationship between penmanship and academic achievement is simply a correlation without any direct indication of causation. This should not be discouraging, however, because it is through this relationship that research can be further expanded to discover what it is between the two that causes direct success for students.
Are you a member of a campus or University?

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Whether students see themselves as Biscayne Bay Campus students or as FIU students varies from situation to situation.

Some students identify themselves depending upon how many credits they take at each campus. Those who have only taken classes at BBC may tag themselves as “BBC students.”

According to the Office of Planning & Institutional Research, there were 19,106 student credit hours with a full time equivalent at Modesto Maidique Campus and 2,998 SCT-FTE at BBC in the 2010-2011 school year.

Junior Carrillo, junior journalism major, taking three credits at BBC and six online, considers herself a BBC student.

“The is only the campus that I’ve been to and I like the fact that there’s less people at BBC and the campus itself is very relaxing,” she said.

Kay Torres, a senior and journalism major taking six credits at BBC and nine at MMC, agreed.

“I classify myself as a BBC student in all aspects. The fact that after a class I can sit in front of the bay is amazing,” Torres said.

“BBC is very relaxing and even though there aren’t too many people and there isn’t a large variety of food, I wouldn’t trade it for any other campus,” Lauren Boyle, a junior and marketing major, splits her time evenly between the two campuses: three credits at BBC and three at MMC.

“I identify myself as an FIU student because even though I have taken a couple classes at BBC, I think this campus is extremely boring compared to [MMC],” Boyle said.

When it comes to campus specific positions in the University’s Student Government Association, applicants must take at least 50 percent of their courses at the campus at which they want to run for office. To be considered eligible for office at BBC’s Student Government Council, for example, a student must take half his or her course load at the campus.

SGA is divided into two governing councils for each campus, each one of which with three respective branches of government: executive, judicial, and legislative.

The same 50 percent enrollment comes into play when SGA elections comes around. Students can only vote on candidates from one of the two campuses, with their votes counting towards where they take the majority of their classes.

Yet when it comes to the majority of credits being taken online, according to Rafael Zapata, advisor to SGC-BBC, it “becomes a little bit trickier.” How to classify online students is being researched and debated by SGA’s University-Wide Council.

On the other hand, some students who have taken classes at more than one campus have never thought of classifying themselves as only BBC or MMC students—they think of FIU as a whole.

Kevin Soler, a junior and journalism major, taking six credits at BBC and three at MMC, never considered the difference.

“To be honest, I have never thought about it. I don’t think it makes sense to classify myself according to a specific campus,” Soler said.

“Even though I take most of my classes at BBC, I’m part of FIU and I’ll always feel like that.”

FULL TIME STUDENT CREDIT HOURS

Modesto Maidique Campus
• 2008-2009: 17,837
• 2009-2010: 18,009
• 2010-2011: 19,166

Biscayne Bay Campus
• 2008-2009: 3,210
• 2009-2010: 2,866
• 2010-2011: 2,998

Leadership summit to assists students in developing professional traits

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The ninth annual Student Leadership Summit is being held on Feb. 4 at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center.

This leadership conference will include both students from the Modesto Maidique Campus and BBC, and will allow students to gain skills and network through different activities.

There will be different breakout sessions students can go throughout the day such as clarified values, healthy behaviors and satisfying lifestyles.

“I expect students to enhance their leadership skills and have fun at the conference,” said Sabrena O’Keefe, assistant director of the Women Center and Center for Leadership and Service at BBC.

O’Keefe is also looking forward to hearing from James Robilotta, this year’s keynote speaker.

“The key note speaker is really fun because his speech is practical and he also does improvisation comedy so I think he will keep the students energized throughout the day,” O’Keefe said.

There are a lot of students that seem very excited about the conference. Pham Tan Tam, a junior hospitality management major, shows enthusiasm as the conference approaches.

“Since I got here at FIU, I have only been involved in [Academy of Leaders] to help me with my leadership skills,” Tam said. “But to know that there are other such events like the leadership conference to help me improve is just great.” Newcomers and past participants are also getting anxious for the conference.

“I attended for the first time last year, and this is the type of program that companies would pay thousands of dollars to send their employees to for leadership and we [students] get it for free so I think this conference is awesome and fun,” O’Keefe said.

Like previous conferences, high school students will also be part of this conference and participate in the day’s activities.

O’Keefe hopes that, as in previous conferences, the students have fun and learn from the staff and activities.

“I think the students will be motivated to continue develop their skills to become the next leaders of the future,” O’Keefe said.