

NO REALLY, HE'S FINE
Spill Canvas singer spills details

SGA ELECTION COVERAGE
Complete results coverage, analysis and student reactions coming Friday, April 4

DOUBLEHEADER
Softball double dips against FGCU

LIFE! PAGE 6

SPORTS PAGE 12

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mock drill to be held at FIU

JUAN PRADO
Contributing Writer

The Miami-Dade County Health Department is looking for student volunteers to participate in an emergency drill training at Pharmed Arena.

The training will take place April 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Students volunteering are not required to stay for the entire two hours.

"The ultimate goal is to help out the community," said Natasha Strokin, one of the coordinators of the event from the Health Department.

Strokin said the department is looking for as many as 1,000 volunteers.

Department employees will be testing their response time to potential emergencies that require dispensing medication to a large population. In this case, volunteers will be treated as if they were exposed to radiation.

According to Alicia Reyes-Perez, director of public health preparedness, volunteers will participate in 15 to 20 minute exercises that include requiring volunteers to be evacuated and given fake medicine.

This procedure will teach responders how to dispense medicines needed in order to prevent possible illnesses and side effects during a nuclear event caused by exposure to radiation.

"It is a learning experience for students," Reyes-Perez said.

It is also a learning experience for the Health Department.

Miami-Dade County is one of three counties in Florida to have a nuclear

LEG UP



CHRIS CUTRO / SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

CRUNCH TIME: FIU student Haidar Hachem balances his mom, Salam Hachem, in the Ab Crunch Challenge on March 29 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Participants were asked to do crunches for an hour as part of the program.

BASEBALL: FIU VS UM

Game revisits rivalry, history

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

A few weeks after facing No. 5 ranked University of California Irvine, the Golden Panthers baseball team is playing their toughest and most recognized opponent in South Florida, the University of Miami.

FIU (11-18, 5-4 SBC) will challenge the No. 2 ranked University of Miami Hurricanes (21-2, 9-1 ACC) on April 2 at University Park Stadium.

With a large crowd expected, tensions usually run high whenever FIU and UM face off. And there are always underlying subplots and history involved.

For starters, first year manager Turtle Thomas will be facing his old team that he coached from 1988 to 1999 as both an assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator. While at UM, Thomas helped coach the Hurricanes to a 1999 national championship and nine College World Series appearances in total.

Although Miami is not

BASEBALL, page 8

HONORS COLLEGE

Program aids in mastering research techniques

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

John Kneski provides a resource that can catapult students into the world of research.

Kneski, associate dean and fellow of the Honors College, heads the Student Research & Artistic Initiatives (SRAI) program.

The program matches Honors College students with faculty members of similar interests to carry out and present undergraduate research projects at SRAI's own conference at FIU, and at even larger state and national conferences.

"Everyone is welcome [to attend]," Kneski said. "The projects should appeal to all students because they deal with a number of disciplines and are of a high caliber."



John Kneski, Honors College associate dean and fellow

The projects should appeal to all students because they deal with a number of disciplines and are of a high caliber.

Amalia Gonzales, a junior and political science major, is looking

forward to presenting at the upcoming conference.

She is one part of a three-person panel presenting separate but related research projects on Mediterranean

artworks housed at FIU's Frost Art Museum.

Gonzales is part of Kneski's current Honors Seminar class that plans to publish a book at the end of the semester chronicling what they have researched about the art, including what will be presented next week at the SRAI conference.

Daniela Ottati, another member of the panel, discussed what she learned about the sculpture she researched.

"My research describes how Hercules' virtuous struggle and suffering led to his fame and immortality, and analyzes how [the sculptor] Antoine Bourdelle impressed his mentor, and

DRILL, page 2

RESEARCH, page 2

Upcoming Scholarships

Undergraduate and Graduate Students Scholarships

Name: General Scholarship
Amount Awarded: \$1,500
Due Date: April 30 3 p.m.
Eligibility:

1. Fully admitted, undergraduate OR graduate, degree-seeking student.
2. Undergraduate students must have 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.
3. Students must be enrolled in at least nine undergraduate credits or six graduate credits during the term of the award, unless otherwise indicated.
4. Submission of a typed essay (maximum two-page, double spaced) about yourself that describes your educational and professional goals and tells how being a recipient of a scholarship will help you fulfill them.

Web site Information: <http://www.fiu.edu/scholarships/>

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Amount Awarded: \$1,500
Due Date: April 30 3 p.m.
Eligibility:

1. Fully admitted, undergraduate OR graduate, degree-seeking student.
2. Undergraduate students must have 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.
3. Students must be enrolled in at least nine undergraduate credits or six graduate credits during the term of the award, unless otherwise indicated.
4. Submission of a typed essay (maximum two-page, double spaced) about yourself that describes your educational and professional goals and tells how being a recipient of a scholarship will help you fulfill them.
5. The applicant must be enrolled for at least six credits during the term of the award. Preference is given to students ineligible for financial assistance due to citizenship status.
6. Recent immigrants, migrants, Miccosukee and Seminole Indians are eligible to apply. Students on international (F1) visas are NOT eligible.

Web site Information: <http://www.fiu.edu/scholarships/>

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

Conference “shares the Honors College experience”

RESEARCH, page 1

became one of the pioneers of 20th century monumental sculpture,” Ottati said.

The projects that will be presented at the SRAI conference are hardly limited to art.

Topics covered range from “Reduction of Traffic Congestion” to the effect of the American media on the Spanish-American War.

Kneski hopes visitors who come out to the conference will gain interest in becoming part of the Honors College community.

“Having the opportunity of presenting at the SRAI conference and having my original research published, as an undergraduate, is a true privilege that the Honors Col-

lege provides to students who enjoy interdisciplinary work,” Ottati said.

Faculty members sign up for SRAI to introduce students to the world of research and get assistance with their own projects.

They are listed in the SRAI database by interest, such as the physics of the visual system.

Kneski said he devotes his time to SRAI because it “shares the Honors College experience with the larger community, and provides a stepping stone for students participating to go on to state and national conferences.”

One of the larger conferences Honors College students hope to attend is the National Collegiate Honors Council conferences held in

San Antonio, Texas.

SRAI works by maintaining two databases, one for students and one for faculty members.

The databases are used to match students with faculty members in common areas of interest.

Honors College students can become involved in the SRAI program by stopping by the SRAI Resource Center in Deuxieme Maison 223 to discuss research ideas.

The entire FIU community is welcome to attend the 2008 SRAI Conference on April 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

Eric M. Feldman can be reached at Eric.Feldman@fiusm.com

Drill informs about nuclear emergencies

DRILL, page 1

power plant facility. For this reason, the Health Department is aware that a nuclear event could occur at any moment.

“The community may see that we are looking out for them,” Reyes-Perez said. “We would be prepared to serve the community if an emergency like this one occurs.”

The Health Department is trying to get other FIU departments in fields related to public health and medicine involved in the drill.

“We will try to get the Public Health Department involved [at FIU] as much as possible,” Strokin said.

The Miami-Dade County Health Department, the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management, Homeland Security and

FIU are all working together to organize the drill.

According to Reyes-Perez, the event is being

with Department of Health doctors, practitioners and researchers.

The relocation and building construction is

“**Alicia Reyes-Perez**, public health preparedness

The community may see that we are looking out for them. We would be prepared to serve the community if an emergency like this one occurs.

held at the University because FIU is one of the Department’s agency partners.

FIU and the Florida Department of Health signed an agreement intending to relocate the department’s Miami-Dade headquarters to University Park in Sept. 2007.

The agreement will allow students and faculty the opportunity to work

expected to be complete by 2010.

For more information visit, the Miami-Dade County Health Department Web site at www.dadehealth.org.

THE BEACON
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Biscayne Bay gets beautified

RONICHA AZARD
Contributing Writer

Students cleaned up the Biscayne Bay landscape as part of Day at the Bay from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 29.

Organized by the Student Government Association, Day at the Bay gave students the chance to contribute to improving the environment.

David Fonseca, environmental affairs director for SGC-BBC, quoted former U.S. Vice President Al Gore in saying, "We're in a planetary emergency."

"This serves a greater cause," Fonseca said. "Other than serving ourselves, we're

"It's great to see the students come together early on a Saturday morning to clean up the best resource Biscayne Bay has to offer," Trautenberg said.

Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president, said Day at the Bay was a way to combine community service with fun and networking.

"It [was] a great opportunity - free food, kayaking, and great music," Andrade said. "I was pleased we even had a University Park student come to help out for the event today. [The student] said she would promote it back on her campus so more students could come next time."

SGC-BBC partnered with



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

COLLECTING TRASH: Students, faculty and staff came together March 29 for "Day at the Bay" to collect garbage, lining the bay at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The event was followed with food and kayaking.

worry about cleaning up because we would do so the next day," Andrade said.

Jason Ingrao, graduate assistant for Campus Life, did not attend the event last year, but was encouraged to see how much work was done this time compared to before.

"Before they only reached [the remote areas] but now we went [far beyond]," Ingrao said, pointing at the previously littered mangroves along the edges of

the bay.

Ana Maria Silva, SGA internship coordinator, said she participated to help beautify the campus.

"I want to show that I do care," Silva said. "Not just for what's in the front of the school but behind it as well."

Now that the clean up has been completed, Andrade encourages students to enjoy the bay.

"A lot of students don't know about, nor appreciate, the awesome view we have here at the bay," Andrade said.

Andrade said the goal is

to have an event like this every semester where students can work together and become more environmentally conscious.

"If we don't take care of our own backyard, nobody's going to do it for us," Andrade said.

"Cassandra Andrade, SGC-BBC vice president

A lot of students don't know about, nor appreciate, the awesome view we have here at the bay.

serving the environment."

Zach Trautenberg, former comptroller for SGC-BBC, was impressed with Saturday's turnout.

Student Programming Council to coordinate clean up after their Spring Fling event, according to Andrade.

"We told them to not

OPEN FORUM



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

OPEN MIC: SGC-BBC presidential candidates voiced their stances on March 31. Visit FIUSM.com for the complete story.

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DROWNING POOL



COURTESY OF BABYGUARDFENCE.COM

FENCED IN: Pool fences, like the one above, can help prevent deaths but enforcement is also needed.

Water safety a must for parents

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

It's happened again. A staple of sub-tropical Florida, the swimming pool, has claimed another young life. The most recent incident was March 2, when a four-year-old was found at the bottom of a pool in Ft. Lauderdale.

"If anything good can come out of this tragedy, [it is that] maybe parents will think twice about the dangers of children not knowing how to swim," said Detective Katherine Collins, a Ft. Lauderdale police spokesperson, to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

This is the typical community response when a child dies this way. Media outlets espouse what should be common sense information about keeping an eye on your child at all times and installing protective barriers around family pools.

However, this case is the fourth instance in just two months where a child has drowned in a pool. Despite the wishes of every police officer who is quoted urging parents to engage in proactive

safety, people are not thinking twice, parents are not acting and the children of our community will continue to die as long as this neglect goes unpunished. Reports of drowning and subsequent calls for preventative action are becoming as routine as hurricane warnings, but no one is ever held responsible.

An ounce of prevention goes a long way in a gallon of water, but no one is stepping up to the plate.

According to the Florida Department of Health Web site,

“An ounce of prevention goes a long way in a gallon of water, but no one is stepping up to the plate. Stricter laws regarding safety are needed.”

more than 72 children aged 0-4 died as a result of drowning in 2006, and Broward and Miami-Dade counties contributed the largest number of fatalities to that statistic.

First, stricter laws regarding water safety need to be enacted. Second, law enforcement agencies must prosecute all violations of said laws.

The Florida Statute titled "Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act" prescribes that newly constructed pools must contain at least one type of safety mechanism, such as a safety barrier or cover. This law should be expanded from newly built pools to all pools in a home. If this were done, there would be no qualms about whether or not the lack of preventative action leading to a dead toddler was a tragic mistake or a criminal offense.

"I only took my eyes off of her for a minute" can no longer be a valid alibi. Irreversible brain damage caused by the loss of brain cells begins at four minutes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's water

related injuries fact sheet states that adult guardians supervising children should not be engaged in any other activity, including playing cards or reading, while children have access to water.

Perhaps only when neglecting such supervisory and equipment requirements becomes punishable by a mandatory jail sentence will the deaths stop.

THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

FIU's network has not violated the U.S. Constitution; Clean Access doesn't 'search'

ERNESTO RUBI
Special to The Beacon

A recent article published in *The Beacon*, "FIU Is Watching: Clean Access Vi challenged the constitutionality of the campus wireless network (FIUAIR), specifically the University Technology Services (UTS) actions in operating the wireless network. The article accused UTS of violating the Search and Seizure amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

While I strongly disagree with the characterizations of the wireless network

as a 'surveillance' tool, I will not address the operational logistics of the network here.

The focus of this article is how constitutional law principles might be applied to a better understanding if a violation of "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures" (U.S. Const. Amend. IV) has occurred.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am currently employed as a network engineer at FIU but write not in my capacity as an employee, but rather a law student.

The U.S. Constitution defines and protects individual liberties, and the Bill of Rights delineate the powers of the federal government over individuals.

Although early on the Supreme Court did not recognize the Bill of Rights as applying to the states, that position changed after the Civil War and the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment and its 'due process' language.

In modern times, the court has selectively incorporated the 'limitations' of federal governmental power as applicable to the states under the 'due process' language of the Fourteenth Amendment.

FIU is a state entity subject to the same limitations of power applied to state governments, and thus is bound in all its acts by the the Bill of Rights' constitutional limitations.

When an employee or department in the University

acts in their official capacity, they are similarly constrained. UTS is subject to these constitutional constraints in the operation of the wireless network.

Assuming that the unconstitutionality posited turns on the word "searches" in the Fourth Amendment list of protections, it would appear that no 'search' has occurred. Accordingly, the actions of UTS do not impinge on any liberties protected by the Constitution.

We must first examine the definition of search - more specifically, when does a 'search' occur?

Federal and state courts have held that 'search' occurs when "an expectation of privacy that society is prepared to consider reasonable is infringed."

If no such infringement on the expectation of privacy occurs, a Fourth Amendment question is precluded.

When using FIU's wireless network, students are arguably in a similar situation as the University of Oklahoma professor in *U.S. v. Angevine*.

In this case, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals found no Fourth Amendment violation occurred when University officials identified a user's illegal activity based on his network 'history.'

It reasoned that when students and professors are presented with a policy which sets forth the consequences of misuse and describes how officials administer and monitor the University computer network, no reasonable expectation of privacy can exist.

At FIU such a policy is explicitly set forth in various student codes of conduct and network access is conditioned on its acceptance.

This situation can be contrasted with one where users access web content from the privacy of their homes.

There, a better argument could be made for an expectation of privacy, although again it would be subject to the agreement made with the local telecommunications provider when DSL/Cable service was contracted.

Ernesto Rubi is a law student at FIU.

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.

Rock vocalist aims to reach 'the world'

ROSALYN DELGADO
Contributing Writer

Rock quartet The Spill Canvas performed with Yellowcard at Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room on March 24. The groups are currently doing an acoustic tour along with Play Radio Play.

Nick Thomas, the band's vocalist, spoke with *The Beacon* the day before the show about the group's latest album, their current tour with Yellowcard and "Total Request Live."

***The Beacon:* Let's talk about the new album "No Really, I'm Fine." It's a lot more upbeat than your previous work. Who came up with the concept?**

Thomas: I guess I can say me. I wrote most of the lyrics in the album, but overall it was a collaborative effort.

Every time I would write a song, I would run it by the guys and they had some pretty great ideas in regards to the direction the album should take.

In the end, we were pretty pleased with what we came up

with.

***The Beacon:* There are two collaborations in the new album, Andrew McMahon, lead singer of Jack's Mannequin, plays piano for the song "Saved" and Anthony Green, lead singer of Circa Survive, sings backup in the song "Bleed, Everyone is Doing It." How did the idea come about?**

Thomas: Back in the day - when rock music was at its prime - many bands would play shows with either big names or, sometimes, with musicians that were just friends who had awesome bands.

We're kind of hippies in that manner - we like to share the stage with our friends, a lot of them have truly awesome bands on their own.

We just decided we wanted to

have them come and collaborate on the album.

***The Beacon:* I see that you guys are touring with Yellowcard right now. How's that going for you?**

Thomas: Oh, it's a lot of fun. We're all big fans of Yellowcard. Back when the Internet was becoming a popular place to find music, they were the first band I ever found.

I grew up listening to their stuff and now we're under the same management, so now we have this family vibe which is pretty awesome; they are a bunch of cool dudes.

***The Beacon:* The album that you are on tour to support, "No Really, I'm Fine" has been very successful in regards to media attention.**

I know that you guys have a video for the song "All Over You" on MTV's TRL.

You also made an appearance on the show.

How are you responding to the sudden leap?

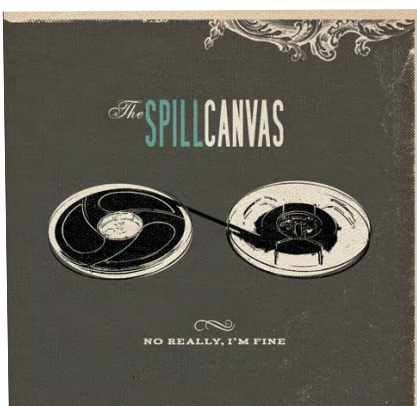
Thomas: Yeah, we were on TRL not too long ago, and the MTV building was plastered with our photos, that was hilarious.

I mean you don't set out to accomplish your dreams with your goals set that high.

The way I look at it, if we are able to reach as many people as we can with our music, then it's all worth it.

I know that the term "selling out" will come up with this kind of success, so I try not to think about it that way.

If we're able to reach the world with our music and still do what we love, then that's what it's all about.



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When first impressions count, laptops are vital



You may have purchased a tool to help you get through the paper slush that is college life, but little do you know your notebook says as much about you as your clothes do.

From business casual to geeky chic, your computer lets others know who you are before they get to ask you your first name.

"Technolust" is here to help you figure out what kind of impression you're making on fellow technorati.

ALIENWARE

You have a lot of time - and disposable income - on your hands. External hard drives, ergonomic joysticks, USB hubs for local area network parties, your own server - you have it all. The sum total of your digital toys is enough to put a down payment on a Maserati.

But that's okay, you need as much hardware muscle as you can get when your online friends are depending on you to help mine the gold out of Azeroth.

Jokes aside, these are dark days for

you because you're still mourning *Dungeon and Dragons* co-creator Gary Gygax's death; 20-sided die will never roll the same way for you again.

APPLE

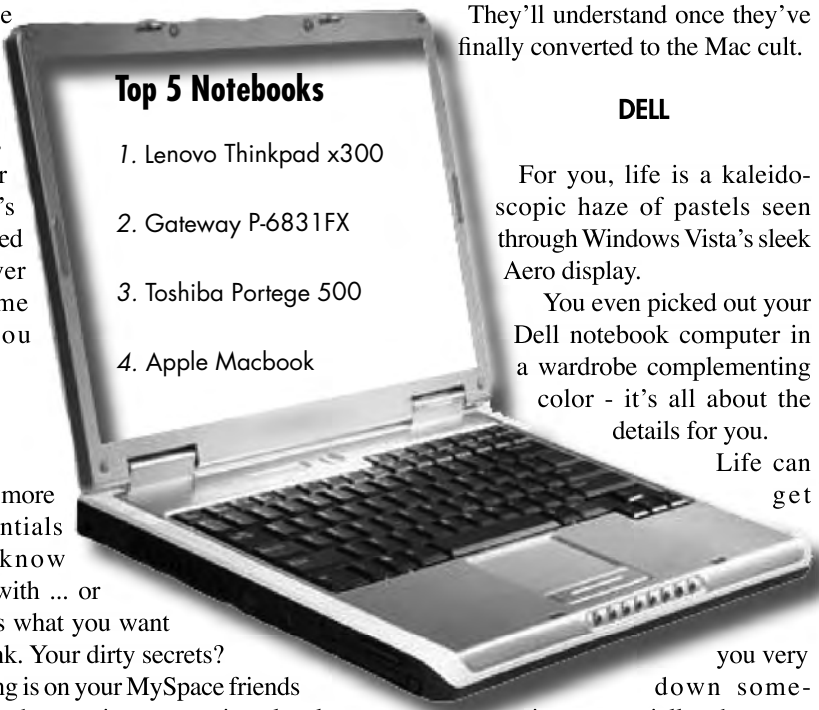
You have more indie credentials than you know what to do with ... or at least that's what you want others to think. Your dirty secrets?

Justin Long is on your MySpace friends list and you've been trying to organize a local Segway polo team ever since Steve Wozniak invented the sport.

You not only own a notebook, you also have an iPod and iPhone to complete the Apple disciple trifecta.

You also diligently count down the days until the next MacWorld San Francisco so you can make your annual pilgrimage to receive the word of Jobs firsthand.

Your friends are probably tired of hearing how much better your notebook is than theirs but you'll keep telling them until they give in.



They'll understand once they've finally converted to the Mac cult.

DELL

For you, life is a kaleidoscopic haze of pastels seen through Windows Vista's sleek Aero display.

You even picked out your Dell notebook computer in a wardrobe complementing color - it's all about the details for you.

Life can get

you very down sometimes, especially when your hard drive is almost at capacity and it takes four and a half minutes to start up your notebook computer.

These are the days when you want to drive non-stop to another state like Texas, slam your notebook down at founder Michael Dell's feet and cry out "why have you forsaken me," and then you need a hug - stat.

At least Windows has been nice enough to keep the blue screen of death at bay with perpetual software updates that calm the twitch in your eye.

HP

Things must be shiny, trendy and digestible in less than a minute or else you pay them no mind.

It's not that you're superficial, you just have too many things to do to waste time - you watch YouTube because television takes too long.

If you must watch the box, you're the kind of person who watches the MTV Video Music Awards - willingly.

You'll even watch "The Hills," having been a die-hard fan of Laguna Beach's snippet story-telling from the start.

That said, you probably hold full conversations in acronyms: OMG, IDK, BRB.

SONY

You live for the sick and twisted rush of adrenaline that high stress situations give you - why else would you deal with the junk software that Vaio's come with?

It's this kind of merciless self-torture that makes you ready to face finals you haven't studied for with a smile.

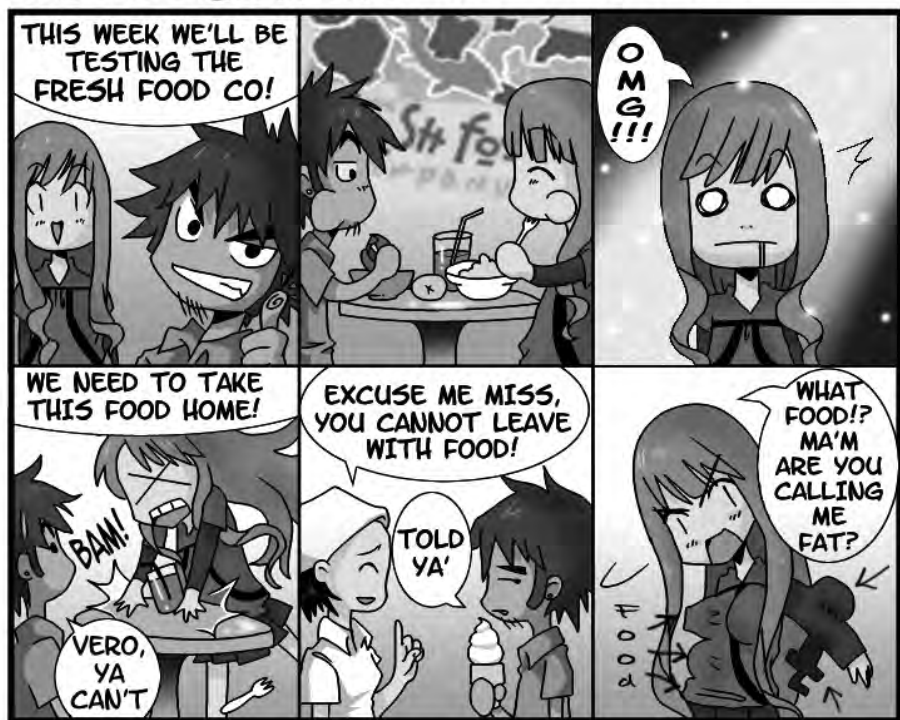
With your world seconds from crashing, you perform with a grace ballerinas would die for.

This temperament makes you ideal for life as a bomb disarmament specialist - though whether you make it to old age or spontaneous self-combustion beats you to it is anyone's guess.

Diversions

TEST BUNNIES

By: Veronica Fernandez



STOP THE PRESSES!

a comic by iris amelia



HONEST ABE.

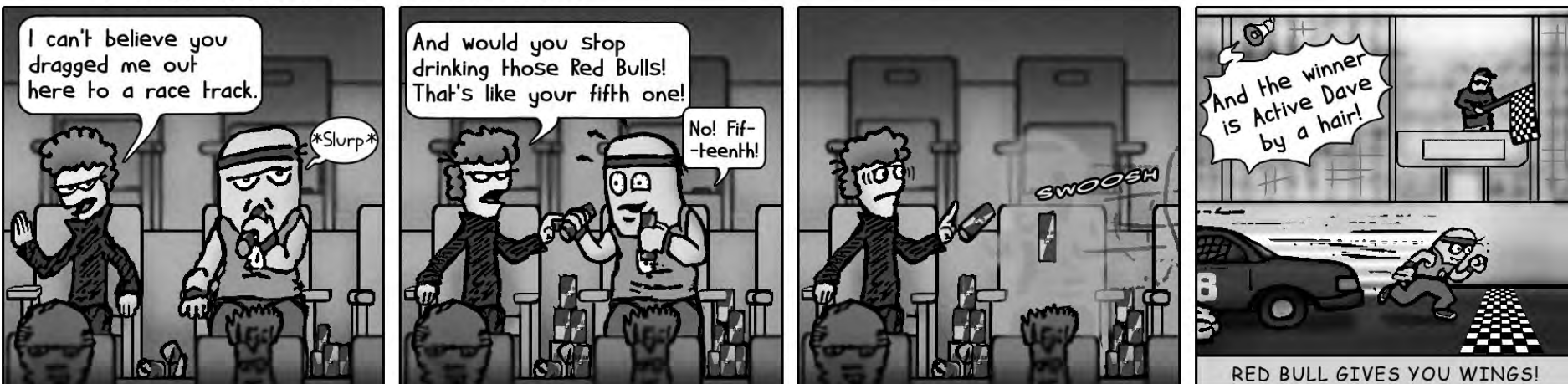
by michelle diaz



HAIRY DAN AND ACTIVE DAVE

BY JONATHAN ROBERTS AND ANDREW SANTIAGO

#2 - PERFORMANCE ENHANCER?



Beating Miami unlikely with bullpen inconsistency

BONILLA, page 8

It would also mean making amends for two crushing devastating losses during the late innings last season when former Golden Panther head coach Danny Price was at the helm.

Last season's two game series against the Hurricanes proved that the Golden Panthers have the offense and starting pitching to compete against their Miami counterpart.

During both games, the Golden Panthers pushed the Hurricanes to use a number of pitchers by making contact, luring pitchers into long-pitch sequences and hitting well with runners on base.

Both games were lost because the team did not have a definite closer to seal the victories. All the FIU bullpen needs is one or two score-

less innings. As easy as that may sound at the moment, it is no easy task

The team's bullpen this year is setting up the Golden Panthers for another late inning collapse against the Hurricanes no matter how large of a lead they hold in the 9th inning.

It is highly improbable that the Golden Panthers will be able to awe their fans and win against the Hurricanes at University Park Stadium.

It is also unlikely head coach Turtle Thomas will be able to make UM head coach Jim Morris bite his tongue for referring to Thomas as "Turtle who?"

Most of all, coach Thomas will most likely receive a harsh greeting from the program he worked with for 12 years, and he helped propel to a national championship in 1999.

Sports Replay

FIU 9, ULL 1

Chris Allen pitched eight innings and Lammar Guy hit two home runs as FIU defeated Louisiana Lafayette 9-1 at ULL on March 28.

Allen struck out seven batters and did not allow a run until the eighth inning. FIU supported Allen's effort and manufactured more than enough offense.

After Guy's first home run in the eighth inning to make it 4-0, Ty Main and Raimy Fuentes both drove in runs to make it 6-0 going into the final inning.

Guy then smacked a second blast over the wall that drove in the last three runs of the contest.

Guy's pair of blasts made him the first Golden Panther to hit multiple home runs in a game this season.

ULL 5, FIU 2

Despite Steven Stropp's second home run in as many games, FIU could not score enough as they lost to ULL 5-2 at Louisiana on March 29.

Jorge Castillo and Ryan Mollica had multiple hits along with Stropp, but the team could only muster two runs, as ULL benefited from an early error to add extra runs.

Mistakes helped the Ragin' Cajuns grab a 2-0 lead after one inning.

Castillo threw away ULL leadoff hitter Josh Logan's grounder to third, immediately putting a runner in scoring position.

Starting pitcher Corey Polizzano

was then called for a balk, sending Logan to third and setting up Matt Goulas' sacrifice fly to center for a 1-0 lead.

ULL then hit three-straight two-out singles.

Bowman finished the inning's work, driving in Matt Hicks from second base for the second unearned run of the inning.

Pollizano gave up four runs, two earned in the loss, as the team did not rebound from its mistake ridden 1st inning.

FIU 8, ULL 4

For one of the few times this season, FIU won a game thanks to a stellar performance from their bullpen as they defeated ULL 8-4 on March 30 at Louisiana.

Eric Horstmann pitched 6.2 innings of relief that helped the Golden Panthers secure their second win in three games.

The scoreless performance by Horstmann was supported by 13 hits by FIU.

Jorge Castillo, who extended his hitting streak to 24 games, finished 2-for-5 with two RBI.

Lammar Guy hit his third home run of the series.

FIU improved to a 5-4 Sun Belt Conference record this season.

- Compiled by Jonathan Ramos

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SOFTBALL: FIU VS. FGCU

DOUBLE BILLING



JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

YOU'RE OUT! Senior shortstop Monique White tags out an opponent. FIU is 6-2 in conference play and 19-23 overall.

Team faces conference juggernaut

RYAN ABBEY
Staff Writer

The FIU softball team's season thus far has been a seesaw battle between inter-conference and out of conference opponents.

The Golden Panthers are 19-23 overall, yet they have a 6-2 record in Sun Belt Conference play.

Also, the Golden Panthers possess the second hottest bats in the conference with a .283 batting average, but they also post the highest team ERA in the Sun Belt Conference.

On the offensive side, they have had trouble against familiar pitchers.

"When hitters see our pitchers for the third time through, that has plagued us all season," coach McClendon said.

During the third game versus

North Texas University on March 30, FIU was coasting into the top of the sixth inning with a commanding 7-0 lead.

Despite the lead, head coach Beth McClendon foresaw some problems.

North Texas knocked in four runs off of pitcher Kasey Barrett (15-12).

Reliever Holly Satterfield induced an unassisted double play to end the inning. She made short work of the Mean Green hitters in the top of the seventh, only allowing one hit and walking one hitter.

"I thought Holly came and did a great job, she threw really well all weekend which is an added bonus to us," coach McClendon.

So going up against Florida Gulf Coast (40-8) will not be an easy task for ace Kasey Barrett and the rest of the Golden Panthers' pitching staff.

FGCU is the most proficient hitting team in the Atlantic Sun Conference with an average of .313. The team complements its effective hitting with a 1.91 team ERA.

With the recent run production of the Golden Panthers sparked by outfielder Ashley Falk, a slugfest might be in order.

Expect FIU to come out with their trademark offense. Besides FGCU's powerful bats, the Golden Panthers' have had trouble allowing walks.

Walks could prove fatal, as Florida Gulf Coast has scored 248 runs, tops in the ACC.

Given the Golden Panthers' problems versus out of conference teams, the doubleheader against FGCU will most likely be a test of stamina.

Even if they lose, the team can depend on the Sun Belt Conference to bolster its record.

Key match-up: FIU bullpen vs. UM offense



Commentary
Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

Defeating UM in any sport is a celebrated and rare occasion; that's a given. Actually doing it; now, that's a mission.

The inconsistent bullpen facing Miami's well-rounded offense is FIU's biggest cause of concern against the UM powerhouse ranked No. 2 in the nation.

The Hurricanes' offense ranks second in the ACC in home runs, batting average, and the team scores 9.5 runs per game. The Golden Panthers' bullpen has had trouble against much less offensively talented teams this season.

The FIU bullpen has given up runs in bunches when the team was poised to win. Of the team's 18 losses this season, the bullpen has allowed at least one run during the opposing team's final at bat 13 times.

Consequently, the bullpen has had winnable games snatched away from the team several times this season.

The first example came early in the season against USC when the Golden Panthers were leading 7-3 headed into the 7th inning during the third game of the season.

Within the next two innings the bullpen imploded and allowed a total of nine

runs to deny FIU its first win of the season.

The second bullpen meltdown of the season was against Wagner University on March 1. Once again, the Golden Panthers held a comfortable lead toward the end of the game. FIU was leading 11-6 before starting the 9th inning.

Then reliever Brian Santana reached the end of his rope and allowed three runs after shutting down Wagner for the previous three innings.

Reliever Evan Ellison couldn't stop the bleeding either, and Wagner tagged the two pitchers for seven runs to defeat the Golden Panthers 13-11.

The bullpen's ability to ruin comfortable leads is the biggest obstacle between FIU and the year's biggest upset.

For the Golden Panthers baseball team, winning against UM would be more than just upsetting the No. 2 team in the nation.

A victory against UM could be used as a means of gaining momentum as they head towards the second half where 22 of their remaining 25 opponents are from the Sun Belt Conference.

Winning against those teams is a chance for the team to make a run in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and erasing the team's first half woes.

BONILLA, page 7

Coach returns to UM; infielder looks to keep streak alive

BASEBALL, page 1

his latest coaching stop, his 12-year tenure at UM was the longest of the six teams he has coached in his career.

Despite the new era and attitude that Thomas has brought to FIU, there is a sort of animosity that does exist between the two neighboring schools.

Besides the campuses being less than 15 miles away from each other, the two meetings between the two schools last season were both competitive and controversial.

Controversial because former Golden Panther outfielder James McOwen was hit by a pitch by former Hurricanes pitcher Manny Miguelez in the earlier

innings of the first game at Mark Light Field, which caused tempers to flare.

That particular game was also a heartbreaker because the Golden Panthers led 9-7 going into the bottom of the ninth before FIU's Evan Ellison gave up a game tying two-run home run.

When the teams shifted to University Park for the second game of the two-game set, the end result was just as disappointing as a back-and-forth battle as FIU was leading 7-6 headed to the top of the 9th inning.

Despite the season high attendance of 1,507, FIU gave up five runs in the Hurricanes' final inning as sophomore Jorge Ramos allowed four earned runs while the departed Chris Siebenaler

allowed one run.

Switching to the present, FIU has struggled overall thus far this season with an 11-18 record, but has managed well against the Sun Belt Conference games.

While their bullpen has been shaky and their starting pitching has been mediocre, their offense has had no problem putting up runs.

Senior Jorge Castillo has the highest average at .412 and goes into the game currently on a 24-game hitting streak with five home runs and 32 RBI.

Sophomore Tyler Townsend has also anchored the offense is hitting .322 with six home runs and 28 RBI. Hurricanes manager Jim Morris, who is in his 15th year of coaching at UM,

has his squad performing outstandingly.

The Hurricanes stand at 21-2 overall and 9-1 in the ACC. Despite the two losses to UF and NC State, UM has steamrolled through its competition by dominating both sides of the ball.

They have a .341 team batting average, good enough for second in the ACC and .580 slugging percentage, which is also second in the ACC.

On the pitching side, they have a 3.51 team ERA and have held opposing teams to a .225 batting average.

The contest, which is set for 6 p.m., could be close but could very well be lopsided. FIU has yet to name a starting pitcher but the options consist of sophomore Jorge



CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

DOUBLE PLAY: The Golden Panthers face the No. 2 team in the nation, UM, on April 2.

Ramos, senior James Lajiness, senior Kyle Preshong or senior Eric Hortsmann.

Whatever the pitching match will be, the game

should bring in the most attendance and the most back-story this season.