



Adventureland comes of age with grace, style
PAGE 5



Close victory over ranked conference foe
PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3
SOC-BBC has a new executive board for the upcoming school year.

OPINION PAGE 4
Graduating in three years grants plenty of benefits.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Put down the lemonade and cool off over the summer with affordable wines.

SPORTS PAGE 8
Big swinging lefty swats a pair as FIU takes two of three from WKU.

OPINION PAGE 4



COLUMN: Eric Feldman tells us how to deal with our topsy-turvy planet.

LIFE! PAGE 5
COLUMN: Eddith Sevilla breaks down calories and what they mean to you.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Spring ball culminates with defensive win in ninth Blue and Gold game.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIU Chemistry Club – Interviews, April 8, 1 p.m.: Come with your chemistry set and beakers at GC 1223.

Los Fabulosos Cadillacs, April 8, 8 p.m.: Enjoy some middle-aged “punk” rockers at the American Airlines Arena.

Health Occupation Students of America – Meeting, April 9, 3:30 p.m. Learn how to have really bad handwriting at this event in GC 343.

Service for Peace – Meeting, April 9, 4:30 p.m.: Insert Bono joke here at GC 305.

Marc Anthony, April 9, 8 p.m.: Enjoy music from the “skeleton” at Hard Rock Café.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 60 HIGH: 73

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 70 HIGH: 79

FRIDAY
Isolated t-storms
LOW: 72 HIGH: 83

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

UP Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

THE END?



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

PROTEST: Members of the FIU Marching Band demonstrate by the fountain in front of Primera Casa. They are trying to save the band by urging students to sign a petition. The College of Architecture and The Arts, who mainly funds the band, will not fund it next year.

Golden Panther Band at risk after six years of service

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

After six years of existence, FIU’s Golden Panther Marching Band faces elimination in the shadow of massive budget cuts.

On March 24, a public forum was held in an empty sound hall at the School of Music in order for students and band members to emphasize the importance of the band and to voice their opinions on how the band can be spared.

According to Carla Geiger, FIU Athletic Bands’ director, the College of Architecture and The Arts, also known as CARTA, currently funds 65 percent of the band; the remainder is split between Student

Government Association and the Athletics Department, each funding 21 percent and 14 percent respectively.

With budget cuts on the way for the next fiscal year, CARTA may not be able to fund the band any longer and SGA has been talking about cutting funding to the band altogether.

“We do not have the \$237,000 that was our share of the cost of the band,” said former CARTA dean, Juan Bueno. “We don’t have that in the budget and we are about to lose another \$800,000 now.”

He said that these cuts are not only unavoidable, but are also complimentary to the budget cuts the

BAND, page 2

Lawmakers outline budget cuts

BILL KACZOR
AP Writer

Proposed budgets released by both Florida legislative chambers for the next fiscal year are \$600 million apart, with the Senate’s on the high side partly because it includes Seminole Indian gaming money not in the House plan.

Gov. Charlie Crist, meanwhile, on Friday stepped up efforts to persuade both Republican-controlled chambers to approve a compact he originally made with

the tribe to expand gambling at its seven Florida casinos before the state Supreme Court ruled it needs legislative approval. Both chambers have since drafted separate plans, with Crist’s version somewhere in the middle.

The Senate’s proposed \$65.6 billion spending plan for the budget year beginning July 1 is about \$100 million more than the state’s current budget. The House plan weighs in at \$65 billion, or half a billion less than what is now being spent. Both proposals

were distributed to lawmakers late Thursday. Appropriations committees will consider them next week. Floor votes are expected the following week.

The Senate’s budget bill includes \$538 million from the Seminole compact. That includes \$288 million carried over from the current budget year. The tribe has put that much aside awaiting the Legislature’s approval of Crist’s compact. The Senate is

LEGISLATURE, page 2

SGC-UP SENATE

Election Code revision, new Finance Code to be presented

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

During their penultimate meeting of the 2008-2009 school year, the senate of the Student Government Council at University Park passed a resolution to aid the Marching Band and a dilemma over the new College of Arts and Sciences senate seat was brought to the attention of the senators.

SGC-UP Chief Justice Leonard Goenaga said that the fifth College of Arts and Sciences seat was improperly filled.

The College of Social Work, Criminal Justice and Public Affairs is now part of the College Arts and Sciences; therefore, calling for an additional seat in the college.

The new seat was created under the new Student Government Association constitution, which was up for vote by students, and passed on during the April 1-2 elections. The seat was filled by Pablo Martinez.

“Proper protocol was not followed in the filling of this new position,” Goenaga said. “This position can only be filled by special elections or filled during next year’s elections.”

A clear action has yet to be made as to how the senate will deal with this issue.

The senate also discussed the FIU Marching Band, which is currently seeking funding after losing most of its funding from the College of Architecture and The Arts.

Senate Speaker Jean Roseme and Senator Chris Cabral presented resolutions to the body, asking for SGA to aid the marching band in seeking funding.

“The Student Government at Florida International University is willing to work with the other financial supporters of the FIU Marching Band to put forward a plan to save the band in these tough economic times, and for the future,” read the original draft of the resolution.

“We cannot take the burden on this,” said SGC-UP president-elect, Anthony Rionda, while speaking to the body.

After deliberations, it was determined that SGC-UP would not seek to mediate finding a way to fund the band. The senate did, however, pass a resolution stating that they fully support the efforts of the band.

Senator Moses Aluicio introduced a bill to strike Section II, Clause B of the Elections Code and replace the requirements for appointing elections commissioner and board members.

The new bill, approved by the senate, calls for elections commissioners and elections board members to be appointed by the SGC-UP president after submission of an open application. The candidates would then be approved by a simple majority of the senate during any meeting where there is quorum.

Comptroller Robert Chung during his presentation to the body also said that a new Finance Code would be introduced into the senate during the April 13 meeting.

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Study: College students prefer smart phones

According to a recent study, college students are using cell phones, particularly smart phones, for their core communication and entertainment needs.

The survey, conducted by Ball State University and which covered 300 universities, found that 27 percent of students use smart phones as compared to 19 percent usage rate among business professionals.

The study also found that the rates of which students use their mobile devices to send text messages, pictures and video are on the rise.

“College students are increasingly adopting cell phones — particularly the smart phone — as the core communication and entertainment device for their hectic lifestyles,” said Michael Hanley, a journalism assistant professor who heads Ball State’s mobile communications research program.

Hanley said that this movement forces companies to create and cater to young smart phone users, who are tech savvy and are willing to use various different ways to communicate.

A previous study by Ball State in 2005 showed that text messaging has surpassed e-mail and instant messaging communication as 94 percent of students use it.

INTERNATIONAL

Italian earthquake death toll rising

The death toll for the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck the town of L’Aquila, Italy, 60 miles north of Rome, has risen to 150.

The earthquake that struck Monday morning has so far left 100,000 homeless and more than 1,500 injured. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has declared the area a state of emergency.

According to CNN, more than 4,000 rescuers are currently combing the debris in search of survivors.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

Budget cuts threaten marching band

BAND, page 1

school faced last year.

In addition, Athletics stated that they have never funded the band.

“We neither fund the band nor does it report to us. And we also have difficult and possibly unpopular decisions ahead with more than \$1 million in budget cuts of our own looming,” said Richard Kelch, Athletics’ director of media relations, in a written statement to Student Media.

SGA, which has funded the marching band every year, discussed eliminating SGA funding for the band at a recent budget allocation meeting because the band is comprised of a large portion of musicians who are not FIU students.

Outgoing Student Government Council at University Park President Arthur J. Meyer voiced SGA’s commitment to funding the marching band should all other parties continue to be involved.

“We are, as SGA, committed to full funding the marching band at what we’ve

previously funded it, if there is a verbal and written commitment from the Athletics Department [and] from the University and/or college that they will provide the additional funding necessary to have a marching band,” Meyer said.

However, Anthony Rionda, SGC-UP president-elect highlighted the issue of the marching band consisting of many non-FIU students as a concern, during the March 24 forum.

“That’s just an additional point of how much student funding should go to a band in that 50 percent, more or less, are not full FIU students. That is a point of concern to a lot of people,” Rionda said.

According to an e-mail to Student Media by Geiger, “During the 2008-09 season, the band consisted of 70 members. Of those 70, 36 were currently enrolled FIU students — that number includes four [Miami-Dade College] transient students registered for the class — and 34 were not.”

She said that since she was charged with heading the marching band, she had raised the percentage of enrolled students to 51 percent, with the ultimate goal of 100 percent within the next year.

Bueno noted that he had been unable to arrange a meeting with Athletics.

“We scheduled a meeting, it did not happen,” he said. “We did our half.”

Before ending the forum, Bueno and Rionda both suggested that students should continue to meet with decision makers and to not give up hope.

Since the forum, band members have continued to fight for their program by circulating a petition and by holding a demonstration at the Graham Center fountain.

Currently, the petition has accumulated more than 2,000 signatures and has been submitted to President Modesto A. Maidique for consideration.

“If the marching band is eliminated, [FIU] will be the only Division I university in

the country without a marching band, or an athletics band for that matter,” said Ernesto Fernandez, FIU band drum major and incoming president of Kappa Kappa Si, a national fraternity for college bands.

Students at the demonstration voiced their concerns as they signed the petition in favor of keeping the band.

“It’s horrible, it feels like half of our spirit is taken away,” said FIU Dazzler Lauren Perez, “[Athletic bands] bring something extra, other than just watching the game.”

The FIU athletic bands were conceived after the creation of the FIU football team in 1999, and were called to attention for the first time on August 29, 2002. Since its inception, the band has expanded to perform not only at football games, but basketball and volleyball games as well. The band also provides live music for events such as Trail of the Torch, Commencement and makes a regular appearance at the nationally televised Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade.

University spending cut by 4 percent

LEGISLATURE, page 1

considering a more expansive proposal that could bring in nearly \$400 million a year.

The House has no compact money in its plan, not yet formally filed as a bill, but Friday its Select Committee on Seminole Indian Compact Review approved a scaled-down proposal expected to bring in about \$100 million a year.

The Senate’s compact would let the Seminoles have full-blown casinos including roulette, blackjack and craps while the House version would permit the them to have only the same type of slots currently allowed at South Florida pari-mutuels.

Crist’s proposal would allow the Seminoles to have Las Vegas style-slots and card games including blackjack. He said it would provide the state with \$2.6 billion over 25 years, and most of that would go to education.

Officials from the Florida Education Association, which is the statewide teachers union and organizations representing school boards and superintendents, joined Crist and Seminole leaders at a news conference to tout the governor’s plan. Crist said he wouldn’t settle for the House version. The House’s GOP leaders, though, are reluctant to expand gambling and could tell the governor and Senate it’s their plan or nothing.

“That would be ill-advised, I think, and not very polite,” Crist said. “We try to be polite and work with each other.”

Another key budget differ-

ence is higher education. The House has appropriated \$4.1 billion for community colleges and universities. That’s \$459 million less than the Senate, which would leave their budgets virtually unchanged from the current year.

Both plans include base tuition increases — 8 percent in the Senate and 7 percent in the House. Both also assume lawmakers will pass a bill letting state universities further increase tuition up to a total of 15 percent and that all 11 schools will approve the full amount.

Tim Jones, chief financial officer for the Florida Board of Governors, which oversees the universities, said all schools may not increase tuition the full 15 percent. The House budget cuts university spending 4 percent. They probably can handle that because they’ve been preparing for worst, Jones said.

Both chambers include at least \$2.5 billion in federal stimulus dollars and they’re fairly close on public schools — the Senate leaving spending at the current rate of \$6,680 per student and the House increasing it by \$30. Neither, though, has any money for the Florida Forever environmental land-buying program, which usually gets \$300 million a year.

At a special session in January, lawmakers tried to suspend Florida Forever for the rest of the current budget year, but Crist vetoed that from a deficit-reduction bill. The governor, though, would be powerless to restore money that’s never been appropriated.

Both chambers plan to reduce state jobs again. In the past, nearly all were unfilled positions, but Senate Ways and Means Chairman JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, acknowledged as many as 800 state employees might be laid off.

Both budget plans would cut nursing home spending — the Senate by \$81 million

and the House by \$69 million. Nursing homes and advocates for the elderly say \$787 million in health care stimulus money could have prevented those cuts, but it’s being diverted to other purposes.

“Our state is in a fiscal crisis that is soon to turn into a moral crisis,” said Sen. Nan Rich, D-Weston.

POLICE NOTES

March 28

A vehicle was stolen off FIU property and recovered by a state trooper. The vehicle was in good condition, aside from a few minor scratches. The owner of the vehicle was informed to retrieve her vehicle at South Land Towing.

March 29

A 2007 Saturn was vandalized while parked in University Park Apartments, Building E. The rear window was shattered and the trunk dented and scratched along with both doors on the passenger side.

March 31

A vehicle parked at the University Park campus was damaged in what appears to be attempted burglary. Both door locks of the vehicle were punched in, causing severe damage to the door handle. The driver of the vehicle claims to have locked the vehicle doors before exiting the vehicle. No property was missing from the vehicle.

Criminal mischief resulted in \$1,000 worth of damage to a 2003 BMW. While the vehicle was parked by the UPA parking spaces, the left rear side of the vehicle was dented, with no scratches or paint left on the vehicle.

April 2

A burglary was reported on a parked vehicle in Parking Lot One at Biscayne Bay Campus. The passenger window had been smashed open. Stolen items included a radio and Bluetooth, estimated at a \$600 value.

- Compiled by Cheryl Malone

THE BEACON

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JESSICA MAYA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JULIA CARDENUTO

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PAMELA DUQUE

LIFE! EDITOR

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ

SPORTS DIRECTOR

ANDREW JULIAN

OPINION EDITOR

IRIS FEBRES

PHOTO EDITOR

VICTORIA LYNCH

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 6, the article, “Online glitch brings back paper ballots,” it was stated that Panthersoft was the software where students could vote during Student Government elections. Panthersoft is actually just a portal to Accelerate, the actual voting software.

FOODGASM



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BREAK TIME: Columnist Bianca Rojas pours a glass of her budgetfriendly pick, Columbia Crest Two Vines Merlot after a long study session.

Ending the semester with a glass of wine – Euro style

As these last few weeks of the semester wind down, I am certainly groaning from my course load.

My days are now devoted to term papers and final projects. So much, that I come home just to pre-nap before my bedtime.

As soon as April is over, I don't want to see my friend PowerPoint for a while.

What I want is a nice glass of wine.

But what pairs well with summer time and our pockets?

Even though our image of summer time is painted with rolling beaches and road trips to Orlando for a Disney escape, in reality we need to keep our student budget thinking caps on.

That's why I think Columbia Crest Two Vines Merlot from Washington State is a great wine to relax with – especially when it is time to kick your feet up and take a break from your everyday life.

Not to mention, at \$6.99 at Publix, a bottle of this wine is a steal.

Wine Spectator, a magazine renowned for its scoring of wines based on a 100-point scale, rated the 2003 vintage of this wine an 87 – even naming it one of the best valued wines of 2007.

The truth of the matter is, for our college budgets, this medium-bodied wine has complex texture, and is a perfect pour for everything from an everyday glass, to a celebratory toast.

Have a glass and you will find this jam-like, fruit-forward red wine, with red

berry notes balanced with crisp tannins taking over your senses.

If you are celebrating this summer because of graduation, there is also a way to party on the cheap – even after your parents stop footing the bill. That is Prosecco.



BIANCA ROJAS

After the ceremonial champagne has been poured, shift to this more economical, yet equally delicious bubbly.

Toast with the NV Zardetto Prosecco di Conegliano Spumante Brut at \$15.99 a bottle at Total Wine & Spirits Inc.

All those fancy words just mean that this is an Italian sparkling wine from Conegliano, Venice, Italy.

Prosecco is usually drank as an *apéritif* because just as with champagne, the bubbles open up your appetite, and amusingly enough, can loosen the tongue for a pre-dinner conversation.

The Zardetto Prosecco, awarded 85 points by *Wine Spectator*, is the best bubbly for its value and boasts a light-bodied, refreshing and crisp profile of pear and citrus fruits. It gives novice drinkers a nice outline of wine flavors by starting off in the mouth as dry and acidic, but ending smooth and sweet.

Even if you're not celebrating graduation, this wine is still a perfect summer refreshment, cooling you off and giving you the happy summer buzz all at once.

Plus, while your friends are downing 25-cent Miller Lites, you will look refined with an affordable and impressive glass of Prosecco.

If you get tired of drinking these wines, spice them up with easy tricks that hail from Europe.

With the Merlot, turn a summer party into a fiesta by making sangria, a typical wine punch from Spain.

- Mix a bottle of red wine with orange and lemon juice, and a quart of club soda.

- Then add two sliced oranges, one sliced lemon and sliced peaches to add taste to the mix.

- Add sugar for taste and pour it into a glass pitcher with a wooden spoon to stir – your guests will go crazy for the authentic look and simple recipe.

As for the Prosecco, turn your glass of bubbly into a traditional Italian cocktail, the Peach Bellini, by adding fresh peach juice to your wine. For best results:

- Puree peaches in your blender with a splash of water and some sugar for taste.

- Pour the fruit puree into the bottom of your glass and top with fizzy club soda.

Good luck surviving the next few weeks. I know I need it, but who needs the summer to justify pouring myself a chilled glass of Prosecco? I will be taking my own advice tonight.

Here's to another year of foodgasm.

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.

SOC-BBC

New board elected

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

The Student Organizations Council has chosen its new executive board for the 2009-2010 school year, giving the new ensemble the opportunity to lead an array of student clubs at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

SOC's elections meeting took place April 6 at 2 p.m. to choose the new e-board members, which include the president, vice president, events coordinator, marketing director, treasurer and secretary. Voting took place among e-board members, excluding the president, along with representatives from organizations at BBC, including On Point Poetry, AdScene, Stonewall and Campus Crusade for Christ: Impact Movement.

Didier Georges, current SOC-BBC president, will continue as president since he was the only one running for the position.

Georges, a junior management and international business major, has been president since the Spring of 2008.

Patricia Martinez, a sophomore psychology major, won majority of the votes of the representatives of the organizations present at the meeting. She was elected vice president.

The elected marketing director was Mary Humphrey, a graduate student from the Integrated Communications: Advertising and

Public Relations program in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

"I would like to get people more excited and participate on this campus," Humphrey said.

Lorraine Henderson, a sophomore in business marketing, is the new events coordinator.

"I want to get involved with school activities and I love to socialize," said Henderson. "So I want to get students more involved and get groups/organizations here at BBC together."

Sophomore Vincent Yuen, a finance major, was elected as secretary for SOC because he wanted to "get involved with school life." Freshman Mais Kayyali, also a finance major, was elected treasurer.

"All of the candidates were prepared for their speech," said Georges. "I felt that the clubs had their voices heard and that's what counts."

As for the vice president, Martinez has new plans for SOC and wants to create more of a "buzz" for campus clubs.

"There needs to be more promotion. Clubs [in BBC] need to start talking to clubs at the south campus, making FIU one school to combine shared talents and create great events," said Martinez. "I want to push for that and bring more of a buzz to club fairs."

SPREADING THE WORD



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

SPEAKING OUT: Speaker Damaris "Dee" Cruz from "The Stigma Stops With Me" Miami Herald HIV/AIDS Web series discusses the importance of getting HIV tested at the lecture hosted by SJMC in the WUC Ballrooms March 31.

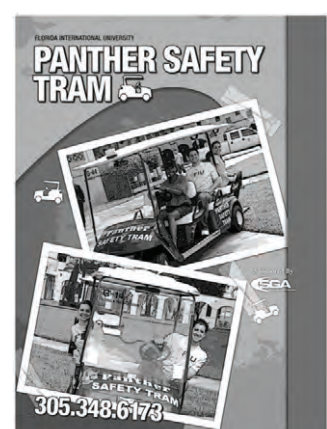
Expands to BBC!

Panther Safety Tram

provides transportation throughout campus

Monday-Friday
7pm to 1am

305-348-6173
UP and BBC



http://parking.fiu.edu

READ THIS NOW!

How to cope with chaos

The world is pretty insane. We know that CEOs are going to be making millions even as their companies are going under and that in any given place there is going to be genocide, poverty, corruption and war crimes.

Despite multinational conglomerate charities that have been in operation for decades to eradicate cancer, hunger and the like, no one expects these plagues to be a thing of the past anytime soon.

The United Nations is powerless to stop wars with its spineless resolutions and unarmed humanitarian aid mission.

The U.S. government is powerless to stop excess in the hands of corporations and has been contributing to the problem recently.

The methods for dealing with such a crazy world are many, and as you read this I hope to explore some of the more common ways of coping with madness, as well as provide my own suggestions on how to make it from cradle to grave without going completely batty.

Some people cling to their guns and religion, as President Obama has said. As he found out soon after, though, people do not like being told they are clinging on to their guns and religion - makes them sound a little crazy.

The truth of the matter is that these are two methods that many do use to cope with the world at large.

According to a 2007 survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public life, 78.4 percent of all American adults identify themselves as Christian.

In addition to the percent that identify as other religions, this seems to be a mandate that states that America does cling to its religion.

The reason that people have always been religious even before this recession is that the world has always been coping with chaos.

Religion was created as a way to deal with the crazy notion of a bunch of cognizant beings being on a spinning piece of rock in the middle of the universe with no idea how they got there or what they are supposed to be doing, and with an inclination to destroy each other.

Despite the recent tightening of wallets, gun sales have spiked both locally and nationally. This creates an even more convincing picture of one way

that Americans cope with the fear of uncertain times.

Even in my own household it has been suggested that we go out and buy guns to protect ourselves because things will go awry any minute now as the economy continues to suffer.

Becoming fearful and reclusive is not the best way to deal with a world gone mad, however. I try to turn to more positive support mechanisms.

My three favorite ways to cope with existence form a trifecta: food, friends and funny.

I almost like eating as much as sleeping, but the reason that it is at the top of the list is because I have a lot more time for it. (Also, "sleep" doesn't start with an F and it would have thrown off the alliteration.) Seriously, though, one cup of Moe's queso dip and everything is right with the world.

Secondly, I cannot begin to

Becoming fearful and reclusive is not the best way to deal with a world gone mad ... My three favorite ways to cope with existence: food, friends and funny.

adequately express how valuable my friends have been to me this semester, from supporting me to excel in a lot of extracurricular activities, encouraging me to study harder for classes and providing me with many memories, my fellow peer advisors and pledge brothers.

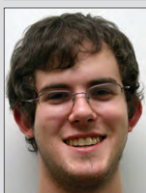
Whenever someone asks me what my hobbies are, I never list specific activities but simply say being with people that I enjoy.

Humor provides us with a way to mock those things in life that otherwise fill our existence with strife and a means for disconnecting with reality.

Whether you go to one of Student Programming Council's frequent comedy shows or simply tune into the "Daily Show" each night, laughter is helpful to the body and mind.

So laugh with me, preach to me or wrap your head in duct tape as long as you are doing whatever is most effective to keep your head from exploding.

COLUMN



ERIC FELDMAN

MAKE IT QUICK

Graduating early has its perks

NEDA GOMESHI
Staff Writer

With the current economic condition, everyone is looking for ways to reduce their expenditures. One way in which students can accomplish this is by graduating in three years.

These days, competition is severe. This generation is not only competing with students within their nation, but also with students around the world. According to a *New York Times* article from February 2009, "Three-year undergraduate degrees are the norm in Europe." European students are graduating and getting graduate degrees more quickly than American students.

FIU students can do the same thing as their European counterparts, for the University offers a wide variety of courses at three different campuses (University Park, Biscayne Bay and the Pembroke Pines Center). Online courses and evening courses are also available.

Students can easily enroll in 18 credits during the Fall, Spring and Summer. According to *The New York Times*, "The idea of three-year degrees has been gaining favor in some circles, with several colleges talking about or experimenting with online courses or summer school." If students took advantage of these opportunities, they could graduate sooner, which would save them time and money.

Some universities are taking advantage of this idea and offering it to their students. Hartwick College, a private liberal arts college in New York, will be offering students the choice of graduating in three years as opposed to four to help them save money.

While Hartwick costs about \$16,000 a semester, a 12-credit semester at FIU costs about \$1,500. Although Hartwick's tuition is astronomical in comparison to FIU's tuition, it's still money that could be saved or, if necessary, spent elsewhere.

One of the benefits of graduating early means getting a head start on earning your next degree. Christopher Patron, a sophomore international business major, cannot wait to graduate so that he can move on to earn his Masters in Business Administration.

Patron said, "As soon as I get my degree, I want to get my MBA. It's going to cost me a lot of money ... so if I could graduate in three years, that would be amazing."

Another great perk about graduating early is the ability to attain a full-time job. Working full time and attending school is extremely stressful and nearly unfeasible. Some students, like freshman Charly Stiban, are motivated to complete school for the sole purpose of getting a full-time job and making money.

Stiban said, "I can't wait to just get a degree. I want to make money, but most jobs require a degree in something, so the sooner I get one, the better."

Though I know the majority of FIU students commute to different campuses everyday while holding full-time jobs, a three-year track of study should be considered. And some may argue that students shouldn't rush through college because of the standard "college experience:" learning and making lifelong friendships. But the benefits of graduating in three years cannot be ignored. Graduating in three years still allows one to have a fun "college life," but it can help start the next inevitable phase of life sooner.

THE SOAPBOX: AN OP-ED COLUMN

Student involvement key to a better SGA

MOSES ALUICIO
Special to The Beacon

This article is a response to Eric Feldman's April 1 Read This Now! column, "Call for a better SGA."

As many of you know, March 23, 2009, marked the beginning of your Student Government Association's election process.

I am sure that as you walked through the Graham Center, you were approached by numerous candidates seeking your vote. These encounters are meant to inform the student body on who is seeking to represent you, not as Feldman claims, "to create the corrupt, priority devoid political types that make up real government."

I had the privilege to serve in SGA with several of the candidates running for senate, and I can honestly say that helping the FIU student body is their top priority. Several of these candidates, and other members of the SGA, were a part of the Florida Student Association's "Rally in Tally," where they spent more than eight hours on a bus to Tallahassee to confront the state legislature on issues such as differential tuition, reducing budget cuts to higher education, the Bright Futures scholarship program and measures to provide students the opportunity to vote on their college campuses.

This is just one of many instances

where members of SGA have gone above and beyond the call of duty to address the needs of the student body. While I do agree that money plays an important factor in making fliers, campaign signs and T-shirts, these are the best ways of promoting platforms and ideas. This is how voters become informed. If you do not agree with the candidates' ideas, confront them about it; that is why they are in GC passing out fliers.

Instead of "avoiding the candidate fliers shoved in [your] face," ask them how they plan on fulfilling their campaign promises and vote accordingly. Many weep about Greek organizations monopolizing the SGA, but

few go out and challenge it.

There were 1,482 ballots cast in this year's election. Granted, the online voting system did not function well, but voter turnout hasn't been much better in the past. At a university with more than 34,000 students, these dismal voter turnouts are simply inexcusable.

SGA is not perfect, but the only way that it will improve is with increased student involvement and initiatives, not just complaints.

Moses Aluicio is a sophomore Honors College student majoring in psychology and the Spring 2009 Honors College senator.

COMIC RELIEF



IRIS FEBRES/THE BEACON

STEP RIGHT UP

Mottola's latest brings back the sweet from *Superbad*

ANA MARIA AROCHA
Contributing Writer

Writer-Director Greg Mottola has a knack for capturing adolescent embarrassment, angst and pain. In *Adventureland*, he depicts all the self-loathing and confusion many recent college graduates face when thrust into the real world in a quirky, nostalgic way.

The last time we heard from him was with 2007's *Superbad*, when he introduced viewers to misfit teenagers that are willing to do anything to make their last high school party memorable and move on to college a bit more experienced.

What could easily have become a cliché and fallen into the black hole of forgotten teen comedies turned out to be conscience-driven and rather insightful. In his latest comedy, *Adventureland*, Mottola proves once again that he can take the average coming-of-age story and make it memorable.

Loaded with the same crude jokes, hilarious one-liners and off-the-wall antics that made *Superbad* a success, *Adventureland* takes a sensitive approach to growing up.

Set in Pennsylvania in 1987, it is the story of James (Jesse Eisenberg), a recent college graduate with his eyes set on attending Columbia University for grad school and backpacking through Europe over the summer.

But when his father gets demoted, James finds himself looking for a summer job instead of hostel-jumping with his friends.

Overeducated and inexperienced, the only place willing to hire him is a theme park. Unhappy to be wasting his time in a job that is clearly beneath him, James soon discovers that his expectations were dead wrong when he meets his

coworkers, a motley crew of fellow misfits just looking for a good time.

There is the intellectual pipe-smoker Joel (Martin Starr), the mysterious and obviously damaged Em (Kristen Stewart), amusement park superstar/maintenance man Mike (Ryan Reynolds), and the quirky managers Bobby (Bill Hader) and Paulette (Kristen Wiig), among others.

Mottola has a talent for choosing actors that can take stereotypical characters and make them seem unique and oddly familiar. His leading man, Jesse Eisenberg, is enough of a reason to watch the film. Eisenberg's perfectly awkward performance is disarming in its sincerity.

Watching him explain why James is still a virgin at 22 is uncomfortable yet heartwarming; you feel embarrassed for him but proud at the same time.

Surprisingly, Kristen Stewart did not disappoint. Based on her performance in the vampire romance *Twilight*, expectations were not very high for Stewart. But here she manages to portray Em's mysteriousness, pain and confusion with a self-aware quality that makes her real and relatable. When she cries you want to cry too, not because the moment is particularly heavy, but because you have gained some insight into this character that could not have otherwise been attained without Stewart.

Perhaps the most memorable character was Joel. This lovable Russian literature buff revels in how far from cool he is while yearning to be

accepted by the most attractive girl in the park. Starr's comedic timing is impeccable and he steals every scene he is in, regardless of whether he has any lines.

The strangest casting choice was Ryan Reynolds. His credits include funny but not necessarily smart movies where acting ability is a minimum. Once again, Mottola's casting was on point. Reynolds succeeded in making an otherwise detestable character relatable.

He plays both friend and rival to James and achieves the same relationship with the audience. Reynolds portrays his character, Mike, as good-natured, confused and lacking proper direction. He is not aware of his flaws, but acknowledges his mistakes, and moves forward.

Charged with a collection of recognizable 80's indie rock, *Adventureland* is an honest and perceptive exploration of young adult relationships when youth ends and the real world sets in.

With this sweet, quirky, romantic alternative to *Superbad*, Mottola has found himself yet another winner.



WWW.IMDB.COM/COURTESY PHOTOS

Pulse

Watching labels a good step for health

You've probably checked out the nutrition facts label here and there at the grocery store. Perhaps you've turned to the label to read how much sugar is in one serving of your favorite cereal or how many calories are in that pack of chocolate chip cookies.

But the truth of the matter is that the more you know about the things you are consuming, the more likely you will be to avoid unnecessary calories.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Web site has a detailed description on how to read your foods' nutrition facts.

But if you're like me, I prefer a quick rundown. Here's the load:

A nutrition facts label starts off with "serving size," and that means one serving. Therefore, all the information that follows is for one serving only.

"If you double the servings you eat, you double the calories and nutrients, including the percent daily value," according to the FDA.

If you want to compare nutritional information between brands or products such as almonds or milk, you may want to keep an eye out for serving size on each brand, suggests the site.

Next up, calories.

Last Saturday I had a terrible craving for pizza, so while I was at the grocery store I stopped by the frozen foods section to grab a small one.

I found Digiorno's "Thin Crispy Crust Pepperoni" pizza for one. I figured

thin crust equals less calories and less fat. But boy, was I wrong.

This deliciousness totaled a whopping 590 calories, and that's only for one serving!

"Calories provide a measure of how much energy you get from a serving of this food," according to the FDA. "Many Americans consume more calories than they need without meeting recommended intakes for a number of nutrients."

Some nutrients should be consumed with limits: fats, carbohydrates and sodium and are identified in yellow.

"Eating too much fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol or sodium may increase your risk of certain chronic diseases, like heart disease, some cancers, or high blood pressure," according to the administration.

The FDA recommends that for protein you choose foods that are lean, low in fat or fat free.

One of the major things on the nutrition facts label is the percent daily value (DV) because it helps you connect nutrients in a serving to their contribution to your total daily diet, according to the FDA.

There is always a reminder that the percent DV is based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

With that said, next time you do your groceries, make sure you check your nutrition facts to make sure you're not consuming more than you should!

Check your Pulse every Wednesday for the latest in health and wellness.

COLUMN



EDDITH SEVILLA



Matisyahu discusses religious background, new album

NATALIE LEVY
Staff Writer

On March 26, the eve of the Miami Winter Music Conference, Brooklyn emcee, Matisyahu, sat down with *The Beacon* before a concert to discuss his latest album and future tour plans.

The Beacon: I understand you have a show tonight; you're cutting it kind of close.

Matisyahu: Oh, no. We probably won't go on until a little bit later.

B: Alright, no problem then! So, you're down here for the Winter Music Conference?

M: Yeah, that's right.

B: When does *Light* drop?

M: It should be out like May/June. I think probably early June. I finished the songs a while ago and, you know, pushed back the record a little bit. I went back into the studio and recorded with some guys out in L.A. and in London. Those are some really great songs, so those are finally finished and you'll be hearing them soon.

B: I was speaking to someone earlier and they were telling me how you're getting into the electronica/DJ culture, can we expect something different out of *Light* than what we've seen from you in the past?



MATISYAHU

M: Well, it definitely incorporates lots of elements from electronic music. My sense or my belief in music is that it has the ability to transport and, sort of, open consciousness. It seems to me that electronic music has that ability, it provides that element.

B: How did you get started? Did you always know that you wanted to be a musician?

M: Well, I always loved music, since I was a little kid, and I always wanted to be involved in music.

It took me a little while to figure out what it was that I wanted to do and I always sang, but I started listening to a lot of reggae music initially and that kind of pushed me to want to be a rapper and a singer.

B: Coming out of Brooklyn, and especially in the Jewish community, coming out and doing reggae, how was that perceived?

M: Well, I was raised in White Plains, New York; it was a pretty typical suburban upbringing. I didn't become religious and move to Brooklyn until I was already in my early 20s.

So, it was kind of like any kid sitting there and listening to reggae music so, I guess, for me it just really hit home and I took on the whole thing.

I just listened to it all the time. I think the main thing is being

able to listen; if you're a lover of music and it penetrates into your soul and you're creative then you'll find a way to make it yours and, kind of, express yourself in that form.

B: So when you first started, you were this Yeshiva kid, going to school and then sitting on your couch and beat-boxing?

M: No, I didn't go to Yeshiva until I was like 22, 23. I was raised with not much of a Jewish background, I had some Jewish background but I went to public school.

Most of my friends were into rap music but I was kind of like the hippie kid, because I was into Phish and some of The Grateful Dead and that stuff and then sooner or later someone played me a Nas album, *It was written*, and I just fell in love with that record.

From then on, I just started writing rhymes and my friends would all rap and free-style and I started beat-boxing and that's just kind of how I got started.

B: If I can ask you a more personal question, in 2007 you did a *New Times* interview where you said that you no longer necessarily identify yourself with the Lubavich movement, what influenced you to go in a different direction?

M: Well, because I live in Crown Heights and I went to Lubavich Yeshiva most of ties

RAISING AWARENESS



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

FLAG GARDEN: Colored flags outside Graham Center, as part of the Take Back the Night campaign, represent the FIU women who will be affected by sexual assault.

to the Jewish world were with the Lubavich community. People really started to ask me about the movement but I felt that I really wasn't the right spokesperson for it being that I wasn't raised in that community. I was fresh and new to the community, three, four, five years being religious and hanging out in Crown Heights. I just wanted people to like me for me and not really associate me with any one group. And

maybe that didn't come across in a way that everyone was able to hear and completely understand what I meant but that's just what happens.

B: How has Miami been treating you?

M: It's always great whenever we come here. I think we're actually going to start our tour here May 30, either in Miami or Fort Lauderdale.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • APRIL 3

WHAT: French Club - Exotism in Literature Conference
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC Panther Suite
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: FIU Chemistry Club - Interviews
WHEN: 1 p.m.
WHERE: GC 1223
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Muslim Students Association
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Italian Club - Films
WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Los Fabulosos Cadillacs
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena
CONTACT: 786-777-1000

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

SATURDAY • APRIL 4

WHAT: Health Occupation Students of America-Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 343
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Service for Peace - Meeting
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

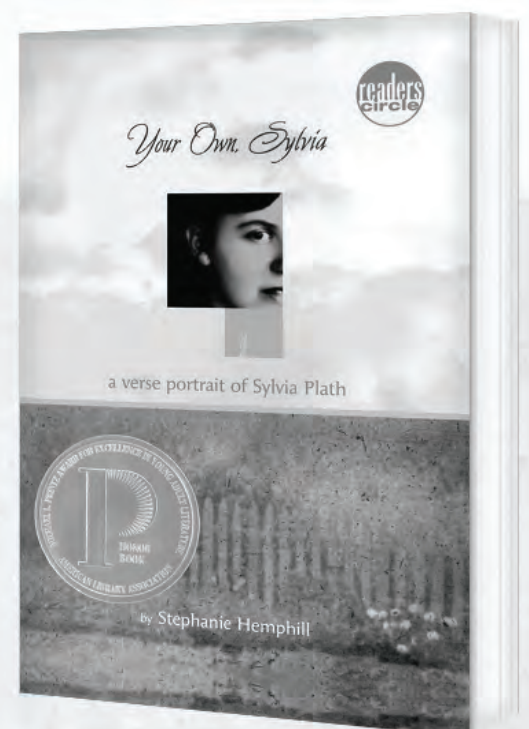
WHAT: National Student Speech Language and hearing Assoc. - Meeting
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Inventing Kin - Premiere
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Bill Crosford Theatre
CONTACT: 305-248-4861

WHAT: Marc Anthony
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Hard Rock Cafe
CONTACT: 954-327-7625

Sylvia Plath:

Meet the girl behind the poet.



Delve into the world of the woman who wrote *The Bell Jar* in this award-winning novel.



www.randomhouse.com/teens

Offense overmatches Western Kentucky pitching

BASEBALL, page 8

Polizzano worked with his first advantage of the game and after a shaky beginning, regained his form to shut down the Hilltoppers' offense for five consecutive innings.

He gave the offense a chance to keep on building a larger lead.

"My fastball was really good today," Polizzano said. "I really didn't have it my last couple starts, but then I found it."

The lead got up to five runs,

but head coach Turtle Thomas was not going to let his hitters become complacent against an offensive roster leading the Sun Belt Conference in team average (.343) and slugging percentage (.568).

"When we had eight, I went up to every hitter, and said, 'You think eight [runs] is enough?' They said, 'No.' Then when we had 10 [runs], I said, 'You think 10 is enough?' They all said 'no' again."

And coach Thomas was right as the Hilltoppers were not going

to go away quietly. Polizzano pitched seven innings and gave up five runs, all in the second inning.

He did not come out for the start of the eighth inning.

Mason McVay walked one batter on four pitches and was taken out of the game.

Eric Berkowitz faced Wade Gaynor, who drilled a two-run home run. Jorge Marban entered the game and finally got the first out of the inning.

But Marban would not go unscathed as Matt Hightower

followed Gaynor's lead and hit a two-run home run as well to cut the lead to 10-9.

Marban closed out the inning, and the Golden Panthers' offense got two more runs in the bottom of the eighth to give the bullpen some breathing room.

R.J. Fondon entered the ninth inning even though he began the season as one of the starting pitchers.

Marban was closing games all season, but Fondon took the ball in the final inning for the first time this season.

He did not disappoint and shut the door on the Hilltoppers, who lead the conference with a 9-3 record against Sun Belt teams.

The Golden Panthers have yet to lose a series this season. Their 19-8 overall record puts them one win away from matching last season's.

"They've been the best team in the conference all year and to take two of three from them is big," Townsend said. "I think it sends a message to the rest of the conference that we're the real deal this year."

Team beats first-ranked foe since 2007, McClain shines

SOFTBALL, page 8

beat No. 18 Ohio State.

McClain held the Ragin' Cajuns to just two runs and eight hits after they had totaled 17 in the two wins the day before.

Bourgeois (16-5) pitched all seven innings for UL and struck out seven.

The FIU offense used four UL errors to total four hits and score three runs, one earned, breaking the Ragin' Cajuns record of going 44.2 innings without giving up an earned run.

FIU had runners at first and second with one out in the top of third inning when Rodriguez singled to right field with the game tied at 1-1 to load the bases.

Freshman Jenny Welch then came up for the Golden Panthers and laid down a double to score two runs and give FIU a 3-1 lead.

Gabriele Bridges hit her 11th homer of the season for UL (23-8, 6-3 SBC) in the bottom of the sixth inning to bring her team within one run, however, McClain was able to efficiently defend in the final moments to earn the win for FIU (20-22, 4-8 Sun Belt).

The Golden Panthers will play their next game at Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m., followed by a three-game series against Middle Tennessee which will begin with a double-header on April 10 at 5 p.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on April 13, 2009 at:

Biscayne Bay Campus:
10:30 am
WUC 155

University Park Campus:
2:00 pm
GC East Ballroom

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Activity & Service Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2009 term.

Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

Call and you could save. Class dismissed.

- Convenient local office
- Money-saving discounts
- Low down payments
- Monthly payment plans
- 24-hour service and claims
- Coverage available by phone

GEICO
Local Office[®]



CALL FOR A FREE RATE QUOTE.

305-595-2911 | 8514 SW 8th Street | Miami
(In the Festival Plaza)



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SPRING IS HERE: Brandon Ellison wraps up running back DeMario Lee in the 2009 Blue and Gold spring game. (Above) Jason Frierson, who led the team with 66 receiving yards evades a Marcellus Manear tackle. (Left) DT Jonas Murrell stalks Lee, in a contest that was dominated by the FIU defense. The D won the scrimmage 43-21.



Defense forces six turnovers in win

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The FIU defense forced the offense into mistakes throughout the evening, to take the spring game 43-21.

In the eighth annual Blue and Gold game, the FIU defense intercepted four passes and forced two fumbles, en route to a 43-21.

Points were awarded for defensive stops, turn-

overs, offensive first downs, touchdowns, field goals and extra points.

FIU saw its quarterbacks come out of the spring with solid efforts in the game. Incumbent starter Paul McCall was 14-of-22, with an interception, but led FIU to its first score, one of two Dustin Rivest field goals. Transfer Wesley Carroll finished 11-of-17 with a touchdown pass to Junior Mertile.

Mertile hauled in five passes for 62 yards, in his first spring game.

Team salvages one game versus No. 20 Louisiana

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The FIU softball team seemed to have no answer for No. 20 University of Louisiana.

The Ragin' Cajuns felt right at home on the first day of the three-game series, which took place in Lafayette on April 4-5, continuing their hot streak of not allowing an earned run in their last seven games this season.

UL 9, FIU 0

Sun Belt Preseason Pitcher of the Year, Ashley Brignac (6-2), was too much for the Golden Panthers in the first game; she threw a five-inning, one-hitter, resulting in a 9-0 loss for FIU in five innings due to the run-rule.

Kasey Barrett (10-9) threw 3 1/3 innings for FIU giving up all nine runs, four of which were earned.

Senior Kim Rodriguez was

the only Golden Panther to reach base; she went 1-for-1 with a single and walk.

UL 8, FIU 0

UL starting pitcher Donna Bourgeois (16-4) posed the biggest threat in game two, striking out eight Golden Panthers over five shutout innings.

FIU freshman Jennifer Gniadek (7-9) gave up five runs to the Ragin' Cajuns in just three innings.

BASEBALL: FIU 12, WKU 9

Panthers win series against top opponent



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TYLER MADE: Tyler Townsend hits his first of two two-run home runs against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers on April 5 at home.

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Tyler Townsend chose the right game to get out of his brief slump.

With the three-game series on the line, the conference's top hitter helped send its best team – the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers – back home with a 12-9 loss on April 5 at University Park Stadium.

Down 5-0 in the third inning, Townsend launched his first of two two-run home runs in the game to begin his team's comeback victory. Townsend had just four hits in his previous 14 at bats coming into the third game of the series.

An opposite field home run cut the lead to 5-2 and gave starting pitcher Corey Polizzano the support he was looking for.

"I know my hitters are going to score a run eventually because they always do," Polizzano said.

Polizzano got in trouble in the second inning due to wild pitches and the power hitting of the

Hilltoppers. In addition, Polizzano accidentally hit catcher Matt Rice on his helmet's ear flap, which knocked him onto the floor. Trainers tended to him and controlled the blood coming from the top part of his left ear. The inning got messier for Polizzano when he gave up a three-run homer to Casey Dykes to put his team in an early 5-0 deficit.

The Hilltoppers' offense drew blood first, but Townsend's blast would jump-start the once dormant Golden Panthers' offense.

In the fourth, Ryan Mollica's double with the bases loaded gave the Golden Panthers their first lead of the game at 6-5. Townsend was up next, and he delivered another home run over the left field wall. He went 3-for-5 with five RBI. Mollica finished 2-for-5 with three RBI. Pablo Bermudez was the lead off hitter and he scored twice on 2-for-4 hitting. The first three hitters combined to go 7-for-14 with eight RBI and five runs.

BASEBALL, page 7

FIU 3, UL 2

With defeat lurking in their minds from day one, FIU tried to avoid a weekend sweep on the second day of the series.

Freshman Ashley McClain (2-0) pitched her second complete game of the season and led the Golden Panthers to their first defeat of a ranked team since February 2008 when the team

SOFTBALL, page 7