



SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Women job-seekers got their dose of confidence at the Women Who Lead Conference on March 6.

LIFE! PAGE 9

COLUMN: Eddith Sevilla faces social anxiety and what you can do about it in Pulse.

OPINION PAGE 6

COLUMN: Eric Feldman discusses the importance and legitimacy of classic novels despite portrayals of race.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Former FIU Soccer Standout Juan Guerra gets a shot at Major League Soccer club FC Dallas.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

The Rowing Club and Crew is back at the bay trying to get back their former status.

LIFE! PAGE 9

COLUMN: Amanda Batchelor reports back from Pi Kappa Alpha's Dreamgirl pageant.

OPINION PAGE 6

Eighteen NYU students were suspended after seizing control of a cafeteria dining room. Were their demands fair?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strike out BBQ, March 11, 6 p.m.: Swing by the housing quad and dig into some burgers and buns at the Strike Out BBQ. Baseball attire optional.

Acoustic Night at Churchill's Pub, March 11, 10 p.m.: Head downtown with friends and tip a few back as you relax to the soft, sweet sounds of acoustic rock.

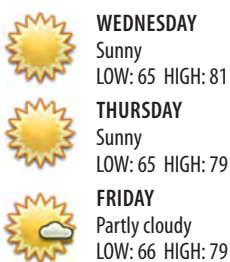
Miami Film Festival, March 11-12, TBA: Don't miss out on the latest foreign and independent films being showcased at the Miami International Film Festival. Call (305) 673-4567 for info.

Center for Spirituality presents "Women as Healers," March 12, 7:30 p.m.: Visit GC 140 to hear a lecture about what your mother's been proving to you all along, "Women as Healers."

Anything Goes Anime Movie Night, March 12, 8 p.m.: Get cultured on campus by catching the latest anime film with the Anything Goes Anime club in GC 150.

For the complete calendar, please see page 9 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER



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RUN FOR LIFE



CHARI ADAMES-SMITH/THE BEACON

LIGHT IT UP: Luminaries line the Ryder Business Building walkway honoring loved ones who have fallen victim to cancer during the Relay for Life event March 6-7.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Fund-raiser draws crowd, unites students for a cause

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

"Cancer doesn't sleep and neither will we." This is the phrase often heard as FIU held its annual Relay for Life March 6-7. Relay for Life is an overnight event founded by the American Cancer Society.

These events are held all across America in hopes of spreading cancer awareness and raising funds for cancer research. Relay honors those who have survived cancer, those who

PHOTO SPREAD



Visit page 8 for photos of Relay for Life event

have passed away from it and those still fighting.

Generally, participants stay awake

the entire night to represent the fact that cancer does not sleep. Luminaries are lit in memory of family and friends who have had cancer.

Many clubs and organizations at FIU participate in the event, each with their own team. The teams are encouraged to decorate their tents according to a theme. This year's theme was "A Night at the Movies." Team members take turns walking on the track to have their team represented throughout the entire night.

Every year, the teams collectively fund-raise trying to reach their donation goal. As the years progress, so does the goal. Last year, the goal was \$70,000. This year, the goal was \$80,000.

"I think relay for life this year

RELAY, page 7

TOWN HALL MEETING

Budget crisis plan revised, prioritized

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

University executives presented an updated version of their plan to deal with a budget gap of up to \$61 million in state funds over three years and, much like last year's process, some departments and programs are higher on the priority list than others.

University President Modesto Maidique, Provost Ronald Berkman and Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez spoke in turns at a March 9 town hall meeting, each describing different aspects of the plan for the University's future, which included a three-year preliminary plan that divided departments and programs into four tiers.

"We did not do across the board cuts. We did not believe one size fits all," Sanchez said. "We did not believe that that was the appropriate way of making cuts for the betterment of this institution."

The programs in the first tier, including arts and sciences, business, engineering and public health, will suffer the least with a 3.3 percent cut in the upcoming fiscal year and 3.6 percent in the following year.

Group two included hospitality, nursing and education and these will suffer a 4.1 percent cut this next fiscal year and up to 4.6 percent in the following year.

Third tier programs, architecture and the arts, journalism and law will likely suffer a 5.1 percent cut this year. The third is considered the last tier for academic programs.

Group four consists of the libraries, Honors College, museums, student affairs and all other areas under the jurisdiction of the provost and will suffer the largest cut of 5.3 percent for the next fiscal year.

The criteria for the tier process was based on whether the program or department is strategic to the University, if it generates return on investments, its cost and the rate of faculty investment and Ph.D. production.

According to Sanchez's projections, the University will have lost a combined \$61 million in state funds between the 2006-07 fiscal year and 2011-12.

The University expects to close the

TOWNHALL, page 3

Professor receives national honor

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Smudges of dried paint adorn the hands of John Bailly. He works on his paintings constantly, always pushing for excellence and inspiring his students to strive for their absolute best.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars acknowledged his efforts on Feb. 12 by naming him the national runner-up for the Inspire Integrity Awards.

Bailly, a faculty fellow of the Honors College, received a nomination from one of his students. Gabriela

Garcia, a sophomore majoring in civil engineering and member of the NSCS, held no reservation in submitting her instructor's name.

"When I found out about the award, the first person I thought about was John," she said.

The Inspire Integrity Awards recognizes full-time university faculty who have instilled the importance of personal and academic integrity on their students.

About 110 applications were submitted to five regional selection committees across the nation. The applicants were whittled down to a final 15 and sent to a national

committee, where they were evaluated based on curriculum, lectures, activities and a brief essay the nominees were asked to write on the meaning of integrity, according to a press release.

Bailly was named the national runner-up. The NSCS will award him \$1,000 and donate \$1,000 to the University's scholarship fund.

He sees the recognition as a reflection of his students' accomplishments more than anything he has done.

"In order for inspiration to work, someone needs to be inspired," he said. "Without their willingness to act,

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Gov. Crist promoting low-cost insurance plan for Florida

Gov. Charlie Crist is promoting a less expensive health insurance program for the many uninsured residents of Florida.

The plan, known as the Cover Florida Health Care Access Program, has saved uninsured residents \$2.3 million.

According to *NBC6.net*, Crist's administration has partnered with six private insurance companies to offer lower rates. More than 76,000 Floridians have taken part in the program since January. The initiative offers insurance plans that cost on average \$155 per month, as opposed to other plans that cost about \$700.

Florida unemployment moves to 8.6 percent in January

Florida's unemployment has been rising rapidly in the past few months.

According to state officials, the unemployment rate hit a 16-year high at 8.6 percent. This comes near the record set in 1992, when unemployment in the state was 8.9 percent. This is up a full percentage point from 7.6 percent in January.

This comes after an announcement that the national unemployment rate reached 8.1 percent for the month of February.

NATIONAL

Obama overturns ban on stem cell research

On March 3, President Barack Obama signed an executive order eliminating the Bush-era limits on funding for stem cell research.

According to CNN, Obama's order supersedes an order signed by Bush in 2001 that prevented the National Institutes of Health from funding research on embryonic stem cells using 60 cell lines that existed at that time.

"In recent years, when it comes to stem cell research, rather than furthering discovery our government has forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values," Obama said during the event at the White House.

Compiled by Jorge Valens

Critic scrutinizes Chavez's regime

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

The Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU presented "Venezuela: Political and Economic Realities," a lecture by Venezuelan politician, economist and journalist Teodoro Petkoff on March 6 in the Wertheim Center for the Performing Arts.

Petkoff, a critic of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, spoke to a crowd of more than 100 people.

He considers Venezuela a country which is "mortally divided between two groups who mutually despise each other," consisting of those who support and those who do not support Chavez.

During the presentation, Petkoff referred to the polarized divisions within the country and outlined four key groups within the Venezuelan population that keep Chavez's government in power.

He said the country's armed forces, which are "controlled by a combination of ideology, corruption and fear," are Chavez's most powerful and influential stream of support.

He then dubbed the second form of support the "Bolivariana" bureaucracy, a term which refers to *bolivarianismo* – an ideology found in South American countries such as Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela influenced by Simon Bolivar.

This second group increased from 900,000 in 1998 when Chavez came to power to 2.3 million followers at present.

The third group of supporters, referred to as the "Bolivariana bourgeoisie," have "risen from dishonest business conducted with the government that [has] resulted

in tremendous fortunes," according to Petkoff.

Lastly, he stated that the fourth group is composed of "the humble, Venezuelan masses that have continued identifying with the country's leader throughout the past decade."

Petkoff then painted a picture of a poverty-stricken Venezuelan family who pertain to the fourth group of supporters by describing how Chavez's government keeps the family afloat through the provision of instruments.

These instruments can include a scholarship for the father to pursue a trade or money for the mother to learn how to read.

"These people continue voting for him because they believe they are provided for and OK," he said. "A person can only truly understand a dictatorship when they have lived in the midst of one."

He continued by explaining how his country is "neither a conventional democracy nor a conventional dictatorship."

When asked what exactly needs to be done in order to restore the country, he said, "Making the resistance visible is the most important measure that must be taken; it must be made known that a resistance exists."

The lecture did not go over well with some members in the audience such as Venezuelan exile Eva Sara Landau.

"Mr. Petkoff did not acknowledge those like myself who have been exiled from their country. He stands in the middle of important issues," Landau said. "With him, nothing is black and white, much is left in a gray area."

Others found the lecture to be significant for the Venezuelan community and a message everyone should hear.

"I felt this lecture was very important for the Venezuelan community and for students especially. He presented a historic, systematic and realistic view of our country and the consequences that have been brought on by the government's decisions," said Nydia Lemus, a professor at Carabobo University in Venezuela.

The lecture was given in the wake of Chavez's successful referendum to eliminate term limits, which would facilitate his running again in 2012. This elimination of term limits now takes precedence over the 12-year presidential term limit, which he sought and obtained in a 1999 referendum, according to the Associated Press.

A candidate for president against Chavez in the December 2006 elections before withdrawing his name, Petkoff left the Communist Party of Venezuela in 1971 to become a supporter of the Movement Toward Socialism party. He then left MAS in 1998 to pursue a journalistic career and began working as director of Venezuelan newspaper *El Mundo*.

He then founded his own paper, *Tal Cual*, an outspoken and critical publication of *chavismo* – the support of Chavez. He also served as minister of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning in Venezuela during Rafael Caldera's second presidential term (1994-1999), and has penned several political books including *The Two Lefts*. He obtained a degree in economics from the Central University of Venezuela where he served as a professor for 14 years.

Bailly recognized for inspiring integrity

BAILLY, page 1

inspiration can't work."

A prime example is the Aesthetics and Values course hosted by the Honors College. It has challenged the students who have taken it to set up an art exhibition from scratch.

The students had to fund the exhibition, find established artists to feature, install the exhibition and create advertisement. The whole process seemed overwhelming to students at first.

"I'm a finance major for goodness sakes, what am I doing curating an art show?" said Sarena Bahad, an alumna of the Aesthetics and Values gauntlet.

Bailly found this was the perfect opportunity to show how to go after dreams.

"The first day they come in there they think it's impossible to organize this exhibition," he said. "But then when we do it step by step, we have these dreams, or unrealistic objectives, and acting on them they become possible."

Bailly believed the more the students did on their own, the more they were going to take ownership of the project. He gave them complete freedom with the expectation of high standards and an honest assessment, a philosophy he borrowed from his time at Yale where he earned his master's degree in painting and printmaking.

"The Aesthetics and Values exhibition was a great success and seeing it all finally come together was probably the height of the class for me," Bahad said.

Bailly chooses to lead by example. His hands-off approach came with a lot of hands on his art work. It is important for him to show his students that he is active in his field.

"I really believe that if you are going to achieve something in your field, something significant, something you will be proud of, it has to be your life," Bailly said.

The lessons were not lost on his students.

"He pushes his students to strive for the very best and he genuinely cares about [their] success," Bahad said.

Bailly believes achievement only comes by following through.

"It's not potential, it's not intention that matters, it's action," he said.

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POLICE NOTES

Feb. 25

A 2008 red Samsung cell phone was found at the Starbucks coffee shop and given to a Starbucks employee. The owner of the cell phone was informed but, upon retrieving her cell phone, discovered that an unknown male claimed the item as his own. The phone was valued at \$200 and a case card was given.

A complaint reported that a vehicle driving alongside her threw eggs at her vehicle. Upon finding the accused vehicle, egg remnants were on the door panel, along with an empty carton of eggs in the back seat. The driver reported that it was accidental that the eggs hit the victim's vehicle, as the other passengers in his car threw the eggs at him and he redirected them out of the vehicle. The victim did not press charges.

A student reported that after parking in the Gold Garage, she was notified by an unknown person that her gym bag and purse were located in the Blue Garage. No forced entry was seen on her vehicle.

Feb. 26

A female FIU student reported that while parked in Lot Five, her car was damaged. The vehicle was struck approximately three times with an unidentified object.

A vehicle burglary was reported in which a 2003 Ford truck was broken into. The front drivers-side door was damaged, with the pop-up lock broken, leaving the door inoperable. The broken lock was valued at \$200, along with a stolen iPod at \$250.

A stolen FIU decal was reported by a student, after first being issued a citation by parking enforcement on Feb. 11. The citation issued was due to an expired decal and having parked in the GC loading area. The victim claims to have never parked in such location and believes that the decal was stolen around such time. No decal number was provided and a case number was given.

Compiled by Cheryl Malone

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Department cuts addressed

TOWNHALL, page 1

gap with up to a 15 percent increase in tuition yielding an estimated \$24 million and a differential tuition revenue increase of \$10 million. This year, FIU is looking at a gap of 4.1 percent or \$11.4 million.

Though the plan is not final, as the actual figures are still unknown, Maidique said the meeting presented their strategy of dealing with the cuts to students, faculty and staff.

Maidique also said that the recently passed stimulus package and what it really brings to the University, as well as the unknown amount of state revenue, are variables that will affect any decisions made.

“We’re perfecting a framework that will allow us to make a decision when we know how hard the hit will be,” he said. “We really don’t have enough information to make final decisions at this point.”

Like last year, cuts will be made strategically rather than cutting programs across the board. Sanchez emphasized that the administration is looking at this crisis over the long term and therefore planning ahead for the next three years.

We believe that we have to manage through this crisis over the long term.

Vivian Sanchez
chief financial officer

“We believe that we have to manage through this crisis over the long term,” she said. “We refuse to look at this crisis in one-year increments.”

Berkman praised the deans that worked and persevered through last year’s cuts and encouraged them to keep looking at their programs and submit suggestions for generating revenue, which are due April 3.

“The deans know their units better than I know their units ... and they ought to be the individuals who come up with the plan,” Berkman said.

He presented strategic imperatives that would make it possible for the University to survive, which are the same as last year’s and included:

- FIU as a top 15 public urban research university

- Increase in undergraduate retention and graduation
- Improvement in health and life sciences
- Student life and alumni affinity
- Advancement and human resource development

Last year’s tiers were slightly different, along with their criteria. Arts and sciences, public health, library and medicine were priority one while nursing and hospitality were priority two. Priority four included all centers and institutes, which ended up being cut altogether. The criteria then were essentially whether the program or department was essential to FIU’s core curriculum or high mission alignment.

On a lighter note, Maidique said that he has high hopes for the University. He mentioned the ranking of the business school as the top one in South Florida in the last issue of *Business Week*, as well as the baseball team’s 5-0 victory against Troy University on March 6 and the high chance of bringing the largest research team to strengthen the University’s research capability.

“That gives you some points of light that keep me going,” he said.

GREEK BBQ



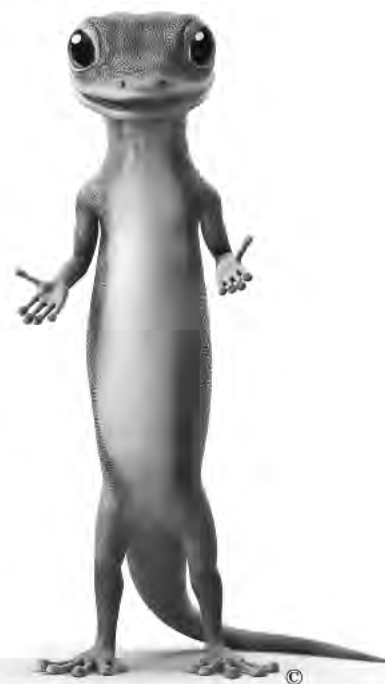
VERONIQUE NYDAM/THE BEACON

FUN IN THE SUN: Greek members play volleyball at a March 8 barbeque held at the housing complex.

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PET NETWORKING IS FOR LOVERS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

SAVING ANIMALS: The Best Friends Animal Society came to the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre on March 9 to host a forum with local pet rescue groups and for the society's member meeting.

Row Club and Crew brings back the waves

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

With a handful of new club members, coaches Syd McKay and Henry Kupczyk decided to bring back the sport they say has been "swept under the ground."

The Rowing Club and Crew started rowing again Feb. 23 at Biscayne Bay after being inactive for nearly two years due to the reconstruction of the Aquatic Center.

"We're just hoping that everyone gets our message this year. We were a part of the Biscayne Bay Campus. Give us our home back," said Kupczyk, assistant coach and captain of the Rowing Club and Crew.

The club, which was founded 15 years ago, used to be located underneath the pool area at the Aquatic Center, until they were asked to leave by the BBC Department of Recreation in June 2007.

The Rowing Club and Crew was then relocated to the Marine Biology building laboratories, where they store their equipment.

"The Marine Biology labs were kind enough to let us get started here," Kupczyk said.

However, there is one negative aspect about their new location: it is hidden.

"We didn't have to show up at club fairs in the past because our boats were visible to students," said Kupczyk, who is lobbying to get back to the Aquatic Center. "They would come up and ask about the club on their own."

When relocated, the club also lost its boathouse, a necessity for the maintenance of equipment. The boats have been sitting outside in the sun for nearly two years, and the sun rays have been damaging their quality and appearance.

"We're [now] concentrated on boat repair," McKay said.

Still, McKay and Kupczyk are optimistic about having the club they once used to have, which had up to 30 members and used to compete in *regattas*, or boat races.

In 2003, the rowing club competed in the Indian Creek Regatta at the Ronald W. Shane Watersports Center in Miami Beach against other universities, including University of Miami and University of Florida. The women came in seventh place and the men came in second place, losing to UM.

Students from both campuses are welcomed to sign up to be part of the club; the only requirement is that they know how to swim. Students have to take a demonstration swim test in the Aquatic Center and can begin learning how to row, according to McKay.

"Rowing is a sport in which you work as a team," said McKay, who has been rowing since the age of 15. "It requires coordination, and it takes people to work."

The Rowing Club and Crew practices Mondays and Wednesdays at the bay from 4-6 p.m.

Students interested in signing up can contact Henry Kupczyk at crew@fiu.edu.

WOMEN NOW

Conference helps students network, gain leadership skills

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

To get a clear perspective of what working in a professional setting is like for successful women, Farrah Joseph, a University alumna, attended the Women Who Lead Conference.

"I think it is a great empowering activity, especially for women," said Joseph. "As women, we are always trying to figure out how to get things right. This gives me an idea of what is to come in the future."

The event took place in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms on March 6 with more than 50 female University students attending.

Those in attendance had lunch with corporate executives, an Emmy award-winning journalist and even a celebrity chef, among other women leaders.

This year's conference was a daylong event that included a networking lunch and a keynote speech by celebrity chef Michelle Bernstein.

Between 150 and 200 students attended the speech, which was sponsored by the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, according to Bronwen Bares, coordinator for the BBC Center for Leadership and Service and of the Women's Center.

"I think we had a great turnout," Bares said. "This is only our second year doing this on this campus and we are still building the program."

The event also included panel discussions by Paula Delpech, director for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Luisa Sztern, M.D.; rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohan from the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education and Cassandra Andrade, media relations associate at Balsera Communications.

"At times when you are in school, you don't really know about the possibilities that exist and what's out there," Andrade said. "So it's really nice to be able to come back and share your personal stories with other women who are going to be the future leaders."

Andrade became the youngest candidate to ever seek office in the city of Weston when she campaigned for commissioner in 2005.

She earned a bachelor's degree in public relations and political science from FIU in 2008.

"I think that these types of seminars really help us to learn," Andrade said. "I have always admired University staff and professors for really giving back to the students and hosting these types of forums."

During the event, Bares gave a presentation titled "A Woman's Guide to Visionary Leadership," and speaker Margaret Brown, Walgreens supervisor of market integration, gave a seminar on salary negotiation for women.

"I think there should be more events like this around the community. Not only for women but for different groups because it is important," Brown said. "Especially in this current economy, what people can do in terms of advancing themselves personally and professionally."

Her seminar covered topics such as interviewing tips, competition in the corporate world and factors to take into consideration when negotiating a salary.

"Salary is not just a dollar amount, it includes vacation time, location and benefit packages," Brown said.

Although this year's conference welcomed more than 100 women from the University, Bares hopes that the conference will continue growing not only in attendance, but also in terms of the connections with "excellent women from the community who can continue to serve as mentors and role models for students."

One of these role models that Bares refers to is Univision anchorwoman and reporter Pamela Silva, who also spoke to University women at the conference.

"You really get to meet a lot of interesting people when you come to these events," Silva said. "As an individual, it is very rewarding to be able to have that interaction with younger people who are trying to learn more about being a leader. I think it is a win-win situation."

Silva graduated with honors from the University with a degree in broadcast journalism in 2003.

She went on to win four Emmy awards and now anchors "Noticias 23 Al Amanecer," a South Florida Spanish morning newscast.

"The good thing about these programs is that students can get personal interaction," Silva said. "There is nothing like personal stories for you to be able to learn lessons from."

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FOODGASM

Top Chef contestant serves up southern comfort food

I'm back! The South Beach Wine & Food Festival has been over for a few weeks, and I can say that I am back to at least 90 percent functionality.

I even discovered some new foodgasms. This year's BubbleQ, the festival event that serves up barbecue and champagne, was hosted by "Top Chef"'s head judge Tom Colicchio, and some of the show's past winners and contestants were barbecuing.

Out of all the "Top Chef" celebrities at the party, I was mostly interested in season three contestant Howie Klienberg, since he just opened up Bulldog Barbecue (15400 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami).

Before Bulldog's opening, there was a lack of barbecue presence in North Miami. Klienberg's interesting concept is bound to be a sure hit for originality in the neighborhood.

Bulldog mixes modern and chic decor with down and dirty southern style, complete with brown paper table cloths and rolls of paper towels bolted into the wall. It gives the restaurant its classy Miami ambiance with stainless steel countertops and red walls, while reminiscing to a Cajun crawfish boil where food is just tossed on the newspaper table top and devoured while wearing a bib.

The atmosphere oozes comfort.

The menu continues the feeling of ease by segmenting choices into untraditional titles. For instance, salads can be found under the "Grass" section of the menu, while the kiddies can eat from the "Puppy Chow" selections. But for the college student on a budget, go for the "Biscuits," the sandwich picks served with your choice of fries and Carolina slaw.

One dish stands out as the top dog – the Black Angus Burger. This burger was definitely a foodgasm and described as "the best burger I've had since moving to Miami" by one of my guests.

For \$10 you could not possibly find a better burger. This gourmet foodgasm tastes fresh and meaty and comes with your choice of cheese, sweet melt-in-your-mouth caramelized onions, creamy chipotle mayo, arugula and a thick slice of tomato. Together, all these components are so delicious that you almost want seconds. But with a hearty side of Chipotle Fries, you will feel like you never want to eat again.

I don't want to subject the Chipotle Fries to merely a side dish mention. These fries are "the fries." This was the first dish I tried at Bulldog and immediately could tell that this would be a foodgasm I would inevitably come to crave.

I will go back, if just to have these salty,

spicy, perfectly cooked – not-too-crispy, not-soggy french fries. Make sure to order a side of the chipotle mayo to dip them into. Don't be scared by the mention of the chipotle pepper, although these fries – and mayo – carry a little back of the throat spice, the pepper imparts a more smoky flavor than anything else.

Go to Bulldog if you want to get full, really full, almost-borderline-Thanksgiving-full because most of the food is delicious, and the portions are so large that you end up licking your plate and your friends' plate clean. This is what your resident foodgasmist calls comfort food.

I understand, it's not what you expect from comfort food. Especially not me! Being a Miami native, I know more about *café con leche* than barbecue, but the Bulldog choices make me want more.

That's not to say that some menu items don't belong in the doghouse. I found the foursome of cheeses in the Mac and Cheese overpowering and muddled. And for a soup lover to openly shun both soup choices on the "Snacks" portion of the menu – Shrimp and Corn Chowder, and White Chili – is blasphemy, because I never met a soup I didn't like.

But to me, these flaws are overly redeemed by the mouth-watering items that lace the menu.

If you stop by on spring break next week and want to splurge, go for the Baby Back Ribs. At \$21 for a full rack, these slightly sweet ribs pack their flavorful bark with a savory dry rub. I'm no barbecue expert, but these were a hit with my guests and all that was left on the plate was bones.

For a perfect finish, make sure to end your night with a decadent dessert. My recommendation is the over the top S'more Pie at \$7.

The S'more Pie is a melted, gooey chocolate pie with a graham cracker and rice crispy crust, smothered in a marshmallow cream that is blow torched to give you that camp-fire feeling. This rich dessert will leave you waddling for the door, with chocolate smeared across your face, the end-all at Bulldog.

Make sure to have a homemade lemonade or sweet iced tea with your meal and enjoy the Southern comfort. I'm surprised to say I've added barbecue to my foodgasms.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.

COLUMN



BIANCA ROJAS



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BARK OR BITE: (Top) Columnist Bianca Rojas holds her pick for student budgets, the Black Angus Burger, before devouring it. (Middle) Squeeze bottles with homemade "Red" and "Yellow" sauce enclose a bulldog emblazoned ketchup bottle. (Bottom) A gooey and chocolately foodgasmic dessert, the S'more Pie is an "end all" for Rojas.

HBO's "Def Poetry" artists honor Women's Month

HALI NEAL
Contributing Writer

On Point Poetry Club will celebrate women with spoken word poetry during its upcoming event, "True Beauty of a Woman," featuring poets from HBO's "Def Poetry."

"We want to take time to appreciate women through poetry," said Ana Pierre-Louis, On Point Poetry member.

"True Beauty of a Woman," sponsored by the On Point Poetry Club and the Student Programming Council, will take place March 12 in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and the event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff and the general public.

"I think the average person doesn't necessarily think of poetry as something fun," said Pierre-Louis. "But it's really high energy and enticing."

Hoping to attract more attendees, On Point Poetry is

bringing to the event Mayda Del Valle and Gina Loring, poets featured on HBO's "Def Poetry," along with student performances from On Point Poetry and Write Side Poets, a non-profit organization designed to gather, inspire, assist and encourage young writers who want to take their message across through spoken word, according to their official Web site.

"I thank SPC for bringing [Shihan, Black Violin, Del Valle and Loring] because otherwise we wouldn't have the opportunity to meet such greatly talented poets," said Kertus Toussaint, On Point Poetry president.

The club is co-hosting this event in honor of Women's History Month, which is celebrated throughout the month of March.

"Women play a significant role in our everyday lives and that's beautiful," Toussaint said.

"We just don't get caught up with outer beauty, because beauty lies within and we want to acknowledge that."

This is On Point Poetry's fourth event of the year, but this time they're bringing recognized poets.

"They are two lovely, talented, energetic, insightful, beautiful women and HBO nationally-known slam poets," Toussaint said.

The event will also feature Ray Dominguez, president of Write Side Poets and Lindsie Fleurizard, On Point Poetry member.

"[On Point Poetry] is a positive group of students who are enthused about poetry, about the art and we love to entertain. We take no stances, but we express issues in both the positive and negative light," said Toussaint. "We cater to people's needs about the variation of poetry we speak."

For more information, visit myspace.com/onpointpoetry.

READ THIS NOW!

History might really be 'going down'

If Joe Lieberman decides to run for president in 2012, we can finally stop teaching about the Holocaust in public schools.

After all, if a Jewish man is in the White House, what point is there in being hung up over the fact that less than a century ago, an attempt was made to exterminate the entire race of people?

Surely we do not want Jewish children thinking that they are worthless because of this story of hatred, rather than becoming empowered by the notion of having a member of the chosen people finally in the highest echelon of government.

If you find this argument ridiculous, then you should also find the renewed effort to get classic novels such as *Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men* out of the classroom because of their portrayals of African-Americans.

According to a Feb. 28 *Newsweek* article, the triumph of the Obama presidency has once again called attention to books such as these and has renewed the debate over their appropriateness in the classroom, with many arguing that the uneducated representations of African Americans would be counterproductive to the morale of students who should be believing that they can do anything, because Barack did.

"I think at the time when we have this very articulate, smart and intelligent black man running the country, we don't need to reinforce the same negative stereotypes to young minds," said John Foley, a high school teacher in a suburb of Washington state, in the *Newsweek* article.

I seem to remember Vice President Joe Biden making similar remarks about Obama before the election and getting readily chastised for implying that most African Americans are not articulate.

I always have, and still do, believe that the issue of race should be downplayed. I did not understand why kids who went to the same schools I did and who lived in my same neighborhood got scholarships that I didn't because of their skin color.

But there is a difference between downplaying issues of race and ignoring them, or worse, ignoring history.

Ceasing to teach material in schools that show the quality of life of African-Americans over the past 100 years in this country, just because a member of that ethnic

group now leads the nation, is actually counterproductive because it diminishes the significance of the progress we have made so far.

"These stories let kids know just how amazing it is that this man is president right now," said Mark Anthony Neal, a professor of African-American studies at Duke University, to *Newsweek*.

I also cannot help but think that those who want to stop teaching these books just do not get it, on so many levels.

Not teaching a book because it has the "N" word is akin to getting mad at Comedy Central for airing an episode of "South Park" which used the "N" word over and over again.

"South Park," through its comedy, was attempting to bring up a very relevant and poignant discussion of the word, not condone its use.

Huckleberry Finn is the same way. Despite the littering of the potentially harmful word throughout its pages, Mark Twain filled his timeless novel with depictions of the African-American slave as a good person, giving Huck many opportunities to question society's motives for wanting to capture his new friend.

Counterproductive is the only way that I can describe civil rights activists seeking to stamp out a book which espouses civil rights.

America may be at the most post-racial stage it has ever been, and I can certainly understand why parents would not want their kids exposed to stories that make their people appear downtrodden, but ignoring history would be a sad, sad day for schools.

Japan and the United States are no longer at war, but we have not stopped teaching lessons on World War II, which include both the carnage that Americans faced and the racial slurs and federal internment of Japanese persons.

Books like Twain's provide students, who were not around during racism's peak, to get a glimpse of society at that point in time.

There can be discussion over what grade level is appropriate for this material and whether individual classrooms would benefit from these novels, but any discussion to end the teaching of them outright is quite ludicrous.

So keep Huck and Jim. Keep Lennie and Curly.

Not only would ripping them out deprive kids of history, but of a good story as well.

COLUMN



ERIC FELDMAN



SHADY BUSINESS

NYU students demand answers

ALEJANDRO DIAZ
Contributing Writer

How would you like it if FIU kept certain things that they did with your tuition money a secret from you?

Strange vibrations occurred in late February at New York University when a group of student protestors demonstrated by locking themselves into the school's cafeteria dining room on campus. The students took hold of the NYU dining area illegally, occupying the premises and staying there for more than 40 hours to get their demands heard.

According to *The Brown Daily Herald*, the students' demands included: "Public release of NYU's budget and endowment figures, student representation on the school's board of trustees, scholarships for Palestinian students, tuition stabilization, universal public access to the school's main library and amnesty for those involved with the protest."

Administrators deliberately deceived the remaining protestors on the morning of Feb. 20 by telling them they were ready to negotiate. When the students sent out their chosen negotiators, NYU administrators immediately suspended the student negotiators and forced the remaining protestors, who were locked inside, to come out.

The Brown Daily Herald also claimed that pepper spray was used on the demonstrators during this protest outside the dining room. Nobody is really quite sure how bad it did get outside the area of protest except those that were there.

However, according to *The Village Voice*, the students' suspensions were dropped Feb. 27. The protestors would be allowed back in class with a one week time-served suspension. In addition, the students are disqualified from leadership and administrative positions at the

"If [NYU] is doing the right thing with its budget, there should be no need to hide information from anyone."

university.

Looking at this more in depth, I realized that the kids at NYU had a point. Although what they did was irresponsible and not very intelligent, the list of demands clearly states grounds for legitimate argument.

"The protest could have been planned a lot better," said Gabriela Terrazas, a junior hospitality management major. "To me, the demonstration was a little immature and the students involved could have come up with a healthier way of going about it."

A more logical choice to any college student who wants to get something done would be to protest peacefully or at least take the matters to higher authorities before situations get out of control. But this isn't the normal hoof-prints of your typical uprising.

The demands made were legitimate. NYU should feel ashamed for not supporting their Palestinian students with scholarships and for being sketchy when it comes to discussing its budget plans with the school community. If it's doing the right thing with its budget, there should be no need to hide information from anyone.

"I do think that NYU should give detailed reports on their budgets and expenditures," said senior architecture major Emilio Hernandez. "It is the money of the students and the students' parents that fund the school,

so therefore they should know how the university is spending the money. Just like you can find the tax value of your land online, the same information should be just as easily attainable [from the university]."

The appeal of the digital age we live in would facilitate the way NYU could do this by providing an update of sorts on the university's Web site. The real question is why would they want to do this?

Sure, they'll make the school's population a bit happier, but in the end, the school does not need to follow students' demands. The only downside to policies like this is that they may discourage future students from attending when it's their turn to choose their educational venue from wanting to support a school that hides what it does with its funds. In the end, even though what these NYU students did was illegal, I feel the things they want from their university are what any college student would want from their school.

Colleges usually have no problem doing whatever it takes to make the students happy within reason, and I'm sure NYU is reviewing this situation with a group of pencil-pushing desk slaves in a large grey building somewhere on campus, trying to figure out what went wrong. This said, NYU should feel responsible for the outburst and the students should feel embarrassed for letting their composure slip. Riot or no riot, I agree with the demands of the students full-heartedly, which in my view makes an honest college.



STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX



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

JIVE TALKIN'

CABRALITICS

Michael Steele revamps GOP with smooth talk

With the Republican Party struggling to recover from numerous electoral defeats, only one man is up to the task of leading them.

During these trying times, they need a hero and that hero is Michael Steele.

Beset on all sides by a relatively popular president, the sting of two straight defeats in federal elections and only one senator keeping them from losing massive amounts Congressional power, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee knows exactly what it will take to revive the GOP.

Two simple words that will change the way we look at the Republican Party and politics itself, and those two words are "hip" and "hop."

With his trademark boldness and charisma, Steele has promised to appeal to old and young alike by "applying the party's principles to urban-suburban hip-hop settings," according to a Feb. 19 article in the *Washington Times*.

He's even promised that the changes would be, and this is an actual quote, "off the hook."

Like a modern day street poet or an MTV veejay, the 51-year-old Steele has taken to peppering his vocabulary with phrases like "my bad," "bling-bling" and, whenever the urge strikes him, adding the word "baby" to the end of his sentences.

"I'm always open to everything, baby," Steele told Fox News' Neil Cavuto.

It is the use of such cool urban colloquialisms that really speaks to me and young people everywhere.

I'm sure that the registered Independents and Democrats who are reading about this for the first time are already excitedly tearing up their voter registration cards so that they too can be a part of the party of Reagan, Bush and Steele.

Aside from his totally authentic sounding use of slang,

Steele, like the brilliant tactician that he is,

has revealed little about his "off

the hook"

plans to

give the

G O P

more

of an

urban

flavor.

Y e t

hip-hop

COLUMN



CHRIS CABRAL

culture, as only a Georgetown graduate like Steele could understand it, has so much to bring to the GOP and Republicans have so much to offer in return. The possibilities are nearly endless.

Take Barack Obama's plans to increase taxes on the wealthy to pay for things like education and health care. One factor conveniently ignored by the Democrats and the liberal media is the effects of such tax increases on our nation's most precious resource: rappers.

According to my calculations, the average member of the Wu-Tang Clan stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars a year, while four out of five Cash Money Millionaires will be unable to purchase adequate amounts of "ice" for themselves and their families.

The part of the economy that is built on the purchase of rims, grills and the assorted trappings of flyness are sure to suffer.

Moreover, the considerable damage done by these tax increases to the images of rappers who have based much of their careers on the benefits of such conspicuous consumption is incalculable.

Republican economic policy is clearly preferable for rappers who like to "shine," "ball" and "floss."

And as Michael Steele has magnificently illustrated, the use of slang makes the Republican agenda seem so much more fun. Who could say no to a congressman or woman smoothly saying, "I just want to cut your taxes, baby?"

House minority leader Lil' John Boehner would be wise to be a little less like George W. Bush and a little more like the ODB. Perhaps he could lace his remarks to the media with just a little more profanity.

After all, these times call for honesty and passion, not the restrained remarks of an old-school politician.

I'm sure the American people would appreciate his candor if he just came out and said, "The housin' crisis is a f--in' mess, yo. And the President's response is hella whack! All you Democrats need to stop this crazy spending before I stick you."

Such a response would embody the anger felt by many conservatives while simultaneously injecting a much needed "street cred" into the Republican Party.

With the help of visionaries like Michael Steele, the Republican Party can win over the young generation and the children, who, I am told, are our future.

And together they can bring the Republicans back to the White House, give money back to the wealthy, and put the "G" back in GOP.

Cabralitics takes a stab at all things Capitol Hill every other Wednesday.

Relay for Life raises \$80,000

RELAY, page 1

is more about unity. Everyone around, fraternities and other organizations are really working together, buying from each other. It really didn't seem competitive at all. It was just a fun loving environment. I was really impressed with all of the work that the Relay for Life committee did," said Jackie Gadea, a senior majoring in marketing and public relations.

Relay for Life is normally held at the football field, but it had to be moved in front of the Ryder Business Building last year, due to the construction of the stadium. This year, the Relay for Life committee planned to hold the event at the stadium, but ran into complications with the stadium's policies and event organizers decided to move it back to the Ryder Building two weeks prior to the event.

"With the new stadium, there's a lot of regulations. It got to the point that with the rules they were enforcing, we couldn't have had a successful event with the way Relay is, with food and fund-raising and tents," said Julio Yanes, the assistant director for Relay for Life.

We educate all of these people by having fun and raising money.

Julio Yanes, assistant director
Relay for Life

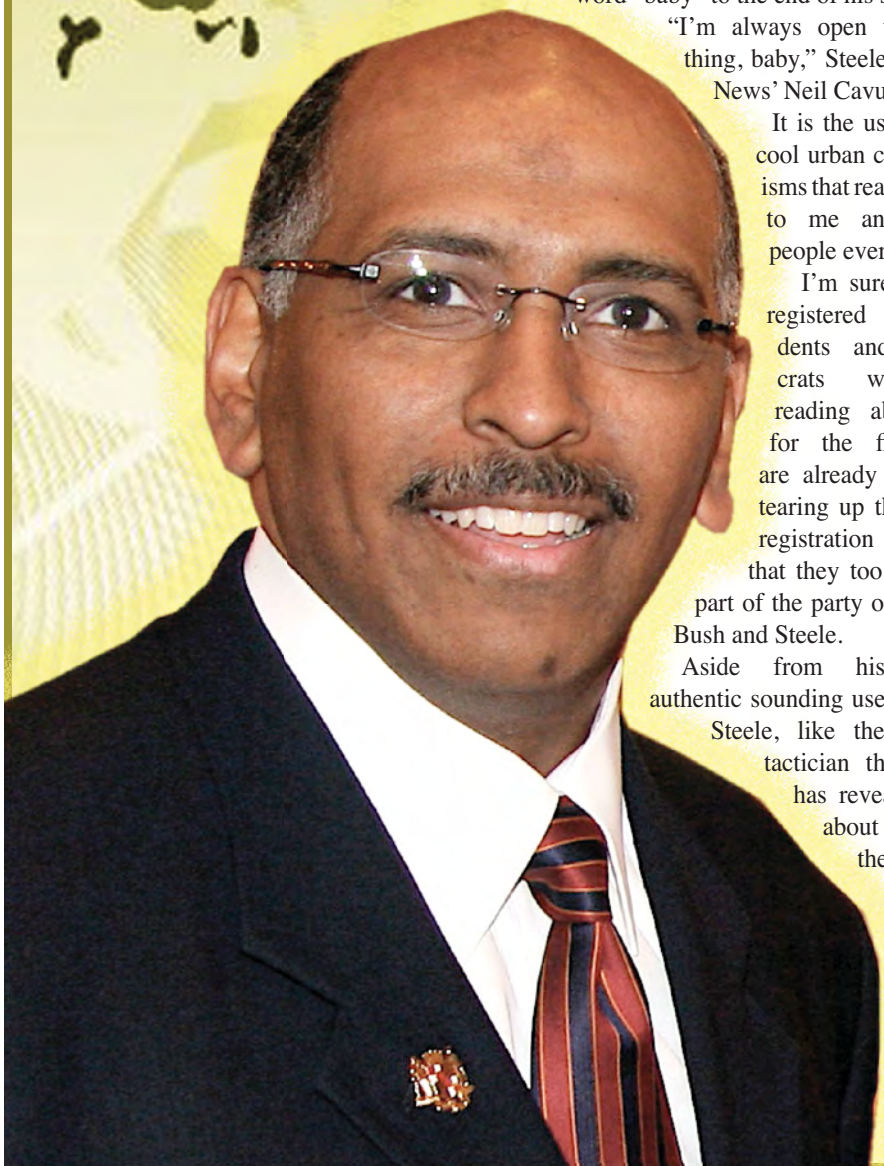
Jenelle Delgado, entertainment chair for the Relay for Life committee at FIU, was happy with the event's outcome, despite the last-minute change of venue.

"Either way the event had a really good turnout; there were a lot of people there. It's just, I feel like the football stadium is the home of Relay. Most Relays that happen are in stadiums, but I don't think it affected our goal as far as collecting money or people's spirit. People still came out to support," Delgado said.

The Relay for Life committee plans events to keep everyone awake and involved throughout the night. Some of this year's events included a scavenger hunt, salsa dancers and zumba lessons. Different local musicians performed throughout the night to keep the crowd entertained. Performers included Sacred Tuesday, The Velvet Angels and the Miami Heat dancers.

"Relay is a great organization. You give a lot back to the community and you can see that it does achieve things. There's a lot of people that have no idea what the American Cancer Society does, what it is, what Relay is and we educate all of these people by having fun and raising money," Yanes said.

The goal of \$80,000 was met this year, with the top fund-raising team, Pre-Dental Society, raising more than \$5,000.



Relay for Life

2009 Special



CHARI ADAMES-SMITH/THE BEACON

Highlights from Relay for Life 2009

Top: Students gather to light votive candles in memoriam of cancer victims past. The candles were placed in bags with the victims' names and used to light up the walkway around the Ryder Business Building for participants throughout the night.

Left: Senior Noor Daghistani, a member of Music Saves Lives, dresses up as Cinderella for a Disney Princess themed lap.

Bottom left: Student organizations raised money by selling burgers and hotdogs for \$2 to donate to the American Cancer Society.

Bottom right: The American Cancer Society walks along with their banner in support of cancer survivors during the early hours of Relay for Life's 15-hour vigil.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY •
MARCH 2

WHAT: Strike Out BBQ
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Housing Quad
CONTACT: 786-234-9087

WHAT: Islamic Awareness Week
- Forum
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: FEMALES Presents: "What Women Want" - forum
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Miami Film Festival
WHEN: Select Times
WHERE: Select Locations
CONTACT: 305-673-4567

WHAT: Can You Rock A Little Softer?
Acoustic Night
WHEN: 10 p.m.
WHERE: Chirchills
CONTACT: 305-757-1807

TUESDAY •
MARCH 3

WHAT:
Preksha Meditation Club
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Chinese Club Movie Night
WHEN: 2:30-5 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet
WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association
WHEN: 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: Gracie's Grill
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

WHAT: Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership, Excellence and Success
WHEN: 8-9 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: (305) 348-2297

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

RENAISSANCE REVIVAL



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

JOUSTING MATCH: Period-costumed riders recreate a 15th century jousting match at the 17th annual Florida Renaissance Festival in Deerfield. The festival ran from Feb. 7 through March 8.

Pulse

Anxiety affects everyone differently, FIU offers help

If I admit that I've experienced anxiety just by interacting with other people, my friends would not believe me.

I've never been diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder and I probably never will because it doesn't interfere with my daily life enough for me to seek help. However, in years past, I used to get really nervous about public speaking, talking to strangers and even hanging with friends I had not seen in a while. Of course the worst of these was public speaking, and even today it still makes me a bit nervous.

Although my boyfriend calls me a hermit crab – I've gradually embraced the name – I've gotten a lot better at this social thing. In part, I think a lot of it had to do with growing up and realizing that it's OK to unwillingly make a fool of myself in front of others. I also think my boyfriend's calm demeanor has rubbed off on me. In fact, I'm sure I've heard him say "relaaaax" just as much as I've heard "I love you" come out of his mouth.

Unfortunately there are people who suffer to the point that common social situations such as eating in public, using a public rest room, or speaking in front of others can cause overwhelming fear and anxiety, according to *WebMD.com*.

Having experienced a rapid heartbeat and sweaty palms at the mere thought of raising my hand to ask a question in class, I sympa-

thize with these people.

Social anxiety can be pretty debilitating.

Consider these *WebMD.com* symptoms:

Avoiding social situations that you fear, or enduring them with intense anxiety or distress; having persistent but unreasonable fear of a situation that involves unfamiliar people or being judged by others and even worrying about being anxious.

In extreme cases, some people will turn to booze or drugs to help them relax, according to the Web

site.

But if you are a social butterfly, you probably don't suffer from social anxiety. Consider yourself lucky. But if you feel you may suffer from this disorder, getting help would be a good idea.

And if you are hesitant about seeking professional help, keep in mind that you don't deal with anxiety the same way your friend, significant other or even I deal with it.

The University's Counseling and Psychological Services Center offers "short-term psychotherapy to address specific issues including general anxiety," according to its Web site.

Now crawl out from under your shell and start having fun!

Pulse is a weekly column examining the state of college health.

COLUMN



EDDITH SEVILLA

GREEK LIFE



AMANDA BATHCELOR

Dreamgirl pageant raises funds for philanthropy

The men of Pi Kappa Alpha crowned their next Dreamgirl March 5 during their annual pageant, which helps raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

Melissa Sabatier, member of Alpha Xi Delta, won the 2009 Dreamgirl Pageant.

"I've seen these guys come in as boys but leave as men," Sabatier said during her last round. As the 2009 Dreamgirl, she will help these men establish a local philanthropy.

Seventeen other women ran for the title of PIKE's Dreamgirl, most were sorority members.

Throughout the pageant, contestants were asked questions in several rounds and many of them showed their strong interest in charity and community involvement.

In the first round, each contestant introduced herself, and in the following rounds each were asked a series of questions.

Jessica Padilla talked about the work she does in the Dominican Republic to help the disadvantaged every spring break.

She has never taken a spring break just for pleasure, but has decided to go on alternative spring breaks to help those who are less fortunate.

Shakerra Bowe, a sister of Sigma Lambda Gamma, stood out.

As a mother of an 8-year-old boy, Bowe hopes to open a free tutoring center for impoverished children in the next five years. This could really make a differ-

ence in our community, especially since, according to *The Miami Herald* several after-school care services have been taken away this past year.

Two of my Alpha Omicron Pi sorority sisters – Zugeny Hernandez and Tatiana Romero – participated in the pageant.

Hernandez was second runner up, and in the last round, she discussed what the title of Dreamgirl meant to her, and how, if Dreamgirl or not, she'll always be there for the fraternity.

The 2008 Dreamgirl, Kayla Alonso saw something in every contestant this year.

"I'd have to say this Dreamgirl pool was a great one. I was really impressed. These women, every single one of them seemed passionate about Pi Kappa Alpha and had something to offer as a potential Dreamgirl," Alonso said.

This year, Alonso got to hand her title down to fellow Alpha Xi Delta sister, Sabatier.

"Passing the title to a sister is a great feeling. Not even so much because she's a sister, but because PIKE means a lot to me and I wanted the next Dreamgirl to truly embody Pi Kappa Alpha and their qualities," Alonso said.

"I believe Mel does that. She's been around PIKE longer than me. It's tough stepping down, but I'm leaving them in good hands."

Get the latest insight into Greek life right here, every other Wednesday.

ACE ON THE HILL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

MORE HARDWARE: Junior pitcher Tom Ebert was named Sun Belt Conference pitcher of the week on March 8, following a complete game shutout of Troy over the weekend. Ebert tossed a four-hit, nine-strikeout gem to record his second win of the season.

Guerra looking to make final cut with pro team

GUERRA, page 12

there are five to seven unsigned players battling to earn the last one or two roster vacancies a club has.

"I've spoken with friends of mine who were drafted, yet later got dropped," said Guerra, who mentioned that he wasn't fazed by the chance he gets cut.

The FC Dallas trial player resumed action in South Florida (Feb. 16-22) with the team playing in friendly matches

against the Colorado Rapids and FIU. Then, from Feb. 26 to March 6 he will train with the team in Curitiba, Brazil.

Guerra likes his chances to make the team.

"The coach spoke to me and said I had an honest shot of making it," Guerra said.

The rosters should be finalized after the Florida and Brazil trials, in time for the start of the regular season on March 21.

Golden Panthers' future still looks promising

INCOMPLETE, page 12

games are played on the hardwood, and in rare cases in the Sun Belt, a TV set.

After 33 games and a first round conference tournament exit that followed a season of injury and transition, a letter or percentage grade might be a little tough for this team.

An "I" simply wouldn't work, and I think any other letter designation would be too simple.

I'd say let the jury remain out, and evaluate this squad based on how much better or worse the team is next season.

There was just too much transition and roster turmoil to make a fair or accurate assessment of the 08-09 campaign.

FIU stadium to host first round games in Gold Cup

AP WIRE

FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia in conjunction with CONCACAF announced today that FIU Stadium will host a first round Gold Cup Soccer doubleheader on July 10.

"This is part of the original plan of designing this stadium," Garcia said. "We wanted to host major events at our stadium and we're very excited about being able to be the host of a quality event like the Gold Cup."

The 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup will be played in a record 13 different U.S. cities, opening at The Home Depot Center in Los Angeles on Friday, July 3 and concluding with the championship match Sunday, July 26 at Giants Stadium outside New York.

FIU is also in negotiations to bring several other major soccer events to South Florida. "We're excited for both FIU and the entire South Florida soccer community," said Garcia. "Right now we're working on a handful of major soccer events to be held here over the next year."

The 13 cities are more than twice than the number previously used for the continental championship and shy of only the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain and the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which used 10 venues each in Japan and South Korea. The 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States was played in nine different venues.

"By expanding the Gold Cup to 13 venues, it will give fans more opportunity to experience the championship in person," CONCACAF President Jack Warner said.

The Gold Cup will make its first appearance in four cities: Columbus, Ohio; Phoenix; Philadelphia and Washington. A Gold Cup quarter-final will be the first sporting event to be played

at the Dallas Cowboys New Stadium.

Each venue will host one doubleheader except for the final at Giants Stadium, with the quarterfinals set for Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia (Saturday, July 18) and Dallas (Sunday, July 19), and the semifinals at Soldier Field in Chicago (Thursday, July 23).

Besides Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus (July 7), RFK Stadium in Washington (July 8) and the University of Phoenix Stadium

in Glendale, Arizona (July 12), other first-round venues include: Qwest Field in Seattle (July 4), Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum in Oakland, California (July 5), Reliant Stadium in Houston (July 9), FIU Stadium in Miami (July 10), and Gillette Stadium in the Boston suburb of Foxborough, Massachusetts

The three first-round groups for the qualifiers: Canada,

Mexico and the United States from the North Zone; Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua from Central America; and Jamaica, Grenada, Guadeloupe and Haiti from the Caribbean, and schedule will be announced at a later time.

The Gold Cup was played in six different cities in its two most recent editions, including two stadia in Los Angeles in 2005 (the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and The Home Depot Center).

This will be the second time Giants Stadium has staged the final and first since 2005. Miami will see the Gold Cup for the seventh straight time, although it will be the first time at FIU Stadium, while the Los Angeles area will stage matches for the eighth time in 10 tournaments.

Groups and a full schedule as well as ticket information will be available in the coming weeks.

This is part of the original plan of designing this stadium. We wanted to host major events at our stadium and we're very excited ...

Pete Garcia, athletic director
FIU

SPRING INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

MEN'S OPEN # 1		MEN'S OPEN # 4		SORORITY/ WOMEN'S #2	
TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL
We Love Shones	4-0	Rig City	3-0	Aaaahh-sssss	4-0
Operation Repo	3-1	Underestimated	1-1-1	Alpha Omicron Pi	2-2-1
Lakeview Goons	2-2	DSU	0-1-1	Phi Mu	2-2-1
Mickey Mouse Club	1-3	Undrafted	0-1	Sigma Kappa	0-4
Gamma Phi Gamma	0-4	Chaos	0-1		
MEN'S OPEN # 2		MEN'S OPEN # 5		CO-REC	
TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL
ESPN	3-1	Miami Lakes Legends	4-0	Air Jordan	5-0
I Don't Know Dawg	3-0	The Other Guys	2-2	Cleveland Steamers	4-1
ArichiBallers	0-3	Hustlin'...Like Rick Ross	3-1	IHOPness	1-4
Army ROTC	1-1	Here Snowflake	1-3	FIUSM	0-5
Sammy A. S. S.	1-3	Nemesis	1-3		
MEN'S OPEN # 3		SORORITY/ WOMEN'S #1		FRATERNITY	
TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL	TEAM	OVERALL
No Dumbish	4-1	Ballin'	5-0	Phi Kappa Alpha	4-0
Ballers	4-1	Delta Phi Epsilon	3-2	Sigma Alpha Mu	3-1
Dark Knight	4-1	Alpha Xi Delta	2-3	Phi Sigma Kappa	3-1-1
Tenacious D	2-3	Phi Sigma Sigma	0-5	Kappa Alpha Psi	3-0-1
The Ninja Turtles	1-4			Lambda Theta Phi	1-3
Good Ol' Days	0-5			Tau Delta	1-2
				FUJ	0-4
				Sigma Phi Epsilon	0-4

All standings for intramural basketball leagues are up to date as of March 6.



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DOWN AND OUT Golden Panthers fall in SBC quarterfinals

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Nothing went the Golden Panthers' way.

The Golden Panthers men's basketball team's misfortunes began with two early foul calls on freshman Freddy Asprilla and ended with fade away shots from Player of the Game Orlando Mendez-Valdez.

During the second round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers took Asprilla out of rhythm with double teams and out of the game with fouls.

Once the freshman conference Player of the Year was not a presence, the rest of the Golden Panthers' starters began to struggle offensively.

"I thought we fell behind early when we couldn't get our big boy playing. We had to sit him. You can't beat the No. 1 team when four of your starters go 8-of-32 from the field," said head coach Sergio Rouco.

The team's poor shooting performance was too much to overcome, and the Golden Panthers' (13-20) season and conference run ended with a 66-48 loss to the WKU Hilltoppers (22-8) on March 9 in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Asprilla scored eight points with just seven field goal attempts. The team hit 34 percent from the field and was out rebounded 51-34.

Michael Dominguez started the game on fire hitting four consecutive 3-point shots, but failed to score in the second half. He led the team in scoring with 12 points and was awarded the Player of the Game award for the Golden Panthers.

WKU head coach Dan McDonald said stopping Dominguez early did

not work, but containing Asprilla, who dominated the Hilltoppers both games this season, was critical.

"We kept him off balance and in foul trouble. I'm glad we finally guarded Freddy. It takes a team effort, the kid is huge," McDonald said about Asprilla, who scored 21 points in both regular season games.

Mendez-Valdez finished with 18 points, but 13 came in the second half. He gave away his Player of the Game award to DJ Magley because of Magley's defense against Asprilla.

Senior Alex Galindo could not get his shooting stroke going as he finished 1-of-9 from the field with four points. Fellow senior Russell Hicks disrupted the Hilltoppers in the paint but several fouls kept him in the game for just 14 minutes.

"We couldn't make shots, it happens. We had guys with open looks," Rouco said.

Dominguez kept his team in the game offensively, while the Golden Panthers defense limited the Hilltoppers to just 32 shots. At intermission, the Hilltoppers led 29-25, but they slowly built a double-digit lead on the Golden Panthers with 5:32 left in the game.

For the Hilltoppers, Jeremy Evans led all big men with 10 points. With 4:51 left in the game, Asprilla and Evans ran into each other in the post. An intentional foul by Asprilla made Evans charge at the freshman before his teammates stopped him.

The Hilltoppers' lead inflated to 20 points less than four minutes later.

This was the third meeting between the two teams. The Golden Panthers upset the Hilltoppers at home 81-79 on Jan. 8. Roughly 12 hours after their loss, the Hilltoppers practiced in the U.S. Century Bank Arena before



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

PLAYER OF THE GAME: Senior Western Kentucky guard Orlando Mendez-Valdez drives past FIU guard Michael Dominguez. Mendez-Valdez and Dominguez were named players of the game for their teams.

finally leaving Miami.

The Hilltoppers went 12-2 the rest of the season and now will face either the North Texas Mean Green or the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

Coach Rouco's 2009 season is over but he wanted to warn the SBC of the team's future starting with

Asprilla's development.

"I wouldn't trade my guys for anything," Rouco said. "We're going to be back. The program is headed in the right direction, especially with [Asprilla] who is only a freshman. I don't think they want to see him mad coming back next year."

Team cannot be assessed properly with injuries

"I" is for Incomplete in classes at the college level. A place holder for which you may finish the submission of the class work, and be re-evaluated at a time shortly after the semester ends.

I sigh quite heavily, and wish I could offer an incomplete to the FIU men's basketball team.

The players combined to miss more than 125 games due to injury, between the projected regulars from last summer and Michael Dominguez, who was the only Golden Panther not to miss time due to an injury or ailment.

Despite the bevy of injuries, FIU still managed home record over .500 (10-7), but being without Freddy Asprilla for 10 games and Alex Galindo for 14 games made it hard for the team to go on the

road and score consistently.

FIU was just 3-12 on the road. The injuries also affected continuity, as the point guard situation was settled and un-settled throughout the season and FIU was forced to accustom itself to two vastly differently styled point guards.

It's more than fair to say the injuries kept the team from developing any sustained consistency this season, and I think it's equitable to think this team may have been better without the injuries as well.

Coach Sergio Rouco told me at the beginning of the season that this was the best character group he's had during his time at FIU, and I wouldn't disagree with the way the players, who weren't expected to have major roles,

COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN

"The reality is, FIU will next take the floor without its leading shot blocker and leading scorer, but with a wealth of experience ..."

contributed early in the season with the injury situation the way it was.

All of this turmoil makes for a difficult final assessment of the team.

There were good and bad, but there was mostly incomplete. But an "I" would perhaps mean this team would be able to continue its season, all faculties intact, for another week or so and turn in a finished project for evaluation on the first day after spring break.

The reality is, FIU will next take the floor without its leading shot blocker and leading scorer, but with a wealth of experience and depth, and perhaps most importantly, size that may be unrivaled in the Sun Belt next year.

As it was built during the previous season and off-season, the 2009-10 team, looks on paper to be athletically superior to this year's model, but basketball

INCOMPLETE, page 10

Soccer star on pace for MLS

MARK BRZUSKA
Contributing Writer

Sit anxiously and wait for that phone call from a Major League Soccer team.

That is exactly what former Golden Panther Juan Guerra and possibly hundreds of other collegiate soccer players did on the day of the MLS SuperDraft.

Guerra never got the call on the day of the draft, but did receive an exciting call three weeks later by the coaching staff from FC Dallas. He was chosen as one of the club's two "discovery claims."

"I got a call from the Dallas coaching staff saying I was put on their discovery list," Guerra said. "It's crazy, you spend all your life working hard, and to get a chance like this is great."

The MLS discovery period gives clubs the right to submit claims on players outside the league (foreigners and United Soccer Leagues) who they are hoping to sign. Essentially, it gives them exclusive MLS rights to negotiate with that particular player.

Guerra, the former FIU midfielder, headed over to Dallas to participate in the team's camp. He has participated in friendly matches and the club's season opener where fans got to spend time meeting players and watching them in action.

As for going undrafted, Guerra said that it's all used as fuel for motivation.

"I wake up every morning more motivated and looking to achieve my goal of playing professional soccer," Guerra said.

So far so good.

Coaches on the FC Dallas team have spoken very highly of the Venezuela native and even said that he had a good opportunity of being a player in the league in the near future, according to Guerra.

Currently, the MLS has trimmed down team rosters to only 24 spots. This ruling affects many borderline players, including Guerra, who are vying for a spot but might lose out, not because of skill set, but because of roster availability.

Thus, the journey becomes really competitive because

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