

SAND ART Monks to create art

AT THE BAY

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UNCLEAN SOCIETY Number of unwashed hands rises

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BEE CATASTROPHE Mystery of the great bee plague

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SHORT-LIVED SUCCESS Baseball wins, then loses by 12

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THAT'S A WRAP



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

FINALLY: A new translator for 96.9 Radiate FM goes up last week at Biscayne Bay Campus. The tower, which has been in the works for ten years, will allow BBC students to tune in to the student-run radio station.

RADIATE FM

New translator delivers crisp soundwaves to BBC listeners

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

After 10 years of uncertainty and hard work, "the time has come," said former Radiate FM General Manager Brennan Forsyth.

Radiate FM, the FIU student radio station, installed its translator on top of the Marine Biology building and began transmitting through its new signal, 96.9 FM on Feb. 28.

This will be the first time students and faculty at Biscayne Bay Campus can hear the station in their cars or on their stereos. The new signal can be heard from as far as Key Biscayne to Dania Beach.

"This is the biggest milestone the station has reached," said sophomore

Pablo Penton, current Radiate FM general manager. "This is going to allow us to reach new students and more people."

The translator, which sits 40 feet above the Marine Biology building, will broadcast within a 10 to 15 mile radius of BBC. Penton and the station's student engineer, Tom Morris, spent four days on top of the roof of the building, working in the rain and cold last week, and finished the transmitter on Feb. 28.

"We braved quite a wind chill up there. It was absolutely freezing by South Florida standards, anyone from up north would have laughed at us," Morris said.

For Penton though, the cold and wet conditions were well worth it.

"Ten years of work and 20 years of dreaming have finally come to fruition," Penton said.

The station now has three signals. In order to pick up the signal all over South Florida, listeners will have to switch between three stations on their radio dial.

- 88.1 can be heard in the southern portion of Miami-Dade county and northern portion of Monroe county.

- 95.3 can be heard within a 10 to 15 mile radius of University Park.

- 96.9 can be heard within a 10 to 15 mile radius of BBC.

Radiate FM is now broadcasting to about 3.5 million listeners, which is the 12th largest radio market in the country according to Arbitron, a media and research

company.

"This is going to unite both campuses," said Student Media Director Robert Jaross, adviser for WRGP and *The Beacon*.

Penton said he would like to open a studio at BBC so students can do their own shows without commuting to UP.

"This is going to give a lot of students, especially in [the School of Journalism and Mass Communication] a chance to get some experience in radio," Penton said.

Besides acting as a source for music and sports programming, the station is also used as an information outlet to the University and community. During a hurricane or time of crisis, the

RADIATE, page 5

Athletics fee increase to cover budget deficit

CHARLIE GRAU
BEN F. BADGER JR.
SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Beacon Staff

The University Fee Committee met Feb. 27 for two public hearings at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus to listen to students concerns about a proposal to increase the Athletics fee for the second year in a row.

The committee is a board composed of four students and four faculty/administrators that review student service fees and recommends which fee should be increased each year.

The hearings were held in order to listen to students' concerns about a proposal to

raise the athletics fee by \$1.46 per credit hour. If passed, the increase will go toward helping offset a deficit in Athletics' budget. According to SGC-UP president Marbely Hernandez, the deficit is at \$3 million.

Funds raised from the proposed increase will also go toward the operation costs of the stadium, including staffing. According to Athletic Director Pete Garcia, fees will be used to pay the salaries of new employees added to the department.

Garcia said that the increase would generate a little over a \$1 million and said he was assured by administration that

FEE, page 3

Program rewards school spirit

BEN F. BADGER JR.
LAUREN AGOSTO
Beacon Staff

With empty seats constantly plaguing Golden Panther sporting events, the Student Government Council at University Park is devising a reward system to try and boost attendance; this system has been dubbed Panther Points.

The way the system works is relatively simple for students: attend a sports game and check in using your Panther ID card, which will earn a certain number of Panther Points. These points can then be exchanged for prizes. Less popular sports games such as golf will earn more points than one would receive from attending a football game.

While nothing specific has been decided, prizes could include food vouchers on campus, FIU memorabilia and other miscellaneous prizes.

Marlon Bright, athletics coordinator for the SGC-UP, hopes to launch a pilot of the program in junction with

Athletics and Panther Rage, the organization responsible for promoting sport games among other events.

"The short term goal of the Panther Points pilot program would be to develop an efficiently running tracking and rewards system, and increase attendance at athletic events, and subsequently, the membership of Panther Rage," Bright said.

According to Michael Halpert, vice president of administration for Panther Rage, this system is basically an upgrade to the current point reward system used by his office for their members. The pilot program will begin in August 2008, according to Halpert.

"We still have to work out the kinks," Halpert said.

When the pilot Panther Points program launches, it will only be open to Panther Rage members.

"The ultimate goal of Panther Points is to be able to open it up as a campus wide system owned and operated by Athletics," Bright said.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • MARCH 3

Mandala Sand Painting (All through Thursday):

10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

SOC Club Fair:

11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

TUESDAY • MARCH 4

The Art of Visual Arts Display:

12 p.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Honors Council General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 140

General Emerging Green Builders Meeting:

Dean's Conference room on 2nd floor in Engineering Building

SOC General Meeting:

5:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

Business Etiquette Reception Provided by Aramark :

6 p.m. - 7 p.m., WUC (BBC)

On Point Poetry:

7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., WUC Ballrooms(BBC)

Head to Head Jeopardy:

2 p.m., GC 243 - Come watch students battle against Honors College professors.

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 5

The Art of Performance Poetry:

10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

2008 Career & Internship Fair:

10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

SGA General Meeting:

4 p.m., Graham Center 150

Asian Student Union General Meeting:

8 p.m., WUC Theatre (BBC)

THURSDAY • MARCH 6

The Art of Fashion- Fashion Show:

12 p.m., Panther Square (BBC)

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting:

8:00 p.m., Chemistry & Physics 197

Italian Club General Meeting:

3:30 p.m., Graham Center 150

SPC BBC General Meeting:

4 p.m., Campus Life Conference Room (BBC)

Presidential Lecture Series Presents Robert L. Draper

3:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m., RDB 1100

FRIDAY • MARCH 7

ENGAGE Leadership Workshop:

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., Graham Center 305

Honors Council 4th Semi Annual Brain Bowl:

7 p.m., Graham Center 243

SPC Movie- "The Golden Compass:"

7 & 10 p.m., Graham Center 140

The Art of Dance - Dance off Competition:

8 p.m., WUC Ballrooms (BBC)

Wildin' Out:

9 p.m., Mary-Ann Wolfe Theatre (BBC)

- Compiled by Cassandra Pool

Wolfsonian's Webwise forum welcomes, informs guests

ROCIO BLANCO-GARCIA
Staff Writer

With the beginning of a new month, the Wolfsonian-FIU prepares for its biggest event to date, a conference that will impact the center's reputation and Miami Beach's economy.

More than 300 Miami Beach hotel rooms have been booked for more than 350 professionals from museums, archives and related institutions from all over the country.

They are expected to attend Webwise, a three-day annual national forum that addresses the emergence and implications of digital technologies on the museum and library communities.

Latin-inspired foods and drinks will be served and the Grammy-nominated band Conjunto Proyecto will perform.

On March 6-7 discussions will commence on the latest technology including 2.0 tools and software, which assist museums and libraries in accessibility to their respective audiences.

Using 2.0 technology, users can browse online catalogs, conduct research and view objects without ever leaving their homes.

"We are excited to learn about the technology that will be presented in terms of our own institutions," said Susanna Temkin, Wolfsonian's Webwise coordinator. "As hosts, we are also thrilled to be able to showcase

the museum and library communities will really enjoy seeing them," Temkin said.

Even though the event has not yet arrived, for coordinators, it is already considered a success and is expected to reinforce the Wolfsonian's role as an advocate of culture and education.

Registration reached capacity in January, and a waitlist had to be established for those who hope to attend.

Those who are interested in the event can register on the waitlist at <http://webwise2008.fcla.edu>.

Videos and information on selected topics discussed during the three-day event will also be available after the conference takes place via <http://uvu.channel2.org>.

For more information on the Wolfsonian and its upcoming events visit <http://www.wolfsonian.org> or call (305) 531-1001.



Susanna Temkin, Webwise coordinator

We are excited to learn about the technology that will be presented in terms of our own institutions.

While most attendees are expected to stay three days, some will extend their visit throughout the weekend to visit other cultural centers within the Miami Beach area.

"This is one of those events that enforces the role culture plays in local economies," said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian.

The center will open its doors March 5 to a pre-conference session where a reception full of Latin flavor will welcome guests.

our institution to our peers within the museum and library community."

Highlights of the conference include a National Endowment for the Humanities

pre-conference session, featuring recent grant-supported projects and a keynote address by Jonathan Fanton, president of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation.

Other topics, such as metadata software and 3D imaging to open source technology, will also be covered.

During all three days, the Wolfsonian's museum and gallery will also be open for attendees.

"We expect that our peers within

THE BEACON

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Yin brought to international relations

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

Chinese philosophy and international relations will merge at FIU's lecture, "Spirituality in an Age of Global Terrorism" on March 5 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

As part of Women's History Month, four leading women with four different spiritual beliefs will discuss the positive effects that the rise from the yin — the female and passive cosmic force in the Chinese philosophy of yin and yang — would generate in international relations.

"There is a great spiritual hunger for peace, an end to war and greater relations with the world," said Reverend Linnea Pearson, FIU Inter-Faith Chaplain and professor at the Religious Studies department. "We believe that men haven't done a very good job. We think maybe it's time for women to give it a try."

Lama Karam Chotso, Reverend Yanick Douyon, Reverend Linnea Pearson and Sam Anji Charitra Prajna, all named "women of distinction" by FIU's Women Studies department,

will discuss how major world religions have oppressed women and perpetuated violence by preaching exclusiveness and conflict.

"Major religions have used women in secondary command and devalued their contributions," Pearson said.

A switch to the yin forces of "negotiation and compromise and empathy" will shift the United States policy of aggression to diplomacy in the international sphere, Pearson said.

Discussions on terrorism, spirituality, institutionalized religion and universal humanity will lead to a performance by Grammy nominee, Rachel Ford, who will attempt to invoke yin energies with a Buddhist hymn.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at 7:30 p.m. at BBC's Wolfe Theater. It is sponsored by Faith Matters: A Multi-Ethnic Alliance for Global Community, the FIU Center for the Study of Spirituality, the FIU Department of Women's Studies and the BBC Campus Ministry.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

ON A MISSION: Martin Luther King III speaks in the Graham Canter ballrooms last week. His lecture, "My father's legacy, my mission," was presented as part of Black History Month celebrations.

Athletics seeks alternate funding

FEE, page 1

assured by administration that the rest of the deficit would get covered.

"Right now we do have a deficit in Athletics and this student fee will help us reduce that deficit," Garcia said. "We'll use this fee to close that gap."

When asked by a student attendant how deep in debt

sorships and other deals made with businesses.

"We're looking at trying to get a naming partner for the stadium - whether we call it Nike Stadium or Coca-Cola or whatever it is - but that's the other thing that we'll have to do, not as Athletics, as a university. We have to brand our university," Garcia said. "People want access to our 40,000

"You're never ready to be a D-I program," he said.

He also said that insurance costs that covers its student athletes has increased including cost for, traveling, hiring new staff to service and work the stadium, additional compliance officers, strength coaches and assistant coaches have driven up the budget of the department.

Although not many students attended both of the public hearings, those who did voiced several concerns about the second consecutive increase for the Athletics.

Jonathan Doozan, SGC-BBC comptroller, said that he understands that many universities use athletics as a tool to brand their school, but needs more information from Athletics to make a educated decision.

"This is what I would like to know: how many suites are there [at the football stadium], how many suites have they sold and how many sponsorships have they gotten. Perhaps he's trying to keep it simple, but the ambiguity doesn't give

me the confidence in voting for the proposal," Doozan said. "The health fee and A&S fee is never going to make money. It's understandable to invest in Athletics because there is the potential for bringing in revenue through athletic programs. They're not going to get a return for the health fee or A&S fee."

Others feel that Athletics hasn't done enough to cut down the deficit and should not be asking for another fee increase.

"From what I see they are asking for inflation, for the cost of inflation. I think they need to scale back a bit with their rapid growth. We need to focus on making [FIU] grow without burdening students," said senior David Dial.

SGC-UP is using the proposed athletic fee increase to help renegotiate the Athletic Partnership.

Already passed, the partnership will allow would give SGC-UP the opportunity to use the FIU Football Stadium, the baseball stadium, Pharmed Arena, the Donor's club and a skybox for \$30,000 over the next three years.

According to SGC-UP president Hernandez and Vice President A.J. Myer, they sat down with Garcia and Associate Athletic Director Julie Burg to discuss including the Athletics partnership proposal into this fee increase if it were to pass.

If so, SGC-UP would get all the benefits from the deal they agreed to with athletics, but for free.

"What do you want more. \$1 million or \$30,000?" said SGC-UP comptroller Sergio Ibarra-Bolaños.

The committee will meet again on March 5 to decide whether to recommend the proposed fee increase.

David Dial, Senior

I think they need to scale back a bit with their rapid growth. We need to focus on making [FIU] grow without burdening students.

the department is, Garcia said they didn't know.

"They're working on it right now, they don't have exact numbers. It's going to be more than the Athletic fee and the rest of it, the administration is finding other ways of funding that gap," Garcia said.

Athletics is looking into raising money through spon-

students, people want access to our alumni base. There's a lot of companies and banks that want these services from our students and alumni. That's what we have to be smart about as a university - and not just Athletics - and bundle it all together."

Garcia conceded the University was not ready to make the jump to Division I.

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Police Notes

- Feb 21 - Police were called in reference to an African American male wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans around the University Park Apartments during the night. The suspect, Marcellus Bailey, was walking towards Building K. Police arrived on scene and arrested Mr. Bailey for trespassing. Bailey had previously been warned for the same offense on the FIU campus and had an outstanding warrant for felony battery.
- Feb. 22 - An FIU staff member reported to police that he left his laptop on top of his desk overnight. Upon his return to the desk the next morning, he discovered that unknown person(s) had removed his laptop from his desk. No further information was provided.
- Feb. 26 - An FIU staff member was complaining of shortness of breath. Police and Miami-Dade Rescue responded to the scene. She was treated and released on the scene.
- Feb. 27 - An FIU employee stated to police that while servicing the parking meters in lot number 6, he found one parking meter damaged. On an unknown date or time, unknown person(s) apparently used unknown tool(s) to damage the top portion of the meter.
- Feb. 27: An FIU student reported to police that he parked his vehicle at approximately 1:15 PM in Parking Lot #10 during soccer practice. Upon his return, the student discovered that unknown suspect(s) had gained access to his vehicle and stole several items including his Toshiba laptop, the carrying case for the laptop, his iPod, his book bag and his Calculus Textbook. His vehicle was also damaged during the break-in.
- Feb. 27 - 28 - While investigating a loud gathering in Panther Hall during the midnight hours, FIU student Brian White became loud and irate with officers responding to the scene and caused further disturbance. The student was repeatedly warned to calm down but continued to incite further commotion. The student was asked to provide some identification, at which point he provided officers with a suspended Delaware state drivers license. The student was then arrested and placed into custody for disorderly conduct and for unlawful use of a suspended license. He was transported to the station for processing. While at the station, the student admitted to knowing that his Delaware driver's license was suspended. A vehicle owned by a student with \$351.25 worth of unpaid parking citations was locked with a Rhino parking immobilizer, placed by Department of Parking and Transportation personnel but, later on in the day, the vehicle and immobilizer were gone.

- Compiled by David Barrios

Business of beer taught at lecture series

JEREIMA FERRER
Contributing Writer

Owning her own business was something Moriah Murphy dreamed about as a student at Florida State University, but she never thought it would be a beer selling business.

Murphy, chief operating officer of 1812 South Inc., spoke to a crowd of about 250 who attended the Women Who Lead lecture series hosted by the School of Hospitality Management.

"The beer business is a very male dominated business," Murphy said.

Murphy served as a mentor for hundreds of young ladies present at the lecture Friday morning. She shared stories about the hardships she encountered in a predominantly male industry and how she successfully maneuvered her way around stereotypes that are normally associated with being a woman in the beer business.

"Women are used as marketing girls to sell

beer," she said, while adding that when she walks into some boardrooms, the immediate expression on her male counterparts' faces is: "They're sending her in because someone thinks she's cute."

Murphy tied in women empowerment with a crash course in beer management, explaining how her company sells their product. The company doesn't use commercials, and instead relies on T-shirts and other unorthodox methods to get the word out.

"We're not like the big guys, and we don't want to look like the big guys," she said.

Murphy's War of 1812 ale is a craft beer. The difference between her beer and a big company's is the amount of barrels brewed each year. The smaller amount of beer brewed, the better quality it will have.

The "big guys" Murphy refers to are the Coors and Budweisers of the beer industry. According to Murphy, in response

to the success of smaller companies such as hers, the big companies have devised plans to trump the competition.

"They have consolidated and merged into bigger companies. They have become silent partners in smaller companies or simply bought them out, or they have developed their own craft beer," she said.

Dealing with these daily challenges encourages Murphy to move on and make her beer stand out in a saturated market.

The imposing obstacles and constant competition do not seem to faze her.

"This industry is a blast; it's a lot of fun," Murphy said.

Murphy might have found a young apprentice in the crowd. Fawn Coba, a student at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, found herself reevaluating her major after Murphy's passionate speech.

"She made me think about a possible future in the beer industry," Coba said.

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PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

BETTER LIVING THROUGH CIRCUITRY: Engineer Tom Morris plugs in to work on a server.

Radiate FM reaches milestone; campus radio arrives to Bay area

RADIATE, page 1

University's Office of Emergency Management uses the station to warn students and faculty of any potential dangers on campus.

"We now have a uniting medium and another way to get information to people quickly. We can get to people quickly in the case of an emergency," Jaross said.

Radiate FM got its start in August of 1987 as WUFI radio on 530 AM. In July 1999 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted permission to switch to 88.1 on the FM dial, in a move that Alfred Soto, assistant director of student media, called probably the most significant in Radiate FM's history.

"Overnight [the station] went

from a student club to a potential force on campus. There was no real progress till 2004 when FCC gave us authority to broadcast on that signal," said Soto, who was also a WRGP deejay as a student. "This opens up untold possibilities on both campuses."

The dream almost never became a reality after a series of problems got in the way of launching 96.9. The station faced many road blocks including pirates who illegally broadcasted on the signal for months.

Despite the hurdles that the station faced, they managed to overcome them.

"It's a true example that persistence pays off," Lunsford said.

Morris, who was heavily

involved with installing the translator, is already looking to the future and even thinking about expanding the station more.

"If the FCC opened up translator applications again, I would love to get a translator up on the Pines Center," Morris said. If there's free spot on the dial, I'll do it."

From its inception 21 years ago, Morris' ambitious dream may not seem that far-fetched.

"Two years ago, we didn't even hear our radio station on either campus; now you can pick it up as far as the Key Largo," Jaross said.

Charlie Grau can be reached at charlie.grau@fiusm.com.

Priest uncovers Jewish killings

PAMELA DUQUE
Staff Writer

Father Desbois, a French Roman Catholic priest who has dedicated years investigating and uncovering the killings of thousands of Jews in the Ukraine, lectured on "Ukraine: The Holocaust by Bullets" at Biscayne Bay Campus' Kovens Conference Center on Feb. 28.

The lecture was sponsored by FIU's Judaic Studies Program in conjunction with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, the Holocaust Memorial-Miami Beach and the Jewish Commu-

nity Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

"Most people have a fairly narrow knowledge of what the Holocaust was, they think of the gas chambers, the camps," said Oren Stier, Judaic Studies Program director. "It's important for the FIU community to understand that even before the first gas camp was built, there was mass murder going on behind the eastern front of the German army in the early years of WWII."

In 2004, Desbois founded Yahad In Unum, an organization dedicated to investigating the shootings of Jews in the Ukraine between 1941

and 1944. Desbois and his team have collected physical proof of the "holocaust by bullets" in recorded testimonies by witnesses and survivors and found mass graves where Ukrainian Jews were buried alive.

It was Desbois' grandfather's confession that drew his attention to the Ukraine at the age of 45 to investigate what happened to thousands of Jews in 1941.

"My grandfather never spoke about that, he was a very funny person, and was always joking, but about the war it was complete silence," said Desbois, whose grandfather spent three years in a French

soldier's prison in Rava-Ruska, Ukraine.

It had been assumed that the Nazi's had committed the killings, but after years of research, Desbois has discovered that Ukrainian citizens were also forced by the Nazi to kill, transport and burn thousands of Jews.

"Everyone did the killing," said Paul Shapiro, director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, who has been working with Desbois for the last few years.

"By learning about what happened to thousands of Jews, you give their lives and deaths meaning," Shapiro said.

Mandalas spur spirituality, healing

PSHERVIN BAIN
Contributing Writer

The Student Programming Council is bringing the Mystical Arts of Tibet — a group of monks that play ancient music with traditional instruments — to FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus from Mar. 3-6. Each day the events will take place in Wolfe University Center's Panther Square from 10:00am - 6:00pm.

The Monks will be here to showcase their Mandala Sand Painting, the art of painting with colored sands also known as "The Architecture of Enlightenment."

"I think it's something different for the students to see and experience culturally and spiritually to connect to this event, and it is interesting to hear what they have to say at the end of the ceremony," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of campus life at BBC. "We thought it was a great educational, artistic, and spiritual component for the university to experience."

The monks have created Mandala sand paintings across North America from Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood bowl, to schools, theatres, festivals, and civic centers. The monks have also represented Tibet at the Cultural Olympia of Greece in 2003. The Dalai Lama endorses the Mystical Arts of Tibet as a means of promoting world peace and healing, and their tour is co-produced by actor Richard Gere, according to the Mystical Arts of Tibet portfolio.

Over a three-day period the monks will be constructing the Mandala Sand Painting through a six-step process. It will start with an opening ceremony of music, chanting, and mantra recitation

followed by the drawing of the Mandala outline. Once the outline is completed the monks will start the Mandala construction by pouring millions of grains of sand from funnels that are called chakpur onto the outline.

"They are passionate about what they do. I watched as they pushed sand out of the pipe. I thought it was interesting to watch them go over the mistakes. They are dedicated," said Ryan Lyttle, a junior majoring in Criminal Justice, who previously saw the event at Florida's National Association for Campus Activities.

The creation will conclude with a consecration ceremony at 6 p.m. on Mar. 6 in Panther Square. During this ceremony the monks dismantle the mandala by sweeping the colored sands.

Janette Francois, SPC President, said that it was "a culturally diverse program. [the students] can watch and see the creativity. It gets very intricate. Hopefully the students will stop by and see what's going on, especially on the last day for the ceremony."

During the consecration ceremony the monks and guest also will go to a flowing body of water and carry the sand that remains. This is where the sand is ceremonially poured into the water, which is said to "disperse the healing energies of the mandala throughout the world," according to their portfolio.

David Diaz, a junior majoring in communications said he is looking forward to this event.

"I saw it when I was going to school in San Diego. It's just so intricate, I think everyone should see it before they die!" said Diaz. "I'm happy that there is someone in the world that shows that people can accomplish anything they put their mind to."

For more information visit www.mysticalartsoftibet.org.

NEWSFLASH

2008 Wellness Expo

The Wellness Center will host the Annual Wellness Expo on Tuesday Mar. 11th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Panther Square. The expo will consist of free screenings, massages, and HIV testing. Condoms, lubricants and health information will be available. For more information call (305) 919-5307.

On Point Poetry celebrates Women's History Month

On Point Poetry will be presenting "A Woman's Worth" on Mar. 4th at 7 p.m. in the WUC Ballroom. This is the last event for the semester. Refreshments will be served after the event.

French wine tasting by Friends of Wine

On Monday, Mar. 3, Friends of Wine will present "The Wonderful World of French Wines" in the Hospitality building dining room from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Tasters must be at least 21 years old and have proper ID. Entry is \$4 for members, \$8 for non-members.

— Compiled by Ana Perez, Beacon Staff

THE BEACON | Editorial

Funds allocated to SGC-UP Athletics partnership can go to better use elsewhere

It would appear as though the SGC-UP finally came to its senses when it decided to include a \$90,000 Athletics partnership, which would procure Athletics' venues for student use within the proposed athletic fee increase.

Originally, SGC-UP was planning to take \$90,000 - \$30,000 over the next three years - out of the Activities and Service fees that make up its budget.

Now, if the fee increase passes, the SGC-UP won't be paying a dime.

With the fee increased, SGC-UP can use the A&S fees in its rightful places.

"It's completely unfair. It would be double dipping," said Marbely Hernandez SGC-UP president in reference to the use of A&S fees to pay for something pertaining to Athletics.

When discussions of the fee increase began, SGC-UP Vice President Arthur Meyer and Hernandez went over all of their options.

"We sat down with Pete Garcia and Julie Burg and negotiated. What we negotiated was including the athletics partnership proposal into this fee increase if it were to pass," Meyer said. "But we looked at it and said, if we're going to raise this, what can we get, what can the students benefit besides operational costs for the stadium?"

Despite the original enthusiasm of SGC-UP to spend the money prior to the revision,

it seems to have changed its mind.

With the funds solely being dispersed from the income of the Athletics fees, SGC-UP is now espousing rhetoric along the lines of a contradiction.

SGC-UP is now forcing support for the revision, making the proposal's cost the responsibility of Athletics.

Their position, in and of itself, was contradictory and it was deplorable that they would try to pass it off as if SGC-UP had been steadfastly in support of the revision all along.

Less than a month ago, Meyer and the rest of his SGC-UP were willing to toss the money into the proverbial toilet for a few perks.

Any proposal wouldn't be complete without some inconsistencies and contradiction on SGC-UP's part.

You would think that with all the budget cuts we keep hearing about, Meyer and the rest of SGC-UP would be more concerned.

Athletics' money woes should be the least of the University's financial concerns.

Accordingly, the money needed to be put to better use elsewhere; the Engineering Center, for example.

This is the heart of the matter, and it's up to SGC-UP to either press on with its self-involved agenda, or mirror its Biscayne Bay Campus counterpart, which was against the proposal from the beginning, and start acting in the best interest of FIU's students.

SOILED HANDS



JOSEPH MARHEE/THE BEACON

SWARTHY SLOB: A student dodges the sinks while leaving a Graham Center restroom with hands unwashed.

Students fail to wash hands

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

The majority of people do not wash their hands after using the bathroom. Shocked? You shouldn't be, chances are you are one of them. For a period of one week I ventured into three of FIU's most widely used bathrooms and I measured the amount of students that washed their hands, compared to the number of lewd individuals who think that their time is worth more than their own hygiene.

Not only is not washing your hands revolting and unsanitary,

it poses a danger to others, as it carries viruses and bacteria. According to Biological Sciences Professor Martin Tracey, for the bacteria or virus to infect you, you have to "transfer the virus or bacteria so that it can get inside your body ... through the nose, mouth, eyes and lips."

In fact, as Tracey dictates, "you wash your hands first before you use the bathroom because you know where your penis has been all day but you don't know where your hands have been all day." Since E. coli spreads through "a lot of contact" you can be sure that

the 43.07 percent of the people I observed in Graham Center who do wash their hands will be infected faster than a parking space fills up at FIU.

Although the thought that someone just finished removing their feces using nothing but a plain sheet of paper to separate their hand from the defecated material is not an image on the back of everyone's mind, you cannot argue with the numbers: 56.93 percent of people observed in GC do not wash their hands.

HANDS, page 7

America mourns the passing of William F. Buckley, Jr.

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

When the phrase "conservative media" is spoken these days, what seems to pop up in people's minds are media outlets such as the FOX News Network and talk radio and the talking heads who broadcast from those outlets, such as Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh.

The name William F. Buckley, Jr, especially to my generation and perhaps the one before it, doesn't register the way it used to and was perhaps even forgotten until Buckley passed away on Feb. 26.

Buckley's impact on American politics is nothing short of seismic and this stalwart of the American conservative movement will be missed, as he always displayed a willingness to debate on an open forum and had an eloquent and erudite manner of expressing his beliefs.

Buckley aptly represented the core beliefs of the conservative ideology in contemporary American politics, refined to a point that would seem alien in today's television and radio opinion programs.

He was able to combine the ideologies of

free-market economics, traditionalist morality and zealous anti-Communism into a coherent and articulate argument, which formed the basis for his founding of the ground-breaking conservative magazine *National Review*. He tried to disseminate his conservative agenda with his public affairs television program, "Firing Line."

What these two forums created was the energy that catalyzed the formation of influential groups such as Young Americans for Freedom and they laid the foundation for Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in the 1964 election; culminating in 1980 with the Reagan presidency.

His ability to transform the milieu of the political system and largely making his brand of conservatism a force to be reckoned with, are the result of his influence, addled by his ease of giving conservatism a good and seemingly lucid face, as opposed to the extremism that characterized other conservative movements, such as the John Birch Society, among others.

While I may not agree with many, if not most, of Buckley's beliefs, I can certainly respect and even appreciate his manner of carrying himself, especially inside the realm

of debate. Buckley was a firm believer in the forum of discourse, preferring a knowledgeable and reserved style of debating that is sorely absent in the "shout fests" that dominate the airwaves today.

Unfortunately, while Buckley was monu-

“ Buckley aptly represented the core beliefs of the conservative ideology in contemporary American politics, refined to a point that would seem alien in today's television and radio opinion programs. ”

mental in the formation of the modern conservative movement, he also provided the groundwork for the rise of the conservative media, especially conservative talk radio.

Ironically, it was the acceptance of conservative thought in mainstream politics that brought a slew of people who viewed themselves as moderate, being denied the right to speak on behalf of the conservative masses.

Also ironic is the fact that Buckley's liberal

education in the elite private schools of Britain and France and at Yale University resulted in the background that allowed him to speak so eloquently and with such polysyllabic exuberance, as noted by the Douglas Martin of *The New York Times*.

But, alas, today's brand of political commentary, at least in terms of the mainstream media, is far from being eloquent and miles away from erudite.

Perhaps the conservative media should try to attempt to emulate his ability to rise above the fray and try to bring back serious, reasoned and civil debates. William F. Buckley, the "scourge of liberalism" and the favorite conservative of liberals, you will be missed.

Students ignore personal hygiene, endanger others

HANDS, page 6

The most common reason for skipping a wash would most likely be running off to class before you are 30 seconds late along with the professor.

If you find yourself always arriving late, just leave 20 minutes earlier, rather than infecting every single person you feel compelled to shake hands with.

Apparently, this is common in Deuxieme Maison, where only 43.05 percent of people I observed washed their hands.

The only exception to this phenomenon would be the bathrooms of Owa Ehan.

In OE, 76.31 percent of people wash their hands.

Then again, OE is strictly filled with chemistry and biology labs.

Those who study biology and chemistry would very well understand the importance of washing your hands since “E. coli is 20 percent of feces” said Tracey.

It would please me greatly, and the rest of the University, if everyone would just simply take 10-30 seconds from their lives to wash their hands.

The number of unwashed hands around FIU is almost horrifying.

In the week of observation, it was almost incomprehensible that *this* many people walk around with filthy hands.

Please wash your hands, though there some who take the time out to be more hygienic. The majority, however, does not.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

THE SOAPBOX:

An Op-Ed Column

Israeli, Palestinian conflict misrepresented

RHONDA ROSENBERG
Special to the Beacon

I was taken aback by an article in the Opinion section that appeared in the Jan. 31 issue of *The Beacon*, “Americans should demand solidarity for Palestine.”

The article is filled with anti-Israeli and anti-American biases, complete with erroneous “facts.” Nowhere in the article is there even a hint of an opposing view. Nowhere is there a suggestion that Israel and the United States have a legitimate argument.

So I thought it would be an important lesson for our campuses to face up to such a bias.

Right off the bat, the article refers to a handful of radical organizations that have called for taking a “stand for human rights.”

And yet, instead of any reference to the hard work for peace that is ongoing between the governments, the article can only call for “our (American) government to stop the mass oppression and collective punishment of innocent Palestinians.”

The implication is clear: neither Israelis nor Americans have human rights of their own.

Israel is attacked for its right to defend itself against arbitrary murder. Yes, that is what the article implies when it dismisses

“rocket fire” at Israeli towns as if it were harmless firecrackers.

These explosive missiles are intended to kill and maim as many civilians as possible and to spread terror. Targets have been schools and shopping centers.

In addition, America is criticized for having our own network of defense, and for sending “tax dollars in aid” to our closest ally in the Middle East.

“ Israel is attacked for its right to defend itself...what the article implies when it dismisses “rocket fire” at Israeli towns as it were harmless fire- ”

That aid is substantially less than the cost of keeping U.S. soldiers in Germany, in order to defend Europe; or in South Korea to defend its territory; or even in the tiny Arab kingdom of Kuwait. The article's author “believes the United States is responsible” for the Palestinian people, but fails to mention the billions we send in aid to them and the twenty-two Arab countries supporting them.

The students and faculty of FIU should know that they

can find a measure of objective truth in the free press of the only real democracy in the Middle East. Read it for yourselves at the “Republican” Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com) or the “Democrat” Haaretz (www.haaretz.com), Israel's two largest English-language papers. The degree of Israeli self-criticism is refreshing, even of their own policies. We need to press for more than “opinion;” we need critical thinking to inves-

tigate claims that may appear to be facts.

This is particularly true of the confusion that terrorism spreads about victim hood.

If you care about a just peace, you can become a member of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (www.spme.net), which provides a listserv to dismantle the confusion.

Rhonda Rosenberg is a assistant research professor in the Stempel School of Public Health

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UCC helps otherwise directionless students find unknown aptitudes through experimentation

The Beacon's February 25th editorial (Students desensitized by UCC) really made me think about education today.

First, the author presents a picture of a higher education curriculum geared to technical and professional career paths.

There is nothing wrong with this, but this one-track, utilitarian focus of education.

This is exactly the root of many of the problems that face Miami-Dade County. In particular, its public education system.

Education is both a struggle and a maturing process, not merely an incentive to making it big.

Though we all wish and desire success in our future professional endeavors, only those who accept the challenge of rethinking everything we thought we were taught in high school (rehashing) will reap the greater benefits from this experience.

College education is not only about the UCC we have to go through, it is also about how we approach that curriculum.

We must discover new strategies

of learning and engagement with our fellow students in our university and our community.

If after two years through the UCC a students really “[ends] up knowing just as much as in high school.”

Then the problem is not the curriculum, but rather what the student expects from their education.

The author concludes by claiming that “[essentially,] FIU students are studying for the sake of studying.”

For a large number of young students, particularly those students right out of high school, this is precisely the time for them to focus on studying.

Only after going through a variety of disciplines and ideas will a student's own ideas about their future will begin to take root.

Though I acknowledge the problems that may exist in the UCC (overcrowded classes, overworked adjunct faculty), apathy does not begin in the classroom, but rather in the individual.

Mauro J. Caraccioli
Graduate Student
International Relations

Presupposition of Cuba's future called into question, deemed extreme, ignorant

It is necessary to respond to what you wrote last week in your opinion column [Castro-less Cuba's future not set in stone]. It can only be categorized as extreme, ignorant and incredibly off point.

Your hatred for President Bush is obvious; unfortunately that hatred has also biased your writing.

The intent of your writing was not to truly investigate what the change in political climate might yield in Cuba, but much more so as a platform in which to launch unsubstantiated attacks on the Bush administration and even more disturbingly on the USA itself.

You show no hesitation in jumping to wild speculation about what you assume “could” happen. You go on to sell your unsubstantiated viewpoint to your readers as if it were a universally accepted fact.

All the US administration has said is that it has no plans to lift the embargos on Cuba. And why should they?

In addition, with the administration's term in office coming to an end in less than a year, many of the plans that you represent the administration to be currently contemplating- are flat out impossible given their remaining time in office.

You go on to talk about the “outstanding

Universal Healthcare system” that Castro implemented in Cuba. You even go as far to say that Cuba has “successfully lived under a socialist regime”. I think that the vast majority of your readers, especially the Cuban Americans, will disagree with your definitions of “success” and “outstanding”.

However, what has forced me to take time out of my busy schedule is to respond to your comment that America dying with Lincoln “is not too far from the truth”.

This is an inexcusable insult to the forefathers of our country who dedicated their lives to bettering our country. This statement exposes you as nothing more than an ill-informed juvenile, who safely sits in front of a PC proudly utilizing a right to free speech as if it was self earned.

Our country has undeniably made incredible progress socially, industrially and scientifically since Lincoln's death.

Yet your hate for Bush has persuaded you to ignore and even mask these accomplishments.

At the same time you champion a dictatorship that has arguably accomplished very little to nothing in the last 50 years.

Rob Rodier
Class of 2003



NOT TO BEE?

Insects face possible extinction

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer



Humans have been responsible for the extinction of many different species; the next one on the list could be the bee. According to the Florida Department of Agriculture, "during the months of October, November and December of 2006, an alarming number of honey bee colonies began to die along the east coast of the United States."

The numbers of bees dying are not small either, as *Cosmos Magazine* stated.

"Across 24 U.S. states affected by the mysterious phenomenon, losses have ranged up to 90 percent."

Those are thousands of hives lost, according to Dr. Suzzane Koptur, professor of biological sciences.

"There is a syndrome called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)," Koptur said. "It appears that the bees get disoriented and they go out foraging, collecting nectar from flowers, but on the way back they get lost and do not return to the nest. Without the food, larvae die and the colony collapses."

The collapse and destruction of bee hives could have widespread negative effects on mankind. Bees are extremely vital to the economy.

"Honey production is worth just \$200 million a year, but bees pollinate \$15 billion worth of fruit, vegetables and nuts, especially the \$2 billion almond business," reported *The Economist* in April 2007.

The bees could be dying off in massive numbers for a multitude of reasons, yet it seems likely that humans may be partially responsible

for their disappearance.

The dead bees had several things in common. The colonies had all been moved as many as two to five times in 2006, according to the Florida Drug Association. Moving is stressful to bees due to "confinement, temperature fluctuations and possible reduction (or cessation) of egg laying".

Other factors that would also affect the bees would be the "rate of defecation in the colony, forced mingling of young and older - possibly infected - adult bees and an increased chance of disease transmission." They could also be more exposed to new diseases and pathogens due to the constant moving.

Another factor that may add to these deaths may be that "beekeepers are constantly 'splitting' colonies to make up for losses," according to the FDA. Beekeepers are also continually recycling back the equipment from the dead colonies to create new split.

Existing food reserves in the dead hives are provided to the new colonies; potentially any disease agent or chemical contaminant would be carried over to the new colony, the FDA states.

Large scale splitting of colonies can also be stressful on bees and alters the age profile of the worker population in the hives.

"Older bees are forced to act as nurse bees. These bees are not as efficient in brood provisioning and may be more likely to be infested with diseases affecting adult bees," the FDA reported. Stress also compromises the bees immune system and make it easier for diseases to infect the bees.

The possible causes don't end there. There has been evidence suggesting bees are dying due to pathogens raised in conditions caused by humans. Among the clues pointing to a possible disease according

to the FDA is "the sting gland of many examined bees that were obviously scarred with distinct black 'marks.' This type of pin-point darkening is indicative of an immune response to some sort of pathogen." Even the queens are infected since "in addition to their sting glands, evidence of melanosis was found in the ovaries of infected queens. These queens were superseded by colonies. Subsequent research has documented damage to hypopharyngeal glands of worker bees."

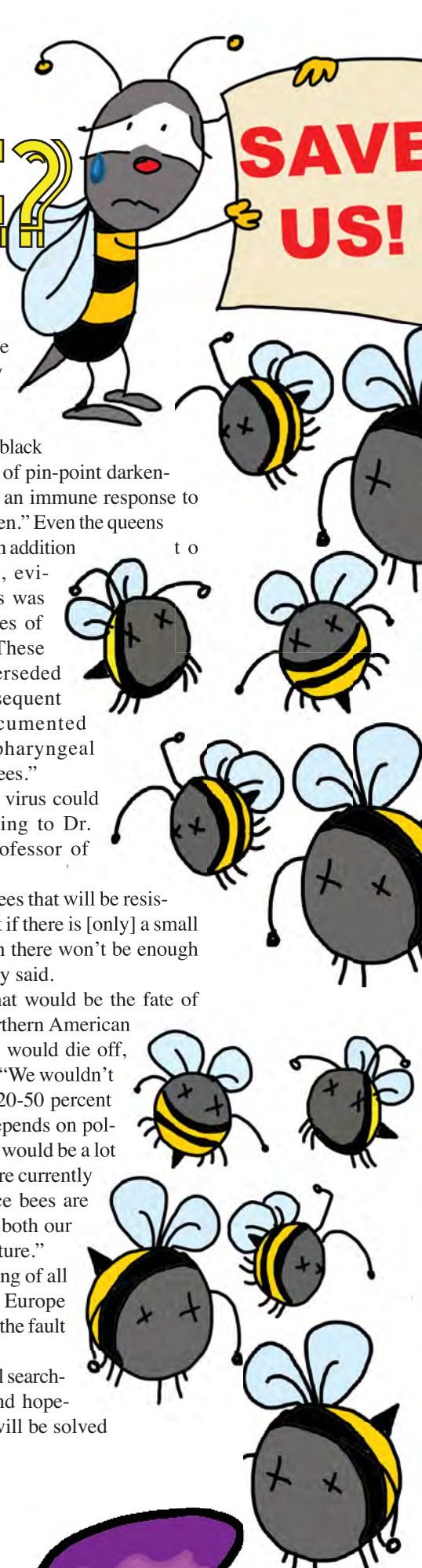
The effects of a virus could be severe, according to Dr. Martin Tracey, professor of biology.

"There will be bees that will be resistant to the virus, but if there is [only] a small percentage left then there won't be enough to pollinate," Tracey said.

When asked what would be the fate of humanity if all Northern American and European bees would die off, Koptur responded: "We wouldn't have much to eat, 20-50 percent of all food eaten depends on pollination ... our diets would be a lot plainer. Scientists are currently working on it, since bees are really important to both our economy and to nature."

The bees are dying of all over the U.S. and Europe and it is most likely the fault of humans.

Scientists are still searching for answers, and hopefully the problem will be solved on time.



IRIS AMELIA/THE BEACON



Xi Man pageant raises money for a good cause

OLIVIA SARRACINO
Staff Writer

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority will host its annual Xi Man pageant on Tuesday, March 4 for the seventh year in a row. The sorority, which has raised more than \$1,000 every year for its philanthropy project, Choose Children, is partnering with Make-A-Wish Foundation for the first time.

The competition is designed to elect a gentleman as AXD's sweetheart for the year. This gentleman will help AXD meet their monetary goals, ultimately aimed at helping children.

"We look for a man who we think embodies our ideals and values," said Jenna Stone, Alpha Xi Delta's vice president. "[Someone] who we think can really contribute to our philanthropy project."

AXD, which organizes the competition to donate money to any children organization of their choice, is looking forward to making a difference by granting a child's wish.

"Last year, we donated roughly \$3,000 to Make-A-Wish," Stone said. "Hopefully we can raise more money this year to grant a larger wish to a kid or two."

Xi Man's competition is comprised of three different rounds: best feature, talent performance and worst-case scenario. During the best feature portion, the participants are not allowed to speak - they have to visually demonstrate their best attribute.

Before moving into the next round, some of the gentlemen are eliminated and the remaining contestants move on to the five minute talent segment. After the talent performance is completed, a second elimination takes place. This allows the final five to battle in the worst-case scenario questionnaire.

"We put them through a worse-case scenario, which is up to our discretion," Stone said. "This year is a surprise, whether we do it live or videotape it."

According to Stone, the worst-case scenario round is one of the funniest parts of the show.

"We put them in a really awkward scenario, such as trying to take a girl on a date and her parents are really difficult," Stone said. "He has to somehow get himself out of this bind, or show that he has really good male characteristics."

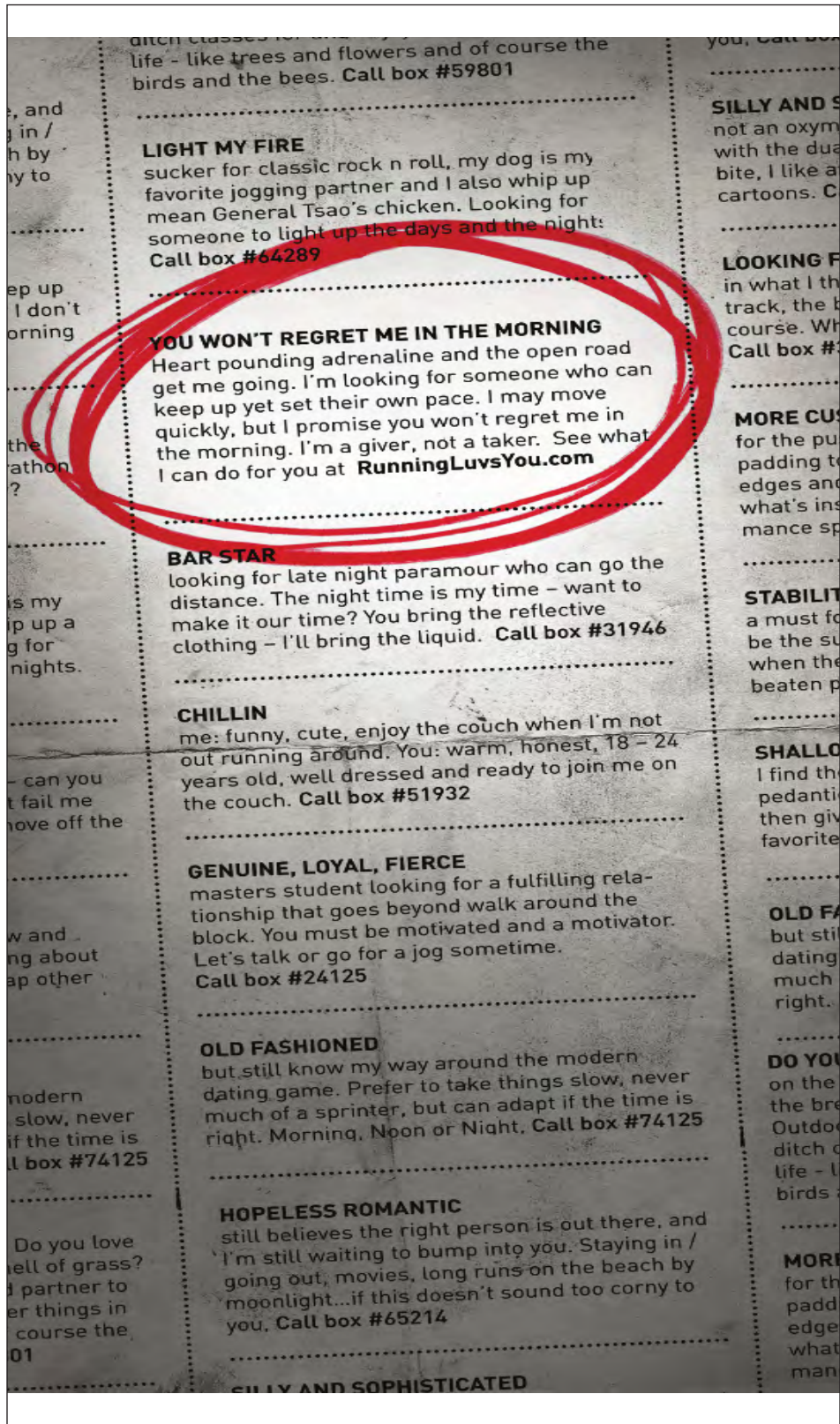
The show attracts 200 to 300 people every year. It is judged by members of the faculty and staff, and by the chapter's advisor. The pageant is also going to be judged by a representative of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Apart from judging, the representative will explain what the organization is and what they have done or plan to do with the help of AXD.

Last year's winner, Albert Gonzalez, was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Yet, according to Ashley Fernald, philanthropy chair of Alpha Xi Delta, any gentleman from FIU can compete in the event; he doesn't have to be from a fraternity.

Following the event, there will be a raffle where members of the audience can participate.

"We have really awesome raffle items and the proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is for a great cause," Fernald said.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. in University Park's Graham Center Ballrooms. Tickets will be sold at the entrance for \$8 or before the event for \$5 in GC. For additional information on the event, students can contact Stone at (954) 829 3496 or via e-mail at jstone824@yahoo.com.



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Cute felines, clever captions spark LOLCats craze



Commentary

Eric Feldman
Asst. Opinion Editor

As the feline invasion of the Internet progresses, many users' favorite day of the week is changing from Saturday to "Caturday." "Caturday" is a certified Internet phenomenon also known as "LOLCats." It consists of cat images superimposed with large font text to act as a caption.

The fact that the site has its own unique rules of grammar and a clearly defined history cause "Caturday" to be nothing short of its own online community.

The captions on LOLCat images take various forms.

One of the most common is "IN UR [blank], STEALIN' UR [blank]." In these cases the term "UR" is of course a short hand substitute for "your."

The captions are tailored to what action the cat is performing in the picture. This is meant to elicit a humorous response.

For example, a cat sitting on a book would be in the book, and the caption would imply that the feline is stealing the book's words.

The sheer number of vastly different images that use this format is where this form derives its humor.

Another common form of LOLCats is the "INVISIBLE" image. In these images, an animal - occasionally one other than



PHOTO COURTESY BEN F. BADGER JR.

a cat - making seemingly random movements can be imagined doing a human task after reading the caption.

Cats jumping a certain way can be imagined to be playing the new Nintendo Wii console with the caption "INVISIBLE WII TENNIS."

Any images that refer to cheeseburgers are paying homage to what is believed to be the very first LOLCat image of a very fluffy cat inquiring "I Can Has Cheezburger?"

There are even images where cats look like celebrities like the hosts of the popular television program *Mythbusters* or famed businessman Donald Trump.

The cats can be found on the Facebook

pages of many students who have added the popular LOLCat application.

The widespread appeal of the cats and the preciseness of the type of spelling used can be seen in the LOLCat Bible Translation Project, a collaborative effort to translate the entire bible into LOLCat language located at lolcatbible.com.

An excerpt from Genesis: "Oh hai. In teh beginnin Ceiling Cat maded teh skiez." How adorably sacreligious.

Ceiling Cat is a particularly famous LOLCat who appears in images peeking through a hole in a house ceiling, and who logically plays the role of God in the LOLCat Bible translation.

As is appropriate for a fad with origins



PHOTO COURTESY BEN F. BADGER JR.

in the tech world, many LOLCat images invoke technology references, including one with a cat peeking out from under a computer saying "I upgraded your RAM," referring to random access memory. A later spin-off shows an actual ram, appearing as the animal instead of a cat, with the same caption.

Though LOLCat speak is a fairly well-established language, variations are allowed when necessary to create a funny image.

One very clever image shows a cat on top of a telephone which reads: "keep it down; I'm on the phone!"

"Caturday" has the cuteness that would appeal to mothers but with a tradition rooted in technical jargon and Internet references to make it appeal to the Internet underground as well.

How do the cats feel about all of this? Ask the one who is given the caption: "I'm just a cat. Stop anthropomorphizing [giving human traits to] me."

Check them all out at www.icanhascheezburger.com.

Upcoming March flicks offer fat boys, elephants



Commentary

Chris Towers
Asst. News Director

A month ago, I expressed worry about the lack of quality movies coming out in the month of February.

While there were your typical popular, critically panned action films, a good number of quality movies made their way into theaters, even if audiences didn't seem to notice.

March offers audiences a little bit more substance in their choices, with movies ranging from prehistoric thrillers to childhood favorites and then some.

10,000 BC (MARCH 7)

From the maker of the apocalyptic (and somewhat "preachy") "The Day After Tomorrow," "10,000 BC" will feature more of the same big budget special effects that made

that movie the 45th highest grossing film of all time.

The story follows a warrior who leads a hunter-gatherer tribe on a journey to find his lost love. Along the way, he encounters saber toothed tigers and giant ground sloths.

If you think that story line sounds too cheesy, think about the storyline of "The Day After Tomorrow" and then remember that it made half a billion dollars in theaters. This one should have a similarly strong showing in the box office.

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (MARCH 14)

Despite the commercial success of the live action version of "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," most of the big screen adaptations of Seuss' classic children's stories have been unable to capture the magic the books have.

"Horton Hears A Who," which

stars Steve Carrell, Jim Carrey and Seth Rogen, is looking to buck that trend by shifting to a format that might better recreate the spirit of Seuss' classic stories: computer animation.

The story should be familiar to anyone who grew up with Seuss' books. To recap, Horton is an elephant who discovers a tiny speck of dust which is home to an entire civilization. Only he can hear them due to his large elephant ears.

While the rest of the creatures around him can't hear them, he has to try to convince the Whos, who live on the speck, to make their presence known.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (MARCH 21)

Is there a more unlikely actor right now to play a tough guy bodyguard named Drillbit than Owen Wilson? He's got to be the only guy in history to have a permanently broken nose and still come off as completely unthreatening.

Still, with a script co-written by Seth Rogen and a production credit from Judd Apatow, "Drillbit Taylor" will hopefully be able to deliver some of the wittiness that has made Rogen and Apatow's previous collaborations so successful and enjoyable.

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN (MARCH 28)

While the title might upset some of those in the audience who are sensitive about their figure, this new movie from first time director David Schwimmer (Best known as Ross Gellar from Television's "Friends") isn't looking to offend.

Rather, it's a romantic comedy starring Simon Pegg of "Shaun Of The Dead" and "Hot Fuzz."

Pegg's character isn't fat, but when compared to his ex-fiance's new boyfriend (Hank Azaria), he certainly seems so.

Due to this, and the fact that he still feels for his ex (Thandie Newton), he finds himself feeling

inadequate and begins trying to one up Azaria's character.

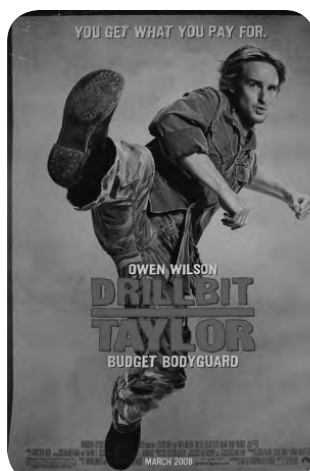
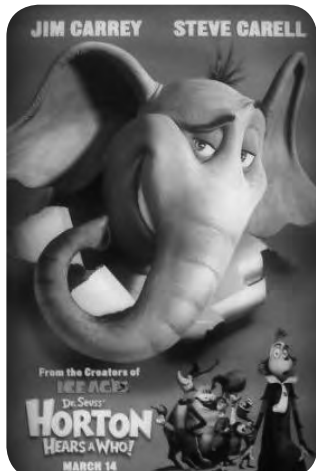
This culminates in the two competing in the London Marathon. Pegg has shown brilliant comedic abilities in his previous films, which he co-wrote, but it remains to be seen how he can do with someone else's script and characters.

21 (MARCH 28)

Based on the true story of MIT students who try to pay their way through school by counting cards in Vegas and taking the payouts, "21" features Jim Sturgess and Kate Bosworth as two of the students who test their luck against the casino bosses and security.

The film follows the rise and fall of the group as they become enamored with the high life they find themselves in, and eventually push their enemies too far.

This action/adventure movie is looking to cash in on Sturgess' rising star and casino film clichés.



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Band talks about new frontman, superheroes

JON DAVILA
Staff Writer

Sacramento, Calif. screamo band Dance Gavin Dance performed at Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room on Feb. 22. Prior to the show, members of the band spoke to *The Beacon* in an exclusive interview discussing the progress of their latest record, lineup changes and who would win in a fight among Spider-Man, Superman and Batman.

The Beacon: How difficult has the transition been to a new singer, Kurt Travis, and a new guitarist, Zachary Garren?

Will Swan (Guitar): There really wasn't a transition. It just kind of happened. Once we got Zack, he just got thrown in the mix. We were on tour when Zack started playing with us so there wasn't any kind of transition. One day, he was doing [merchandise] and the next day he was playing with us. Kurt, we practiced with him for like two weeks before we started this tour so everything was really quick.

The Beacon: What was it like finding a new singer?

Matt Mingus (Drums): Everybody had heard [that we needed a new singer] so we got like millions of people's recordings. We had a few people in mind, Kurt being one of them because we've known him for a long time — we knew his old band, Five Minute Ride — and he was from Sacramento, where we lived as well. So we tried him out with two other people that came down and actually tried out.

Swan: We basically narrowed it down to three serious candidates and we picked Kurt.

The Beacon: How far along is the next album?

Swan: Well, we have five songs done. We don't have a mark for how many we want. We just want to get as many songs and as much material as we can.

Jonathan Mess (Screamed Vocals): There's six and seven songs kind of in the works so that's about half of it.

The Beacon: How did you guys get the art on the cover of your debut album?

Mess: There were a lot of issues with the album artwork and getting the right look. We had this one thing and the label didn't like that and they had one thing and we didn't like that. So eventually we found this artist, I think he's from Finland...

Mingus: The Netherlands... yeah I think it's the Netherlands.

Mess: Or somewhere in Scandinavia. He does a ton of stuff that looks a lot like that. It's all hand-drawn. We found that and thought it was really cool. [Our record label], Rise, ended up putting it on gold foil so it would flex.

CONCERT *Dance Gavin Dance*

Chaos reigned in Culture Room, fans anxious to meet favorite artists

JON DAVILA
Staff Writer

When hardcore band Poison the Well took the stage on Feb. 22 at Ft. Lauderdale's Culture Room nightclub, it was a miracle that everyone in the building left with all their limbs intact.

The Hialeah natives took the stage after performances by New York punk band Crime in Stereo, post-hardcore rockers Dance Gavin Dance and Christian metalcore quintet The Chariot.

The Culture Room was still practically empty when Crime in Stereo began the show with a ho-hum performance that featured songs from their most recent album, "Crime in Stereo is Dead", as well as some older material. The lackluster performance could most likely be blamed on a sub-par microphone set up. Lead singer Kristian Hallbert's voice was audible, yet a bit muffled, making the band's lyrics incomprehensible. Nonetheless, die-hard 'Stereo' fans jumped all around the pit singing along with Hallbert at the top of their lungs.

Dance Gavin Dance took the stage shortly after 'Stereo' as the Culture Room finally began to fill out. Gavin recently underwent a lineup change after the departure of former vocalist, Johnny Craig, and some fans had expressed some uncertainty about the ability of new vocalist Kurt Travis.

Soon enough, their worries evaporated as Gavin began their act with an incredible



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

TWO STEPPIN': WILL SWAN (RIGHT) OF DANCE GAVIN DANCE PERFORMS TO A PACKED HOUSE AT THE CULTURE ROOM IN FT. LAUDERDALE ON FEBRUARY 22, 2008.

performance of their song "And I Told Them I Invented Times New Roman." The concert's first mosh pit was born as Travis wowed the crowd with his energetic, high-pitched vocals and his unexpected acrobatics, doing a handstand on stage. 'Gavin' went on to perform two new songs from their upcoming album.

As Gavin made their exit, The Chariot started setting up their equipment and the Culture Room suddenly became much tighter as even more people began to shove themselves into the already packed venue.

The Christian rockers proceeded to pop the ear drums of anyone in the general vicinity of Fort Lauderdale with screams that would've

shattered your mother's favorite glassware.

The mosh pit became even larger as The Chariot performed songs from debut album, "Everything Is Alive, Everything Is Breathing, Nothing Is Dead, and Nothing Is Bleeding" as well as material from sophomore album, "The Fiancée."

Coming back to their home state for one last show before embarking on a European tour, Poison the Well stormed onto the stage with a barrage of ear-splitting screams and chill-inducing chords.

The band played old hits "Nerdy" and "Slice Paper Wrists" and songs from their most recent album, Versions. Chaos ensued.

Fans jumped all around the pit shoving one another as others ran to the second floor of the venue for safety. Security seemed to do little to control the stage diving, much to the dismay of those getting crushed by falling bodies.

After the show, fans made their way towards the merchandise table outdoors to buy t-shirts and CD's. Some got to take pictures with their favorite band members while others went home to nurse their wounds.

Swan: And we actually named the album before we found that artwork, which is weird because it's [a drawing of] a downtown. With the [album's] name it kind of goes together. So it just stuck.

The Beacon: On your MySpace, it says the band got pulled over twice on Feb. 4. What happened?

Eric Lodge (Bass): On the first one, we were just chilling because the van had died. We were hanging out in the parking lot of a hotel for like two hours. Two cops rolled up on us [saying] we were disturbing the peace and all this...

[Laughs]

Mingus: Dig this. We're waiting to get a jump for our van. [The cops came as] triple-A was leaving...

Lodge: So it's like 'What the hell? What are you thinking? Are you serious?' The second [time] our lights were out. We got pulled over—it was in Nebraska. The cop said we had to pull off the night and couldn't drive any further. So we were just pissed off and we turned around.

The Beacon: What's on your individual MP3 or CD players right now?

Swan: I've got too much stuff to name. I was just listening to the "Lost Boys" soundtrack because there's a scene in the "Lost Boys" where there's like a super muscular guy singing "I Still Believe ..."

[Laughs]

Mingus: Lil' Wayne, as always.

The Beacon: Who would win in a fight: Spider-Man, Batman or Superman?

Lodge: I don't think Spider-Man would ...

Mess: I would rather have Batman win, but Superman would definitely win.

Zack Garren: Batman would probably use his gadgets and stuff.

Mess: But the gadgets would just bounce right off Superman.

Swan: Well, I was just kind of envisioning the actors who play them.

Garren: I think Superman would win.

Swan: I think Batman would win. He'd have the kryptonite. Superman would take out Spider-Man and while he's doing that, Batman would get the kryptonite.

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Slow offensive start, free throws sink team at home

MEN'S, page 16

frustrate the Golden Panthers' offense consistently with an effective dose of backcourt pressure.

"[Setting the trap] what they do well," Rouco said. "They do not want to let you run a set because if we did that then we can use Russell [Hicks] in a height advantage.

They went back into a zone when we got them into foul trouble, and that's when we made a little run, but they take everybody off their offense, and if you handle it you can make easy baskets, and if not they're going to make you pay."

FIU also hurt itself when it missed many transition opportunities and shot under 70 percent from the foul line for the game.

"If you don't make free throws, you take away momentum," Rouco

said. "Every time we tried to make a run and we got to the free-throw line, we didn't convert. You have to convert – kill the clock."

The Golden Panthers fought off a very slow start, which carried over into the second half, by generating a late run.

After a Hilltopper basket made the score 51-33 in their favor with 13:55 left to play, FIU had its best stretch of the game and closed to within nine points.

WKU then put the game out of reach with five consecutive points.

Rouco believes the Golden Panthers need to play at that level consistently to have a chance against a team like WKU.

"I thought we played very hard the second half, but to beat the best one or two teams in the league, you cannot turn the ball over so many

times and let them get easy baskets," Rouco said. "I thought we came out not as aggressive as we did the second half, and they came out more aggressive than we did."

The Hilltoppers also controlled the boards, out-rebounding the Golden Panthers 36-28 after FIU had won the rebounding battle against its opponents in 11 of its last 13 games.

Now, FIU has no chance of hosting a first round game in the conference tournament.

The Golden Panthers will look to gain any momentum possible in its last game on March 1 against South Alabama.

"Were looking at finishing up [Chris] Fuller's career at home, because we can't host," Rouco said. "Hopefully it'll give us a little momentum to where we need to go."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FACE TO FACE: Sophomore Erick Nsangou attempts to set the offense against Western Kentucky.

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SUN BELT BASEBALL STANDING

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Troy	5-0	0-0	1.000
Middle Tennessee	4-0-1	0-0	.900
Arkansas State	4-1	0-0	.800
ULM	4-1	0-0	.800
Western Kentucky	2-1	0-0	.667
South Alabama	3-2	0-0	.600
New Orleans	2-2	0-0	.500
Florida Atlantic	2-3	0-0	.400
Louisiana-Lafayette	2-3	0-0	.400
Florida International	1-4	0-0	.200
UALR	0-5	0-0	.000

*All records up to date as of Feb. 29 2008

BASEBALL BOX SCORE

FIU	AB	R	H	BI
Lozano, Corey	2	0	0	0
Boza, Anthony	1	0	0	0
Mollica, Ryan	2	0	1	1
Altieri, Chris	1	0	0	0
Fuentes, Raimy	2	0	0	0
Karcher, Jordan	1	0	0	0
Townsend, Tyler	3	0	0	0
Team Totals	29	1	2	1

FGCU	AB	R	H	BI
Upchurch, Josh	4	2	3	3
Rassel, Stephen	4	0	0	0
Borrell, Ozzie	6	2	5	4
Roberson, Tim	5	0	0	0
Bissell, D.J.	1	0	1	0
Peacock, Jason	6	0	1	0
Team Totals	42	13	18	11

	R	H	E	
Florida Gulf Coast	040	012	213 - 13	18 1
Florida International	000	010	000 - 1	2 3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING
SUN BELT EAST DIVISION

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	22-7	15-2	.759
Middle Tennessee	18-10	13-4	.643
South Alabama	18-10	9-8	.643
Florida International	12-16	8-9	.429
Troy	12-16	5-12	.429
Florida Atlantic	6-20	2-15	.231

*All records up to date as of Feb. 29

WESTERN KENTUCKY 69, FIU 54

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Fuller, Chris	2-6	2-4	2	0	2	7	23
Galindo, Alex	2-7	5-6	5	4	3	10	30
Taylor, Nick	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	0	18
Hicks, Russell	3-12	1-6	5	0	2	7	23
Team Totals	17-50	18-27	28	7	21	54	200

WKU

WKU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Brazelton, Tyrone	3-8	1-2	0	1	5	8	23
Rogers, Ty	3-5	2-2	5	3	3	9	26
Lee, Courtney	3-8	0-1	6	4	3	7	27
Magley, D.J.	4-4	2-2	2	0	1	10	11
Team Totals	25-49	13-19	36	11	22	69	200

WESTERN KENTUCKY 79, FIU 56

FIU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
Ciglar, Iva	5-14	4-4	4	6	5	17	40
Jenkins, Jasmine	5-9	0-0	3	0	1	10	24
Bosilj, Monika	5-11	0-0	3	2	5	13	32
Team Totals	21-58	7-7	27	15	17	56	200

WKU

WKU	FG	FT	REB	A	TO	PTS	MIN
McNear, Amy	3-9	2-2	4	6	2	8	31
Rich, Kenzie	5-7	0-0	3	2	0	14	25
Duck, Dominique	5-7	6-7	4	4	2	16	31
Team Totals	28-49	17-22	34	14	16	79	200

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Senior pitcher makes baseball team in final academic year

LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

For walk-on Carlos Martinez, there's nothing like waiting until the last second.

After playing baseball for two years at Archbishop Carroll High School, he was unable to make the FIU squad his sophomore year.

As a result of his failed tryout, he didn't play organized baseball for three years.

Martinez was not going to let one tryout keep him from playing college baseball.

"I had a passion for the game. Playing here locally, I thought I still had a chance," said the right-hander whose fraternal twin brother, Danny, is also on the squad as a senior walk.

Martinez mentioned the differences that he and his brother

have noticed at the college level as opposed to the high school level.

"The game's a lot faster; the hitters are a lot better," he said. "You just got to get ahead in the count and make your pitches."

He saw game-action against USC on opening night and recorded his first collegiate victory on Feb. 26 against Barry despite having a shaky outing.

"I didn't pitch as well as I hoped to but things don't always turn out the way you want them to," he said.

He allowed four earned runs on four hits while also walking two and recording no strikeouts.

The rough two-thirds of an inning was good enough to record the win for Carlos as Danny, who's also a right-hander, has yet to pitch in a live game.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Opening night game on Feb. 22 drew an attendance of 1,057, which was good enough to rank second on FIU's all-time list for home openers since 1996. The best attendance was a game in 2006 against the University of Miami, which had an attendance of 2,112.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Through Feb. 26, freshman utility man Javier Sujo was batting .500 with four hits, a home run and three RBI. He blasted a pinch-hit solo home run in his first at bat as collegiate athlete.

Freshman reliever Jorge Marban appeared twice in the opening weekend series and threw two scoreless innings. He is currently the only Golden Panther reliever yet to surrender a run.

Baseball suffers worst loss of season

BASEBALL, page 16

Panthers scored seven runs, and they would eventually win 16-11.

Lozano finished 2-for-4 with a home run, a double and three RBI. He also had a career-high four runs scored. Fuentes finished 2-for-4 with a career-high five RBI.

FGCU 13, FIU 1

Two hits is all the Golden Panthers' offense could muster in their most lopsided loss of their young season.

Playing in its first game against FIU, FGCU (4-0) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead in the second inning off of starter Daniel DeSimone.

"I think we guessed at the plate way too much," Thomas said. "We took lots and lots of strikes tonight, and we didn't pitch well. It was pretty much an all around poor effort

today."

DeSimone allowed four earned runs on seven hits, while walking one and striking two before being relieved by senior Kyle Preshong in the second inning.

The FIU bullpen surrendered nine runs, including three two-run home runs by the Eagles.

The Golden Panthers also committed three errors - two committed by sophomore shortstop Junior Arrojo.

Eagles starter Pete Woodworth pitched six strong innings, striking out six and allowing only one run, which came off of a Ryan Mollica RBI single in the 5th inning.

The only other FIU hit was a single by catcher Kevin Mirabal in the 3rd inning.

"We didn't come out with much energy and enthusiasm for the fifth game of the year," Thomas said.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DOWNHILL: Designated hitter Tyler Townsend makes an out as the team recorded two hits against FGCU.

Forward fights foul trouble, scores 25

WOMEN'S, page 16

ing as sophomore guard Kenzie Rich knocked down a 3-pointer to put WKU up by five. Another basket by Rich made the score 33-26. Then, Kelly was called for her first foul of the game.

A timeout was called and Kelly picked up another foul once play resumed.

Then, three seconds after the ball was put back in play, Kelly picked up her third foul and was forced to watch the rest of the first half from the bench.

Kelly accumulated three fouls in 23 seconds of play. With Kelly out, the Golden Panthers scored four of the next six points and cut the WKU lead to five. With less than one minute remaining in the half, Jenkins fouled WKU freshman forward Amika Brown while hitting a lay-up.

FIU went into the locker room down by eight but within reach of the Sun Belt

Conference's No. 1 team.

"They held their own," Kelly said. "We had some careless turnovers, and we corrected that in the second half. Coach got on us and told us what needed to be done."

Freshman forward Fanni Hutlassa started FIU off on the right foot in the second half after a 0-for-7 first half performance. Hutlassa converted on a three-point play after being fouled near the basket.

However, the Lady Toppers dominated the next six minutes of play. With Kelly scoring nine points, the Lady Toppers outscored the Golden Panthers 16-3.

WKU built its biggest lead, 24 points, with 10:05 left in the game.

After the scoring drought, FIU found its shot again, but WKU had an answer for almost every basket.

Junior Antonia Zeigler scored FIU's

final four points of what would be a 79-56 loss.

The four points were enough to mark a season-high for the seldom used back-up point guard.

"I think we did a pretty good job," said coach Cindy Russo. "They are a tough team, and mentally we broke down. They are a lot more athletic than we are, but we did a lot of really nice things. I don't really think the final score was real indicative of the way the game went."

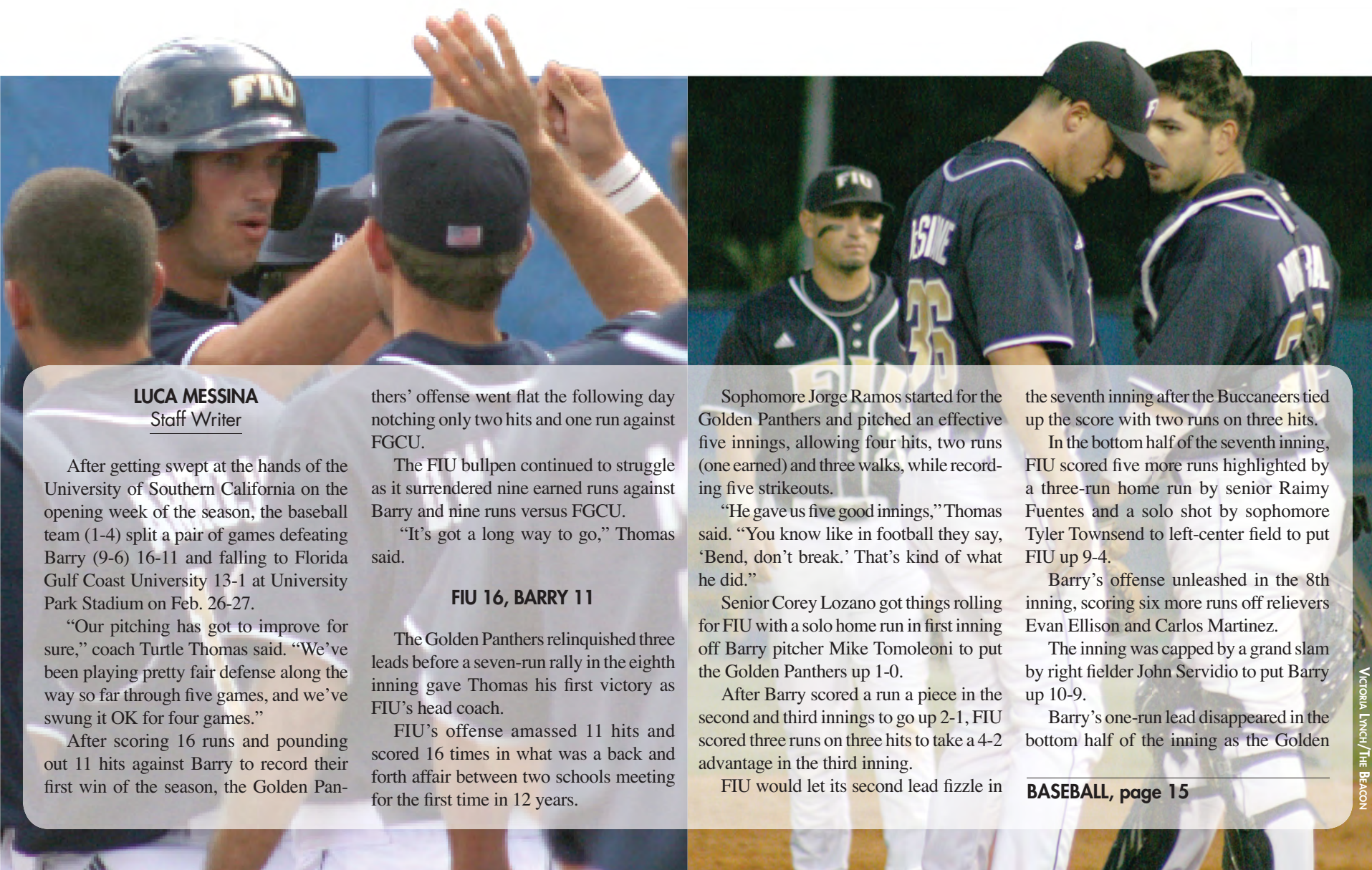
Ciglar had a team-high 17 points and a game-high six assists. Senior guard Asha Neal had a game-high eight rebounds, five of which were offensive. Bosilj scored 13 points and Jenkins and Hutlassa each scored 10 points.

As the Golden Panthers head into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the worst outcome for FIU is landing the No. 8 seed.

BASEBALL: GAME 1 - FIU 16, BARRY 11; GAME 2 - FGCU 13, FIU 1

SWEET AND SOUR

Team wins first game of season, routed in next game



LUCA MESSINA
Staff Writer

thers' offense went flat the following day notching only two hits and one run against FGCU.

The FIU bullpen continued to struggle as it surrendered nine earned runs against Barry and nine runs versus FGCU.

"It's got a long way to go," Thomas said.

FIU 16, BARRY 11

The Golden Panthers relinquished three leads before a seven-run rally in the eighth inning gave Thomas his first victory as FIU's head coach.

FIU's offense amassed 11 hits and scored 16 times in what was a back and forth affair between two schools meeting for the first time in 12 years.

Sophomore Jorge Ramos started for the Golden Panthers and pitched an effective five innings, allowing four hits, two runs (one earned) and three walks, while recording five strikeouts.

"He gave us five good innings," Thomas said. "You know like in football they say, 'Bend, don't break.' That's kind of what he did."

Senior Corey Lozano got things rolling for FIU with a solo home run in first inning off Barry pitcher Mike Tomoleoni to put the Golden Panthers up 1-0.

After Barry scored a run a piece in the second and third innings to go up 2-1, FIU scored three runs on three hits to take a 4-2 advantage in the third inning.

FIU would let its second lead fizzle in

the seventh inning after the Buccaneers tied up the score with two runs on three hits.

In the bottom half of the seventh inning, FIU scored five more runs highlighted by a three-run home run by senior Raimy Fuentes and a solo shot by sophomore Tyler Townsend to left-center field to put FIU up 9-4.

Barry's offense unleashed in the 8th inning, scoring six more runs off relievers Evan Ellison and Carlos Martinez.

The inning was capped by a grand slam by right fielder John Servidio to put Barry up 10-9.

Barry's one-run lead disappeared in the bottom half of the inning as the Golden

BASEBALL, page 15

MEN'S BASKETBALL: WESTERN KENTUCKY 69, FIU 54

Panthers fall to Hilltoppers

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

conference record.

The Hilltoppers had a balanced team effort, which made up for an off night by Lee, their leading scorer, when they played FIU.

FIU coach Sergio Rouco believes that balanced scoring is what makes WKU so good.

"We held possibly the Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Year [Lee] to seven points," Rouco said. "We did a great job on him, but they had other guys step up tonight and that's why they are one of the top two teams in our league."

Lee, who is projected to be a first round NBA draft pick, was second in the Sun Belt Conference in points per game, averaging 21 coming in to the contest. However, it was not Lee



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TRAPPED: Junior center Russell Hicks was limited to seven points on 3-of-12 shooting against Western Kentucky.

who dealt the Golden Panthers their biggest blow.

The Hilltoppers shot 51 percent for the game and had seven players score at least seven points in the contest. Sophomore A.J. Slaughter's led the team with 12 points. The versatile sixth man

went 6-of-12 from the field and also grabbed four rebounds.

In addition to Western Kentucky's smooth offensive game, their complete team effort included defense as they were able to

MEN'S, page 14

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: WESTERN KENTUCKY 79, FIU 56

Golden Panthers clinch home court despite home loss

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Belt) Lady Toppers were led by pre-season conference MVP senior forward Crystal Kelly, who scored a game-high 25 points.

The Golden Panthers have some good news and some bad news.

The good news that with a loss by the University of New Orleans FIU clinched home court advantage in their first round conference playoff match-up in the Sun Belt Tournament.

The bad news is FIU lost its third straight game following its five-game winning streak.

Western Kentucky, the Sun Belt Conference's No. 1 team, handed the Golden Panthers (12-16, 8-9 Sun Belt) their third consecutive loss on Feb. 27 at the Pharmed Arena. Western Kentucky (22-7, 15-2 Sun

Sophomore guard Monika Bosilj came out firing by hitting a pair of 3-pointers, which came within 20 seconds of each other. WKU answered back immediately and the teams traded leads during the first ten minutes of play.

Down 26-20 with eight minutes left in the first half, FIU rallied behind baskets from Bosilj and juniors Iva Ciglar and Jasmine Jenkins to cut the Lady Toppers lead to two points.

The Lady Toppers wasted no time respond-

WOMEN'S, page 15

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON