

## FCAT Week

BY: Tomas Monzon

March 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 was FCAT week at south Miami senior high. Students from grades 9 through 11 took the yearly FCAT examination. The reading and mathematics tests were administered to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> graders took a practice writing test, 10<sup>th</sup> graders took a practice science test, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders took the science FCAT as they were given their “time to shine” and perform well

on this year’s examination. While the results are yet to be seen, students, particularly in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, were not thrilled with having to deal with the FCAT this year: “The FCAT is just a time-passer and it gets us teacher and students overworked and over-hyped,” Said a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, on Friday of the FCAT week, a day after finishing the FCAT exam. This year’s FCAT test was definitely a big event for South Miami Senior High students and teachers alike, as great emphasis was placed on

getting students ready to pass their FCAT tests in an effort to succeed and raise the schools grade from the current “D” letter grade. The bell Ringers, part of the preparation given to students from the FCAT, and also objects of criticism from many students; as well as the Pep Rally on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009; all were precursors to the 2009 FCAT week. Make-ups were administered on March 13<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, and March 17<sup>th</sup> for students who were absent on the days of FCAT testing.



## Thesians Improvisation Show

By: Yilian Landa

The cobra thespian improvisation show was on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 2:35 pm until 5:00 pm in the drama room. It was a comical experience that the audience very much enjoyed. We spoke to Senior Giovanni Gomez and he stated “being in the show was one of the

best experiences. I love to make people laugh.” The thespians went all out. They brought chips, Capri sun, and rice krispies and other concessions to sell to their audience in case they got hungry. The admission was \$3.00 per person. A student was even chosen out of the audience to explain what

he does in one day and the thespians would act it out. We also spoke to Sophomore Eric Denis to ask how he felt about the show and he responded “It was an enjoyable and social afternoon. I never thought I could laugh that much.”

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## *In a World of Words Flying Through Ethernet Cables*

By: Tomas Monzon

When was the last time someone didn't think of asking for someone else's number, but instead asked for an email or MSN or AIM? What I'm trying to say is that all the world in which we live, two computer users on opposite ends of the world might as well be right next to each other. Thanks to the Internet - chatting, Facebook, Myspace, instant messaging, and a menace kids have unleashed upon their parents, texting; these methods are quickly becoming the preferred methods of communication. Nobody calls each other anymore, "Just add me on Facebook" or "Just IM me on AIM" are common rebuttals. People even ask each other out through instant messaging protocols! What is that?! I think the warmth and personal nature of talking to people on the phone is being lost as it's replaced by

the more easily accessible and less attention requiring methods of communication previously mentioned. Mind the "less attention requiring" comment – you could be attending a wedding, fixing your computer, listening to music, or reading a magazine in the bathroom while talking to your friend on your cell phone through texting. It's crazy! Now don't get me wrong. The invention and use of these methods of communication are great. Facebook, for example, is the best way to keep in touch with old friends. It's only sites like those that allow you to look at their photos, see what they're doing, get their e-mail, and be able to send them a message telling them you guys need to catch up sometime. It's really a wondrous thing how the internet, originally a military project, spread to become the biggest revolution in the world of communications since the invention of the telegram or the telephone. But, people, please! Work with me here! Sometimes, when I'm talking to someone on IM, it feels so cold and impersonal. Seriously! I mean, *all* your friends are represented, not by the kind of people you see when you actually talk to them, or not by the kind of voice you hear when you talk to them, but instead by profile icons that usually aren't even shots of themselves. Also, when you IM someone, you never know how you might feel when they say something- are they saying it in a sad tone, in a happy tone, are they kidding around, etc. Just

call me and we can talk properly! Maybe I'm just nagging and don't understand the dynamics of instant messaging or the pleasure and comfort that texting can evoke. But I can tell you that it's a personal theory of mine that people aren't comfortable with hearing each other's voices anymore. When there weren't telephones, people sent letters. But since they got everywhere so slowly, people rejoiced when confrontations were face-to-face. Then, the phone was invented, so people stopped having as many first-hand encounters. And now, texting, can be done everything?! EVERYWHERE? "Next time you think of me, just pick up a phone and call me.. I miss the sound of your voice."

## FCAT Pep Rally

By: Rebecca Llanes

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 SMSH students, grades 9-11<sup>th</sup> we able to appreciate a pep rally for the FCAT. Throughout the pep rally we had special activities planned out for us in which we heard Mrs. Chang, one of our assistant principals, sing to her version of "I will survive". We also had performances by our cheerleaders and Charmers. Our drama class had a skit in which we saw an evil person

come and try to discourage our students from doing well on the FCAT, but in the end a group of five superhero's came and made everyone do well. The last performance the students were able to enjoy was that from the broadcast team. Two students do so well on their FCAT that the principals were out to make sure they did right. In the end we see how the principals caught the students (with the net) and made sure their studied. According to Cristiana Gonzalez

she had an amazing time, "it was the best pep rally she has ever seen in her entire three years of high school. "



## MADRI GRAS

By: Eric Denis

Purple, green and gold, crowds, parades. It must be Fat Tuesday in New Orleans or as most call it, Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is a festival-like celebration where many of the participants just basically party until midnight which is the start of Ash Wednesday, the first day of Catholic Lent. Traditionally during Mardi Gras, organizations called "krewes" hold parades unfortunately, this year due to financial concerns, some of the krewes withdrew their parades. But one of

The city's oldest Krewes Zulu, went on as scheduled. Their parade was their 100th performance through the streets of New Orleans and this adds all the more meaning to the Zulu Krewes' king. "it feels so great to be king. King Zulu is one of the greatest honors you can achieve here in New Orleans," 2009 king Zulu Tyrone Mathieu said. As for the rest of the festivities, since many of the U.S citizens are in financial struggle at the moment, MADri Gras didn't go as well and crazy as it was hoped. But those who

did attend still kept the spirit of Fat Tuesday alive and well and created quite a spectacular night for the largest city in Louisiana.



# Black History

The Black History Program at South Miami senior High took place in the gym on February 26, 2009. Many students were able to participate in such an event that portrayed how African Americans were treated in the past. African Americans were treated so harshly by Whites such as: whippings beat to death, chained and thrown in the water to drown, etc. They segregated from Whites as in Black only fountains, Black only Restrooms and more. They were treated poorly by the Government as in not being allowed to sit in the front of the bus, Whites receiving better school materials, and not being allowed in certain restaurants. ” said Williams. The show was very interesting, and it was much more creative than the previous ones” said Grethel Ortiz. Unfortunately not a lot of classes were able to attend such a historical and important event “it is important for people to know about Black History because it’s really interesting for any of any race to know where they came from and what their ancestors did and why!” explained Dawaun Lovett. Some students would even say that people are untaught about Black History and really should be educated on it. Anita Williams participated in the event to help entertain and educate her fellow classmates. “Young African Americans do not know the history behind their race. I myself like to educate and I felt it would be an honor to participate.

## Sudoku!!

2					1	6	7	5
6			2	4				1
9	8			7				
5		4			8	1		
1		7	5	6		3		
				9		5		4
	3	9						2
		2	8		9		1	
		6		5	2	8		9

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