

SGA ELECTIONS ISSUE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Online voting to aid in SGA elections

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

The democratic process might be a bit dicey in other parts of the Sunshine State, but here at FIU, voting for student government office should run more smoothly, thanks to new online voting procedures.

On April 1 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and April 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. students will be able to log onto their *my.fiu.edu* account with their Panther ID and make their selection for every office available.

"This will make voting so much easier,"

said Gerardo Gomez-Galvis III, SGC-BBC elections commissioner in an earlier story in *The Beacon*.

Along with online voting, students will be able to vote in the computer lab in the Graham Center or on the first floor of the Green Library at University Park and in Academic 1 at Biscayne Bay Campus. To vote in person at these locations, students will need their Panther ID cards, according to the SGA Web site.

Students who are on BBC for more than half of their credits will be able to vote in those elections, while those at UP will only be able

to vote in UP elections.

"The way it works out is the majority of your classes have to be at a certain campus in order to vote for one campus," said Gomez-Galvis.

While online voting will make things easier for students, once again students at the Engineering Center will not be able to vote in person as SGA was unable to set up a polling site on the campus.

Election results will be announced on April 3.

Chris Towers can be reached at Chris.Towers@fiusm.com

PUBLIC SAFETY

Students may face increase in auto thefts on campus

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Students who leave their belongings in their cars on campus might be at an increased risk this year for theft, according to numbers provided by Public Safety.

According to the department, car theft, burglary and robbery in 2007 are sure to mimic 2006 numbers, when the University experienced the highest car related crimes in three years.

"First of all, we need to realize that we are living in an urban environment. We're in an area where there will be a lot of larceny" said Chief Bill King, director of Public Safety.

Though last year ended with an undisclosed amount of automobiles robbed or burglarized because Public Safety has not yet compiled their report, there were 63 automobile thefts and 74 car burglaries reported in 2006.

The number of auto thefts at FIU in 2005 was 17, and in 2006, the number spiked to 63: an almost 270 percent increase.

As of March 28, 2008, 20 cars have already been burglarized, robbed or vandalized at FIU.

"The numbers that we have are not inconsistent with other schools in the South East area of Florida. I'd like to mention the reason that we're in a better situation than other schools around Miami is that this is a closed campus with not many entrances. It's easier to protect," King said.

The University of Miami's public safety department reported, however, that in 2005 there had been only eight auto thefts and a trend that suggests numbers will remain at that area.

Barry University's public safety department reported only three auto thefts on-campus, with three auto burglaries in 2006.

King recognizes this is a very attractive place for thefts and burglaries due to the high amount of traffic.

"Where else are you going to find 10,000 cars in one place?" King said.

There is likely an issue with the given numbers, since there are students and victims of burglary who do not report these crimes to Public Safety.

These students question whether their insurance company will cover the damage or if they feel the damage repair is cheaper than their deductible.

THE GREAT DEBATERS



PHOTOS BY GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

TALKING IT OUT: Student Government Council at University Park candidates discuss their platforms at a debate March 26.

SGC candidates discuss goals, policy views in recent debate

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

A debate held on March 28 gave Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates Jen Ruiz and Maria Cedeno a chance to confront AJ Meyer and Paige LaPointe who are running for president and vice president in the University Park Student Government Council elections.

The event attracted roughly 50 students who were primarily supporters of the candidates.

Sophomore Katie Bleck was still undecided on who to vote for after the debate ended.

"To tell you the truth I'm still waiting to hear a lot more," Bleck said. "I will tell you I'm not Greek, so it's really important to me to get some non Greek representation."

During the debate, both sides revealed their goals if elected. Essentially, both sides saw a need to increase campus safety and student involvement.

A key difference between the candidates was in how they would handle an Activity and Service fee increase.

The Meyer candidacy has stated it would poll students to find out what they want while the Ruiz candidacy has stated they welcome an Actives and Services fee increase.

"An increase would help fund those student organizations that are struggling right now," Ruiz said in the debate.

For a complete audio transcript and photos of the debate visit *FIUSM.com*.

Ben Badger can be reached at Ben.Badger@fiusm.com



GO ONLINE FOR DEBATE PICTURES AND AUDIO

MEET THE CANDIDATES

By Ben F. Badger Jr.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 31

K-Swiss & Foot Locker's Free Running Tour:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Graham Center Lawn

Honors Council Etiquette Dinner:

7 p.m., Graham Center 243

Strike Out Barbecue:

7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Housing Quad

SPC- UProar Kick Off Party:

8 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

TUESDAY • APRIL 1

SGA Elections:

9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Academic I (BBC)

"Don't be a fool ... Be a hero" Blood Drive:

12 p.m. - 7 p.m., in front of the UP Bookstore

Honors Council General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 140

Cosmic Wii Strike Out:

7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Everglades Lounge

SPC UProar - Pauly Shore Comedy Show:

7:30 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 2

SGA Elections:

9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Graham Center Computer Lab

7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Academic I (BBC)

GSA General Meeting & Elections:

1 p.m., Graham Center 140

Strike Out UM:

6 p.m., Panther Stadium

SGA General Meeting:

3:30 - 5 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

SGA General Meeting:

4 p.m. Graham Center 140

THURSDAY • APRIL 3

SOC Banquet:

7 p.m., Graham Center Ballrooms

FRIDAY • APRIL 4

SGA Elections Results:

12 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

SPC Movie - "Rendition:"

7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

Panther Power - Relax, Relate, Release (R3):

9 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

SATURDAY • APRIL 5

Charity Ball International:

7 p.m., Recreation Center

Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*



Jen Ruiz

Q: What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP president?

A: Speaker of the House 2007-2008, Representative At-Large 2006-2008, Finance Committee 2006-2008, FIU Day Lobbying 2007 and 2008, Student Union Committee 2006-2007, Reserve Budget Committee 2007-2008 and SGA Intern 2005-2006.

Q: What will be your top five goals if elected?

A: 1. Improve safety on campus through increased mobilization and visibility of campus safety officers.
2. Ensure FIU's Emergence as a Green Campus
a. Implement energy and water saving techniques in buildings
b. Put a recycling program in place in housing and make it is easy/clear for students to use so as to ensure its success
3. Make sure the transition from GSA, HC, and SOC to the Council of Student Organizations goes smoothly.



RUIZ

4. Preserve the academic integrity of the University even amidst budget cuts by:

- a. Prioritizing Honors, Arts, and Research as crucial to the academic experience, the mission of FIU, and the promotion of our diversity
- b. Save Florida Bright Futures by making sure to lobby legislators and represent that standpoint as a Board

5. Increase participation and communication between students and SGA by making sure that there are increased marketing efforts and holistic student representation.

Q: What do you plan to do about the lack of student involvement on campus?

A: With the new constitution, there will be a lot of positions open in SGA.

I want to better market these positions through grassroots efforts so that SGA comes to the students instead of the other way around.

Maria Cedeno

Q: What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP VP?

A: I have participated in different leadership development programs such as Academy of Leaders and Collegiate Leadership Development Program. I am very involved on campus through organizations and honor societies. I have further developed my professional skills by participating in the Executive Protégé Initiative Program hosted by Career Services.



CEDENO

initiatives are also followed through and completed. Leadership, professionalism, creativity/willingness to take initiatives and responsibility are the skills I will need as SGC-UP vice president.

Q: Why do you feel you deserve the position?

A: My experience representing student organizations in front of SGA has prepared me to better deal with the different interests of FIU students.

I have always made sure that I put the interests of the students first and I know I will maintain that principle as SGC-UP vice president.



A.J. Meyer

Q: What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP president?

A: I feel that from an outsider's perspective the student body president should be someone that possesses a complete understanding of the workings of both the student government and state in which we live and achieve our funding.

Over the past four years in SGA I have held the



MEYER

have gained throughout these years that I believe will allow me to best accomplish the job as student body president.

Q: What will be your top five goals if elected?

- A: 1) Ease the transition of the new SGA constitution. 2) Make campus safer and more environmentally friendly.
- 3) Increase student involvement in SGA, and Campus Life.
- 4) Continue to lobby for Bright Futures and increase SGA scholarships.
- 5) Implement point-to-point Panther Safety Tram and Panther TV.

Q: Why do you feel you deserve the position?

A: The word "deserve" tends to be pretty deceiving in this case because the simple answer is that I do not deserve this position at all; this is the highest position a student can aspire to achieve and I believe it is one that is earned. An understanding of SGA and the University is not gained in a small amount of time but rather through years of learning.

Paige LaPointe

Q: What are your qualifications for running for SGC-UP VP?

A: A vice president in my opinion is someone who needs to be the most prepared to be president, of course besides the president. My SGA career has been one that I am very proud of, in my time I have been president of my intern class, lower division representative, and representative at-large as well as serving the House of Representatives as speaker pro tempore.

These positions have allowed me to serve this organization and the students

it represents to the best of my ability and it is for this reason that I seek the office of vice president.

Q: Why do you feel you deserve the position?

A: Just being a candidate for vice president of SGA is a humbling experience for me. My experience in SGA has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my college life and one that I will never forget. I don't think I deserve the position but I do think that I am ready for it.

Not because of a title but rather for what I believe I can do to further the interests of the student body of FIU.



LAPOINTE



GO ONLINE FOR COMPLETE Q AND A'S

TOMATO PICKETING



GRETA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

UNITED: United Students Against Sweatshops and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers petition for the welfare and rights of South Florida farmworkers outside GC.

Public Safety report echoes students' concerns

BURGLARIES, page 1

"It is very often a wave of criminals. Sometimes, we will arrest a suspect or a group of suspects and what will result is the quelling of the numbers," King said.

In a 2007 interview, King did say that it is very difficult to deal with auto thefts in FIU, since almost all cars stolen are taken off campus and are hard to track after the initial investigation, due to Public Safety's limited jurisdiction.

Students have expressed concerns about their safety and the security of their belongings in the parking garages and on campus in general, as well.

"Well, I'm concerned that there isn't enough security on campus. It's not a situation to be passive about," said Maite Morales, a freshman at FIU.

Still, some students recognize they can

take steps to keep their belongings as safe as possible.

"I think the first step in reducing the number of burglaries is to be proactive in locking our cars and not leaving things such as iPods or stereo display faces visible to the naked eye," said Andrew Sanchez, another freshman commuter student.

King mirrored this advice and expanded upon it for students looking to keep their property safe.

"Too many students leave things in their car within plain view. It's an invitation to a burglar. People often leave their cars unlocked or in remote areas and out of clear sight," King said.

He also suggested that if anyone should see a suspicious character in the parking lots they should call Public Safety at (305) 348-2623.

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CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 26, 2008, the story titled "Historic Plane brings art, awareness to FIU" misspelled Madeline Baro's name.

In the issue dated March 28, 2008, the story titled "Engineering Center still in disrepair" misidentified the dean of the center. Amir Mirmiran is the interim dean.

In the same issue, the story titled "A losing ticket: state contradicts policy on gambling" attributed Joe Donzelli's first quote incorrectly. The quotation was written by the author of the story, Eric Feldman.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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SGC-BBC presidential candidates discuss goals

Ana Maria Silva

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

ifications for running for SGC-UP president?

Ana Maria Silva has been part of SGC-BBC since she was a high school dual-enrollment student taking classes at BBC. Her older brother, Camilo Silva, supported her.

"My brother was the current president at the time and he encouraged me to join SGA," Silva said. "After his motivation, I started to find out more about the roles in SGA and finally made a decision to apply for Campus Life Board Chair."



SILVA

A: The qualifications I have for running as SGC-BBC president are my passion, commitment, dedication and experience to BBC and the students. I have served SGA as Campus Life Board Chair and internships director. Also, I have been involved in the International Students Club, Academy of Leaders Coordinator, Panther Camp facilitator and Executive Board, Dance Marathon Finalist and Relay for Life.

Q: What will be your top five goals if elected?

A: As Student Government Association president at BBC my five main goals to accomplish will be: First, diligently voice student concerns and needs. Second, strive for academic excellence and solution to student population issues. Third, enhance student life and campus involvement. Next, provide social and interactive activities and lastly, seek leadership, academic and community service recognition.

Q: What are your quali-

Kenasha Paul

ANA PEREZ
BBC Life Editor

Kenasha Paul, a junior majoring in political science, has been a peer mentor, Panther Power director and director of legislative affairs.

"I have the passion, the drive, and commitment and dear love for the university. I want to serve and serve at the highest level that I can and that is why being president for me matters so much."

Paul is running for SGA president to expand her involvement at FIU.

"Let me be the president that fights for you, that knows how to make the passion work for the best interest of all. I can do that, I have done that, and by electing me, I will do it all over again and more," she said.

In an online interview, Paul answered several questions about her campaign.

Q: Why are you running for president?

A: I am running for president because I believe that

the school needs a morale captain, as the upcoming year proves to be fiscally difficult for the University as a whole and the State of Florida, this is the time to build pride and a sense of belonging to the students at BBC. I feel that with my experience motivating students as a peer adviser and peer mentor, planning programs and events within Student Programming Council and Panther Power president, I can make those tangible promises of building pride and creating tradition, and changing the scope of BBC.



PAUL

Q: What are some problems you have noticed here at Biscayne Bay Campus?

A: I think that the problems at BBC are miniscule in that they only seem larger because of the constant "tension" with University Park. My goal is not to compete but work alongside them. We are one FIU, and therefore, I will do what it takes to make sure that the mindset and/or misconception about BBC are dispelled.

Shane Gray

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

you deserve the position of SGC-BBC President?

Shane Gray, a hospitality major, has only been working with the Student Government Council at BBC since last semester, but feels qualified enough to take on the position of president - he has an extensive resume to prove it.

"Just take a look at my resume," Gray said.

Since his arrival on campus in Fall 2005, Gray has been involved with different organizations as member and leader including Intervarsity, a religious organization on campus, and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Gray's experience as a leader did not begin at FIU. In fact, during the 2004-2005 year, he was Associate Student Body president of his high school, Highline High School, in Burien, Wash. Now, he wants to bring his experience to BBC.

Q: Why do you feel

A: I feel I deserve this position because I am a hard worker who is dedicated to the beautification and development of the campus. I am concerned with the students' needs and feel as though I can change the perspective of student government, from being an unapproachable force, to

a body of students that truly represent their fellow students by being available to them. Ultimately, I represent you all.

Q: What do you think the most difficult aspect of being SGC-UP president is and why do you think you can

handle the position?

A: I know the most difficult aspect of being president is organization. I believe I can handle this due to my expansive experience dealing with large amounts of materials being processed all at the same time. I am able to do this while still being able to push forward through the process into the next set of issues. An important trait of organization is proper communication of which I know is a strong trait of mine.



GRAY

Nader to lecture on corporate power in America

MARCELO GORENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Consumer activist and current presidential nominee Ralph Nader will deliver a lecture on corporatism at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the WUC Ballroom.

In his lecture, "The Corporatization of America," Nader will be addressing the negative influence of consumerism as a way of life and how students should develop a sense of civic duty in order to fight it.

While courts have interpreted the 14th amendment to protect rights of corporations, Nader does not believe that corporations and private citizens deserve equal consideration; he will be presenting his arguments for the first time at FIU.

Raphael Zapata, assistant director of orientation and recreation at Campus Life, is excited about Nader's visit.

"Even though politics is closely associated with the name Ralph Nader, he is not a politician at all," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life. "Nader is a public figure who is involved in

consumer advocacy and it's a great privilege having someone with his background speak at FIU."

International Relations Professor Chris Brown was in good spirit when asked how beneficial Nader's visit would be for students.

"I think it's great that political and 'opinion' leaders are speaking directly to students and this idea of creating awareness of the democratic process, whether you like him or not is essentially to get not only you to think about the issues but to participate in the process," Brown said.

As a consumer advocate, Nader founded organizations including the Center for Study of Responsive Law, the Public Interest Research Group, Public Citizen and The Multinational Monitor monthly magazine.

"His life's mission has been to get people to pay attention to the political process around them, so whether you support him or not in a political capacity, this idea of paying attention to the products that you use, to pay attention to the politics around you and the decisions that affect you directly

or indirectly is really important," Brown said.

Nader announced his campaign for the upcoming presidential election last month. He ran previously as the Green Party candidate in 2000 and 2004, creating controversy when he was accused by some Democrats of "taking away votes" from then presidential hopeful, Al Gore.

"This time I hope he doesn't hurt anyone. A lot of people I know still hold a grudge against Nader because of his decision to run for president back in 2000 and indirectly helping Bush get elected," said Rafael Timerman, a senior business major.

Timerman added that Nader's visit to FIU might bring awareness about the issues regarding the "corporatization of the State"

"Corporations are involved in attempts to influence the law-makers in Washington through lobbying. While these groups have no official membership in any legislative body, they can often have influence and gain power over law-makers and set up their own agenda," Timerman said.

Graduating student Philip Dufresne said in reference to the Independent and Green parties, "Their presence is a good influ-

ence because the Republican and Democratic parties are both very conventional. So, in essence, you're picking from two very similar candidates."

Nader organized the Green Party's first presidential campaign in 1996 to challenge the "duo-

poly" of the two-party system. He received 700,000 votes on a limited campaign budget of \$5000 and he ran again in 2000, receiving 2.8 million votes.

The lecture is sponsored by SGA. Attendance is free.



NADER

A QUIET PROTEST



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

SILENCE IS GOLDEN: Students protested the Iraq War by littering severed limbs and chalk cut bodies across Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center on March 27.

Students learn to brave wild world of communications

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Communications students got a taste of the real world during the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and AdScene's Media Jungle Workshop Series on March 27 at the Wolfe University Center ballrooms.

One of the first conferences was given by the Edelman Agency, the largest public relations company in the world, where two representatives came and discussed what it is like to work at a multinational public relations company. Along with Reynaldo

Delgado, assistant account executive at Edelman, they discussed how a multinational agency compares to private PR companies where some people manage from their homes.

"There is definitely a bigger value you get from [a multinational agency]. You have more resources because you can connect with other offices around the globe, it's also multilingual, and above all we are going to have the best reputation," Delgado said.

Delgado and Florencia Contesse gave aspiring PR majors tips to further their growth in the industry.

"You should take internship

opportunities, even in the summer," said Contesse, another assistant account executive at Edelman. "Some companies hire more in the summer because there are less applicants to pick from."

WSVN-Fox 7 anchor Craig Stevens also attended the event and discussed his career and how to excel in the field of journalism.

"[The industry] is very competitive and it can be very intimidating, but once you're doing it, you are a part of the industry," Stevens said. "You probably won't get hired from the top 25, but the most fun you'll have is in that first low-rate job in



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

NETWORKING: Students mingled with professionals on March 27.

the T.V. station."

Stevens recommended that students get as much experience as

they can.

"You've got to have the willingness to commit," said Stevens.

Media on Demand brings industry pros to campus

PARADISE AFSHAR
Contributing Writer

Media on Demand, FIU's media student club, is hosting its second annual Media Speak event on April 2.

"It is a seminar where professionals speak about the field of journalism so students can get to see what it's like working in the real world," said Shervin Bain, president of Media on Demand.

The event will take place in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom

from 1-4 p.m. and will give students an opportunity to interact with professionals in the communications field. Due to last year's success, Media on Demand brought the event back with funding from the Student Organizations Council.

"We did this event a year ago, and we felt that it was very beneficial to the students, so we decided to put on this event again," Bain said. "It's an event that will help students have a better outlook on the world that they are being prepped to work in."

Media Speak is intended to serve

as an alternative to traditional networking events. Instead of lectures, the event focuses on interaction between speakers and students.

"Most events you just listen," said Brittany Wright, vice president of Media on Demand. "At this one you can talk and ask questions."

Each of the speakers was chosen based on their experience in the field of communications. They will be discussing industry struggles and offer insight into their jobs.

This year, speakers include Robert Schaps, who will be speaking about

his career in advertising as president of Turkel Advertising; Sergio Mankits, an account supervisor in integrated marketing at Zubi Advertising, will focus on students interested in marketing.

Other speakers include Roberta Sandler, who will discuss her role as a freelance journalist, and Ada Sheerin, who will speak to production students about her experiences as a creative producer and director for VTA, Inc., a multimedia production company.

"The main goal is that [students]

can learn from real professionals and have the opportunity to get connections," Wright said.

All students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications are encouraged to take advantage of the information that will be provided.

"It's an event for anyone in the field who wanted to learn about the industry," Bain said. "You're getting everything you don't learn in class."

For more information, e-mail mediaondemandfiu@fiu.edu.

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CHANGES: Hollywood's Young Circle is at the center of redevelopment, including a new ArtsPark.

Land claimed for development unjust

ERIC M. FELDMAN
Asst. Opinion Editor

Hollywood city commissioners weren't paying attention in elementary school when they were reading Robin Hood. You're supposed to take from the rich, and give to the poor, not the other way around. Or maybe a sense of humanity simply matters less to these government officials than the money they will receive from a developer looking to construct yet another visionary "condo and retail tower."

The case in question started back in 2005, when developer Charles Abele first set his sights on a building owned by the Mach family, according to a March 27 Sun-Sentinel article. At the time, a new debate was sparked over

eminent domain, which allows the government to take over property without the consent of the owner, so long as said owner is "justly compensated" – meaning given whatever the government deems appropriate, not taking into account any sentimental value and whether or not the owner may actually like the piece of property he or she has rightfully purchased.

Why would a private developer seeking to build a private, for-profit enterprise raise concerns over eminent domain? Knowing the corruptibility of Hollywood's city officials, he turned to the government to get the property for him.

According to the Sun-Sentinel article, city officials promised Abele they would get the Machs' building for him if they would not

sell, and Neil Fritz, Hollywood's director of redevelopment, stated that the city plans to "live up" to the deal. Granted, part of the deal was for Abele to pay the city back what it spent to acquire the property, this does not change the fact that the developer is still going to profit from the venture. This is only made possible by the disruption of a long-time family business, aided by crony commissioners.

Almost three years after the battle began, a state appeals court has given the city permission to

“ The developer is going to profit from the venture, made possibly only by the disruption of a long-time family business, aided by crony commissioners. ”

take over the property, overturning a more sensible judge's original ruling which stated that Hollywood did not need this specific piece of property to complete its redevelopment goals.

Eminent domain is nothing new, but its constant encroachment into handing property over to private developers rather than government-controlled public works projects is casting the system in a new light.

According to a 2005 PBS article on the history of eminent domain, early cases primarily focused on large scale public projects such as utilities and highways. The article was published the same year the issue was receiving local attention due to the Mach case here in South Florida. Eminent domain received national attention when

the Supreme Court heard Kelo v. New London, and decided to reaffirm previous court decisions, allowing the use of eminent domain in the support of private development.

The Sun-Sentinel reports justification for the land grab from the city's assertion that it is necessary to take the Mach property in order to properly preserve the façade of a historic hotel, and that historical preservation is just grounds for invoking eminent domain. It does not mention the part about how not constructing condos at all would also act to preserve any historic buildings.

That façade is only an excuse, because in this situation, where developers and city officials' pupils seem to be in the shape of

dollar signs, it is difficult to believe that historical preservation is the first concern.

According to a CBS News article which chronicles other situations of eminent domain, such as an Ohio suburb attempting to take down houses for more expensive condos, there is a different reason for city governments to be interested in redevelopment, and it's all about the money.

"More expensive homes and offices will pay more in property taxes than the buildings they're replacing," reports the CBS findings.

CBS Correspondent Mike Wallace highlights the stories of people whose homes were threatened by the risk of eminent domain, including a couple who have lived in a

THE BEACON | Editorial

Editor's Note: The Beacon's editorial board interviewed all candidates running for president and vice president for SGC positions. The editorial board listened to each candidate's platform and decided which candidate it would endorse. There are no candidates running for vice president at Biscayne Bay Campus.

SGC-UP: Jen Ruiz and Maria Cedeno

It's time for change and Jen Ruiz and Maria Cedeno are the right candidates to help FIU and its students prepare for some tough times.

Ruiz, who is running for president and Cedeno who is running for vice president, have the mind set to help combat the tough times that upcoming budget cuts are going to produce.

Both candidates support maintaining and strengthening various student clubs, programs and organizations instead of trying to create new costly programs.

It would be fiscally irresponsible to try and grow during delicate times when public universities' budgets are being cut by the day.

The integrity of the Univer-

sity and its students should be protected first during these rough times.

The opposite can be said of presidential candidate Arthur "A.J." Meyer who is currently serving as vice president this year. Meyer not only supports expanding SGC-UP sponsored programs, but also supports the creation of new programs that won't benefit the entire student body.

Ruiz who is a Greek – Delta Phi Epsilon – and Cedeno who is a non-greek, demonstrate the type of diversity that can appeal to all types of students.

We need new ideas and leaders who can understand what students need during the cash strapped times to come.

SGC-BBC President: Shane Gray

Shane Gray could have gone to Cornell but decided FIU was the right place to be, and he came at just the right time.

Gray is the leader that will help BBC get through budget cuts public universities across the state are dealing with.

While serving as class president at Highline High School in Burieon, Wash., he managed to turn a \$25,000 deficit into \$160,000 surplus.

It's this type of financial management and creativity that is needed to help withstand the constant barrage of budget cuts being handed down from the Legislature.

One goal Gray wants to accomplish is to cut back on club flyers because it's a huge waste of funds. He would rather put that money back into education.

Not only is his financial planning solid, he also has a vision for the campus.

As opposed to the other candidates who are looking to give BBC its own unique identity,

Gray is focusing on bringing University Park and BBC together.

At the same time that he tries to unify both campuses, Gray is going to push for involvement between the North Miami and Aventura community at BBC.

Community involvement is going to be vital in order for the campus to secure additional funding so it doesn't have to rely on state funds. Gray is making a push to get more involved with the community if elected.

He also understands the relationship between the bay and the campus.

In order to show off the beautiful 200 acres that BBC sits on, Gray wants to promote campus beautification by bringing in art from around the world. He also wants to utilize funds to boost the quality of the residence halls and make it a real advantage to live on campus.

If he is able to achieve all of this, his tenure will have been a advantage for BBC and its students.

home for 40 years after dreams of one day owning it as poor teenagers. Locally, Mach's story is no less endearing. Refusing to sell the property for over \$1 million, David Mach, spokesperson for the family, cites sentimental reasons for not wanting to part with the property. In a March 27 Miami Herald article, he said it was the first property purchased by his father, a Hungarian immigrant.

The final question to be asked here is why developer Abele is so eager to destroy the livelihood of a family that has been running their business out of the same building for thirty years to build condos when Florida's housing market is in a slum.

Admitting to the Sun-Sentinel that new residential units are unfeasible at the moment, Abele is quoted in the article as continuing on with his plans.

"The window of opportunity to build condos has been shut until the markets recover," said Abele. "But this doesn't mean the project won't be built some day."

Mach should appeal this decision to Florida's Supreme Court, where the frightening assertion that we can be stripped of our homes and businesses on a whim should be laid to rest once and for all.

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

Cold prevention made easy



Model of Health
a wellness column
Sandra Mateu

“**Dr. Antonio Briceño**, Chief medical officer of AVP Baptist Health

Having a jacket at hand all the time, avoiding getting wet, and staying away from people that are or have been sick are ways to prevent getting a cold

An out of tune orchestra of coughs from my family and friends have accompanied me for two weeks, including spring break. My boyfriend's runny nose started two weeks ago, just like my mom's coughing. My dad got sick a week later. My friends at school and some teachers have become sick as the month has advanced, and now I am officially part of that clan – I now belong to the choir of coughs that reign in my classes and personal life.

According to Florida state flu reports provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, influenza activity has been increasing since October 2007 to March 2008. “I have seen lots of people around me with colds these past months,” said Economics major Ricardo Morillo.



COURTESY PHOTO

Symptoms of the common cold
(usually appear one to three days after being exposed to a cold virus)

- Runny nose
- Cough
- Nasal congestion
- Sore or itchy throat
- Sneezing
- Watery eyes
- Mild headache
- Mild fatigue or body aches
- Fever less than 102 degrees

Cold remedies: What Works

Water and other fluids - You can't flush a cold out of your system, but drinking plenty of liquids can help.

Salt water- A saltwater gargle - 1/2 tea-spoon salt dissolved in an 8- ounce glass of warm water.

Saline nasal sprays - Over-the-counter saline nasal sprays combat stuffiness and congestion.

Over-the-counter cold medications - Non-prescription decongestants and pain relievers offer some symptom relief.

SOURCE : WWW.MAYOCLINIC.COM
WWW.ALTMEDICINE.ABOUT.COM

According to Dr. Antonio Briceño, chief medical officer of AVP Baptist Health International Center of Miami, the changes of weather that Florida has experienced are not the cause of a cold or flu, but instead are risk factors for

developing these infections.

“A person who doesn't eat well, or is going through a terrible situation and is very nervous, experiences low body defenses that accompanied with sudden changes of temperatures and already infected people, can easily develop into a cold or later on a flu,” Briceño said.

People sometimes confuse cold and flu symptoms, but Briceño adds that the flu is much more severe. The cold can last 24 hours with a runny nose and scratchy throat, while the flu lasts longer and with the same symptoms at a higher level,” Briceño said. Although there is no cure for the common cold, the ALA recommends over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen, decongestant, antihistaminic, or natural remedies such as eucalyptus, honey and lemon. “Antibiotics should not be taken unless prescribed. If taken when not needed, they can develop serious consequences. First you should try over-the-counter medicines, hot beverages and rest,” Briceño added.

Morillo has taken such advice to heart. “I had lots of fluids and over-the-counter medication, and I was good within a week,” Morillo said. To help prevent the onset of a cold, maintain a healthy diet to keep the body's defenses high. Also “keep your fingers away from your nose and your eyes

to avoid infecting yourself with cold virus particles that you may have picked up,” the ALA recommends.

“Having a jacket at hand all the time, avoiding getting wet, and staying away from people that are or have been sick are ways to prevent www.mayoclinic.com altmedicine.about.com

Mars Volta vocalist on band's future, Miami show

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

The Mars Volta's vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala spoke with *The Beacon* in a phone interview on March 27.

He discussed the band's next release, embarrassing stage moments and music videogames.

The band will be performing at Miami Beach's Fillmore on Wednesday, April 2.

The Beacon: We were supposed to have an interview at 2:15 p.m., Cedric. What happened?

Cedric Bixler-Zavala: I was there. I just overslept. I'm sorry. [Laughs]

The Beacon: [The Mars Volta's most recent album], *Bedlam in Goliath*, has been the band's most aggressive release so far. [Guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez] has said that the next album is actually going to be an acoustic release. Why the change in style?

CBZ: Well, we've always kind of had it but there just hasn't been a lot of acoustic stuff. The first song at the beginning of [*Frances the Mute*] starts off acoustic but [then]

it just becomes a rock song.

We've always been interested in doing that.

Especially after we did ATP [music festival] in England and we had some bands that had a softer side that we really enjoyed.

We were always interested in doing that kind of stuff because people don't expect it from us.

So, you know, it's just so we can show people that there's so much more to us than just what [they define us as].

People try to describe it to [other] people and as soon as they get one description, we come out with a record that, I think, [redefines] what they think we're all about.

The Beacon: Seeing that some of The Mars Volta's songs have Spanish lyrics and salsa influences, do you look forward to playing in Miami since there is a heavy Hispanic population here?

CBZ: Oh, yeah. Last time we were there was with [System of a Down]. I was really surprised. I forgot about the Latin population there.

It was a great surprise, because, you know, opening up for that

band – it was a predominantly heavy-metal crowd – so when we got to open up for them when we were in Miami, it was great.

It seemed like most of the audience was there for us. That was nice.

The Beacon: What do you feel music videogames do for the industry?

CBZ: So far I think it gives people the false idea that they actually know how to play guitar. [Laughs] You know, it's easy like, if you have a Ramones song.

Then yeah, you can probably learn how to play guitar.

You know, because that's simple picking, simple music.

I think it gives false hope to young people aspiring to do that.

I guess it's cool. Whatever. I'd rather people go read a book or watch a movie.

The Beacon: There's a lot of improvisational play in your sets. Has there ever been an improvisation that turned out to be a song? Or have you guys ever meant to record a song completely improvised?

CBZ: *Scabdates* has a lot of



COURTESY PHOTO

THE ENTERTAINER: Cedric Bixler-Zavala, vocalist of The Mars Volta, spoke with *The Beacon* on March 27. He and the band will be performing in Miami on April 2.

REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

CONCERT

Emery

Opening acts augment Emery's solid performance

Geoffrey Anderson Jr.
Life! Editor

Seattle band Emery rocked the stage of Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room on March 11 in front of a sell out crowd singing – and screaming – along to each word of the band's almost one-hour set. Emery, touring in support of their latest record *I'm Only a Man*, showed no signs of road lag as vocalists/bassist Toby Morell and Devin Shelton seamlessly traded guitar and singing duties throughout the performance, which featured favorites off all three of the band's albums and clearly cemented the band's status as headliner of this tour.

That's not to say that the opening acts were lackluster.

The first two acts, Cries of the Afflicted and post-hardcore band Pierce the Veil, put on energetic shows that in spite of the fact that only a few audience members were visibly moving to the music. Pierce the Veil in particular put on a solid performance as the group belted out a handful of songs from their album *A Flair for the Dramatic*.

Unfortunately, the energy from PTV's set didn't carry over to that of indie band As Cities Burn, who didn't seem to capture the ears of the predominantly teenage female crowd. It was sad to see the crowd's lack of enthusiasm when the band was obviously playing their hearts out

during the 25-minute set.

Luckily, the crowd woke up once Florida natives Mayday Parade graced the stage and played an assortment of songs off *A Lesson in Romantics*, their latest record. Blazing through songs such as the catchy "Jersey" and "When I Get Home, You're So Dead," the band was relentless in their stage presence.

The crowd's energy increased hundred-fold, however, when headliners Emery hit the stage and Morell yelled: "we're going to be playing some old songs, some new songs and some songs in between." Fans immediately started jumping atop one another to get a better view of the Seattle quintet. Josh Head, the band's keyboardist, made the show by getting up close and personal with the crowd to share microphone responsibilities.

The audience cheered loudly when the band played the new song "Rock-N-Rule" and cheered even louder when they played "The Ponytails Parade," off their self-titled album. Closing their regular set with the fan favorite "Walls," everyone was clamoring to get closer to the stage to scream the song's opening lines "Are you listening?"

The band, amidst cheers of "one more song," came out for an encore and performed "Studying Politics," a lively and fitting end to an overall fantastic concert.

MUSICAL

Forbidden Broadway

Play delightfully lampoons hit Broadway musicals

Geoffrey Anderson Jr.
Life! Editor

Taking its own Spring Break from New York until April 13, the hilarious production of "Forbidden Broadway" is currently running in Downtown Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Fans of Broadway musicals will find themselves laughing as this musical comedy pokes fun at well-known productions such as "The Lion King" and "Wicked" by using ridiculous costumes, twisted lyrics and some great music.

Performed in the intimate Carnival Studio Theater, the musical's cast – Jared Bradshaw, Janet Dickinson, Michael West and Gina Kreiezmar – are all exceptional in their performances, but Kreiezmar definitely steals the show. During opening Act 1, Kreiezmar is dressed as a 30-year-old jobless actress playing Annie; Kreiezmar showcases her vocal range – while pausing to take drags of her cigarette.

Similarly, West and Bradshaw show their flair for the stage in a parody of "Avenue Q," which makes references to full puppet nudity.

Although the performers keep the crowd laughing, the costume design help maintain that laughter. Alvin Colt's costume designs undeniably lend to the hilarity of the musical, particularly during "The Lion King" parody in Act 2. During that scene, West comes out dressed as Rafiki, the baboon from the animated version of "The Lion King." His costume, a red robe, features little plush toys of Minnie Mouse and Tigger. To cap the parody, West sings "The Circle of Mice" – a jab at "The Circle of Life" – all while having a Mickey Mouse plush toy sitting atop his head.



COURTESY PHOTO

FUNNY FACES: Gina Kreiezmar (left) of "Forbidden Broadway" steals the show, playing at the Arsht Center until April 13.

These aspects of the production – the performers and costumes – are complemented by a capable musician at the helm of the piano: Catherine Stornetta, the musical director. Her fast fingers take the audience for a musical journey through works from the aforementioned plays as well as "Spamalot" and "Hairspray."

"Forbidden Broadway" does suffer from an inherent weakness, however.

If you haven't seen some of the shows I've mentioned, you might feel a bit lost. Nevertheless, that shouldn't stop theatergoers from watching this Broadway musical before it goes bye-bye.

GAME

WulfGar

WulfGar's triumphant tale immortalized in new game



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ASHLYN TOLEDO

A hero's tale is one that is always worth telling. Among the greatest heroes in Norse mythology, legendary slayer of beasts, greater and more powerful than the great King Beowulf, is "WulfGar." Here to tell his tale is developer Team Norse.

"WulfGar" is a free online flash game where players get the opportunity to battle it out against a host of different monsters.

Throughout each level, there is a mini-boss about half way through and a bigger boss at the end of each level.

"WulfGar" has two attacks which can be used in combination with a forward walk, jump or crouch.

You'll need every attack because each enemy has a different vulnerability. "WulfGar" can also block most attacks with his shield which will come in very handy – especially in a huge

mob of beasts. Defeating enemies will charge up WulfGar's thunder attack. When fully charged, press the space bar to unleash a devastating attack that will kill just about everything on the screen.

Bosses are only vulnerable to certain attacks.

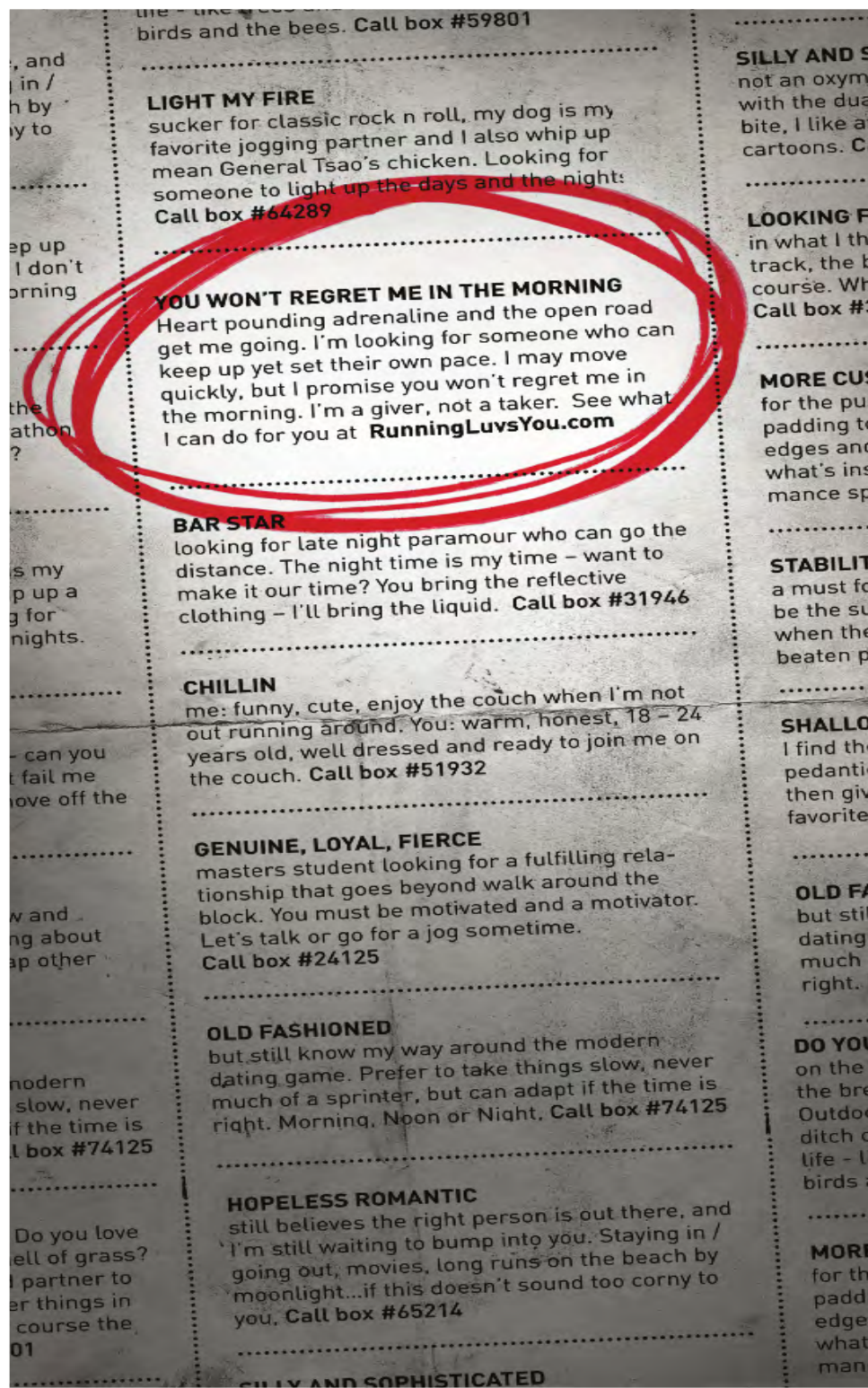
At the start of each boss fight, a hint will be given about how to beat that boss – pay attention or you will not know what to do! You might have to try a couple of times before you understand the task at hand.

The animation in "WulfGar" is stunning. A graphical style similar to the brush-stroked feel of "Okami" really makes this game stand out.

The music doesn't fall short either. The soundtrack is bold and perfectly in tune with the action on screen.

If you really have a soft spot for angry vikings, Team Norse has you covered with "WulfGar" T-shirts that can be purchased at www.cafepress.com/team-norse.

As long as you're not expecting any historical accuracy or actual semblance to any Norse hero ever – fictional or not – you won't be disappointed. Get your Viking on at www.armorgames.com.



STEPPING IT UP



GIOVANI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

GREEK LIFE: The newly initiated members of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority are finally introduced into the Greek community.

Lessons in humility keep Mars Volta vocalist grounded

MARS VOLTA, page 7

CBZ: *Scabdates* has a lot of that.

We would essentially practice new song ideas in the middle of old songs.

It was only a woodshedding, you know, because you only have so much time that you can't really rehearse that much during sound check and not everyone is going to be excited about rehearsing in the middle of a tour.

So sometimes our improvisation is actually just rehearsal in front of lots of people.

So, yeah, a lot of that stuff turns out to be songs and a lot of it turns out to be song structures.

The Beacon: What's been the most embarrassing moment for you while on stage?

CBZ: [It would] probably be every time I rip my pants up there, which is probably like every other day.

I mean, there's one thing you can't escape in this band and it's that you're not cool.

It doesn't matter what



COURTESY PHOTO

BEDLAM IN MIAMI: The Mars Volta guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez and vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala will be at the Miami Beach Fillmore on April 2.

you do.

I've fallen on my face. I try to make it look like I meant to do it. I think that's what people like about what we do.

There is this kind of every-day-person approach to what we do.

We play with trained musicians, but we're not trained musicians at all.

I still say phrases like 'Can you make it sound like Godzilla?', 'Can you make it sound like Godzilla wearing gray pants?'

I think people identify with that. It's pure non-musicians leading a bunch of trained musicians. That's very uncool, I guess, to a lot of people.

There's no need to look cool at any point.

Especially with me throwing stuff around on stage, you're always in constant fear of looking really dumb in front of anyone, which is a great exercise in humility, because I can learn to deal with society a lot better.

REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

CONCERT

The Spill Canvas

Rising "indie" band rocks Culture Room

ROSALYN DELGADO
Contributing Writer

"You're amazing, man! You're amazing!" was one of the many exclamations coming from the crowd as Nick Thomas and his band of fellow South Dakotans, The Spill Canvas, hit the stage. The band played to a sold out house at the Culture Room on the evening of March 25.

From the moment they all huddled in a circle on stage and stuck their hands out in front of each other, in what we can only imagine was a "Go team" gesture, the entire venue erupted into screams of joy as the band jumped right into what everyone knew would be an enjoyable set.

There was a burst of energy that spread like a wildfire as they began their set with a song from their first album. Forseeing that fans could get too rowdy, Thomas and the band moved to settle the crowd into what was to be the soft and calm ambience of the evening. The sea of concertgoers doubled as the band's backup singers, screaming out the chorus to the song "Battles," an anthem about insecurity in the spotlight, chanting the lyrics: "its like one thousand papercuts, soaked in vinegar." Determined to show their fans their ability to simulate their set, while still staying true to their roots, the band headed straight into one of their newest numbers "Hush Hush." With its catchy chorus and invigorating melodies, the song was more than enough to make

the floor of the venue shake.

By time they jumped into their intimate lover's ballad "Connect The Dots," the crowd was clearly pleased to relax, as they swayed from side to side with their hands in the air—they waved them freely, almost as if they just didn't care. As the set came to a close, everyone became anxious as they waited for the one song that has given The Spill Canvas recognition within the independent music community.

As soon as the opening ryth to the radio-friendly hit "All Over You" began, the culture room vibrated with energy, as the entire crowd, including those who were only there to see the headlining band, joined in the singing and dancing.

Given that the band was only able to play a short set, The Spill Canvas managed to flawlessly keep the crowd entertained and pleased their older fans.

The band closed the performance with an impromptu speech that seemed to reflect their opinion on their newfound success. "its doesn't who were or where we are going, it doesn't matter if its us or U2, what matters is that you are here tonight and that you support live music, and that's the reason bands like us or U2 are able to live our dreams! "You're amazing, man!" these words, shouted from the crowd by an excited fan, proved to be true.

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Offense unable to cash in runners in scoring position

SOFTBALL, page 12

Jessica Landau, her fourth of the season, did provide some brief feelings of hope, but the defense of UCF kept those feelings to a minimum and managed to hold its lead through the course of the game.

The Golden Panthers' first three hitters hit a combined 5-for-11 and scored two runs, but cleanup hitter junior Kim Rodriguez went 0-for-3 with no RBI.

UCF's Tiffany Lane went a perfect 3-for-3 and scored two runs while Hillary Barrow went 1-for-3 with 3 RBI.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

WORK HORSE: Starting Pitcher Kasey Barrett has pitched over 150 innings thus far this season.

Long ball fuels Golden Panthers' offense all sea-

NOTEBOOK, page 12

has walked a team-low 12 batters this season. FIU will look to pull out a win against one of the best Division II opponents in the nation.

POWER SURGE

Ashley Falk and Jessica Landau both hit home runs against UCF on March 26, which

places the team at 46 for the season.

The Golden Panthers have already broken its single season record for long balls with plenty of games left to play in the season. Falk, who has 17 career blasts, is fifth all time in FIU history in that category.

The powerful output at the plate placed the Golden Panthers at 11th in the nation in home runs per game.

College student-athlete found dead on couch

PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

Heath Benedict, a two-time Little All-American at Newberry College on his way to the NFL, was found dead on a couch in his Jacksonville, Fla., home.

Authorities said Thursday don't suspect foul play in Benedict's death. Newberry administrators added that police didn't think drugs or alcohol were involved, either.

Benedict, a 6-foot-6, 326-pound offensive lineman, finished up his senior season in the fall and left school to train for next month's NFL draft. He was nine hours short of a business degree.

"He was a big, tough man, but he had a very gentle heart," Newberry president Mick Zais said. "He was a teddy bear."

Benedict's body was taken to a medical examiner's office to determine the cause of death.

The 24-year-old took part in the Senior Bowl in January, the first Division II player to do so since 2004, and was invited to last month's NFL

combine. There, trainers and doctors put Benedict through extensive tests, Newberry coach Zak Willis said, particularly because he hurt an ankle late last season.

Nothing unusual was uncovered, Willis said. "This is certainly a shock to all of us," he said.

Some NFL draft predictions had Benedict being selected as high as the third round. The coach said he learned of Benedict's death Wednesday from one of his players. Soon after, Benedict's father called to confirm the tragic news.

"This is probably one of the toughest days I've ever had as a human being," said Willis, his eyes red.

Benedict was a native of the Netherlands. He played high school football at the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J. His family also has a home in Greenville, which is about 60 miles northwest of Newberry.

Benedict was a transfer from Tennessee who helped turn the Indians into a Division II powerhouse. The pinnacle came in 2006 when Newberry won the South

Atlantic Conference title and earned its first-ever berth to the NCAA playoffs.

Benedict considered going pro after that season. However, he was having so much fun, Willis said, he was eager to return for his senior season.

Willis, a former assistant at the University of South Carolina who coached future NFL players in tailback Duce Staley, linebacker John Abraham and receiver Marcus Robinson, thought Benedict had the makeup and talent to play a decade or more in pro ball.

"If he had stayed at Tennessee, he'd be a first-round draft pick, I have no doubt," Willis said.

In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, Benedict said Tennessee's large campus didn't suit him. He needed somewhere he could get "more one-on-one" attention from professors, counselors and coaches."

He apparently found that at Newberry. Nick Martin, an outfielder with school's baseball team, remembered first meeting Benedict in the weight room.

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THE BEACON

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Football spring training underway in March

Practices open to fans

Spring training notes

Date	Practice	Time	Notes
3/27	1	3:30 p.m.	Quarterback Wayne Younger suffered a broken collarbone on Nov. 24.
3/28	2	3:30 p.m.	
3/29	3	10:30 a.m.	He has done some light throwing, but is not ready.
3/30	4	10:30 a.m.	
4/1	5	3:30 p.m.	Bill Legg is the new offensive coordinator for the Golden Panthers.
4/3	6	3:30 p.m.	
4/5	7	10:30 a.m.	Freshman James Wiggins switched from defensive end to tight end on March 25.
4/8	8	3:30 p.m.	
4/10	9	3:30 p.m.	On March 27, the Golden Panthers put on full gear.
4/11	10	3:30 p.m.	
4/12	11	10:30 a.m.	
4/15	12	3:30 p.m.	
4/17	13	3:30 p.m.	Quarterbacks Colt Anderson and Darold
4/18	Spring Game	7:00 p.m.	

Hughes are trying to move up on the depth chart as Paul McCall has run the offense for the majority of spring training. McCall led FIU to its first victory in two years against North Texas. "{Colt and Darold} are doing the right things and they've been living in coach Legg's pocket, putting in extra time watching film and learning their playbooks.

-Compiled by Sergio Bonilla



COURTESY PHOTO FIU ATHLETICS

IN THE TRENCHES: Freshman defensive end Cody Pellicer (right) and sophomore fullback John Ellis (left) square off during football spring training.

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SOFTBALL: UCF 9, FIU 5

Big third inning debilitates team, ace pitcher



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SLIPPING UNDER: Junior infielder Carolina Rojas swings and misses during the 9-5 loss to UFC on March 27.

RYAN ABBEY
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (18-22) returned home after an eight-day, seven-game road trip.

Despite the grind, it turned out very productive for them as five of those games were against Sun Belt Conference rivals, and FIU came away with four victories.

The successful road trip has driven the team to a prominent position in the Sun Belt with a 4-1 conference record despite being 18-22 overall.

Their first home contest would not mirror their successful conference run as the Golden Panthers fell 9-5 against the University of Central Florida Knights on March 26 at University Park.

Driving in runs seemed liked a problem for the Knights until the third inning when they broke through with the deciding inning of the game.

Golden Panther starter Kasey Barrett (14-11) was making it difficult for the Knights' hitters to look like an offensive force.

She didn't give up a hit in the first two innings and struck out two batter.

The third inning, however, was a completely different story as the Knights roughed up Barrett with six runs on seven hits.

The Golden Panthers' ace is well deserving of the position despite her poor showing.

She leads the team in a host of statistical categories, including ERA, innings pitched and starts.

During the last weekend series, she managed to make an appearance in all three games including a complete game.

Also, Barrett has pitched nearly twice as many innings as all the other pitchers on the team combined.

Normally, scoring is never a problem for the Golden Panthers, but against UCF they had a habit of leaving runners on base and hitting into ground-outs and double plays.

The team was 2-for-7 with runners in scoring position and left seven runners on base throughout the game.

There were some bright spots to appreciate.

UCF 9, FIU 5

FIU	AB	R	H	RBI
Fink, Desiree	4	1	2	0
Bell, Katie	4	1	1	0
White, Monique	3	0	2	1
Rodriguez, Kim	3	0	0	0
Falk Ashley	4	1	1	2
Landau, Jessica	3	2	2	1
Tetlow, Jackie	0	0	0	0
Rojas, Carolina	3	0	1	0
Cox, Amanda	3	0	1	0

UCF	AB	R	H	RBI
Council, Marquita	4	1	1	0
Van Ryn, Ashley	1	0	0	0
Lane, Tiffany	3	2	3	1
Frick, Shelley	1	0	0	0
Javier, Breanne	3	2	1	0
Barrow, Hillary	3	1	2	3
Gresham, Lexi	4	1	1	2
Kime, Allison	3	0	0	0
Cole Ashleigh	4	0	2	0

After the disastrous third inning, the Golden Panthers' offense tried to rally and managed to outscore UCF 5-3 for the remainder of the game.

Ashley Faulk was all over a pitch in the seventh, sending it to straightaway center field for her ninth home run of the season.

An earlier home run in the bottom of the fourth from

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SOFTBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Panthers' penultimate ERA faces No. 1 starter

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

The women's softball team knows the ups and downs a regular season can have.

Besides a six-game winning streak in the middle of the year, the team has not had more than two consecutive victories.

The team will look to begin a new streak at home against Florida Gulf Coast University on April 2.

As of March 27, the Golden Panthers held down the number one spot in the Sun Belt Conference after winning four of their first five conference contests.

Despite a 18-22 record overall, the team is in a good position to compete for a conference title.

In order to continue to achieve consistency, the team will look to improve on the second to last ERA in the conference at 3.70.

With a powerful offense, the pitching will be key for the team down the stretch.

The main thing standing in the way of a win against FGCU will be senior outfielder Carmen Paez.

The powerful batter leads the Atlantic Sun Conference in home runs with 17 and is batting over .400 for the season.

Paez, the Division II record holder for home runs, will put FIU's pitching staff to the test.

The senior, who was recently on Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" feature, is backed by a solid pitching staff.

The Eagles staff is led by Rachael Edinger, who leads FGCU with 142 strikeouts. The senior is 16-4 with an 1.72 ERA and has pitched eight shut-outs this season.

Junior Dana Frantz is 9-3 with a 2.84 ERA and

NOTEBOOK, page 10

Women's soccer coach preparing his team early through rigorous training

RYAN ABBEY
Staff Writer

Although teams play a regular season every year, building and maintaining the team is a never-ending process.

Nearly every student-athlete whose regular season is over will tell you there is a training session or something team-oriented going on.

One team that is definitely working during its off-season is the women's soccer team.

Coach Thomas Chestnutt is entering his second season at the helm of the team and with every practice, tape session and pep talk there is a mutual understanding of the team's ultimate goal: to be the best team possible.

They would also like to finish over .500 as the team hasn't had a winning season in five seasons.

"There's a lot of potential out here," Chestnutt said. "As coaches, we're always trying to get better, and it's our job to create that environment."

At this point, he is attempting to create the right environment by bringing out

the best in every player with the rigorous training.

The team is responding well despite the growing pressure of school.

Senior Maria Gauldron attests that Chestnutt's drills are not for the faint of heart.

"We've been training and everyone is improving," Gauldron said. "It does get challenging, but I think it will all pay off in the end."

That is definitely the hope that they bring with them into Spring; the hope that they are preparing for an improvement from their latest campaign.

The 2007 season's highs and lows ranged from the stellar seasons of striker Claudia Cardenas and defenders Kristin Hurst and Kia Rigsby to the unexpected injuries of midfielder Francesca Chong and defender Julie Mushill.

None of the players are opting to dwell on last season but, instead, to use it as motivation.

"We're working harder than ever," said junior defender Amy Jackson. "I think it's because we have high expectations for ourselves concerning next



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

TUNE UP: Sophomore forward Emperatriz Lang practices drills as she will try to sure up her team's defense.

season."

Coach Chestnutt is always teaching and using positive reinforcement. He is honest when his players do not perform how he hopes they can.

There was one instance in a practice when one of the players was not providing the best defensive coverage.

Coach had two options on how to handle his player: take time and explain where she needed to be or continue to run the drill until she realizes she's doing wrong.

After about five minutes of one-on-one with his player, he was finally able to say, "Good job."

Coach Chestnutt is also trying to prepare his team for next season by fundraising. The women's soccer team will participate in the upcoming three-on-three soccer tournament on April 5.

Anyone is welcome to enter, and there will be a \$40 registration fee per team.

All the proceeds are going towards the women's soccer program.