

ALL ABOARD

Cruise raises funds for surgeries

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Act now to stop budget cuts

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Alumnus makes feature films

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Teams head into key matchups

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METAL WORKS



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

FORGING AWAY: Senior Christopher Rodriguez, an art major specializing in sculptures with metal, assists in the casting of poured aluminum for a sculpture class at the Visual Arts Studio at University Park.

SERVICE FOR PEACE

Underprivileged schools will get crucial assistance

MARIELLA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

Right now there are poor children going to a school that has no roof. FIU's chapter of Service for Peace will host a benefit gala in hopes of changing that.

"A Night for Nicaragua" will be held on Sunday, April 13 starting at 6 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The event is meant to raise money for underprivileged schools in Nicaragua, and to educate students about Nicaraguan culture through food, music and entertainment.

"We believe the night will educate the FIU community about the educational issues which every child in the developing world faces, and [will] raise money for the amazing and lovable children, spread some love and

have some great memories," said Natasha Pytlik, a junior and president of SFP.

The gala will benefit Escuela Paul Harris, an elementary school in Managua, Nicaragua. Money raised will go toward building a roof and school pavilion at the school, according to Pytlik.

"If every person that attends feels even half the love that we have felt from the children and community of Escuela Paul Harris, I know they will not regret coming," Pytlik said.

The event will feature many ways to raise funds for the needy school, such as silent auctions and raffles. The club also hopes to accept donations, said Grace Altamirano, senior, SFP member.

"It will raise awareness of

BENEFIT, page 3

UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Forum addresses IT security, concerns

EDUARDO MORALES
Staff Writer

On April 11, University Technology Services hopes to clear up the mysteries surrounding Information Technology Safety.

UTS will host the annual IT Security Conference, where students will be educated about technological threats that might have flown under the radar between taking notes and studying for finals.

"This year the focus is on the mystery of IT security. People don't understand why they have to do the things they do to protect themselves," said IT Security Officer Cheryl Granto. "We hear the question, 'what did I do wrong, why did this happen to me?' We're trying to clear up those questions."

The speakers hope to strike a cord with the students on their topics as many of these threats are very subtle in appearance, like a recent e-mail threat which appeared to be a message from UTS that circulated around the FIU network asking students to 're-enter' their personal information.

The conference will be held in Room 255 in the College of Business Complex.

The event spans from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and will be made up of 30 minute presentations covering different topics.

Several guest speakers from across the country will be attending the event including one from the Secret Service and two

UTS, page 2

Budget cuts inspire job search aid

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

The University's Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations, Vivian Sanchez, addressed questions concerning the recent state budget cuts in the University Support Personnel Senate meeting on April 11.

The regular USPS agenda was postponed to accommodate Sanchez, who spent an hour explaining the state budget crisis and unveiled a new job search program for potential layoffs.

"When we get there, we are committed as an institution in finding everyone a job," Sanchez said.

FIU is currently developing a three year budget plan to buffer the cuts in state funds affecting all state universities.

FIU will pinpoint weak financial and infrastructure areas by analyzing and restructuring academic priorities,

investments and unnecessary spending, Sanchez said.

Although not yet certain, Sanchez said the budget plan might lead to the "personnel discussion" and eventual layoffs. To ease transition and help University staff find new employment, the job search program will provide individual coaching in resume writing, interviewing skills and job strategies.

The program will be offered to an individual for 90 days after the layoff because the University considers this ample time to find a new job, Sanchez said.

Wednesday's meeting comes in efforts to create transparency during the development of the new budget plan.

"The state of Florida is experiencing a very serious downturn," Sanchez said, before outlining the expected budget cuts in the University's state funds in the next two years.

In the best circumstances, FIU

would experience a deficit of \$19.2 million.

However, the worst case scenario places the figure at \$25.2 million in budget cuts during the same two year period.

The University has created the Budget Stabilization Task Force to act as a review and recommendation committee during the development of the three year budget plan.

Members were asked to participate from different departments to represent the University.

Daniel Townsend, associate director of Facilities Management and member of the Task Force, said that although some people might have reservations concerning the Job Search program, he did not think there were any.

"I would think, from what I heard today, that it would definitely be a benefit. It's a job search program, what could be negative about that?" he said.

Guest speakers give computer safety advice

UTS, page 1

from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The conference begins with free breakfast and a few introductions headed by Granto herself.

After the students become situated, the event kicks off with Security Awareness 101, which covers the basics dealing with security presented by speaker John Hill from McAfee, a respected company dealing with computer security.

Later on in the day, the conference will discuss the dangers of having an open wireless network at home. Granto believes students could be getting in trouble for crimes that are taking place in their very own drive way.

regards to their information and laws that protect personal health information, respectively.

The latter has become more important recently thanks to the upcoming medical school.

Possibly the most important for students will be a presentation based on the illegal downloading of copyrighted material such as music, movies or any other form of media.

The speech, headed by a member of the FBI, is the most relevant of the bunch as illegal downloading has become a problem among the student body.

The rest of the speeches cover topics such as Malware, a presentation headed by Pete Nicoletti of Terremark; Identity theft, covered by a special agent

Cheryl Granto, IT Security Officer

If you don't have your wireless secured, at 3 o'clock in the morning, someone can pull into your drive way, look at inappropriate material and, in the morning, FBI will be knocking at your door.

"If you don't have your wireless secured, at 3 o'clock in the morning, someone can pull into your drive way, look at inappropriate material and, in the morning, FBI will be knocking at your door," Granto said.

After the discussion on wireless security, Benjamin Baez from the College of Education will talk about privacy rights.

The presentation will deal with both Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, laws that protect students with

from the Secret Service and Internet Fraud, presented by another speaker from the FBI.

All the speakers hope to deliver their best to the students as awareness of these threats is surprisingly low.

"Awareness is really the root of security," John Cabarga from UTS Customer Relations & Communications said. "You know, we can implement a lot of new technologies but if the users ... are not aware, then there really is no basis for it."

For more information visit uts.fiu.edu.

SWEET MELODIES



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

MUSIC MEN: Andre Ramos, an FIU pre-med sophomore, on piano and Aneil Maharaj, a UM English sophomore, practice songs in the rest area in WUC. Band is called On A Square.

Stop by one of offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 and fill out an application.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

If you have an interest in writing, photography, or even grammar, don't be shy!

THE BEACON

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Hauptli's terms coming to an end

VICTORIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Bruce Hauptli, a philosophy professor since 1976, spends his days teaching students about the many mysteries of the mind.

But is also a member of FIU's Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate chair whose mission is to speak for the entire FIU faculty.

"My responsibility is to represent faculty and sometimes even students, at-large.

I try to be the spokesperson and have faculty input," Hauptli said.

When Hauptli became the Faculty Senate chair, he was automatically given

a seat on the BOT.

"I didn't want to do this, if things went my way, I would not have people automatically elected," Hauptli said.



HAUPTLI

Despite his apprehension of accepting the position, fellow BOT member Marbely Hernandez and current University Park Student Government Council President, was always impressed by Hauptli.

"He is very adamant about speaking for the faculty," Hernandez said. "His vision is to just make FIU better. He has

FIU in his heart and on his mind."

Hedy First, an administrative assistant in the Faculty Senate, also described Hauptli's passion for his job.

"Hauptli is a man who is totally dedicated to the best interests of this University," First said.

The constitution of the Faculty Senate limits the numbers of terms a chair can serve to two, so Hauptli will be saying goodbye to his positions at the end of the semester.

"It has been an incredibly rewarding time, I will miss it, but glad the term is limited," Hauptli said. "I don't remember what free time is. I believe my teaching has suffered because this position requires so much attention."

The new Faculty Senate chair will be elected April 15.

"The last four years have been mostly like a full-time job, challenging, but fun," Hauptli said. "I'm looking forward to becoming a regular faculty member."

It's not the first time club tries to help

BENEFIT, page 1

issues in third world countries, provide people with the opportunity to help those who do not have the means to help themselves and bring hope to the hundreds of children who attend the school," said sophomore Marea Perea, vice president of SFP.

This isn't the first time SFP has helped improve the education of students in Nicaragua. The club returned to Nicaragua for the second time this past March with the partnership of Alternative Breaks. Together, they painted over 270 desks, four classrooms and two murals.

"I got a severe wake-up

call about the importance of doing everything within my power to help those who need it most," Altamirano said. "I feel that being a part of SFP has given me the chance to become part of a new family, and I feel that I am taking part in activities that are impacting others."

SFP is an international non-profit organization. Members have helped in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Locally, the organization holds at least one service project per month. This year, SFP members have participated in International Day of Peace; a few projects at Sommerville, a housing

community part of Camillus House and a toy drive along with the other organizations on campus.



Grace Altamirano, SFP Member

I got a severe wake-up call about the importance of doing everything within my power to help those who need it most.

They participated in Gandhi Day of Service, MLK Day of Service and Relay for Life.

The club recently participated in a beautification project of a canal in Miami Gardens. Potential future

projects include traveling to Honduras this December.

Sophomore Manami Nakayama, who is in charge

of the decorations for the gala, said all the service projects are worth the time spent.

"Once you visit and see how the children living, you will want to help them," she said.

Board selects student media leaders for 08-09



CHARLIE GRAU
EDITOR IN CHIEF (FALL)



CHRIS NECUZE
EDITOR IN CHIEF (SPRING)



RICK MARTINEZ
ONLINE DIRECTOR



PABLO PENTON
WRGP MANAGER

Beacon for the upcoming school year. His successor will be current *Beacon* Production Manager Chris Necuze, who applied for the position last year. He will take over when Grau graduates in the Fall.

"I will be mentoring Necuze through the Summer and Fall to prepare him," Grau said.

A new position was filled by the Board for the first time, as former *Beacon* page designer Rick Martinez was selected as online director, based on his experience launching the *FIUSM.com* Web site.

"I came in with experience with web design," Martinez said.

Penton was selected for his second full year as the general

manager of WRGP based on his expansion of the station in the past year.

"They'd seen my experience and what I've done," Penton said. "There has been a general progression of the station, giving it more of a school identity."

Experience was the word of the day, as all of those chosen touted their experience as the reason they were selected, and they are all expected to contribute to the expansion of all parts of student media.

"We expect *FIUSM.com* to become a greater part of the community's lives," Soto said. "And the Board hopes the University realizes what an asset WRGP is now that the entire community can hear the station."

SGC-UP Notes

April 9 Meeting • Call to Order: 4:07 p.m. • Adjournment: 4:46 p.m.

President's Report (Marbely Hernandez):

- In Washington D.C. to lobby for FIU interests.

Chief of Cabinet's Report (Kenneth Gelok):

- Asks all current Cabinet members to list their accomplishments and possible goals for next year's Cabinet.
- Applications for Cabinet positions now available.

Student Organizations Council:

- Forums on the Council for Student Organizations, that is replacing SOC, will be held April 14 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in GC 140, April 15 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in GC 150, April 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in GC 140, April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon in GC 150 and April 23 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in GC 150.

Academic Affairs:

- Volunteers for Cram Jam on April 21 and 22 needed.

New Business:

- Appropriation "In Support of the Animal Behavior Society Conference" passed for \$160.
- Appropriation "In Support of the UTEP Biomedical Engineering Conference" passed for \$100.
- Appropriation "International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)" passed for \$885.
- Appropriation "Conference on Architecture, Engineering and Construction" passed for \$948.
- Appropriation "In Support of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting" passed for \$3,700.
- Appropriation "In Support of the NASPA Conference 2008" passed for \$150.
- Appropriation "In Support of the FIU Preserve Day Event" passed for \$200.
- Appropriation "In Support of the Fifth International Conference for Mesoscopic Methods in Engineering and Science (ICMMES) 2008" passed for \$885.

- Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr.

NEWSFLASH

College of Law hosts environmental tour of Miami

On April 12 at 10 a.m., the College of Law will be hosting an "Environmental Justing Bus Tour" that will take students through various sites throughout Miami which affect the health of the residents of the neighborhoods around them.

Students interested in the tour should contact the College of Law.

International students invited to end of year dinner

International students are invited to the annual End of the Year dinner, hosted by International Student and Scholar Services on April 17 at 6 p.m. in the Graham Center Faculty Club.

Call (305) 348-2421 or visit ISSS at GC 355 to RSVP.

Warsaw uprising focus of documentary

"Legacy of the White Eagle," an award winning documentary about the failed 1944 Warsaw Uprising, a 63 day siege by Polish resistance forces against the Nazi occupiers, will be shown in Green Library room 166 at 2 p.m. on April 16.

The FIU History Department, Phi Alpha Theta, The EU Center of Excellence, The America Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland will present the documentary, which will also feature an appearance by a survivor of the siege and author Julian E. Kulski.

ACLU summer membership elections

On April 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the College of Law, there will be a meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union to elect positions for their 2008-2009 summer membership conference.

The ACLU summer membership conference will be held from June 8-10 in Washington D.C. and the elections will be to send representatives from FIU to attend the conference.

For more information contact Scott Pribble at sprib001@fiu.edu.

-Compiled by Chris Towers / Beacon Staff

IMPRESSIONS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

A PLEDGE: Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president, leaves her handprints on the banner for Take Back the Night that reads "These Hands Don't Hurt" on April 9.

STUDENTS CRUISE INTERCOASTAL

Event raises \$500 for cleft surgeries

SANDRA MATEU
Staff Writer

On April 5, students and staff of the Broward Pines Center enjoyed their Spring Social Event and raised money for two cleft palate surgeries.

Made for students to network and socialize, the event was organized by Summia Chaundry, Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council representative, Isabel Morales, Pines Center associate director and Pines Center coordinators Leslie Nisbet and Marisa Salazar.

Frank Sinatra's melodies set the mood for the three-hour boat ride that started at 6:30 p.m. with the yacht entertainer wishing everyone a "Bon Voyage!"

The three-level boat offered food and games in the main deck, karaoke and an all-night DJ as well as a view of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Guests participated in a charity raffle for The Smile Train, an organization that raises money to help children with cleft palates.

"We wanted to do something different with this raffle," Nisbet said. "We saw The Smile Train organization in an advertisement and thought what could be

Leslie Nisbet, Pines Center Coordinator

We saw The Smile Train organization in an advertisement and thought what could be better than bringing a smile to a child?"

better than bringing a smile to a child?"

The event raised enough money for two cleft palate operations.

"Thanks to an anonymous donor, we matched the money for two surgeries. It was a great thing to do," Nisbet said.

The individual donated \$174 to complete the goal of \$500 for the two surgeries.

Tables were decorated with sky blue balloons, flowers and FIU memorabilia. A buffet dinner composed of chicken teriyaki, Spanish rice and caesar salad was served.

Students did not hesitate to participate in karaoke.

"People were very into karaoke. They seemed to enjoy it a lot," Chaundry said.

Some students sang while others, like guest Melvin Roane, were content just to watch.

"I am a terrible singer. Not a chance I would get near that

microphone," Roane said. "I just listened and enjoyed," Roane said.

Other entertainment included Mitch the Magician, raffles and bingo.

Prizes were awarded by corporate sponsors such as Starbucks, AMC Theatres and Courtyard by Marriott.

Dessert and coffee were served at the end of the evening while the final three prizes were raffled off.

Surveys were given and collected at the end of the event to gather participants' impressions of the evening.

"Depending on the response of the survey we will try to plan this event for every spring semester," Chaundry said.

The ship returned to dock at 10 p.m.

"I am really happy with the outcome. It seems like people enjoyed the event," Chaundry said.

International Students Club plans trip to discover the Florida Keys

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life! Editor

Biscayne Bay Campus' International Students Club is breaking new barriers by taking students on a trip to Key Largo, with transportation and food provided, all for \$20.

Aurelie Verne, president of the International Students Club, broke down the gist of the event.

"The purpose of 'Beach Day' is to give an opportunity for students who don't have the transportation or the opportunity to travel outside of campus or Miami to discover the Florida Keys, while meeting other students, and most of all, [to] relax," Verne said.

Students will leave BBC at 8 a.m. to arrive in Key Largo at 10 a.m.

The group will be going to John Pennekamp Coral Reef Park, a national park with beaches and different water sports and activities.

After lunch, provided by Great Wraps, a two and a half hour glass bottom boat tour is scheduled.

"We talked about snorkeling first, but that would exclude people who don't swim, students

Nakeia Calvert, Marine Biology Junior

It's a good and fun way to meet new and intriguing people who are interested in marine related activities such as boating, fishing and snorkeling.

with disabilities and students who are afraid of the water," Verne said.

"With [this] option, anyone can come and enjoy the reefs without having to step a foot in the water, and the weather would be less an issue."

Verne expects the trip to be a good networking opportunity for students.

"I hope students will have fun, create friendships, socialize and get a chance to witness the fun we have at the events we host.

"We have members who are students from all over the world, and it's always a great pleasure to see different cultures to come together," Verne said.

Nakeia Calvert, a junior majoring in marine biology, is excited to go on the trip.

"I'm looking forward to the trip for the marine wildlife of Key Largo because as a marine biology student, it gives me

insight into field research for my future career goals," Calvert said. "It's a good and fun way to meet new and intriguing people who are interested in marine related activities such as boating, fishing and snorkeling."

Beach Day represents the first time ISC has planned an event of such magnitude.

"We were asked by many students to have a trip outside of the country," Verne said. "Unfortunately such a trip involves a lot more organization and a bigger budget. Since it is our first attempt to host such an event, we decided to take students out of town first."

If the event is successful, ISC said it will consider making it an annual occurrence and adding more flavor.

"This could be our signature event in the future - we'll just collect students' feedback and go with that," Verne said.

CATASTROPHIC CUTS

Students urged to take a stand

CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. Life Editor

“This is not fun, this is not a game, a lot of people are going to die.”

Those were the words of state representative Yolly Robertson (D-Miami) as she spoke to *The Miami Herald* about the \$5 billion in budget cuts proposed by the Florida legislature.

There is a battle being waged in Tallahassee, and if things continue on their current course, a catastrophe will ensue. The budgets being proposed by Florida’s House and Senate will slash education, ravage the Department of Children and Families, and leave thousands of the states most medically needy without access to medication and treatment that in many cases literally keeps them from dying. The only thing that can stop these cuts is a massive public outcry that pushes state legislators to find another way to balance the budget.

And there are plenty of alternatives. Democratic lawmakers and others have proposed numerous other solutions to the \$3 billion budget shortfall that lawmakers are using to justify these cuts. The state has over \$13 billion in reserves in “The Lawton Chiles Endowment” fund, named for the late Florida governor who championed the causes of education and healthcare for the poor. *The Orlando Sentinel’s* editorial board recently expressed support for a \$1 per pack cigarette tax that could yield as much as \$1 billion and offset the need for some of these cuts. A one-cent sales tax increase could yield as much as \$3.5 billion, according to Lakeland’s *The Ledger*. And there are numerous corporate loopholes that could be closed and

yield more revenue for the state. And yet, the voices of those who demand another way to balance the budget are being shut out. With every passing moment that their voices are ignored, the state gets closer to approving a budget that will leave a shameful legacy of sorrow and destruction in its wake.

These cuts are an assault on Florida’s students, teachers, and residents who literally depend on some of these programs for survival. Every student at this University stands to suffer, as \$2 billion of the cuts are being drained from the state’s education system. Everything from high School class sizes to college financial aid will be adversely affected.

The fact that \$2 billion in cuts is being aimed at Florida schools is reason enough for concerned students to act. Yet in the broad and horrific spectrum of these destructive cuts proposed by lawmakers, students emerge as the lucky ones. At least students won’t actually die as a result of these cuts.

Others might not be so lucky. According to *The Miami Herald*, the proposed budgets include \$1 billion in cuts from Health and human services. The cuts, according to *The St. Petersburg Times* will mean “foster children, pregnant women, newborn infants, kids with AIDS, frail seniors and hospice patients.”

The Florida House and Senate are planning to cut between \$170 million and \$350 million from the state’s Medically Needy program which “covers transplant and catastrophic-illness costs for 20,000 poor people” according to *The Orlando Sentinel*. As one chronically ill woman who’ll be removed from the program if cuts pass told *The Tampa*

Tribune, “I’d probably just die.”

There isn’t enough space in this entire to list the numerous other ways these cuts will hurt our state, with millions in cuts being proposed from environmental programs and the court system among other areas. Yet for all the grim predictions, the lives of the seriously ill hanging in the balance, the students waiting to see if their financial aid and chance at a good education will be snatched away, there is one glimmer of hope.

There is still time to lobby our legislators and tell them to look at the many other alternatives there are to gutting public education and slashing healthcare. It is time for the students of Florida from all ages, genders, races and political parties to band together and demand that these cuts be prevented.

We can call Marco Rubio, the Florida House Speaker. His phone number is (305) 442-6939. He can be e-mailed at speaker@myfloridahouse.gov. He tells Florida voters on his Web site he wants to “make sure we [the legislature] hear your voice in Tallahassee.” Well, it’s time for us to speak up. Let’s see if he hears our voices.

If enough people contact him and other powerful state legislators, we can force the people in charge in Tallahassee to weigh other options. If they fear that there will be serious political consequences if they go through with this they will back down.

A lot can be done. Yet the people of Florida are running out of time. Students who have a few minutes to spare should make a call, or send e-mail. After all, what do we have to lose –except everything? For more information visit: <http://www.facebook.com/group>.

SPEAK UP:

To contact state legislators about cutting public education, health care and other vital services:

Marco Rubio

Florida House Speaker
Phone: (305) 442-6939
Email: speaker@myfloridahouse.gov

Marsha Bowen

Speaker Pro Tempore
Phone: (863) 298-4422

Adam Hasner

House Majority Leader
Phone: (561) 279-1616

Juan C. Zapata

House Republican from Miami
Phone: (305) 273-3288

Ken Pruitt

Florida Senate President
Phone: (772) 344-1140
E-mail: Pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov

To look up more representatives and senators, see:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx>

Knocking Nader: Actions speak louder than words

Presidential candidate’s body of work offsets his elitist smarmy attitude

JASON GELLER
Contributing Writer

A presidential candidate must do more than charm voters, which is too bad for Ralph Nader.

He might be the perfect person to tear apart the stranglehold corporations have over us.

But as a man, he comes across as a slimy elitist.

The 74 year-old Green Party nominee spoke in a deep, phlegmy voice to about 200 at Wolfe Theatre on April 1.

He drew laughter and applause all night long, yet most in attendance had never met Nader.

Before his speech, I met Nader at a pre-speech reception held in a convention room overlooking

Biscayne Bay.

The room was full of plates of assorted cheeses, coffee, puffed pastries and a mush-on-rye sandwich that looked suspicious.

As I helped myself to some food, Nader walked by.

The reception was in his honor and he gladly took advantage of the snacks. He stuffed his plates with the offerings. I introduced myself and put out my hand.

His mouth was full and he had too many plates in his hand to free himself to shake mine.

Understandable. But after he sat down and rested his plates on a table, he couldn’t be bothered with taking the time to shake my hand.

That is the Ralph Nader I will

remember – which is a shame.

Nader fought for the people all his life. In 1965, Nader wrote *Unsafe at Any Speed*, detailing the auto industry’s fight against putting seatbelts in cars, just so it could save a few extra bucks. For his investigative work, Nader saved countless American lives.

During his speech, Nader further discussed the stranglehold American corporations have over politicians.

He spoke in detail of the excessive amount of money Exxon lobbyists gave Congressmen, and drew howls when criticizing President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for occupying Iraq to fatten their wallets off of oil.

He said their campaign of fear and terror – which has resulted in more than 200,000 dead Iraqi civilians and millions more dis-

placed – distracts America from real safety issues, like coalminer safety and health.

He criticized big businesses like Nike for placating to child labor: Nike products are made in overseas sweatshops by little children.

Instead of calling on Bush to boycott the Olympics in China, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi should have called on Americans to boycott our own companies.

In fact, a 1999 study by American University suggests that American boycott of companies that use child labor is the best way to stop the hideous practice.

Nader continued his vicious onslaught on his favorite target: big business.

He garnered uproarious laughter when he asked, “Why should a guy be arrested for smoking a joint?”

The question was an introduction to a larger issue Nader posed: drug addiction is treated as a crime while alcohol and cigarette addiction are treated as illnesses, probably due to lobbyists.

After the audience sat wrestling that topic, Nader asked the audience how many people had been to Wal-Mart, Starbucks or McDonald’s in their lives. About 160 people raised their hands.

He then asked the audience how many people had attended a town council meeting or observed a court hearing in their lives, which only 20 had.

For his speech Nader received a standing ovation. After the speech, Nader sat outside the Wolfe Theatre and signed his latest book.

As he sat signing his book, pen in hand, I couldn’t shake the feeling that a presidential candidate was too busy to shake my hand.

LIVING THE DREAM ALUMNUS' NEXT STEP IS CREATING FULL LENGTH FILMS

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Not many people can say they've taken up the chance to drop whatever it is they are doing in life and pursue what they've always desired. For filmmaker and FIU alumnus-Justin Rount, that's just one more thing he can add on his resume.

Rount graduated from FIU with a degree in political science, but he decided to forgo a career in that field and pursue a career in the film industry. With that notion in mind, Rount formed Birch Creek Studios, an independent film company that produces short films, full-length films, hosts film festivals, advanced screenings and various other art related events. "I always wanted to [open a film studio]. I just never had the chance," he said. "I read a bunch of books on filmmaking, [and I] contacted people who knew what they were doing."

Birch Creek Studios started out small. In the beginning, Rount's studio focused solely on producing short films, like the well-received "ClearCut," "Alternate Paths" and "Killer Coffee."

"I got a lot of press and a lot of attention because of the first short films. We were doing pretty [well], so we decided to keep it up," Rount said. Birch Creek would then move on to partner with DreamWorks. The partnership required Rount to promote DreamWorks' movies by coordinating advanced screenings, the most recent being the computer-animated hit "Bee Movie," and previously, "Red Eye."

All aside, Rount's studio does more than just film-related events.

"A lot of our events have music involved. We've had hip-hop bands and rock bands. [We also] did a fashion show at Hotel Victor on South Beach." Presently,

The film was written by Rount and inspired by his thoughts on the world today.

"It's a comedy about a guy that is sick of the world. He loses a local election. He comes up with this great invention, and the whole world thinks he's a genius

the world, he tries to fix."

Rount hopes to premiere 'Dictator' before the end of April, and wants to have the first screening of the film at FIU, free for FIU students and alumni.

"FIU has helped me so much in the past," Rount said.

He explained that this would be his way of giving back to the FIU community.

Besides writing 'Dictator,' Rount is also directing and acting as the main character in the film. He said that due to all the time and effort being spent on making 'Dictator' a success, Birch Creek's other projects have been put off for now.

"I'm putting [all of that

other] stuff on hold and just focusing on my movie [right now]," he said. One event that Birch Creek is not planning to put on hold is another celebrity event in May which will feature clips from Birch Creek films, music and Ben McKenzie of "The O.C." as guest speaker. The event will be open to the public for an admission fee, but attendees may pay an extra fee to speak with McKenzie one-on-one before the function begins.

Even though production on 'Dictator' has yet to come to a close, Rount has let slip that Birch Creek is actually in preparations to begin shooting their next full-length film, which will be the first in a trilogy.

"It's called 'The Urban Hard Trilogy,'" he said.

For more information on Birch Creek Studios' events, and current or future works, visit the studio's Web site at <http://bcfs.us/>.

To view the trailer of "If I Were Dictator," visit the film's Web site at <http://www.dictatormovie.com/>.

Justin Rount, Filmmaker and FIU alumnus
I got a lot of press and a lot of attention because of the first short films. We were doing pretty [well], so we decided to keep it up

Birch Creek Studios has been focused on creating, marketing and delivering full-length movies.

"If I Were Dictator" will be the first full-length production to come out of Birch Creek.

because it solves so many problems... and he comes to power," he said. "I feel strong about making a change in the world, and that's what ["If I Were Dictator"] is all about. Every little irritating thing in

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
"IF I WERE DICTATOR"
PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

WWW.BCFS.US

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/BIRCHCREEKFILMS

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DICTATORMOVIE

DICTATOR MOVIE AT FACEBOOK

"A MAN INVENTS A DEVICE WHICH ALLOWS
HIM TO RULE THE WORLD.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE
DICTATOR?"

Animal art draws attention, revenue to zoos

DINESH RAMDE
AP WIRE

Brittany wields her paintbrush with confidence, slapping it roughly against the canvas to produce streaks of green or smears of orange.

With apparent pride, she steps back, inspects her work — and extends her trunk to receive a freshly loaded paintbrush.

Brittany, an African elephant, is doing her small part to pay her way at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Her artwork is sold at the zoo's gift shop to raise funds.

This painting pachyderm is far from the only artistic animal in captivity. For years zoos and aquariums across the country have encouraged animals to paint as a way to keep the penned-up denizens mentally enriched. Typically, the paintings were discarded or set aside.

But officials have recently discovered that animal lovers are willing to pay hundreds — or even

thousands — of dollars for the creatures' creations,

Gigi Allianic, Zoo spokeswoman
If you try to get him to do it two days in a row, he won't pick it up on the second day

prompting zoos across the country to study whether their animal artists might be an untapped source of revenue.

The Milwaukee zoo's

gift shop sells about 36 of Brittany's paintings each

year for \$30 each.

"She really seems to enjoy painting — she likes creating new things," elephant trainer Danielle Faucett said. "But we only

do it about once a month because we want to make sure the activity remains mentally stimulating."

Brittany is an eager artist. Her ears flare out as she attacks the canvas, swiping at it almost like Zorro wielding a sword, and she finishes in a matter of minutes while Faucett coos words of encouragement.

The menagerie of animals that can brandish a brush is seemingly endless. At zoos nationwide, painters include chimpanzees,

kangaroos, ocelots, repan-das and even a rhinoceros and Komodo dragon, said Jackie Marks, spokeswoman for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums in Silver Spring, Md.

One especially profitable painter is Towan, a 40-year-old orangutan at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. For Valentine's Day, the zoo auctioned a pair of his paintings on eBay for a total of more than \$1,300.

WEEKEND RUNDOWN

FRIDAY • APRIL 11

WHAT: AVP Crocs Pro Beach Volleyball Tour
WHERE: Ocean Drive
(between 8th and 9th Street on Ocean Drive)
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 - \$20

WHAT: Newport Guitar Festival
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center
1901 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Sicilian Film Festival
WHERE: Miami Beach Cinematheque
512 Española Way
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Star World Sailing Championship
2008 & Super Boat Miami Grand Prix
WHERE: Coral Reef Yacht Club
2484 S. Baysshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: 10th Anniversary of Miami Fashion Week
WHERE: Soho Building
2136 N.W. 1st Avenue & N.W. 21st St.
Miami, FL 33127
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25

SATURDAY • APRIL 12

WHAT: Terrence J's of "106 & Park" Birthday Bash
WHERE: Element
66 S.W. 6th St.
Miami, FL
WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free before 12:30 a.m.

WHAT: Iron and Wine
WHERE: Revolution Live
200 West Broward Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$21

WHAT: Margaret Cho
WHERE: Fillmore
1700 Washington Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$43.50

WHAT: Board Up Miami
WHERE: City of Miami Rowing Club
3601 Rickenbacker Causeway
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
WHEN: Beginning at 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Juanes
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
601 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$27 - \$97

SUNDAY • APRIL 13

WHAT: Rush
WHERE: BankAtlantic Center
2555 Panther Parkway
Sunrise, FL 33323
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50.75 - \$95.75

WHAT: Jesifra Lanmou Makiye
WHERE: Caleb Auditorium
5400 N.W. 22nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33142
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$19

WHAT: Amazing Sundays
WHERE: Nikki Beach
1 Ocean Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Mosaic Arts International 2008
WHERE: Bakehouse Art Complex
561 N.W. 32nd St.
Miami, FL 33111
WHEN: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Dade Heritage Days' Green Spaces
& Historic Places: Barnacle
Under Moonlight
WHERE: Barnacle State Historic Site
3485 Main Highway
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$7

Compiled by Cassandra Pool

Alabama Wine Trail draws criticism from Baptists

JAY REEVES
AP WIRE

CALERA, Ala. — Alabama has all sorts of tourist trails — there's one for civil rights, another for birds and yet another for old churches.

The newest one was introduced Tuesday to promote the state's wineries, but Baptists aren't joining in the celebratory toast.

A trade association and a tourism group came up with the Alabama Wine Trail to lure visitors to the state's eight wineries, which produce everything from fruity muscadine and peach wines to more traditional varieties such as merlot and chardonnay.

Tom Vizzini hopes the trail will increase traffic at his Vizzini Farms Winery, which produces as many as 3,000 cases a year.

He located it on the outskirts of Birmingham after running up against church opposition in a more rural area.

"We put our wines up against any of them from Califor-

nia," said Vizzini, whose grandfather was a vintner in Sicily.

But some say the wine can stay on the West Coast.

A Baptist leader in neighboring Chilton County said his group opposed the plans for a winery there and doesn't like the idea of luring tourists to his home turf or anywhere else in Alabama to imbibe.

"We are on record as being opposed to any kind of alcohol-related industry," said the Rev. Robert Griffin, moderator of the Chilton Baptist Association and pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Clanton.

"I would support visiting old, historic churches, but as far as visiting wineries..."

It's not just wine that draws scorn in conservative Alabama, where more than a third of the state's counties remain dry 75 years after Prohibition.

Southern Baptist churches claim about a quarter of the state's population.

The state regulates all alcohol sales, and it drew criticism in October for opening a state-run liquor store in downtown Birmingham on a Sunday after -

noon.

The governor intervened, and the agency said it wouldn't happen again.

The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association hopes its new wine promotion brings visitors to north Alabama; it's staying out of the moral debate over alcohol.

"We look at this purely from the tourist perspective," said Dana Lee Jennings, CEO of the association.

"It's about introducing a new tourism venue. Folks have enjoyed going through other states and visiting their wineries and shops with homemade cheeses and other things."

The surrounding states of Georgia, Florida and Tennessee already have wine trails, and Kentucky has a bourbon trail.

"Thank God for Mississippi. We're ahead of them," said Vizzini.

Tourist brochures will list the eight participating wineries in Alabama.

Visitors will get a "passport" for workers to stamp.

Anyone who visits all the wineries will get a wine glass

bearing the logos of each company, Vizzini said.

"And they'll get to taste some very good wine," he said.

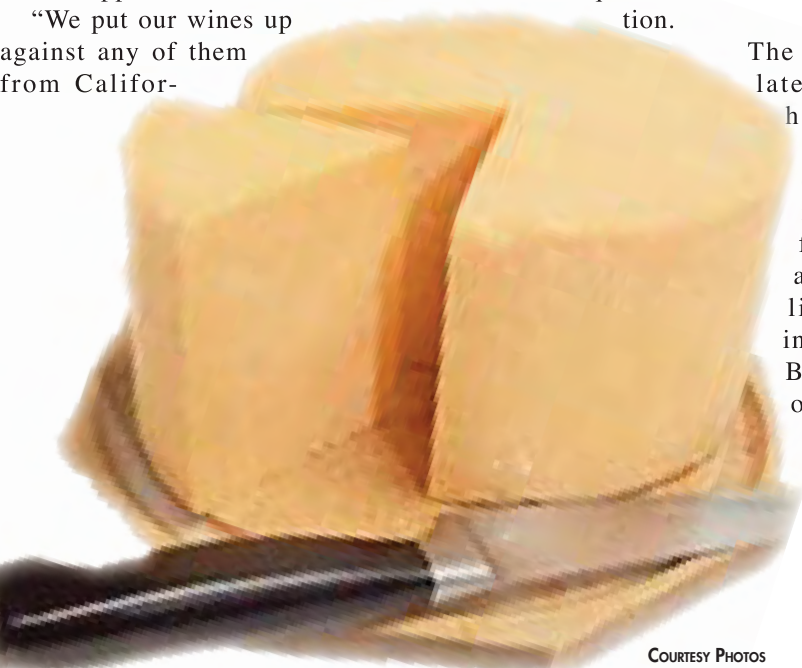
The trail is made up of members of the Alabama Wineries Association, one of two small wine groups in the state.

The head of the other organization, Lee Beadles, said overcoming opposition to alcohol is a constant hurdle for the group.

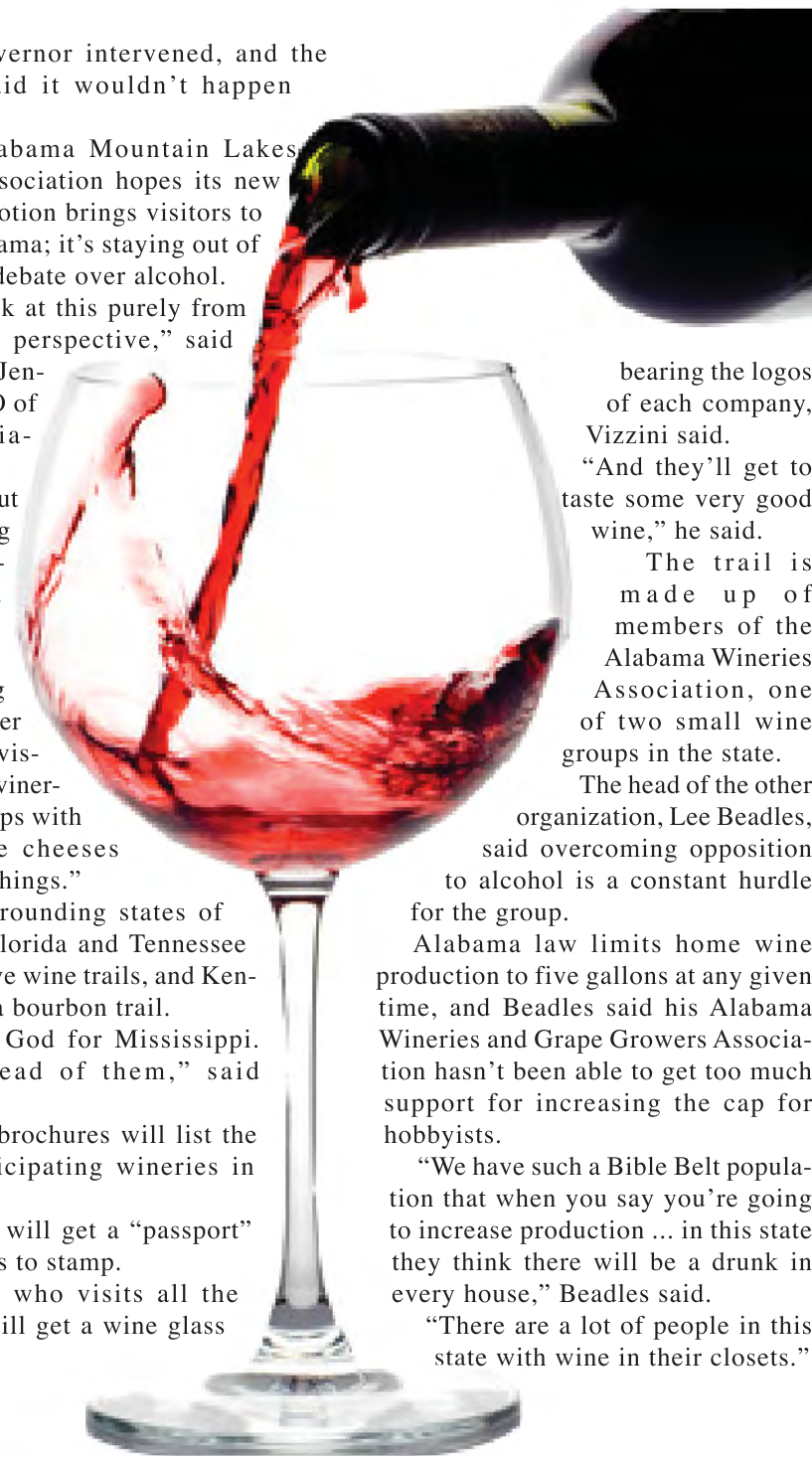
Alabama law limits home wine production to five gallons at any given time, and Beadles said his Alabama Wineries and Grape Growers Association hasn't been able to get too much support for increasing the cap for hobbyists.

"We have such a Bible Belt population that when you say you're going to increase production ... in this state they think there will be a drunk in every house," Beadles said.

"There are a lot of people in this state with wine in their closets."



COURTESY PHOTOS



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Elephants, animals become artists at Milwaukee Zoo

ELEPHANT, page 6

As lucrative as Towan's works have been, keepers can only get him to produce a limited number of paintings.

"If you try to get him to do it two days in a row, he won't pick it up on the second day," said zoo spokeswoman Gigi Allianic. "You can't make it routine for the animal or they lose interest."

That's the challenge for most zookeepers, who say they won't sacrifice an animal's enrichment for the sake of making a quick buck.

Also, some animal artists can be as temperamental as their human counterparts.

Sea lions ply the painting trade with their mouths — they hold a stick in their teeth from which a paintbrush juts out in a T shape.

But when they don't want to paint, no amount of cajoling can convince them otherwise, said Henry Kacprzyk, a curator with the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium.

"If they don't want to participate, they'll just



PHOTO COURTESY

JUMBO ARTIST: Brittany, an African elephant at the Milwaukee zoo, paints her masterpiece.

ignore you, they'll leave," Kacprzyk said of his zoo's three sea lions. "There's not much you can do — they swim faster than we do."

Artistic "talent" seems as diversely distributed among animals as among humans, zoo officials say.

Just as some people are more artistically inclined than others, so, too, is the case for chimps, elephants and so on.

Some animals are eager participants while others turn up their noses — or trunks — at the sight of a brush.

Of course, beauty — and

artistic talent — are in the eyes of the beholder. People who buy animal paintings are rarely art aficionados. Instead, they're typically animal lovers who know the money is going toward a good cause.

But some animal artwork can be surprisingly valuable, none more so than three paintings produced in the 1950s by a chimpanzee named Congo.

The abstracts sold in 2005 for a total of \$26,352 at a London auction where competing works by Renoir and Andy Warhol languished unsold.

HAMMER TIME



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

CAR SMASH: Jackie Ponce, an English major scheduled to graduate in 2009 takes out her rage on an old abandoned car to raise money for a charity cause



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SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDING

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT
Florida Atlantic	9-3	27-19	.587
Louisian-Lafayette	6-2	27-10	.730
Troy	9-6	24-17	.585
Florida International	6-5	22-26	.458
North Texas	8-7	20-23	.465
Middle Tennessee	7-7	14-18	.438
South Alabama	4-8	18-21	.462
ULM	4-8	12-26	.316
Western Kentucky	2-9	14-20	.412

*All records up to date as of April 9, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Min	2.0 AB	G	Avg	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
Tankersley ULL	37	.454	119	32	54	49	6	3	14	18	
Cantler NT	43	.401	137	21	55	36	13	0	4	13	
Waters NT	35	.391	92	23	36	18	3	0	6	14	
Smith ULL	35	.391	87	26	34	4	1	0	0	10	
White FIU	48	.389	149	40	58	37	13	2	12	21	
Antone WKU	34	.379	103	22	39	21	5	0	10	6	
Pare USA	39	.362	130	26	47	9	0	2	1	17	
Abel MT	32	.359	103	19	37	18	4	2	3	7	
Soto ULL	37	.358	120	18	43	36	15	1	4	10	
Rodriguez FIU	48	.355	152	32	54	42	9	3	14	19	

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Min	1.0 IP	App	ERA	W-L	Sv	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bourgeois ULL	20	1.41	7-2	1	69.1	53	19	14	18	85	
Williams Troy	37	1.49	20-9	3	206.1	162	75	44	49	194	
Brignac ULL	23	1.67	16-6	1	121.2	67	41	29	65	175	
Pilgrim USA	26	2.14	10-9	2	144.0	119	54	44	29	131	
Vander Lugt MT	24	2.25	10-9	1	143.0	163	68	46	15	77	
Gressley FAU	25	2.37	12-5	0	121.1	110	51	41	41	54	
Cuevas ULL	14	2.45	4-2	0	48.2	32	17	17	20	71	
Fowler MT	23	2.59	7-8	0	97.1	100	44	36	28	65	
Barton FAU	35	2.69	15-13	1	203.1	199	102	78	78	148	
Smith USA	17	2.73	3-4	1	56.1	50	27	22	11	41	

SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Louisiana-Monroe	20-9	12-3	.800
Troy	20-12	9-3	.750
Florida Atlantic	18-11	8-5	.615
Western Kentucky	18-11	6-6	.500
South Alabama	18-13	6-6	.500
Louisiana-Lafayette	14-15	7-8	.467
New Orleans	20-9	5-6	.455
Middle Tennessee	13-14	6-8	.429
Fla. International	11-23	5-7	.417
Arkansas St.	14-17	5-9	.357
UALR	7-21	3-10	.231

*All records up to date as of April 9, 2008

SUN BELT LEADERS

HITS		DOUBLES	
Min	2.0 AB	Min	2.0 AB
Castillo FIU	55	Miller Troy	16
Hines MT	51	Jernigan USA	15
Kruml USA	49	Castillo FIU	12
RBI		HOME RUNS	
Min	2.0 AB	Min	2.0 AB
McKenna FAU	50	McKenna, FAU	14
Cregar WKU	47	Cregar WKU	11

Softball plays conference rival on road while tennis battles at home

WEEKEND PREVIEW, page 12

above the Golden Panthers in the Sun Belt Conference standings. The three-game series is an opportunity to move up in the standings as five teams above the Golden Panthers have a record of .500 or lower.

SOFTBALL

Roughly 200 yards away from the University Park Stadium, the softball team is playing similarly to the baseball team, but with a better record to show for it.

The softball team (22-26) is headed on the road against Middle Tennessee (14-18) April 12-13.

After getting swept against Louisiana-Lafayette on April 5-6, FIU has dropped from second in the Sun Belt Conference standings to fourth.

Even though the Golden Panthers are one of the top hitting

teams in the conference, they fall dead last in team ERA and fielding. The team's faulty defense hurt them against ULL as the Golden Panthers allowed six unearned runs.

During the series, the Golden Panthers lost by a combined five runs.

A more solid defense would've resulted in upset wins against the No. 19 ranked team in the country.

The Golden Panthers' conference leading 57 home runs and 247 runs scored did not help them against an elite team, but those numbers should serve as a powerful tool against a lower tier team like the Blue Raiders.

The Golden Panthers' starting ace Kasey Barret should also return to dominating form. Despite the team's three-game sweep, the Golden Panthers are still poised to finish among the leaders in the

conference.

TENNIS

The only ranked team at FIU had its four-game winning streak snapped by the University of South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth on April 4 and 5. Both teams are ranked among the top 45 teams in the country.

With the 9-8 tennis team going up against 3-14 Florida Atlantic University on April 11 at University Park Stadium, the Golden Panthers' two-game losing skid should be over.

On April 13, South Alabama (16-3) should be more of a test for FIU.

Despite the team's superior record, the two teams are evenly matched in terms of ranking.

The Jaguars are ranked No. 47, while the Golden Panthers are ranked No. 45.

College presidents, athletic directors disapprove of beer advertisements

JUSTIN POPE
AP Wire

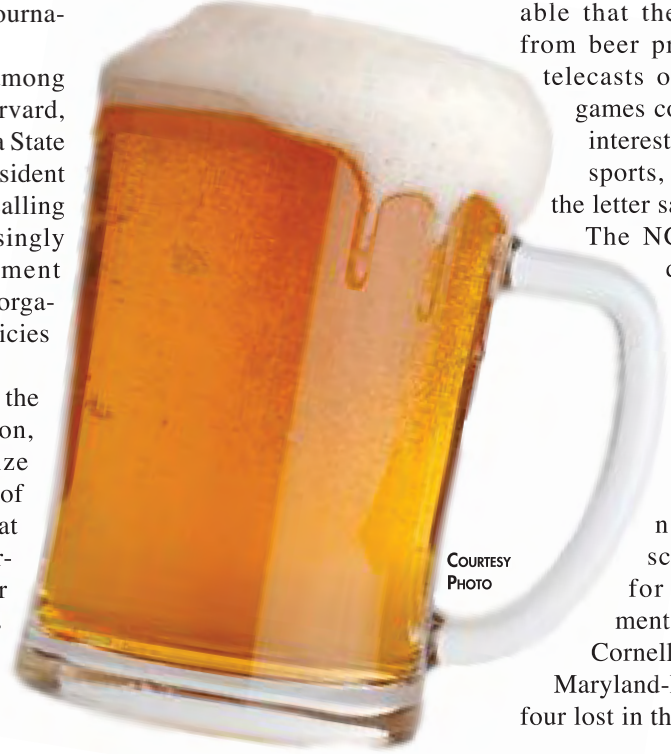
For more than 100 college presidents and athletic directors, beer and the NCAA men's basketball tournament don't mix.

The college leaders — among them the top officials at Harvard, Abilene Christian and Georgia State — wrote a letter to NCAA President Myles Brand on Wednesday calling beer advertising “embarrassingly prominent” during tournament broadcasts. They asked the organization to reconsider its policies on alcohol advertising.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, D.C., which helped organize the letter, accused the NCAA of violating its own policies that supposedly limit beer advertising to 60 seconds per hour and no more than 120 seconds per telecast. The center said it counted 200 seconds and 240 seconds of beer advertising during Saturday's two

semifinal games, and 270 seconds during Monday night's final, when Kansas defeated Memphis 75-68 in overtime.

The NCAA bylaws do not allow any



COURTESY PHOTO

advertising for hard alcohol.

“Given the persistent problems caused by underage and excessive college drinking, much of it in the form of beer, we find it inconceivable that the NCAA's profiting from beer promotion during the telecasts of college basketball games comports with the best interests of higher education, sports, or student welfare,” the letter said.

The NCAA did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment, nor did a spokeswoman for CBS Sports, which broadcast the Final Four.

Among the signatories were four schools that qualified for this year's tournament — Baylor, Winthrop, Cornell and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. All four lost in the first round.

Marlins will not win division; Tigers to recover from slump

VILLARMARZO, page 12

The season has barely started and there's plenty of time for teams to heat up or stumble badly.

Come on, do you really think the Marlins are going to remain in first place with suspect starting pitching and a bullpen whose arms are going to get blown out by the All-Star break?

As for the Tigers, any lineup with Miguel Cabrera, Gary Sheffield, Magglio Ordonez, Edgar Renteria, Carlos Guillen and Ivan Rodriguez should not and will not be in the cellar.

Then again, there's always the unexpected, and I totally broke my own rule with the previous paragraph.

But that doesn't matter. As the season rolls along, we'll start seeing more familiar names among the league leaders and familiar teams in the hunt for the division titles.

For the time being, we should all take advice from the famous Greek philosopher Socrates:

All I know is that I know nothing early in the baseball season.

OK, so I may have embellished those last five words.

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WEEKEND PREVIEW

TRYING TO BOUNCE BACK



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

LOOKING AHEAD: The baseball team struggles as the softball and tennis teams head into redemption seeking games.

Baseball and softball teams coming off series sweeps

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The baseball and softball teams both head into the weekend coming off series sweeps, while the tennis team attempts to bounce back from two straight losses.

With each respective team's season winding down, each upcoming series and game is a chance to move up in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

BASEBALL

The baseball team (11-23) heads into the weekend facing one of the more mediocre opponents it has faced in the last two weeks, Middle Tennessee (13-14-1), from April 11-13 at University Park.

Although pitching has hurt the Golden

Panthers during their last six games, sloppy defense has also been a big contributor to extending innings, allowing opposing teams to score runs in bunches.

As a result, Golden Panthers have allowed 10 or more runs during 15 of their 23 losses.

Against No. 2 ranked University of Miami, the Golden Panthers allowed six runs in the second inning and were not able to recover for the rest of the game.

Western Kentucky scored seven runs in the fourth inning against FIU, the game ended in a 17-1 rout.

In addition to bad defense, the usually potent offense has not been scoring timely runs. Infielder Jorge Castillo's 29-game hitting streak is impressive, but the

offense as a whole hasn't come through in the low scoring games.

The once offensive powerhouse, Golden Panthers, has not scored in double-digits since March 18 when they scored in eight of their first 21 games.

As a team, the Golden Panthers are hitting .294 and are currently ranked eighth in the Sun Belt Conference.

With the offense waning late in the season, Middle Tennessee might be a fresh of breath air for FIU. After facing three of the top five teams in the nation, FIU goes on to face conference opponent with a 6.23 ERA.

The Blue Raiders are also one spot

WEEKEND PREVIEW, page 11

SPRING FOOTBALL

Starting quarterback injured; backups lead offensive drills

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Last season's starting quarterback Wayne Younger is still out due to an off-season surgery to his broken collarbone, and he has not seen action in the spring football games.

Sophomore Colt Anderson and junior Paul McCall have taken most of the snaps during spring football practice.

On April 5, Anderson threw two touchdown passes and McCall led the team to three scores. Anderson completed 10 passes for 137 yards with two completions of 28 and 32 yards to sophomore wide receiver Marquis Rolle.

Anderson completed an 8-yard touchdown to sophomore James Rucker.

McCall led the offense on a 11-play, 68-yard drive, which ended with a two-yard run touchdown by running back Julian Reams.

Leading the receiving corps was Jeremy

Dickens, who had four catches, including catches of 25 and 28 yards.

The offensive drive was helped by the defensive squad committing several penalties.

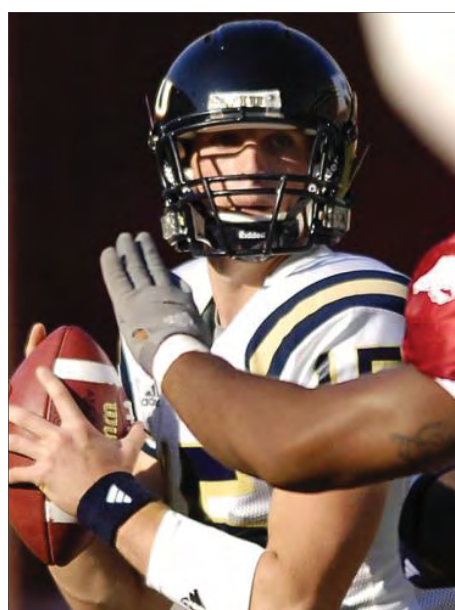
"I didn't like the amount of penalties we had; although I know they were just trying to be aggressive," said coach Mario Cristobal.

All defensive penalties aside, the defense had its bright spots, including senior Reggie Jones picking up 2.5 sacks.

On the rushing side of the ball, senior running back A'mod Ned contributed to the offense by running for two touchdowns, including a 46-yard dash past the defensive unit after breaking tackles at the line of scrimmage.

On April 8, inclement weather cut the spring football practice midway, and the team was forced to finish the remainder of the practice indoors.

"We got a lot of work in, but we didn't



SAM LEWIS/FIU ATHLETICS

STEPPING UP: Sophomore quarterback Colt Anderson threw for 137 yards and two touchdowns during spring football scrimmage.

finish some things we wanted to," Cristobal said. "Once you start a day, you have to finish it.

"You don't buy a day back in spring ball. We got plenty of work done with walkthroughs."

*Too early to tell
what's in store
for MLB in 08*



Commentary

Xavier Villarmarzo
Copy Editor

The Florida Marlins are in first place? The high-powered and heavily favored Detroit Tigers are winless?

What's going on in Major League Baseball?

There is something off kilter when Milwaukee Brewers catcher Jason Kendall is leading the league with a .523 batting average.

And there's definitely something weird happening when a player in just his second season – Arizona Diamondbacks third baseman Mark Reynolds – leads the league in home runs and RBI.

Actually, no there isn't, because it's only the second week of the season. Anomalies are normal this time in the season, but people always tend to overreact.

There's really no reason to jump the gun, because as the season rolls around, normality will soon begin to set in.

As of April 9, the Marlins are one game up in the National League East division, leading some fans to believe the team has a shot at a playoff run.

Also, the Tigers and their powerful lineup are 0-7 and have been shut out twice already this season after only being shut out three times all of last season, leading some of their fans to think the world is ending.

Teams have played around seven games thus far, which means there's just a mere 155 left.

Let's face it; the Marlins are not going to win the division this season, next season and probably the season after.

In fact, division standings shouldn't even be released until at least 30 games have been played.

The fact that the numbers are there compels fans and beat writers alike to claim insane things very early in the season.

Take last year, for instance, the New York Mets had a commanding lead of the NL East and people were talking about a possible run at the World Series.

By season's end, they had collapsed historically and lost the division title to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Things like that happen in baseball all the time. You always have to expect the unexpected, but making bold predictions after just seven games is irresponsible and idiotic.

If you take a test with 100 questions and you get the first five wrong, does that mean you're going to fail the test? Exactly. Not necessarily.

So leave the poor Tigers alone and stop putting so much pressure on the young Marlins.

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