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Women's Center helps rape victims

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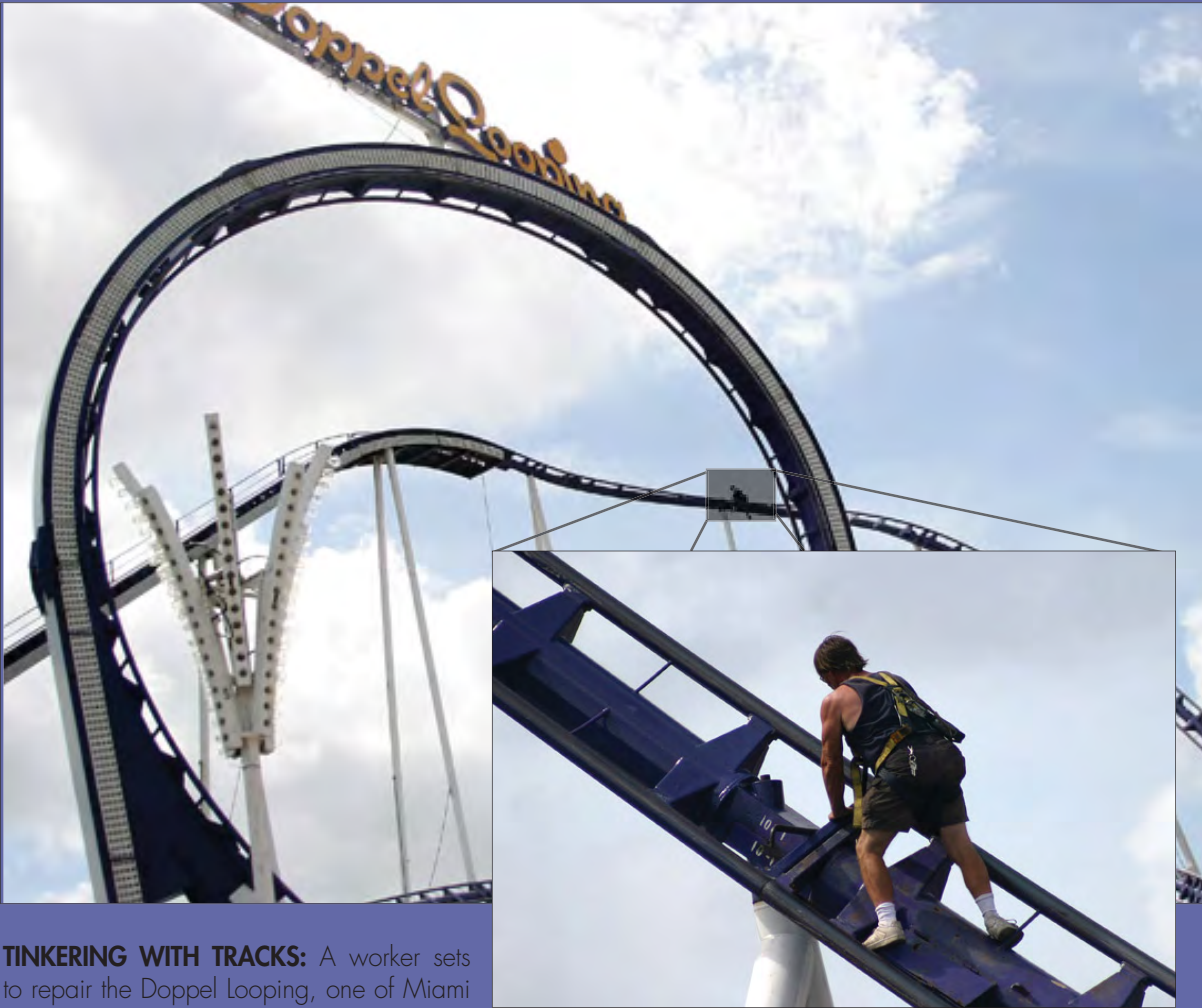
SHORTCOMINGS

Softball loses in close series

SPORTS

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FATAL ATTRACTION?



TINKERING WITH TRACKS: A worker sets to repair the Doppel Looping, one of Miami Dade-County Youth Fair's most popular rides.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Youth Fair coaster safety a big concern

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Late at night, screams can be heard in the housing area of University Park. They aren't from people being hurt, but from visitors of the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair.

Due to accidents in the recent past, the question of whether or not those rides are safe has been raised.

Even though The Fair's attractions are capable of producing fear by sending people into every direction possible, it is a controlled

fear, and many assume they are perfectly safe.

"It is a little scary, but I think I would try it once," said senior Amy Sherman, when asked if she would be willing to ride one of The Fair's roller coasters. "I think someone fell off one recently."

A woman fell out of the Convoy ride on April 5 with her toddler, both were treated at a local hospital. Another fair incident this year involved a young boy receiving an electrical shock while riding one of the carousels.

Both injuries are under investigation by the state.

"It is not often that we have a mechanical error," said Mike Rinehart, corporate director of safety for North American Midway Entertainment, the company that provides the Fair's rides.

According to its marketing department, The Fair changed its service provider from Conklin Shows to Midway about two years ago. The switch took place after several serious ride

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Schedule changes leave education majors frustrated

JUAN PRADO
Contributing Writer

When elementary education major Hector Suco heard about the shift to a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class schedule, he worried he would not have enough time to finish his 80 field hours in an elementary school in order to graduate from the College of Education.

In early February of this year, he decided to start a petition and conduct a survey to try to bring back the two-day a week schedule.

"I don't like seeing the faces of fellow classmates when they complain about the current schedule of classes," Suco said.

The survey asked 194 people if they were for or against the current sched-

and international education. She is also a member of the subcommittee in the College of Education that developed, conducted and analyzed the survey.

Shortly after introducing the petition, Suco contacted Dean of the College of Education Luis Mirón.

According to Suco, Mirón said the three-day class schedule was an FIU policy and even with the petition, any decision to reverse the changes were out of the College of Education's hands.

Mirón declined to comment for this story.

FIU changed its schedule of classes in Fall 2007.

The move was made to increase the effectiveness of classroom utilization in order to receive more funds from the state.

Students and teachers

Jose Gutierrez, Education Major

I really hope at least the education department can go back to the old schedule.

ule.

Of the students surveyed, 178 responded against the present schedule and signed the petition.

"With 91.75 percent of the signers against the current schedule of classes, I think that the petition has been successful in itself," Suco said.

Another survey conducted by the College of Education indicated that from 535 students surveyed, about two-thirds of students were against the new schedule.

"From the results of the survey, a livable alternative for both students and faculty is to go to the two days a week schedule for classes before 5 p.m., and to allow colleges to be granted exceptions," said Hilary Landorf, assistant professor of social studies

alike have struggled to adapt to the change.

"Students say that they miss much more class because they simply cannot afford the commuting time, gas and missed work," Landorf said.

Jose Gutierrez, a math education major, attests to this.

"In the past, I was able to do my field hours on a Friday or when I had a day off," Gutierrez said. "I really hope at least the Education Department can go back to the old schedule. Three-day classes are really horrible."

And for Suco, the changes continue to press him for time.

"Personally, I have had to arrange my schedule of classes so I only go to school M-W-F, to leave T-R open so I can do my field hours," Suco said.

MUSIC BUSINESS

Class-produced CD premieres at Flavour

NADIA KJANKA
Staff Writer

Students in Professor Oswaldo Rossi's Music Business course won't be in a classroom on April 11.

Instead, they will be at Flavour Night Club in Coconut Grove hosting the release party for *All Rights Reserved*, an original CD

produced entirely by the class.

"This premiere will indeed be a stepping stone for many students eager to branch out into the music business," said junior Sade Alexander, general manager of the CD.

The free party starts at 9 p.m., will last until midnight or later and is open to

the public 18 and older.

The CD is composed of songs from various local artists, students in the class and friends of students. Live performances from bands featured on the CD include FLI Crew, Art Official, Jacob Jeffries Band and Onkore.

Onkore, a solo artist, vice president for the class

project and master engineer of the CD, worked on constructing the sound levels, putting the tracks in order and formatting the songs to make the overall sound of the CD coherent.

Onkore looks forward to performing and the extra exposure the event will

MUSIC, page 2

Safety of Fair's oldest ride under speculation

FAIR, page 1

accidents occurred under Conklin Shows.

In 2004, Gravitron, the spinning spaceship ride, fell apart while fair-goers were riding it. Three people were ejected and one was left in a coma.

As a result, the Gravitron and all of its versions were banned from being used at The Fair.

"[Rides] are inspected once each day and sometimes during operations we also check blocking, connecting pins and bolts around the track," Rinehart said.

Currently, the one ride with the most uncertainty as to its safety is also The Fair's largest attraction—the Doppie Looping, also known as the Double Looper.

Designed by Anton Schwarzkopf, it sports a 93-foot drop and reaches speeds of 52 mph over 2,200 foot long track.

Schwarzkopf coasters were among the first to successfully incorporate loops into roller coaster layouts, but one of the most notorious roller coaster crashes of all time involved a Schwarzkopf design in 1986 at the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada.

A wheel came off the coaster's train and

the car derailed, killing three people.

Subsequent investigations revealed the ride was not properly maintained and the crew had ignored safety guidelines.

The Doppie Looping is scheduled to be decommissioned at the end of this year's Fair. It is the oldest roller coaster at The Fair.

According to a May 5, 2005 article by John Tuohy in *The Indianapolis Star*, 85 percent of on-ride accidents are due to people failing to follow ride safety rules.

Ten percent are due to human error in operating the ride and the final five percent are due to malfunctioning rides.

"The odds of being hurt while riding a roller coaster are nearly astronomical," said Michael Hupalo, Youth Fair field director of safety. "Many more people are injured by garden hoses, household products or lightning strikes than injured by a roller coaster."

According to Rinehart, The Fair's roller coasters are controlled by computer programs that alert staff if a problem could arise during operation.

Also, The Fair uses specialized weather equipment to monitor local storms, as the greatest risk to any tall ride is a lightning strike.

Upcoming Scholarships

Name: Adolfo Henriques Scholarship

Amount Awarded: \$1,250

Due Date: April 30 3 p.m.

Eligibility: Fully admitted, undergraduate OR graduate, degree-seeking student. Undergraduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, unless otherwise indicated. Graduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher, unless otherwise indicated. Students must be enrolled in at least nine undergraduate credits or six graduate credits during the term of the award, unless otherwise indicated. Submission of a typed essay (maximum two-page, double spaced) about yourself that describes your educational and professional goals and explains how being a recipient of a scholarship will help you. Please include a letter of recommendation.

Name: Madeline T. Kitts Scholarship

Amount Awarded: \$2,000 - \$3,000

Due Date: April 30 3 p.m.

Eligibility: Fully admitted, undergraduate or graduate, degree-seeking student. Undergraduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, unless otherwise indicated. Graduate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher, unless otherwise indicated. Students must be enrolled in at least nine undergraduate credits or six graduate credits during the term of the award, unless otherwise indicated. Submission of a typed essay (maximum two-page, double spaced) about yourself that describes your educational and professional goals and explains how being a recipient of a scholarship will help you. Preference is given to African-American females. African-American males may be considered.

To list your scholarships here, e-mail Kassandra.Pool@fiusm.com

Class initiative creates opportunities for students

MUSIC, page 1

give him.

"This semester the students worked really hard, and I expect the turnout to be really good this year. I'm hoping to make some new connections, gain some more fans, meet people and take my music to the next level," Onkore said.

Okore's classmates Jahida Jorganes, Pablo Capote and Marcelo Ferreira may also perform between the featured bands.

Rossi believes the con-

nections and experience gained from this event will be invaluable to both the students interested in the business and the bands trying to promote themselves in the industry.

"The idea of having a live performance is to draw a bigger crowd for the bands. Plus, it allows a way to showcase the music that's involved and embodied in the album," Rossi said.

Anticipated guests include Manolo Diaz, head of EMI Music Latin America; and Jorge Mejia, vice

president Sony/ATV Music Publishing Latin America.

Some of the companies sponsoring the release party are Epiphone, Gibson and Rock the Vote.

Many students in the class are eager to mingle with prominent figures in the music business and anyone else who could be a potential connection.

"This business is all about who you know and what you can do for someone, and visa versa," Alexander said.

Rossi himself may be a connection for students interested in the music business.

When he's not teaching his Music Business class at night, Rossi serves as director of legal affairs for EMI Televisa Music, a major recording company.

"He knows his stuff inside and out and never hesitates to speak his mind," Alexander said.

While the party promises to be a great time for students, Rossi is preparing for the event to be a bittersweet one for himself.

"For me, this is going to be the last hurrah, since all the music adjunct professors are being let go due to the budget cut," Rossi said.

THE BEACON



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INFORMATION

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Event combats sexual violence

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life! Editor

Take Back the Night aims to demonstrate the prevalence of violence and rape, while helping victims reconcile their experiences. On April 10 at 7 p.m., the Women's Center will host the 4th annual event in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square. The square will be lined with shoes, each with a story attached that equates to the hundreds that have been

raped or sexually assaulted. Lourdes Martin, co-chair for Take Back the Night, explained the event.

"Sexual violence is still a taboo subject, we are hoping we can start a dialogue in an effort to break the silence and promote awareness," said Martin, associate director for Victim Advocacy Center.

Betty Mathurin, a former work study student for the Women's Center and an active participant in the event, further illustrated.

"Along with notifying the

students of sexual assault and violence, the shoes are also donated to homeless shelters like Camillus House," said Mathurin, a junior majoring in psychology.

According to Martin, the majority of rapes are done by someone one the victim knows, not a stranger.

"Anywhere from 65 - 87 percent of rapes are committed by someone that the victim knows and with Take Back the Night we are trying to shed light on this," Martin said.

Participants will walk through the school chanting empowering mantras such as "No means no; yes means yes," and "Women and men unite; take back the night." Victim Advocacy, Counseling Services and the Wellness Center will be there to answer questions.

"After the incident happens, everything is dark and you feel dull, so Take Back the Night is uplifting and encouraging in saying don't let it keep you down," Mathurin said.

North Miami's sushi scene is raw



Commentary
Bianca Rojas
Contributing Writer

I took it upon myself to survey local sushi joints near the Biscayne Bay Campus. Why? Well for one, I love sushi and I'm sure other students do too. Also, I feel the surrounding sushi restaurants each have their own personalities.

The following are sushi restaurants within a 5 mile radius of BBC:

1. Hiro's Sushi & Yakatori Bar, 3007 NE 163 Street, North Miami Beach - Hiro's has the personality of a drunken Saturday night. Once the weekend sun sets, this neighborhood favorite turns on the techno music and serves more green tea martinis than any other sushi bar on my list.

This is the place for a great midnight snack.

Though Hiro's offers an excellent atmosphere and late hours, it is open until 3:30 a.m. At first, ordering *a la carte* might seem expensive, but it is part of the sushi bar experience.

My favorites include the hosomaki - your favorite fish or vegetable wrapped in Japanese rice and seaweed - and especially the avocado rolls. Although the avocado roll is not a traditional Japanese dish, this South Florida twist on sushi is served fresh, ripe and full of flavor.

I wouldn't suggest the salmon skin hand roll. It was the only disappointing moment of my meal. The service at Hiro's was quick and prices were average - about \$20 per person including tip. I give it three out of five stars.

2. Miyako, 18090 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles - Miyako is one of my favorite spots for when I am ravaged with hunger and craving sushi rolls at a cheap price. Miyako offers an all-you-can-eat menu for only \$12.99 per person. Unfortunately, this might not be the best sushi bar for sashimi lovers - not enough varieties are offered on their menu.

Although I think this is a great spot for budget diners, year after year

it seems to gain more faults. The restaurant rarely has more than two servers on the floor at a time. Add to this the tourist impact from the surrounding beach resorts and the service is sometimes downright infuriating.

Fortunately, the wait staff is never rude or unpleasant. Also, the salmon skin hand roll is probably one of the best in Miami. I give it two stars.

3. Thai House II, 2250 NE 163 Street, #5, North Miami Beach - Thai House II is not a Japanese restaurant, but besides serving authentic and delicious Thai dishes, like tom yong goon soup and red curry, they have a traditional sushi bar.

For sushi roll lovers, the hosomaki combo - containing a cup of miso soup and one each of the salmon bagel, tuna, and California roll - is moderately priced and will leave you stuffed for days.

The most alluring part of Thai House II's sushi bar is the quality of product. Everything there looks appealing and tastes fresh. It offers unique experiences, like barefoot floor seating and servers dressed in traditional Thai garb.

Thai House II is usually packed at peak times like weekend evenings. The lunch menu is great for students. Served Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch specials include full three course meals for less than \$10. Thai House II receives my highest praise for serving both sushi and Thai food that is out of this world. I give it five stars.

4. Sushi Siam, 19575 Biscayne Boulevard, in the Aventura Mall - Sushi Siam is the perfect destination for an expensive night out.

A fusion-style menu features amazing house specialty items, like the crab and avocado salad, served with a bed of greens, shoestring fried potatoes and a ginger vinaigrette. This salad is a must-try and worth the price at \$8.95.

The sushi has also evolved with their fusion menu resulting in creative rolls incorporating atypical sushi ingredients like duck. But don't visit on a college student's budget because an average check, including tip, is usually between \$30-\$50 per person.

This is the perfect date spot. I give it four stars.

APPRECIATING THE WILDLIFE



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

LIZARD SKIN: David Reyes, hospitality major, photographs an iguana basking in the sun in the parking lot at the Biscayne Bay Campus on his way to his car.

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TAINED BALLOTS



LYNNE SLADKY/AP PHOTOS

MOVING FORWARD: Gov. Charlie Crist, last May, after signing the bill that moved up Florida's primary.

Don't seat delegates without recount

RICK MARTINEZ
Online Director

Michigan and our great state of Florida have been in the news rather often lately, all over a new controversy about how primary votes in those states will be valued.

It seems like the plague has hit us once again.

On Jan. 29, a primary vote for the Democratic presidential nominee was held in Florida. Many of us voted and many of us did not.

I personally did not vote. I did not vote because it was a busy day for me and I knew the vote wouldn't count anyway, due to Florida's Democratic Party breaking convention rules by holding the primary early.

Now as the race to the nomination is truly heating up, people are bringing up whether or not Michigan's or Florida's votes should be counted. The argument is that people should be represented in the decision making process, even though their parties made a mistake.

Although I do agree that Michigan and Florida should be included in the nominating process, we cannot use the results of January's primary votes.

Hillary Clinton, John Edwards

and Barack Obama agreed that they would not campaign in Florida due to the situation with the state, but Hillary broke her word.

She campaigned anyways and ended up winning the state by a very comfortable margin.

Due to this, neither Edwards nor Obama were able to at least try to gain votes in Florida.

Also, because everyone was under the impression that Florida's

cal in such a tight race.

I would like our state's voices to be heard, but only if the candidates get a chance to evenly campaign here and the voters believe that their votes will actually count.

Michigan declared on Friday that they will not hold a re-vote because it is too difficult and nearly impossible to plan and execute in time for the convention. Florida Democrats have already made that

“ Michigan and Florida should be included, but we cannot use the results of January's primary. ”

votes would not count, some might have elected not to vote since they did not believe it would count.

The results in Florida and Michigan cannot be held as accurate representations of how the states' populations feel about the candidates. The only way that that our votes can be included in the process is by allowing candidates to campaign and hold a re-vote.

Without this, we cannot have a fair and just primary election, which is something that is so criti-

cal.

So what is to happen to our votes? I think they should be scrapped because they are tainted.

The most accurate representation of how the country feels about the candidates can best be calculated by the results of the other states where candidates have campaigned fairly and where voters knew their votes would actually count.

Rick Martinez can be contacted at rick@fiusm.com

THE SOAPBOX:

An Op-Ed Column

Parking fees should only be paid by those who own a car

KIMBERLY ENGELHARDT
Special to The Beacon

It's 6:15 in the morning and the alarm bell rings. Time to get up.

A long day awaits me. After getting dressed and eating a ten-minute breakfast, I jump into my father's car and yell, "Hurry up! I'm going to be late for the train! And if I miss the train, I'll miss the bus, too!"

Yes, I ride public transportation every day.

It takes me up to two hours a day to get to Biscayne Bay Campus.

That's four hours of my life in public transportation every day, 20 hours a week, which equates to a part-time job.

I am totally grateful for the student Metropass. Without it, I wouldn't be able to go to FIU to pursue my lifelong passion of advertising.

With the Metropass, I don't have to worry about making car payments, paying for insurance, paying for gas and using up a parking space in the campus parking lot.

Plus, I'm helping out the environment. (I'm totally for the Green Movement.)

However, the idea of saving money, gas and the environment is not lauded by FIU's Department of Parking and Transportation.

Why do I need to pay the parking fee when I don't even walk through their parking lot?

It pains me to pay \$65.27 out of my pocket for something I don't even use in the summer.

Why can't I use that money to pay for my Metropass, which costs me \$37.50 every month?

I'm only taking two classes during Summer A, and with parking fees and Metropasses alone, I will be paying \$140.27. I should only be paying \$75 for the two Metropasses I need for the summer.

Yes, I understand that FIU is going through a budget crisis. However, FIU must also understand that we're going through our own personal crises: rising gas prices, fewer job offerings, rising cost of living and the impending recession.

Students who ride public transportation or alternative transportation should be awarded for their efforts and be exempt from paying the parking fee.

That's why I propose a change in the FIU system. The parking fee should be optional.

It should be under the "To Do" list along with the Book Advance.

If students are going to use a car, they just need to check it off, pay the fee online or in person and pick up the decal.

Students who use public transportation don't have to pay the fee and can use that money to pay for their public transportation costs.

Yes, \$65.27 may mean nothing to some of you, but to others who are tight on budget, it means the world to us.

Kimberly Engelhardt is a junior majoring in advertising.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say? Contact us at eric.feldman@fiusm.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to eric.feldman@fiusm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

New Bond film focuses on visual flair

RYAN PEARSON
AP WIRE

After getting the bad end of his own ax in a fight, a bloodied villain limps alone in a stark desert. Mathieu Amalric stumbles to the red, rocky ground. "CUT!" rings loudly from the set of the 22nd James Bond film. Picking up an hour after "Casino Royale" left off, "Quantum of Solace" is the spy franchise's first direct sequel. Filming began in January and has taken the crew from Britain to Panama, to this moonlike landscape in northern Chile. It's a place that director Marc Forster said evokes Bond's "isolation and loneliness."

"He is an assassin, he is a secret agent and that reflects a certain lifestyle, which is lonely," Forster said. The question is: Do audiences want an "emo" Bond? Craig says not to worry too much.

"We're not making a kitchen sink drama here. We are making a Bond movie," he said. "What Marc wanted, and the producers and I wanted is to bring back a visual flare to the movie, so that every frame in every shot that we see is beautiful. There may be things exploding, but they're good to look at." Forster is the youngest Bond director

at 39. Longtime producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson hired him because of his emotionally intense films like "Monster's Ball" and "The Kite Runner." Despite the heightened realism of the last Bond film, not to mention its commercial success of \$500 million worldwide, the German-born Swiss director was wary of joining the bombastic franchise. Forster negotiated with producers to ensure he had as much creative control as possible on the over \$200 million production. Nevertheless, he's still squeezed into the framework of Bond.

"I like it because you feel like it can make you very creative," he said. "And a lot of interesting things come out of that. Because, if you look at filmmakers that worked under politically repressive regimes, [they] sometimes made really interesting movies."

Filming is about halfway complete on "Quantum," which is the name of the organization Bond is seeking to defeat. Craig said the emotional tone is slightly lighter than that of "Casino Royale."

"It's kind of Bond's journey; at first we think it's vengeance, but it goes somewhere else," Craig said. "They've killed the love of his life, this organization, and we don't know who this

organization is, and he needs to find out who they are. It's for personal reasons but also professional reasons."

Craig said that aside from some communications equipment, "Quantum" puts little emphasis on gee-whiz electronics.

"The Aston Martin's there, and that's still the best gadget we have," he said.

Craig, muscles flexing under a dark polo shirt, said he was exercising more than he had on the "Casino Royale" set, to avoid injuries when doing his own stunts.

"It's just not very Bond-like," he said. "Bond should be able to do ten press-ups, then smoke 60 cigarettes and then drink a bottle of something and pop a pill, I think."

Now comes the eternal question: What's next for Bond?

Craig, who turned 40 while filming in Panama, said he'd keep playin Bond — so long as the quality remains high.

"I want them to stand alone and be good films," he said. "As long as that continues, then we'll keep making them. And if it doesn't, then we'll stop."



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Help those in need with your out dated electronics



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Susana Rodriguez

The end of the semester heralds a time of renewal as you shake off the weight of deadlines and finals to embrace temporary academic freedom.

You may need to shake off more than just memories of caffeine fueled all-nighters. — you might just have mounds of electronic waste that need sorting out.

Now don't throw away your old electronics just yet. According to Consumer Report's www.GreenerChoices.org, electronics contain lead, cadmium and mercury that can contaminate municipal drinking water when tossed in landfills.

Whether your four year old iPod is on the verge of clicking its last click or you just can't bear living with month old gadgets, start summer right and recycle your old tech toys the right way - give them to someone in need.

Ease the guilt of buying a \$400 iPhone and donate your old cell phone to help homeless kids across the U.S.

In partnership with Youth-

Noise, StandUp for Kids and Children's Health Fund, Virgin Mobile will take your old phone and resell it at a reduced price to people in need. The profits from these sales then go to the partner charities to help fund outreach centers, and provide health care and education to homeless kids.

Visit www.virginmobile-usarecycle.com/ to register your old phone to start the recycling process.

You can even help soldiers make overseas calls home by donating your phones to www.CellPhonesforSoldiers.com.

Founded in 2004 by then 13-year-old Brittany Berquist and her 12-year-old brother Robbie, CPFS also accepts monetary donations to send prepaid calling cards to active duty soldiers.

Stop by your local AT&T wireless store to drop off phones you want to donate to CPFS - the company is using all 1,800 of their national stores as collection points now through July 2008.

Got an old desktop or notebook computer to jettison?

Your old computers can be given to the Make-a-Wish Foundation to make children's hospital stays more comfortable.

Working with some Disney magic, Make-a-Wish will not only take your old computers, but mp3 players and gaming

consoles as well.

If you're a computer technician, you can also volunteer your tech savvy to help get these gadgets up and running for the kids. Go ahead, share the love of a retro Nintendo Entertainment System with a child, and teach them to get it up and running by blowing hot air into the cartridges - the smile the original Super Mario Brothers theme song will bring to their face will be compensation enough.

If you want to help out needy families, consider donating your old computers to www.ComputersWithCauses.org.

Computers with Causes will take your computer even if it doesn't work - they'll make any repairs and upgrades at their own cost before giving it to needy parties - so long as they're running with a Pentium 4 processor or above. Combined with donor tax benefits and a green "zero-landfill" policy, this charity starts out helping one person and ends up benefiting everyone.

A used computer can also go to an active duty soldier thanks to www.ComputersforSoldiers.lvcoyote.com/.

Begun as a project to supply soldiers in Afghanistan with computer parts, Computers for Soldiers now aids soldiers' tech needs from around the world with help from corporations like

BEDLAM IN MIAMI



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

MARS MAN: Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, lead guitarist of The Mars Volta, performed with fellow band members at the Miami Beach Fillmore on April 2. The band played without any opening acts.

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Diversions

Beloved Readers,

Hairy Dan and Active Dave is taking a vacation this week, but it will return next week. In the meantime, enjoy the third installment of our Diversions page. There's only one more this semester!

- Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Life! Editor



TEST DUNNIES By: Veronica Fernandez



Honest Abe by Michelle Diaz



STOP THE PRESSES!

a comic by iris amelia



MY AMY BY LUIS NIN





VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SENIOR SENSATION: Sophomore Junior Arrojo boobles the ball and makes an error.

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Golden Panthers look to snap five-game losing streak against Eagles

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

So much for conference success. After some brief early season victories had FIU (11-23) as high up as second in the conference, the team endured a sweep at the hands of Sun Belt opponent Western Kentucky last weekend.

The Golden Panthers now walk into their meeting at Florida Gulf Coast on April 9 ranked third to last in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Eagles will not give FIU any slack, as they boast a 25-8 overall record

and are a powerhouse in their Atlantic Sun Conference.

If the Golden Panthers are to stop the bleeding and end a five-game losing streak, they need to stop the lethal bat of Jason Peacock, who gets on base over half of his plate appearances and sports a .480 batting average.

The senior leads the Atlantic Sun in batting by a wide margin.

Unfortunately for FIU, stopping good offensive teams is not their strength.

After Western Kentucky stung FIU for 10 runs on April 6, it was the fifth game in a row the team has surrendered

double-digit runs.

The Eagles hit .323 as a team and are sure to light offensive fireworks on FIU's pitching unless it can improve itself dramatically.

FGCU also holds a team ERA almost under a 3.00, making matters worse for FIU.

The Golden Panthers' 6.92 team ERA does not match up well with anybody who can hold a bat, let alone an offensive juggernaut like FGCU.

With a .300 average itself, FIU will look for their offense to keep the game close.

Tennis loses against two ranked teams at home

SPORTS REPLAY, page 8

Once the Hilltoppers jumped to a 7-0 lead, they had more than enough support to defeat the Golden Panthers.

At the end, the Hilltoppers

had 20 hits.

Despite FIU's four hits, third baseman Jorge Castillo extended his hitting streak to 28 games.

ULL 10 FIU 9

The Golden Panthers came

close to avoiding the sweep in the last game, but they still fell 10-9 in the last game of the three-game series.

With a 9-6 lead headed to the bottom of the eighth, the Golden Panthers bullpen imploded,

and the Hilltoppers mounted a comeback scoring four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

TENNIS

The FIU women's tennis team (9-8) lost 4-3 to No. 44 Univer-

sity of South Florida on April 4 and 5-2 against No. 38 Virginia Commonwealth on April 5 at University Park,

The two losses against the ranked teams broke the team's four-game winning streak.

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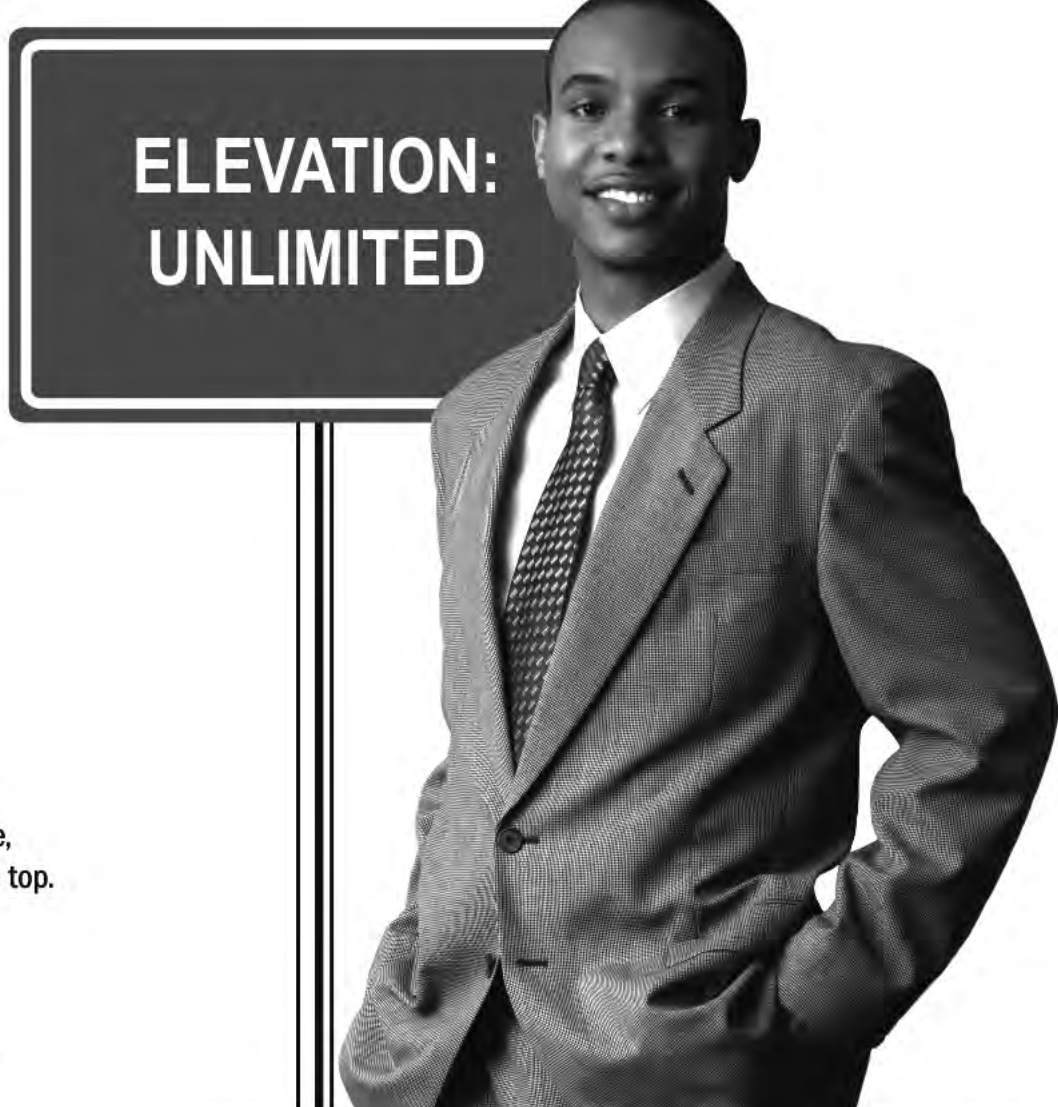
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CLOSE CALLS

SOFTBALL SERIES: ULL 3, FIU 0

Golden Panthers lose series by five total runs

RYAN ABBEY
Staff Writer

The softball team came close but not close enough during a three-game series against No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette (27-10, 6-2 Sun Belt Conference) on April 5-6.

The Golden Panthers (22-26, 6-5 Sun Belt) are now 4-5 in their current ten-game home stand.

The three-game weekend series against the Ragin' Cajuns was meant to be a defining moment for the Golden Panthers, an opportunity to gain an advantage against the team with the best record in the highly competitive Sun Belt Conference.

The Golden Panthers stepped into the box with their trademark offense, which produced 18 runs during the three-game series.

ULL 7, FIU 6

In the first game of the double header, senior shortstop Monique White got things started for the Golden Panthers, sending her 11th home run of the season high and deep to left field.

Junior outfielder Kim

Rodriguez scored the second run in the bottom of the third inning, using her speed to take advantage of a Ragin' Cajuns' wild pitch.

The fourth inning featured a key break for ULL, as White was not able to convert the third out on a ground ball by ULL catcher Lana Bowers.

With the tying run at first, Ragin' Cajun first baseman Gabriele Bridges took advantage with a two-run home run, her eighth long ball of the season.

FIU's lead was diminished with a single swing, and the Ragin' Cajuns did not stop there. In the top of the fifth, ULL's Holly Tankersly joined in the offense with her 12th home run of the season.

Lana Bowers hit a bases-clearing double before FIU starter Kasey Barrett retired the side.

Entering the bottom of the seventh inning down 7-3, the Golden Panthers got a boost from third baseman Katie Bell, who hit her second home run of the season, and White, who continued her offensive tear with her second homer of the game.

Only down by one, it looked like FIU was going



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

FEELING DOWN: Starting pitcher Jessica Landau's outing was short lived as the Ragin' Cajuns scored four earned runs off the righty in 1.1 innings.

to complete an improbable comeback, but ULL starter Ashley Brignac made short work of Kim Rodriguez, Ashley Falk and Jessica Landau, ending the game at 7-6.

ULL 9, FIU 8

The second game followed almost the same path, with FIU down 9-7 entering the seventh inning.

White was able to send Desiree Fink home after she tripled, cutting the lead in

half. Rodriguez, the home run leader in the Sun Belt Conference, had a chance to tie with the game on the line. After she struck out swinging, she threw her helmet at the ground in disgust.

ULL 7, FIU 4

In the series finale, the Golden Panthers held the lead briefly thanks to Ashley Falk's RBI single in the fifth inning, but they gave it up for good in the top of the

sixth as they lost 7-4.

"Their slappers and their quick kids gave us trouble," head coach Beth McClenodon said. "They're not No. 19 in the country for nothing. They find a way to win at the end of the day, no matter what it is."

Even with the sweep, Louisiana-Lafayette co-head coach Stefni Lotief didn't consider it easy.

"This weekend was a hard-fought battle," she said. "Both teams left everything out on the plate."

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Looking for some payback

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

FIU (22-26) softball will look to avenge a weekend sweep when it hosts Florida Atlantic on April 9 at University Park. After getting swept by Louisiana-Lafayette over the weekend in a three-game series, the Golden Panthers will try to avoid letting their conference record even up.

With a 6-5 record in the Sun Belt Conference, a win would keep them in their current fourth place position. The Owls own a 9-3 conference record.

In the matchup with ULL, the Golden Panthers lost all three games by three runs or less, and in two of the games scored runs in the last inning before falling short. The losses are a let down to the team because it follows a pair of inspiring slug-fest victories against Division II powerhouse Florida Gulf Coast.

Pitching will have to improve for FIU, because Jessica Landau is not likely to have game-winning hits and two home runs in consecutive games as she did against the Eagles.

Against the Owls, FIU will have to face one of the best pitching staffs in the conference. As of April 4, the Owls owned a 2.66 team ERA. FIU's productive offense will have to let its bats work magic or the pitching staff must begin to improve as the season comes to a close.

SPORTS REPLAY

Baseball team is swept by Sun Belt Conference foe

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Allowing 41 runs is not a relaxing weekend for any team, especially when the same team scores just 16 runs.

The Golden Panthers (11-23) baseball team lost three consecutive games against Western Kentucky Hilltoppers from April 5-6 at Dick Nenes Field in Bowling Green, Ky.

It marked the first time that the Golden Panthers were swept in a conference series.

The weekend series marks the fifth consecutive game where the Golden Panthers allowed 10 or more runs.

ULL 14, FIU 6

Making errors caused the Golden Panthers to allow seven unearned runs during the first game of the double header.

They fell 14-6 to the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers in the first game of the double header on April 5.

FIU starter Chris Allen did not pitch past the fourth inning, and just three of his eight runs allowed were earned.

He also gave up six hits and three walks.

A two-out error by Ryan Mollica led to five unearned runs including a grand slam.

After trailing 8-0, Allen hit the next batter and was ejected from the game by the umpire.

For the Hilltoppers, starter Bart Carter pitched 5.2 innings, and the Golden Panthers mustered three runs and six hits.

Third baseman Jorge Castillo went 1-for-4 extending his hitting streak to 27 games.

Half of the Hilltoppers' production came from Chad Cregar. He hit two home runs

good for seven RBI.

ULL 17, FIU 1

The most consistent aspects of the baseball team so far this season did not live up to their reputations.

The usually shaky bullpen shut down Western Kentucky for 4.1 innings, but the strong FIU offense hit just four hits.

Little offense coupled with poor pitching resulted in a 17-1 loss for the Golden Panthers in the second game of the double header.

FIU starter Eric Horstman did not provide the pitching staff support, as he allowed 10 runs through 4.2 innings of work.

The Hilltoppers scored in every inning except the third inning.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

SWEEPING UNSUCCESS: The baseball and tennis teams were both swept by their opponents on April 4-6.

SPORTS REPLAY, page 7